



# Cactus Needles

Monthly Newsletter of the  
Southwest Costumers Guild

Volume 15, Number 10 - October 2008

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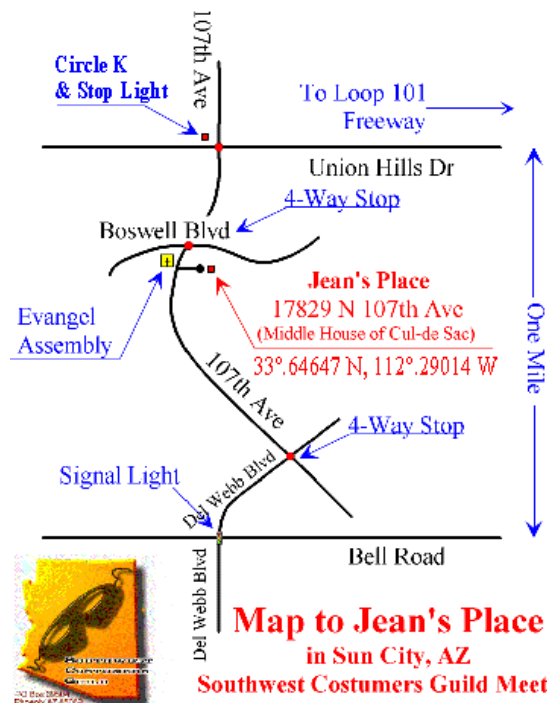
## Calendar

Do you know an event of interest to Arizona costumers? Please 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.

October 18, 2008 – **Guild at the State Fair** SWCG has been invited to do a demonstration at the Arizona State Fair. Come in costume and bring some sewing tools so folks can watch you create. Here are the contact details from Nyki:

*"I received the passes for the Fair and for parking today. I have 10 passes to get in and 3 parking passes. 1 parking pass, Lyn will have 1 and that leaves the third up for grabs. I am quite willing to have people carpool with me (my car holds 5 people total). Let me know ASAP, so we can meet somewhere and you can get your passes. Thanks. Take care all....Nyki (623-764-4902)"*

[vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org)



**Map to Jean's Place**  
in Sun City, AZ  
Southwest Costumers Guild Meeting

October 19, 2008 – **Not All Dummies are Duct Tape\*** at Jean's place in Sun City. We have a video about an alternative method to build a personally fitted dresser dummy. Let's take a look!

October 25, 2008, 10AM to 4PM – **SunaCosu Open Workshop** at the Pyle Center (near SWC Rural and Southern) in Tempe.

November 1, 2008 – **SunaCosu Halloween Party** at NyuNyu's home in Tempe  
[sunacosu@gmail.com](mailto:sunacosu@gmail.com)

November 7-9, 2008 – **TusCon 35** at the InnSuites Hotel, 475 North Granada, Tucson, Arizona. The best little SF Con in Arizona. This year's guest of honor is Diana Gabaldon. <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>

*SWCG has been invited to participate in the TusCon "Meet the Groups" programming event. We'll tend a recruiting table in the dealer room for an hour or so on Saturday. If you're interested, please contact your Editor at [editor@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:editor@southwestcostumersguild.org).*

November 8, 2008 10 AM to 4 PM– **SunaCosu Resin Casting / Open Workshop** at Marian's home in Peoria. We will be trying various methods of recreating gears in resin for our Steampunk costumes. Bring your own supplies to experiment with. [wylbratling@gmail.com](mailto:wylbratling@gmail.com)

November 15, 2008 - **SunaCosu Steampunk Group Workshop** (TBA)

November 15, 2008 – **Phoenix Faerie Festival** at Estrella Mountain Park in Goodyear, Arizona. Look for your editor's "MoiRandall's" costume pavilion amongst the crafters. According to the festival's web page at <http://www.westerngatesfaerierealms.com/PhoenixFaerieFestival.htm> :

*The Phoenix Faerie Festival, is a celebration of the myth and fantasy of the enchanted realms of Faerie right here in beautiful Arizona. Where all are invited to step merrily into the faerie ring and discover a magical place where legendary creatures of myth and fantasy become flesh and imagination takes flight.*

*Don your faerie finery and join us for unique crafts, artistry, music, dance, live performance theater and storytelling, in a fancifully themed atmosphere of delightful revels suitable for the entire family.*

November 22, 2008 - **Kikikon** at Arizona State University West. The Otaku Club's experiment in the Anime' convention scene. It's free! Go to <http://kikicon.ourotakuclub.com/> for more information.

November 23, 2008, 11AM-6PM – **Discover India Festival** at Heritage & Science Park, 7<sup>th</sup> Street & Monroe in Phoenix.

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 6, 2008, beginning 7PM – **APS Fiesta of Light** An electric light parade in Phoenix running from Central & Montebello south to Camelback Road, east to 7<sup>th</sup> Street, then south along 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

December 13, 2008 – **SunaCosu Renaissance Faire Workshop** (TBA)

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

January 3, 2009 – **Anime' Festival and Cosplay Contest** at the Glendale Public Library. *See call for judges later in this issue.*

January 11, 2009 – **SunaCosu Steampunk Group Photoshoot** (TBA)

January 18, 2008 – [SunaCosu Steampunk Group Final Workshop](#) (TBA)

January 23-25, 2009 – **Phoenix ComiCon** at Mesa Convention Center. Media guests include Marina Sirtis, Gil Gerard and Erin Gray. <http://www.phoenixcomicon.com/>

April 9-12, 2009 – **AniZona** Arizona's own fan-organized Anime' convention at the Embassy Suites Paradise Valley, 4415 East Paradise Village Parkway South in Phoenix, Arizona. <http://www.anizona.org/>

***Help Wanted***

***AniZona needs a Masquerade Director to organize the Cosplay competition. Contact Sherri via [chair@anizona.org](mailto:chair@anizona.org) to volunteer.***

May 1-4, 2009 – **Costume-Con 27** at the Crowne Plaza Baltimore North in Timonium, Maryland. A whole weekend dedicated to costuming with multiple masquerades. This year's theme is "Vampires, Villains and Vixens." <http://www.costume-con.com/cc27/INDEX.HTM>

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 [www.lepreCon, Inc](http://www.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 [www.lepreCon, Inc](http://www.lepreCon, Inc) .

January 15-17, 2010 – **DarkCon** at the Grace Inn Phoenix, 10827 South 51<sup>st</sup>, Phoenix. <http://www.darkcon.org/>

**'Tis the Season for Haunted Houses**

Movie Makeup Magic Man David Ayres (<http://www.myspace.com/davidaayres> ) forwarded us this link to AZ Central's review of eleven haunted houses around the valley: <http://www.azcentral.com/ent/calendar/holiday/articles/2008/10/07/20081007halloweencal1003haunted.html>



**'Twas the Season for Sweatshops**

Photo by Mike Contos

Our September 21 and October 4 "Sweatshop" sessions at the Glendale Cascades community center were quite productive. Shifting our emphasis to children's fantasy items for the upcoming Phoenix Faerie Festival, we built 17 pointy princess hats with veils, a sparkly velvet half-cloak, a black velveteen half-cloak, several black and several fuzzy brocade flatcaps, two robin hood hats, five wizard hats, a bunch of velvet drawstring bags, and an experimental velveteen cell phone case.

## **Cosplay Contest Judges Needed!**

On Saturday, January 3rd, Glendale Public Library Teen Services Department is hosting an All-Day Anime Festival and Cosplay Contest. We are looking for upbeat, enthusiastic costume aficionados to act as judges. Ideal judges will have a knowledge of manga, anime and Japanese popular culture, and enjoy working with rowdy teenage anime fans. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Merideth at [59Square@gmail.com](mailto:59Square@gmail.com), or call 623-930-3537.

## **Metropolitan Museum of Art Catalog Online**

forwarded by Anna MC

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has just put their ENTIRE costume collection of 29,426 costume items online in a searchable database! We are talking about pages of shoe buckles, gloves, and everything else they've got in the drawers in their back rooms. [http://www.metmuseum.org/works\\_of\\_art/the\\_costume\\_institute](http://www.metmuseum.org/works_of_art/the_costume_institute).

## **Conjecture 2008**

Crown Plaza Hotel San Diego, September 26-28, 2008

Reviewed by Mike Contos

An opportunity to meet David Drake, that and a another chance to see all the cool tiki décor at the Crowne Plaza hotel (formerly known as the Red Lion Hanalei) were a couple of the thoughts going through my head as Theresa and I headed on down I-8 to San Diego for Conjecture 2008. This was to be our first out-of-state convention since we moved here in 1998, the program guide that I had downloaded had panels and events that interested us both so were anticipating having a good "con".

The venue, well what can I say, I enjoy tiki and the Crowne Plaza has quite a collection. This hotel is also the location of Tiki Oasis, a national gathering of similarly obsessed fans (<http://www.sandiegoreader.com/news/2008/aug/13/hilite/>). During interludes between panels the plazas, filled with tropical plants, koi ponds, bridges and of course tikis, made for an excellent place to while away the time. All of the panels were in the convention center and easy to get to and the con suite, anime room, and meetup room were about a minutes' walk away. The rooms were ok for the price (did mention the tikis?) but could use a little refurbishing and of course it didn't hurt that the weather was gorgeous. This the last year for Conjecture to be at the Crowne Plaza, next year it moves to the Handlery Hotel which is also the venue for ConDor.

The programming was excellent. It has been quite some time since I've been to a con and consistently wished I could be in several places at the same time. The primary panel track was centered on military SF, a natural choice with David Drake as the guest of honor. There were some costuming panels covering topic such as stage presence, what not to wear, instant steampunk and beading. One of my favorite panels was a 2 hour presentation on Mars in the movies. There was also filking (not my cup of tea), and an art show that was not the same old, same old that I had been seeing over the past 8 years in AZ.

Something new to me was the meetups, these were open events held in a separate suite for likeminded folk (and their enablers) to get together and chat(or commiserate). I of course went to the Tiki meetup, while Theresa went to the fiber arts where she learned of "Jayne hats"

(something from Firefly) and Victorian knitted vests for men. Other meetups were for Star Wars, the Whedonverse and WesterCon and WorldCon attendees. Altogether a truly nifty idea.

The Masquerade, this was going to be the first time for me and for Theresa and me as a single entry. We entered as Space Soldiers from an Unidentified Planet from *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, Ed Wood's magnum opus. Compared to CopperCon the masquerade was very informal, basically contestants showed up, signed releases, handed over their music, and script for the MC, if they had any, and were then lined up and sent on their way. The den mother support was top notch, the tech support was a bit lame, he had a great mixer but I had to run up to my room and get my notebook so he could play my mp3 sound clip and the lighting was very basic, aluminum reflector utility lights, so Randall and Gary's set up at CopperCon rocks in comparison.

The half time entertainment consisted of me! I had planned to perform my copper into silver then gold demonstration at the mad science faire but was asked, pretty much at the last moment, if I willing to the half-time show. Well as those of you who saw me do this a couple of months ago know, the copper into silver part of this experiment takes some time so naturally the audience got a little restless and there was some heckling however I recaptured their attention when I fired up my torch and converted the "silver" into gold.

After my adequate performance we filed back into the masquerade room and it was time for the judges to announce the results. Like CopperCon, everyone got an award. Best in show went to James Hay for his portrayal of a Miskatonic U professor who was becoming a bit too absorbed by his studies, best construction went to young lady for her presentation of a Science Officer from *Star Trek TOS*. Theresa and I received an award for best documentation. The others, well they escape me. Altogether Conjecture's masquerade was relaxed and enjoyable to participate in, but not the venue to show off that killer costume that requires a serious judging process to be properly evaluated/ appreciated.

The room parties were bit a low key, another dichotomy from CopperCon and LepreCon, but enjoyable none the less.

Programming on Sunday was excellent and continued out to 4 PM but we left at ~1 PM since we still had that drive back to Casa Grande.

To sum it all up Theresa and I had a good time, the programming was excellent, the masque fun, and the San Diego fans friendly and outgoing. I'd put the attendance in the low 200's a shame since this con deserved a better turn-out.

I would definitely recommend Conjecture to anyone who was considering it

*Some of "Ifics'" photos of the con can be viewed on Flickr at*  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/56928511@N00/sets/72157607562009014/>



**From the Mailbox**

Beyond Reality Costumers Guild *Notions* Fall 2008

Highly creative photocartoon promoting the Fantasy Regency Party, Greetings from the Bigwig, Snips from the Editor – Erik retires with this issue and hands the reins to Lisa. (*Heartfelt thanks to Erik from us here in the southwest for four fine years of a job well done and best wishes to Lisa! – ed.*) A Trip to Williams Costume Company by Margaret Richardson, meeting minutes, Costumers in Action photos from the summer Castaway event, Marooned in PT – Joanne Spink’s nautical adventure on the Hawaiian Chieftain, photo collage dedicated to Jean “Trixie” Christensen.

Silicon Web Costumer’s Guild *The Virtual Costumer* 6.2 – June 2008

Many Faces of Aurora Celeste photo collage, Basic Cabaret Bra and Belt Construction by Gail Wolfenden-Steib (step by step instructions with lots of pictures!), Easter in New Orleans photo essay by Dana MacDermott, profile of member Deb Salisbury’s “The Mantua Maker” pattern company, Editor’s Message “On Working at a Costume-Con” by Dana MacDermott.

*Both of the newsletters are electronic this month. Look into Randall’s laptop (his COMPUTER fer cripesake!) to read the newsletters or go to <http://www.siwcostumers.com/> for back issues of *The Virtual Costumer*.*

**Thank You from West Valley Art Museum**



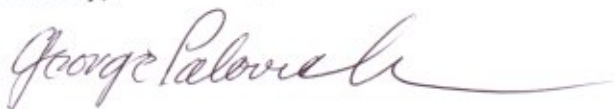
October 1, 2008

Dear Frances:

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your generous donation of \$150 on behalf of the Southwest Costumers Guild. The Museum is grateful for you and your group’s interest in our Museum and it’s Ethnic Dress Collection. Without dedicated donors like you our Museum would soon cease to exist.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'George Palovich'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink.

George Palovich, Curator, West Valley Art Museum



## **How Do You Sell Your Cell?**

by Randall Whitlock

These days, the cellular telephone is one of your most important personal safety devices. You don't want to leave it at home, even when it doesn't go with your costume. How do you make your cell phone blend into a fantasy

or historical costume? The most obvious answer is to use a case that fits the venue. Above, you can see some of my recent attempts to build cell phone pouches suitable for renaissance fairs. From left to right, these are made of velvet, a schmancy trim and lightweight leather, each secured with a simple button and fitted with a belt loop.

A few years ago, when phones were bigger, I met a lady in a supermarket whose phone was hidden inside a plush toy. It was cute that Tigger was whispering in her ear, less cute that she was speaking into his butt.

How would you build a phone concealer to go with your favorite costumes? Heck, let's make this a contest open to all Cactus Needles readers. Winner gets a set of "Randwulf's Ramblings on Costume," Volumes I and II autographed by the author. Show me your finished cell phone disguise at an upcoming SWCG or other social event and/or submit photos/sketches/description to the guild PO Box or [editor@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:editor@southwestcostumersguild.org) by December 31, 2008. All entrants are invited to write a short how-to article for Cactus Needles. Links to clever ready-made phone cases will be appreciated, but the competition is for your own work.

Perhaps cell phone case construction could be a topic for a guild workshop in the next year?

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