



# THE BURNING ISSUES



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Volume 15 Issue 1 Official Newsletter of the Burning of the Valleys Military Association, Inc.

March 2007

## From the Publisher

Ideally, the job as newsletter publisher should entail gathering all of the submitted articles and choosing which to include in the current edition. Once most of the newsletter has been assembled, there are always small amounts of space to fill in. These spaces are ideal for snippets and clipart. The reality is that I never seem to have quite enough for a full newsletter, and end up having to write articles myself – I don't have that much time, so often the newsletter has not gotten out. I apologize for that, and will try very hard this year to get a newsletter out, even if it's a short one! Below I have listed some suggested topics & guidelines for submissions.

### Suggested Topics for Articles :

*Unit Histories* – we haven't seen any of these in quite a few years!

*Sutler Histories* – tell us about yourselves, and your wares – think of it as free advertising!

*Military or Civilian articles* that are relevant to our current year in the cycle (we are currently in the year 1782 – although the war has mostly moved elsewhere, the Valleys did not disappear – people still lived here and things were still happening!).

*Musical Information* – pieces of music, historical information, ethnic music, information about a period instrument or dance, etc.

*Cultural and Religious Information* – the Valleys were a melting pot of sorts, and we have a wide variety of cultural and religious backgrounds that we can explore and study.

*Snippets and fillers* – Definitions, quotable quotes from a period figure,

(continued on p. 2)



# 1782

*Welcome new unit:*  
**The Allies of Oquaga**

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## 2007 Membership Dues are Due!

Did you know that BVMA membership dues become due on January 1<sup>st</sup> and the deadline for receipt of 2007's dues is April 1<sup>st</sup>? Several units have yet to send in dues for this year. Those who have paid have been given new membership cards for 2007. Have you received one?

Membership in the BVMA is on an individual basis. You can be a BVMA member through a military unit, through the Behind the Lines, or through the Guild. The dues for all three types of membership are \$10 per person over age 16. Unit and Behind the Lines dues should be sent to me at the address shown for the BVMA Treasurer on the website. Guild dues should be sent to the Guild Treasurer, Teresa Gage at her address as shown on the website.

The bulk of our dues does go toward the premium for BVMA insurance coverage at BVMA events, but our dues also help to fund entertainment for the Annual Membership meeting, programs for youth such as the Brown Memorial Scholarship, and costs associated with BVMA events and operation of the organization.

Remember, those units and individual Behind the Lines members who do not send in their dues by April 1<sup>st</sup> risk losing their good standing in the BVMA. If you have any questions about your dues, please feel free to contact me at the e-mail address shown on the BVMA website.

— Sue-Ann Wheadon,  
BVMA Treasurer

**From the Publisher** (*cont'd from p.1*)

trivia, trade terms, tips for reenactors, etc.

*Clipart* – I have exhausted my supply of period clipart (Walden) – they are ideal for small spaces! Photos are difficult to put in the newsletter as they makes the pdf version too large for many people to download, so I try to limit photos in the newsletter.

**Guidelines for Articles:** Ideally, articles should be no longer than 1-2 pages. I can and will put in longer articles, but if they are very long, I may have to break them up over 2-3 issues (*I do not edit your work other than spelling, punctuation & glaring grammatical errors, other than that which is quoted from an original source, and will not shorten articles myself*). I will certainly not reject longer articles! If you have used published materials, please cite your sources. Please note that many of you have suggested information that I can “take” from other websites – note that in order to do this, I need to get permission from the author of that information. Articles can be as short as a single phrase – I always need filler, so nothing is too small!

I look forward to receiving your submissions this year! Thanks!

— Kristin Gitler, BVMA Publisher

**To a Sempstress**

Oh what bosom but must yield,  
When, like Pallas, you advance,  
With a thimble for your shield  
And a needle for your lance?

Fairest of the stitching train,  
Ease my passion by your art;  
And, in pity to my pain,  
Mend the hole that's in my heart.

— Anon. Eighteenth Century  
— Submitted by Kateri Scott

**Season's Greetings!**

The season is about to start! It's time to bring out clothing, equipment, and gear from winter storage to prepare for another exciting season!

All clothing should be inspected for cleanliness (gee, I thought I washed that shirt last fall!); rips, tears, and burn holes (I really need to patch that hole in my breeches!); and size (Johnny, you grew 3 inches over the winter!). Equipment should be checked for completeness (where did I put those tent pegs?!?), wear (how did this water bucket lose its bail?), and location (do you remember who I lent my dutch oven to?). Gear should also be examined in the same way, paying special attention to firearms, artillery, and edged weapons condition and cleanliness. Check all straps and buckles for wear and smooth operation.

Now is the time to review first aid, fire safety, and general safety procedures. Make sure your first aid kit is fully stocked. It should include bandages of various sizes, gauze with tape, antibacterial cream, aloe for burns, tweezers, scissors, and extras of any medication you personally require for health. Check and recheck your fire safety equipment and procedures. Make sure everyone in your group knows what to do in case of a flare up at the cooking fire or a tent that catches fire. Review general safety procedures such as safe distances from those chopping firewood, proper placement of gear and equipment to minimize tripping hazards, and being aware of your surroundings at all times to protect you and the public.

A little preparation now can help you to enjoy re-enacting to the fullest. Safety is everyone's responsibility; do your part and we'll all enjoy the season together safely!

— Sue-Ann Wheadon, 4<sup>th</sup> Tryon County Militia

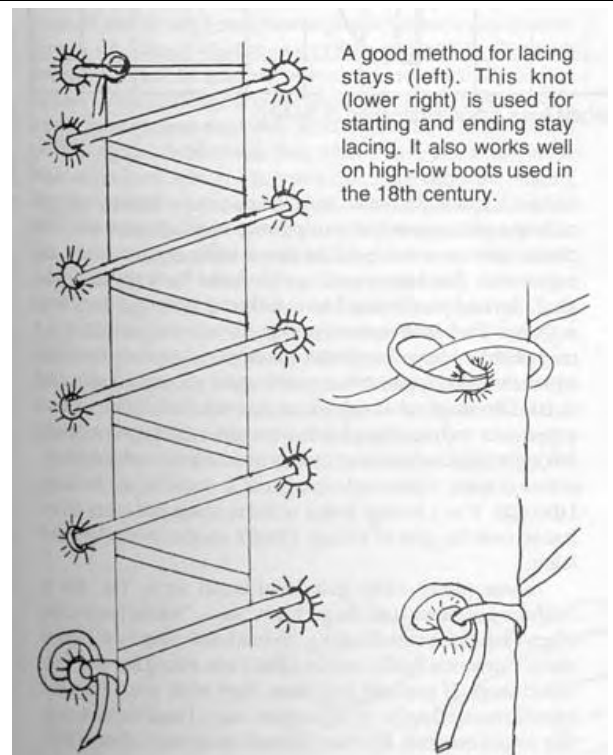
**Stay Lacing**

*Publisher's Note: I apologize, but I found this in my newsletter folder and don't remember who submitted it to me or when. If you know who you are, please let me know, and I will credit you in the next issue.*

— KG



*Neat website for hand embroiderers:*  
[www.needleNthread.com](http://www.needleNthread.com)  
— has videos of stitches!



**Trades in the New World**

— Submitted by Teresa Gage

Never too late to take up yet another “trade” for demonstrating to the public. Here is a list of trades from newspapers of the here in the New World.. Although this is from New England, it identifies that these trades had crossed from the Old World and were being plied here in the New World.

TRADE	DATE
Anvil Smith	1716
Apothecary	1712
Aquaeducts Builder	1737
Assayer	1737
Baker	1722
Barber	1729
Bell Bounder	1738, 1753
Bellows Maker	1741
Blacksmith	1732 1751 1752
Locksmith	1751
Bookeeper	1717
Brazier/ironmonger	1757
Buckram	1722
Button Maker	1728 1772
Balico Printer	1735
Cardmaker	1746 1751
Caulkers	1741
Chandler	1748 1750 1753 1761 1762 1763
Soapboiler	1750
Oil Lamp Seller	1758
Chap or Peddler (of books)	1705
Chimney Sweep	1752
Chocolate Mill (grinder)	1737
Cooper	1751
Counterpane Stamper	1747
Currier	1758
Dyer	1735 1735 1734 1760
Water Engine	1733
Fishermen	1764
Glover	1742 1754
Grocer	1736
Gunsmith	1720 1742 1756 1757
Hatter	1759
Hosiery Manufactory	1759
Iron Foundry	1741
Iron Forge	1742
Iron Monger	1757

TRADE	DATE
Jack-maker and Trader	1715
Japanning	1740
Lime Kiln	1723
Linen Printer	1720
Stamped Linen	1747
Linen Manufacture	1750
Linen Whitener	1764
Mathematical Balancemaker	1745
Mathematical Instruments	1745
Military equipment	1728
Halberts	1706
Mustard Maker	1752
Nailmaking	1742
Needle Maker	1742
Millinary	1716 1729
Needlework & Embroidery	1737
Worsted (spinner)	1743
Paper Mill	1724 1761 1765
Stationer& Paper Maker	1732
Plumber	1761
Powder Maker	1706
Pumps	1732
Saddler's Wares	1742
Scale Maker	1753
School Master	1742 1754 1757
Smuff Maker	1756
Spinning Wheels	1720 1753 1754 1762
Flex Hechels	1753
Wool Cards	1705
Stone Cutter	1763 1765 1730
Tinman Tools	1730
Tobacconist	1730 1759
Umbrilloes	1756 1758 1761 1763
Wax Works	1748 1751
Weaving	1769
White Smith	1757
Wig Maker	1753 1757
Wood Carver	1746 1761

Source: Dow, George Francis *The Arts & Crafts in New England 1704-1775, Gleanings from Boston Newspapers*. The Wayside Press , Topfield, Massachusetts 1927

**On the Tories' Fate, 1783***Submitted by Kristin Gitler*

From the *New-York Morning Post*,  
Vol. III, Numb. 155.  
Friday, November 7, 1783

*From the New-Jersey Journal.*

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Fish-Kill, in the state of New-York, to his friend at Woodbridge, dated October 20.

“By our latest accounts from New-York we understand that the Tories are in great perplexity —many of the lawyers are encouraging them to remain, and promising them much more than every they will have the power to perform; and on the contrary the vengeance which is so loudly denounced against them by the old whigs, with a sense of their own guilt, terrifies them prodigiously; — However, we find that many of the most prudent sort of those unhappy creatures are gone off already —they had no confidence in the power or promises of the lawyers, and suspected that they were only persuading them to tarry until they could pick a little off their fleeces, —and from the associations which are formed, and daily forming by the whigs, they could expect nothing but rough handling; the moment that the citizens were assembled.

“Such of the old tory party who remain will be the first objects of popular rage; —and the apostates who signed the association in 75, and afterwards joined the British, with the traders and other strangers who have gone into New-York in the course of the war, will then be noticed, in their order —Such, as I am informed, is the intentions of the old citizens, and, if it is necessary, they will be supported by their friends from the country; —so that if any considerable number of obnoxious characters continue in the city, after the British give it up, there will be great confusion for a while, —but no more than, all things considered, might be expected.

“Last week, a number of tories went up to Albany to appear before the *Rebel Court* —the event is not yet known, but the people at large look for it with great impatience, and are watching, with strict attention, the conduct of every one who is concerned in court business. But whatever may be the fate of those delinquents, in their present experiment, the voice of the inhabitants is so universally against them, that they cannot hope for a peaceable residence among us. The country counties have engaged many months ago, to hold the Tories banished and there is,

*(Continued on p. 5)*

**Cooking Behind the Lines*****A Cooks Tour of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century***

GREETINGS FELLOW REENACTORS! The BVMA is sponsoring a cookbook project to benefit the General Fund. Toni Lasher of the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment Albany County Militia will chair the project with assistance from Lynne Jenks and other members of the Behind the Lines group.

What is the committee looking for? Your recipes for food from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Foods from the time period fall into three categories. 1) You use a recipe from a cookbook. 2) You use a recipe that you read in a book but altered to make it your own. 3) You use a recipe you developed using foods that you know were available in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

If you submit a recipe from a cookbook, the name of the book, the author, and copyright information from the inside fly leaf will be required. Permission to reprint this recipe must be obtained the author. Send a photocopy of the fly leaf and a photocopy of the recipe.

If you submit a recipe adapted from a cookbook, just cite the cookbook by name and explain what you changed to make it your own; this will be mentioned in the notes. Send me the recipe and cookbook information.

If you submit a recipe that has been handed down in your family or developed by you using foods available in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, send only your information and any interesting stories about your research. Toni uses the King's Bread, Second Rising; which contains a food timeline featuring documented foods at Fort Niagara from the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812.

TO MAKE THIS A UNIQUE BOOK, include your photo, preferably by the cook fire, and a short bio about your unit and your character in the unit.

Information can be sent to:

Toni Lasher  
PO Box 494  
Rotterdam Junction, NY 12150

Or emailed to: [tonilasher@yahoo.com](mailto:tonilasher@yahoo.com)

Or See Toni at the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment fly at most events. (Just follow the sound of music.)

*Pub. Note: This information is available as a flyer in the BVMA files on Yahoo Groups*

**On the Tories' Fate, 1783 (cont'd)**

if possible, less reason to [??] that the citizens will be more indulgent, after all the insulting provocations which they have received. —Several persons in different parts of the state, undertook some time ago to plead in an indirect way for the Tories; but they were very soon convinced that their schemes would not succeed. —Indeed, the people in general, no sooner hear such kind of language uttered, than they suspect that the author is in tory pay.”

A letter from a gentleman in Albany to his friend in Jersey, concludes thus:

”I really think that the Loyalists are exceedingly wrong to venture to stay, for if even they should be cleared by law, yet they will be roughly handled by the exasperated mob. Every person I have been in company with speaks highly of the Governor, but the whigs say that he will shew the tories no mercy.

”I am told that there will be upwards of one hundred whigs from this place, who will go down completely armed, to assist in clearing the city of tories. The lawyers are watched; the whigs speak very hard of them, and their conduct is reprobated.”

**The TORY's SOLILOQUI.**

“To go – or not to go” —is that the question?  
 Whether 'tis best to trust the inclement sky,  
 That scowls indignant o'er the dreary Bay  
 Of Fundy, and Cap Sable's rock & shoals,  
 And seek our new domains in Scotia's wilds,  
 Barren and bar; —or stay among the rebels! —  
 And, by our stay, rouse up their keenest rage,  
 That, bursting o'er our *now* defenceless heads,  
 Will crush us for the countless wrongs we've done them?  
 Hard choice!—Stay, let me think, —T'explore our way,  
 Thro' raging seas, to Scotia's rocky coast,  
 At this dire season of this direful year,  
 Where scarce the sun affords a cheerful ray;  
 Or stay and cringe to the rude surly whigs,  
 Whose wounds, yet fresh, may urge their desperate hand  
 To spurn us while we sue; —perhaps consign us  
 To the *kind care* of some *outrageous* mob,  
 Who, for their sport our persons may adorn  
 In all the majesty of *tar and feathers*;  
 Perhaps our necks to keep their humour warm,  
 May grace a Rebel halter ! —There's the sting! —  
*This* people's the bleak clime —for who can brook  
 A Rebel's frown? —or hear his children's stare  
 When in the streets they point, and lisp “*A Tory.*”  
 The open insult —the heart-piercing stab  
 Of satire's pointed pen —or worse, far worse,  
 Committee's rage —or jury's grave debate  
 On the grand question “shall their lives” forsooth  
 “Or property – or both – atone their crimes?” —  
 Who'd bear all these calamities? And more  
 We justly may expect, while *Shelburne's* shore  
 Invites us to decide the case ourselves,  
 And soothe our cares in that harmonious name;

But that the fear of woes, in distant climes,  
 (By conscience heightened to enormous size)  
 Makes us, like cowards, bear those ills  
 Rather than hazard others, and our friends  
 (For numerous friends we boast – th'united  
 Band of Lawyers to a man) kindly engage  
 To turn the edge of whigs restrictive laws,  
 And reinstate us in our native soil.  
 O! 'tis a kindness that we wish devoutly,  
 And well deserves our thanks with half our worth,  
 But is it in their power? – When they harangue,  
 Will whigs forget we long have been their foes,  
 And guide their verdict by a lawyer's tongue?  
 Perish that hope! -- They serve us for our gold  
 Their friendship and their virtue put to sale,  
 Pay but their price – they'l hang us every one, --  
 Then what our fate, when those certain cerberian whigs,  
 Those men with Argos-eyes, Brutus and Civis,  
 Publius [\*] and thousands more (their real names  
 Whoever stays may to their sorrow find)  
 Will sound th'alarm, and those men of gold  
 Tho' bribed with half our wealth; -- that once possess,  
 They leave us – or will plead (or faintly plead)  
 Our desperate cause against the warm resentment  
 Of men resolved to drive us from their land.  
 Then let us fly – nor trust a war of words  
 Where British arms and Tory arms have fail'd  
 T'effect our purpose – on bleak Roteway'e  
 Let's lose our fears – for no bold whig will dare  
 With sword or law, to persecute us there.

**The Western Symposium 2007**

— Submitted by Jim Sparks

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Agents of Change in Colonial New York: Sir William Johnson's World  
October 19-21, 2007  
at Fulton-Montgomery Community College  
Johnstown, New York

This year the Symposium Committee is planning another great historical symposium in the Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor that explores the political, economic and social dynamics of Colonial Upstate New York. The 2007 event will focus on the new worlds being created on the frontier borderlands by Sir William Johnson, Nicholas Herkimer, Phillip Schuyler, Joseph Brant and others combining Native American and European cultures. Among the scholars already signed up to speak are Alan Taylor, Fintan O'Toole, Colin Calloway and Timothy Shannon.

Symposium includes: Dynamic Public Presentations, Tours of Historic Sites, Candlelight Reception, 18<sup>th</sup> Century Dinner, Museum & Book Store.

Along with the great slate of speakers we have planned, the NYS French & Indian War 250th Anniversary Commemoration Commission has announced that the William Johnson Papers would be digitized and made available to individuals, schools and libraries across the state as the Commission Legacy Project. The digitization project is expected to be complete in time for presentation at the Symposium.

This event is open to the public (fee charged) and a website is available with more information at:  
<http://www.oldfortjohnson.org/symposium.html>

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**Remarks Concerning Savages of North America**

*Pamphlet by Benjamin Franklin, ca. 1784*

— Submitted by Dave Solek, *Butler's Rangers, Capt. Frey's Coy.*

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Franklin wrote: At the treaty of Lancaster, in Pennsylvania, anno 1744, between the Government of Virginia and the Six nations, the commissioners from Virginia acquainted the Indians by a speech, that there was at Williamsburg a college with a fund for educating Indian youth; and that if the chiefs of the Six Nations would send down half a dozen of their sons to that college, the government would take care that they be well provided for, and instructed in all the learnings of the white people.

The Indians' spokesman replied:

We know that you highly esteem the kind of learning taught in those colleges, and that the maintenance of our young men, while with you, would be very expensive to you. We are convinced, therefore, that you mean to do us good by your proposal and we thank you heartily.

But you, who are wise, must know that different nations have different conceptions of things; and you will not therefore take it amiss, if our ideas of this kind of education happen not to be the same with yours. We have had some experience of it; several of our young people were formerly brought up at the colleges of the northern provinces; they were instructed in all your sciences; but when they came back to us, they were bad runners, ignorant of every means of living in the woods, unable to bear either cold or hunger, knew neither how to build a cabin, take a deer, nor kill an enemy, spoke our language imperfectly, were therefore neither fit for hunters, warriors, nor counselors; they were totally good for nothing.

We are however not the less obligated by your kind offer, though we decline accepting it; and, to show our grateful sense of it, if the gentlemen of Virginia will send us a dozen of their sons, we will take care of their education, instruct them in all we know, and make men of them.

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### 2007 Schedule of Events

*The following are events in and around our neighborhood this season. BVMA Sponsored or Supported events are so noted. Please check the website for the latest event information & registration forms.*

March 24	BVMA Annual Membership Meeting Pine Tree Rifle Club, Johnstown, NY
March 31-April 1	Raid on the Sugarbush, Herkimer Home, Little Falls, NY
April 14	Battle Road, Lexington/Concord, MA
April 28-29	Provincial Militia Muster (1757, F&I), Old Fort Johnson, Fort Johnson, NY
<b>June 2-3</b>	<b>Mabee Farm Encampment, Rotterdam Junction, NY (BVMA Supported)</b>
June 9-10	Johnson Hall Market Fair, Johnstown, NY
June 23-24	Ethan Allen Days, Manchester VT (LHA)
June 30-July 1	Fort Ticonderoga Grand Encampment of the French and Indian War
July 6-8	Fort Niagara French and Indian War Encampment
July 7-8	Battle of Hubbardton - Hubbardton, VT (LHA)
<b>July 28-29</b>	<b>Old Fort Johnson Colonial Days, Fort Johnson, NY (BVMA Supported)</b>
<b>Aug. 3-5</b>	<b>Siege of Fort Stanwix, Rome, NY (BVMA Supported)</b>
Aug. 3-5	Holding Down the Fort, Fort Plain Museum, Fort Plain, NY
<b>Aug. 10-12</b>	<b>Battle of the Flockey, Old Stone Fort, Schoharie, NY (BVMA Sponsored)</b>
Aug. 10-12	Crown Point French and Indian War Encampment, Crown Point, NY
Aug. 25-26	Battle of Newtown, Elmira, NY
Sept. 8-9	Fort Ticonderoga Revolutionary War Encampment, Ticonderoga, NY Boyd & Parker Ambush, Groveland, NY
Oct. 6-7	230th Anniversary of the Battle of Saratoga, Fort Edward (BB)
<b>Oct. 20-21</b>	<b>Burning of Kingston, Kingston, NY (BVMA Supported)</b>
Oct. 19-21	Western Frontier Symposium, FMCC, Johnstown, NY

**Event Organizers:** Please be sure to get your event information to me, so I can put it up on the site!  
Send to [webinfo@bvma.org](mailto:webinfo@bvma.org).



The BVMA Online - www.bvma.org

Units, Sutler's and Sustaining Members: If you are new members, please send me the information to links to your website, if you have one. This information should include your Unit [Sutler/Site] name as you'd like it to appear, and the link to your site. If you don't have a website yet, send me some general info, and I will put up a simple page for you. If you've been a member, please check the site to make sure that you are listed correctly.

Event Organizers/Coordinators: Send me information about your event and I will post it to the website, linked from the schedule. I prefer you send it via email, but you can mail it and I will re-type. If you'd like online registration forms for the event, let me know, and include a "paper" registration that I can use as a template. Be sure to include who the registrations should be sent to (email address), and note if there are any deadlines. Throughout the season, if you have updates you may send them to me and I will make sure that the information gets up there.

Calling all Designers: The BVMA website has been online since 2002. In that time, we have never changed the design. I am not a designer, and although the site has worked for us over the years, perhaps it's time for a face-lift. If you are artsy and have some ideas for a new design for the website, please let me know. We'd like to keep it simple—easy to navigate and find the information available. The BVMA logo is important to us—there's a lot of history there, and we want to keep that incorporated into any new design. You would not need to actually "implement" the design on the web, but submit images or sketches of your ideas, so we might be able to come up with a fresh, new look for the site. Any ideas that are submitted will be reviewed by the Board before we make any decisions. Contact me if you have ideas to share.

BVMA Yahoo Groups: Don't forget our members-only lists:
BVMA: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bvma/ (Moderators - Kristin Gitler & Dean Barnes)
BTL: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/btl\_bvma/ (Moderator - Kate Scott)

When subscribing, include your name/unit in the email, so we know who you are.

Don't forget to check the web site for the latest news and information, always linked from the home page. I always welcome your ideas and input for the website—it should be your source for information & resources! — KG, Webmistress

The Burning of the Valleys Military Association, Inc.

- 2007 Executive Committee:
Chair & Congressional Cmdr: Dean Barnes
Deputy Chair, Crown Cmdr: Dave Wheadon
Secretary: Jim Sparks
Treasurer: Sue-Ann Wheadon
Guild Chair: Mike Kowalski
Guild Treasurer: Teresa Gage
Behind the Lines Chair: Jonathan Reynolds

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NEXT ISSUE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The next issue will be published in June, 2007. Please submit articles, ideas, questions, etc. at any time or by June 1st for the next issue. — Kristin



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