

Dali for a while with

Cactus Needles

Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild

Volume 16, Number 8 – August 2009

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.*

Third Saturday of Every Month, 10 AM – **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.



August 23, 2009 – **Parasol Covering*** at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. 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> . Look for Lyn's "Costume Dungeon" for help with wardrobe malfunctions.



Event is FREE & Open to those Interested in ACI Nouveau

Join Arizona Costume Institute Nouveau
at Phoenix Art Museum for

A Night in Paris

First Friday, August 7

RSVP by Tuesday, August 4 by e-mailing
ACI-RSVP@cox.net or call (602) 307-2011

6:30pm - Enjoy Light Bites and Refreshments,
Orientation Room

7:00pm - A Discussion of Art Nouveau Parisian Fashion,
Fashion Design Gallery

Prom the 1890s to 1914, the sinuous forms and flowing lines of nature were a primary source for Nouveau artists who sought to break away from past styles. Paris was an epicenter of this movement that influenced architecture, applied arts and graphic design. Dennita Sewell, Curator of Fashion Design with Helen Nosova, Curatorial Assistant, Deborah Missel, ASU Art History major and fashion intern and Caesar Chaves, Creative Director, Heard Museum will lead a discussion with examples of original fashion designs and magazines from this period drawn from the Museum's collections about this movement which continues to influence high fashion and graphic design today.

Arizona Costume Institute Nouveau is the 35 and under membership division of ACI. Their objective is to raise awareness and membership of the Arizona Costume Institute through celebrating Phoenix Art Museum's distinguished fashion collection. Nouveau promotes fashion education while fostering camaraderie in a professional networking environment.

To join ACI Nouveau, please visit Membership at ArizonaCostumeInstitute.com or click here.

ARIZONA COSTUME INSTITUTE
Nouveau

Phoenix Art Museum • 1625 North Central Avenue • PhxArt.org

Program sponsored by Neiman Marcus

The Arizona Browncoats
proudly present

The Fourth Annual Screening of
Joss Whedon's cult masterpiece

SERENITY

With a special screening
of the internet phenomenon

**DR. HORRIBLE'S
SING-ALONG BLOG**

Proceeds to benefit Equality Now
advocating womens' rights worldwide

Saturday, September 19, 2009
Event begins at 1:00 pm

MADCAP THEATERS
730 S Mill Ave, Tempe

sponsored by **CD Bookmans**

www.azbrowncoats.org/csts

September 19, 2009 - **Can't Stop the Serenity** at the MADCAP Theater (formerly Harkins Centrepointe) in Tempe. Charity benefit screening of Joss Whedon's films "Serenity" and "Dr. Horrible's Singalong Blog." The Costume Contest will be organized by your beloved editor.

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 16-November 8, 2009 (closed Mondays) - **Arizona State Fair** at 19th Avenue & McDowell Road in Phoenix. <http://www.azstatefair.com/>

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

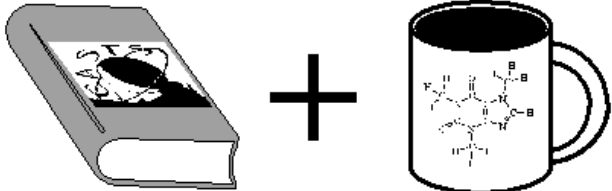
October 30-November 1, 2009 - **Saboten-Con** at the Hilton Phoenix East Mesa Hotel. An anime' convention for the otaku in you. <http://www.sabotencon.com/>.

November 13-15, 2009 - **TusCon 36** at the InnSuites Hotel in Tucson, Arizona. This year's guest of honor is Stoker Award winning author Weston Ochse. <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>

November 14, 2009, 10:05 AM - **Sunacosu Workshop** at the Pyle Adult Center, Rural & Southern in Tempe, Arizona. Gail Wolfenden-Steib will demonstrate how to work with thermoplastics, including Fosshape and Wonderflex.

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.



Meet people. Drink caffeinated beverages. Talk about books.

Join us for the CASFS Book Social!

Third Tuesday of every month, 7PM at Bent Cover Books
12428 N. 28th Dr. Phoenix, AZ 85029 <http://bentcoverbooks.com/>

August 18, 2009 - "The Furies of Calderon" by Jim Butcher
September 15, 2009 - "Too Many Magicians" by Randall Garrett
October 20, 2009 - "The Graveyard Book" by Neil Gaiman
November 17, 2009 - "The Lightning Thief" by Rick Riordan
December 15, 2009 - "Quarter Share" by Nathan Lowell
(See www.podjbooks.com)

Questions? Contact Books@CASFS.org

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/>

January, 2011 – **MythosCon** at a yet-undisclosed, but undoubtedly very scary location in the greater Phoenix area. This is a convention for fans of H.P. Lovecraft and his works, hosted by local author and fan of note, Adam Niswander. <https://www.mythoscon.org/>

Business from the July SWCG Meeting

Reported by VP Nyki Robertson

At the meeting we decided to sponsor a \$25 premium plus give a membership to the winner of the category for a Costuming category at the State Fair. I will get the contact info from MaryEllen and Sharan has agreed to be our liaison, since I am just too busy to continue to do it.

I asked for a donation of stuff for children to use to decorate the hats donated by Sue Uttke of CASFS for programming at CopperCon 30 in 2010. People very generously volunteered various stuff from their "private" stock.

We decided that giving a membership to the winner of the Novice category at local Conventions was a nice idea and a good way to build membership! We thought it should be presented by a guild member; however, not just the M.C. It was decided that it should be a different guild member each time, so as to "share the wealth" so-to-speak! It was thought that either Lyn Jeppesen or Jean Palmer should do the NADWCON presentation.

There has been a last minute change of site for the August meeting. It will be at the clubhouse at Sharan's NOT at Jean's.

I said I will call Diane and confirm her for the Parasol presentation for August. If she is unable to make it, Tasha said she might have some decorating parasol ideas that she could share with us.



Wondrous Wire Works

Paula demonstrated wire and beadwork at the July SWCG meeting with impressive results. Paula recommends avoiding copper wire for this kind of project – it gets brittle as you work it.



Inspirational Classes

by Tasha Cady



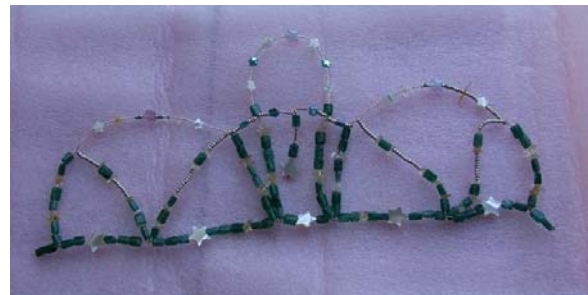
As someone who occasionally does classes / demos, I know how nice it is to feel that someone really got something out of it. My family has lately.

At FiestaCon (WesterCon 09) my older son, Chet, went to the ‘Steampunk on the Cheapside’ panel. He got hooked. Two weekends later, he dragged me thrifting with him. When I get a chance, I’ll get a picture of him in everything he bought. For now, this is what he’s working on:

He does the leather work himself. The gun was some sort of water-gun or Nerf gun. It’s supposed to be a flame thrower with the fluid in the bottle on his back. He wants to be an airship marine. He’s working on both a dress uniform, and an active duty uniform. It’s nice when your kids share your interests.

On the 26th at the Southwest Costumers Guild meeting, member Paula did a demo on beaded crowns. She had taken the class (Grecian Tiaras) at a costume college a couple of years ago. I found the instructions from the Costume College class rather hard to follow (Paula had made LOTS of notes!) However, they and the picture gave me

a starting point. Getting to hold the one Paula had made and examine it helped too. And her discussion of how it was done, and demo of how the several pieces of wire fit together. I stopped by Wal-Mart and got wire on the way home. I had some beads. Paula had talked about wanting to do a crown for the upcoming Fairy Faire with leaves. I didn’t have any leaves, but I had stars. So, between Sunday evening and Monday afternoon, I made myself a ‘crown of stars’. Thank you Paula! I enjoyed myself and have a nice piece out of it. I wish spouse had gotten the full height of the middle arch on. Oh well. I’ll be wearing it at a con sometime in the next year.



Surf Over for WorldCon Coverage

Guildster Mike Contos travels this week to WorldCon in Montreal. Check out his video blog from the event at <http://www.youtube.com/>. Select channel “Zond2.”

Laurie Seeks Volunteer Presenters for Phoenix College Costume Course.

I'm Laurie Taylor, part-time teacher at Phoenix College. I'm mostly a very quiet, background member of this group. I had always intended to introduce myself in person at a guild event, but so far that's still on my to-do list. I've taught at PC for almost 15 years, and have filled in some additional time with costuming for Ballet Arizona and Childsplay Theatre. I just got back yesterday (August 3) from Costume College in Van Nuys, CA. Next year I have to pick between USITT, Costume Symposium, Costume College, and CSA...it's going to be a busy year, but I do love going to costume events. My family also joined SCA last year, but with crazy schedules we haven't made it to any SCA events either.

Now, I'm getting ready to teach a new class at PC. Our Costume Construction class is offered in the upcoming fall scheduler. The class is a lab class in which each student will be building a costume piece of their own choosing. It may be fantasy, theatrical, historical, or whatever suits the students' individual interests. It may help to say that the class is focused as listed below, but with no area emphasized more than any other.

Theatre costume

Period/Historical costume

Fantasy/Sci-fi costume

Dance costume – Ballet

- Other

Film/Movie costume – discussion only (most likely)

Other as students request

To give the students exposure to more ideas about costuming, especially beyond my own experience, I'd like to bring in guest speakers several times over the semester. Anyone who has done any costuming would be welcome. You need not be costuming professionally to have interesting experiences and insights to share. Guests could have 30-60 minutes in which to discuss or show their costumes, or demonstrate some technique that they've found useful.

To that end, for example, I am having the former Costume Director of BAZ come in to talk about building ballet costumes. She'll talk about the unique aspects of fitting dancers for the extremes of movement that they perform. She'll also discuss construction techniques for making costumes sturdy enough to take the abuse of repeated use.

Could you answer any of these questions for students?

How did you choose to balance between period correct and practical for your particular end use?
How deeply did you get into traditional techniques? Have you done a costume completely by hand? If so, why? Can you show that costume?
If you do steampunk, which is completely outside of my range, could you explain it and show your costumes?

Would you be willing to come to our classroom and share some of your costuming experiences?
If so, consider this an invitation!

The course specifics are:

TEC 232 Phoenix College Costume Construction Fall 2009

Class Number 64395, Thursdays 5:15PM to 9:50PM, Room DB137

Class begins September 3, one week after the regular start of the semester.

For my part in the class, in addition to teaching my students to build their chosen projects, I'm going to demonstrate techniques on pieces that I am building to wear in the History of Fashion class. My goal is to be able to dress appropriately for each week's lecture. This could take a few years, but it will be fun. I think I'll pass on dressing for the Egyptian lecture, hehehe, but the rest will be fun.

If you'd like to visit our class and share your experiences, please contact me at costumeraz@mazarineblue.com or by phone at 480-560-7016. Thanks!

As Almost Seen on Antiques Road Show

A Teaser of Things to Come from Cathie Yankovich

My sister and I managed to get tickets to this year's Antiques Roadshow in Phoenix. Neither one of us expected to be the next Roadshow millionaire. She hoped for information on cleaning documents that survived a flood and I wanted more about Simon Lissim, the man responsible for the costume drawings I have been promising Randall that I would share with the SWCG. It was late – after five, when I finally managed to get to a collectibles appraiser. I explained what I had; and referred me to Kathleen Guzman. Again I explained what I had and watched as she typed away on her laptop. She asked where I got the drawings and continued typing. She asked how much I paid and continued looking at the computer. I waited and waited and waited. Finally she asked me if I was willing to be taped. Of course, I agreed.

Having been led to a chair, I talked with a woman who had been before me in line; her items were Paramount movie collectibles, including a 3-D poster for "2001" and a record of an interview with Arthur Clarke. I waited and waited. No one knew where I was except the appraiser. Cell phones were verboten - interference with the recording equipment. Finally the producer showed up. Neither I nor the lady next to me were being filmed. However, it turns out that the artist was a major costume designer, primarily for ballets. And although the drawings aren't worth a fortune, they are going to be restored before I hang them in my sewing area.

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