

# Cactus Needles

Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild

April 2008

Southwest Costumers Guild  
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## Interstellar Access for Maricopa County?

Have you visited the new Light Rail station under construction near Central and Camelback in Phoenix? I'm really impressed! I hadn't realized our new local transportation system would include direct Stargate access. Until now, all travelers from Earth have been required to pass through the [SGC](#) facility in Colorado.

Of course, access to the Pegasus Galaxy and other eight-symbol addresses will have to wait until the Maricopa Association of Governments can obtain a zero point module.

In any event, increased use of public transportation will reduce the demand for **April Fuels**.

*And now, back to your regularly scheduled newsletter.*

## Calendar

Know of a costumed event of interest to Arizonans? Contact your editor with the details. Red text and an asterisk designate an SWCG-sponsored event. Unless otherwise noted, our monthly meetings start at 1PM.

April 9-13, 2008 – **Maricopa County Fair** at the state fairgrounds, NEC 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue & McDowell Road, Phoenix. <http://www.maricopacountyfair.org/>

SWCG will participate in the fair, doing demonstrations and meet & greet on Friday and Sunday. Here are the nuts and bolts from Diane:

*Dates attending: Friday, 4-11-08 3pm to 7pm, Sunday, 4-13-08 from 10am to 4pm.*

*Come in costume to display, demo sewing, enroll new members to SWCG*

*Mannequin, Cooler and water bottles – Diane*

*Flyers, membership forms, Table banner, Sewing machine – Lyn*

*Clipboards – Jean*

*Sewing kit - if you need, bring your own*

*Tables, chairs and electricity will be provided on site*

*Tea Garden dress – Frances.*

*My address is 3601 W. Coolidge, Phoenix, Arizona 85019 - go south of Camelback on 37th Avenue to Coolidge and turn east - on south side of road or 35th Avenue - south of Camelback - turn right or west on Meadowbrook/Coolidge, at T intersection turn north or right - follow curve - on south side of road or Turn off Grand Avenue at 37th Avenue (Mr. Lucky's is a great landmark for 37th Avenue) go north to Coolidge, then turn east - on south side of road*

*We will leave my house on Friday at 2:30 pm - about 10 minutes away from Fairgrounds straight up Grand Avenue - remember we have to haul everything in and out ourselves - if you carry a cell phone, please bring it and have it on in case plans change that day. Any questions, call Diane at 602-565-2019.*

*I have an earlier meeting Sunday so will have to meet you there after meeting  
Questions: my cell phone is 602-565-2019*

April 12, 2008 10-4 – **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Gilbert Global Village Festival** at the Gilbert North Civic Center. This family event highlights some of the traditional and contemporary forms of dance, music, children's activities, arts & crafts and ethnic foods from countries far away on the green open spaces of the Gilbert North Civic Center Campus. Our mission is to create opportunities for individuals and communities to celebrate, share and sustain the arts and the rich cultural traditions of countries from around the world.

April 19, 2008 – **Across Plus Anime' Event** at Bookman's, NWC 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Northern Avenue in Phoenix. All-day celebration of animé, including a cosplay competition. Contact Shane Bryner [ninjakittyofdoom@gmail.com](mailto:ninjakittyofdoom@gmail.com) for more information.

April 20, 2008 – **Victorian and Steampunk for Dummies** at Mike and Dorothea’s place at **1320 E Northshore Drive** in Tempe. SWCG roundtable discussion. Open discussion on Victorian basics and ideas on how to develop “Steampunk” fantasy personas. (See article in the [February Cactus Needles](#).)



April 26, 2008, 6PM to 3AM – **Dark Ones April Party** at Antonio’s home “[Brockwood Hall](#)” (click for cool [Googlemaps](#) link. You may need to ctrl+click on some readers) at 1050 E Greenway Drive in Tempe. The theme is Pirates: Ashore on Wyrms Isle. Contact Margaret Grady at [mgrady@eigi.com](mailto:mgrady@eigi.com) for more information.

April 25-28, 2008 - **Costume-Con 26** at the Doubletree San Jose hotel in San Jose, California welcomes space cadets, living history aficionados, reenactors, textile designers, theater designers, fursuiters, mascots, cosplayers, fantasy costumers, costume professionals and folks who just like to dress up! We look forward to mixing it up with all types of costumers (and those who appreciate costumes, such as photographers and artists). <http://www.cc26.info/>

Our final **SWCG Special Workshop at Bookman's** will be April 26, 2008, 9AM. Come join us for stitching and conversation. The Bookman’s community room will soon be closed for remodeling and construction of a coffee bar. *I’ll miss the meeting space, but that won’t keep me from stopping by for a double vente half-caf mochacino latte whatthellisthatte.*

May 9-11, 2008 - **LepreCon 34** at the Francisco Grande Hotel in Casa Grande, Arizona. Guests include artist Howard Taylor, authors Emily and Ernest Hogan, local artist Liz Danforth and special FX/makeup artist David Ayres. Go to [LepreCon, Inc.](#) for more information.

May 18, 2008 – **Swap Meet\*** at Dorothea and Mike’s place in Tempe. Have some fabric, costume pieces or costume supplies you want to get shed of? Why not barter them with your fellow guildsters?

June 21, 2008, 7 PM – **Serenity Now** at The Loft Theater in Tucson. Special showing of Joss Whedon’s film “Serenity” for the benefit of Equality Now. Sponsored by the AZ Browncoats. These showings usually feature costume contests and other fan participation events. Best to buy your tix in advance.

June 21-22, 2008 – **Renaissance in the Pines** at Fort Tuthill Park near Flagstaff, Arizona. This is a fine single-weekend faire in the cool country. Look for your webmaster’s “**MoiRandall’s**” costume pavilion among the merchants. [www.renaissanceinthepinesinc.com](http://www.renaissanceinthepinesinc.com)

June 29, 2008 – **Art and Costume\*** – SWCG field trip to the West Valley Art Museum, 17420 North Avenue of the Arts, Surprise AZ (114<sup>th</sup> Ave & Bell Road), which features an extensive collection of costume from all over the world. We’ll meet at the museum restaurant for lunch at 11:30 then take a guided tour of the museum. Please RSVP to Anna at [annamc@ix.netcom.com](mailto:annamc@ix.netcom.com).

July 27, 2008, 4PM – **Pooling Around\*** at Tasha and Chuck’s place in northwest Phoenix. SWCG’s annual costumed pool party. This year’s theme: Steampunk.

August 1-3, 2008 – **Costume College** in Van Nuys, California. A whole weekend of costuming workshops sponsored by Costumer’s Guild West. The college is full for this year, but you can join a waiting list at [www.costumecollege.org](http://www.costumecollege.org).

August 24, 2008 – **Say Cheese\*** at Mike and Dorothea’s place in Tempe. Bring some of your costumes for a photo shoot.

August 29-31, 2008 - **CopperCon 28** at the Embassy Suites Paradise Valley, 4415 East Paradise Village Parkway South in Phoenix, Arizona Annual fan-organized science fiction convention. Your Editor will direct the masquerade. [www.coppercon.org](http://www.coppercon.org) or <http://members.cox.net/coppermask/> for masquerade details as they become available. Just added- filk guest **Tom Smith**.

September 28, 2008 – **Fabric Field Trip\*** (tentative). Some of our members have a lead on a fabric inventory for sale in the far east valley. If this pans out, we’ll go have a look. If not, we may do another fundraiser sweatshop.

October 19, 2008 – **Not All Dummies are Duct Tape\*** (tentative) at Jean’s place in Sun City. We have a lead on an alternative method to build a personally fitted dresser dummy, but more research needs to be done to see if it’s practical. Keep watching this space.

November 30, 2008 – **Evening in the Garden\*** at the Phoenix Botanical Gardens. Get together in the evening to walk the annual “Las Noches de las Luminarias” event. Wintry costume highly encouraged.

December 28, 2008 – **Holiday Party\*** SWCG Social and annual officer elections. Location to be announced.

July 2-6, 2009 - **FiestaCon** (WesterCon 62) at the Tempe Mission Palms hotel in Tempe, Arizona. Guests so far include author Alan Dean Foster, Analog editor Stanley Schmidt and artist Todd Lockwood. Sponsored by [LepreCon, Inc](http://LepreCon, Inc).

September 4-7, 2009 - **North American Discworld Convention** in Tempe, Arizona. The first convention in the United States for fans of Terry Pratchett's Discworld, featuring guest of honor **Terry Pratchett** himself. [www.nadwcon.org](http://www.nadwcon.org) Sponsored by [LepreCon, Inc](http://LepreCon, Inc).

## From the Mailbox

*This is technically spam, but it's interesting spam.*

To Southwest Costumer's Guild- Phoenix, AZ

My mother was considered by many to have been the authority on antique purses. She passed away in March of 2007 and I am in the process of liquidating her estate which includes antique & vintage purses, hair combs and the three books which she wrote. I have purses and some combs for sale on a website set up at: <http://www.EvelynsPurses.com>

I am pleased to offer the books at a special discount to costume, bead and purse societies, Libraries, and Museums. These books are **not** available through Amazon.com. Descriptions, sample pages, and reviews are available on the website. <http://www.EvelynsPurses.com>



We are offering you the following discounted prices (US dollars)

Antique Combs and Purses..... \$ 25.00 ..... suggested retail \$35.00  
More Beautiful Purses\*\* ..... \$125.00..... suggested retail \$150.00  
Restoring & Collecting Antique Beaded Purse... \$ 20.00 ..... suggested retail \$30.00

\*\* This offer is limited as fewer than 100 copies of this book are available. At this time there are no plans to reprint this valuable resource. Other vendors are offering **used** copies of this book for \$250+.

Shipping, packaging and handling fees are extra.

**Please send an email to determine final total of your order.**

We accept money orders, checks (must clear bank), or PayPal.

Send money order or check to:

**E. Haertig Trust**  
attn: **Laura Hennings**  
4528 Lentell Road  
Eureka, CA, USA 95503

Make check or money order out to: **Evelyn Haertig Admin. Trust**

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Rhett Owings <[evespurses1919@earthlink.net](mailto:evespurses1919@earthlink.net)>

### Beyond Reality Costumer's Guild *Notions* Spring 2008

From the Bigwig—Successful BeyondCon 2008, upcoming cons, new BRCG yahoo group.

From the Editor—Newsletter changing to electronic form in June. Julie covers the Star Trek Tour in Long Beach, CA. Meeting minutes. Costumers In Action photos from Under The Sea event. Kate reviews History of Etiquette of Mourning display at Museum of Doll Art. Where Do You Sew? workspace photo essay from Erik. (*We should do that here at Cactus Needles.*)

*Randall carries incoming newsletters to meetings in his trademark army surplus map case. Afterwards, the newsletters go to Jean for the archives.*



## **Photo EZ Stencil: A fast and relatively inexpensive silk screening method for short runs**

by Gail Wolfenden-Steib

*This article previously appeared in Silicon Web Costumers Guild's The Virtual Costumer 5.4, September/October 2007. Visit <http://www.siwcostumers.com> to see all of the back issues and other costume goodness from our web-savvy sister chapter.*

In August I went back up to Cedar City, Utah to work my first fall build for the Shakespearean Festival and was lucky enough to get to play with this really great product. It took me ten years of working summers for the festival to finally have the time to do silk screening on a grand scale but the wait was worth it.

The process itself is very simple and time effective, even for the number of screens that we created for the garments (upwards of 20—I didn't count). Rather than go into a detailed 'how to do it' (which can be found on at [EZScreenPrint.com](http://EZScreenPrint.com) under Photo EZ Stencil), the focus of this article will be more on what was learned and the tricks we developed as the process went along.

Part of the concept behind the production of *The Tempest* involved the artwork of DaVinci and the designers took this into the literal form by incorporating his drawings into the costumes and the set. For example, the idea behind Prospero's robe was that the character was using every inch of it to record his thoughts/drawings. This necessitated the creation of fabric that contained images of the actual writings and drawings of DaVinci. Some artistic license was taken with the master's work but only enough to create a screen that was legible and clean. The 'writings' were actual bits of backward old Latin in his hand with a few of the names of the folks that worked on the screens thrown in for good measure.



The first step is the creation of artwork. At USF we used a true stencil technique but I have since used the product to create screens that worked with three colors. Once the mock up was fit the paper pattern was corrected and brought to the dye shop. The costume director, the designer and I taped copies of the art onto the pattern (using the copier to reduce and enlarge as needed until we found the correct scale). This created a master for the finished layout.

The big thing to remember when creating the image is to keep the artwork clean—no erroneous lines or dots on the paper. You will need to create a good quality copy of the finished art on the cheapest copy paper you can find (the lighter the weight of the paper the better). The screening material is very sensitive and any odd marks will show up on your finished screen. This includes any white out or tape resists you create. Anything dark on the paper will burn out when exposed to light. You can use a block out pen (also sold by EZScreenPrint) to mark out some of these errors. Clear tape also works on larger spots.

Once the artwork is prepared the screening material may be cut to size. I recommend measuring your art and having a cut list ready to go before you open the photosensitive material. If you are

using a frame with the finished screen, note its size and be sure to leave at minimum 1/2” clearance around the image. If you are not using a frame, be sure to leave 2 inches of clearance around the image. This way you will be less likely to drag paint over the edges when screening. **Be sure to work in a low light situation away from direct sun light!** We kept ‘mood lighting’ in the dye shop through the entire process and had excellent results.

Place the artwork face up on a piece of plexi (be sure it’s the cheap kind that lets UV rays pass through), then place your screening material shiny side down on top of the artwork (you will have to remove a piece of transparent film first). Add a piece of luan with one side covered in black felt and clip everything together (felt side next to the screening material). Follow the exposure directions according to the manufacturer. All that is needed is a sunny day or a light board. Cedar City is located in the high desert so we took advantage of the sunny days and 5 minutes of exposure worked well for the conditions.



When the five minutes are up, remove the screen material from the exposure frame and immerse it in a tub of cool water for 15 minutes or so. Longer is fine. You should just be able to make out the image when it goes into the water. As it sits, the image will become more apparent. When it has soaked for 15 minutes carefully remove it and place it on a plastic screen (think Michael’s plastic cross stitch canvas) with the shiny side up and rinse it under cool water. A spray attachment works really well for this part of the process—better than a normal faucet. A soft brush can be delicately used to get any residual bits of resist off of the burnt out area. I found that if you let it soak long enough rinsing was all that it took to remove the resist. I also wore rubber gloves. The product is not toxic but I felt it dried out my hands just a bit.



The manufacturers instructions say to lay the screens on a paper towel with the shiny side up to dry at this stage. The paper towels I used would leave fibers attached to the screens which would then have to be





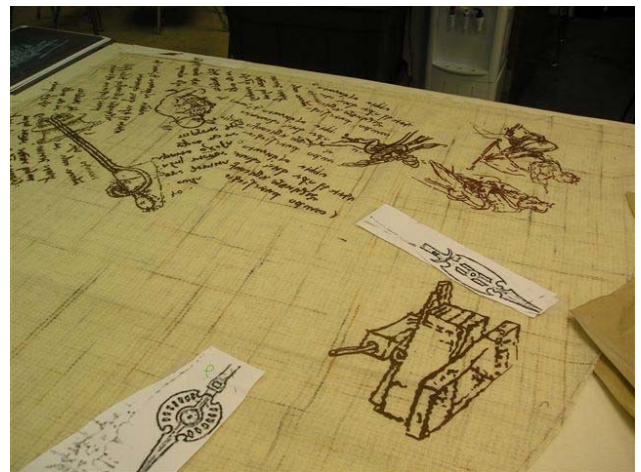
cleaned off (they didn't come off easily either). I solved this by drying them on the plastic screens whenever possible. Once the screens were dry (or mostly dry) they would go back outside and sit in the sun for 15 minutes to harden. If there is any wind you will need to watch them as they will blow away. I used rocks to hold them down at one point but that created resists so sections didn't harden like the rest of the screen. Once hard, the screens are ready to use.



One of the pictures shows a gaff tape 'frame' on a screen. This particular screen only had about a 1/2" clearance at the top so some sort of masking had to be used. The gaff tape worked better than packing tape. It's important to remember not to stretch the tape when you are applying it or the screen will pucker. Remove the tape in a timely fashion and it will come off easily. It also held up well to a number of washings. EZScreenPrint does sell plastic frames in standard sizes. We had a limited number of these and had to improvise. If you were to do a larger run of a

screen, the plastic frame is the way to go.

Before we received the flat fabric, the pattern pieces were thread traced onto the fabric. We then placed the fabric on the table that we had prepped for screening and transferred the photocopied art from the paper pattern to the fabric. After all the prep was completed we then began silk screening the objects first and filled in the blank spaces with the backward Latin writings. Versatex screen printing paints were used in this project but there are a variety of different mediums available on the market that you can use. Heat set the paints according to manufacturers instructions.

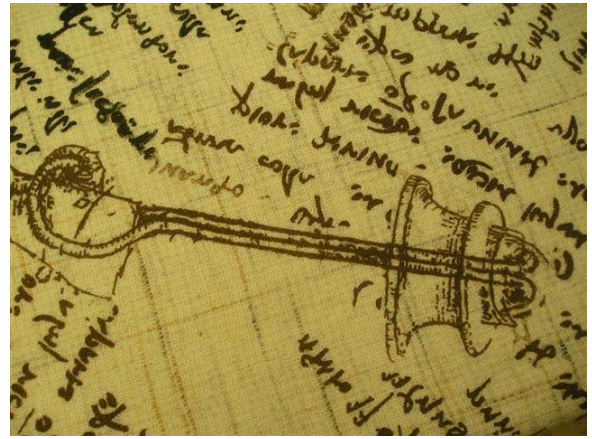


We also created a series of tattoo suits for Caliban and Ariel so the actors would not have to deal with so much make up every performance. These were completed using the same process. The fabric was dyed to their skin tones before printing. The unitards were airbrushed on the actors as a final step to provide added dimension to the garments (and the actors—



for example, opera shading is used on the sides of Caliban to minimize his luv handles and to define his pectorals).





I highly recommend this product to anyone doing limited runs of screen printed items. EZScreenPrint ships very quickly and has very complete instructions available on line. The uses of this product are unlimited in my book. I just opened Little Shop of Horrors last week and we picked up a roll of the screen printing product and the large size exposure frame with a starter kit and went wild. The prop mistress was using it to create custom logos for shopping bags using regular acrylic paints after a quick lesson in how to make screens. I used it for the ADA logo on the back of the dentist smocks and the created some appliqués for the lab coats the urchins wear at the end of the show. These were all three color

designs (clear packing tape works great to mask off sections of the screen so you can print one color at a time using only one screen). The other great thing about the product is that it doesn't require a frame to be used. This opens it up for use on a variety of objects.



## Roving Camera

Mike and Theresa set up shop in their “Plan 9 from Outer Space” costumes at the First Fridays Art Walk in downtown Phoenix on April 4, 2008 to promote [CopperCon 28](#) and other local fannish activities. Many flyers, Guild bookmarks, and copies of Connotations were passed out. Randall (on the other end of the camera) was there too.



We came up with a new fundraiser item at the March sweatshop. It’s a brocade bag whose drawstrings double as pack straps. We’ll see how they do at [Renaissance in the Pines](#) in June.

## Search for Intelligible Terrestrial Extras

Our own Anna MC appeared as an extra in “The Colour of Magic” television miniseries that just aired on SkyOne in Britain over Easter weekend. I understand the show will be broadcast later this year on Ion Television (formerly PAX). This is Channel 51 on the Greater Phoenix broadcast dial and 17 on Cox Cable. There should be a Region 1 DVD release as well.

Look for Anna in the crowd scenes in the city of Anhk-Morpork. She crosses right in front of central characters Twoflower (Sean Astin), Rincewind (Sir David Jason) and The Librarian (possibly Nicholas Tennant, ook) in a scene outside the gates of Unseen University near the end of Episode 2.

Don’t know what I’m talking about? Check out Terry Pratchett’s wonderful “Discworld” novels and the first [North American Discworld Convention](#) in Tempe in September, 2009.