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NEWS OF THE REALM

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ViVoce Women's Chorus auditioning for new singers: For more information and to schedule a time for your audition contact ViVoce@portlandrevels.org.

The 2016 Calendar is out! Curious about what Revels is up to this year? Mark your calendar for these [exciting 2016 events!](#)

Introducing *Inside Revels*



Have you ever been curious about what makes Portland Revels unique? Interested in learning more about how we craft the music, dance, or staging of our December production?

We're introducing a new initiative this spring called "[Inside Revels](#)". These fun and free gatherings will take place in community members' homes or in our office. Join us in conversation with the artists and staff who make Revels happen – ask questions, tell us what you think, and join in the action!

Our first Inside Revels event takes place this Sunday, Feb. 28th. It's a closer look at the history of Morris Dancing, and it's unique role in the Revels. Join us in a beautiful SE Portland home for refreshments, conversation, and a chance to try a little dancing yourself.

Our future parties include conversations with Music Director Robert Lockwood about how he selects the beautiful music you hear in each show, with Stage Director/Producer Bruce Hostetler on the unique challenge of creating the Christmas Revels production, and with Associate Music Director Betsy Branch on using her fiddle for good. You can also take a wild and wacky tour of our somewhat spooky basement to visit the dragons.

For more information about an Inside Revels event, check out our [website](#) or call us at 503-274-4654. We'd love for you to join us.

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Traditions, and seasons, can sometimes surprise you – I learned that this weekend. On Saturday afternoon our neighbor showed up unexpectedly on our porch bearing two quart-sized ball jars full of what looked like ball-bearings soaking in mud. “WOW” I exclaimed, “it’s pea season already?” Hugging the jars, I groaned inwardly. My yard was not ready for spring, and our annual pea tradition.



Each February, my neighbor inoculates her snap peas (with Rhizobium bacteria, if you must know) and plants them soon after. She consistently inoculates more than she needs, and I’m the lucky recipient of her leftovers. I adore our neighborly annual tradition; my peas are beautiful thanks to her preparation and care. But every year the snap pea delivery takes me by surprise – I have to get those peas in the ground within 24 hours of her getting them to me or the inoculant doesn’t work.

Spring pea planting shouldn't take me by surprise. My neighbor always plants during the first gentle weekend of February – that weekend when the crocuses show up out of nowhere, and when every fiber of your being is telling you to get outside with your gardening gloves, dodge the occasional raindrop and bask in the glow of the hesitant sun. I'd actually already spent that morning raking and pruning, but had neglected my vegetable bed.

Silly me. Surprise. I had another hour of rainy yardwork ahead.

We don't want any of our Revels Traditions to take you by surprise! Therefore, sometime this week you'll be getting a postcard in the mail listing our 2016 events. We're excited about this year's calendar – we'll be bringing back many favorites (pub sings, family dances and ViVoce concerts) but also trying some new adventures. Join us in July for a community spaghetti feed and pie auction, or dress up in your most fabulous costume for our Venetian Masqued Ball in October. And of course, don't miss our Christmas Revels – this year we'll be in Italy! Stick our postcard on your fridge to avoid surprises!

If you need me, I'll be in my backyard – I think the strawberries are next!

Get to know a board member



Amy Polo is delighted to join the Portland Revels Board after being an active member of the organization as a chorus and committee member since 2003. The Revels has brought her tremendous meaning and joy over the years, and she is looking forward to giving back to her beloved community.

Amy has served as the director of The Choristers, an elementary age choir, at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral since 1994 and has an abiding love for early music. She is an avid outdoorswoman, alpinist, and tennis player. Amy is actively involved in supporting local arts and education programs. At home, she loves gardening, cooking, and entertaining.

Amy's full-time "career" has been as a housewife to her husband of 24 years, Oscar Polo, and their children, Sofia and Gabriel. Both children, former members of the Revels Children's Chorus, are now college students, allowing Amy more time to devote to the things she is passionate about, like Revels.

Reveling in Malibu

Did you know that there are nine Revels companies across the country? Each December, while we are singing the Sussex Mummers Carol in Portland, audiences and cast members are also singing it in Cambridge, MA, Hanover, NH, Washington, D.C., Houston, TX, Boulder, CO, Santa Barbara, CA, Oakland, CA and Tacoma, WA. While each company produces a unique show each year with a different culture and focus, all over the country we are all doing Lord of the Dance, hearing the Shortest Day, and singing together. It's a joyful thought.



The Revels national artistic and admin teams in Malibu

Every February the artistic teams from all over the country meet over a long weekend to share scripts and stories, ideas and inspiration. Our music directors, stage directors and executive directors meet in small groups to discuss challenges and successes, and as a community we come together each night to watch excerpts of everyone's shows. This year we left rainy Portland to meet in Malibu – this photo was taken on our last night together. *Clearly it wasn't any fun.*

Thanks to our sister cities for the inspiration and celebration!

Revels Recommends

[Kells St. Patrick's Irish Festival](#)

March 17th Festival Kickoff, Kells Irish Pub

This is the largest St. Patrick's Day festival in Portland featuring traditional Irish music, folk music, rock, dance performances, boxing, the Shamrock Run, Timbers Games, and so much more! We're happy to promote Revels' frequent 2015 partner, the Kells!



[Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion](#)

Mar 10-12, 2016 Newmark Theatre

Kyle Abraham, a mesmerizing dancer, award-winning choreographer and 2013 recipient of the MacArthur "Genius" Grant, creates multi-dimensional work inspired by his personal history, echoing the struggles African Americans have faced throughout time. Abraham's dynamic company will perform an evening of new work showcasing Abraham's inspired blending of modern dance technique with hip hop and urban street dance.

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