

# The Crane's Call

Shire of Caer Dun February 2023 LVII







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# FEBRUARY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
			1	2	3	4
<b>Fighter Practice</b>						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>Fighter Practice</b>						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>Equestrian Practice</b>			<b>Business Meeting</b>			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>Equestrian Practice</b>						
26	27	28				



**February 4 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**2023 Candlemas- A Celebration of the Arts and Sciences**

**Meeman Shelby State Forest- Recreational Lodge**

**910 Riddick Road, Millington, TN**

**February 11 @ 9:00 am - 6:00 pm**

**Cracked Anvil**

**Charleston Community Center 311 Freedom Road, Charleston, AR**

**February 24 @ 5:00 pm - February 26 @ 10:00 am**

**Gleann Abhann Fighter's Collegium**

**Camp Silver Creek 1608 Hwy 586, Foxworth, MS**

**\*\*please see Kingdom calendar for detailed information on each event**



# Seneschal & Knights Marshal

So another month comes and goes. The new year has brought a few events and fun. Very busy. Speaking of busy, Maiôsara has gotten the insurance and we will have Equestrian Practice on February 19th & 26th at Sandhill Ranch. She has plans for a "So you've never been around a horse?" class as well as several riding event practices. We need to put together a lunch to serve for these practices. Our Business Meeting will be on the 22nd at Aunt Jenny's Catfish House at 630pm. We will also have Fighter Practice every Sunday at 3pm. Fighter Practice will be at the Splash Pad the first 2 weekends and at the Ranch the on the days of the Equestrian Practice. I look forward to seeing everyone at all these gatherings!

**YIS**

**Ld Karsas Sarmatae called Talan  
Seneschal and Knight Marshal  
Shire of Caer Dun**







# CHRONICLER

**Happy February everyone. I always need things for the newsletter! Thank you to HE Bailey for the demo pictures. Soon I shall be venturing forth to visit the Shire of Thamesreach (London, England). This means that the March newsletter will be published before the end of February. I will need all letters in by February 20th. Please make sure you send things before deadline.**

**HE Devin ODonnabhain  
Chronicler for the Shire  
of Caer Dun**







**Greetings one and all. Gulf Wars approaches fast. Are you prepared? I suggest making yourself a camping list that will help you gather all you will need for a full week. You can search online for a variety of suggested lists that you can easily make changes to.**

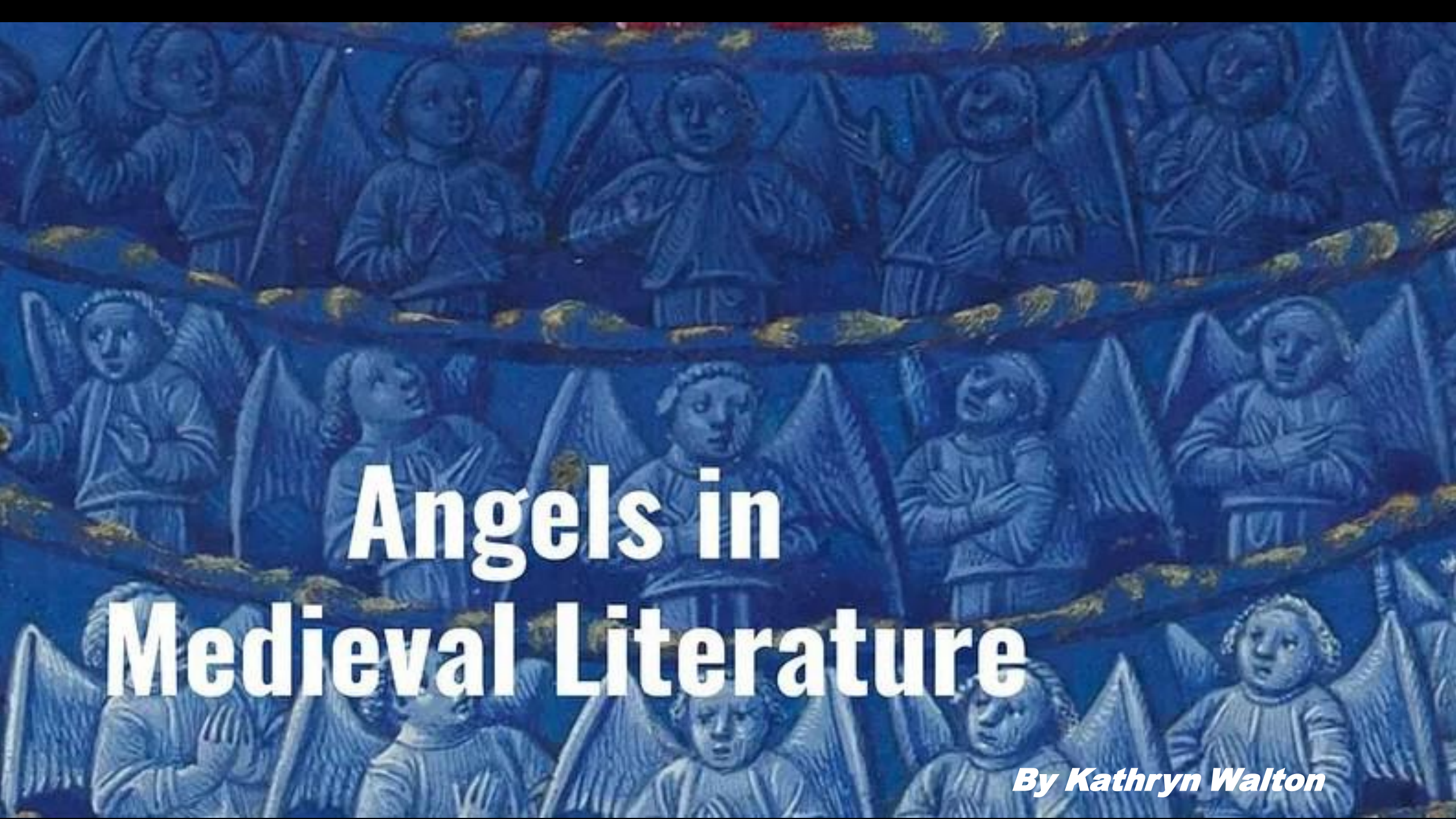
**In addition, there are many functions that will need additional volunteers. Some are Transport, Nasty-crater, Gate, Security and parking. Other areas that need support may be listed in your site program as well as online in the Gleann Abhann FB group. If you volunteer, you will be helping your group earn volunteer points that will benefit your home group.**

**Have a great time and take lots of pics to share with those who can't attend.**

**Baroness Bailey Rose Marsh  
Caer Dun A&S Officer**







# Angels in Medieval Literature

*By Kathryn Walton*



***The angels of medieval literature were far from the pretty ornaments that they appear as today during the Christmas season. Angels played many roles in medieval literature: they were defenders of justice, bringers of dire warnings, givers of dark tasks, and bringers of good news.***

**As soon as the holiday season rolls around in many countries that celebrate Christmas, angels start appearing on shelves and in homes. Angels adorn the tops of Christmas trees. Angels appear as decorated cookies. Angels grace the shelves and windows of some houses. Angels even appear as Christmas craft options. I attended a holiday celebration at my daughter's preschool (which is not a Christian preschool) last week and one of the activities was decorating angels.**

**This plethora of angels is unusual today. It's a one-time thing limited to a specific season and holiday. Angels are not a fixture of contemporary culture. In the Middle Ages, however, they were. Angels also looked quite different from the benign smiling versions sold as Christmas decorations today.**



# The Many Roles of Angels in the Middle Ages

Angels appeared everywhere in the medieval world. They played a role in the religious culture of the time and featured in the lives of many. They were present across the history of medieval England, for example. Richard Sowerby outlines in his book on *Angels in Early Medieval England*, that angels were a fixture in medieval England basically from the time that Christianity arrived on the island. As he says in his introduction, “Early medieval England in fact produced such a volume of material relating to these immaterial spirits that it would be possible, if one were so inclined, to string it together as a narrative, starting with the Northumbrian slave-boys whose faces were allegedly so angelic that a pope determined to convert their countrymen, and ending with the Norman fleet which landed in Sussex just as the churches of England were preparing to offer their annual prayers to the archangel Michael.”



**Angels were central, of course, in medieval theology, but they were also central in medieval philosophy. Across the Middle Ages, medieval philosophers considered the nature of angels. As Isabel Iribarren and Martin Lenz outline in their book on angels and medieval philosophy, the study of angels provided an excellent means of considering the nature of God as well as all kinds of other ideas. Angels could be used as “models” through which “a whole range of questions were defined, from cosmological order, movement and place, to individuation, cognition, volition, and modes of language.”**







**What I find most fascinating, however, is the many different roles that angels took on in the world of medieval popular literature. They were by no means only seen as elevated religious figures contained to theological and philosophical discourse. They actually appeared quite frequently in popular literature in a variety of roles. They were almost never described but are instead recognizable because of where they come from and what they do.**

**Here are a few of the many ways in which angels appear in the literature of the Middle Ages.**

**An angel depicted in the 11th century – Bibliothèque nationale de France MS Latin 6 (4), fol. 107v.**



# Angels as Bringers of Good News

**One of the primary roles that angels fulfill in medieval literature is to bring good news to the faithful in religious narratives. They are frequently sent by God to the heroes and heroines of romances, or to the saints and popes of diverse religious texts to impart good news on whomever needs to hear it.**

**In one fourteenth-century version of *The Nativity and Early Life Of Mary*, for example, it is an angel who comes to Joachim to tell him that Anne will become pregnant with Mary. The angel comes to Joachim when he is at the point of most despair because he and his wife, Anne, have been married for twenty years and have been unable to conceive a child. As he despairs, the angel appears as a bright spot in Joachim's life to bring what is to him, the best news.**





**An angel and Joachim – Speculum  
Humanae Salvationis, Westfalen  
oder Köln, um 1360. ULB  
Darmstadt, Hs 2505, fol. 6v**



## Angels as Bringers of Warnings

Angels also often appear in medieval literature to give bad news and warnings to characters. The romance *Amis and Amiloun*, for example, features an angel appearing to one of the heroes to warn him about the consequences of taking on a fight for his brother. The angel, in this case, appears as a disembodied voice that comes down from heaven. It gives Amiloun the following warning:

*“Sir Amiloun, God who suffered passion, has sent you a warning through me. If you undertake this battle, you will have a powerful adventure within the next three years. Before the end of three years, you will become the most foul leper who ever lived in this world.”*

The angel here warns Amiloun that undertaking this battle will result in severe consequences for him. The warning, perhaps, signals God’s distaste for the battle, or perhaps, acts as a further test of Amiloun’s loyalty to his friend. He fights the battle to save his friend’s life.



**Amiloun does not heed the angel's warning. He fights the battle and is shortly thereafter struck with a devastating case of leprosy.**

## **Angels as Givers of Dark Tasks**

**Angels will also on occasion appear to give a romance hero, saint, or otherwise, some kind of task to do. Often these tasks are somewhat grim. One of the grimmest also appears in *Amis and Amiloun*. In that text an angel appears to the other hero Amis in a dream after Amiloun has gotten leprosy and seen his life destroyed.**

**The angel,**

***Comes from bright heaven and stands before his [Amis's] bed. He says to him that if he would rise on Christ's morn, at the time when Jesus Christ was born, and slay his two children, and anoint his brother [Amiloun] with their blood, he should be brought out of all his woe.***



**Amis is currently distraught because his sworn-brother Amiloun contracted leprosy after fighting his battle for him. So, this angel tells him that he must murder his own children, collect their blood, and anoint his brother with it to cure him.**

**Needless to say, this is a very dark task. What is probably even more dark is that Amis actually does it. He kills his kids as the angel instructs and his brother is cured. Of course, because it's a romance, the children are miraculously reanimated, but the darkness of the task remains.**

**An angel visits Sir Amis and tells him that if he kills his children, their blood will cure Amiloun.  
Wikimedia Commons**





# Angels as Helpers

**Angels also frequently act as defenders of the faithful in medieval popular literature. They will often come down from heaven to defend some saint or other religious figure who is subject to unjust persecution. In one fourteenth-century version of the Legend of Saint Katherine, for example, angels appear frequently to help the saint through her trials at the hands of the cruel emperor Maxens. Angels bring her food and water and anoint her tortured body.**

**At one point an angel even intervenes to destroy one of the torture implements that the cruel emperor intends to use on her. After making use of all kinds of different methods of torture, Maxens wheels out a torture wheel so frightening that it makes “many a man quake” to see it. The impressive Saint Katherine does not, however. She simply kneels down and prays for help.**

**After this an angel comes out of heaven and destroys the torture wheel before she can be subjected to its horrors.**







## **Angels as Defenders of Justice**

**The final role that I will mention here is that of defender of justice. In one medieval version of the story of Susan and the Elders from the Book of Daniel, an angel is mentioned at the end of the text brandishing a sword to enact justice on those who unjustly persecute Susan. In the story Susan has been falsely accused by two men of adultery. She is defended in the text by Daniel, who calls on an angel to bring justice down on her false accusers.**

**During his defense of Susan Daniel tells the despicable men that “an angel with a naked sword is close to you. He has brandished his sword, burning so brightly, to smash your belly at a blow into more than three pieces. I do not lie”.**

**The angel in this case is perhaps more symbolic than real, but nevertheless appears in the text as a threatening defender of justice. Daniel suggests that it is the angel that will bring divine justice down on those who have done Susan wrong.**





**As you can see, angels take on varied roles in the medieval literary world. The examples listed above are just a very few of countless others that I could bring in. Angels were popular characters. They were obviously so in religious texts as they are a part of Christian mythology, but they also frequented non-religious texts as well.**

**Their ability to wield supernatural power from an authorized source (i.e. God), made them a convenient character. They could step in to bring down warnings or provide justice wherever needed.**

**So, if you celebrate Christmas and want to make your decorations a bit more medieval, why not include an angel with a burning sword? It'll make everything more epic.**



Do le die die quonien

Do Heulalen bluchten in



***Kathryn Walton holds a PhD in Middle English Literature from York University. Her research focuses on magic, medieval poetics, and popular literature. She currently teaches at Lakehead University in Orillia. You can find her on Twitter [@kmmwalton](https://twitter.com/kmmwalton).***

**[Angels in Medieval Literature - Medievalists.net](http://Medievalists.net)**



# Shire of Caer Dun demo at NarbyCon



All  
pictures  
by:  
Baroness  
Bailey  
Rose









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c  
o  
n





NO SMOKING  
WITHIN  
50 FEET OF  
ENTRANCE



Various informational posters and notices on a bulletin board, including one titled 'TRULY FAMILY'.



JOHNSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
DOUGLAS R. HOLDEN  
TERPENCE, JR. DISTRICT #1  
COMPTON DISTRICT #2  
CHAMPAGNONAUX DISTRICT #3  
VIN PRESLEY DISTRICT #4  
CHANCEITY CLERK  
2015  
ALTOUR CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.







By Your Hands on the Field of Battle  
 A worthy foe was Thunder struck in  
 honorable combat by a Thunder fighter.  
 The vanquished was honored with a toast to a  
 battle well fought and honor given.

**Karas Sarmatae  
 Trog Mathis**

has completed the rite of passage as a Thunder fighter.  
 To always remember and honor this day this fighter  
 has earn his

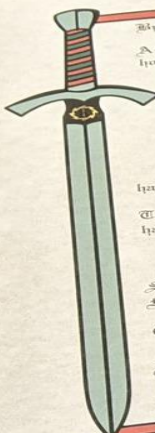
**Red Cord**

Signifying the blood spill to honor Thunder.  
 May both remember this day and new bonds be made.

Given this **Eighteen** day of **March**

**A.S. 6947** being  
**Warg XXX**  
 by the common reckoning.

*From the Modest*

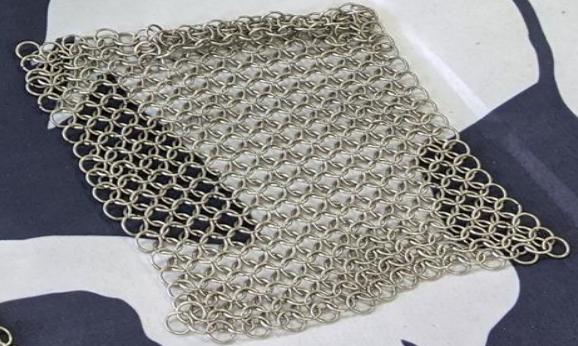
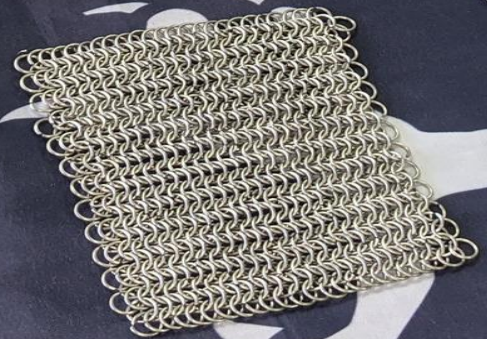


and consistent contributions of  
 shared skills and knowledge and the  
 assumption of great responsibili-  
 ties. the labor of Our trusted gentle  
 to Our society, We recognize these  
 works and endeavors and hereby  
 name  
 a member of the Order of the Bears  
 Paw We have taken note of this  
 gentle's efforts with companionship  
 In our barony's service order. We  
 proclaim & celebrate this persons  
 service and friendship with this  
 proclamation in the year 2017 by  
 common reckoning.

FELLOWES

The challenge of making has always been  
 the same: to create a work of art  
 that is both beautiful and useful.  
 It is a challenge that has always been  
 met with the same spirit of  
 determination and creativity.  
 It is a challenge that has always been  
 met with the same spirit of  
 determination and creativity.  
 It is a challenge that has always been  
 met with the same spirit of  
 determination and creativity.

**Comet** JUNIA





# Meeting Places

**\*Please note that the month of February has some changes for meetings and fighter practice. Please see the Calendar on page 4\***

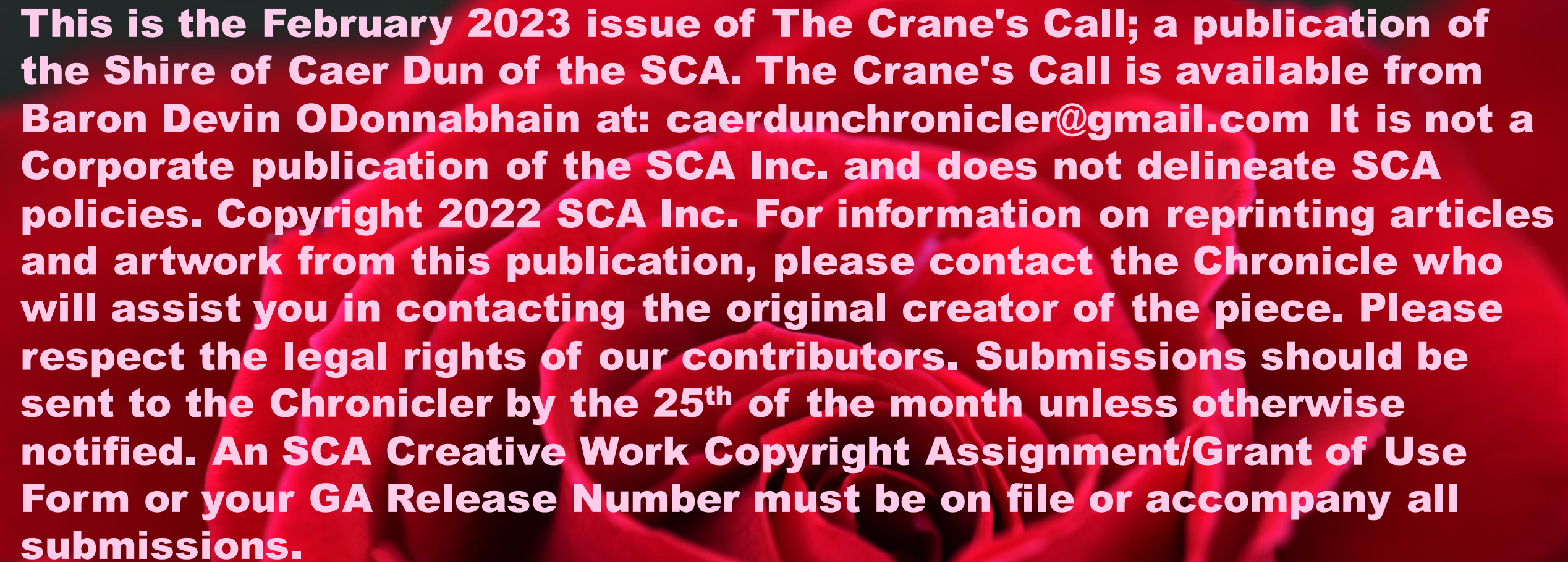
**Business Meeting; Held the 4th Wednesday of every month at Aunt Jenny's Catfish Restaurant, 1217 Washington Ave. Ocean Springs, MS. Meeting begins at 6:30 pm.**

**Fighter Practice; Held every Sunday. Check calendar for dates and the Shire Facebook page for any updates. Fighter Practice is held at the Vancleave Splashpad at Vancleave Complex, 5400 Ball Park Road, Vancleave, MS 39564.**



Updated Statement of Core Values At the Board of Directors July 2018 meeting, the following policy was approved and is to be considered effective immediately: SCA Statement of Core Values In pursuing its mission, the SCA is committed to excellence in its programs, communications and activities and to act in accordance with the chivalric virtues of honor and service; value and respect the worth and dignity of all individuals; practice inclusiveness and respect pluralism and diversity; promote a safe and respectful environment for all SCA events; act with transparency, fairness, integrity and honesty; be a responsible steward of SCA resources; and, be committed to maintaining the trust of its members and participants. It is the expectation of the SCA that its members and participants, in all events and activities of the SCA, will conduct themselves in accordance with these tenets. Comments are strongly encouraged and can be sent to: SCA Inc. Box 360789 Milpitas, CA 95036 You may also email [comments@lists.sca.org](mailto:comments@lists.sca.org). This announcement is an official informational release by the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. Permission is granted to reproduce this announcement in its entirety in newsletters, websites and electronic mailing lists. Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion <https://www.sca.org/dei-office/><https://www.sca.org/dei-office/dei-resources/><https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/DEI-handbook.pdf><https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/DEIMissionVision>





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