

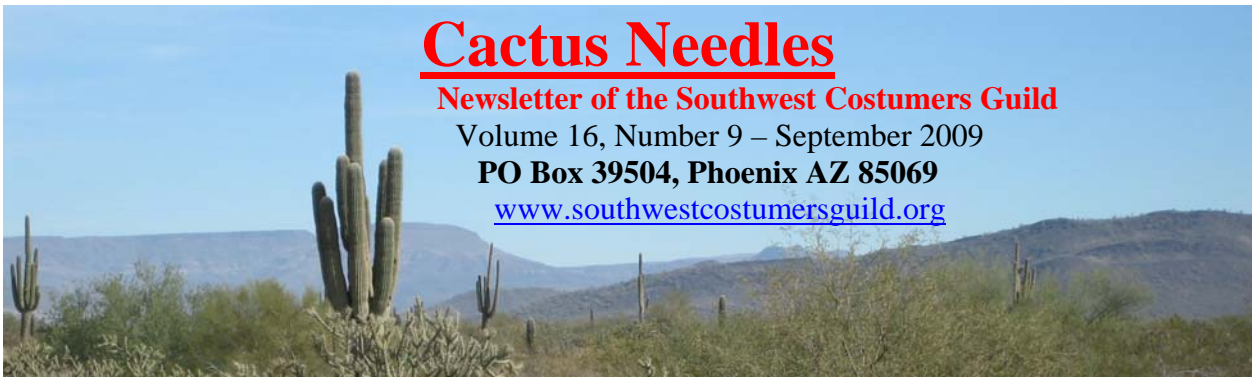
Cactus Needles

Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild

Volume 16, Number 9 – September 2009

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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.

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. *(It looks like we'll be using a Judges' Station system for the costume contest this year. Ask Randall For more details.)*

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 1,2,3 10AM-5PM – **Tucson Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival** at the Tucson Expo Center, 3750 E. Irvington Road, Tucson. Vendors, demos, workshops. Admission \$8. Free Parking. <http://www.rustybarn.com/2009-shows.html>

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
MADCAP Theaters
730 S Mill Ave, Tempe
sponsored by **CD Bookmans**
www.azbrowncoats.org/csts

Elaine, guardian of our southern reaches, extends an invitation to gather for supper after the festival.

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/>

The TusCon Masquerade is back this year! with categories for Steampunk, Anime' Cosplay and General. Check out the rules at http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/t36_Cosplay_Rules.pdf

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.westerngatesfaiererealm.com/PhoenixFaerieFestival.htm>

BEYOND: CENTER FOR FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS IN SCIENCE
presents the annual **science fact meets science fiction** lecture
seth shostak
"confessions of an alien hunter"
September 29, 2009
7 P.M.
Galvin Playhouse
ASU Tempe campus
This event is free, open to the public, and first come, first serve. This event is not ticketed. Visit <http://beyond.asu.edu> or call (480) 965-3240. C.A.R.T. services will be available.
ASU COLLEGE of LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

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/>

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/>

The North American Discworld Convention Maskerade

was a huge success, at least in terms of participation, with 40 persons appearing in 31 costume units. When you add in the hardworking volunteer "Igors," more than five percent of persons at the con were maskerade participants! There were the normal confusions, misunderstandings and glitches, including an appearance of the rare and nasty Y-Chromosome Bridezilla (me), but all in all it went well.

The Turtle has moved on, leaving a mass of unfinished paperwork in its wake. Look for an updated web page with participant lists and pictures in a couple of weeks at <http://members.cox.net/maskerade>

Meanwhile, here are a winners list, (with my brief comments), and some pictures from our official photographer, Jennifer Woodside.

Best Novice

"Peaches" (one of the Amazing Maurice's Educated Rodents)
Contestant **Laura Lecher**



Best Journeyman
"Igor of Uberwald"
(amazing makeup applications!)
Contestant **Vance Whitaker**



Best Master (complicated portrait scenario from "Thud")
"Lord Sam and Lady Sybil Vimes"
Contestants **JoAnn and Scott Abbott**

Best In Show
"Lord Sam and Lady Sybil Vimes"
Contestants **JoAnn and Scott Abbott**

Sir Terry's Choice
"Lord Sam and Lady Sybil Vimes"
Contestants **JoAnn and Scott Abbott**

Anna's Choice
"Igor of Uberwald"
Contestant **Vance Whitaker**
Special Title of Award: **Best "Hand" Stitching**

Esther's Choice
"Sally & Angua" (Cosplay inspired by "Thud" with dialogue between two watchwomen)
Contestants **Ilyana Mansfield & Kaedy Cherry**
Special Title of Award: **The Chicks in Chainmail Award**



Bernard's Choice
"Igor of Uberwald"
Contestant **Vance Whitaker**
Special Title of Award: **The Artificer's Award for Silicone Rubber**

Isobel's Choice
"The Interchangeable Emmas"
Contestants **Fiona Pigott, Samara Shanker and Miranda Browne**
Special Title of Award: **The Convent Girls Award**

Special Mention
"The Exterminator of Ankh-Morpork" (Beware of rats with wings, they're dynamite!)
Contestant **Dr. William Hearter**
Special Title of Award: **Department of Hygiene Award**

Special Mention
"Goody Tornfoot Attired as Klatchian Dancing Girl"
Contestant **Rita Rippetoe**
Special Title of Award: **Shake, Rattle & Roll Award**

Special Mention
Contestant (really MC) **Pat Harkin**
Special Title: **Spirited Impersonation of Compere** (personal joke between Pat & Sir Terry)



Special Mentions for Workmanship

Best in Show for Workmanship

“Ptraci on Holiday” (Klatchian dancer with camel-driven staff-top computer)

Contestant **Jocelyn Hinkle**

“Ronald Soak – Hygienic Dairyman” (Everyone’s favorite milkman/god of chaos)

Contestant **Fred Leonard**

Special Title of Award: **Excellence in Small Details**

“The Exterminator of Ankh-Morpork”

Contestant **Dr. William Hearter**

Special Title of Award: **Best Use of Found Objects**

“Igor of Uberwald”

Contestant **Vance Whitaker**

Special Title of Award: **Three Thumbs Up Award**

“Twoflower Meets Miss Tick”

Contestants **Jeanne L. Ringland and David L. Ringland**

Special Title of Award: **Excellence in Iconograph Building**

“The Lady”

Contestant **Laura M. Hurtig**

Special Title of Award: **Excellence in Jewelry Creation** (Jewelry incorporates dice and other luck motifs.)

“Lord Sam and Lady Sybil Vimes”

Contestants **JoAnn and Scott Abbott**

Special Title of Award: **Best Overall Wardrobe Construction**

A Quick Rolled Hem

by Kitten Reames

This is a quick rolled hem using a zigzag stitch set at “gathering” tension? It’s fast and useful, especially for sheer fabrics (e.g., veils) or for when you’ve barely got enough fabric for a hem.

Here’s how I do it:

Step 1. With tension settings normal, sew a line of straight stitch about ¼” from the fabric edge. (Use the presser foot edge as a guide.)

Step 2. Fold along the line of stitching and iron the hem to the inside. (Yes, I hate ironing but it makes the next step MUCH easier.)

Step 3. Change the settings to what you would use for a gathering stitch AND change the stitch type to zigzag. The width of the zigzag stitch should be about ¼”.

Step 4. Stitch on top of the folded hem, staying entirely ON the fabric but coming as close to the folded edge as you can.

Step 5. Pull the looser (usually bobbin) thread as though gathering. This will pull the zigzag stitches into a straight line, automatically folding the hem up over the cut edge of fabric.

Kitten appeared on stage as "Igorina" at the North American Discworld Convention Maskerade. She recommended supplementing this article with some photographs, but time ran out.--Randall

New Online Steampunk Fanzine

Discovered by our esteemed Mike Contos

Brought to you by Hugo award nominee, Chris Garcia, the first Steampunk Fanzine: "Exhibition Hall." <http://www.efanzines.com/ExhibHall/index.htm>

Molas, or A Turista in Panama

By Cathie Yankovich

What do you do when you're on a trip and have a house full of stuff? Shop for knick-knacks, of course. Travelers always need mementos of their journeys. And we always delude ourselves that the kitsch we bring back is symbolic of the country we visited.

Having a long and profitable history with the US, the Panamanians understand how to take advantage of turistas. (Hint - it's called marketing.) Every tour, every list on "Interesting things about Panama" makes sure you know about molas, a type of reverse appliqué done by the Kuna Indians. (For more info, check http://www.galenfrysinger.com/san_blas_kuna.htm .) Coming from Arizona where selling tacky souvenirs is an art form (think "plastic-encased scorpions" and Indian jewelry made in China), I yawned. After all, we have our own indigenous peoples making textiles - Navajo and Hopi rugs.



But I misestimated the cleverness of our tour guide, Roberto - and the determination of a couple women in our group to nab some keepsakes. (And, to be honest, a tasty fish lunch out on the causeway rendered me vulnerable.) So after a morning of exploring the Miraflores Lock and the park on Ancon Hill, off we went to a mercado filled with Panamanian crafts - pottery, clothing, carvings, aka suitcase stuffers. After taking a closer look at the tourist quality molas (in reality,

hand-sewn appliqués), I fell off the wagon and came away with a couple of t-shirts. Did I haggle? Not enough. Too many years of easy living buried those skills.

But things didn't end there. Although our tour was supposed to end, Roberto had more to show us. "Let's see Casco Antiguo," he said and off we went to explore the second-oldest area of Panama City. (The oldest is Casco Viejo. Between being burned down by Henry Morgan - the rum guy - and being mined by the Spanish as they built Casco Antiguo, there isn't much left of the old town.) For those of you wanting to see some of Casco Antiguo, it appears in the latest James Bond flick, due out later this year. (Check out this You-tube video on both - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQVhsk6rkPw>)



After winding down narrow streets and seeing the mandatory old church, museums, night spots, etc, we came out onto a square where a pair of Kuna women were selling their wares. Roberto slowed the van. "Does anyone want to stop?"

"Yes, yes!" someone yelled. I looked around. Oops, it was me.

While everyone else looked at the bright new pieces, my attention focused on a faded piece. "How much?" I asked.

"Twenty dollars." (The US dollar is the currency of Panama.)

Remembering Bargaining Technique 101, I shook my head.

"Ten dollars."





And that is how I ended up with a real mola and an interest in the art form. No tourist junk, this. The black had faded to brown from being worn. Some of the stitchwork is so fine that I can barely see it. The size marks it as fairly new example; it measures about 15 inches across vs 20 inches for those from the 70's. Another difference from the older examples is the mix of appliqué, reverse appliqué and embroidery. There is even a website dedicated to the [history of molas](#).

What is a mola? Basically, it is a 15-16 inch rectangular piece of reverse appliqué, embroidery, and appliqué on cotton used as the body (one in front and one in back) for Kuna women's traditional tunics. About 1960 visiting anthropologists discovered molas and a cottage industry began taking shape. Today tourists are enticed by variants of mola embroidery on shopping bags, pillows, t-shirts, purses and just about anything else made of cloth.

Apparently the artform is taking root here. A friend involved in quilting not only was familiar with the term, but planned on taking a class. A bit of research uncovered several Internet classes like this one: [How to Make a Mola](#). [Amazon](#) offers a number of books ranging from a Mola Designs (Dover Pictorial Archive Series)" at \$6.95 to The Electric Mola: Sewing Machine Method for Making the Traditional Handcrafted Mola. (I'm sure some could also be ordered through brick-and-mortar stores such as Barnes and Noble or Borders.) For those who want to create molas without the appliqué, a number of firms offer embroidery patterns; some are even on-line.

For those who have seen too much quilting, too many appliqués, and are sick of embroidery, mola style combines all of these into a fresh look. Imagine a coat with cuffs and collar done in this reverse appliqué. Or maybe the back of a cape. Or... Use your imagination.

From the Mailbox

The ICG Newsletter, Vol. 8, No. 5 – Sept-Oct 2009. New Editor Patrick J. O'Connor's first issue! It features a review of the WorldCon Masquerade with Pictures, Favorite places to shop, The Inevitably Incomplete 6-Month Costume/Cosplay Calendar, and contacts for ICG chapters, officers and helping hands.

The Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild **Finery**, Vol. 7 No. 5 – Sept-Oct 2009. Planning the Past by Mia Jackson, Quick Bright Things by Linda Wenzelburger, Shadows in the Sun by Sally Norton and Frannie Germeshausen, President's Column by Diana Habra, and a flyer for the Seelie & Unseelie Fairy Court Gathering on September 26 in Redwood City, CA.

Tackle Randall at the next SWCG Meeting to read and review the newsletters.

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