

Cactus Needles

SOUTHWEST COSTUMERS' GUILD

Volume VIII, Number 2

February 2001

SouthWest Costumers Guild

meets generally on the last Sunday of the month, 1:00PM at members homes or someplace fun. The Guild dues for our chapter are \$10 per year, an optional additional \$4 for membership in the International Costumer's Guild, and \$18 to receive the International Costumer's Quarterly. \$8 to receive only our chapter newsletter. Send money to Frances Burns, she will notify the Editor. SWCG Webpage:

<http://members.aol.com/souwesgld/guild.html>

International Costumers Guild Webpage: www.costume.org

For further information write to SWCG, PO Box 39504,

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Vilma Lary

March 22, 1919 - January 29, 2001

SouthWest Costumers Guild member Vilma Lary passed away on January 29. We wish to express our condolences to her daughter, guild member Paula Lary.

MEETING: February 25, 2001 at 1PM - at Sharan's place in Glendale This will be the "**Postwar Depression.**"* We will decompress and debrief our experiences from the Estrella War and do calendar planning for the next few months worth of meetings.

International Costumers' Guild

President's Message

January 28, 2001

Hello, everyone —

I hope that you all had a great holiday season and have settled in to the 21st century. In my first President's Message of this millennium, there are just a few things I want to talk about.

ICG Annual Dues

On January 3, after extended discussion, the Board of Directors voted to amend Standing Rule 3 to increase the ICG's annual membership dues from \$1.00 U.S. per year to \$4.00 U.S. per year. The Board did do because it had become clear that, even with stringent controls on expenditures, revenues were unable to keep up with our costs.

This is the first raise in membership dues in our history. The ICG dues of \$1.00 U.S. per year was set 17 years ago, in 1983. The increase will help to meet the increased costs over the past 17 years of such essentials as postage and supplies. It also will help put the Corporation in a stronger position to serve its members and chapters better. One of the principal reasons the ICG exists is to provide services to local costuming guilds that have affiliated themselves as ICG chapters. We provide a tax-exempt umbrella for chapters in the U.S. that wish to make use of it. We discussed and agreed on the Guidelines for International-Level Masquerades and Competitions to aid masquerade directors and costumers interested in competition. The new ICG Annual is another example of a central service the ICG provides. A committee is working on model masquerade forms that directors of costume competitions will be able to adopt and to adapt to their special circumstances. A major central service is the Patrick M. Kennedy Memorial Archive, one of the finest collections of photos and videotapes of costumes and competitions in North America. We are digitizing the collection in order to make it available on CD-ROMs and plan to distribute copies to chapters.

Beyond that, the new dues level will give the ICG a bit of flexibility — not a lot — to meet new needs identified by chapters.

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CALENDAR

NOTE: Information in this calendar is provided as a service to our guild please contact the individual organizations for verification of information.

March 25, 2001 - 'Mother of the Bride' Dress Finishing* at Jean's

April 29, 2001 - Henin Making* at Jean's

May 18-20, 2001 - LepreCon 27, A fan-run convention emphasizing the art of Science Fiction, will be held at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. This year's con's confirmed guests of honor include: Artist Guest of Honor: Stephen Hickman Author Guest of Honor: Michael Stackpole Music Guest: Echo's Children (sponsored by the Phoenix Filk Circle) Local Artist Guest of Honor: Robert Ross Check out www.leprecon.org for details.

September 7-9, 2001 - CopperCon 21, A fan-run Science Fiction convention, will be held at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. This year's con features Author Julian May and Musical Guest Heather Alexander. Check out www.casfs.org/cucon for details. The con features a masquerade directed by SWCG Webdude Randall Whitlock. Randall has put up a masquerade information page at <http://members.aol.com/cumask/>.

* Indicates a SWCG-sponsored event.

ICG

(cont'd from page 1)

We look forward to doing so.

Costumer's Quarterly Subscription Rate

The Board also voted on January 3 to amend Standing Rule 23 to increase the subscription rate to The Costumer's Quarterly from \$8.00 U.S. to \$18.00 U.S., for members with U.S. mailing addresses. The new rates went into effect for new and renewal subscriptions on and after January 7, 2001. Members outside the U.S. will continue to pay subscription rates set by the Australian Costumers' Guild, Costume Guild UK, or the Western Canadian Costumers' Guild, respectively. The Board's action did not affect those subscriptions.

The Costumer's Quarterly has been one of the most important services the ICG provides. Yes, publication has been spotty over the years. However, it is not the only journal published by volunteer members of a not-for-profit organization for which that is true. The new subscription rate means that we will be able to publish regularly. The old price per U.S. member, \$8.00 per year, came nowhere near the cost of printing and mailing. The ICG cannot afford to subsidize that cost from dues revenues; the Quarterly must be self-sufficient. The new subscription rate, \$18.00 per year, will permit it to meet its direct costs. Fortunately, we do not have to pay for articles, editorial services, or equipment, or the price would have to be much higher.

The Costumer's Quarterly is the only non-commercial journal devoted exclusively to costuming. In line with the current interests of members and chapters, issues will continue to contain a mix of articles about costume and costuming, news of the ICG and the chapters and the Guild as a whole, and notices of coming events and attractions. Recently, it was suggested that we

publish classified ads for members. We are determined to publish the Quarterly regularly, four times a year, if members and chapters submit articles for publication. You may recall that my last message included a list of more than a dozen articles that members had agreed to write. I trust that they're working on them actively and that we will see the fruits of their efforts over the course of the next year or so. I hope you will subscribe.

Chapter Obligations

One of the few obligations that chapters have to the ICG is to send us their lists of officers and members annually, with quarterly updates.

Chapter Reports. Please remember that the Standing Rules provide that each chapter must annually send the Corporation Treasurer its list of officers' names, addresses and, where available, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses, together with the complete list of its members in good standing (including name, address, telephone number where available, and whether or not the member subscribes to the Quarterly). Each quarter, each chapter must send the names, etc., of new members and any updates to the list of officers or to members' addresses and phone numbers.

At the same time as the annual report, each chapter must remit ICG dues. Please make checks payable to International Costumers' Guild.

The due dates for these reports each year are: January 7, April 6, July 6, and October 6. Chapters' annual lists and dues payments were due on January 7. I have asked our Treasurer, Sharon Trembley, to send receipt to chapters when their reports arrive and to send reminders early next month to the presidents and treasurers of delinquent chapters. If you have not yet complied, please send your chapter's annual list of members and officers and your dues to:

Sharon Trembley, Treasurer
International Costumers' Guild, Inc.
398 Prospect Street
South Amboy, NJ 08879-1942 USA

The format that we need chapters to use in sending Sharon the information is posted on the ICG web site: www.costume.org "Guido," our Chapter Liaison, will be in contact with chapters that have not met their obligation.

The next report date for chapters is April 6, when chapters should send Sharon an update report on changes in members' addresses and the names and addresses of new members.

ICG-T.

As an additional avenue of communication for chapter treasurers and the ICG Treasurer, JohnO has set up a new discussion list on which they may discuss their mutual concerns. The list is known as ICG-T. A number of chapter treasurers have already joined it. I encourage other treasurers to join. Chapter treasurers may do so by contacting John at icg@costume.org or by sending a blank message to ICG-T-subscribe@egroups.com and then sending a message with their name and local chapter to John at ICG-T-owner@egroups.com

Members may reach me by e-mail either at bconnell@mail.nysed.gov (work) or at BP.Connell@worldnet.att.net (home), or by regular post at 50 Dove Street, Albany, NY 12210-1811 USA.

Sincerely,
Byron P. Connell, President
International Costumers' Guild