

Cactus Needles

Volume 16, Number 4 – April 2009

Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069

www.southwestcostumersguild.org

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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.



*Danielle Gaia Boniece
and
Samuel Alexander Marvin Cady
Are Getting Married!
Come and share their joy*



Sunday,
April 12th 2009
At 4 in the afternoon

5130 W Creedance Blvd
Glendale, Az. 85310

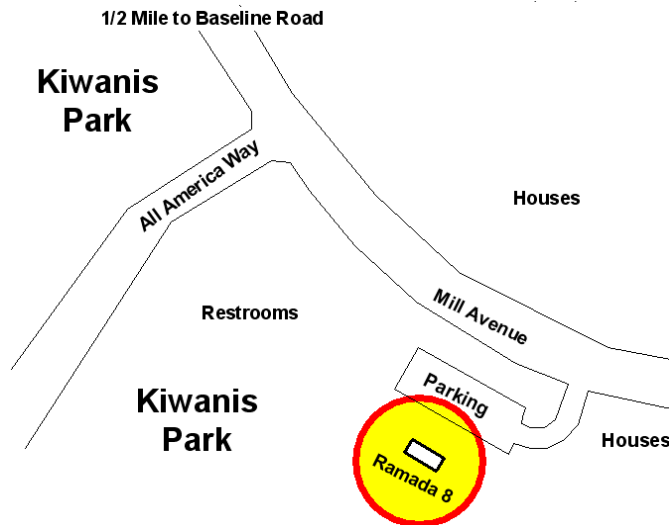
Third Saturday of Every Month – **Personal Projects Workshops*** at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. Bring your current project, socialize, pick our brains, Stitch and B. . . . Contact VP Nyki or Secretary Sharan for details.

March 6 – May 17, 2009 – **Prints and Pots** at the West Valley Art Museum in Surprise, Arizona. An exhibition of the art of George Palovich (our host for last summer's field trip) for the benefit of the museum.

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 18-19, 2009 – Arizona Asian American Association's 15th **Asian Festival** at Heritage Park (115 N. Sixth St., Phoenix, AZ 85004) 10-7 Sat, 10-6 Sun. Free admission.

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



April 26, 2009 – **Barbecue Mixer*** at Kiwanis Park Ramada #8 in Tempe. We're inviting other local costume interest groups to join us. Lunch at high noon. The guild will provide some basic meat entrees. The rest is pot luck. Contact Pitmaster Mike C. at RSVP@southwestcostumersguild.org before April 17 to let us know you'll be there and what you'll be bringing.

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/>

May 27-31, 2009 – **Costume Society of America Symposium and Textile Preservation Workshop** See details in the e-mail below:

From: "Sewell, Dennita" <Dennita.Sewell@phxart.org>
 Date: April 1, 2009 1:17:33 PM MST
 To: "Sewell, Dennita" <Dennita.Sewell@phxart.org>
 Subject: **Costume Society of America Symposium and Textile Preservation Workshop in Phoenix May 27-31**

Dear friends of fashion design,
 I wanted to let you know about a fashion and costume focused symposium to be held in Phoenix May 27-31. Please find attached information about a pre-symposium workshop led by an authority on textile conservation and preservation. Addition information about the entire symposium may be found at <http://www.costumesocietyamerica.com/>. New research on subjects related to clothing and textile history will be presented by experts and scholars from across the country at the symposium. Please note the registration for the workshop below and the symposium are separate.
Best,
Dennita

Costume Society of America

35th Annual Symposium
May 27-30, 2009 - Tempe and Phoenix, AZ
The Buttes Resort

Theme: Costume Crossing Borders: A Cultural Journey

Preserving Our Costume and Textile Heritage Workshop
A Pre-Symposium Workshop May 27, 2009
10AM-4PM The Buttes Resort 2000 Westcourt Way Tempe, AZ
Price \$60 fee includes lunch

Workshop will be led by Dr. Margaret T. Ordoñez, Professor, University of Rhode Island and Susan Jerome, Manager of the Historic and Textile Costume Collection, U. of Rhode Island

Margaret Ordoñez, a textile conservator and educator, has written many articles on care of costume and textiles and is author of the book, *Your Vintage Keepsake* and co-editor of the book, *Down by the Old Mill Stream: Quilts in Rhode Island*

Susan Jerome is a consultant to museums and historical societies besides managing the university textile and costume collection. Formerly she worked at Mystic Seaport, The Museum of America and The Sea.

1-800-CSA-9447 or <http://www.costumesocietyamerica.com/>
for more information and registration

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 Vyktoria 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.westerngatesfaerierealms.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/>

The Care and Feeding of Cowboy Boots

by Cathie Yankovich

Boot lovers (and fetishists) probably lavish more love on their leather wardrobes than any other part of our society – and the myriad of creams, oils, and sprays prove it. After all, who wants to tug on a pair of python boots and leave a blizzard of loose scales in their wake? For this reason, as my own collection multiplied, learning the best way to keep them from turning into an antique store wreck became a high priority. I ended up haunting western boot stores, shoe repair shops and the website “A Tribute to Cowboy Boots.” (URL - <http://www.dimlights.com/boots/toc/>) The last is a gem, frequented by boot makers and hard-core aficionados.

First the do nots:

1. Boots are not shoes. Avoid using shoe wax. It will clog the pores.
2. Don't use most saddle soaps. They are alkaline and will eat the leather over time.
3. Don't wear the same boots every day. They need time to dry out and will last longer if you alternate them.
4. A little conditioner is good, but too much is too much.

And now for the do's:

1. After wearing your boots, wipe off the dust wearing with a damp cloth.
2. If your boots are covered with mud or worse, wipe them off and try cleaning with Fiebing's Glycerin saddle soap. (Available at your local Tandy Leather Factory - <http://www.tandyleatherfactory.com/home/locations/storesearch.aspx?navlocation=top> Be careful, though. Fiebing's offers several types of saddle soap. This one comes in a pump bottle like hand soap and is very gently on the leather.
3. Of all the cleaner conditioners, Bick 4 received the most praise. You can find it online at http://www.rods.com/p/850,52_Bick-4-Leather-Cleaner-and-Conditioner.html Once a month, plan on settling in for some quality time with your leathers, your favorite liquid refreshment, and Bick 4.
4. When your boots are conditioned and dry, hide the scuffs with a coat of Meltonian leather cream, available at most local shoe repair shops or online at <http://www.amazon.com/Meltonian-Shoe-Cream-Polish/dp/B00150HRP0>
5. Stop at your local boot shop to get a pair of cedar boot trees to keep boot toes shaped. To keep the shaft from collapsing, check out "Booti"s shapers. (<http://www.day-design.biz/eng/>) Created in Germany, they're a flat piece of plastic that you roll up and stick into the boot tops.

If you follow these easy steps, you and your boots will have a long and high stepping relationship.

Check Out the Headlights on That One!

http://dvice.com/archives/2009/01/illuminated_clo.php Sorry, couldn't resist, considering the first image is an glowing bikini top. This is actually a way-cool photo gallery of illuminated clothing Mahala found on the web. Dvice.com is a portion of the SyFy channel's web site devoted to new gadgetry.

Handouts from Corset Presentation Presented by Frances Burns at Sunacosu Workshop March 14, 2009



Photo by Nyki

Vocabulary

Coutil (pronounced coo-teel): Coutil is a fabric specially woven for strength for corsets. It is a woven twill, with a herringbone pattern. The fabric has little stretch, and a smooth finish You won't find Coutil at your local fabric store. Coutil is the best fabric for corsets but a medium weight tightly woven canvas will also work.

Boning: In a corset varies slightly from era to era. Generally, the cinching/shaping properties of corsetry puts strain onto the fabric from which the

corset is made. The boning supports the desired shape and prevents wrinkling of the corset fabric. Bones, and the substances used for the purpose, are often generically called boning.

Flat Steel Boning: High carbon, hardened, spring steel, flat wire designed for flexible support
Usually used in modern Elizabethan style corsets and the center back bones for

Spiral Steel Boning: is made from hardened, galvanized spring steel round wire. It is coiled and flattened giving it a spring-like quality. It is used for support in areas that require mobility. It has the ability to flex both side to side and back and forward. Usually used in modern Victorian corsets.

Busks

Elizabethan - a shaped wooden busk placed down the center front of the corset

Victorian - a steel busk which has clasps to open and close

Specialty Tool: Awl

Awls are used for making holes in fabrics, in order to place grommets in to the correct position. (I like the one by Clover.) Use an awl to make the hole for a grommet to go through rather than a hole punch. This makes it almost impossible for the grommet to pull out.

Grommets: 2 part grommets are used in the back of corsets as eyelets for lacing. The sizes I prefer are 00 or 0. You can find these at upholstery stores and the tools to set them with.

Why 2 part grommets? They give a smother finish so they do not catch on fabric, lacing or skin.

Tudor/Elizabethan Corsets

IN Period: "Boning" would be cording or reeds or whale bones placed right next to each other

Modern : "Boning" is usually flat steel placed to enhance figure with spacing several inches or more apart

Spiral lacing: This would be the way a corset was laced in period. The eyelets are offset from each other except for the top and bottom

Victorian Corsets

IN Period: "Boning" would be whale bones or steel bones placed About 1" apart at the bust

Modern: "Boning" is usually steel with the same placement as period boning.

Victorian Corset Lacing: Lacing is started at both the top and the bottom Lacing meets at the waist

Where to Get Corset Supplies	
Richard the Thread http://richardthethread.net/ 10405 Washington Blvd Culver City ,Ca 90232 USA 1-800-473-4997 1-310-837-4997	Farthingales http://www.farthingalesla.com/ 3306 Pico Blvd Santa Monica, California 90405-2116 Phone: 310-392-1787 Fax: 310-392-1762
Hedgehog Handworks http://www.hedgehoghandworks.com P.O. Box 45384 Westchester, California 90045 U.S.A. Phone: 1-310-670-6040 1-888-670-6040 (toll free in the U.S.) Fax 1-310-216-2872	Grommets Fastener Supply Company http://www.fastener-supply.com/ 1308-B W NINTH STREET UPLAND CA 91786 Phone: 1-800-224-6610

<p>Bra and Merry Widow supplies and patterns Bra-makers Supply http://www.bramakerssupply.com/ 219 - 1104 Fennell Avenue East Hamilton ON L8T 1R9 Canada Phone: 905-538-1396 Fax: 905-538-1397</p>	<p>Victorian Corset Patterns Laughing Moon Mercantile http://www.lafnmoon.com/ 2131 51st Street Sacramento, CA 95817-1506 TEL: 916-455-4527 FAX: 916-455-4528</p>
<p>Elizabethan Corset Pattern Elizabethan Costume Page http://www.elizabethancostume.net/custompat/index.html</p>	<p>One spot to get ready made Corsets Xcentricities http://www.corset.net/ PO Box 9277 Albuquerque, NM 87119-9277 (505) 459-8733</p>
<p>Reference Books</p>	
<p>Corsets and Crinolines by Norah Waugh ISBN-10: 0878305262</p>	<p>Period Costume for Stage & Screen: Patterns for Women's Dress, 1800-1909 by Jean Hunnisett ISBN-10: 088734609X</p>
<p>Period Costume for Stage & Screen: Patterns for Women's Dress 1500-1800 by Jean Hunnisett ISBN-10: 0887346103</p>	<p>Waisted Efforts: An Illustrated Guide to Corset Making by Robert Doyle ISBN-10: 0968303900</p>
<p>The Basics Of Corset Building , A Handbook For Beginners by Linda Sparks ISBN-10: 0973735805</p>	<p>Historical Fashion in Detail by Avril Hart SBN-10: 1851772588 I like many of the costume or fashion in detail series (they are not all by the same author), but they are not how to books.</p>



From the Mailbox

Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild Finery Vol 7 No 2 March/April 2009

Fabulous! The Art of Being a Historical Fashion Icon by Lindsey Eastman; Steampunk Costuming by Sahrye Cohen; Why Attend Costume College? by Kendra Van Cleave; flyer for “A Starry Night of Steampunk” event on April 18 at Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland.

Catch Randall at the next SWCG meeting to train your brass goggles on the latest newsletters.



Roving Camera

The costume competition at this year's Festival of the West was directed by our own Diane. The judging staff included Clerk Cherrill Rae, Judge Steve Brant, Judge Mike Mills, Clerk Randall Whitlock, Judge Mazz Brant, Director Diane Harris and Judge Frances Burns. Photo by Barbara Ratti.

The SWCG March jaunt to the Arizona Renaissance Festival included Nyu Nyu, Jean, Paula, Theresa and Mike. Photo by Mike Contos and his amazing self-timer.



Frances taught us a thing or two about sewing on slimy fabrics at our March workshop. Photo by Randall Whitlock. Check out <http://www.threadsmagazine.com/item/3752/sewing-machine-needles-an-overview> for some good advice on needles.

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