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A LETTER FROM OUR BARON Ulrich Halfdon Ulfsson

Hailsa!

Looking back on my time as Baron of Shadowed Stars brings up many good memories and thoughts of the momentous times that we live in. Serving our great barony has been one of the greatest honors of my SCA life and I look forward to seeing where it can go from here. I have had the privilege of many great champions including my son and my step-son representing me on the archery and thrown weapons lists respectively. Sitting among my cousins during the Known World Baronial champions tournament and seeing the honor and comportment of the fighters made for an amazing day. Sitting next to Their Majesties while they recognized the hard-working members of our Kingdom was always a pleasure as well. Perhaps the honor that I enjoyed the most was showing the well-deserved appreciation towards the residents of Shadowed Stars for the many achievements accomplished during my tenure.

I hope that my successors will find these things as enjoyable as I have these last three years. Sitting as the public leader of a Barony is a unique experience that is not to be taken lightly. While I look forward to retiring to my lands and hall it is with no small measure of sadness that begin moving towards the future, especially with this year evolving the way it has. At no time during the history of the society has there been such a disruption to our normal activities. Seeing how so many people have stepped up to help fill the void left from not being with our chosen families has been warming to my heart, though I long for the day that I will be able to again take the field with my brothers and sisters in arms and sit with my family and discuss all the things we desire. Until that times once again I will remain in service to the Kingdom, the Barony, and to the dream. Thank you for believing in me and allowing me the honor of serving you all.

Ulrich

Each candidate was asked to answer the following questions for the Special Edition Newsletter:

1. How did you discover the SCA? As well as what drew you into staying since then?
2. What is your biggest inspiration within the Society?
3. What is your favorite part of the SCA?
4. How do intend to lead the group in a post-COVID time?
5. What would you offer to the Barony as the new Baronage that would be unique to you?
6. What are your goals for your reign, and do you have an idea of how to achieve this?

A Letter from the first Baron and Baroness Fergus and Maggie

To our beloved Barony of Shadowed Stars do we, Fergus and Maggie, send warm greetings and hopes for your good health and happiness, As we prepare for our second Baronial transition, we were called upon to recall our memories of the time we spent as the first Baron and Baroness of this group.

We remember well the whole experience of the polling. There were three sets of people running: Master Jean Paul and the Honorable Lady Cassandra, Warder Mael and Lady Prudence, and Fergus and myself. We felt honored to be running alongside such talented and wonderful people. It felt like the process, from beginning to end, took forever. I remember delivering the petition to form a Barony to Their Majesties Cellach and Vukasin in the spring of 2014. I remember His Majesty Cameron informing the populace that our petition had been approved at Mounted War Games that fall. I remember the polling process starting in October and being managed by Their Majesties Cadogan and Ann-Marie and the call we received from them in late December, notifying us that we had been chosen. And so very well do we recall the event on May 30, 2015, when His Majesty Ragnvaldr invested us all as the Barony of Shadowed Stars, the (then) 20th Barony of the Middle Kingdom.



That day was when our little group, a shire for over 30 years at that point, took its first steps as a Barony. We were so proud to celebrate with everyone who was a part of it and with the whole kingdom.

Our time as Baron and Baroness was some of the most rewarding of our lives. We were the voice of our people to the Crown and the voice of the Crown to our people. Being able to shine a light on the good works and skills of the people who live here was our happiest task. We worked with the people here to develop traditions, awards, and events that make us who we are. During our time as the Baronage, we were honored to recognize people for their service, their skill in the arts and sciences, and their prowess in the martial arts.

We met and served alongside some amazing people, some of whom are now counted among our best friends. We traveled all over the kingdom, attending an average of 25-30 events each year. One highlight: we attended the Known World Baronial Championships at Pennsic each year, where we sat with the Baronage for kingdoms far and near and watched as rapier, rattan, archery, and thrown weapons Champions took the field to display their skills and honor.

Sitting up front in any court was a cool and new experience, as we were finally able to hear most everything that happened. Although at Pennsic, we were so far from the Royal presence that we couldn't hear much, we had the joy of sitting with good friends and being attended by members of the Barony and others (it gets hot up front!).

There were times when the job was challenging; the sorrow of losing someone who meant so much to so many, the personality conflicts that arise in any group of diverse people, the difficulties of hosting large, kingdom level events. But these challenges were overshadowed by the happiness of seeing our people recognized or the friendships we formed along the way.

When we stepped down, I was struck by an overwhelming sense of sadness. The thought of no longer serving as the Baronage of such an amazing group of people filled me with a feeling of loss. But that only lasted for a moment, as I was excited to see the torch passed on and take the next steps with the rest of the populace, as we continued our journey together.

When we stepped down, and Ulrich stepped up, it was again under the guiding hands of Cellach and Vukasin. We had the most amazing coronets, made for us by Viscount Leif of Gray Fox, and stepped down in the Barony of Rivenstar, in April 2018. If we couldn't step down in our own Barony, it was lovely to be surrounded by our dear friends in Rivenstar and all the many people of the kingdom who had helped us along our path as the baby Barony+.

Now, as we prepare to transition, once again, to a new Baronage for our beloved group, we offer our thanks to all who have chosen to step forward and volunteered to serve in this capacity and our congratulations to those who will be chosen. We stand ready to serve you and support you as the new Baronage of Shadowed Stars!

With gratitude for the love given to us,

Maggie and Fergus

First Baroness and Baron Shadowed Stars





Lady Kolfinna and Lord Andries Von Voorburg



Greetings, I am **Kolfinna or Finna** for short. In my "other life" I am Stacy Malloy. I grew up on a small farm with 5 horses about 2 hours south of here in a little town called Battle Ground. As a teenager I participated in 4-H horse and pony as well as dog obedience training. I was never happier than when I was working with the horses or working with friends to help them understand their horses a little better. I was always known to want to ride the "troubled" horses because I liked to find out what was wrong and get to the root of it so hopefully I could fix it and have a happier, healthier horse. Anyway, I could talk about horses for days so I'll move on. One night in 2002 while we were playing D&D, I mentioned that I thought I was born in the wrong era, that I would have loved to be born in the medieval era and my friend asked me if I had ever heard of The SCA? He then told me all about it and I was hooked. I looked it up on the computer (yay, dial-up) and found the local fighter practice. The people there were very welcoming and put up with my barrage of questions. Next thing you know, I'm in armor and on the practice field. I then found out about equestrian practice, which of course I went and checked out. Riven Star equestrians, after checking my experience level, were so kind and got me up on a horse and let me practice the war games. I was in bliss! As most know, adulting and being in the SCA don't always get along, so I went to events and practices as I could until a significant life change landed me in Fort Wayne. I have a tendency to hide in the back and not be that extroverted so I challenged myself to push my boundaries and get more openly involved with events and baronial activities. I still participate in equestrian and have decided to try fencing, archery, thrown weapons, hound coursing, and get my armor back together to do heavy fighting again. Along the line I also have picked up jewelry making, Viking wire weaving, illumination and calligraphy. Within the past few years I continued to challenge myself and have become an equestrian marshal, served as MoAS, and currently serve as Equestrian Champion and Chatelaine.

Hello, I am **Andries Von Voorburg**, but I am known outside of the SCA as Andrew Malloy. I was born in a small town in central Michigan where I had played football, wrestling and marching band. I earned a scholarship to tour the country as a percussionist with Drum Corps International in competition with groups from around North America. After college I moved to Fort Wayne to work at one of the nation's largest music technology resellers. One of the most rewarding accomplishments is being a founder of the Mad Ants Drumline for the Mad Ants NBA G-League. While living in the Fort Wayne area, I have many hours of volunteering outside of the SCA coaching youth basketball, performing for charity events for the Mad Ants Drumline, and the Relay for Life cancer benefit. Here in Shadowed Stars, I was introduced to the Society through fencing. I learned quickly that the Society is so much more than the fighting. Dancing, bardic, storytelling, cooking, and socializing became the springboard to learning so much more that the SCA has to offer. By this point, I realized this certainly was for me. In my short stint in Atlantia, I broadened my horizons even further. I picked up more interests such as brewing and woodworking which have become by far my favorite activities. Early on in my SCA career, I dove headlong into being the chatelain to help bring newcomers into the group and assist with setting up demos. Shortly after moving to Atlantia, I picked right up on my service becoming the chronicler for the small but mighty Shire of Roxbury Mill in Maryland. I earned my marshalet in Atlantia and assisted with running rapier practices. Since moving back to Shadowed Stars, I've been nominated to be the baronial rapier marshal as well as rapier marshal in charge for the Coronation of Edmund and Katerina and Mounted War Games. I believe that I have much more that I can offer to the barony and kingdom.

Questions:**1. How did you discover the SCA? As well as what drew you into staying since then?**

Kolfinna discovered the SCA through a gaming group member who brought her to practice and has been hooked since. The openness and kindness of the people at events and practices keep me involved and wanting to share my skills and time.

Andries discovered the SCA through a co-worker. The camaraderie of the individual communities keep me coming back as friends, competitors, and a great army of the field.

2. What is your biggest inspiration within the Society?

We both are inspired by dedication to period presentation, the acts of kindness within our community, and the ability to find the knowledgeable people to help with any problem.

3. What is your favorite part of the SCA?

Kolfinna's first love in the SCA is all things equestrian. From participation in games, marshaling the field, to working as ground crew so other people can ride. A close second to this, is the honor of making illuminations and scrolls and having a part in awards for recognition of the populous.

Andries' favorite part of the SCA is being involved in the rapier community. The great people involved have a great background that have much to offer to help enrich everyone's lives.

4. How do intend to lead the group in a post-COVID time?

Even though the path through these times is still uncertain, we want to lead the barony forward through flexibility and adapting to situations, cautious optimism, and a well measured approach to sustainable participation.

5. What would you offer to the Barony as the new Baronage that would be unique to you?

Kolfinna strives to bring her enthusiasm for highlighting the accomplishments of the barony and its populace to the kingdom.

Andries brings knowledge and willingness to serve with technology in the times of the eSCA. Once we are allowed to rejoin in person, I'd love to bring the skills to enhance the SCA online presence.

6. What are your goals for your reign, and do you have an idea of how to achieve this?

We hope to bolster the barony participation and engagement through community activities to bring us all together. We also hope to find avenues where we can evolve and expand in membership through public demos, college campus club outreach, and public education.





Rónán Haukrson and Dame Hadley of Beckenham



Rónán Haukrson has been a member of the Society since 2012 and lived in the territories of the Barony of Shadowed Stars all his life. His first responsibilities to the Barony was as the student group liaison to Purdue Fort Wayne. Following that he served for 3 years as Baronial Exchequer and as one of the Heavy Marshalate. In 2018 he transitioned to the Barony's Knight Marshal. He also has served a variety of roles on the baronial staff for local and Kingdom level events. In that time his services were recognized by an Award of Arms and two Purple Frets. Besides serving in various officer positions, he is ever striving to improve his martial prowess, and currently holds five different weapon form authorizations. In addition, he enjoys archery, blacksmithing, crafting armor, and brewing mead. Currently he is working on a new kit based on his persona who is 11th century Irish/Scandinavian and served in the Varangian Guard.

Dame Hadley of Beckenham started in the SCA in the late 1990's and took a break after five years to focus on her career in logistics. She returned to the SCA in 2013 and served for the first time on a Kingdom reign. She accepted a position in the SCA 50th year event staff as the Clerk. In those two years leading up to the SCA 50 year event, she ran multiple events in the Barony of Sternfeld. Hadley accepted the position of Kingdom Event Coordinator and was the event steward for the Middle Kingdom 50th Celebration. Along the way Hadley was awarded an AOA, Purple Fret, Dragon Heart and made a Court Baroness. Most recently she was elevated to the noble order of Pelican. She has held the Barony's social media officer position since she moved back to Fort Wayne in 2017. Hadley is actively up to shenanigans in both households she belongs to - Beckenham and Holt Herotus. When she has free time she works on various things including fiber arts, being crafty, grilling and playing with her smokers.

Questions:

Questions 1-3: How did you discover the SCA? As well as what drew you into staying since then? What is your biggest inspiration within the Society? What is your favorite part of the SCA?

Nathan's response to the above three questions - My first SCA experience was around 1996 when I attended an event at a local Fort Wayne park. Friends and I thought the event sounded interesting, so we headed over to check it out. We walked around watching people participate and left thinking that was cool. Fast forward to 16 years later when my roommate and I are trying to find something to do and we ended up at a fighter practice. I was a collegiate fencer and went with the intention of learning about rapier. In a turn of fate, a local fighter now Baron started to armor me up and I was out on the field. Heavy armor combat is what drew and kept me in the SCA, along with art of armor making and research. I pursued becoming a marshal and then the Barony Knight Marshall. I also enjoy archery and was working on becoming a marshal of this discipline prior to COVID.

My experiences in the SCA have created friendships that I hope will last a lifetime. If I had to pick a favorite part of the SCA it would be the people. The people that welcomed me into the SCA making it feel like home to me.

Hadley's response to the above three questions - I was living in the Fort Wayne area and working at a local Girl Scout Camp. The camp director and her husband were both in the SCA. They thought I would enjoy the SCA since I had a love of history, arts and outdoors. I agreed to go to my first Simple Day and then a couple months later I attended Pennsic. I had been to England a couple years prior where my childhood love of Royalty, Archers and Knights became a passion as an adult.

I was water-bearing during my first Pennsic for a hot field battle, when came the moment that defines my answer for my inspiration and favorite part of the SCA.

There was a double line of fighters in red and white tabards walking across the field. They were sweaty, hot and they were tired as they walked side by side looking forwards – to what - I knew not. Then in the middle of the line was this blonde woman who walked alone, with her head held high. She was not tall of stature, but she seemed to me the tallest person in that line. Behind her more fighters again walking side by side looking forward following the blonde woman. When I looked on those faces, I saw tears, compassion, and a steely determination. The smiles they wore were grim if they had a smile at all. They processed to a point on a field where they stopped and the blonde woman who now had a crown upon her head addressed the populace. I could barely hear her voice as she spoke to the fighters of that day, but I could feel the emotion. I had my first SCA moment as I totally forgot that I was standing in a field in Pennsylvania. In a split second it was as if I was at a battlefield across the ocean and hundreds of years ago. People gathered around leaning in to hear better and the background noise faded. The Queen spoke of honor and the Kingdom with such a deep conviction. Then the people all shouted a response together that shook me to my core. I felt true inspiration like I had not felt before. I could feel and see that people around me felt the same. And as I was transported back from the past – I knew I wanted to be a part of the SCA. I wanted to be inspired and be a part of that inspiration in whatever way I could.

Now over 20 years later all those nameless people on a field are my chosen family, they are my Peers, they are my mentors and my inspiration. They are my most favorite part of the SCA not only because of who they are and what they stand for. They are the SCA moment and without them it would not be possible.

4. How do we intend to lead the group in a post-COVID time? We believe that we need to discuss how to lead during the COVID time as well as post-COVID. COVID has become a real part of our lives in one way or another. We are hopeful that a vaccine will soon become available and widely distributed. Until that becomes a reality then we are facing a time of sustaining the SCA thru the guidelines set forth by Society and Kingdom. We are planning to lead during this time by supporting online Baronial activities, events, and courts. We understand during the last eight months the populace is experiencing additional stress and anxiety. We will always maintain an open-door policy allowing members access to someone to listen to them. We will come out of the dark of the pandemic holding on to the light of lessons learned during this time - that our SCA is one of an inclusion that celebrates diversity and equity.

When we are safely able to move forward in having practices and events, then we shall lead by attending. We are both incredibly lucky to have tenure at our jobs that allows us to have ample vacation time for events and demos. We enjoy traveling to events, camping and will look forward to offering our support to populace in their endeavors. We will be posting a list of events that we are attending for the populace so they can join us at their leisure. We will focus on building the Barony thru online and in person activities. We will engage with the populace and will ever strive to make people feel like they have a home in the Barony.

5. What would you offer to the Barony as the new Baronage that would be unique to you? We offer the Barony many different unique skill sets with our varied personal and professional background. Nathan brings with him 14 years of working in a local government office, where his major tasks are project management, long term planning, and in general working to find solutions for drainage issues for DeKalb county's residents. Nathan spent many years working to create, build and maintain a local non for-profit group. Hadley has a 20-year background in logistics which gives her the experience to manage large scale projects while not losing sight of small details. Nathan has served in the Barony as Exchequer and Knight Marshall. Hadley has had a broad range of experiences in the SCA from serving on a Reign to Event Steward to Dishwasher.

Our unique talent that we offer the Barony is the combination of our experiences and our ability to work as a team. We blend Nathan's experience locally, with Hadley's experience on a Kingdom / Society level to provide a unique perspective to the SCA. We understand how to support each other and the Barony. We will encourage the Barony, as the Barony sets goals and plans for the future.

6. What are your goals for your reign, and do you have an idea of how to achieve this? We would like as mentioned above to sit down with the Barony and prepare a collective plan for the future. This plan would include goals for the following:

- Develop outreach programs to promote interest and new member growth thru demos and other activities.
- Grow the scope of Baronial weekly / monthly activity to keep new members and old interested in participating in the SCA
- To provide a space where all people feel welcome to be a part of SCA.
- We personally will be supporting all officers and their deputies in Barony in their duties. We will be attending local practices and activities both virtually and in person once allowed. We will be working to re-engage previous members of the Barony. We commit ourselves to building the Barony thru its populace and traditions.



Lady Zillia Degli Giudici and The Honorable Lady/Forester Gunnar Bogsveigir



Biography for Lady Zillia Degli Giudici

Awards: AOA; Royal Augmentation given by King William I; Purple Fret; Willow

Protégé to: Dame Maggie MacKeith

Apprentice to: Master Alan Fairfax

Service Fun: Head Feast Steward 4 times; Chronicler for Shadowed Stars and Rivenstar; Shadowed Stars Deputy Seneschal

Biography for The Honorable Lady/Forester Gunnarr Bogsveigir

Awards: Greenwood; Order of the Royal Vanguard; Dragon's Barb; Purple Fret

Protégé to: Master Sigulf Karlnar

Service Fun: Constellation Regional Archery Marshal; Kingdom Archery Champion; Constellation Regional Deputy Target Archery Commander; Deputy Seneschal of Rivenstar; Rivenstar Baronial Archery Marshal; Youth Officer At Large

Zillia's Answers to Questions 1-3

1. How did you discover the SCA? As well as what drew you into staying since then? I was introduced to the SCA by a dear friend, Master Alan Fairfax, AKA, Alan Terlep. We worked together at Bowen Center. I moved the children and myself to Fort Wayne due to accepting a job at Bowen Center. Master Fairfax invited me to join a gaming group of his. We became friends and when I expressed wanting to take my children to a renaissance faire in Michigan, Alan challenged me to try something completely different, something that wouldn't cost near as much, but he guaranteed we would have much more fun. Little did I know that accepting his challenge would change my life forever!

September 2015, Labor Day weekend, I was told by Master Fairfax that I needed to have a tent and pack some clothes and to meet him at the county fairground in Bluffton. I rounded up 3 out of the 4 children I had at the time, we filled up the minivan with clothes, snacks and all sorts of other things to entertain the teenagers and we took off for Bluffton, Indiana. Master Fairfax was not there when we arrived, but I did see a sign that was quite peculiar and led me to want to figure out why it said, "Troll" with an arrow pointing toward a door. So, I did what any normal person did and I walked toward, the Troll! I mean, Harry, Ron and Hermione survived one, I'm sure I could as well...right? How was I to know that "Troll" meant a place where one goes to sign their life away as well as give over their hard earned green paper in exchange for trinkets, the promise of food, a place to lay one's head and entertainment? Well, I did the thing and called in the troop of perpetually bored and irritated ones from the minivan. We looked through the pile of what I was told was the, "Gold Key". We picked out items that we could wear that all had these huge patches on them. We were going to blend in nicely because everyone had big patches on their clothes, I was sure...nope, I was wrong. We stuck out like sore thumbs!

By this time, I had received a phone call from Master Fairfax, he was running late and would be a little while yet. So, the troop of constantly sulking ones and I went to this shack where there were tables and we smelled food. Since, two of the constantly sulking ones were boys, they were definitely hungry. Surprisingly, the people there were smiling and telling us to come and get something to eat. The forever brooding ones didn't hesitate to grab some grub and sit down to eat. I on the other hand needed to know the cost before I joined in. I was told it didn't cost a thing and on top of that, they had a vegetarian option for the one brooder who didn't eat meat! I was kind of floored, things like this didn't happen to people like us. We were never asked to join in unless it meant we had to sit and listen to a sermon of some kind after. However, it was true, if we could and wanted to make a donation we were welcome to, but it was not required. I really didn't have much by way of green paper, but I put what I could in the jar.

Once we sat down we were greeted by a very jolly, welcoming young guy. He asked us who we were and if we had ever been to an event before. Event? Uh, no...event? I was so confused. I asked what the SCA on the sign meant and the guy laughed a bit and he proceeded to explain all kinds of wondrous things to us. Some of it I remembered, Alan telling me about and some of it, I just had a hard time believing...we could do what? Wait, this guy with this really cool coronet on his head told us that we could shoot archery, we could throw weapons, we could learn how to do things they did in the Middle Ages, but with a twist of the modern day amenities if we chose. I was like, wait...we don't have to just sit and watch? We can do the stuff too? Again, the young guy laughed a bit with his side smile. It was at this time a pretty young woman joined us. I noticed she too had a coronet on, it matched the one the guy was wearing. She introduced herself as Baroness Maggie and the guy said he was Baron Fergus. It was around this time that Alan showed up and we needed to set up our tents.

Putting the tents up was challenging to say the least. However, we had a ton of fun doing it. I had never been camping before in my life, but I was quite certain that people generally put their tents up early enough that it doesn't get dark halfway into construction. It was a great time and we were exhausted, so tired that it didn't take long for any of us to fall asleep. What I woke up to the next morning took my breath away. The top the tent was not all the way on so, I awoke to the most beautiful tree branches and leaves over my tent and the sun peeked through in a way that caused a cascade of light through the leaves. For the first time, in a very long time, I woke up without a feeling of dread. Instead, I was inspired by the beauty I was lucky enough to witness.

I got up, went to take a shower...yep, me in a public shower! Anyway, from there I got dressed and to my surprise the tedious ones were already dressed and waiting on me. In fact, they seemed to be in a bit of a hurry to go have breakfast. I would even gather to say that they weren't sulking, brooding or being tedious. The middle one went on to inform me that they had all been out and about already. He was anxious for me to have breakfast so that I can go with him to the building where they were playing with bows and arrows. Wait! PLAYING with bows and arrows! What an alarming statement! I was NOT taking him to a building with arrows! I just said, yeah, okay and proceeded to go have breakfast. As I was walking toward the shack to have breakfast, I noticed people throwing axes, putting on...was that armor? There were horses and uh...was that people in armor riding on horses? Did I go to sleep and wake up in 1400? The answer was, yes, yes I did and it was AMAZING!!!

The day was more fun than I could ever imagined having. None of the children argued with one another, called one another names or tried to get away with something. Plus, they were all out of their rooms and their tents and they were smiling! Each one of them was smiling! I had completely forgotten that they could do that. Everyone we came into contact with were super nice and helpful. Oh and that really wonderful lady, Baroness Maggie, she was particularly great. She really helped me out by answering all of my questions. She didn't even seem to be bothered by me at all. Someone with such prestige was much more down to earth than I ever expected and it made my weekend one of the best weekends of my life. On top of that, I was completely stress free and the children were just, children again. I even felt like this was my home (Keep in mind, I knew nothing of Pennsic yet!).

After this first event, Mounted War Games, I would end up becoming very great friends with Baroness Maggie, now known as Dame Maggie. She would even, unknowingly, keep me from doing something that I would not be able to take back. She would keep me from making the most permanent mistake of my life and she had no idea she was doing it at the time.

I would come to learn over the next few months to a year after my first ever event that, there were people in this world who did care about others. I would learn that I was much smarter than I realized and much stronger than I ever gave myself credit for. I learned these things through the friendships I made and the things I would accomplish through the Society for Creative Anachronism. I have to admit, I am no longer the same person I was when I went to that first event those years ago. I am more confident, passionate, self-assured and most importantly, more cared about. I even met my wife as a result of the SCA. I am sure there are many people who can say that they met their significant other due to the SCA, but at the moment she came into my life, I had finally stopped looking for someone to share my life with. I wasn't giving up either. I was just finally realizing that, I did not need another person to share my life with. I was already sharing my life with so many others who had instantly accepted me for me and there were no conditions. Also, I was at a place where I was confident that I could do my world traveling all on my own. I was no longer afraid to do enter a new country, culture and be around people I didn't know because I did that all of the time through the SCA. I have stayed in the SCA because I am constantly making new friends, learning new things, discovering new things I am capable of doing. Not only that, but I also get to enjoy watching all of my friends as well as many others have fun and enjoy this world that the SCA has created. The SCA is my home and I hope to be able to spend the rest of my life at home with the SCA and all of the wonderful things and people it brings.

2. What is your biggest inspiration within the Society? My biggest inspiration is not "within" the SCA at all. My inspiration is the SCA itself and the lives we can all build as a result. The SCA is a wonderful community of people who come together to create a world where one does not have to be afraid of who one is. One can shine as they are and build upon that if they choose. Plus, there is something for everyone, even children.

I started out as an awkward, shy, self-loathing, insecure person. I have been able to grow into a confident, happy, outgoing, secure person. I know I am not the only one who has experienced this either. The SCA is a place where a geek can be seen as a warrior and not so smarty pants can become a very smarty pants. It isn't a perfect community, but it is a community that strives to become better all of the time. Where there is effort, there is always potential.

3. What is your favorite part of the SCA? This question is so very broad that, I am not entirely sure where to go with the answer. I mean, my favorite part of the SCA is the SCA. I have made amazing friends. Friends who have become family to me. Friends, which I cannot live without having in my life. I have a beautiful wife as a result of the SCA and we are able to share the SCA together. Together, the family of friends we have created between us came together to give us the medieval wedding of our dreams. What I mean by that is, our friend family care about us so much that they put together our wedding clothes, benches, food, entertainment and even officiated. There will never be enough, thank yous, in this world that will ever be able to thank these people for us. The caring and kindness of those who put together our wedding, are to me, indicative of most people I have come in contact with in the SCA. I have belonged to other groups in the past and none had the heart as those in the SCA..

Also, I have grown as a person and I have been able to enjoy watching people from all different backgrounds and cultures have fun in a world that has been created as a result of the SCA. I have started feasting, I am learning to do research regarding my favorite things in life. I am learning where they come from and how they were created hundreds of years ago and how I can recreate these things now. I am able to witness my wife accomplish her dreams in the SCA, like becoming a Greenwood. Together, we are teaching our son about the great things he can do in the SCA.

The Society for Creative Anachronism brings people together by allowing people to bring the best parts of the past to life. It does not matter who one is or when one comes from. All are accepted and celebrated. This is what makes the SCA as a whole, my favorite thing about the SCA.

Gunnarr's Answers to Questions 1-3

I discovered the SCA in June of 2014 after moving to Lafayette, In. I attended a local (at that time) event called Mosey Down Main Street. Mosey is a community outreach festival of sorts. Local businesses, clubs, and vendors set up booths to generate interest and members. While strolling I saw a booth that had all sorts of armor and shields. Many different banners flying and people dressed in medieval clothing. I have always been interested in medieval times so I walked over to talk with them, to see what the organization was about. A kind, excited, and very informative gentleman told me all about the different activities and crafts I could become addicted to! He told me about the King and Queen and about the courts they hold and about events in which many come together and fight and socialize. I was interested in all of which he was describing. Then right before I walked away he said "Oh we also have archery!" That is what reeled me in. I have been shooting archery since I was a kid. I was in and out of practice and I hadn't shot for awhile. I inquired when the next practice was he said "Tomorrow, usually every Sunday weather permitting." I showed up for practice and have been a member ever since. I hit the ground running, I wanted to do all the things! I soon became the Baronial Archery Marshal of Rivenstar. I also have served as their Deputy Seneschal, Interim Herald, and Youth Officer. I started attending as many events as I could. I have made so many friends and many that are now considered family. I found the love of my life, Zilia, who is also a member and my Co-Baronage candidate. The friendships and bonds I have made with so many is a big part of why I continue to be a member. I love to help people and the SCA offers many opportunities to serve. The kind gentleman that introduced me to the SCA, I am now his protege. I always look for ways to help even if it's not within a field I am authorized in. For example being a water bearer for fighters or help with ground crew for equestrian. I have found there is always somewhere that could use an extra set of hands. I continued to participate because there are always multiple paths for personal growth. I was able to serve as Constellation's Deputy Regional Commander for Target Archery. I'm currently also Constellation's Regional Archery marshal, my term will be finished in January 2021.

There is so much to do and so much to learn within the SCA. So many opportunities of classes if I wish to explore or even opportunities to teach classes myself and share my knowledge and skills with others.

My biggest inspiration is seeing people come together from all over the world and work with one another to recreate fun experiences. Seeing others lend a hand, help set up, carry items, and or retain for Their Royal Majesties and Their Excellencies, knowing I can do things like that is also very inspiring. Serving the Society, the Middle Kingdom, and the Baronies helps me with personal growth. Becoming stronger and more confident, learning and implementing techniques that will also help within my mundane life.

Combined Answers for Zilia and Gunnarr for Questions 4-6

4. How do you intend to lead the group in a post-COVID time? Actually, we consider the seneschal to be the "leader" of Shadowed Stars. To us, the Baronage is the face of Shadowed Stars to the Crown and the face of the Crown to Shadowed Stars. That being said, we do understand that many people will still look to the Baronage as being the "leader" of the group. In that manor, everyone in Shadowed Stars as well as the whole of the SCA will always be able to look to us, regardless of our status, and know that we will always set an example of, integrity, loyalty, honesty, and stability. We will always do what is right by the best interest of those we care about, (we do care about everyone), and we will always follow what our Kingdom and Society set as the wellbeing of everyone.

5. What would you offer to the Barony as the new Baronage that would be unique to you? For starters, we are a same sex couple. This will be vastly different for Shadowed Stars as we are quite diverse and this would cause Shadowed Stars to possibly stand out more than it has already. However, we will always keep Shadowed Stars in the forefront of anything we do or say. We will never knowingly, cause strife for Shadowed Stars as we love all those in Shadowed Stars very dearly. What this means for Shadowed Stars is, we are personally a part of the LGBTQ+ community and we will be able to bridge any gap that anyone might think there is or could be for Shadowed Stars and the complexity of LGBTQ+ members.

Next, both of us have experienced COVID-19 first hand as we had both been diagnosed with a positive test back in July 2020. We both understand the consequences of having COVID on an intimate level. In fact, Zilia was hospitalized 3 times and did come close to an end to her life. Now, Zilia does have permanent lung damage and other side effects. Thankfully, Gunnar did not have to be hospitalized at all and the side effects Gunnar has experienced are limited to loss of taste and smell...no cooking feast for her I suppose! I mean, if she wanted out of cooking feast, I would think she just could have said something. What this means for us as far as the Baronage is, we will never waiver on ensuring the safety of others. We know the cost of COVID and we will never risk others for the sake of convenience.

Zilia has a professional background working for Indiana State Department of Child Services. During her time in this career, she has been trained on mediation methods and evidence based practices that allow others to be heard appropriately while going through some of the toughest moments in a person's life. This helps people to figure out what they need in order to be able to solve challenges they might come across in regards to other people in their lives. Also, Zilia has spent several hours as a professional witness and testified in a court of law in front of judges and other professionals involved in court proceedings. This means that Zilia has been able to overcome the anxiety she has had previously and feels very confident up in front of others. Now, that does not mean Zilia is perfect or will always look poised. What it does mean is, Zilia will be there up in front of whom ever as will Gunnarr, right by Zilia's side, whenever it is needed for Shadowed Stars to be seen. I mean, we all know Gunnarr kicks booty being in front of Royals as she is an old hat at it having been a Kingdom Champion and a Greenwood.



Lady Leandra Corzi and Warder Rashid al-Sanna



Hello,

Mundanelly I am known as Mandi Oliver, but in the SCA am currently go by **Lady Leandra Corzi**, having spent my first 13 years in the group as Gwerith verch Albrecht. I joined the SCA back in 2001 after my first 12th night and have spent many of my years helping in the kitchen at events, filling in at gate helping people coming into the events. In early days, I was easier to find in the kitchen or on the dance floor, wherever my feet would take me. About 7 years ago after reading some books in the library on Venetian architecture, Gwerith became Leandra, and I still go by that today. At nearly 20 years since that first event I have more gained knowledge and moved from being deputies to officers for the group, to being the officer. Previously having held the office of Minister of Arts and Science, I now currently hold the office of Barony Chronicler, in which I encourage members of our Barony to write pieces to publish in our quarterly newsletter, as well as find unique pictures, maps and coloring pages for those whom enjoy a well-rounded publication.

Hello and salutations!

My name is Marshall Oliver mundanelly but in the SCA I am **Warder Rashid al-Sanna**. I've been active in the society since 2012, becoming a paid member in 2013. My main interests are historical swordsmanship, with an emphasis in the late 16th Italian schools of rapier. Other passions of mine are focused on service both at the local and kingdom level. In the past, I was Commanding Officer for the region of Constellation for rapier melee and currently is the Chief of Staff for our glorious kingdom. Those responsibilities included planning and coordinating war practices for Pennsic and organizing for the command staff meetings. Locally, I am a former baronial rapier group marshal, spent time as our group's rapier champion, and currently an active marshal of the field. Passions outside of the society include studying history and modern technology.

Questions:

1. How did you discover the SCA? As well as what drew you into staying since then? Rashid discovered the SCA through a friend and coworker. He was invited to the rapier practice held by the local group and was hooked. Leandra discovered the SCA through a couple of her gaming friends, one of which is known in the society as our own Baroness Halldora, with whom she spent hours playing Star Wars RPG's with for several months, before being invited to the local 12th night. While Halldora, or rather Aminah, as she was known at the time, spent most of the day in the kitchen, Leandra met some new friends that would carry her through. The reason for staying is the same for both of us, which is the friends that we have made, the family that is our local group and household, as well as our relationship with the society as a whole.

2. What is your biggest inspiration within the Society? The biggest inspiration is seeing the work that can be done, and is being done by the members of our kingdom. Whether it is from the planning of a small local event, or the passion of an arts project nearing completion. Our inspiration is the people, the passion that the people have, and the enthusiasm that carries us through.

3. What is your favorite part of the SCA? Classrooms and camaraderie are our two favorite things. From being able to go to an event and continue learning about a wide range of topics. The classes could be on rapier footwork, embroidery, a Japanese tea ceremony, or a class on how to teach a class; this is about the opportunity to continue to enrich our lives beyond our current understandings. Within these classes and events that we go to, there are people that we see on a pretty regular basis, and we make friends with these people. It is the camaraderie that we have with these friends, as they become our family within this society, we look forward to seeing them, talking with them, and with breaking bread at feasts with them.

4. How do you intend to lead the group in a post-COVID time? We think the best way to approach this is to step up the amount of interaction that we as a barony have in the digital realm. What that means to us is to have more online classes, and more social opportunities. So that we are able to stay active in each others lives, while at the same time enriching each other through education. When it comes to how the Barony will go forward after the affects of COVID have diminished, continuing some of these digital activities and habits may be a nice way to continue to involve those who in the past who may not have been able to stay active because of variety of reasons.

5. What would you offer to the Barony as the new Baronage that would be unique to you? As a couple, we have a range of experience within this society, as Warder Rashid has been active in our group for almost 8 years, and Lady Leandra has been a member of Shadowed Stars for going on 20 years. As a member of our society Rashid has produced and interviewed his fellow Scadians who are POC for the podcast Scadian Voices of Color. Leandra has spent years behind the scenes helping fill in the gaps in volunteers at events, or in leading classes for a time. We both have lived different lives within the SCA and have our own unique outlooks on our group, as do any of the couples that are looking to lead as the next Baronage.

6. What are your goals for your reign, and do you have an idea of how to achieve this? Our goals for the upcoming time as leaders of the barony would be to foster a larger amount of the populous with a spirit of volunteerism, as well as to increase local involvement for the weekly practices. This is not a project that we can accomplish by ourselves, but it is one that we can start, as this will involve our entire group. We will need to recognize and encourage members of the populous when they are working on something, as well as for the work that they have done in the past. It might even be a project to foster relationships between newer and older members of the group so that an amount of perspective and appreciation may be fostered as we go forward. With understanding and encouragement across the board it might be able to better see our group lead towards a more active life of volunteerism and attendance grow for the local practices.



BARONIAL OFFICERS

Seneschal

Warder Mael Duin mac
Gilla Ennae

MOAS

Lady Aiofe
inghean Eoghain

Chatelaine

Lady Kolfinna

Herald

Muirenn ingen Fáelchon Uí
Clerigh

Exchequer

Baron Fergus MacPherson

Knights' Marshal

Lord Gavin Hawkerton

Rapier Marshal

Andries von Voorburg der
Erlund

Archery Marshal

Velos tou Patmos

Thrown Weapons

Marshal

Lady Prudence of
Colleah

Equestrian Marshal

Lancer Gwendolyn of
Shadowed Stars

Webminister

Lady Prudence of Colleah

Chronicler

Lady Leandra Corzi

Historian

Lady Zoe Dukiana

Bardic Coordinator

Lady Muirenn Ingen Fael-
chon Uí Clerigh

Social Media Officer

Hadley of Beckenham

FROM THE CHRONICLER

THE BARONY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- ◆ We need everyone to submit content for our newsletter! Things like: Editorials, pictures, Event Reports, Persona Bios, Artwork, and short stories up to 3,000 words for the quarterly newsletter!
- ◆ If you would like to create a regular or semi-regular column or have ideas of things we can include in future issues, please contact us at chronicler@shadowedstars.org!



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

- ◆ **Submit by December 15, 2020, for inclusion in the Winter 2021 issue.**

RULES FOR SUBMISSIONS:

- ◆ Release Form types:
 - * Creative - For all articles, poems, original artwork that is not a photograph, and the like // We bring this to you and we keep on file.
 - * Photographer - Photographs // We bring this to you and we keep on file.
 - * Model - For the recognizable person(s) in the photograph(s) // You get signed by people in your submitted photograph, turn it in with your photo, and we keep on file.
- ◇ Model Release Forms are available for download from midrealm.org/chronicler.
- ◇ **If you are unable to print needed Release Forms, please let the Chronicler know and they will be supplied for you.**
- ◆ Pictures:
 - ◇ Submit as many photos as you can of our Barony activities as well as events and happenings of the SCA groups around us!
 - ◇ Needed with Submission: Name of Event, date, location, SCA titles and names of those in the photo
 - ◇ Appropriate Model Release forms for those who are recognizable
- ◆ Images from the internet:
 - ◇ If you include an image from the internet with your submission, please make sure to include the active URL link to it.

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