



# Cactus Needles

Volume 17, Number 7 – June 2010

Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504,  
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<http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>

*I can has costumes!*

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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 hosted by our friends at SunaCosu (<http://www.sunacosu.com/>)



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 for details.

June 19, 2010, 1PM – **SunaCosu Kimono Demo** (new date!) at the Pyle Adult Education Center, Southern & Rural in Tempe. Fuu will demonstrate basic

"kitsuke" or the art of wearing kimono. She will show all the items you need to wear and present the basics of buying and sewing your own kimono. There will be a hands-on portion where each person will learn to tie an obi. Come with your kimono questions or clothing.

June 19, 2010 – **Tsunami on the Square** Art and performance festival on the Prescott, Arizona town square. <http://www.tsunamionthesquare.org/>

June 27, 2010 – **Corset Fitting\*** - SWCG Workshop at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. *Frances suggests you bring your corset (if you have one) and/or any corset pattern from which you wish to work.*

July 2-4, 2010 – **Grand Canyon Renaissance Faire** at El Nathan Christian Camp, Flagstaff, Arizona. <http://www.gcrenfaire.com>

July 5, 2010 – Submissions Deadline for July Cactus Needles. Read any good books lately?

July 9-11, 2010 – **RandomCon** Arizona's Gaming Convention at the Windemere Hotel, 5750 E. Main Street, Mesa, Arizona. <http://www.randomcon.org/>.

July 9-11, 2010 – **Medieval Mayhem** at Mountain Meadow Recreation Complex, Lakeside, Arizona. <http://www.azmayhem.com/>

July 25, 2010 – **Duct Tape Dummies\*** - SWCG Workshop at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. Build a custom dress form using packing peanuts and the handyman's secret weapon. (See ducta-rerific article later in this issue.)

*For July – duct tape dummies - bring 3 big rolls of duct tape, 2 very tight t-shirts, cardboard for shoulders and hips, a bag of fiberfill, and coat hanger or equipment for making a stand. We have lots of peanuts for stuffing the forms.*

August 5, 2010 – Submissions Deadline for August Cactus Needles. Care to review a summer blockbuster movie from a costumer's point of view?

August 7, 2010, 1-3:45 PM – **Sunacosu Photography Demo** at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center, Rural Road & Southern in Tempe, AZ.

August 29, 2010 – **Pool Party\*** - SWCG Social at Chuck & Tasha's place. Our annual costume party by and in the pool. Theme to be announced.

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/>.

September 5, 2010 – Submissions Deadline for September Cactus Needles. Tell us about a good materials source.

September 11, 2010, 1PM – **SunaCosu Feather Wing Workshop** at the Pyle Adult Education Center, Southern & Rural in Tempe.

September 26, 2010 – **Fabric Swap\*** - SWCG meeting at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. Sure, that piece of fabric, notion, or tool seemed like a good idea at the time, but it's been sitting around for years. Maybe someone else has a better use for it. Maybe they have something you can use. Let's barter!

October 5, 2010 – Submissions Deadline for October Cactus Needles. What are your plans for Halloween?

October 23, 2010 – **State Fair Demo\***. From Lyn: "The Guild is scheduled for a whole day at the State Fair, on Saturday, October 23d (second weekend of the Fair). MaryEllen would appreciate us coming in costume to get more attention, and has promised a prime spot for us. Anyone also wanting to work on a project may do so. It is suggested that we do 4 hour shifts so no one has to stay all day. Parking (17th avenue entrance) and admission is free."

November 12-14, 2010 - **TusCon 37** at Hotel Tucson, 475 N. Granada in Tucson, Arizona. Guest of Honor is Jim Butcher, Author of the Harry Dresden and Codex Alera novels. <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/> or <http://www.tusconscificon.com/>.

November 20-21, 2010 – **Phoenix Faerie Festival** at Estrella Mountain Park in Goodyear, Arizona. <http://www.westerngatesfaerierealm.com/PhoenixFaerieFestival.htm>

December 11, 2010 – **Corsair Carnivale II: Raid on le Soiree** at 2915 W. Bell Road Phoenix. Pirate-themed ball for the benefit of Phoenix Children’s Hospital. <http://www.corsaircarnivale.com/>

January 6-9, 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. <https://www.mythoscon.org/>

January 13-15, 2012 – **DarkCon 2012** at the Grace Inn in Ahwatukee, Arizona. [www.darkcon.org](http://www.darkcon.org)

Spring, 2012 – **Costume-Con 30\*** “Sands of Time” Location and dates to be announced. <http://www.costumecon30.org/>



**Like “The Leatherstocking Tales,” but with Duct Tape**  
by Randall Whitlock

The “duct tape dummy” is a popular and useful item among costumers. The concept is simple. Have a friend wrap your body in several layers of duct tape over an old t-shirt or other expendable substrate, then cut an escape hatch through the back. Tape the shell back together and stuff it with packing peanuts to create a custom-shaped dresser dummy around which to fit your clothing projects. The Guild is planning a duct tape dummy making session for July 24. (See Calendar for location and materials list.)

*Left: Excellent example, of a duct tape dummy built by Frances Burns, Diane Harris and Tasha Cady. Frances described how to build the stand from plywood and common plastic plumbing parts in Cactus Needles 12.3, March 2005.*

A few years ago it occurred to me that this process could be applied further south. I’d seen something similar done by a custom boot maker at the Arizona Renaissance Festival.

I needed shoes for a medieval jester costume I was building for Halloween. The costume was to be particolored in alternating panels of black and white.

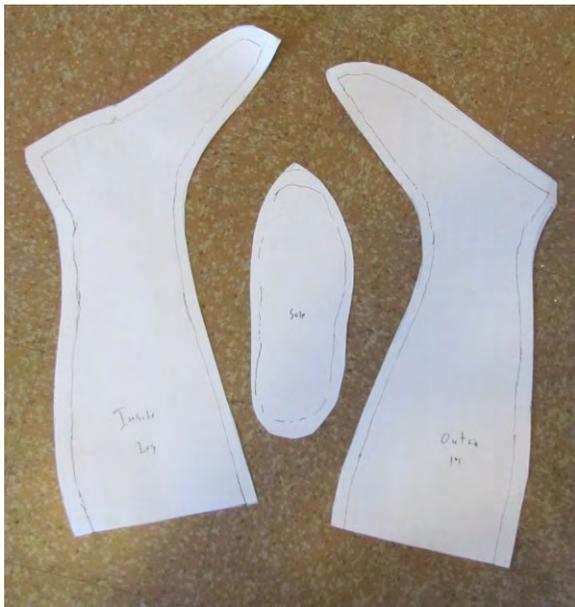


My inspiration for the shape of the boots was a pair of Minnetonka brand boot moccasins I had previously altered for renaissance faire use by removing the fringed cuffs, increasing the number of lace holes, and adding brass grommets to reinforce the new holes. The basic boots can be found in most western stores and many online sources.

I started by pulling a dollar-store nylon stocking over my right leg in proper Joe Namath fashion (You'll probably have to Wikipedia that joke if you're under forty).



This was to protect my leg from the tape's adhesive without adding too much thickness. I applied a couple of layers of duct tape all around my foot and lower leg up to just below the knee. The tape was applied closely, but not too tight. I wanted to mimic the shape of my leg, not change it.



I marked out lines around the sole of my foot, up the back of the leg, and down the shin to the toe. I cut along these lines with medical scissors, as though removing bandages.

The result was three pieces – a sole, an outer leg, and an inner leg. I immediately mashed these pieces flat against a sheet of cardboard and traced around them before the tape could shrink under its own tension.

I traced a half-inch seam allowance around each of the pattern pieces, smoothing the curves as I went along, and cut them out. The marked side is top for the right boot.

Since this costume was for Halloween parties and SCA courts, not serious outdoor wear, I made the boot pieces out of craft felt. Leather or sturdy canvas would be a better choice for longer-lasting boots.

My one concession for durability was to attach the rubber sole from a pair of dead house slippers by hand stitching. The left boot was made by flipping the right boot pieces over to form their mirror images.



The pieces were sewn together around the sole, along the back of the leg, and over the top of the foot. The upper front was left open. Eyelets were mounted and laces

installed along this closure. Cross garters around the outside of the boot would have worked as well.

This pattern is really more of a sock than a proper boot. A serious boot pattern would have a more sophisticated cut with a tongue and heel. (Try <http://www.yatahai.com/> for a variety of boot moccasin patterns.) This pattern does have several potential uses for SF and fantasy costumes, including those close-fitting boots worn by old-school comic book heroes. If the uppers were made of an adequately stretchy material, the front opening could be omitted. Foam insoles would help considerably against heel shock and other comfort issues. Reinforced outsoles might be made from thick leather, polymer sheeting, or prefabricated soles.

### **For Something Called “The MIM,” It Sure Makes a Lot of Sound**

#### **The Musical Instrument Museum**

**4725 East Mayo Boulevard, Phoenix, Arizona 85050**

<http://www.themim.org/>

Reviewed by Randall Whitlock



*According to reliable sources\*, the music center in Gotham City was robbed a few years ago. It must have really scared them, because the whole kit and kaboodle seems to have moved to Tatum and the 101.*

But seriously folks, I've kept an eye on construction of the MIM ever since I had a small hand in their land acquisition as a consultant a couple of years ago. The beautiful building with its natural sandstone face is now complete and the museum

opened up on April 24.

How do you display a bazillion musical instruments from all over the world without things getting really noisy? Radio technology. When you enter the museum, you're issued a belt clip receiver and a set of headphones. There is a video of musicians playing the instruments at each of the displays. Your receiver picks up the soundtrack as you approach.

The display rooms on the upper story are organized geographically, with a big room for each continent and instruments displayed country by country.



Costume connection? The costumes worn by the musicians are on display next to their instruments, often the same costume seen in the video.

The lower floor features an “Artist Room,” with instruments belonging to famous musicians. They have John Lennon's piano and guitars from Eric Clapton, Carlos Santana and Paul Simon. George Benson's Grammy and Platinum Record awards



are on display. There is a hands-on experience room as well, where you can experiment with a theremin, harps and a ginormous gong.

No music museum would be complete without a performance hall. Visit the web site for a calendar of upcoming performances.

\* *Batman: The Animated Series: Legends of the Dark Knight*

### **On the Web**

Richard Man has posted his photographs from Costume-Con 28 to <http://www.rfman.com/SF-and-Fantasy-Conventions/Costume-Con-28/>

Silicon Web Costumers Guild *Virtual Costumer* 8.1, has been released to the public at <http://www.siwcostumers.org/newsletterarchive/VirtCostV8-I1-2010.pdf>. A whopper at 38 pages, the issue features An Embellishing Experience - Leanne McWaters, Textile Mill Recreates Period Fabrics - Philip Gust, L.A. Fashion Confidential - Gail Wolfenden-Steib, Posing for the Camera - Jade Falcon, Flying with Costumes - Stacy Meyn, What Color is Your Repair Kit? - Kevin Roche, Interview: The Art of the Masquerade MC - Jennifer Wylie & Phil Foglio, Virtual Soapbox: Historical Costuming: Doing it Wrong On Purpose - Käthe Barrows (Carolyn Kayta)

### **From the Mailbox**

Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild *Finery* 8.3, May/June 2010 features Gailynne Bouret's costume review of the film "Bright Star," which is a biography of John Keats. Virginia Solomon's "Clothes Make the Man," summarizes Victorian/Edwardian gentlemen's clothing accessories. Yorkman Lowe lists the last remaining sources for detached shirt collars.

### **We're Incorporated!**

As of April 2, 2010, Southwest Costumers Guild is an Arizona Corporation!

Here are Treasurer Lyn's how-to notes on the incorporation process.

1. Go to Arizona Corporation Commission and pick up form for Articles of Incorporation ("Articles of Incorporation of a Non-Tax Exempt, pursuant to A.R.S Section 10-3202 (Arizona Non-Profit Corporation").
2. Type up Articles and fill in names in various places, edit and then edit again and again.
3. Get it in final form, and print three copies. Final includes B. Jean Palmer, Margaret Grady, Tasha Cady and Tina (Nyki) Robertson as incorporators, Ros Lyn Jeppesen as known place of business and as Statutory Agent, and Frances Burns as Incorporator. Signed and filed at the Arizona Corporation Commission on February 19, 2010, File No. 1582983-3. Articles approved on April 2, 2010, and published by Arizona Capitol Times on 4/16, 4/23 and 4/30, 2010. Annual report due 2/19/2011.

**Bylaws Committee Report**  
submitted by Margaret Grady

A subset of the committee met for Round One of the Bylaws discussion. Much progress was made, but we've not reached the final product yet. We've also discussed the need for a supplemental document, since it's not a good idea to have a lot of specifics in the Bylaws. Margie has proposed a number of topics that might be good to include in the Guidelines, and (at this writing) is awaiting feedback from the other committee members.

**Costume Con 30 Progress Report: Fun at CC28**  
from Elaine Mami, Chair

My entry for the Single Pattern contest was a blatant plug for CC30, and was well received. (*See link to Richard Man's pictures from the convention elsewhere in this issue – ed*)

Our table in the Dealers' Room featured decorations by Marg, and brought many people to look and ask questions. Our party in the con suite on Saturday night was a smash hit! We had lots of food, and a keg of root beer. We also had a Costumers' Yard Sale on the floor, and almost every scrap of donated fabrics and trims vanished, leaving about \$38. in their wake. We also raffled off a pine needle basket I had made, and earned another \$10. By the end of the Dead Costumer Party Monday night, we had sold about 30 memberships, roughly doubling our attending members and our treasury, which is AMAZING for 2 years out!! Nola, Gail & Jean gave out small Dreamcatchers as hall costume awards, along with our business cards, to encourage newer costumers to chase their costuming dreams.

Immediately after CC28, Jean took our flyers to LepreCon, and sold more memberships. Our flyer is available on the [www.costumecon30.com](http://www.costumecon30.com) page. Please feel free to copy it and take it to any cons or events you attend in the next 2 years. You can also leave them at bookstores, fabric stores, libraries, or anywhere you can think of. Also, visit the web site and see how it's growing. Feel free to leave comments, criticisms or suggestions there, too.

Our next major con is CopperCon, and I'm hoping to see many of you there in costume, either on-stage, backstage, or in hall costumes.

**Minutes of the May 22 SWCG Meeting**  
Respectfully submitted by Lyn Jeppesen

The workshop portion of the meeting began at 9:00 AM., conducted by our guest, Cindy Trail. She taught hands-on beading, finishing and applying the finished item to another item. She also taught the making of Indian Fry Bread, which with condiments, made Indian style tacos, and were served as our lunch. Mrs. Trail is a Probation Officer for Apache County, Arizona, and teaches children in her area the same coursework we enjoyed.

The meeting was attended by Frances Burns, B. Jean Palmer, Ros Lyn and David Jeppesen, Paula Lary, Mahala Sweebe, Margie Grady, Randall Whitlock, Cathy Yankovich, and Theresa and Mike Contos.

The Guild Meeting convened at 2:46 p.m. Margie Grady moved that the meeting minutes be posted to the web in the Files section of our “Guildsters” Yahoo Group. The motion passed with no objections.

Treasurer reported that the bank balance is \$2,932.36, reflecting \$100 donated to Costume Con30 as seed money, and \$172.28 in cash.

Lyn informed the group that the Bylaws Committee has a meeting scheduled for next Wednesday evening (May 28, 2010, 7:30 p.m.) at Denny’s at Thomas Road and I-17. That committee shall report before the newsletter deadline.

Costume- Con 30 (CC30) was discussed. It was reported that so far there are approximately 50 members, that the committee positions are filled, and that there are still staff openings.

Jean Palmer reported on Costume Con28 (CC28), where a couple of memberships in CC30 were sold, and that “some” memberships were sold at the recent LepreCon Convention. She “went, had fun, and sold memberships”. She will provide the program book to the CC30 committee as an example of what not to do for CC30. CC30 committee held a hosted party at LepreCon, and five memberships in CC30n were sold at LepreCon.

At 3:00 the meeting paused for the next step in making Indian Fry Bread, and we then had lunch of Indian Tacos on the Indian Fry Bread.

We reconvened business at 4:45 p.m., at which time Cindy demonstrated removing beading from looms and attaching them to fabric. The meeting and classes adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

### **Images from the May Workshop**

Photos by Randall Whitlock



Left: Cyndi’s novel method uses a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet to create beading patterns, such as this eagle.

Right: The beaded T-necklace is a traditional part of the physically grueling “Sunrise” rite of passage for young Apache women.



Left: Cathie's bead project is going well. Her beading loom uses a threaded rod to maintain consistent spacing of the threads. The looms built by Cyndi and her husband use coil springs to accomplish the same goal.

Right: The newest members of the Trail family were a big hit with the guildsters.

And here's Cyndi's celebrated **Fry Bread Recipe** (forgive any transcription errors – I can barely find the start button on my microwave):

5 cups flour (add more if dough is sticky)  
1 heaping teaspoon baking powder  
2 pinches salt  
1 tablespoon shortening  
water – hot to the touch, but not boiling  
½ teaspoon sugar  
Just enough oil to float the fry bread in a pan.

Mix to the texture of bread dough, knead, let rest for 15 minutes. Hand-roll dough into balls about 2/3 tennis ball size (racquetball?). Lightly flour the balls in a bowl. Let balls rest for 15 minutes. Pat balls out into tortillas about ¼ inch thick. Carefully drop the tortillas into boiling oil. Poke out the bubbles that form in the dough with a fork. Turn the bread once and remove when fried to a pleasant golden surface.

Top with honey and powdered sugar or jam for desert. Top with browned ground beef, refried beans, cheese, chopped tomatoes, lettuce and salsa for Navajo Tacos.

***Note: Cyndi is missing a white 3-ring binder, apparently left behind at Jean's place. If you were at the workshop, please check your kit to see if you might have gotten it mixed in with your own notes.***

**Report from Phoenix ComiCon**  
by Masquerade Director Nyki Robertson

Well, My Masquerade at ComiCon had 35 entrants, 5 of those at the Master level. Many thanks to my Den Mommies: Jean Palmer, Theresa Contos, Mari Fowler-Martin, Camille Terry, Heather Pasos, Jeanette Rabas, Wendy Trakes, and Tina Batt. I couldn't have done it without you, ladies! A special thanks to Nola Yergen-Jennings for coordinating the Craftsmanship Judges and keeping them on track. I don't think there's a better head judge out there!

There was much recruiting going on in the Green Room and after the Masquerade was over, with the result that at least 2 contestants asked for specific Guild information! YAY!

Just for the record the winner of Best of Show was entitled "The Demon Within" and was a wonderful nine-tail fox beast outfit. (Please reference, I think it is NARUTO, for full illustration and/or description). She also won best workmanship (journeyman) and best performance. (Hence the best of show!) Once again, a wonderful masquerade that would not have happened if not for the Guild!

*Editor's note: Yes, there is a nine-tailed demon fox in "Naruto." There's one in Pokemon too. Fox spirits (Kitsune) are a staple of Japanese folk tales and the modern fantasies derived from them. They're often portrayed with extra tails. See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kitsune> for more information.*

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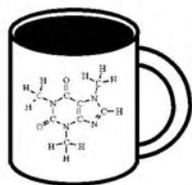


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Join the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society for the  
**CASFS Book Social.**

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

June 15, 2010 - "The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams

Join Douglas Adams's hapless hero Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc. Dent is grabbed from Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway.

July 20, 2010 - "Burning Alive" by Shannon Butcher

From Publisher's Weekly - "Helen Day encounters a man in a diner and is dismayed to realize she recognizes him from nightmares where he watches her burn to death. Drake, an ancient member of a dying race devoted to protecting humanity, feels a powerful attraction to Helen, which she returns despite her fear that the nightmare will come true. After demons attack them, Drake's determination to keep Helen safe is at odds with her haunting vision, leaving her wondering which to believe."

August 17, 2010 - "On Basilisk Station" by David Weber

First of Weber's popular "Honor Harrington" series of space military adventures, it's available as a free download from the Baen Free Library at [www.baen.com](http://www.baen.com).

September 21, 2010 - "Keeping It Real" by Justina Robson

From Booklist - "After the Quantum Bomb of 2015, Earth proper has coexisted with alternate dimensions peopled by elves, demons, elementals, faeries, and the dead. Government agent Lila Black was nearly killed by elves while on a diplomatic mission, and now she is mostly machine. She has been assigned to guard the legendary band the No-Shows, especially lead singer Zal, who's precisely opposed to every elf stereotype out there, first and foremost in his music. Lila becomes trapped with him in a game caused by wild magic and, in the process of protecting him, discovers some of the complicated plots swirling just under the surface of Alfheim, the elves' dimension. "

October 19, 2010 - "The Devil's Eye" by Jack McDevitt

4th of the Alex Benedict adventures. From Publisher's Weekly - "When famous horror writer Vicki Greene leaves antiques dealer Alex a desperate message and then voluntarily has her memory erased, he and his pilot companion, Chase Kolpath, follow clues literally to the end of the galaxy, where Vicky had been researching her next novel. Official threats and a kidnapping reveal a planet-threatening catastrophe, covered up for years by hapless bureaucrats.

November 16, 2010 - "Cordelia's Honor" by Lois McMaster Bujold

Comprised of two novels, "Shards of Honor" and the Hugo-winning "Barrayar." Explorer Captain Cordelia Naismith finds herself marooned alone on a strange planet with the commander of hostile forces. Adventure and romance ensue. In Randall's humble opinion, Cordelia is the character Captain Janeway should have been.

December 21, 2010 - "A Game of Thrones" by George RR Martin

From Amazon.com - Martin's Seven Kingdoms resemble England during the Wars of the Roses, with the Stark and Lannister families standing in for the Yorks and Lancasters. The story of these two families and their struggle to control the Iron Throne dominates the foreground; in the background is a huge, ancient wall marking the northern border, beyond which barbarians, ice vampires, and direwolves menace the south as years-long winter advances. Abroad, a dragon princess lives among horse nomads and dreams of fiery reconquest.

**Questions? Contact [Books@CASFS.org](mailto:Books@CASFS.org)  
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