



After months of searching, I have finally included a much-requested how-to piece on how to build a Mongolian Yurt. As a point of interest, the man who started the whole "yurt revival" in this country, Bill Copperthwaite, lives just north of me in a three-story, permanent yurt. Maine, I am discovering, is full of people like him, who actually practice what they preach. We have plenty of the *other* type too, of course, but in these disheartening times, the discovery of just one man of moral character seems like a sun breaking through clouds of nuclear winter.

My special thanks to Marc Rubenstein, who ventured into his labyrinth to find a hand-written, dog-eared newsletter penned by some well-meaning yurtries back when pyramid power was cool. I'm grateful that the authors chose not to copyright their material, so that I could make it available to all of you in the Guild. Although I have not built one of these yurts, I have done some supporting research, and I'm confident that the construction methods are sound – and worth the investment of time and labor.

As to the state of the Guild, our membership has generally held steady, despite sometimes discouraging renewal rates. Even with the ridiculous policies of my isolationist bank, we continue to gain Canadian members. Of course, I rarely advertise the newsletter, so the membership base depends largely on word of mouth and the good will of current members. The trouble is that when we (frequently) drop below 200 members, I can't use bulk mailing unless I mail myself issues at my own expense – so please do renew on time.

To help remedy this situation, I want to offer some incentives to Guild members. First, I'm going to include about a page in every issue of *Sacred Spaces* where Guild members may advertise their goods or services for free. I will offer the space on a first-come, first-serve basis, and I will try to rotate the space regularly.

To encourage more article submissions, I'd like to offer "gift mailings" for writers. When you send me your article, include a list of three names and addresses of people you would like to get a copy of the newsletter – with your printed article. Maybe your kingdom arts & science officer would like one, or your favorite laurel, maybe your king and queen – or your poor, aging mother. Please submit stories in both hard copy and on 3.5" (Macintosh) disk if possible, and include any relevant artwork.

I hope that the variety of articles in this issue will reassure those of you interested in temporary structures that we have not abandoned furniture, tents, and the accessories so important to the "weekend warrior." I have a long list of projects that Guild members have told me about – even promised to write articles on: Roman oil lamps, various pieces of furniture, beds, great halls. I encourage you to put these things down on paper, sketch them out, and send them my way.

Finally, I want to thank Barbara Gordon (a Canadian Guild member), who wrote the compelling article on mazes for this issue, and went through hell to get it to me. Here is yet another example of how we can all benefit from the experience of fellow Guild members – if only we are willing to share our knowledge and works.

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