



# Cactus Needles

Volume 17, Number 12 – December 2010

**Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504,  
Phoenix AZ 85069**

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

## Officer Contacts

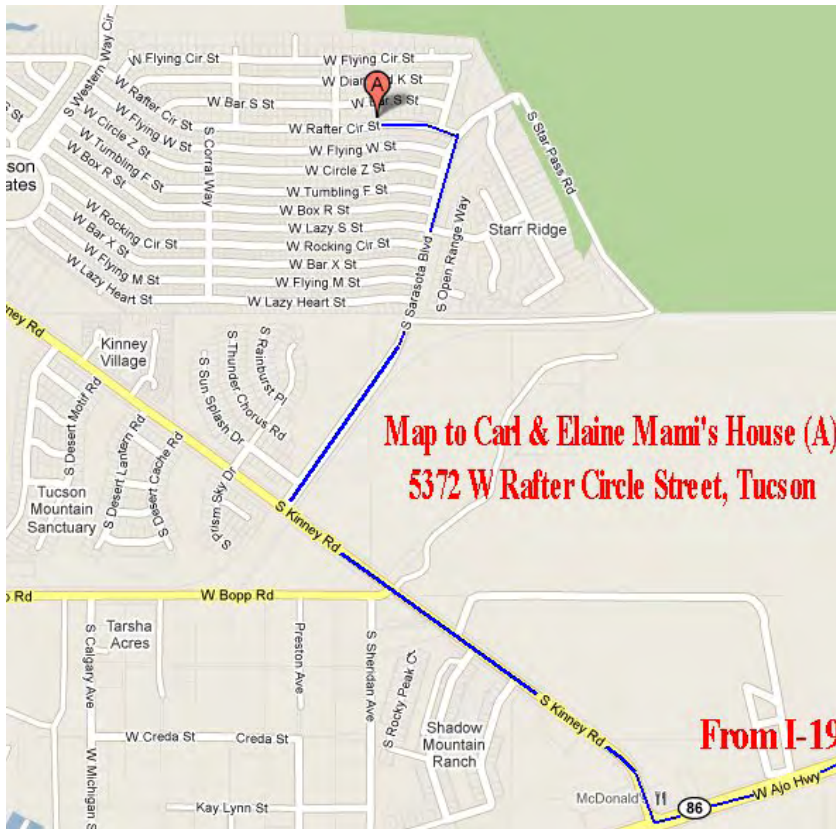
President Frances Burns  
Vice President Nyki Robertson  
Treasurer Ros Lyn Jeppesen  
Secretary Theresa Contos  
Editor/Webmonster Randall Whitlock  
Archivist Jean Palmer

[president@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:president@southwestcostumersguild.org)  
[vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org)  
[treasurer@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:treasurer@southwestcostumersguild.org)  
[secretary@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:secretary@southwestcostumersguild.org)  
[webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org)  
[archivist@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:archivist@southwestcostumersguild.org)

## 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.*

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.



**Map to Carl & Elaine Mami's House (A)  
5372 W Rafter Circle Street, Tucson**

**From I-19**

December 12, 1010 – **Holiday Potluck\*** at Elaine and Carl Mami's home at 5372 W Rafter Circle Street, Tucson (Call 520-344-9305 if lost) Holiday potluck celebration, \$10 Sneakret Santa, calendar planning, and annual officer elections.

Directions from Phoenix/ Casa Grande: You will go a few minutes south past the Congress/St Marys exit. Stay on the right and get onto **I-19**. There will be brown signs for Old Tucson Studios and other attractions from here to McDonald's. Take the first exit onto **Ajo (Hwy 86)**, and turn right (W) at the end of the ramp. Drive maybe 5 miles to **Kinney Rd.**

(McDonald's is on the right) and turn right. Take the first right onto **Sarasota** and head straight toward the mountain. The last street on the left (at the dead end sign) is **Rafter Circle**. Go left, and watch for the speed bumps. Immediately after the second bump turn right into our driveway or in front of the house. I have **dragons** along my front steps, and parking for at least 4 cars (really!).

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 22, 2011 - **Dillinger Days** at the Hotel Congress in Tucson, Arizona. See where 1930s public enemy John Dillinger and his gang were nabbed in Tucson, with historical reenactments. <http://www.hotelcongress.com/>

January 27, 2011 – **Phoenix Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival** at the Arizona State Fairgrounds, 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue & McDowell, Phoenix

February 12 thru April 3, 2011 (weekends plus prez day) – **Arizona Renaissance Festival** Highway 60 east of Gold Canyon, Arizona. <http://www.royalfaires.com/arizona/>

February 14-21, 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 22-27, 2011 – **Winter Range** at the Ben Avery Shooting Range, NWC I-17 & Carefree Highway north of Phoenix. Cowboy Action Shooting event with a fine sutlers' row. <http://www.winterrange.com/>

February 26 & 27, 2011 – **Matsuri: A Festival of Japan** at Heritage and Science Park in downtown Phoenix. <http://azmatsuri.org/>

February 26 & 27, 2011 – **Arizona Highland Games** at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix AZ. Admission \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors and military personnel, \$5 for children 5-15. <http://www.arizonascots.com/05games.shtml>

March 4-6, 2011 – **Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention** at Old Tucson Studios, Tucson, Arizona. Arizona's first steampunk convention. <http://wildwildwestcon.com/>

March 12-13, 2011 – **Tucson Festival of Books** on the University of Arizona campus in Tucson, Arizona. <http://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/>

March 17-20, 2011 – **National Festival of the West** at Westworld in Scottsdale. Features films, celebrity appearances, music, reenactors, merchants, chuckwagon cooks, mountain men and, of course, a costume contest. Adults \$14. <http://www.festivalofthewest.com/>

March 20, 2011, 10AM – **131<sup>st</sup> Railroad Silver Spike Festival** at the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N. Toole Avenue in Tucson, Arizona. Celebrate the coming of the railroad in 1880. <http://www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org/>

May 6-8, 2010 - **LepreCon 37** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona features guests John Picacio, Elizabeth Bear, Sarah Monette and Seanan McGuire. <http://www.leprecon.org/>.

September 2-5, 2011 – **CopperCon 31** at the Hilton Garden Inn, 11460 W. Hilton Way, Avondale, Arizona. Guests include Carrie Vaughn, Adam Niswander and Janni Lee Simner. Costume Parade on Saturday and Danse Macabre masked ball on Sunday. <http://www.coppercon.org/>

January 13-15, 2012 – **DarkCon 2012**. [www.darkcon.org](http://www.darkcon.org)

May 11-13, 2012 – **Costume-Con 30\*** “Sands of Time” at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona. <http://www.costumecon30.org/>

**The Mini-Time Machine Museum of Miniatures**

**4455 E. Camp Lowell Drive, Tucson, AZ 85712**

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

Reviewed by Jean Palmer

On Friday, November 12, 2010 Anna Caggiano, Elaine Mami, & I went to the Mini-Museum. (We were in Tucson for TusCon.) We were at the museum for about 3 hours and did not feel that we had seen it all!

The Mini-Time Machine Museum of Miniatures is a 15,560 sq ft state-of-the-art museum displaying an entertaining and interactive array of antique and contemporary miniatures as well as enchanting artifacts.

It is a Magical place with a resident fairy, Caitlin. We were transported to different lands and times, both real and imagined, through the history and stories of the miniatures in this collection.

There are over 200 houses and room boxes, a wide variety of miniatures from other countries and cultures depicted life from the 1400s to current times.

The History Gallery = antique miniatures from 1700s through the mid 1900s. Not only houses, but clothing/costumes.

The Enchanted Realm holds special appeal for children and the young at heart with Fantasy based miniatures and collectibles.

A Witches Complex, a Fairy Castle, a Snow Village Under Glass, and an Enchanted Tree with fairies and mice in cozy little houses in the tree's base are among the wonders seen.

Next time I'm in Tucson I plan to go again! Such a variety of garb!

*From Elaine Mami: “I would only add the need for comfortable shoes and a flashlight! The exhibits are so small that you really need the flashlights to see them well. The various sections flow well into each other. We began with the historical section, and ended in the Fantasy Realm. It worked very well. The gift shop has a nice selection of goodies, and I will shop there next time I go.”*

## Impressions from TusCon 37

TusCon 37, held November 12-14, 2010, was plenty busy for SWCG. We gathered at the “Meet the Groups” event on Saturday afternoon. Back: Nykki, Anna, Jean, Rebecca, Randall. Front: Lyn, David. Photo by Mike Contos.



New member Daphne formally joined up at the event, after originally making contact online.



We donated some prizes to the masquerade. Jimmy Garcia’s steampunk cyborg, seen here with Anna, won our blue velvet cape while Rebecca was awarded a membership in SWCG.

Randall took a moment to pose with Archimedes the owl.



The evening concluded with an intimate room party to promote Costume-Con 30, where we got to schmooze with fan guests of honor, John and Bjo Trimble.

## SWCG Meeting Minutes November 21, 2010

Reported by Lyn Jeppesen, Treasurer

Hatmaking at Laurie Taylor's, in attendance were (of course Laurie Taylor), Frances Burns, Jean Palmer, Paula Lary, Tasha Cady, Randall, Diane Harris, and myself.

Treasurer's report: \$3,072.36 in bank account; \$268 cash on hand.

Margie is going to LosCon and needs CC30 membership forms.

Mahala's husband is in hospital.

Randall requested that Guild purchase it's own web space. The recommended committee is Mike Cassidy, Margie, Mike Contos, Lyn and Randall. *(I suggested this to make SWCG independent of my personal web accounts, in case I get hit by another meteorite or something -- Randall)*

New color bookmarks for Guild recommended, and Randall was appointed as Committee.



Meeting adjourned at 1:20.

Workshop consisted of making 1940 style flat hats, which can be adapted for any period. Required materials are buckram and hat wire plus whatever you want for embellishment. Wire is available at millinery shops, also try Hobby Lobby and Judith M. Hat wire always comes coiled, which helps as the hat base is basically round. Side Note: Randall reported that Amazon Dry Goods (former source of hat wire) is out of business.

*Laurie is seen with a fine feathery, floral and fruity example of her "One-Hour 1940s Hat."*  
*Photo by Randall.*

### On the Web

Silicon Web Costumers Guild *Virtual Costumer* 8.2, August 2010 is a whopper of an issue, running 60 pages. Says Editor Phil Gust, "This 'between the wars' issue has articles on Egyptomania, Vionnet, ErtÅ©, the evolution of the bra, ICG Lifetime Achievement winners, and how-to's on shoes and hats of the 1920's and 30's, and much more." <http://www.SiWCostumers.org> and select Virtual Costumer, then Current Issue. Choose Volume 8 issue 3.

*Little Dresses For Africa.* According to their web page, "Changing lives one little dress at a time. Little Dresses for Africa is a non-profit 501C3 Christian based organization which provides relief to the children of Africa. Simple dresses are made out of pillow cases and distributed

through the orphanages, churches and schools in Africa to plant in the hearts of little girls that they are *worthy*.”

Links to the pattern for the pillow case dress and boys’ shorts are provided on the site, as well as directions on how to donate. <http://www.littledressesforafrica.org/blog/> (found by Stephanie.)

### **Word Postcard from Lyn and David**

We arrived at Sea-Tac airport a week ago last Monday, just in time for the first snow storm of the winter; it followed us down I-5 to Tacoma and left everything under a blanket of white. Yes, we did miss the desert! It took 3 hours to drive the 45 miles from the airport to our son's home in Tacoma (usually 45 minutes or less). We had taken all our "warm" clothes with us, and they did not suffice. We had a very snug room at their house and slept comfortably and warm. The whole family joined us there for Thanksgiving, including our nephew and his new partner. In the 8 days we were there we were cold every day, through sunshine and clouds, no matter what. Our desert acrylic "winter" clothes don't come close to dealing with that kind of weather, and we probably will resist any future invitations for a winter trip north. It's wonderful to be home.

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