



Privy Councilor

Christmas Edition

What are you giving for Christmas?
A gift of love would be grand
To brighten a friend's day
To spread joy throughout the land!



A hug would go a long way
To make a child smile
And bring a moment of happiness
To last a very long while!

An extra minute of your time
to help a neighbor in need
Would make you feel better
And make someone happy indeed!

Simply sharing a kind word
A gracious thought or two
Will make your day brighter
It's just something nice to do!

What will you give for Christmas?
Well, the greatest gift of all
Is to give of yourself
Because it's so original!

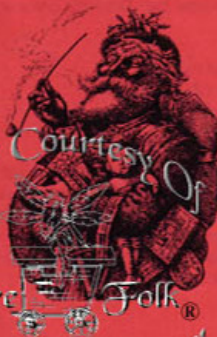


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He's Making A List

Santa is making his reservation list and checking it twice. Don't miss out on the 1998 season. Make reservations today for the Feast of Fantasy, Queens Tea, Smoker, and Fables at the Table. For more information call the Sales Department at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Christmas Recycling Ideas

1. Recycle Wrapping Paper

Smooth large undamaged pieces of wrapping paper by ironing them flat, then roll them around a tube. Store and use to wrap next year's packages.

2. Recycle Christmas Greeting Cards

Cut cards into various shapes with scissors or pinking shears, attach yarn or ribbon and use as gift tags. Backs can be used for writing "To's" and "From's."

3. Recycle Dead Greenery

Remove dead greenery from wreaths, boughs, centerpieces. Burn, then use the ashes as garden fertilizer.

4. Recycle Pine Needles

Fill a jar half full with pine needles, add 1 teaspoon of vodka, then fill the rest of the jar with corn oil. shake every day for one week, strain and use as bath oil.

5. Recycle Ivy

If you have sprigs of ivy in your cut flower arrangements, they may have grown small roots. If so, put in a planter with potting soil and water. Soon you'll have a lovely plant.



I
think
that we
shall always
see, God's
gifts upon our
Christmas tree.
You cannot touch
them with your hand,
yet they are there at
your command. There's
joy and faith and hope
renewed. There's laughter
for a happy mood. There's
gratitude for each new day;
a time to think, a time to pray.

The Christ has come with holy light
to shine and make your pathway bright.
All these are yours if you can see God's

gifts
upon
your
Christmas Tree.



In honor of the bone chilling days ahead, my husband and I offer a sure fire recipe to warm (and spice up) the holidays.

Thad's Mulled Wine

Ingredients:

- #1 Jug Burgundy wine (per Thad: the cheaper, the better)
- #3 cups sugar
- #1 orange cut into cubes
- #1 apple cut into cubes
- #7 sticks of cinnamon
- #14 whole cloves

Combine wine, apple, orange, cinnamon sticks and cloves in large kettle. Heat, but do not let it boil. In a separate pot, mix sugar into the brandy and heat until boiling. Light the mixture on fire and pour *carefully* into the wine. Let simmer for 10 minutes. Serve with ladle, keeping the remaining mixture on low heat. Enjoy!

Dana Erickson
Costume Director



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FAIREN FOLK BRIDGE — RUSSIA AMERICA" Fall 1997

Ruth and Gary Reetz, who have been in the Festival for 17 years with their "Spell of the Shell" shop, were on sabbatical during 1997 and traveled to Russia with a church group. Since this is a season of good will, we thought you might enjoy excerpts from a report of their Russian visit. Kera and Dema, who are mentioned, were guest artists in the Reetz's shop for a weekend in 1996.

"What blessings were heaped upon us during our trip to Russia! We went to give; instead we received! We will never be the same again after helping out at a children's prison in Moscow. Yes! Children's prison — for illegal kids age 17 and down. Five and six year old children were there, but most of the youngest ones were "throw away" children of delinquent parents. The prison helps out 6,000 children a year with stays of only 30 days. Many had their head shaved due to lice, infections caused by the worst things you can think of, teenage prostitutes, illegal activities, etc.

We helped with tennis shoes — giving out and fitting these dear ones with shoes. We both wept! We were asked to speak a few words before an assembly. We told them Americans are their friends, God loves them, and so do we. We were there through the "Orphan Grain Train" of Norfolk NE, an arm of the Lutheran Hour radio broadcast who purchases hundreds of pairs of tennis shoes for the kids. Each lid of a shoe box had an American flag on it and they all held them up at the same time. What a sight for sore eyes!

We helped out at a Bible Camp being converted from a collective farm to a Christian camp for orphans and local children. There were three large single story buildings (one of logs) in a state of great disrepair (by our

standards), with most of the windows boarded up. It was our job, five American volunteers, to "build relationships" and paint 32 huge, many-paned double windows and frames with ORANGE paint! (They were made by men in a prison.) At least there was no glass in them yet and the food and the people were wonderful.

Our church there was a very simple, huge, tan colored stone church building built in 1800. It was completely enclosed and filled with a factory surrounding it. The only way into the church was through the factory — the factory does not want to give it back. A wedding was scheduled for 5:00 Friday. That morning the factory said NO WEDDING. We went to the church at 5:00 as if we hadn't heard about the cancellation and guess what?! We got in and had the wedding!!

We learned many things we didn't like hearing and could hardly believe...work completed but never paid for, pensioners get \$35/mo.--and then sometimes not paid as have not the ministers, teachers, etc. (Dema's mother, a teacher, hasn't been paid for six months!) Life is very difficult for our beloved friends there, Kera and Dema and their family. Kera said she is desperate for money as she helps her extended family, 80 year old grandmother, mom with cancer, father, brother. Dema is remodeling a school and has an apartment remodeling on the agenda — but he works every night till 11 or 12 p.m.

Kera and Dema sent back with us (to sell) many small black lacquer pins, boxes and eggs (of wood). We also have several of their paintings. If you would like to see them, or our slides of the trip, do call us —

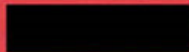
■■■■ If you belong to any organizations or churches that may like to hear our story, we'd love to share it."



Good Tidings



We have received word that **Linda Day, Shop #128**, is recovering nicely from successful surgery on November 3. We wish her a speedy, complete recovery. If you would like to send a personal note, her address is:





Start a Family Tradition



❖ Bring the true meaning of Christmas to your family. Draw names of immediate family members and become "Santa" for a week: anonymously do good deeds, plan surprises, leave encouraging messages, "hide" a small gift for your special person as you try not to be discovered.

❖ Plan a family outing to visit Christmas displays in your area such as city lights and trees, window displays, mall decorations. Or, enjoy a day together of skating, sledding, snowman building or skiing.

❖ Start a family Christmas photo album. Take at least one picture of the entire family each year and mount in an album. Section the album by years and include additional pictures of holiday fun in the appropriate year's section. As you add to your album, the family will enjoy seeing how they all have changed from year to year and will delight in reminiscing about the joys of Christmases past.

❖ Become "Santa" to a neighborhood family that needs a little cheer. They may be having economic difficulty, be new neighbors or experiencing a family crisis. Your family can decide on gifts for them or make up a food basket. Let each family member be responsible for choosing at least one item. On Christmas Eve, secretly place the basket on their doorstep. (You may need to place an anonymous call to let them know there's a mystery package waiting.) Not only will you provide a joyous surprise for someone in need, but your family will experience the special feeling of giving from the heart - the true meaning of Christmas.

What I Did On My Summer Vacation

by Pamela Silver



Are you joking?!? Where were you this summer, the moon?

Well I was having the time of my life at Festival, and I hope you were, too.

Yes, I hope you were one of the 734 talented souls who made us shine this year, and topped us into another record for attendance. Thanks to you all, this Rookie No More made it through and I'm already fired up and planning for 1998.

So as September wound down, the Trail of Terror and Phantom's Feast kicked up and I extended my summer fun all the way through October. It was a hoot to work again with my new colleagues, yet in a totally different setting. The Halloween show, by the way, is a great way to improve **and** satisfy that little mean streak within. I should know; I wore the hump of honor on by back and broke a couple of large copper kitchen utensils while I had my fun.

Now there's a touch of snow on the ground, but to me, the season isn't over until Fezziwig's Feast has had its run. Odd that it should still feel like summer to me, but there you go. Perhaps I'm just basking in the glow of all this talent around me!

This has been an amazing year, my friends. I'm grateful to you all for your help, creativity, sweat, thought, concern, caring, support, hard work and, most of all, for your generosity in welcoming me into this exclusive club. There is no one on this earth more well-met than I.

Thank you all. May your holidays be starstruck and the new year your oyster!

SILVER'S KILLER GUACOMOLE

**Makes two very generous portions to share, or just enough to be a decent bring-along to a potluck affair. If you were really nice, you'd double the recipe, though.

Ingredients:

- 3 ripe avocados
- Several drops lemon juice
- 3 T chopped onion
- 3 T of your favorite chunky salsa (or to taste)
- 1 Heaping T sour cream (or to taste)
- Salt and Pepper

Peel and seed avocados; partially mash them. Add lemon juice and mix thoroughly. Mix in salsa, chopped onion, and sour cream, then salt and pepper to taste. In fact, you should be tasting at each step of preparation. Maybe you'd better double the recipe after all.



Dibby's Holiday Corner



Bow, wow, wow, Merry Christmas, Yule, Hanukkah, and any other ones I've left out. Well it is that time of year again. The warmth of lights, the joy of family, and the urge to shop, shop, shop are upon us. So here's the news. Fezziwig's Feast is looking great, the Blue Lion Tavern has met its fate, and Florida is where it is happening (the three shows we run down there). My last days of this season are almost over, sniff, sniff, but next year's even looking better. Ha, Ha, another home. I know, how does he do it you ask or was that why does he do it. No matter I gonna put you through it anyhow thanks for the great year.

I stand on the knoll
and feel the wind.
This white stuff called snow
is here again.

The banners are down
the people are gone,
but those beautiful dolls
still sing their song.
The warmth of these feelings
don't quite touch my skin
and I have to go to the bathroom again.
The privies are locked,
but I have a ploy.
I just have to say
thank God I'm a boy!

Le woof, Le grrrr, Le Happy Holidays!!!!!!

1998 Renaissance Festival Auditions



1998 Auditions Dates and Times

- Saturday, June 20, 1:00 - 5:00 P.M.
- Monday, June 22, 6:30 - 9:30 P.M.
- Tuesday, June 23, 6:30 - 9:30 P.M.

1998 Renaissance Academy kicks off Monday, July 6, and continues through Wednesday, August 12. Ratcatcher will be returning as a featured speaker. Academy is open to all Festival participants whether CKC, Games, Crafts or Entertainment.

New for 1998! Come as you are and come ready to play at the "Renaissance Masters' Workshops", planned to take place in the weeks preceding Festival at the Renaissance Academy location.

**Sad to say that Cochran Lounge at Macalester College isn't available to us in 1998 due to renovation. Our audition/Academy location has not been chosen yet, however, we are looking for appropriate space at Augsburg, Hamline, or one of the larger community centers. The final location will be published in the Spring Newsletter, coming your way in May 1998.

(...is it too early to think about)

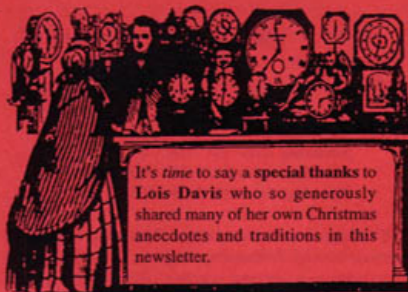
TRAIL OF TERROR

October 9, 10, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, 1998

1998's theme, "Hollywood Horrors", promises lots of opportunity to send up everyone's favorite antiheroes while serving that deep inner need we all have to startle and scare strangers. Auditions (for those new to Trail) and casting interviews (for Trail's returning participants) will begin on Labor Day weekend at Bad Manor.



Image Courtesy Of
A great gift idea:
**Minnesota Renaissance Festival
Season Passes**
Available through the Sales Department
at  **Faire Folk®**
www.faire-folk.com



It's time to say a special thanks to Lois Davis who so generously shared many of her own Christmas anecdotes and traditions in this newsletter.

Classified Ads

WANTED: One snowy day; children's laughter; old friends; a plump turkey; jingle bells; a pine tree; loved ones. Call 555-HOHO.

FOR SALE: One partially assembled bicycle. all parts included. Husbands says, "Never again!" Call 555-OHNO!

WILL TRADE Pair of skis & poles for crutches and 6 weeks' worth of good books. Call 555-OUCH!

IMMEDIATE OPENING for toy maker. Room and board provided - must like cold weather. Seasonal work. Call 555-ANTA.

UFO INFORMATION WANTED. Anyone who has seen strange flying objects on or around Dec. 25, please call RUD-OLPH.

Word Scramble

Below are scrambled versions of ten common words associated with Christmas. Unscramble each to reveal the Christmas related items.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. ENENPCOI | 6. SPITG |
| 2. TANS A | 7. YVANTIIT |
| 3. DRREENEI | 8. DESLNCA |
| 4. WNAMOSN | 9. LOLHY |
| 5. EERT | 10. RTAS |



ANSWERS TO WORD SCRAMBLE: 1. PRECIOUS 2. SANTA 3. REINDEER 4. SNOWMAN 5. TREE 6. GIFTS 7. NATIVITY 8. CANDLES 9. HOLLY 10. STAR

Wassail

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 1/2 c. sugar | 1 T. ground ginger |
| 4 c. boiling water | 1 1-inch stick cinnamon |
| 3 allspice berries | 1 1/3 c. orange juice |
| 6 whole cloves | 2/3 c. lemon juice |

Combine sugar and 2 cups boiling water and boil 5 minutes. Add spices, cover and allow to stand 1 hour. Add remaining water and fruit juices and mix well. Strain. Heat to boiling point. Serve immediately. Makes about 1 quart.

The word wassail evolved from the old Anglo-Saxon term was hael, which means "what hail" or "good health".

HUZZAH!

Welcome to this world...

Aidan William Deltzman

Born on November 30, 1997
to Bill Deltzman, Jr. and Jodi Trotta.



???

Did you know...

???

- The world's tallest cut Christmas tree was the 221 - foot Douglas Fir erected in 1950, at the Northgate Shopping Center in Seattle, Washington.
- The brightest Christmas tree appeared in Friendship, Wisconsin. It was decorated with 27,650 dazzling Christmas lights.
- The largest Christmas candy was the 65-ft. high Santa and Reindeer sculpture made in 1988 by the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Houston, Texas. Taking over 550 hours to construct, the sculpture contained 600 lbs. of sugar, 20 gallons of egg whites and 600 sq. ft. of plastic foam, food coloring and plywood.



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Twas the Night Before Festival

By Summer Oldham



'Twas the night before Festival and all through the site, not a creature was stirring, not even a Knight.

The tights were all hung next to costumes with care in hopes that September 28th soon would be there.

The safety service guys were nestled, all snug in their bunks, dreaming that women would think they were hunks.

Queen Katherine on her throne, takes off her crown. She fills up her wine goblet and drinks it all down.

Hark! In the kingdom, there arose such a clatter. She sprang from her chair to see what was the matter.

Away to the window she gasped from the sight, there on the ground was a brave-jousting Knight.

The moon on the breast plate of the new fallen soldier gave a luster of midday to the gray shining armor.

"Look, your heinous" said one of her sources, it's a miniature coach and eight galloping horses.

The little old driver so regal and friendly, she knew in an instant it must be King Henry.

Up Dragon's Tower to Bad Manor they came. He circled the Pirate Ship and called them by name: "On Robin Hood! On Little John! Beau Monde and one Fop! On Puppi! On Pluff! On Puke and On Snoot!"

From the top of the chapel, to Folkestone Hall. "Joust Dash Away, Joust Dash Away, Joust Dash Away All!"

Like dry dirt on a windy day flies, it gets in your nose and sticks in your eyes.

Then in an instant she heard on the roof, the prancing and trotting of each little hoof.

As she drew in her head and was turning around, down the chimney King Henry came with a bound.

He was dressed all in velvet from his crown to his belt and his tights, so revealing, made Katherine's heart melt.

A sack full of toys he had flung like a sack, and he looked like a peasant digging through the trash.

His jewels how they sparkled, in his crown so heavy, the sapphires like oceans the ruby like a cherry.

His droll little mouth said "Huzzah" and "Good Cheer" and the beard on his chin was sculpt ear to ear.

A big turkey leg he held tight in his fist as white ruffles encircled his neck and his wrist.

He had a long sword and his belly a slight droop that shook when he laughed like bread-bow-wow.

He spoke like an English man, very pompous and stout, he filled all the stockings and tucked his head out.

Then laying a finger inside of his nose and giving a bow, up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his carriage, to his team gave a dam, and away they all flew like they were late for the Drum Jam!

And she heard him exclaim as he stopped at a privy:

"Merry Christmas To All... Hey, Where's the BLT?"

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**Best Wishes
to all for
a safe and prosperous
New Year!**



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