



# Privy Councilor

Volume 40 Issue 4

September 11 & 12, 2010

## Mid-America Festivals

1244 Canterbury Road

Suite 306

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Shop: (952) 496-9232  
Site: (952) 445-2753  
First Aid: (952) 445-2351  
Safety Services: Ext. 101

### Site Hours For Show

Security on duty  
6pm Friday thru  
2am Monday

First Aid Office  
8am - 8pm

Outer Gates:  
Fri, Sat and Sun locked  
@ 10:30 PM

-Exceptions-  
Back Gate:  
7 am - 2pm Monday  
With security guard on  
duty

Inner Gates:  
A and B Gate open  
7am - 10:30pm

Check In Gate Times  
B Gate 6:30am - 8:00pm  
C Gate 6:30am - 1:00pm

Drive-In Gates:  
6:30 am to 8:00 am

## Royal Ale Fest

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pet Fest

Visit the Special Events Field for the 4th Annual Pet Fest! Learn about pet safety, training, products and more from over 30 vendors. Come watch the talented Twin Cities Disc Dogs perform, the Aussie Rescue Agility team, or the Great Dane Jousting show!

### FREE Grain Belt Beer Tasting

Tap into the spirit with FREE beer tasting in the Special Events Pavilion at 12:30, 2:30, and 4:30.

### Pet Costume Contest

Think your pet has the best costume? Bring them dressed in their best to the Special Events Stage at 12:30 p.m. daily to win prizes.

### Domino's Pizza Eating Contest

Impress King Henry with your pizza eating skills by entering in the Domino's Pizza Eating contest! Contest will take place on the Special Events Pavilion beginning at 1:30pm with the children's contest with the adult contest to follow at 1:45pm.

### National Homebrew Competition

Join the Minnesota Homebrew Association as beers from across the nation compete for the Byggvir's Big Beer Cup this weekend only! The competition embraces historically accurate beers, meads, and ciders. The event will run from 10am to 4 pm in the Blue Lions Tent (BLT) and there will be brewing demos all day.

### Beer Demo

Come to the Special Events Pavilion at 11:30 and 3:30 daily to hear what's new

in the homebrew world from the Minnesota Homebrew Association.

### Disc Dog Show!

Come watch dogs fly through the air during the Disc Dog Show presented by the Twin Cities Disc Dog Club. Learn how to get your dog interested in disc throwing and the best throwing techniques. Shows daily in the Special Events Field at 11am, 1pm, 3pm, and 5pm.

### Great Dane Jousting Show

The battle is on! Watch Sir Leansalot joust against Sir Slobberjaws to win the heart of Lady Looslips. Who will be her knight in shining armor? Daily performances in the Special Events Field at 11:30am, 1:30pm, 3:30pm.

### Children's Costume Contest

Lads and Lassies can compete in a Renaissance Costume Contest at 3:00 on the Children's Realm stage. Participating children will be escorted to the King's Arbor to show their fine garb in the Knighting Ceremony.



## Made By Hand Carr Hagerman

There is nothing as exceptional as an idea made visible by the artists hand. When we look upon something that has been crafted by hand, we can never truly appreciate the time it took not only to craft the object, but the hours of dedicated learning it took to get there. It's years of tinkering, trying, failing, losing, practicing, learning, and all of it without any guarantee of reward. For the working artist, the sense of accomplishment is found not just in selling an object, but actually being able to see the culmination of practice embedded in what was created. It's pride, and it's personal.

Artistry is not limited to creating objects. It can also be found in performers who have dedicated their lives to creating meaningful work, who are committed to perfecting performance as an expression of an idea. It's all about judgment, craftsmanship, thinking and commitment, and it's hard work.

This festival began as a show which celebrated artists that made things one at a time, and performers that did the heavy lifting of creating clever material. Jewelers, potters, wood workers, leather, glass and textiles were all on display, and the artist that made them stood nearby. In the cast we had Avner, The Flying Karamozov Brothers, Penn and Teller, and a host of other performers on stage and in the street that presented good, compelling and original work that was fit for everyone, and yet still entertaining.

In the past few years, for reasons we can and should debate, we've opened Pandora's box and slowly changed the game. While we are still mostly populated by good, working artisans, the obfuscation of rules has tilted us towards vendors selling manufactured things, artists who are no longer required to be present, and performers doing more and more adult material. If one should question the logic of doing easy dick jokes and sexual material, or selling imported work without an artist present, the answer is the same: It's easy, and it sells. But it also risks undermining our unique heritage and pushes further down the economic scale. It's moving from a focus on the artistry, to a focus on economy.

It may very well be an appropriate response to the challenges of economic conditions, after all, even a company like Martin Guitars, with over a 100 year tradition of creating guitars by hand, now sells inexpensive guitars made with veneer...they look the same, they're much cheaper, they're easy to make (in Mexico) and they sell. They just don't sound the same. They make these guitars because people can afford them, and they don't sound terrible. But one wonders whether they'll undermine the sales of their more expensive, hand made guitars, with cheap knock-offs.

I'm old school, I guess. I believe we're in risk of losing one of the elements that truly set the festival(s) apart from other entertainment choices...the quality of *originality*. Regaining our artistic composure might be an untenable goal because Pandora's box has already been opened, but it's a conversation worth having. If we don't protect our "one at a time" approach, or foster clever and original performances, we may simply end up being a dusty, adult, less interesting alternative to the State Fair.

The problem of originality isn't limited to this festival. Companies as big as Starbucks have come to realize that the bigger they grew, the further away they moved from what made their product successful; their culture. It wasn't that they no longer had standards, but over time the focus was turned towards profitability and growth at the cost of culture and quality, and once that happened what had made them successful began to disappear.

This festival is, by local standards, an old horse. We are showing signs of age and the fix ain't gonna be easy because it's costly and priority driven. But while the edifice is crumbling and being rebuilt (as we've seen the past couple of years), and the parking lot is being chewed up and spit out, there are less costly means to regain our artistic balance. It doesn't have to be an expensive fix. To do this, artists, actors and managers should sit together and talk about the future, and engage in a fundamental debate on what we need to do to protect our relevancy. It will require a modest dedication to imagination and ambiguity, a willingness to focus on what we can do together, as opposed to pointing out what's wrong. It's addressing what can make us a more attractive show for artists and actors, as well as customers, as we grow forward, rather than trying to re-animate a taxidermic past. It's mentoring versus managing, invitation over compliance, and softness over roughness.

Hand made, one at a time, by the artist present. Cleverly composed material that is unique and without offense, created by the performer present. Isn't that who we are? Isn't that what we do? The answer, at least to this old timey, seems obvious.

Carr can be reached at [carrhagerman@gmail.com](mailto:carrhagerman@gmail.com)

(The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of Mid-America management, staff or participants.)



# Service Awards

## 10 Years

Chris Anders  
 Brian Anderson  
 Scott Brown  
 Steven Paul Carlson  
 Joe Cawley  
 Michael J. Devon  
 Krissy Dietz  
 Maggie Dobbin  
 Dante Fraboni  
 R. Charles Hebig  
 Martha Henrikson  
 Jim Jordan  
 Kimberly Keller  
 Rudie Kessler  
 Jill Kohn  
 Ed Kvarnes  
 Deborah Meysembourg  
 Barbara Mundschan  
 Andy Phelan  
 David Piphon  
 Rhonda Plantenberg  
 Robert Richards  
 Melissa Seither-Keast  
 Becca Shaffner  
 Katrina Sheldon  
 Casey Spates  
 Callie Spilane  
 Jonathan Steffens  
 Jeavonna Christine  
 Yvonne Sutherland  
 Tirzah Treece  
 H. Bill Tracy  
 David Woolhouse

## 15 Years

Zxy Atiywarii  
 Temple Blackwood  
 Bryce Brown  
 Eric M. Clark  
 Angela Crow  
 Autumn Cunningham  
 John Debnam  
 Andrew Erlanson  
 Barbara Friebe  
 Jim Grittner  
 Karen Hellmer  
 George Hellmer  
 Kathryn Jorgenson  
 Anita Kelling  
 Dan Kujawski  
 Kelly Larson  
 Marianne Lerbs  
 Jim Miller  
 Judith Miller  
 Kathy Peck  
 Mav Plantenberg  
 Celeste Proe  
 Ren Riga  
 Kyle Roggenbuck  
 Stephen Schroedeer  
 Carolyn Stinson  
 Vanessa Strong  
 Mike Weiss  
 Steven West

## 20 Years

Diane Brown  
 Dana Delvaut  
 John Fogelberg  
 Tom Joyal  
 Erin Kasper  
 Sherry Kessler  
 Colleen Larson  
 Jerry Larson  
 Eric Lee  
 Sabrina MacFarlane  
 Victoria Martins  
 BJ Palashewski  
 Nancy Schultz  
 David Stanelle  
 Suzi Swanson  
 Don West

## 25 Years

Michael Carlson  
 Barbara Everson  
 Delayne Hostetler  
 Melissa Iverson  
 Garry Kopp  
 Greg Marchand  
 David Rude  
 John Rupkey

## 30 Years

Carolyn Ahl  
 Roger Ahl  
 Toni Barnhart  
 Tom Belise  
 Brian Bram  
 Kevin Caufield  
 Nancy Christensen  
 Debby Harkness  
 Ted Hodapp  
 Don Lemmerman  
 Kate McEvoy  
 Jeff Mathews  
 Terrie Maley  
 Walter Napiorkowski  
 Tuey Wilson

## 35 Years

Jon Anderson  
 Sandy Barry  
 Lloyd Brant  
 Sandy Curtis  
 Dave Eckenrode  
 Jere Huffman  
 Kate Huffman  
 Shadia Ouma  
 Hal Robinson  
 Natasha Treuer

## 40 Years

Nelson Brown  
 David Bryce  
 John Coiner  
 Steve Grassmann

Image Courtesy of



### Greeting from the Craft Department!

New Craft Coordinator: Beverly Dwyll  
 952-445-7361 952-445-7380 (fax)  
[crafts@renaissancefest.com](mailto:crafts@renaissancefest.com)

If you wish to sell or rent your booth you can pick up the initial paperwork at Gate B

### Master Dinner

The Master/Artisan Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, September 25th at 8:00 p.m. in Bad Manor.

RSVP by Sunday September 19th at B-Gate.

### Greeting from the Marketing Department

#### Attention Crafters:

If you are a crafter and would like to get involved with some of the marketing opportunities we are offering, please email [marketing@renaissancefest.com](mailto:marketing@renaissancefest.com) for more information!

#### Help Wanted

We would like some people to write some Historical Trivia Questions (and answers) for Children. These will be used in our educational packets sent out to schools to promote Festival Friday.

Please send to: [Marketing@renaissancefest.com](mailto:Marketing@renaissancefest.com)



## FOR SALE MUSICAL JESTER DOLL BUSINESS!

Judy is no longer able to produce the musical jesters but would love to see Jester's Court continue as it has been such a vital part of the Renaissance.

Judy will teach you everything you need to know to create the jesters that have been sold all over the world and have been in demand by collectors for over 20 years.

The sale of the business also includes the patterns, directions, materials, components plus over 300 face designs, to get you started on this lucrative business.

Renaissance Festivals, as well as art shows, are a great venue for these unique items.

Contact Judy at [jesters@icte.com](mailto:jesters@icte.com) or 708-494-459

### Did you know?

If you are turning 40 this year, you get free admission to the festival!

Spread the word to all your friends and family!



### Join us at King of the Log for our annual After Hours Tournament! September 11 7:30 PM

Battle with workers from throughout the Realm for the King and Queen of the Log title. Join us for fun, friendship, libations and food. Sign-up at the Log any time during the weekend.

Please sign-up by at the Log by 7:30

### Please welcome our new food vendors for 2010!

Start your morning with a warm greeting for Ron & Debbie Kissel and have a refreshing coffee beverage from Espresso Ala King in Ups & Downs!

Don't forget to stop in and meet Alain Lenne with Crepes in the Ups & Downs area as well. I have to say the Banana Nutella is fantastic.

Head over to Cart Wheel Cove to visit Jackie Williams at the Salads & Wraps booth and try a Thai Chicken Salad or a fabulous Chicken Bacon Club Wrap.

Last but certainly not least run over to Thabt & Amira Mohamed's booth Royal Shish Ka-bob in the Narrows and try a Chicken Ka-bob dipped in garlic sauce, yummy!

### Overnight Occupancy:

There should be no one sleeping in booths unless you have an overnight occupancy permit. **FYI:** We will be inspecting for electric use and any evidence of people sleeping in their booths without a permit.

### Garbage:

Please dispose of garbage in the large garbage bins and not simply by leaving bags of trash by our garbage frames through out sight.

### Parking:

The Festival Management wants to thank those of you who are parking in the quarry lot. The continued patronage and enjoyment of our customers is only increased by convenient parking to the festival grounds, thanks again to all of those who have helped by parking in the Quarry this year.

-Festival Management

### Community Chess Game

Booth 110 - Sure Wood Forest

Any member of the 'community' (actors, crafters, etc) are free to come in, make a move, and turn the flipper to the other side. It adds a different dimension because it is now involving the entire 'village', rather than pitting two players against each other.

### Dance Around the World! (Friday nights in 2010)

**When:** Friday evenings, 7:30, on an ongoing, drop-in basis Begins September 10, 2010, and continues through April.

**Cost:** \$7 at the door

**Where:** Tapestry Folkdance Center 3748 Minnehaha Avenue South Minneapolis

**More Info:** [www.tapestryfolkdance.org](http://www.tapestryfolkdance.org) 612-722-2914