

Vol. 13 No. 9, September 2006

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Calendar

Know of an upcoming costumed event in Arizona? Please tell your editor. ***Indicates an event organized by SWCG.** Unless otherwise noted, SWCG meetings begin at 1 PM.

September 11, 2006, 5:30 PM to 9ish – **S&B*** SWCG personal projects workshop at Tasha's Place.

September 16, 2006 – **Pan Celtic Ceilidh** at the Irish Cultural Center, 1106 North Central, Phoenix. Featuring Jane Hilton and the Pan Celtic Ceilidh Band and the Phoenix Scottish Pipe Band. Social at 6, Dinner at 6:30,

Ceilidh (celtic concert) at 7:30. Tix – Concert only \$10, with dinner \$35. Hosted by the Caledonian Society of Arizona. RSVP to Michell Campbell, 5349 Plute Avenue, Glendale AZ 85308 (623.561.2721)

September 17, 2006 – **Personal Projects*** SWCG meeting/workshop at Kathleen's Place. Here are Kathleen's directions:

My house address is: FULTON, 2229 E. Menadota Drive, Phoenix, AZ, 85024; home telephone: 602-787-8768.

Take Loop 101; Exit 28 onto Cave Creek Road (south); turn West onto Beardsley Road (McDonald's on the corner); turn left (south) onto 22nd Street; immediately turn left (east) onto Menadota Drive, 2229 is 8th house on the right (pale beige w/brown garage door). My house is about 1/4 mile southwest from highway exit.

Attendees can bring their favorite soft drink. I will supply water and fruit juice, and a hot chicken/vegetable casserole. Otherwise it will be potluck.

My front room has lots of space, the only furniture in it is a dining table [size 42" x 66"] w/six chairs. There is enough empty space to set up two or more folding tables for sewing machines and/or for cutting of material. There are 5 double wall electric outlets. I also have space to set up sewing tables in my great room. Both rooms have ceiling fans.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me. kfulton@fclaw.com

September 19, 2006 – **Serenity** at the Valley Art Theater in Tempe, Arizona. Special screening of the Firefly movie hosted by the Arizona Browncoats (www.arizonabrowncoats.com). Proceeds to benefit creator Joss Whedon's favored charity, Equality Now (www.equalitynow.org).

September 22-24, 2006 **Second Annual Wild Western Festival** at Pioneer Village at Exit 227 of Interstate 17, north of Phoenix. "History Meets Hollywood" with appearances by western movie and TV stars, vendors' row, stunt shows, etc. Adults \$10. www.wildwesternfestival.com.

A party of guildsters will assemble at 9:30 AM on Sunday, 9/20 at Tasha's place to carpool to the festival.

September 23-24, 2006 – **Phoenix Cactus Comicon** at the Mesa Convention Center, Mesa, Arizona. Lots of comic book writer and artist guests. A masquerade is planned. www.phoenixcomicon.com

September 30, 2006, 9:30 AM to 1 PM – **Sewing Session*** at Bookman's, NWC 19th Ave & Northern, Phoenix. Get together to work on Turkish Court and other personal projects.

October 9, 2006, 5:30 PM to 9ish – **S&B*** SWCG personal projects workshop at Tasha's Place.

October 14, 2006, 9:30 AM to 2 PM – **Sewing Session*** at Bookman's, NWC 19th Ave & Northern, Phoenix. Get together to work on Turkish Court and other personal projects.

October 22, 2006 – **Turkish Turbans and Wraps*** SWCG meeting/workshop at Jean's place.

October 28, 2006, 9:30 AM to 1 PM – **Sewing Session*** at Bookman's, NWC 19th Ave & Northern, Phoenix. Get together to work on Turkish Court and other personal projects.

November 10-12, 2006 – **TusCon 33** at the InnSuites in Tucson, Arizona. Fan-run SF convention. Guests: Emma Bull & Will Shetterly. <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>

November 13, 2006, 5:30 PM to 9ish – **S&B*** SWCG personal projects workshop at Tasha's Place.

November 18-19, 2006 10 AM-6PM – **Devonshire Renaissance Faire** at Los Olivos Park, north of the northeast corner of 28th Street and Indian School Road in Phoenix. Admission is \$7, less a buck if you bring a can of something for the food bank. www.devonshirefaire.com

December 9, 2006, 9:30 AM to 1 PM – **Sewing Session*** at Bookman's, NWC 19th Ave & Northern, Phoenix. Get together to work on Turkish Court and other personal projects.

December 11, 2006, 5:30 PM to 9ish – **S&B*** SWCG personal projects workshop at Tasha's Place.

January 4-7, 2007 – **DarkCon 07** at the Embassy Suites (I-17 & Greenway, Phoenix) anime, cosplay, art demos & displays, parties, computer gaming, costumes, bazaar, LARPs, Star Wars cantina & poker tourney. All chaired by our own Nola Yergen-Jennings. **Special Guest: Jewel Staite – “Kaylee” from Firefly and Serenity.** www.darkcon.org .

March 14-17, 2007 – **USITT Conference & Stage Expo** at the Phoenix Civic Center. Annual conference of the association of design, production, and technology professionals in the performing arts and entertainment industry. www.usitt.org .

SWCG Sewing Sessions at Bookman's

Announced by Diane Harris

The Guild is planning to attend the SCA War next year en masse. We decided to go as a Turkish court - beautiful, rich colors.

In order to accomplish this, Tasha has already graciously offered her home and scheduled sewing meetings. In order to accommodate others who may live quite a distance from Tasha or may not be able to attend on Monday evenings (and the fact that the price of gas is still yo-yoing), I perused the schedule at the local Bookman's and found that Saturday mornings are always available. I reserved some dates; they are listed below. There are 9 dates for sewing either at Tasha's home or at Bookman's scheduled between now and the end of the year. With these two locations and times we now can accommodate everyone's schedule and location needs. The goal is for everyone to be able to sew on their Turkish project or their individual project.

""DISCLAIMER""

These meetings are not designed to be get-a-seamstress-for-free events. You can receive guidance or expertise or best advice for almost every level of sewing expertise. Bring all of your own sewing supplies and machines.

Bookman's - tables are provided - bring your own 6ft to 10ft extension cord. or power strip. Outlets in this room are few. Bring your own power strip for your machine if you use one.

Tasha Cady Monday Evenings		Bookman's – 19 & Northern Saturday Mornings	
9-11-06	5:30pm to 9ish	9-30-06	9:30am to 1pm
10-9-06	5:30pm to 9ish	10-14-06	9:30am to 2pm
11-13-06	5:30 pm to 9ish	10-28-06	9:30am to 1pm
12-11-06	5:30pm to 9sh	12-9-06	9:30am to 1pm

I hope that this helps everyone to get to at least one or both of the locations on a consistent basis. If you have questions, you can reach me at 602-565-2019 or via email. calliebelle@earthlink.net

Costume College, 2006

Held in Van Nuys, California August 4 through 6, 2006

Reviewed by Diane Harris

We began our journey with 5 guildsters (Frances, Kathleen, Lyn, Tasha and me) at a very dark, early time on Thursday, August 3, in two cars that were fairly empty of luggage (more on that later). We prefer driving to flying because of our need to take sewing machines, costumes, etc. Airlines just do not have the same appreciation or possessive need to keep our equipment completely safe

and whole like we think they should. I mean, really, shouldn't they provide special seats for sewing machines and sergers?

We left early because we wanted to stop in Riverside, CA to visit a boot maker, Rennick's Western Boots – 9243 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA (951-688-1897). We had information that he makes boots for any period to fit any foot – no small feat – and guarantees his work. Of course, we wanted to investigate. We were completely delighted – his work is very good – he takes a gazillion measurements of both feet – can even tell you where your feet ache – and has a great deal of variety in the style of even one period for boots. These are handmade boots, folks. If you watch Deadwood, those boots are mostly his. He is a true craftsman, having learned from his grandfather and father. Not many family businesses like this exist now. Four of us ordered boots – look for more information on this about the end of November – process is 10 to 12 weeks. I can't wait. We will post pictures when we all receive our boots.

We stopped next in the Artesia area to look at Sari material in the Indian District where Tasha found some stunning length of fabric. Some of the jewelry (although modern) was breathtaking. The colors were spectacular. Some of us purchased lengths of fabric for our Turkish costumes.

Finally, Costume College - Air-Tel Hotel in Van Nuys. For those of who have not attended a Costume College before, plan to attend next year. You will learn so much: period techniques, make corsets, making hats without hat blocks, who's who in researching and documenting your costume, dyeing straw braid, making gloves, men's clothes, etc., etc., etc. – a very intense combination of classes and panels on just costumes. This event is 3 days with tours to various places in Los Angeles, classes and panels from 9 to 5 each day, a Gala dinner and costume event, a Tea event and a wonderful spirit of meeting, connecting and sharing anything and everything Costume. You can dress in costume or not. You will meet amateur and professional designers who work everywhere from Disneyland to opera companies to theater companies to hobbyists, etc. Everyone that I met had something to share. Everyone (at any level) is there to learn something new. The energy that is present the entire weekend is remarkable.

Monday we traveled to the Fabric District – Downtown LA. This is blocks and blocks of warehouse type enclosures full of fabrics – OH THE FABRICS – velvets, silks, upholstery, cottons, rayons, linens, wool – it is very hard not to find the fabric you are seeking – sometimes extremely hard to make the choice of what you really want. Trims and sewing tools abound also. I suggest you visit Em-Be Fabric – 305 E. 9th Street (corner of 9th Street and Maple; 213-627-2202) first and last. The owner is Moez Banayan. He knows fabric. His prices are very fair. Moez was honored (1st honoree) at

the Gala event at Costume College this year for his contribution in fabric.

We also met up with Cat Devereaux, one of our newest members, where we had a lovely get together over Chinese Buffet. Cat has a wealth of history about International Costume Guild and costuming. She was recently awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations!

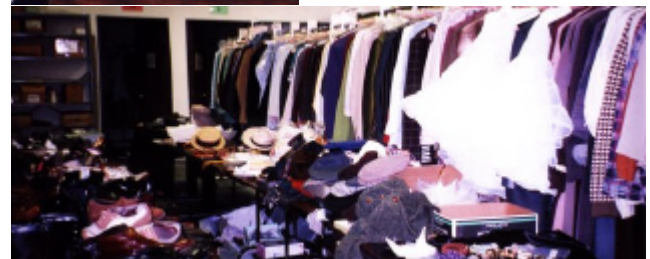
If you want to attend next year, just google in Costume College. Buy your membership now. The maximum number of attendees is only 300. This event was closed in December 2005, a full 9 months before the event in 2006. Are you getting a sense of urgency yet? Membership is \$75.00 for ICG members until August 28, 2006. After that, it goes up. Get in now. You won't regret it. After you register, drop us a line so we know who to expect next year.



**Los Angeles Opera
Company Visit**
by Kathleen Fulton

While at Costume College, I toured the costume department of the LA Opera Company, which is located in a separate building from the opera house. I found the tour to be quite interesting since we had a personal tour of the building by Theresa, the Head Tailor of Men's Suits. She has a masters college degree in Theatrical Arts and was very kind to allow us to inspect the costumes first-hand.

Kathleen at Costume College



Some of the many costumes stored at LA Opera Company

Cabela's
9380 West Glendale Avenue, Glendale, Arizona
reviewed by Randall Whitlock

The new Cabela's store received an enormous amount of attention when it opened in late July. Folks around my

office were talking about it who have no other interest in outdoor sports. I tried to visit on grand opening weekend, but couldn't get near the place. Teams of parking guys were waving drivers away from the completely full lot and directing them to park at the new football stadium on the other side of Glendale Avenue. There were even signs warning about the traffic congestion posted on the 101 freeway. A week later, I managed to sneak in on my lunch break.

I had been eagerly awaiting the store opening since it was announced last year. My family has received the Cabela's mail order catalog for nearly thirty years and half of my work clothes were bought from Cabela's by mail or from their many storefronts in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Cabela's is an outdoor sports store with a wide selection of camping, hiking, fishing, boating, hunting, archery, and outdoor cooking equipment, along with the clothes and boots to go with these activities. I wonder if Arizona has enough wilderness left to actually use all this stuff? Prices run a bit higher than Sportsman's Warehouse or the dearly departed Popular Outdoors. I'm hoping for frequent sales.

Their house is a museum when people come to see 'em. They really are a scre-am, the Cabela's family.

The song quote is no accident. You'll see more stuffed dead critters staring down at you than in the Addams parlor. Whole rooms are dedicated to taxidermy displays. Well enough done, but not exactly my thing.

I much better enjoyed the walk-through aquarium, which features specimens of Arizona's game fish (trout, bass, bluegills) and the endangered chubs and suckers of the Colorado River drainage. Cabela's must have an arrangement with the Arizona Game & Fish Department to display these rare fishes.

Other entertainments in the store include two laser-based shooting galleries, an archery range, and a cafeteria on the upper deck. The elevators and restrooms are concealed in a faux sandstone cliff with (you guessed it) stuffed mountain goats.

In short, I was in redneck high hog heaven and will return to the store frequently, once the hype dies down.

What's in it for the costumer? Maybe you're planning a Red Green costume? (Don't laugh, an amiable young lady was wearing a fine Possum Lodge uniform at Costume-Con 24 this spring.)

As noted in my Sportsman's Warehouse review last year, many of our costumes are worn at SCA, SASS and other events which call for good camping gear. The many

colorful feathers and beads in the fly-tying department have their uses in the decorative arts.

Ballet Arizona Costume Studio Needs Volunteers

Ballet Arizona will proudly unveil a brand new production of the "Nutcracker" in December, 2006. This new Nutcracker will feature new sets, new costumes and new choreography. Ballet Arizona has a team of designers throughout the theater world to create the magic and wonder of this holiday classic.

Volunteers are needed to assist the costume studio in finishing the hand work needed on each costume. There are hundreds of costumes and each one must be set with hooks and eyes (bars) in several rows as the costumes need to fit more than one person and body type. This must be completed before the big event in December.

If you are interested in participating in this unique project, please contact: Carolyn Mitchell at 602-343-6625

--Diane Harris

Couture Fabrics Closing

Diane forwarded this ad. I don't know how much longer the sale will go on. - Ed.

After 23 Years of Serving the Valley, Couture Fabrics is Closing its Doors. Don't Miss the Great Savings During the "GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE!"

Come Early to Get the Best Selection of Fabrics - Notions - One-of-a-Kind Buttons

We Will Continue to Discount Merchandise Weekly Until EVERYTHING IS GONE! (Including All Fixtures and Furniture)

Tuesday through Saturday - 10 am to 5pm
7120 E. Indian School Road - Scottsdale - 480-949-8238

The Complete Fashion Sourcebook

by John Peacock

ISBN 0-500-28572-1, 423 pages

Reviewed by Frances Burns

This book covers 1920 through 1989. It gives a flavor of what fashion was like for each year including accessories. If you are trying to find the silhouette and flavor of an era this is an excellent starting point, particularly when you are trying to describe the feel of a period to someone who has not researched that period. In addition to the sketches there are descriptions of the garments including fabric and color. Major designers for each decade are also listed in the back of the book.

This is one of John Peacock's wonderful flavor/feel of an era book; it gives a good overview of the years covered with sketches, descriptions, and references. It is not an in-depth view of any one-year or decade, but it is not meant to be.

On the Web

www.19th-century-us-history.com

Reviewed by Randall Whitlock

Diane pointed me to this site. They're a source of wild west/victorian clothing (including made-to-measure), saddles and tack, and some camping supplies. The site even includes a casting service for western actors.

From The Mailbox

The ICG Newsletter, July/August 2006. In addition to President's, Treasurer's and Editor's Messages, the ish features Lynne Taylor and Denisen Hartlove's "Let's Play Dress-Up" on practical costuming for children, Archon: A Letter of Introduction, favorite childhood costume recollections from contributors to the ICG-D list, BOD minutes, Bruce Mai's Costume-Con 24 review.

CopperCon 26 Masquerade

This year's masquerade was a bit small, with a total of eleven units. There were some delights nonetheless. Many thanks to those who showed costumes and those who crewed! Special thanks to SWCG for donating the BIS prize – a pair of Mundial shears in a wood presentation case.

Young Fen

<i>Name</i>	<i>Presentation</i>	<i>Award</i>
Shaun McGovern	Young Anakin	Best Swordplay
Filicia Langholz, Myranda Summers	Revenge	Most Dramatic
Timothy Langholz	Young Obi-Wan	Best Presentation
Jenny Aronson	Madame Butterfly	Most Beautiful

Novice

<i>Name</i>	<i>Presentation</i>	<i>Award</i>
Judy Mowbray	Violet	Spcl Most Elegant
Tweed	Quick Collaboration	Best Anime'
Justin Mowbray	Black Knight	Best Novice
Tabbi & David	Cabin Boy	Spcl Best Accessory
Haley Livingston	Kyo Fox	Spcl Most Foxy

Experienced

<i>Name</i>	<i>Presentation</i>	<i>Award</i>
Tasha Cady, Melissa Tribble, Dawn Griggsby	Appearances Can Be Deceiving	Best Experienced
Dave Bluestein	Alexander's Burden	Best in Show

Crew

Director	Randall Whitlock
Master of Ceremonies	Jack Mangan
Halftime Performer	Nancy Freeman
Photographer	Mike Cassidy
Judges	C.J. "Kyo" Sellards Kevin O'Connor Janeen O'Kerry

Judges' Clerk	Margaret Grady
Sound Director	Gary Swaty
Stage Ninja	Chuck Cady
Den Mothers	Jean Palmer, Frances Burns, Lyn Jeppesen
Setup & Teardown	David Jeppesen, Marguerite, Sarge
Sound Consulting	Diane Harris

I'll put up a web page with all the pictures at www.members.cox.net/coppermask sometime in the next couple of weeks. --Randall



Dave Bluestein plays two characters at once as "Alexander's Burden"

Seeking New Cactus Needles Editor

Guildsters, my term of office expires at the end of 2006 and I do not intend to seek reelection. I've enjoyed the work

and think I've assembled some decent issues, but it's time to take a break. Burnout is looming and I wouldn't want Cactus Needles to read like a sitcom that has gone one season too long. Bring on the shark, I'll get my water skis.

A suitable editor candidate should have respect for deadlines and access to a computer with a reliable internet connection and software suitable for editing a small publication. I use MS Word 2000, but any word processor published after the mid 1990s will do. I suggest the guild spring for a copy of Adobe Acrobat to create the e-mail newsletter.

I hope my replacement will come forward sometime during the next three months. I can give some tutorials as we prepare my final three issues. Contact me via editor@southwestcostumersguild.org.

Come over to the dark side, my young apprentice!

