

Cactus Needles

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With so much to do, February is



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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. **Green text** indicates an event organized by our friends at SunaCosu.



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

February 7 - March 29, 2009 (Saturdays, Sundays and Presidents' Day Monday) - **Arizona Renaissance Festival** east of Gold Canyon in Pinal County, Arizona. <http://www.royalfaires.com/arizona/>

February 7, 2009 – **Sunacosu trip to Arizona Renfaire opening day**. <http://www.sunacosu.com/>

February 9-16, 2009 - **Estrella War** near Florence, Arizona. The Society for Creative Anachronism's annual camping/fighting/arting & sciencing event www.estrellawar.org

February 12-15, 2009 – **Tucson Gem & Mineral Show** at the Tucson Convention Center, though the mineral dealers take over pretty much every hotel in town. This year's

theme is "Mineral Oddities." <http://www.tgms.org/>.

February 22, 2009 – **Airbrush Demo*** at Jean's place. (17829 N. 107th Ave, Sun City – See Map) Learn to use stenciling and other spray techniques on your costumes.

February 21-22, 2009, 10:30 to 4:00 – **Matsuri: A Festival of Japan** at Heritage and Science Park in downtown Phoenix, Arizona. Admission is free. <http://azmatsuri.org/>

February 21-22, 2009 – **Arizona Scottish Gathering and Highland Games** at Margaret T. Hance Park in Phoenix, Arizona. Adult tix at the gate are \$15. For details, check out the Caledonian Society of Arizona's page at <http://www.arizonascots.com/games.html> .

The Matsuri festival and the Highland Games are within two miles of each other on the same days! I'm putting on my tartan kimono and stepping out for some Teriyaki Haggis! Can't wait for the sumo caber toss! – ed.

February 25-March 1, 2008 - **Winter Range** at the Ben Avery shooting facility, NWC I-17 and Carefree Highway, north of Phoenix, Arizona. The Single-Action Shooting Society's annual tournament of cowboy action shooting. First rate "Sutler's Row," were you can outfit yourself for the wild west. <http://www.winterrange.com/>

February 28, 2009 – **Sunacosu Open Workshop**. at Tempe Pyle Center (Southern & Rural). <http://www.sunacosu.com/>

March 7, 2009, 3-5 PM – **SunaCosu Steampunk Group Photo Shoot** at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale AZ. Meet at the carousel. <http://www.sunacosu.com/>

March 14, 2009 – **SunaCosu Workshop and Business Meeting** at Tempe Pyle Center (Southern & Rural). Room TBA. Frances will give a demo on Corsetry. <http://www.sunacosu.com/>

March 14-15, 2009 - **Battle of Picacho Peak** at Picacho Peak State Park, Interstate 10 between Casa Grande and Tucson. Grand reenactment of Arizona's only Civil War battle. <http://www.pr.state.az.us/parks/PIPE/index.html>

March 19-22, 2009 - **National Festival of the West** at Westworld in Scottsdale, Arizona. <http://www.festivalofthewest.com/>

March 29, 2009 – **SOSSSSS*** at Jean's place. Sewing on Spandex, Silk, Satin and other Stretchy or Slimy Stuff. Bring samples of your most challenging fabrics and we'll work out the best stitches, needles and techniques for working with them.

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/>

April 25, 2009 – **Sunacosu Open Workshop**. at Tempe Pyle Center (Southern & Rural). <http://www.sunacosu.com/>

April 26, 2009 – **Barbecue Mixer*** Time and place to be determined. We're hoping for a suitable city park where we can cook and get together with folks from SWCG and other costume interest groups around central Arizona.

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>

May 17, 2009 – **Altering Patterns*** at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. How do you make a published pattern fit your very own bod?

May 23, 2009 – **Sunacosu Open Workshop**. at Tempe Pyle Center (Southern & Rural). <http://www.sunacosu.com/>

June 13, 2009 – **Sunacosu Open Workshop**. at Tempe Pyle Center (Southern & Rural). <http://www.sunacosu.com/>

June 28, 2009 – **Pool Party*** (tentative) at Chuck & Tasha's place. Our annual soggy social. Theme 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 www.fiestacon.org .

July 4-5, 2009 10-6 – **Grand Canyon Renaissance Faire and Mountain Music Festival** at El Nathan Christian Camp near Flagstaff, Arizona. New renaissance faire features stage shows, music, summer marketplace, Friday night feast and an performance by Vyktria Pratt Keating of Jethro Tull.

July 26, 2009 – **Beaded Crown*** at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. Paula will demonstrate a basic and useful beading project.

August 23, 2009 – **Parasol Covering*** (tentative). Diane demonstrates how to alter a parasol for Victorian historical costume.

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 **Sir Terry Pratchett** himself. www.nadwcon.org Sponsored by www.lepreCon, Inc . Maskerade information at <http://members.cox.net/maskerade> .

September 27, 2009 – **Happy Feet*** at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. What do all of those special feet and attachments that came with your sewing machine REALLY do?

October 24, 2009 – **Old Tucson*** (tentative) Guild road trip to Old Tucson Studios to see their annual ghost town-themed Halloween event.

October 30-November 1, 2009 – **Saboten-Con** at the Hilton Phoenix East Mesa Hotel. An anime' convention for the otaku in you. <http://www.sabotencon.com/>.

November 14, 2009 – **Phoenix Faerie Festival** at Estrella Mountain Regional Park in Goodyear, Arizona. A celebration of the myth and fantasy of the enchanted realms of Faerie right here in beautiful Arizona. Features art & craft booths. Stay after dark for Queen Mabb's Dark Courte and the Bad Faerie Masquerade Ball. Tix \$10, Kids under 5 free. <http://www.westerngatesfaiererealm.com/PhoenixFaerieFestival.htm>

November 22, 2009 – **The Clown Wars*** (tentative). Guild demo on the basics of clown costuming.

December 27, 2009 – **Glendale Glitters*** (tentative) Guild outing to the annual Glendale Glitters street festival. Time & day may need to be adjusted according to the festival's schedule.

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

Coming Up at the Phoenix Art Museum

Successfully Sleuthed by Frances

Exhibits

One for All, and All for One: the jumpsuit.

September 6, 2008 – February 1, 2009

Medievalism: Fashion's Romance with the Middle Ages

February 21 – July 5, 2009

Lectures

Girls on Film: Chronicling the World of Fashion February 24, 7pm

David Boatman, director of the popular The Art of Weightlessness screened in last summer's Chado Ralph Rucci exhibition, speaks about his involvement with fashion-centric storytelling. He discusses the challenges and rewards of his fashion filmmaking, plus upcoming projects.

Fashion in the Middle Ages? March 31, 7pm

Did "fashion" as we know it exist in the Middle Ages? Which novelties were sought after, and how was personal distinction possible during this period of violently interrupted trade and restrictive legislation? Sarah-Grace Heller, Ph.D., uncovers the roots of fashion and explores the innovative ways that people expressed themselves from 500 to 1300 AD.

Reforming Women's Fashion May 5, 7pm

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, many artists, designers and architects sought to reform women's dress. Their solution was to draw on fashions from the past, as seen in Medievalism. Patricia Cunningham, Ph.D., considers the new artistic styles they created to secure both health and beauty for women.

Gallery Talks

Informal half-hour gallery talks. Included with Museum general admission.

The Jumpsuit Takes Off! January 31, 11am

Revisiting Details of History March 3, 7pm

Dennita Sewell, curator of fashion design, examines why modern designers revisit details of historical fashion in their collections, and recounts the interesting tales of some garments on view in the special exhibition.

Armor and Aesthetics of the Samurai: A Historical Perspective March 4, Noon

Roger Dunn, collector, discusses works in the Arts of Asia gallery.

Object of the Month

Learn more about key works in the Museum's collection

Green Changeant Silk Dress Every Tuesday in April, 11:30am

Edouard B. Mesert

September 28, 1957-December 14, 2008



Edouard B. Mesert passed away due to complications from an extended illness on December 14, 2008. Memorial services were held on January 18, 2009 hosted by Edouard's uncle Milt Kenin and officiated by the Reverends Theodore Elsenheimer, Nancy Elsenheimer and David Weaver.

Edouard was a frequent participant in local conventions and a member of the Southwest Costumers Guild, seen often in silken Chinese robes or in his regency vampire persona. Outside of the convention circle, Edouard was a professional political consultant, involved in civil rights issues and campaigns for candidates ranging up to the US Senate.

Edouard was an active member of the Church of the Beatitudes and it was clear from the anecdotes told at the memorial service that he did much to enliven their social functions. He always closed his e-mails and voice messages with his favorite quote from St. Paul, "God is still speaking."

Donations to Edouard's memory may be directed to the Youth and Music Ministries, Church of the Beatitudes United Church of Christ, 555 West Glendale Avenue, Phoenix AZ 85021. <http://www.beatitudeschurch.org/>.



The Question is: “What Can You Do with Beads and Feathers?”

Anna M.C.’s “Karnak the Magnificent” turban, the topic of a recent thread on the Guildsters Yahoo Group, is seen at left. It was built for a special presentation at Glendale Public Library. Photo by Anna.

ICG Lifetime Achievement Award Nominations Open

From the ICG-D e-mail list:

It's time to tender your nominations for the ICG Lifetime Achievement Award.

If you know of someone who deserves such recognition, please send their name & a paragraph or two outlining their qualifications to me at my private email addy. (von_drago@yahoo.com)

Submissions deadline is March 2, 2009. For a list of previous recipients & the requirements for nomination go to <http://www.costume.org/lifetime/lifetime.html> . -- Nora Mai, ICG President

SWCG Runs Free at Phoenix ComiCon

Randall’s Review

A couple of months back, our Fearless Leader Frances was contacted by Cira Peterson, Costume Programming Director for Phoenix ComiCon, with an invitation for guildsters to participate in costume programming. Several of us took her up on the offer, with Jean, Frances, Nyki, Diane and myself teaching workshops.

Phoenix ComiCon started out small a few years ago, with a one-day, one-room event in Glendale. It has grown rapidly to a four-day fully programmed convention stuffed to the brim with celebrity appearances, comics artists, anime’ stars, authors and dealers. It is now too gorram big for the Mesa Convention Center and will move to downtown Phoenix in 2010.

Due to a conspiracy of other commitments for the same weekend over the past few years, I had never actually been to Phoenix ComiCon before. This year I jumped in with both feet, participating in the masquerade and presenting a cloakmaking demo with Frances on Sunday.

Costumed participation is very high. The greatest share of the hall costumes come from the Anime’ fans, but there were lots of superheroes, Star Wars and Star Trek characters, and even a tent full of Ghostbusters. There is no family-friendly costume that would not be welcome here.

Two active Star Wars fan groups – The 501st (stormtroopers) and the Rebel Legion had fixed displays outside the convention hall from which they ran lightsaber duels and parallel Trooper and Jedi training camps for the kids. Here I met Melody, who cosplays as Asajj Ventress, the apprentice Sith villainess seen in the Clone Wars animated series. This was more temptation than I could take. I dug out my old Count Dooku costume and we posed together for some photos as master and apprentice Sith. I'll have to drop in on the Rebel Legion one of these days for a more detailed writeup about their activities. <http://www.rebellegion.com/>



Diane built a beautifully detailed wild west gown for the masquerade, presenting it as Miss Kitty, with letter-perfect hair and makeup based on publicity photos of Amanda Blake from Gunsmoke. I was drafted late in the game as “Mr. Prop” for her to play off of during the presentation. Diane won Best Craftsmanship In Show, which comes with a personalized trophy and a couple of gift bags with much swag from the participating merchants.

The masquerade was well run – Congratulations Cira! There were the normal few technical glitches and the unavoidable wait for the judging results, but no major disasters. Tech was kept to a minimum, with sound playback from CDs (apparently without a computer) and no stage lighting. Interestingly, the room is equipped with lighting pipes and fixed outlets for stage lights, but there were no instruments in place. I expect this was one of those cases where dealing with this city-owned facility was no picnic. The green room at the Marriott was first-rate, with hotel-catered drinks and snacks. We contestants devoured them like a well-dressed locust plague.

The masquerade and costume

programming also provided the opportunity for us to meet two of our ICG cohorts from Canada – Sarcasm Hime and Kaijugal (AKA Maral Agnerian and Dawn McKechnie), who were masquerade judges. Their writing voices have frequently been heard on the ICG-D e-mail list as well as the various cosplay forums.



Continued on Page 9

More Costumes from Phoenix ComiCon
Photos by Randall



In an interesting role-reversal, the third workmanship judge was Christoff (spelling?), whose work I have helped judge at past AniZona's.

The con could have used some of the homey touches to which I have grown accustomed at smaller notforprofit cons, such as a con suite or other chillout space. Between events, I mostly ducked the crowds by milling about outdoors and watching the young anime fans play Red Rover in costume.

Comments from other Guildsters:

I was at comicon on Thursday, and was impressed at the range of costuming. There were the Trekkies, the Anime' People, a group of Ghostbusters, and a wide contingent of Zombies. There was a lot more going on than I really expected! The dealer's room even had stuff that appealed to me (I must confess, I've never really been much for comics). Jean's workshop was well received. I got quite a few thank-you's at the end of my middle eastern one. Our first panel (sewing SOS) only had a couple of girls (who got great one-on-one attention!) but that was the first panel of the evening and people were still getting in the door and getting situated as to what they wanted to do. That , in fact, would be my one comment: the first panels should be set to start 30 minutes to 1 hour AFTER the "gates" open. All in all, I was quite impressed, and would definitely like to participate in next year's ComicCon. Take care all -- Nyki.

Since I went to ComicCon as Wonder Woman [now] with a Wonder Woman Barbie doll [then] -- I believe that my photo was taken more times than at all the other Con's I've attended in the last 30 years all together!!! There were a total of four females as Wonder Woman a 5 or 6 year old, an eleven? year old, a twenty? year old, & me {70}. They were all very well done. Never would have made it without the idea (from Gail) & sewing help from Frances & Lyn. Overall I enjoyed the Con--the mask making workshop went well. (there were some really KOOL masks made. The dealer room was excellent--I especially liked "Fetish Falls" booth. The wig panels were very informative.

I plan to attend again next year. -- Jean

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