



The Shards

BARONAGES' LETTERS TO THE BARONY

Beloved People of Shattered Crystal,

The time is nigh, and this shall be my last official missive to you all. I confess, I am unaccustomed to being caught short on words. It is difficult to express to each of you how valuable you are to the Barony, and to me. We have all seen each other through some truly devastating and disheartening events in these last five years. A situation which I could never have anticipated upon my investiture. There have been great trials, but there has also been joy. Joy in a new combatant authorized. Joy in meeting a new friend. Joy in a new gown made or calligraphy hand perfected. Joy in sharing sourdough starters or seeing each other's pets on Zoom. Joy in little glass animals and joy in the laughter of children and adults alike.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of those joys. Thank you for the trust you placed in me to represent you well and truly. For trust is a fragile thing, I hope that I have been worthy of it.

Vivamus Ferociter,

Baronessa Petrona

Greetings from Master Avery and Mistress Berengaria:

As the crown's designees for the next Baron and Baroness of the group, we would like to take a moment and thank everyone for their support of Her Excellency Petrona and the quality works which occurred during her tenure. We vow to continue her stewardship of the group in the years to come.

We would like to start by thanking everyone for everything at Baroness Wars. The level of teamwork and camaraderie that was shown during setup of the encampment and the torchlight tournament, during the breakfast and during teardown - in the rain (the very worst kind of teardown) - t'was a joy to behold.

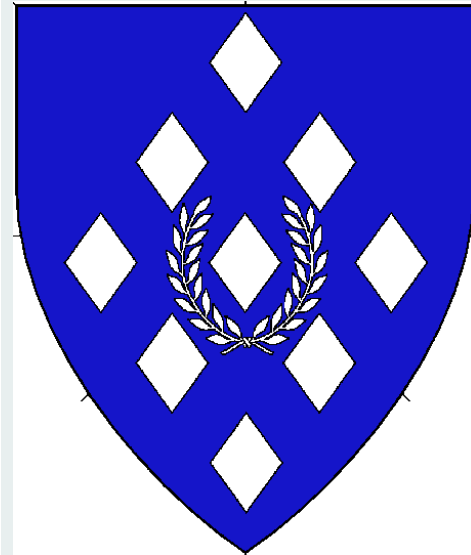
Coming up, we hope to see many of you at Rendezvous at the Bridge in Riviere Constelle, Sep 30th - Oct 2nd. If you have any questions or need to borrow garb, ask Berengaria or I and we will make sure you are taken care of.

After that is Crystal Ball on Oct 21-23. For our part, we plan to follow the Kingdom ceremony pretty closely, but if you have questions or there is something you would like to see, please let us know. Several of us plan to be on site early on Friday (noonish) for setup - join us!

Finishing off October is the Halloween Walk in Collinsville. Last year we had a great demo despite being off our game a bit due to the plague times. This year we hope things will be even better. We could especially use more armoured and rapier combatants.

Draco Invictus

Bear and Avery



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Feasting in the SCA	2-4
A Tale of Shattered Crystal	5-7
Silk Painting	8-9
Curia Call	10
Calendar	11-13

Mask Free In Person Events Begin Again!

We'll see your smiling faces every Tuesday at the Moose Lodge!

Greetings From the Archives

Greetings from the Archives!

I have a blast from the past this time. This article originally appeared in an issue of the shards from 2005(AS 40). Solid advice on What goes on at a feast and what you need to have to get the most out of attending. With Crystal Ball quickly approaching I thought this advice to be timely! If you find that customs may have changed from what is presented in the article please feel free to discuss on Facebook or the Baronial email.

In Service

Archivist Crisyen Fynlo

Feasting in the SCA: A Guide for the Uninitiated

Lady Caitrlona Mac Dhonnachaidh

Barony of Shattered Crystal

One of the great parts about our Current Middle Ages is the opportunity to eat foods similar to those consumed during the period we recreate. Ultimately, for the event, the goal is to have happy guests, great food and few leftovers. Feast is also a major expenditure of funds for the hosting group. Eating feast helps our groups continue to be self-supporting.

Before You Go To The Event:

1. Make reservations for feast. This helps the head cook make adjustments for attendance vs. the amount of food they prepare. It can also save you a couple of dollars on the cost of the meal. If you are reserving for four, a couple of dollars here or there can quickly add up! You can generally find the menu for an event on the website for the hosting group.
2. If you have allergies or special food needs, contact the event steward or head cook "well" beforehand, at least three weeks if you have an issue serious enough that accidentally ingesting a problem food could pose a health threat. Sometimes, and only sometimes, the head cook can help accommodate your needs. Sometimes they cannot but they will give up a list of menu items which you can enjoy. Do Not Expect your individual needs to be catered to. SCA cooks are not restaurateurs, and event kitchens are a hectic place. Therefore, they do not have the time/facility/wherewithal to make special exceptions. Be gracious and grateful for that information they provide. And make your dinner plans accordingly.

At The Event:

1. Sign up on the seating chart when the availability of said seating chart is made known.
2. Bring your own place setting and set up your space according to the seating chart. Remember, eight to ten people generally share a table. Big dishes can infringe upon another diner's space. Keep it tidy!

3. What to bring. The following is an ideal list. Don't spend an enormous amount of money on what is known as feast gear if this is your first event. You'll be able to find appropriate items at many second-hand shops. In a pinch, just use what you would use at home, so long as it isn't paper, hi a serious pinch, even that will do.
 - a. Dishes made of metal or wood or ceramic that would not seem out of place in our period.
 - i. Bowls and plates
 - b. Flatware.
 - i. Spoons, both a soup spoon and one which you would serve yourself out of a communal plate.
 - ii. Eating knife, a clean butter-type knife and a small sharp knife for cutting meats. Nothing is sillier than someone trying to cut a pie with a huge blade. Keep your knives clean and sharp as appropriate.
 - iii. An early version of a fork, if appropriate to your persona or you simply can't do without one. Those 4-tined wonders simply weren't found until much later. Most forks were two or three tines at most.
 - iv. If appropriate, your chopsticks and a chopstick rest.
 - c. A place mat.
 - d. Cloth napkins.
 - e. Seasonings are very important in medieval food and you might find some unexpected combinations. However, do not expect the usual suspects on the table.
 - i. A small salt container, preferably in line with medieval style. This means, not a salt shaker, but a tiny cup or bowl, known as a salt cellar. But, if you're just starting out, a shaker will do. Please use one that you like that keeps the feel of the medieval atmosphere.
 - ii. If you're feeling posh, a small pepper mill.
 - iii. Even if you're a notorious chili-head, keep the Tabasco bottle at home. It's not at all period and could be seen as outright rude.
 - f. Drinking vessels, probably two per person, one for a flavored beverage and one for water.
 - i. No modern containers, such as soda cans or plastic bottles, should be seen.
 - ii. If you have to keep your own liquid stash, get one of those itty bitty coolers and keep it down under the table in front of your feet or under your chair.
 - iii. Do not, under any circumstances, bring alcoholic beverages to a site if the site is listed as "dry" or if you are under the legal drinking age.
 - g. Small garbage bags to put your dirty dishes in afterward. There are seldom facilities for washing dishes at an event.

Dining:

Freshen up, wash your hands well, and get dressed in your evening clothing. SCA feasts are generally served family style, where a table gets one plate or bowl of a specific dish to be served among all the guests. Take a small portion of each dish and pass it along. Dishes are served in courses, and many times more than one course is served in a feast. You should plan for feast to take 45 minutes to an hour per course. It is not fast food.

Be gracious and courteous diners. Gentlemen should let ladies be served first. Everyone should take a portion that will let their table mates share in the dish. Be kind to your server. They aren't getting paid. The vast majority are not professional wait-staff. Try everything unless you have a cultural or medical issue that prevents it, or know it is something that you truly dislike. Keep a spoon separate for serving from a dish that may not have a serving spoon. Don't put that one in your mouth.

Toasts are made to the health of the King and Queen, the Crown Prince and Princess, and any principality royalty. If royalty visits from another kingdom, it is appropriate they be toasted as well. The toasts are made by those people who have been asked beforehand. Normally, it is the ranking Royal Peer (Duke, Duchess, Count, Countess, Viscount, Viscountess) or Laurel, Knight or Pelican, if no royal peer is going to be at feast. The toast to the King and Queen is always first. It is usually something simple such as "Let us raise a glass to Their Majesties, X and Y, " and the crowd responds, "To their Majesties," and takes a drink of their beverages. The rest of the toasts follow in a similar fashion throughout the dinner. Usually someone will also toast the cooks and servers later in the meal.

Many times, throughout the dinner, various people, who have made arrangements beforehand, will entertain the crowd by singing, storytelling, playing or dancing. Relax, sing along if appropriate, and interact. It's the courteous thing to do. Applaud when the entertainer finishes. Nothing is so disheartening than to perform for a lot of bumpy logs. If you enjoy something immensely, consider giving the entertainer a token of your appreciation. This can be a ribbon, a pretty bead or something of the like. The same goes for the head cook. If you really enjoy the meal, consider nipping back to the kitchen after the last dish goes out and presenting a token to the head cook. They'll be the one with the glazed, tired, happy expression on their face. You can't miss them.

Head Table

Head table is just that, the table at the front of the room, to which all other things will be oriented. The King and Queen will sit there, if they are at the event. They will invite other gentlefolk to sit with them. This may be the winners of various competitions throughout the day, other royalty, etc. This table should be served first. Should you find it necessary to cross in front of the Head Table, it is appropriate to bow or curtsy as you cross the center of the table. This is because wherever the Crown is located, we pay obeisance as we break their line of sight.

At the End of Dinner

Pack up your dishes into garbage bags, tuck them into your basket and get your gear out of the feast hall. Likely as not, the feast hall becomes the dance hall. If you wish, offer to the kitchen staff to help clean by doing dishes, tucking away leftovers or taking out the trash. You'll be amazed how appreciative they will be, winners of various competitions throughout the day, other royalty, etc. DO NOT, under any circumstances, wash your feast gear in the sinks of the facility bathroom. Those sink pipes are often smaller than the kitchen pipes, are not equipped to accommodate any food debris, and will clog to high heaven. Plumbing problems are the bane of all event stewards. Don't cause one. People will curse you if the bathroom gets shut down because of a flood.

When you Get Home

Don't forget to wash your dishes and napkins. Three week old crusty feast gear is just nasty. Overall, prepare yourself for an adventure and have fun feasting in the SCA!

Excerpts from "De honesta voluptate" (On Honest Indulgence) Venice, L. De Aguila 1475

On Supper...

"Afterwards the body must rest from all activity, and in the evening one must eat, the light meal being taken at this time called supper which our ancestors and those in the military were accustomed to take in the forenoon... After we have supped, we must for two hours eschew all violent bodily movement and disturbance of mind, at least until the first digestion has been accomplished."

About the Cook...

"A cook must be a man schooled by art and long experience, patient in his work, and one who wishes to be greatly praised for it. He should be free from all roughness and dirt; he should know everything about the nature of meats, fish, and herbs, so that he can distinguish what should be roasted, boiled or fried. He should have the taste to be able to tell what is too salty or too bland...He must not be glutinous or greedy as was the Gallic Marisius, who himself appropriated and devoured what his Master was supposed to be eating."

On Salt...

"There must be salt on the table, lest the food seem bland, for we call a man foolish who is tasteless and insipid because he has no salt in his character...Salt which is to be used at table should be white and clean like that which comes from Volterra in the northwest."

A Tale of the Shattered Crystal

As Retold by Melisende de Westemere

In ages long past, The Dragon slumbered in peace and in prosperity. But, as youth is often impatient, so fretted the Falcon, son of the Dragon, impatient to be free of the care of his father. In the westernmost land of the Dragon's realm, the Falcon stretched his wings longing to fly free. To Three Rivers, a Barony fair and prosperous, on the shores of the Great River, came such tidings, and lo, the hearts of the people of the River lay with the Falcon, above their love for the Dragon, his sire, and the Falcon resolved to fly, and to make his own way alone in the world, and to be free. And the people of the Three Rivers resolved to fly with him, and to part ways from the ancient Dragon, their Sire.

Yet nine there were, in all that mighty host, whose heart was with the Dragon, their ancient Lord, their longtime king, their well beloved sire. Indeed such was the strength of their love, they would not be sundered from him, though to remain loyal would cost them dear, for it meant the leaving of their homes, and of their friends, and of their holdings. Nine there were who were loyal and who kept faith. On the shores of the mighty Western River, these Nine swore to remain true to their ancient oaths and to cleave to the Dragon their Lord, come whatever there might. And so The Nine Who Were Loyal departed, and crossed the river eastward, out of the land of the Falcon They builded their ramparts, and became the Guardians of the Western River, and there they 'stablished a shire.

In time, their numbers grew, from Nine to many, and the Dragon was moved to raise up a Lord to rule over them, to protect them, and give them shelter. Thus did the Shattered Crystal become a Barony.

The Dragon, then as now, was wise, and he entrusted to his People Nine Things, for remembrance of the Nine Who Were Loyal. And these Nine Things were to be for their protection, for their honor, and for the remembering of the Ancient Oaths.

These are the words which spake the Great Dragon, when he entrusted his treasures to his Lords of The Shattered Crystal, in their lands upon the Great Western River.

BEHOLD, First of the Gifts of the Dragon is the banner of The Shattered Crystal, honorable in service. Upon its sky-bright silk shine the nine fusils, silver as starlight, fair fair as the moon. And this is for the remembering of the Nine Who Were Loyal. It is a true treasure of the dragon's hoard.

BEHOLD the Second and Third Things, silver signets for the Lord and Lady of the River, Silver for Purity, free of Dross, symbols of duty.

BEHOLD the Fourth Thing, and likewise the Fifth: rich mantles, pride of a rich and prosperous land. As they warm the body, so are the hearts of the Lord and Lady warmed with pride by the love and skill of their people, the children of the Dragon, whom they protect and serve.

BEHOLD the twin Coronets of the Western Guardians, Symbols of office, circles of gold. These are the Sixth Thing, and the Seventh, which the Wise Dragon did gift to his vassals. Though they are beautifully wrought, with craft and care, and are an adornment to the heads that bear them, yet are they heavy. For the weight of governance is a heavy burden, not lightly born.

BEHOLD the Earth of these lands, contained in this box. These are the Eighth and Ninth Things, the treasures entrusted by the Dragon to the care of the Lord and Lady of the Shattered Crystal. This is the land and its people, guarded, treasured, nurtured, and made fruitful. This is the Earth of the Shattered Crystal, whose liege is the Great Dragon. From this Land spring warriors and craftsmen and servants of the people. From this Earth grows all that is fair and worthy.

And the Dragon charged his vassals, the Lord and Lady, Baron and Baroness of the Shattered Crystal, to guard his treasures and his people well.

And now herewith is to be read the roll of the Puissant Lords and Fierce Ladies of these Ancient and Loyal lands, Barons and Baronesses of the Shattered Crystal, Guardians of the River, Vassals of the Midrealm, Keepers of the Western Borders and Wise Children of the Dragon.

A Tale of the Shattered Crystal cont

BEHOLD the Second and Third Things, silver signets for the Lord and Lady of the River, Silver for Purity, free of Dross, symbols of duty.

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First of that line was Leopold von Haskenberg, honored Son of the Dragon, named forever Baron Shattered Crystal. Under his rule the land prospered.

With him served Rabia of the Misty Mountains, Baroness Shattered Crystal, Lady of the Western Stronghold. In her keeping the Children of the Dragon grew strong.

And the heir of Leopold hight William of Bellwood, Knight, second Baron of the Shattered Crystal. Strong was his arm to serve his King.

And the successor of William hight Colin Campbell, third Baron of the Shattered Crystal. Glittering was his court, and fair the days of his ruling.

With him ruled Alpha Biraz - Pars, Mistress of the Laurel, Dancer of the Desert, fair lady of sweet song and swift riding.

Afterwards ruled Philippe de Lyon, Warder of the Bronze Ring; Light of the West, torch of the Marches, Lion of the Western River; protector of the pride, despair of the Dragon's enemies. His strong arm struck fear into the hearts of the Dragon's foes.

With him ruled Rowan Connor, bright lady of the Morning, fairest jewel of the Dragon's hoard, the Iron Lily of the Desert whose sharp arrows rained down death and despair on her enemies. In her white hands did battle weary warriors find refreshing waters.

Afterwards ruled Maximilian von Fallingbostel, the Traveler to Distant Lands. His long reign brought riches to his Dragon Sire, glory to the riverine lands of The Shattered Crystal, and prosperous peace to her people.

With him ruled Caroline de Mercier of noble name, Bright Compass Star, Golden Tongued weaver of words, Wisdom of the Dragon. Within her light the loyal folk of the river grew ever more fair and fearless.

And afterwards ruled Daimyo Kurro Ookami Musashi, Masterful Warrior, Skilled Artisan, Generous Ruler and Bountiful Lord. In his day did learning flourish, and none dared attack the Western Children of the Dragon.

A Tale of the Shattered Crystal cont

With him and after him ruled Petrona da Manciano, fair lady of laughter, bright and shining, patroness of all Arts, Fierce Leader of her troops to battle, Wise and Gentle Lady, binder up of old wounds, fairest and most merry of all the Dragon's bright Daughters. Beneath her smile the Dragon's children prosper and rejoice.

Thus comes to a pause the roll of rulers of the Dragon's Land of the Shattered Crystal, but not to an end. For the tale is still a-singing, and the adventure is not yet ended. No doubt hereinafter will many bright tales be told, many bold names added to this roll. For fairest in all the Dragon's Realm are these lands along the Western River, founded by the Nine Who Kept Faith, and known through the world as The Shattered Crystal. May her walls stand strong forever.

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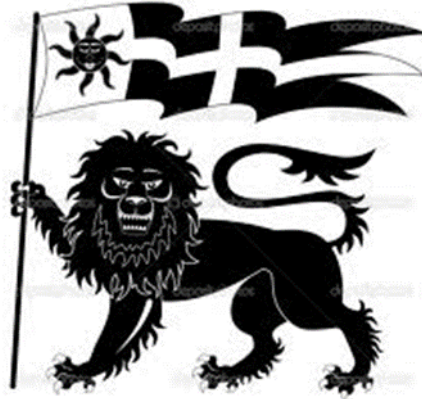
\*A Note: this tale was recovered and adapted from sources located in ancient archives, including ceremonials of investiture as used in times past for the Investing of Barons and Baronesses of the lands we now know as Shattered Crystal. It is submitted for the entertainment and inspiration of my readers, and for the enjoyment of all who enjoy mucking around in moldy libraries reading dusty and half-forgotten tomes of lore. As is the case with all such sources, what is legendary and what is fact (as historians define the word in our own times) is open to debate and to interpretation.



## **Beginning Silk Painting: A Foundational Guide to Prepare for your project**

Instructor: Petrona da Manciano

Email: [PetronadaManciano@gmail.com](mailto:PetronadaManciano@gmail.com)



My background: I am NOT an artist, in fact, I cannot draw. Not a straight line, not a circle, not even a passable stick figure. But I can cheat and I will show you how. My scribe friends remind me that tracing is period, so it is ok. I am also nearly completely self taught in this art, so ask questions. I learned by messing up, you shouldn't have to.

Required materials:

Silk, Frame, Gutta, Gutta applicator, Dye/paint, paintbrush, Fixing agent or steamer.

**Silk:** It is possible to use nearly any silk for this type of painting. However, the heavier silks like Noil and Dupioni are difficult to get gutta to penetrate which makes them likely to bleed across lines. The best (and cheapest) is Habotai or China Silk in the 5-8 mm range. The higher the weight (mm) of the silk, the better the color comes out on the habotai.

**Frame:** Any rigid frame in the needed size and shape. PVC and wood are common. I use wood and cover it in packing tape to protect it from the dyes. Pins and rubber bands may be needed here depending on style.

**Gutta:** Many types are available depending on the effect you want. Water soluble and non are available. The non-water soluble (Gutta Percha) is more period and what I generally use unless the piece is going to be worn. Gutta is available in black, clear, gold, silver, and dyeable. I have had good luck with Jacquard Gutta and Pebeo Water soluble resist. These are my preferences.

**Gutta applicator:** I use small bottles with a metal tip to apply thin lines. These can be purchased in several widths. A paintbrush can be used as well.

**Dye/Paint:** There are several brands of silk dye available: SetaSilk, Jacquard Red, Jacquard Green, DyNaFlow, and DuPont are the most common. Any acid or procion dye can also be used. It is important to note that some dyes go on like ink and some like paint. Be certain to determine what method is used to fix the color. Some dyes use a chemical fixative, others



steam. There are pros and cons to both. My preference is for DyeNaFlow OR SetaSilk, as I can heat set it in the oven.

Paintbrush: Whatever artists brush you have will do. Foam brushes are great for large areas.

Fixative or Steamer: Depending on what color you have used, you will either steam the silk on the stove for about an hour or place it in a water and chemical bath. With the Jacquard Green use Jacquard Dyeset Concentrate. When using DyeNaFlow, I prefer to bake the piece, wrapped carefully in muslin and placed on a cookie tray, in the oven. Set to 275 degrees and let it go for 35 minutes (including the preheat).

Suppliers:

Dharma Trading Company at [www.dharmatrading.com](http://www.dharmatrading.com)

-Good prices purveyors of all supplies including silks and many product lines

Dick Blick Art Stores at [www.dickblick.co](http://www.dickblick.co)

-Several dye lines, guttas, applicators, brushes, etc

Mulberry Silks at [www.mulberrysilks.co](http://www.mulberrysilks.co)

-Most needed items

Vogue fabrics at [www.voguefabricsstore.co](http://www.voguefabricsstore.co)

-for silks

Your local fabric store for silk and your local hardware supply for frame materials

I also recommend your local library for books on silk painting. Particularly those by J. Venable.

# CURJA CALL

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## Thrown Weapons Marshal

Vacant

## Minister of Arts and Sciences

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# October 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

|                                                                                                                    |           |                          |           |                                         |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                    |           |                          |           |                                         |                                                                            | <p>1</p> <p>Courtiers Tourney<br/>&amp; Clown Tourney</p> <p>Rendezvous at the<br/>Bridge</p> <p>Autumn Arrows</p>                                  |
| <p>2</p> <p>Courtiers Tourney<br/>&amp; Clown Tourney</p> <p>Rendezvous at the<br/>Bridge</p> <p>Autumn Arrows</p> | <p>3</p>  | <p>4</p> <p>Meeting</p>  | <p>5</p>  | <p>6</p>                                | <p>7</p>                                                                   | <p>8</p> <p>Red Dragon</p> <p>Artisans' Day at<br/>Ravenslake</p>                                                                                   |
| <p>9</p>                                                                                                           | <p>10</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Meeting</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p>                               | <p>14</p>                                                                  | <p>15</p> <p>Fall Crown<br/>Tournament</p>                                                                                                          |
| <p>16</p>                                                                                                          | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> <p>Meeting</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p>                               | <p>21</p> <p>Quest for the Gold-<br/>en Seamstress</p> <p>Crystal Ball</p> | <p>22</p> <p>Quest for the Gold-<br/>en Seamstress</p> <p>Crystal Ball</p> <p>Brawl at Crooked<br/>Dragon</p> <p>Southern Regional<br/>Practice</p> |
| <p>23</p> <p>Crystal Ball</p> <p>Meat &amp; Beet<br/>Budget Tourney</p>                                            | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> <p>Meeting</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> <p>Business Meet-<br/>ing</p> | <p>28</p>                                                                  | <p>29</p>                                                                                                                                           |
| <p>30</p>                                                                                                          | <p>31</p> |                          |           |                                         |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                     |

# November 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

|                                   |    |               |    |                        |                                           |                                                               |
|-----------------------------------|----|---------------|----|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                   |    | 1<br>Meeting  | 2  | 3                      | 4                                         | 5<br>All Soul's Come Home<br>Hammer & Annvile<br>Harvest Home |
| 6                                 | 7  | 8<br>Meeting  | 9  | 10                     | 11<br>Golden Dream-North Woods' 50th Anni | 12<br>Golden Dream Winter Rum                                 |
| 13<br>Golden Dream Bardic Madness | 14 | 15<br>Meeting | 16 | 17                     | 18                                        | 19<br>Grand Day of Tournaments<br>Toys for Tots               |
| 20                                | 21 | 22<br>Meeting | 23 | 24<br>Business Meeting | 25                                        | 26                                                            |
| 27                                | 28 | 29<br>Meeting | 30 |                        |                                           |                                                               |

# December 2022

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

|    |    |               |    |                             |    |                                 |
|----|----|---------------|----|-----------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
|    |    |               |    | 1                           | 2  | 3<br>Christmas<br>Tourney 50    |
| 4  | 5  | 6<br>Meeting  | 7  | 8                           | 9  | 10<br>Yule Feast<br>Kris Kinder |
| 11 | 12 | 13<br>Meeting | 14 | 15                          | 16 | 17                              |
| 18 | 19 | 20<br>Meeting | 21 | 22<br>Business Meet-<br>ing | 23 | 24                              |
| 25 | 26 | 27<br>Meeting | 28 | 29                          | 30 | 31                              |