



# Cactus Needles

Volume 18, Number 12 – December 2011

Southwest Costumers Guild,  
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<http://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.*

Beginning November 25& 26, 2011 – **Glendale Glitters** on the Glendale town square. Street fair features trees and buildings decorated with holiday lights. Lights go on at 5PM nightly through January 14, 2012 with the fair on Friday and Saturday evenings. Special weekend events include Dec 2&3 – Glendale’s Spirit of Giving Weekend, Dec 9 & 10 – Glendale’s Winter Wonderland Weekend, Dec 16&17 – Glendale’s Jingle Bell Rockin’ Nights.  
<http://www.glendaleaz.com/events>



December 2, 3, 8, 9 (7:30 PM) and December 4, 10 (2:00 PM) – Mesa Community College Theatre Arts & Film Present “**The Infernal Machine**” by Jean Cocteau (Think Greek mythology with a steampunk twist.) at Theatre Outback on the MCC Campus.  
<http://www.ezticketlive.com/mcc> for ticket information.

December 10, 2011, 6PM – **Tempe Fantasy of Light Boat Parade** on Tempe Town Lake  
<http://www.millavenue.com/events/fantasyoflights>

December 11, 2011 12PM - **Wonderflex – This Time Fer Sure\*** SWCG Workshop and potluck luncheon at Jean’s place in Sun City. Learn to work with “Wonderflex” and other shapeable materials. Also Calendar planning for 2012. Bring a lunchtime dish to share.

December 14, 2011, 11 AM – **Arizona Costume Institute Holiday Luncheon** at the Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix. Gather with the valley's fashion enthusiasts' for this glamorous and entertaining annual luncheon featuring special guest Lisa Immordino Vreeland, author of “Diana Vreeland: The Eye Has to Travel.” Purchase tix at <https://tickets.phxart.org/public/default.asp>

January 7-8, 2012 – **Riverside Dickens Festival** at Riverside Convention Center and Plaza, 3443 Orange Street, Riverside CA. Celebrate Charles Dickens' 200<sup>th</sup> birthday! <http://www.dickensfest.com/>

January 13-15, 2012 – **DarkCon 2012** features steampunk poker party, costuming, gaming, LARPs and craft classes. Guests include author Jacqueline Carey, actors Doug Jones and Meg Foster and game professionals Ruth Thompson, Bill Myer, John Wick and Ken St Andre. [www.darkcon.org](http://www.darkcon.org)

January 26-28, 2012 – **Phoenix Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival** at the Arizona State Fairgrounds (NEC 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue & McDowell Road in Phoenix) <http://www.quiltcraftsew.com/>

February 3-5, 2012 – **Two Rivers Renaissance Faire** (Pirates and Faeries too!) at West Wetlands Park in Yuma, Arizona. <http://tworiversfaire.com/>

February 10-12, 17-19 – **A Midsummer Night's Dream** at Grand Canyon University's Ethington Theatre. <http://www.gcu.edu/Upcoming-Events/The-Arts/A-Midsummer-Nights-Dream-Feb-10-thru-19.php> for performance times and ticket information, e-mail <mailto:ethington@gcu.edu> or call 602.639.8880. The play is costumed by our own Nola Yergen.

*From Jean, “Anyone who has the time & inclination is welcome to come to the Costume Shop (Bldg 18) on campus to assist—please contact Nola if/when you can come as her hours vary.”*

February 25-26, 2012 – **Vul-Con** gaming convention at the Phoenix Convention Center. <http://www.vul-con.com/>

April 6-8, 2011 - **LepreCon 38** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona features guests Franchesco and Joe Haldeman. <http://www.leprecon.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 Future Fashion Folio went out in November. If you are a convention member, you should have received an e-mail with a link and password to download this collection of costume designs by our contestants.*

May 11-13, 2012 – **KimeraCon** anime & gaming convention. at the Phoenix Marriott Mesa in Mesa, Arizona. <http://www.kimeracon.com/>

August 31-September 3, 2012 – **CopperCon 32**, “Year of the Dragon,” features guest author/game designer Ari Marmell. <http://www.coppercon.org/>

## Silk Painting in November

We gathered at the Everheart compound in Gilbert on November 6, 2011, where we learned the basics of silk painting with fiber reactive dyes. A fun time was had by all. Photos by Randall.



Left: Our instructor, Lorena.



### From the Mailbox

Costumer's Guild West Squeals from da Ghodfuzzy 27.3, November 2011. On the cover are Carrie Hayward & Patrick Johnson's Disney theme park-inspired costumes. Sept 2011 BOD meeting minutes. President Colleen Crosby reviews the Member Appreciation Picnic. Tonya Clevenger on the 1920s Flapper image. Inset calendar. Aunt Alys Advises on LosCon 38 Masquerade, Anime Los Angeles. Emily Taggart Schricker

reviews Harper's Bazaar's issue on 1940s fashion. Updates on Costume College 2012, including a scholarship application. Upcoming events.

International Costume Guild ICG Newsletter November-December 2011 features a spread of Richard Man's photos from this year's WorldCon masquerade in Reno with narrative by Patrick O'Connor and a special guest photo from our own Mike Contos. If you are an ICG member, you should have received an e-mail with link and password to the issue, or a hard copy if you are internet-challenged.

### **On the Web**

Silicon Web Costumers Guild Virtual Costumer 9.3. From Editor Phil Gust: "Explore the influence of Eastern Clothing on the West from Samurai Films to Bollywood and beyond. Articles on Philippine Dance Attire, Belly Dance Costuming, and Chairman Mao, with the added plus of Virtual Postcards from WorldCon Renovation. To read this issue go to <http://www.siwcostumers.org/> and select "Virtual Costumer," then "Current Issue." Choose Community Issue Volume 9 issue 3. Enjoy!"

Check out the brand new Southwest Costumers Guild web site at <http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>. Okay, it looks a lot like the old site now, but we are now hosted by iPower.com. If you have any bookmarks that point specifically to the old site on cox.net, please update them. Our new host allows for real pop3 e-mail accounts and unlimited server space. We now have room to post all of the back issues of Cactus Needles and metric ton of pictures. Look for upgrades in the near future.



### **Nola Competes to Crash the Superbowl!** **The Chips Are All In!**

This was for a commercial I was involved in for the Doritos "Crash the Superbowl Contest."

Info at: <http://crashthesuperbowl.com>

I had three days to make this. We filmed it in one day. We will be submitting it to the contest on Nov 21. I will post a link to the commercial for everyone to vote on as soon as it is up. The actress is Leslie Wall. -Nola

### **Phoenix Fireland Faerie Festival**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Phoenix Fireland Faerie Festival was held on November 19 and 20, 2011 at Estrella Mountain Park in Goodyear, AZ. This is a gathering of performers and artists with a theme of faeries of all kinds. There were pony rides (real and wooden), arts and crafts booths, a goblin market of cunningly arranged junk and musical and acrobatic performances. Your editor was particularly impressed by aerialist Lindsey Green who seemed to defy gravity using only her grace and a vertical pole. If they ever get around to making a "Stardance" movie, she should be cast as Shara. Costumes were everywhere, both on the professional performers and casual attendees. Guildsters around

the fair included Lynn tending her October Art trade booth, Samantha in dark faerie garb, Anna as the Autumn Fairy and Randall in an antique pinstriped suit, fedora and wings as “da Fairy Godfather.” (Almost as fuzzy as the CGW mascot.)



### **CASFS Book Social List for First Half 2012**

In his other secret identity, your editor coordinates the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society’s monthly book social. We get together for a couple of hours at 6:30 PM on the third Tuesday of each month to socialize around a discussion of a selected SF or Fantasy book. Books are selected based on member feedback half a year in advance to allow for adequate reading time. Since Bookman’s just closed the community room for remodeling, our new home is the Glendale Public Library at 5959 West Brown Street, Glendale, Arizona (SWC 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Brown, north of Olive Avenue. Come join us and get literary!

Here’s the book list for the next few months:

December 20, 2011 – Mystic and Rider by Sharon Shinn  
January 17, 2012\* – After the Golden Age by Carrie Vaughn  
February 21, 2012 – The Eyre Affair by Jasper Fforde  
March 20, 2012 – Going Postal by Terry Pratchett  
April 17, 2012 – Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury  
May 15, 2012 – Journey to the Center of the Earth by Jules Verne  
June 19, 2012 – I, Robot by Isaac Asimov

\*I couldn’t reserve a meeting room for January. This meeting will be at a member’s home. Contact your editor for directions.

### **Victorian Fantasy Fashion Show**

Described and Photographed by Mike Contos

Before I begin my review of the Victorian Fantasy Fashion Show that was held in conjunction with Steampunk Street III on 11/11/11 I’d like to thank the OneOhOne Galley for hosting and Evermore Nevermore for providing the creative and guiding spirit behind the Steampunk Street events.

I'd also like to express my condolences to the owners of Evermore Nevermore over the decision to close their shop, downtown Mesa will never be the same.



A Steampunk/Victorian fashion show what a capital idea!

Held in the back of the OneOhOne art gallery, the fashion show was presented to an audience that overflowed the available seating space and flowed out into the main gallery. The show was well received by the audience who was greatly appreciative of all of the sartorial effort presented by the evening's "models."



On the technical side the venue left a bit to be desired. The physical limitations of the space restricted the models to walking along a wall stopping at one end and then returning. The audience was seated about 6 deep and was closely packed so that for many visibility was problematic, again, this was dictated by the limitations imposed by the venue. On the positive side ambient lighting and no stage allowed for flash photography, and I must confess some measure of jealousy at the audience turnout compared to what I've seen at local cons in the recent past.

I have come to the conclusion, after having seen a few Masquerades at various local cons and at 2 WorldCons , that If your goal is to present a

costumed talent contest then the traditional masquerade format is the way to go and if you want to show off your creation in a manner that the audience can gain a close appreciation of your efforts then a fashion show layout similar to what was used at CopperCon 31 would be more suitable.

Photography/videography at either event/layout can be a bit of a challenge, although providing photographic opportunities before or after the event in a designated area seems to be the most effective way to address the needs of photographers.



Altogether a most enjoyable experience and it was the highlight of my first Steampunk Street.

Let us hope despite the closure of Evermore Nevermore there will be more events like this held during future Second Fridays in Mesa, AZ.

You can see my photos of this event at:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/40438868@N00/sets/72157628299525513/>

### Copyright Statement

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The Best Little SciFi, Fantasy, Horror Con in Arizona

# TUSCON 39

November 9 - 11, 2012

**Guest of Honor**

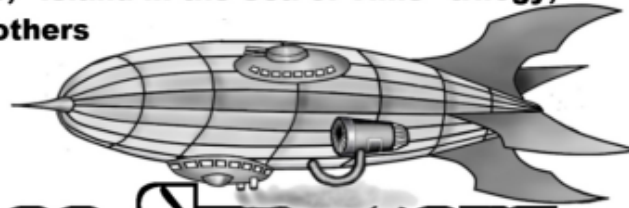
**S. M. Stirling**

Author of The Peshawar Lancers, The General Series,  
The Emberverser series, "Island in the Sea of Time" trilogy,  
Draka series, & many others

**Fan Guest**

**David Lee Summers**

Author of Owl Dance, The Solar Sea, The Pirates of Sufiro,  
Children of the Old Stars, The Slayers & Others



**at Hotel Tucson CityCenter in Tucson, Arizona.**

**Special Con Rates:** Per night rates are \$69 (studio room),  
\$79 (2-room suite or kitchenette) & \$89 for a Jacuzzi suite.

Go to [tusconscificon.com](http://tusconscificon.com) on how to get these rates.

**Memberships:** \$40 through 3/31, \$45 through 10/31, and \$50  
hereafter and at the door. One-days: \$20/35/15 for Fri/Sat/Sun.  
Children (ages 3-12) are 1/2 current adult rates.

**Authors, Artists, Art Show, Computer Gaming, Video Room  
Dealers Room, Readings, Panels, Masquerade**

{ **Special Steampunk Panels Saturday** }  
Masquerade Categories include:  
SciFi, Fantasy, Horror & Steampunk

**Visit Website [tusconscificon.com](http://tusconscificon.com)**



*I will be setting up a 5 hour block on Sat for steampunk panels and I am adding a Steampunk category to the costume contest. I am trying to promote this as much as possible -- Rebecca*