

The feast day of Alexandr Nevski is celebrated by the Orthodox church on November 23. It seems fitting, then, that the strong Slavic heritage of the Canton of Dun Traigh (the name only *looks* Scottish) be reflected in the theme of this event. Alexander is famously ambiguous - a saint with no miracles, a military savior who paid tribute to the Khan. Our challenges will pay tribute to this enigma.

Midrealm Bardic Madness XV: Never Say Nevski

hosted by the Canton of Dun Traigh in the Barony of Andelcrag at
Howard Miller Library and Community Center
14 South Church Street, Zeeland, Michigan 49464
November 23, 2013

Challenges

- Those Pesky Peasants:** In military planning, a single mounted knight is said to be the equal of six infantrymen, but in the Battle on the Ice, Alexander's 5,000 infantry defeated a force of 4,000 knights - an amazing victory. Tell us a tale of victory over (seemingly) insurmountable odds.
- Ain't to Saint:** Alexander was not sainted for his saintliness - it was for his military and political prowess. Tell us a tale of transformation of mundane (in either the common or the SCA sense) virtues elevated to the divine.
- Form Challenge: Surrender! Or Else I Will! (Alliterative Verse):** Alexander was sainted for defeating the Finns and the Teutonic Knights, yet he also capitulated to the Golden Horde. All of these enemies used alliterative verse forms. So let's try out some Mongol alliterative verse on the theme: "Surrender! Or Else I Will!". (For full details, see the web site)
- Juliane's Fishpond (or, "Infamous Last Words"):** You will pull a fish from the "fishpond" and on it you will find a sentence or phrase. Your job is to devise two verses and chorus which END with this line.
- Borscht Belt:** The Rus are famous for their broad humor, from chastushka to the Borscht Belt comedians. Compose a song or poem which VERGES on the obscene (there are children present).
- Maraha, Prince of [your country here]:** Through a rather bizarre comma mistadventure, our favorite itinerant storyteller Maraha - decidedly a commoner and non-combatant - was recently mistaken for the Prince of the Midrealm (he now styles himself "The Bard Formerly Known as Prince"). Tell us a tale of an unlikely Royal (specifically Maraha, if you like).
- Three Rights Make a Left:** Nevski was the right man in the right place at the right time. Two wrongs don't make a right, but three rights DO make a left. Tell us a tale about going in a direction you didn't intend.
- The Rusalkas Are Coming, The Rusalkas Are Coming:** A Rusalka is a Slavic water spirit, the soul of a young woman whose life ended violently (and usually as a result of a bad relationship). She must carry her comb to come on dry land, where she will climb into the trees, comb her hair, and sing. Let's end the evening with a melancholy or spooky tale: Tell us a tale of such a spirit. Gender-bending welcome.
- The old favorites:** Pass the Tale, Toasting, Period Piece, Mazacroca and of course the Concert.

Contacts

Autocrat: THL Istvan Valkai (Charles Stefanich) mos6238@yahoo.com

Gatekeeper: Lady Alice Froste (Diana Woodbury); 15337 Port Sheldon St, West Olive Mi. 49460
Alice.Froste@gmail.com; 616-848-7100

Provost: Llywelyn Glyndyverdwyr (Mark Cipra); 440-285-9243; cipram@sbcglobal.net

Web Site: <http://www.no-gorsedd.com/bmxv/index.html>