



Season's Greetings from Jean's neighbors, Mr. & Mrs. Quail
(Photo by Randall Whitlock)

Cactus Needles

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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.



Saturday, December 12, 2009, 5:30PM – **Glendale Glitters*** Informal walkabout of the Glendale Glitters Street Fair. Assemble at the Subway restaurant at the southeast corner of 58th Avenue & Glendale Avenue, maybe grab a sandwich, then walk the street fair together. Costume, especially Victorian or Wild West, encouraged. They're running a food drive for St. Mary's Food bank, so get your can over there.

December 27, 2009, 3PM – **Holiday Calendar*** Guild meeting & potluck foodage social at Mahala's house, 14633 North 60th Avenue, Glendale. Celebrate the season, elect new officers and hammer out the Guild's activity schedule for the first portion of 2010. What would you like to do in 2010: The Year We Make Contact?

For directions, contact Mahala at (602) 938-9319

January 10, 2010 – **Sunacosu Holiday/New Years Costumer Party**. <http://www.sunacosu.com/>

January 15-17, 2010 – **DarkCon 2010** at the Grace Inn Phoenix, 10827 South 51st, Phoenix. Features a Steampunk Poker Tournament, a Mad Hatter's Tea Party and a Masked Ball. <http://www.darkcon.org/>

February 6 thru March 12, 2010 (weekends plus prez day) – **Arizona Renaissance Festival** Highway 60 east of Gold Canyon, Arizona. <http://www.royalfaires.com/arizona/>

February 8-15, 2010 – **The Estrella War** at Canyon Moon Ranch in Florence, Arizona. The Society For Creative Anachronism's annual festival of armored combat, arts and sciences with a merchants' row to rival any renaissance faire. <http://www.estrellawar.org/>

February 27 & 28 , 2010 – **Matsuri: A Festival of Japan** at Heritage and Science Park in downtown Phoenix. <http://azmatsuri.org/>

March 26-28, 2010 – **Con-Nichiwa** at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde in Tucson, Arizona. A new Animé convention from the creators of Phoenix Cactus ComiCon and Saboten-Con. <http://www.con-nichiwa.com/>.

May 14-16, 2010 = **LepreCon 36** at the Phoenix Mesa Marriott Hotel in Mesa, Arizona features guests of Honor George R.R. Martin, Charles Vess and James A. Owen. <http://www.leprecon.org/>.

<p><i>HELP WANTED:</i> <i>Chairman Lee Whiteside seeks a Masquerade Director for LepreCon 36.</i> Contact him via leewsftv@yahoo.com.</p>
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May 27-30, 2010 – **Phoenix ComiCon** at the Phoenix Convention Center and Hyatt Regency Hotel. Guests include Jonathan Frakes and Jim Steranko. <http://www.phoenixcomicon.com/>

September 4-6, 2010 – **CopperCon 2010** at Windemere Hotel and Conference Center 5750 East Main Street in Mesa, Arizona. The Guest of Honor is Stephen R. Donaldson. The con features a masquerade directed by our veep, Nyki. <http://www.coppercon.org/>.

January, 2011 – **MythosCon** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in downtown Tempe, Arizona. 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/>

An Online Steampunk Article with Video from the Beeb

Discovered by Mike Contos

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/8376028.stm>

Chemistry: A Love Story

By Ladnar Lockwhite

This idea woke me from a deep sleep. I must have had an alpha wave big enough to surf on. I'm a very sick man.

Long, long ago in the oldest quarter of an ancient city stood an equally ancient monastery. Three generations ago, the Dawe family built a bakery next to the monastery and had been good neighbors ever since.

Each day, Brother Hassid would come into the bakery to buy bread for his brethren and would chat with Sue, the proprietrix, who had a crush on him. The feeling was mutual, but Hassid kept quiet about it. Sue would tempt Hassid with samples from her sweetest, lightest cakes, but Hassid would always politely decline. His order allowed him only unleavened bread and water mixed with vinegar.

Of an evening, Hassid would kneel on the roof of the monastery in prayer and meditation while Sue would gaze upon him from the bakery roof, separated only by a low parapet and the dictates of society.

The buildings of the city were old with dry timbers. One day there came a terrible fire whose flames leapt from building to building. As the firestorm approached and death seemed imminent, Hassid and Sue at last gave in to their feelings.

As they embraced, a choking white wind suddenly arose and blew the fire away, sparing both buildings.

The holy brothers celebrated the miracle and offered up many prayers of thanksgiving.

When word of the miracle reached the hall of alchemists, the Guildmaster saw things differently.

How can a fire not be extinguished, he thought, when Ascetic Hassid mixes with Baking Sue Dawe?

From the Mailbox

Silicon Web Costumers Guild The Virtual Costumer Vol 7, Issue 3, August 2009 just went public. This is a special issue about a special project at BayCon 2009 called "Costuming by the Book," wherein teams of designers were tasked to create costumes for an imaginary film to be based on Edgar Rice Burroughs's "John Carter of Mars" books (apparently not related to the Disney project). The challenge was to stay true to the original works, but keep within a PG-13 rating. You can view the 'zine at: <http://www.siwcostumers.org/newsletterarchive/VirtCostV7-I3-2009a.pdf>

Roving Camera



We met Cindy Trail at the Arizona State Fair, where she had just won an award for her traditional Navajo costume. We've invited her to speak at an upcoming SWCG meeting. Photos by Sharan Hoyle.

Jean's next door neighbor, Virginia Meeks (also known as Aunt Iffie) was our special guest at the December meeting. She gave us an education on the basics of clown costume and makeup.

Elaine's Gearing up for Costume-Con 29

Hello, everyone! CC 29 is just about 1.5 years away, and I'm asking for volunteers from all of your chapters. No, not to work. I want costumes for display.



Since the con's theme is "Give My Regards to Broadway." any costumes that fit the Broadway theme are encouraged, but we are not limiting the displays. I want to showcase some of your classics, especially if they have not been displayed in a while.

If you can't bring entire costumes, but can bring parts (headwear, masks, weapons, etc.), please do so. I will consider all offers, and I would like to start now.

I will now sit back and await the flood of replies. Thanks, Elaine

*(Editor's Note: CC29 is April 29-May 2, 2011 in Hasbrouk Heights, New Jersey.
<http://costumecon29.org/>)*

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