

Cactus Needles

Newsletter of the
Southwest Costumers Guild

Vol 11 #12 December 2004

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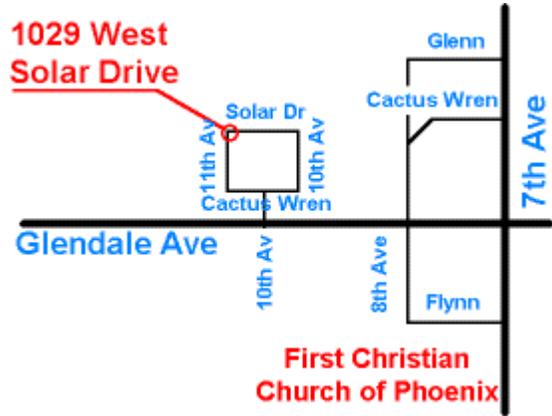
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Please send corrections by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Calendar

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

Saturday, December 11 – **Victorian Holiday Celebration**
10AM-4PM at Heritage & Science Park, 115 North 6th Street, Phoenix. Free. Call 602.262.5071 for more information.



Saturday, December 18, 2004, 7 PM (Special date and time) – **Dickens Walk*** SWCG social at Edouard's place (1029 West Solar Drive, Phoenix). Assemble in Victorian or other winter attire, then walk the *Christmas at First* festival together.

Christmas at First features a Victorian village, a Bethlehem walk-through pageant, cider and treats in a hospitality tent, all around the famous Frank Lloyd Wright-designed church.

Navigation Notes: Edouard's townhouse is in the Marrakech complex, at 1029 West Solar Drive in Phoenix. Turn north onto 10th Avenue from Glendale Avenue and work your way around the square. Parallel park along the streets within the complex. Edouard's unit is at the southeast corner of 11th Avenue and Solar Drive, as shown above.

Some Phoenix street atlases have Solar Drive and Cactus Wren switched. Mapquest incorrectly plots the townhouse in the middle of the block.

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 14, 2005 (Statehood Day) – **History on the Mall** 10AM-2PM at the Arizona State Capitol. Displays by more than two dozen museums and heritage centers, historical reenactors, craft demos.

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

March 25-27, 2005 – **AniZona**: Arizona's first Anime convention at the Embassy Suites North, SEC, I-17 & Greenway in Phoenix. www.anizona.org

April 29 - May 2, 2005 – **Costume-Con 23**: Crossroads of Space and Time. A celebration of fabric, design, and performance in Ogden, Utah. Memberships are \$75 US until September 12, 2004. www.crossroadsutah.org/

May 6-8, 2005 – **LepreCon 31** at Carefree Resort, 37220 Mule Train Road, Carefree, AZ GOHs include Kevin J. Anderson, Dave Dorman, Bear Burge, and Sarah Clemens. Featuring an independent film festival and a masquerade directed by Margaret Grady. www.leprecon.org/lep31/

Quick Store Reviews

by Randall Whitlock

Woodcraft 3002 N. Arizona Avenue, Chandler in Pollack Plaza at the Northwest Corner of Arizona Avenue & Elliot Road.

What does a costumer want with a store dedicated to home woodworking tools and supplies? Think unusual wood stocks for staffs and accessories, metal inlays meant for furniture that can be repurposed to armor, unusual tools, all kinds of glues and varnishes, special nails, screws, and drawer knobs.

Bead World 6064 N 16th Street, Phoenix
Paint On Pottery 6066 N 16th Street, Phoenix

These two stores are in a small strip mall near the northwest corner of 16th Street and Bethany Home Road. Bead World is a basic neighborhood bead store. No classes yet, but they plan to add them soon.

Paint On Pottery (www.paintonpottery.com) is a workshop for painting slip-molded figurines, mugs, and tableware. (This was big in the 1970s). This might be worthwhile for making custom feast gear for SCA and Renfaire events.

Random Thoughts from your Editor

by Randall Whitlock



Ve Vant Fresh Blood!

Keeping our guild active and vibrant (Heck, just replacing burned-out officers from year to year) requires a constant influx of new members with new projects, ideas and energy.

How do we get these new members? I suggest we individual guildsters constantly keep watch for persons who might share our costuming interest and talk them into attending a meeting or workshop. Whenever you attend a con or other open event, drop some flyers on the freebie table.

The last two pages of this issue are masters for a new business card and a quarter-page flyer. Please print or copy a bunch of these and stash them in your car/wallet/purse for whenever the opportunity arises for guerilla recruiting.

Seeking Document Preservation Advice

My parents presented me with an important family document during their recent visit. It's my great-to-the-fifth grandfather, George Clinton Whitlock's doctoral diploma, issued in 1838. It is hand-lettered in Latin using a sepia ink on what appears to be genuine calfskin vellum.



The great-bearded Reverend Dr. G.C. Whitlock is seen above, surrounded by his sons, daughters in law, and grandchildren in this photograph taken just before his death in the middle 1860s.

The diploma has spent the last century and a half rolled up in a sealed brass civil war dispatch tube and is in remarkably good condition. I'd like to keep it that way, perhaps framing it under glass. Are there any local services that might do this for a reasonable price?

Interestingly, a pair of ladies' kid gloves were used as packing material inside the tube. The gloves aren't in very good condition, but I'll show them around a future meeting.



Gift Idea?

Kate Bridges brought this purse in the form of a leather corset to TusCon. Hers came from Chinatown, but I've seen similar ones at an outlet mall in Mesa.

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Visit our web site for a calendar of events and e-mail editor@southwestcostumersguild.org for directions.

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