

Cactus Needles

SOUTHWEST COSTUMERS' GUILD

Volume IX, Number 8

August 2002

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 Kim Martin, she will notify the Editor.

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PDF Format Newsletter

Cactus Needles is available monthly by email as an attached pdf file. Also available is a pdf file of all of the 1999, 2000 and the 2001 issues. If you would like the .pdf version instead of or in addition to a mailed copy or if you would like copies of past issues please contact the editor at leigh@doverkeep.org

MEETING: August 25, 2002 - Pool Party* Guild meeting/workshop at Chuck & Tasha's place. The theme is "Water Creatures."



International Costumers Guild ICG President's Message July 2002

I hope this finds you all well as we move into the hot days of summer. I, myself, have finally finished my copious sewing projects (at least this last round) and successfully completed all three dresses for my trip to Gold Rush Country a few weeks ago. I was so proud of myself that I finished three days BEFORE the trip. I was actually able to relax and not sew while driving up there (which would have been difficult, since I was the driver). We had lots of fun and found a great place in Columbia to buy period calicos. Needless to say, I spent too much money - oh well, no surprise.

There is some information I wish to relay. As many of you know, the ICG has a "department" called the Archives. Carl Mami runs the Archives and I wanted to provide an explanation to those of you who don't know what the Archives are and report what's happening with them at the same time.

The purpose of the ICG Archives is to preserve through written, photographic, videographic, and now digital means costume-related events around the world. The reason for this is to keep an historical record of these events. They are to be used for "archiving" purposes as well as research for the future. These events, such as Costume Cons, masquerades at Science Fiction conventions, and even Costume College, are our link with the past, and information for the future. When creating this Archive "department," the ICG was trying to make a statement that it was important, as with any library, that these records (visual or otherwise) be available for study and pleasure. Carl, who has run the department for a very long time, works very hard on this

(Cont'd on page 2)

CALENDAR

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

September 6-8, 2002 - Coppercon 22, a Fan-Run SF Convention at Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 West Greenway Road, Phoenix, Arizona. Author Guest of Honor: Barbara Hambly, Special Effects Guest of Honor: Mojo. Visit www.coppercon.org for details.

September 29, 2002 - Costuming from Start to Finish I - Costume Silhouette* Guild meeting/workshop at Chuck & Tasha's place. This is the first of a series of workshops on costume design and tailoring for your body. We will take a set of measurements to use for pattern size selection. We'll experiment with making personal silhouette drawings (croquis) using digital photographs. These can be used as a basis for drawing renderings of your costume. Bring a leotard or other close-fitting garment, preferably in a solid color. We'll also discuss selection of patterns and fabrics for your skill level.

October 27, 2002 - Costuming from Start to Finish II - Pattern, Fabric, and Notion Selection* Guild meeting/workshop. We'll meet outside the JoAnn Fabric store in the strip mall at the southeast corner of 83rd Avenue and Bell Road in Glendale, walk the store looking at pattern books, fabrics, and notions; then repair to a nearby restaurant to discuss projects, proportions, and reasons for fabric choices.

November 24, 2002 - Costuming from Start to Finish III - Pattern Alterations and Assembly* Guild meeting/workshop at Jean's place. We'll discuss and demonstrate how to alter a pattern to fit your body, including alterations for bust size, and some basic assembly techniques.

December 15, 2002 - Costuming from Start to Finish IV - Final Fitting* Guild meeting/workshop at Jean's place. We'll discuss and demonstrate final fitting, hem measurements, additional alterations of your costume, and help with any problems encountered during your project. Also annual officer elections.

January 26, 2003 - Costuming from Start to Finish V - Accessories* Guild meeting/workshop at Jean's place. We'll discuss how accessories complete your costume and discuss shoes and other items to go with your costume.

February 14-16, 2003 - Estrella War An annual event of the Society for Creative Anachronism, held at the Schnepf Family Farm site in Queen Creek, Arizona. Armored combat, arts & sciences competitions, and a merchants' row to rival any renaissance fair.

February 23, 2003 - Post-War Depression* Guild meeting at Stephanie's place. Decompress after the Estrella War and plan future activities.

ICG President

(cont'd from page 1)

project. Part of the problem with keeping up with the events is that technology keeps improving and therefore, Carl keeps having to upgrade the process. Additionally, you can't even imagine (I certainly can't), how much space these records take up. Carl has been keeping all the information in his home as he has been collecting it. He has, in the last few years, been able to digitalize many videos and still photos of costume events which has helped in space consumption. Additionally, the Archives has been helped along with financial and material contributions from many sources including the SLUTS, the CGW, other chapters of the ICG, many individuals, and even Blockbuster Video. Even better than the financial contributions have been some very generous photographic donations from many wonderful photographers. More on those contributors in the future, though. The ultimate goal of the Archives is to be able to research materials of these wonderful photos and videos to our members and chapters. However, we have a little while before we're there. There is so much to catalogue, copy, and digitalize, it is mind boggling. Now, I hope, you have an idea of what the ICG Archives are and their purpose.

In the meantime, while Carl is trying to get it all together, he has produced two sets of disks that are copies of what the Archives has in its library. For purposes of back up and safety, Carl has created two disk set copies so that they may be housed in two separate locations from the originals he is keeping. This way, in case of any disaster, we have back ups available and all will not be lost. The CGW has offered storage space for one set of these precious disk sets, and I believe, the SLUTS have offered a place in the Midwest. So, we will have copies of the disks on the West Coast, East Coast, and the Midwest. I am pleased to announce that the first set of copied disks will be delivered to the CGW at Costume College in July. These important records will then be placed in a fireproof box and kept in the CGW's storage unit. Arrangements for delivery of the second set of copies will be made in the near future.

Let me add that Carl has worked tirelessly for several years on this project. He, as does the ICG, feels it's vital to keep a visual history of costuming. After all, that's what we're here to do, promote costuming, and the Archives will help us to do just that.



* Indicates a SWCG-sponsored event.