

August, 2002

Newcastle Courant

OFFICERS

Directors:

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

President:

Liz Martin 419-1395

Vice-President:

Melinda Coy 635-8232

Treasurer:

Cathy Rowe (530) 432-7835

Secretary:

Kathy Stefun 483-2642

COMMITTEE HEADS

New Members:

Wendy Zampardi 276-7340

Education:

Costume:

Rebecca Bocchicchio 624-7790

Construction:

Mike Nunes 726-8522

Plague Rat Dancers:

Lola Pudinski 836-0837

SITCOM:

Melinda Coy 635-8232

Scots:

Lola Pudinski 836-0837

Newsletter:

Pam Thompson
404 Illsey Way
Folsom Ca, 95630
E-mail:
pm12@sbcglobal.net

Web Mistress

Lola Pudinski
pandora@softcom.net

E-mail administrator:

Nathan Schmidt
admin@stmatthewsguild.org

Making History fun since 1563

Notes from the President

Just went to the website and looked to see how many days till Folsom Faire. 74? Yikes! When did that happen? The year flies by so fast. It seems as though the last time I looked we were preparing for the Weekend Workshop and now it's August. We have had a very busy spring and early summer. 6 faires in 8 weeks! I think that is a record for St. Matthew's. Now Pittsburg is just around the corner and the new Marin faire in late September. We will have a group going to the Marin faire, we'll decide on the date at the August guild meeting. □

Speaking of the meeting, remember that it is also a business meeting and we will be voting on the changes to the by-laws. The work day will start at 9 a.m. At our house. We will have sewing projects as well as the wood & paint projects happening that day. I still haven't decided on what to do for lunch, any ideas? □

I am so pleased with where the guild is these days. We have had a slow steady growth the past two years, and are continuing to attract quality members. We all work and play well together and have developed into quite a merry band. □

We now have guild members scattering across the globe. Linda Savage is still in Malawi and the Covington's are in Washington D.C. awaiting their first assignment. All of them are missed and we look forward to their hearing from them. (If any one is interested, I have the

Covington's address in D.C. and will be happy to share it with you.)

We are right on track for Folsom Faire. Michael Cook is creating his own special magic on the new signs for the arena and throughout the fair site. Our vendor numbers are looking good, we even have a few new ones! Way to go, Kathy & Margo. (There is a rumor floating around that Mimi may not have to go to Northern to get her favorite chocolate this year. Keep your fingers crossed.) Guilds are trickling in, but we know our favorites will be here once again. In the education group, we will have a potter this year who comes with her own foot-driven wheel! Dan, as always, has lined up some wonderful shows for us this year. It looks like we will have a wonderful 10th Anniversary Faire.

By the way, how do you like the new format for the newsletter? Let us know. I look forward to seeing each and everyone of you at the Guild meeting on August 17th.

Committee Notes & Interviews

Plague Rats

Newcastle Courant: What do people do at the renaissance dance (aka the Plague Rats) meetings?

Lola: They learn and practice English and Scottish country dances that can be preformed at Faire and other events.

NC: When do they meet?

Lola: The 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, at Lola's.

NC: If people are interested in becoming involved, how do they go about it?

Lola: Best way is to email Lola at pandora@softcom.net for directions or you can also call her at (916) 863-0837

NC: Do you have any thing planned for the Plague Rat's future?

Lola: Currently we are just learning and practicing dances for street sets, when the group gets larger and a bit more polished, (if the members are inclined) we'll see about doing a stage show.

COSTUME COMMITTEE

Rebecca Bocchicchio

The costume committee is the very loosely organized group responsible for the St. Matthew's costume guidelines (see the Members' Handbook) and for approving new costumes. We don't meet on any kind of a regular basis, but we will try and

put together costuming workshops on topics of interest. Our fancy shirt day a while back (a way while back) was a big success; let Rebecca or Liz know if you have other ideas for workshops.

As always, we're available to help you design new costumes.

Please talk to us before purchasing any materials so you'll everything will pass muster.

Between the members we've got just about every book on period costume in print and we always like to share information and ideas. Drop us a line if you want to know more!

SCHOLARSHIP

NC: I heard we were doing a scholarship?

Liz Yes, it has been proposed that we start an annual scholarship fund of \$500 that would be awarded to a high school senior who is part of the fair community.

NC: What needs to be done to get it started?

Liz: I have asked Dave Stefun to research and set up the guidelines for it. After the guidelines have been

approved we will then need to form a application review committee. And of course we will need to publicize it and get the word out to the guilds and local high schools.

NC: If people are interested in becoming involved, how do they go about it? Liz: Contact myself or Dave

NC: What is planned for the future, regarding this or another scholarship?

Liz: We hope to award the first scholarship in the spring of 2003. This will be an ongoing fund, that will be given yearly. This will help to strengthen our relationship with the community as well as to help fulfill our mission statement with regards to education.

Construction

Mike Nunes

Construction usually meets every other month, in the mornings, at either Liz & Nathan's or the Rowe's, as needed. If you are interested in helping with construction (since it is so much fun and makes you so popular with the rest of the guild), you may contact Mike via zampardi@iglide.net to be informed of upcoming projects.

Progress Report: The new design for the Shady Grove (kids) stage is now completed and it will look exactly like the Hungry Hare (front) stage. We are going to use the 8 4 x 6's that are normally left laying in the grass at the Rowe's. We are also using the painted 1 inch plywood left in the aforementioned grass. So at Folsom we will need to cut them down to size (about 12

inches) and then screw the stage together, Zip Zip Zip done!!! This will make it easy to assemble and level, disassemble, transport and store. The new stage dimensions are 8' x 8' which is 16 square feet larger than the old Shady Grove Stage. It can also withstand light dancing due to increased structural integrity and we didn't even spend any money since we have all the materials. The new fences to enclose the encampment at faire are almost complete and make the encampment look like we have SUBSTANCE

PROJECTS UNDERWAY: The Queen's canopy has one more piece that needs to be sanded. Please feel free to volunteer for this very important pole sanding, step forward. The benches are on HOLD until we find a new design.

The Queen's Dais is the next project to be scheduled. It is a two-step design that should raise the Queen's chair about 12 more inches to improve visibility for the patrons. We also need to paint the large back stage. This should take only an hour or two with our handy dandy paint sprayer. There will be three extra things to do at Folsom:

1. Add a shelf to the ticket booth
- 2 Put handles on the inside to the ticket boot to make it easy to lift onto flat dollies
3. Attach brackets to the corners of the information booth for the shade cover

These projects should take less than 3 hours total.

Website

NC: Does St. Matthew's Guild have a website?

Lola: Yes we do and you can find it at www.stmatthewsguild.org

NC: How does information get on there, how is the information gathered, what kind of thing might one find there?

Lola: Anything that members or perspective members might find useful, it all depends on what is submitted. We have pictures of past guild events and descriptions of the different committees in the guild.

NC: If people are interested in becoming involved, how do they go about it?

Lola: Send stuff that they would like posted on the site to Lola at pandora@softcom.net. Also, if you have suggestions as to what you'd like to see, please pass those along too.

NC: Do you have anything planned for the site's future?

Lola: I would like to revamp the site, but I'm in dire need of content before I can do that.

ARCHERY

Ken Thompson

The St. Matthews Archers meet when we can, usually at the Maya Archery Range in Roseville or at Discovery Park in Sacramento. Contact Mike Bocchicchio, Nathan Schmidt, or Ken Thompson for dates and times.

COURT GOSSIP BY ANONYMOUS

QUEEN ELIZABETH I

She was not a morning person at all, getting up at 10 or so but staying up into the wee hours.

When not appearing in public, Elizabeth sometimes wore the same dress for days in a row.

Before Elizabeth was crowned, she consulted an astrologer who foretold that if she chose the day the stars selected, she'd have a long and glorious reign. She went with his advice and was crowned on the day he picked. For her whole life, she frequently consulted astrologers.

Her favorite flower was the pansy.

For her coronation, Elizabeth bought London out of crimson silk and demanded that she get first pick of any that arrived in the city (her courtiers' livery was that color).

When her courtiers wanted Sir Walter Raleigh tried for heresy, she refused to allow it because, while they were right, she thought he was a wonderful conversationalist.

She nicknamed her favorite courtiers. Sir Robert Dudley became her 'Eyes'; another courtier was her 'Spirit'. A French wooer became her 'Frog', another her 'Monkey'.

Elizabeth demanded that her ladies in waiting be extremely learned and erudite, but also good dancers, because she herself was exceptionally good at dancing.

Elizabeth scandalized her court by frequently performing a very controversial dance called La Volta, which required the man to put his hands around his partner's waist and lift her up into the air and twirl her around.

She hated long sermons. If she disapproved of the pace of the sermon, she wasn't above shouting at the speaker from her seat to get a move on. If she didn't like the subject preached, she also yelled for a change.

(The editor does not vouch for the accuracy of this column)

A Royal Proclamation

Announcing Deborah Doyle as our new leader and instructress for Parish the Thot!!!!."

Let it be known that Her Majesty requires more singing in Her streets, and in particular, the inns and alehouses of Newcastle.

Knowing well that the players of St. Matthews Guild have strong and enthusiastic voices that have been silent for far

too long, she has exhorted, nay, commanded Parish The Thot to rise and remedy this lack of merriment. To that end, all good guild members shall learn one simple song at each guild meeting, beginning in August.

Send requests to Deborah Doyle: zorrah@well.com or (415) 928-1582. Should anyone wish to teach an old favorite, let her know that, too. (And, no, Dan, we're not going to do the 12 Days of Christmas...!)

Rave reviews on the Weekend Workshop

Here's what the guild had to say about the April Workshop Weekend
Which of Melinda's tips about gigging do you think will help you the most at fair?

"Just do it". People will think it's great whatever you do."
 "I liked her specific suggestions such as, "who are you, where are you, what are you doing "I will use several of the ideas she presented, esp. the tip about no butts to the audience!" "I especially liked the gig examples."

What was one thing you learned during Kevin's religion time-line presentation?

"The whole pope-and-prostitute thing--oooh!"
 "That it's not that cut and dried. I thought everyone was Catholic and that was it."
 "Wow. He was fascinating"
 "That we would have grown up knowing these folks and how to interact with them."
 "That I need to be more "afraid" of the Puritans, esp. Proctor Bumby!"

How did you like dancing Rufty Tufty when Lola taught it to the group?

Lola did a good job!
 "Always love dancing! Needed more time"

When Chris talked of money, what did you learn that might help with your character at faire?

"I liked to hear the relative worth of things. To know that a shilling was a full days work To understand that certain currently processed items were more expensive back then." "The way inflation made such a huge difference between the times of Henry and Bess. "
 "Nice background to have about relative cost of goods and how savvy people in Newcastle might have been about money."

Did you like the dice and card games that were taught at the workshop?

"Yes, the dice game was great!"
 " I love those games! " Yes, especially HORSE...I think my character is going to develop a bad gambling habit! "Yup, big fun. I learned not to gamble with Pamela!"
 Games--Oh yes--I like to play!!

What did you like best about Jennifer's Court Dancing session?

"The slowness of the dances."
 "It was fun to learn the slower style of dance. I would think that the commoners may have known the steps to these too."
 "It was easier than I expected"

What did you think of the workshop over all – did you have a favorite part?

"It was great, better than I expected. Not that I thought it wouldn't be good, it just exceeded my expectations."
 "The dancing... no, wait...the food... no, wait...the gambling...no, wait...the coins and spoons for sale...no, wait...Black Adder...no, wait...ALL OF IT! "
 "Gigging and Gaming" "Great job everyone involved!" "Food was great."
 "I thought it turned out lovely. A bang up job on this workshop weekend
 "It was very informative and a fun time

What else would you like to see covered at such a workshop?

More court etiquette
 "History of Newcastle"

A reminder from your Secretary Who is Trying to Compile an Up-to-Date Membership List:

Several of you have not completed (and turned in!) a membership application form. Please plan to complete one at the next meeting. Or, if you have the form already filled out, bring it with you to avoid filling out another one! We also need to have current medical information on file for you and family members. This is for your own protection, and it will be kept completely confidential if you wish. If there's a real emergency, we need the information available.

I'll be on you about this until you comply. So comply, already!

St. Matthew's Guild

P. O. Box 601362
Sacramento, CA
95860

**Don't Forget!!! AUGUST 17th
Guild Meeting and Workday**

9 am at Liz & Nathan's - workday

There will be both

inside & outside projects

12noon - 1 lunch

(check your e-mail for more info)

1-3 pm Guild Meeting and

Business Meeting

We will be voting on the changes
to the by-laws

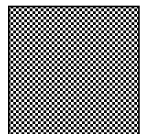
We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.stmatthewsguild.org

**ST. MATTHEW'S
GUILD**

P. O. Box 601362
Sacramento, CA 95860



**COMPANY NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 00000**