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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.*

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.

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** May 27-30, 2009 at The Buttes Resort. Theme: Costume Crossing Borders: A Cultural Journey. 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.com . Maskerade information at <http://members.cox.net/maskerade> . Look for Lyn's "Costume Dungeon" for help with wardrobe malfunctions.

And here's your invitation to a special event at NADWCon!

Seamstress Guild Party in Honor of Our Esteemed Patron, Mr. Terry Pratchett

*When: * Sep. 4th. 2009 *Where: * Tempe, Arizona *"Not A Needle Among 'Em"*

*Event Details: * The Seamstress Guild is a loose affiliation of women and men who come together for a variety of reasons. Our official purpose (whenever the Watch is making inquiries) is to prepare for the Seamstress Guild Party in honor of Mr. Terry Pratchett which will take place at the very first North American Discworld Convention in 2009. It is to be the highlight of the convention's first night, and Mr. Pratchett will be in attendance.

Ladies of the Guild and gentleman from the Men's Auxiliary will be hosting a grand reception that involves food, music, entertainment, contests and the chance to show off our costumes. Estimated attendance: 500 – 900. This is to be the second party of it's kind organized by our group, the first taking place at the San Jose WorldCon in 2002, where Our Esteemed Patron, Mr. Terry Pratchett, was the Guest of Honor. He had such a good time, he asked us to do it again. Please see the first link listed below this announcement for information on the convention.

The second link will take you to the Seamstress Guild discussion board, where the men and women of the guild are gathered to plan both the party and their costumes. Mrs. Palm. For more in the Guild's Background in the Discworld novels, go here: http://wiki.lspace.org/wiki/Seamstresses'_Guild .

*Event Location: * Mission Palms Hotel - Grand Ballroom in Tempe

*Event TIME Details: * 7 PM - 9:30 PM

*Website: * <http://www.nadwcon.org/> *Website II: * <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/seamstressguild/>

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/>

So You Want to be a Cowboy/Cowgirl – Part 1

by Cathie Yankovich

Elements of Western style permeate popular US fashion. Blue jeans are everywhere, cowboy boots are *de rigueur* footwear for truckers, rock bands and tourists returning from trips to Texas and points west. Ralph Lauren (<http://www.ralphlauren.com/shop/index.jsp?categoryId=198326>), Double D (<http://www.ddranchwear.com/flashgallery/index.html?detectflash=false&>) and others manufacture duds for well-heeled dudes and dudettes while Scully, Roper, Stetson, and a bevy of other brands cater to folks with thinner wallets. And for those of us addicted to research, a flood of books provides a wealth of information on every aspect of the style, from its origins to the rhinestoned rockers, and urban cowboys of today. A few of these include “Nudie, the Rodeo Tailor,” “How the West was Worn,” and “Cowboy Boots, The Art of the Sole.”

Not surprisingly, pundits cannot agree on the origins of Western style. Some place its roots in the ranching culture of Mexico and South America. Others claim it developed from early hunters and trappers who added Indian-style buckskins to their cotton and woolen wardrobe. One characteristic of early Western style was its broad variation; although clothes and tools had to be practical, they were also a way to express the cowboy's individuality.

With the advent of Buffalo Bill Cody and his Wild West Show, flash became an essential aspect of the popular image of Western style. (<http://www.buffalobill.org/history.htm>)

Fringe and bright colors made performers more visible to the large crowds, a tradition enhanced by Roy Rogers thru his rhinestone-laden outfits (<http://www.royrogers.com/>) and carried on by Elvis and current bling-covered singers.

For costumers, reproduction items from broad areas of Western style are available. Wah Maker (now owned by Scully - <http://www.scullyleather.com>) offers a wide selection of men's and women's frontier clothes, primarily aimed at the popular Single Action Shooters' Society. Although vintage embroidered shirts are produced by Scully, Roper, and others, Rockmount (<http://www.rockmount.com>) offers the widest selection, including a reproduction of a shirt worn by country singer Porter Wagoner. Patterns are available from a variety of makers ranging from McCall's and Simplicity thru Folkwear, Laughing Moon, and Buckaroo Bobbins (<http://www.buckarobobbins.com>).

Of course, there is much more to explore about Western style – boots, hats, accessories, why did John Wayne walk the way he did, evaluating EBay items and more.

Costuming “Silent Hill”

Costume by Kahoe Kahalewa
Commentary and Photos by Mike Contos



During my sojourn behind the CASFS fan table at the recent AniZona I saw many costumes, mostly of anime or manga characters. Standing out amongst the run-of-the-mill cosplayers were those few souls who chose to cosplay as characters from videogames. I immediately recognized Link from “The Legend of Zelda” and Bison from “Street Fighter” but the most striking for me were the cosplayers from the video game “Silent Hill”. The first costume I noticed was “Pyramid Head” and was made and worn by Kahoe Kahalewa. I wasn’t even aware that it was from a video game much less “Silent Hill” until curiosity overwhelmed me and I asked her who she was cosplaying.



The most interesting part of her costume was her helmet.



While the shell was constructed from cardboard it was the detailing that displayed a marvelous talent for utilizing “found” materials.





The detailing consisted of: PVC pipe, decorative netting, pill bottle and tooth paste caps, old bed parts plus some additional brick-a- brac).

The other “Silent Hill” characters that were being portrayed at AniZona were the “Nurses”. These ladies created quite a stir, making their entrance with a staggering, disjointed, creepy walk that gave me a combination of the chills and a sympathetic need for Motrin and a Kenalog injection.



“Silent Hill” first appeared as a video game in 1999 and is currently out in its 7th iteration. In 2006 a movie was released based upon the game and titled aptly enough “Silent Hill”. There are also numerous spin-offs, books and a comic book series.

Good Food, Good Company

Our barbecue mixer on April 26, 2009 at Kiwanis Park in Tempe was a great success, drawing new and old friends from Sunacosu, CASFS, The Rebel Legion and the Arizona Ghostbusters to meet the guildsters. Great quantities of pulled pork and beef brisket were consumed, thanks to our pit crew of Mike and Theresa. Here’s the official group photo from Pitmaster Mike Contos.



And a couple of candid photos from around the table by Randall.



From the Mailbox

We have just released the new issue of the Virtual Costumer to the SiW members, which means that the previous issue has been released from password protection. January's issue is now available to you. It contains the conclusion of the articles on Basic Cabaret Bra and Belt Construction, an article on Construction of a Pufferfish Costume, and Jeanine Swick's write up on Chinese Tape Braiding. Go to <http://www.siwcostumers.org/> and select Newsletters. All the past issues are available from there. Enjoy! - Dana MacDermott, Editor, Virtual Costumer

Roving Camera

The theme of the April Dark Ones party was “Twisted Fairy Tales.” Randall’s “Fairy Godfather” wasn’t nearly so twisted as Wally’s . . . whatever it was.



Mistakes on Page One, Corrections on Page 47

The Arizona Renaissance Festival group picture in the May Cactus Needles was incorrectly credited to Mike Contos. The picture was actually taken by Frank Castle.

“Destination Libation”



won Best In Show at the Costume-Con 27 Science Fiction and Fantasy Masquerade.
From left – Nola Yergen-Jennings, Jeanine Swick, Gail Wolfenden-Steib, Jeff Jennings Jean Palmer. Photo by Ken Warren <http://www.uc-photo.com/>

Copyright Statement



No, I'm not worried about the swine flu.

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