

# the white BIRch

the newsletter of the shire of rokeclif

february xlví (2012)

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## seneschal's missive

Bardic Madness planning is proceeding apace. Bronislavá braved the crafty elements and actually visited two (count them) craft stores in order to purchase materials for the site tokens. We haz cowbell!

Since we have work commitments to work around, we'll be starting our meetings a little later — 6:30 instead of 6:00.

We really want everyone to come to the miniature Bardic Madness at Cyb's house on February 11. It's intended to introduce the event to people who have never attended a Bardic Madness. But it'll also be a great chance to learn stuff, socialize, and of course **eat**.

THL<sup>2</sup> Kudrun

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LEATHER UPDATE — The leather we stretched was brought to the meeting, but we didn't distribute it. Folks who helped stretch the deerhide can lay claim to a portion of the hide at the March populace meeting. If you can't be there, let Kudrun know how much leather you want for your project. ..

## next meetings

February 1 — Research Night— 6:30PM — Bronislava's

February 4 — **Site token construction** — 1PM — Bronislava's

February 11 — (Saturday)— noon (bring a light lunch and a friend) — “**Singy Thingy**” — Special A&S gathering at Lady Cybele's (to prepare for Bardic Madness) *Everyone* is invited, including audience.

February 15 — Populace meeting — Skokke Towers

March 7 — Research Night — 6:30PM—Bronislava's

March 10 — **Booklet stitching** — 1 PM — Bronislava's

March 14—A&S Night — Bardic Madness catch-up ????

**March 24 — Bardic Madness at Day's Hotel**

April 11 — King Gambrinus' birthday and A&S Night

this month's font is colonial uncial, which resembles carolingian miniscule, the writing style that charlemagne spread all through his empire to encourage scholarship and learning.

# minutes of the populace meeting

January 18, 2012 — Stokke Towers

Present: Ahlwin, Anthony Æmma, Bronisláva, Byle, Cybele, Domaldi, Failend, Kudrun, Radegund, Robert, Bronislavá called us to the “closest thing to order we’ve had in a long freakin’ time”.

## OFFICER REPORTS

We didn’t get the change-of-officer forms filed, so Robert is still A&S Minister. Paid membership is a requirement for holding an office.

A&S — We passed the list around.

Chatelaine — Welcomed new old members, Byle & Ahlwin.

## BARDIC MADNESS

Workdays for stringing ribbon on cowbells (February 4) and for sewing program booklets (March 10) have been scheduled. Many hands will make light work. Sammy, be sure to be a good boy so you can come and help!

Bronislavá will be calling on people to help with specific tasks for Bardic Madness. She and Eithni, the event provost, will be meeting with hotel staff so rooms can be assigned. The feast menu was approved by the shire members.

## CALL TO DISORDER

Bubble and squeak, candied orange peels, pumpkin pie, and assorted other goodies called us away at 7:20.



## a & s tally

Kudrun — Researching contrafacta

Taught “Period Songs You Already Know”

Made candied orange peels for A&S — reprised for populace meeting.

Cybele—hosted A&S meeting at her house. Provided drinks.

Bronislava—Attended medieval music class.

Byle — Working on booze and cordials.

Robert — Book binding,

Copper work.

Failend — Mundane life is interfering.

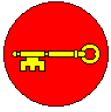
Ahlwin—Researching Landesknecht clothing,

Scrollwork.

Domaldi — Taste-tested pumpkin pie

Æmma — Taste-tested pumpkin pie

# officers of the shire



**Seneschal/Chronicler** – Kudrun þe Pilegrim (Karyn Schmidt)  
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**Exchequer/Thrown Weapons Marshal** – Charles Maewyn MacLachlin (Jerald Roeckers)  
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**A&S Minister** – Radegund—pretty soon



**Web Minister** — Genovefa la Petit — some time soon



**Chatelaine/Minister of Random Hugs** – Bronislavá (Kirsta Skaff)  
702 Losey Blvd. South. LaCrosse WI 54601 (608) 785-3107  
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**Chirurgion** — Gavin MagAonghusa (Kevin Meyers)  
2168 Denton St. LaCrosse WI 54601 (608) 797-1919



**Herald** —Amata Cromwell (Amy Schleeter)  
Unofficial until her membership is renewed.

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## upcoming events

February 4	Early Period Symposium — Blachemere (Coon Rapids MN)
February 11	Tournament of Chivalry — Shattered Oak (Eau Claire WI)
February 18	Lupercalia — Rivenwood Tower (Nicollet MN)
February 25	Fighter School — Windhaven (Kewaunee WI)
March 3	Fighting in the shade — Jararvellir (Madison WI)
March 16	That Moot Thingy — Coille Stoirmeil (Wilton WI)
March 24	<b>Bardic Madness — Rokeclif</b>
March 31	Haire Affaire — Falcons Keep (Wausau WI)
April 2	Spring Coronation — Vilku Urvas (Grand Rapids MN)
April 21	THACO3 — Nordskogen (St Paul MN)

This list is far from complete. It's mostly events nearby, or of particular importance. Consult [www.Northshield.org](http://www.Northshield.org) for a complete event schedule.

### DISCLAIMER

The White Birch is a publication of the Shire of Rokeclif of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies. That gets the BoD off the hook.

### SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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Here are the challenges for our mini-Bardic Madness, to be held at Lady Cybele's house (3091 Michael Way in Holmen) beginning noonish on **Saturday, February 11** and continuing through the feast.

Bring some sandwichy things for lunch, and something delicious for our potluck feast. Bronislava has promised a beef roast...Kudrun is thinking salad, since she is failing at cooking at present. We can use Facebook or the Yahoo list to coordinate the rest (as much as we ever coordinate anything). As long as there's some variety, we'll be fine. Snacks are welcome.

In the Bardic Madness tradition, "challenges" are not a contest – there is no ranking and nobody is judged. You win by participating. The challenges provide a bit of structure, in a way that bardic circles don't. Anyone can participate in a challenge. Nobody HAS to. Any of the performance arts may be used, though it would be hard to do a Word Salad on a vielle. (This challenge has been performed in mime, however!) At Bardic Madness, the challenges are grouped with two or three others in a "fyt" which is Northshield-speak for "a group of bardic challenges".

## Rokeclif Mini-Bardic Challenges

### Traveling Story

This is a story told by ... you. (Bwa ha ha) The interlocutor will begin a story. At his or her pleasure, she will point to someone else to take up the tale. At her next signal, yet another person will continue – and so on – and so on...

### Word (Side-) Salad

When you first show up, we'll give you a short list of words. Use them in a song, poem, or story.

### "Your Father Smells of Elderberries – They're My Favorite!"

Give us the best medieval-sounding insults and flowery compliments you can. Either research some historical ones (Shakespeare!) or make up your own.

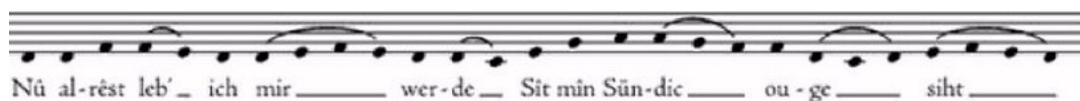
### Perform an Actual Period Piece

Share a historical song, story, or poem. (Feel free to read – no need to memorize.)

### Bard Scribe Illuminator – Imaginary Critters.

Tell us about some imaginary critters, and draw a picture to go with them! (Ideally, decorate a calligraphed scroll about them, but hey – we'll take pictures at this one .)

And a few **OTHER** things, including a brief history of Rokeclif in Scavenger Hunt form and some time singing



If you need inspiration (or perspiration) go to the **ShavaSue** channel on YouTube. (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ShavaSue/videos?sort=da&view=u>) If you search "bardic madness" or "bardic bedlam" or even sort from oldest to newest you'll find lots of SCA bards doing silly and awesome things.