

CACTUS NEEDLES

Monthly Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild
Vol 11 #4 April 2004

Be kind to editors. They have issues.

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Please send corrections by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Calendar

*Indicates an event organized by SWCG. Unless otherwise noted, SWCG meetings begin at 1:00 PM.

April 24, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm **On Patrol in Chandler, AZ: A Gathering of Watchers, A Celebration of The Slayer** at the Chandler Downtown Library, Council Chambers. This is a Buffy fandom event. Festivities include costume and look-alike contests, arts and crafts, raffles, writing, poetry and trivia contests, and (believe it or not – I didn't at first) a tattoo/body art contest. Hosted by AZ Republic TV

Critic Bill Goodykoontz. Go to <http://chandlerlibrary.org/buffy.htm> for details.

April 25, 2004, 10 AM – **Prize Making*** SWCG workshop at Jean's place. We'll build some hats and other items as participant and crew prizes for the upcoming LepreCon, WesterCon and CopperCon masquerades. Bring your sewing tools and machinery and some odd fabrics.



May 1-2, 2004, 10-6 – **May in the Meadows Renaissance Faire** at the Downtown Civic Center in Prescott Valley, Arizona. A new faire from the people who bring you the annual Devonshire Renaissance Faire. Look for Randall's MoiRandall's booth. www.devonshirefaire.com/may.

May 7-9, 2004 – **LepreCon 30 SF/Art Con** at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel, 2620 W. Dunlap, Phoenix, AZ. Guests of honor include author David Drake, artists Donato Giancola and Sylvana Anderson. Art Show & Auction, Gaming, LARPs, Computer LAN Party, Charity Auction, a Dealer's Room, Con Suite, Video, Anime and more. There will be a Masquerade directed by guildfriend Margaret Grady. Go to www.leprecon.org for details.

May 23, 2004 – **B.Y.O.B.*** SWCG workshop at Tasha's place. We'll build decorative water bottle covers and mug straps suitable for renaissance faires and other historical events. Bring some suitable decorative fabric strapping, and of course *Bring Your Own Bottle*.

June 26-27, 2004 – **Renaissance in the Pines**. A fine renfaire at Fort Tuthill, off of I-17, just south of Flagstaff, Arizona. From the web page at www.renaissanceinthepinesinc.com. “Step back in time to the Shire of Stone Ridge to the year 1560 as we put on a festival in honor of Queen Elizabeth’s visit. See fully armored knights joust, historical recreations from lace-making to blacksmithing, games of skill and chance, a marketplace full of rare and unique treasures, stage shows of swordplay and comedy acts, children theatre, music, dancing and much more.”

June 27, 2004 – **Velvet Embossing*** SWCG meeting/workshop at Carlos’ place.

July 2-5, 2004 – **ConKopelli (WesterCon 57)** Regional SF Convention at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park, Arizona. Guests of honor include authors CJ Cherryh and Diana Gabaldon, artist David Cherry, fan John Hertz, and music guest Heather Alexander. Go to www.conkopelli.org for details. SWCG will host a costumers’ suite on Friday and Saturday. Guildster Carlos Egan will direct the masquerade.

July 25, 2004 – **Splashdown*** SWCG social at Chuck & Tasha’s place. Our annual costume party in the pool. Make a costume you can swim in. This year’s theme is “Aliens.”

August 29, 2004 – **Chemises and Shirts*** SWCG workshop at Randall’s place. Learn to build a basic underdress or shirt. Bring muslin or other suitable fabric.

September 26, 2004 – **Buckram Hats II*** SWCG workshop at Carlos’ place. Put finishing touches on the hats we started in March.

October 24, 2004, 10 AM – **The Cloaking*** SWCG workshop at Jean’s place. We’ll build some capes and other items to sell at Devonshire as our annual fundraiser. Bring your sewing tools and try to find some of the “Dreaded Black Fuzzy” fabric.

November 28, 2004 – **Bustles*** SWCG workshop and potluck at Frances’ place in Sedona. Bring food to share. Bustle material list to be posted later.

Saturday, December 18, 2004, 5 PM – **Dickens Walk*** SWCG social at Edouard’s place. Assemble in Victorian or other winter costume, then walk the Christmas at First festival together.

January 30, 2005 – **Duct Tape Mannequins*** SWCG workshop at Jean’s place. Build a custom dresser dummy around your body using the handyman’s secret weapon.

February 27, 2004 – **Calendar Girls & Guys*** SWCG meeting at Stephanie’s place. Annual calendar planning.

Kim & Rick to be Wed

Congrats in advance to guildsters Kim Martin and Rick Andrews, who have decided to make it legal on June 4!

Meanwhile, there is a wedding gown to be built. Kim would like to know good, quick sources for corsetry supplies and other gowning essentials.

Welcome to New Members

Three new members have joined SWCG since last newsletter. Nola Yergen-Jennings – SCA Laurel, costumer for Grand Canyon University, and daughter of VP Jean Palmer has re-upped after a couple of years absence. Wild westerner Donna Wells joined at the March meeting. Laurie Taylor, a costumer for Ballet Arizona joined by mail.

Alteryears New Location

Alteryears, run by friend and founding member of the ICG Janet Wilson-Anderson, is moving. Here’s the text of the flyer given out at Festival of the West:

AlterYears is Changing!

We’re moving out of the store and going to Mail Order and Will Call effective April 1.

New Numbers: Phone (626) 569-9179 Fax (626) 569-9099

New Hours: Mon Noon-4 pm, Tues, Weds, Fri - 10 am-5:30 pm, Thurs 10 am - 7:30 pm, Sat by appointment.

Mail Order - works just as it always has: Call us with your order and we ship it out.

(penciled in) PO Box 98, Rosemead CA 91770

Will Call - Call us with your order; we will pull it from the warehouse and have it ready for you to pick up - usually the next working day. Pick-up address: 8553 Village Ln, Rosemead CA

Need to look at stuff to decide? Call us and make an appointment for us to take you to the warehouse.

Questions? Call Us!

Tasha and Chuck in Egypt **Part 1 – Modern Dress** by Tasha Cady

Spouse and I went to Egypt for two wonderful weeks at the end of January.

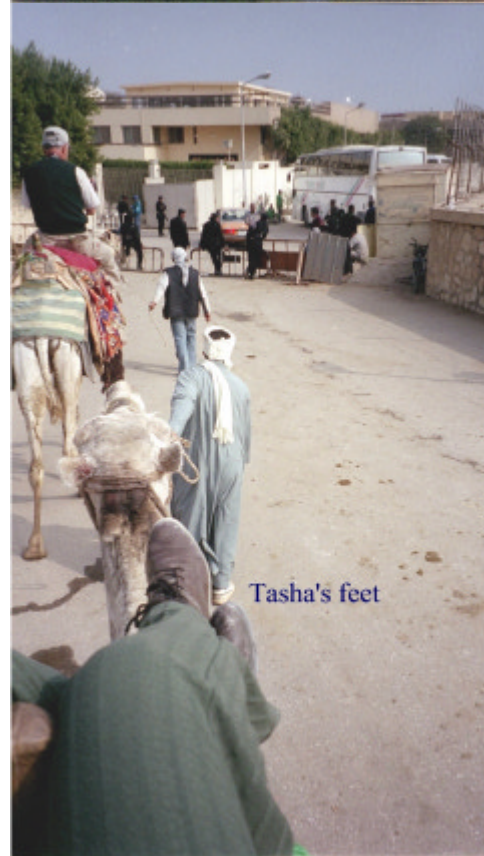
Spouse, being male, of course looked at the Egyptian women. Me, being a costumer, looked at outfits overall.

This short article is my impressions of current Egyptian couture.

Men first. Most men dress Western. Couldn't tell them from Barry Bard very much. A very few wear gallabeyahs. If they do, they most likely wear a turban with it. We saw most of these outfits at the airport, proportionately fewer on the street.

The other male costume worth noting was the police/military. Lots of police! Special antiquities and tourist police. With special armbands. In droves (and in trucks, in boats, and even on camels) wherever there were lots of tourists. The military special uniforms were at the tomb of the unknown soldier (sultanate) and Saddam's tomb (phaeronic). While the sultanate outfits looked real, the phaeronic ones looked very Hollywoody. I think the same people made them who made the waiters outfits for the Egypt Night dinner on our river-ship.

There were three types of women's outfits. The most common was a long skirt and a head scarf. This was probably more than 80% of the women we saw. Maybe 10%, mostly younger women, wore very Western dress. The only thing is, we never saw bare legs. If they wore short skirts, they wore high boots. We weren't sure if that was because it was winter, or because they didn't want to show skin. We were told that frequently young women will wear burkas when they leave the house to go to a club, but with Western wear underneath. When they get to the club, off comes the burka. But we didn't get a chance to visit any clubs. Another 10% of the women will wear the full burka, some with gloves and some with eyes veils. Chuck thought it looked really funny when they wore glasses with the burka.



Women in long dresses and head scarves

Camel wrangler is in a galabeyah



Guard Unit Saddat's tomb



Guard Unit Unknown Soldiers Tomb



Our waiter - on party night
Egyptians make great Beer



1st Sight of Camel Guard



Guards ready in boats

From the Mailbox

We just received a postcard announcing The Celtic Calendar, an online listing of Irish festivals, Irish music performances, and related events in Arizona. The calendar is put together by Jeff Colburn and hosted on his web design site, The Creative Cauldron. There is a form at the beginning of the page to announce new events. Go to www.creativecauldron.com.

So What Else Do You Do?

SWCG members are into all kinds of things, from SF cons to renfairs to wild west to bowling leagues. What sorts of activities call for your costuming skills and interests? Please tell us about them with a paragraph or two in *Cactus Needles*. Write the editor at editor@southwestcostumersguild.org or pass him some hard copy.