

The Roving Gypsy

Sastimos! (To Your Health!)

Welcome to our humble gatherings and thank you for being here once again. This is the first edition of this small newsletter for the gypsies so that we may review our events of the Minnesota Renaissance Festival, get to know each other better, document for research, and plan for the future.

Hopefully this will be a weekly issue for during the festival season and perhaps we will be able to use this as a vehicle to keep in touch with each other, even if only one or two get sent out in the "off" season. There will be no formal decorum to this newsletter so that flexibility will be allowed as to what is printed. However, some regular items to include would be gypsy vocabulary and culture, quotes, and perhaps some character information.

Character Feature: Auntie Tassels (Mezana Christophina Zavar aka: Lynn Winter-Ritt)

Good day to You! I have been asked to inform the peoples about myself and it seems somewhat strange to me to tell you about me when it would be more funs to simply spend some time with each other. Simply stated, I consider myself the resident wise mystic and a definite matriarch (not the only one) of the gypsy family, even if you don't (I hear you laughing back there!).

My nieces and nephews have perhaps warned you about my pulling of ears. Well, first of all, they have deserved the ear pullings or I would not be doing them. So keep yourself in line, or cleverly enough out of line, and this should not happen to you. (note from author: She does not really pull the ear, it is a gag and..... owowowowowowowowow.... that hurts.) I prefer to speak for myself, Thank You. If we need a large display of the gag there is a painless way to pull ears and I'll be happy to show you.

As I was saying, I enjoy children and on occasion have a vision or can perhaps give you some good advice on life since I have lived so long and traveled so many places. You can ask me for a story, but you may not always get one. Do not let my age fool you as I have many good years left and plan on being around for many many years.

Last year was my first year at this village and it was nice as we found a place to park our vardo at the forest of Robin Hood. Uncle Raul cooked a good meal in the evening and during the day we went about to find ways to make money and entertain the peoples of the village. I admit there were many strange dressed people but when you've traveled as much as I have, nothing is a shock. Also, we are joined by my sister Maggie this year because I lost at cards to our Mother. Any assistance in marrying her away is greatly appreciated.

This year we were informed that our vardo was to be removed from this village so once again we find ourselves in the streets. I believe Uncle Raul has moved on with the vardo and may or may not return but some of the family has chosen to remain to make their livings here, and others have left. The peoples are nice, it is a good king, and the food smells wonderful.

Special Requests:

- ♦ The Amazing Christopher is looking for persons to help with hat passing during a couple of shows in the afternoon. He has made an offer of \$2/hat pass for 2 people if you are ever interested.
- ♦ The Rogues have requested interaction which involves the 'kidnapping' of a gypsy.
- ♦ There are a couple of people that have other duties that would like to play with the gypsies on occasion when their schedule allow. Mistress Melon can be found at Crown Stage working for the Tortuga Twins and would like to be considered our Italian cousin. Tiny was last year's Porthos Muskateer and works as a dragon part of the day.

Events & Bits (scheduled, special events or general)

It is nice to have some scheduled events in a day to help create a little monotony in an otherwise extremely chaotic day. If you are stuck looking for entertaining things to do, here are a few ideas and suggestions:

- ♦ Bloomers Contest, Wooing Contest, Peasant Olympics, Fashion Show and Wench Press
- ♦ Bocce with Mayor's Entourage (Sat Aug 19)
- ♦ Assist any act with hat passing 'en masse' or alone (nothing better than seeing a bunch of gypsies standing and waiting for money).
- ♦ Interacting with the "Tour"—Lori has requested that if you are going to interact talk with her *hand* as she does not appreciate "surprises".
- ♦ "Helping" Chrysto with his gate shift in the morning
- ♦ 12:30pm Villification Tennis
- ♦ 1:00pm Parade Jam at the Bear
- ♦ 2:00pm Mistress Bawd at the Queen's Pub (gypsies in the rafters anytime)
- ♦ 5:30pm Chess Match
- ♦ 6:00pm Closing Gate Bits or Drum Jam

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Weather: Saturday the weather was extremely hot and muggy with temperatures in the 90's. There was a beautiful downpour in the mid-afternoon followed by more sunshine and mugginess. On Sunday, a cool breeze came and went and the temperatures were a little lower than on Saturday.

Gypsies in Action: Saturday morning seemed to find most of us helter skelter meeting up in the afternoon and then again later in the evening. Sunday was apparently the day of separation of the family.

- ◆ Nickoli was in another village performing in the evenings and was unavailable on Saturday and made an appearance on Sunday (until he was 'grounded' by Bryn as he wasn't even walking straight any more).
- ◆ Bryn found herself as a brief stand-in squire for Don Quixote (any detail Bryn?).
- ◆ Maggie and Auntie Tassels taught some patrons basic belly dance moves in order to have them perform, as a distraction, for the Mayor and his Entourage as they were on their 10am walkabout. While the people danced, the Mayor's grandson was kidnapped and replaced with Hayrolled "in disguise". The Conquistadors and rogues assistance in the dancing lessons was very humorous.
- ◆ Bryn, Maggie, and Auntie Tassels found great delight in the rain as they yelled various things to patrons covering in the shops and various tents "What?! You never had a bath before?" and "Who has the soap?" Upon the return of the sun the gypsies then "air dried" in which Bryn was unable to "take off". There was the attempted 'spin dry' but that just got everybody dizzy.
- ◆ On both Saturday and Sunday, Chrysto was properly "primped" for villification. On Sunday a proper villification curse to the other team was added "May your tongues be so tied that they cannot PULL you from your camel!" followed by a good spitting in their direction.
- ◆ The Bear Jam on Saturday seemed a little short of musicians and started a little late. On Sunday the drummers outnumbered the dancers as there were 5 drummers and only 3 dancers: Bubi, Bryn, and Matrishka (This was NOT a good thing).
- ◆ Chrysto worked his front gate shifts in the mornings and put up a victorious fight in villification tennis (we love you even though you did not win) and drummed at the Jam. It can only be assumed the rest of his time was spent with various women and enticing them to give him their 'jewels'
- ◆ During the Parade the gypsies were successful in kidnapping Dartanion from the Muskateers. He and his things were later auctioned off in a closing gate bit. The Muskateer got the tabbard for 500 lbs, the Cardinal's Guard got the hat for 5000 lbs, the Conquistadors got Dartanion and his sword (because they seemed less interested otherwise) for 3 rocks, and the gypsies may a goodly amount of money and had a great time.
- ◆ On Saturday some of the gypsies were able to participate in the Chess Match as filler pieces. The theme this year is Love vs. Hate. It's that stupid forgiveness that made Hate loose. Whatever happened to the good of days when you died carrying your grudges with you to your grave. Oh well, nobody's perfect :o)

Outside the Festival:

- ◆ Our Kadrya (Katelyn Lindahl) should currently be in Colorado. Before leaving she indicated that she would be back for possibly the last weekend.
- ◆ FYI- Lynn's grandmother was recently returned once again to the Good Samaritan Home and it appears that she may not be returning to her home ever again. She has been diagnosed with the beginnings of Alzheimer's (currently at 21%) and Lynn may be called away if needed, but this is currently not likely.
- ◆ Keep those happy thoughts going for Meghan's book!!

Next weekend & Visions of the Future:

- ◆ We are scheduled to play bocce with the Mayor's Entourage on Saturday, Aug 19. We should have some distractions and bribes prepared for the men and women of their group. Also need to come up with some specific blessings and curses for the game.
- ◆ A potential closing gate bit in process is "Disco Gypsy".
- ◆ Curses, Blessings, and sayings.

BLESSINGS AND SAFE TRAVELS UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!!

If anything was missed please let me know and feel free to contribute ideas, articles, or small items.

"If I could explain, I wouldn't need to dance!" *Isadora Duncan*

"They who dance are thought mad by those who hear no the music." *Anonymous*

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