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From the Editor

It's the End of the World as We Know it and I Feel Fine

Welcome back to Cactus Needles for 2012. I'm Randall, your editor and dog-walker for the year, assuming those Mayan calendar guys are wrong.

There are about three active chapter newsletters in the ICG and I want to keep Cactus Needles in the top five. That means we want content, lots of it and on time. That means I'd like you to keep your eyes open. There is costumer news all around – stores to review, museums and web sites to visit, events to attend, stuff to make, books and magazines to read, films to watch and opinions to cast. Life moves fast. Carry a camera.

Please get your submissions to me by the 5th of the month for publication by the 10th. Text can be submitted as word processing files (.doc preferred), or in the body of an e-mail (editor@southwestcostumersguild.org). I can take hard copy too if that's what you have. A one-sentence lead may be all that's needed for simple stories.

Style Manual - Keep it simple. It's easier to make the newsletter's appearance consistent if you let me choose where the bolds and underlines and italics go. When in doubt, look at a back issue for subtle things like the way I use periods to separate the phrases of a phone number, no spaces or periods in time notations (10:30PM), italics for block quotes, etc. (No, I'm not completely consistent.) Web links must begin with <http://> or [www.](http://www) to be automatically converted to hot links.

If the newsletter goes more than 10 pages, it costs an extra stamp to mail, so minimizing white space is a good thing. Bullet lists with one or two words per line look great in a PowerPoint presentation, but they are space hogs in a 'zine.

I'm proud to say the calendar has grown huge in recent months. It goes nearly five pages this issue. That's a bit long for headline material so I'm moving it to the back of the 'zine. The calendar is a big boy now and deserves its own room.

Membership dues are due at the January meeting. I'll be purging the e-mail list as soon as our treasurer finishes sorting the paperwork. There are some addresses on my list for people I haven't heard from in years. You should be receiving e-mail Cactus Needles if you are an active SWCG member, an out-of-town retired officer, our designated contact with another ICG chapter, the editor of a swappable newsletter, or a frequent contributor of newsletter content. Everyone else is free to read the newsletter on our web site a couple of weeks after the members.

Web site status: After the bug-out move to our new host in November, work to upgrade the SWCG web site (<http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>) to take advantage of its now-unlimited storage space continues. Stephanie sent me the 48 issues from her tenure as editor and I borrowed Jean's bound volumes of the hard copy Cactus Needles issues from the 1990s. I will be scanning and uploading these over the next few weeks. All of the digital Cactus Needles issues (1999-2011) are now posted to the Back Issues page with a brief list of their feature articles next to each link. Take a look at what Cactus Needles looked like a few years ago.



Wonderflex in December

For our December guildac, Tasha demonstrated "Wonderflex," a remarkable material consisting of a thermoplastic incorporated into a fiber matting. The material is "activated" by soaking in warm water, after which it can be shaped with finger pressure until it cools and will adhere to itself if pressed together. When set and dry, it can be painted or textured. Tasha created a melty Statue of Liberty-like tiara and a twisty flower brooch as demo projects while other members experimented with their own projects

From the Mailbox

Costumer's Guild West Squeals from da Ghodfuzzy 27.4 – December 2011. The cover features Yuly Springer's reproduction of Marilyn Monroe's saloon gal dress from "River of No Return." Diane Yoshitomi reviews the CGW faux funeral at Heritage Square. Chaz reviews the 1920s-themed bid party at LosCon. Patt Kopp reviews the British "Vintage Life" magazine. Daniel Destler launches his new book review column, "Review Mode." Aunt Alys Advises on small-scale storage with rolling drawers. Jess Miller calls for volunteers for the upcoming Anime Los Angeles costume repair station. Dean's, Registrar, Hotel Liason notes for Costume College. President's message. Lots of upcoming events! Editor Chaz seeks a successor for when his term ends in August (big shoes to fill).

Randall passes around the shared newsletters at SWCG meetings.

On the Web

Just Glue Some Gears On It and Call It Steampunk. Hilarious music video by “Sir Reginald Pikedevan, Esq.” lampoons eBay merchants who don’t try very hard. The bridge of the song contains one of the clearest definitions of Steampunk literature I’ve yet heard. http://scifi.icanhascheezburger.com/2011/12/09/sci-fi-fantasy-just-glue-some-gears-on-it/?utm_source=trans&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=transglobal

Teslacon: 20,000 Leagues Beneath the Aether. Videos from the recent TeslaCon 2 in Madison, Wisconsin found by Mike C. A general look around the con: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2knK8OggHg&feature=colike>
Masquerade: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCroABX84HQ&feature=colike>

Vogue Magazine has placed its full archive of articles and photos back to 1892 online on a membership-only site. If you have to ask the price, you can’t afford it. (\$1,575.00 per year). Apparently the subscription program is meant more for libraries and museums. <http://www.vogue.com/archive> Found by Elaine M.

What’s a “Costume-Con?”

by Randall Whitlock

This was written for my irregular column in “Connotations.” It’s familiar ground for most Cactus Needles readers.

These days there are special conventions for all manner of interests within fandom, such as Animé, Star Trek, or gaming. For nearly thirty years those of us who design, make, wear, photograph or just appreciate costumes have had our own playground, known as Costume-Con.

Costume-Con (CC for short) is the brainchild of Karen Dick, Kelly Turner and Adrienne Martine-Barnes. After a particularly successful masquerade and costume programming at the 1981 WorldCon, it seemed the time had come for a whole weekend dedicated to the costume arts. A year and a half later, the first CC was held at the Bahia Hotel & Restaurant in Mission Bay, California on January 14-16, 1983. 28 more CCs have followed at approximately one-year intervals.

Costume-Con’s “ConStitution” is modeled after that of WesterCon. It is a traveling convention, held in a different place each year. Local organizations, often chapters of the International Costume Guild, who wish to host the convention place bids and members of the current convention vote for where it will be held three years hence.

What do you see at CC? There are costume-encouraged social mixers where costumers meet and greet who may have been corresponding for years, or may have just heard of the whole costuming hobby. There are hands-on workshops and demonstrations of costuming techniques and fields of interest. There are museum-like displays of particularly well-done and well known costumes, usually presented on as many mannequins as the organizers can borrow. The International Costume Guild usually holds its annual meeting sometime early in the convention

Most of all, there are Masquerades!

The Fantasy and Science Fiction Masquerade is the concept most familiar to the fan on the street. Much like the masquerades at local, regional and international conventions, costumers present their fantastical creations on-stage to the accompaniment of as much sound, light and other tech support the organizers can muster. Expect to see the finest of the craft here, on a par with any WorldCon.

The Historical Masquerade is dedicated to those who have painstakingly re-created clothing from the past.

The Future Fashion Show is unique to Costume-Con. Months in advance of the convention, its members are challenged to design clothing for an imagined future or alternate world, or perhaps to clothe a nonhuman model. The designs are gathered into the Future Fashion Folio, which is distributed to the pre-registered members of the convention. Members (who may or may not be the original designers) then choose among the designs, build one, and present it on a fashion show runway at the convention. Imagination runs wild.

For the Single-Pattern Contest, one to three readily available commercial sewing patterns are chosen in advance and contestants are challenged to create something special around them.

Additionally, each CC may have its own special contests and events. The upcoming CC30, for example, will present “CC Runway,” a fashion design competition inspired by the popular “Project Runway” television show, and a Video Masquerade Film Festival in which persons who may not be able to attend in person are invited to submit videos of their costume work. The more popular of these special competitions may become fixtures at later CCs. Doll contests and quilt contests are now part of the standard.

So why talk about Costume-Con now, when it’s been going on for three decades? Because it’s coming HERE! Costume-Con 30 will be held May 11-14, 2012 at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel at 5th Street & Mill Avenue in Tempe, Arizona.

Says Chair Elaine Mami,

“This is the first time that Costume-Con has been held in Arizona. We will be having all of the major competitions that have become traditional - the Science Fiction/Fantasy Masquerade, the Historical Masquerade, the Future Fashion Show and the Single Pattern Contest. We also will be having a doll competition and a quilt competition, as well as an exhibition of many past costumes. As if that weren't enough, we have added some new and interesting events that have not been done before. We urge you to go to our web site and check out all the ways you can have fun with your clothes on - LOTS of clothes!!”

Your loyal author does not travel much, so I’ve been to only one prior Costume-Con. The experience made quite an impression and led me to write this humorous bullet list:

You know you're at Costume-Con When:

- You don't recognize any of the faces yet, but you know you're in the right place by pure body language.
- Mundane passersby ask what you're dressed up for when you're still in your travel clothes (This really happened!).
- Her bust line is clearly enhanced, but you're not so sure about his.
- You use the hotel's free wifi to order the Victorian reproduction eyeglasses a newly-met friend showed you in the consuite.
- You go into your "These are not the droids you're looking for" picture pose automatically when a camera is near.
- You have to figure out how to put a felt hat blank into your return luggage without crushing it.
- You learn the hotel has a good pool and regret not packing your Orca costume.
- You don't have to explain anything you're wearing, but you WANT to.
- Did I forget to pack my top hat?

Online References:

The Costume-Con 30 web site at <http://costumecon30.com/> gives all the details about this year's convention. (Don't go to cc30.com – It's the web page for a middle school somewhere in Asia.)

Costume ConNectons at <http://www.costume-con.org/> is the web site dedicated to the history of CC. Featured pages include The Genesis and Evolution of Costume-Con, where Karen Dick and Betsy R. Delaney tell the story of the first CC and its ancestor that never was, Costume-Mania. <http://www.costume-con.org/genesis.shtml>. The site also features the Costume-Con Visual Archive with competition entries and awards photo albums from all of the past CCs.

<http://www.costume-con.com/> is a general information page about CCs and what contacts to make if you'd like to organize one. The page doesn't appear to have been updated for a while. Go to the CC30 page referenced above for the latest info.

See the July, 2006 issue of Cactus Needles, newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild, at <http://southwestcostumersguild.org/backish/cactusneedles0607.pdf> for the author's impressions from his first Costume-Con.

Southwest Costumer's Guild Business Meeting, December 11, 2011

Recorded by Theresa Contos

The meeting started at 1:30. The first order of business was nominations of officers for the coming year. The slate is as follows: president Frances, Treasurer Lynn, vice president Diane, secretary Tasha. Voting will take place at the next meeting on January 22nd. This meeting will be at Jean's house. Alternate location, if necessary, will be Tasha's house.

The Treasurer, Lynn, reported the current bank balance. Remember, dues are due in January.

There was no Secretary's report. Nothing new.

The Webmaster reports we are now moved to iPower.com after Cox unexpectedly stopped offering personal web page hosting. He will turn in his receipts in January. With the new setup e-mail boxes will be available to members for guild-related business.

The newsletter: Randall may recycle some How-to's from old Cactus Needles. He needs articles. Reviews of events and movies attended by members would be welcome, as well as store reviews. Randall will need paper and toner. He still mails out 5 hard copies of the newsletter to members and allied organizations.

The archivist needs help with sorting our records.

Old Business: The person Randall had talked with about becoming a sister organization to us was Costumers' Guild West newsletter editor Chaz Boston Baden. His official e-mail address is cgwsqueals@gmail.com.

New Business: Some members are planning on attending the Riverside Dickens Festival in CA the second Saturday of January to promote CC30.

The possibility of us putting together Hall Costume Awards for CC30 came up. It has not been decided upon for sure. More discussion at next meeting on this.

A CostumeCon 30 update followed.

Announcements: Theresa told the group about the collection of hats she found for sale at the Antique Mall on Main Street in Mesa (across from the former location of Evermore Nevermore). The owner has acquired 60 hats from an estate. Some which would be suitable for Steampunk and other costumes. Mahala asked for flyers for distribution at a Quilt shop grand opening.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm.

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.*

January 6-8, 2012 – **Amazing Arizona Comic Con** at the Mesa Convention Center, in downtown Mesa, Arizona. <http://amazingarizonacomicon.com/>

January 6-8, 2012 – **Taiyou Con** animé convention at the Hilton Phoenix East/Mesa Hotel in Mesa AZ. <http://taiyoucon.com/>

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

January 11, 2012, 12:30 PM – **Searching for Beauty: The Life of Millicent Rogers** at the Phoenix Art Museum. Author Cherie Burns will discuss the legendary Standard Oil heiress and fashion icon who lived the high life in the first half of the twentieth century. Included with Museum admission. For optional luncheon, call (602)

January 13-15, 2012 – **DarkCon 2012** features steampunk poker party, costuming, gaming, LARPs and craft classes. Guests include author Jacqueline Carey, actors Doug Jones (Abe Sapien, Silver Surfer), Ernie Hudson (Ghostbuster Winston Zedmore) and Meg Foster (Hera from Hercules & Xena) and game professionals Ruth Thompson, Bill Myer, John Wick and Ken St Andre. www.darkcon.org

January 13-14, 2012 – **Bright Lights of Broadway Gala** Fundraiser for Theater Works at 8355 W. Peoria Avenue, Peoria AZ. www.theaterworks.org

Get ready for a trip to Broadway – but this time you don't have to pay for the airfare or hotel accommodations. **Theater Works** is pleased to announce our 2011/2012 **Bright Lights of Broadway Gala**. Our recent growth as your Northwest Valley Theater has caused our Gala to become a weekend event. On Friday night, January 13th we will celebrate our Theater Works Youth Works Programming and on Saturday night January 14, 2012 we celebrate our Theater Works Master Works Programming. This is destined to be yet another fantastic fundraising extravaganza that will have you and your guests smiling for months to come.

You will want to join the fun dressed in your finest Broadway attire, or dressed as your favorite Broadway Performer. Either way, get ready to have a lot of fun – and just as importantly, do a lot of good supporting the programming at your Theater Works.

This event will:

- Support Theater Works Youth Works programming in the West Valley
- Provide Youth Camp and workshop scholarships that will be allocated to deserving West Valley Youth who otherwise would not likely be able to experience quality performing arts and all of the education and development that is included in our theatrical experiences.
- Be “The Event” in the West Valley for 2012.

January 13, 2012 – **Film Fest on Main** Mesa Second Friday Night Out event on Main street in downtown Mesa. <http://www.2ndfridaynightout.com/>



January 18, 2012, 7 PM – **Gypset Style** at the Phoenix Art Museum. Author Julia Chaplin discusses how the work of Giorgio di Sant' Angelo figures into her recent book on the precedents for and lifestyles of "gypsy-jetsetters" - artists, surfers, designers who live unconventional lives as "high-low cultural nomads."

January 20-February 19 (Thursdays and weekends) – **The Dixie Swim Club** at Theater Works, 8355 W. Peoria Avenue, Peoria AZ. www.theaterworks.org

January 22, 2012 – **Calendar Crunching*** at Jean's place in Sun City. Bring a personal project to keep your hands busy while we hash out some ideas for SWCG activities for 2012. What would you like to do this year? Annual officer elections. Dues are due for most of us.

January 23, 27-29 2012 – **Phoenix Chinese Week** at the Chinese Cultural Center, 668 North 44th Street, Phoenix <http://phoenixchineseweek.org/>

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

January 27-29, 2012 – **Buckeye Days: Arizona Centennial Celebration** Celebrate our state in the town of Buckeye's Centennial Celebration, hosted by the Buckeye Community Services Department and Buckeye Main Street Coalition. Town of Buckeye, 517 E Monroe Ave. 623.349.6604. <http://buckeyeaz.gov/>.

February 3-4, 2012 – **Creative Quilters 9th Biennial Quilt Show** at the Lakeview Rec Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City. 970.231.3368.

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

February 3-19 (Thursdays and weekends) – **Hairspray** at Theater Works, 8355 W. Peoria Avenue, Peoria AZ. www.theaterworks.org

February 9-19, 2012 – **Statehood Days, Phoenix** at Pioneer Living History Museum, 3901 W. Pioneer Rd (Just W of I-17). Highlights include re-enactors roaming the town and doing demonstrations inside the buildings, dutch oven cooking, gunfighter entertainment, Gun Safety talks, trolley rides and farm animals that can be viewed from their pens. Join us on the 14th for our grand celebration. 623.465.1052. <http://pioneeraz.org/>.

February 10-12, 17-19, 2012 – **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 11, 2012 – **Arizona Centennial Ball** at the Activity Center of Arizona Christian University, 2625 E. Cactus Road, Phoenix. Join us for a celebration of Arizona's statehood at an evening of historic fashion, live music, and dance. <http://arizonacentennialball.com/>.

February 11-14, 2012 – **Arizona Best Fest Centennial Celebration** at the State Capitol lawn, 1700 W. Washington Street, Phoenix. A festive environment will surround the State Capitol where there will be displays, vendors, and live entertainment. Highlights include the first day issue of the commemorative Arizona Centennial stamp ceremony and honorary re-naming of Washington Street to Centennial Way. Join the festivities as we honor Arizona's past as well as celebrate our future. 602.364.3697 <http://az100years.org/>

February 11-April 1, 2012 (weekends + Presidents Day) – **Arizona Renaissance Festival**, on US 60, east of Gold Canyon, Arizona. <http://royalfaires.com/arizona/>

February 18, 2012 – **Dolls, Bears, & More Show and Sale** at North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Ave, Phoenix. Sunbonnet Doll Club presents its 34th annual event, featuring antique, vintage, modern, and reproduction dolls, bears and miniatures. Proceeds benefit Arizona Doll and Toy Museum and St. Mary's Food Bank. 480.419.0246 <http://sunbonnetdollclub.com/>.

February 18, 2012 – **100 Years, 100 Quilts Exhibit Opening** at Arizona History Museum, 949 E. 2nd St., Tucson. Commemorating Arizona's Centennial, AHS and the Arizona Centennial Quilt Project have created a quilt exhibit to educate the public about Arizona's artisans and their contributions to the state. 520.628.5774 <http://arizonahistoricalsociety.org/>.

February 18-19, 2012 – **Arizona Button Association Annual Show** at Hilton Garden Inn, 11460 W. Hilton Way, Avondale. Features the theme, "See the World Through Buttons," with U.S. vendors, a competition, workshops, and a black glass educational display. 623-972-9028, <http://nationalbuttonssociety.org/>.

February 20-26, 2012 – **Winter Range** at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility (Carefree Highway, just west of Interstate 17). This is the Single-Action Shooting Society's annual cowboy action shooting competition with an awesome sutler's row. <http://www.winterrange.com/>

February 25-26, 2012 – **Arizona Matsuri** festival of Japan at Heritage and Science Park in downtown Phoenix. Featuring exhibits, demonstrations, arts and crafts, children's activities, bonsai displays, Japanese food, and 3 stages of live entertainment. <http://azmatsuri.org/>

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

March 10-11, 2012 – **Battle of Picacho Peak** at Picacho Peak State Park, I-10 between Casa Grande and Tucson. Reenactment for the 150th anniversary of Arizona's only Civil War battle. <http://azstateparks.com/parks/pipe/events.html>

March 17, 2012 – **A Night in the 1940s** Big Band Dance and WWII Music Show at Falcon Field's Commemorative Air Force Hangar, 2017 N Greenfield Road, Mesa AZ <http://www.azcaf.org/bbd/>

March 9-25, 2012 (weekends) – **Pinocchio** and **The Magical Adventures of Pinocchio** (two different shows) at Theater Works, 8355 W. Peoria Avenue, Peoria AZ. www.theaterworks.org

March 10-12, 2012 – **Tucson Festival of Books** on the University of Arizona campus. <http://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/>

March 16- April 2, 2012 (Thursdays and weekends) – **A Little Night Music** at Theater Works, 8355 W. Peoria Avenue, Peoria AZ. www.theaterworks.org

March 17, 2012, 10 AM – **St Patrick's Day Parade** on 3rd Street from Sheridan south to Moreland in Phoenix AZ, followed immediately by an **Irish Fair** at Margaret T. Hance Park. <http://www.phxirish.org/>

March 23-25, 2012 – **Con Nichiwa** animé convention at Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Tucson Airport North. <http://www.con-nichiwa.com/index.php/site/index>

March 24-25, 2012 – **Arizona Highland Games and Celtic Gathering** at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix AZ. <http://www.arizonascots.com/05games.shtml>

March 27-April 2, 2012 – **Estrella War** at Schnepf Farm in Queen Creek, AZ. The Society for Creative Anachronism's annual camping, combat, arts and sciences event. New date, new location. <http://www.estrellawar.org/>

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/>. Stephen Furst (Vir from Babylon 5, Flounder from Animal House) will be a special guest.

April 11-15, 2012 – **Maricopa County Fair** at the state fairgrounds, NEC 19th Avenue & McDowell in Phoenix. <http://www.maricopacountyfair.org/>

April 13-15, 20-22, 2012 – **The Boy Friend** at Grand Canyon University's Ethington Theatre. <http://www.gcu.edu/Upcoming-Events/The-Arts/The-Boy-Friend-Apr-13-thru-22.php>

April 13 – May 13, 2012 – **All Through the Night** at Theater Works, 8355 W. Peoria Avenue, Peoria AZ. www.theaterworks.org

April 13-22, 2012 (weekends and a Thursday) – **Sakura No Ne: Roots of the Cherry Blossom** at Theater Works, 8355 W. Peoria Avenue, Peoria AZ. www.theaterworks.org



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

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

May 26-28, 2012 – **Wyatt Earp Days** in Tombstone, Arizona. <http://www.tombstonechamber.com/Wyatt-Earp-Days>

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

September 1-3, 2012 – **Saboten Con** Animé convention at the Renaissance Phoenix Hotel & Spa in Glendale, Arizona <http://www.sabotencon.com/>

August 31-September 3, 2012 – **Chicon 7** The 2012 WorldCon at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Chicago. <http://www.chicon7.org/>

November 9-11, 2012 – **TusCon 39** at the Hotel Tucson CityCenter features guest author S.M. Stirling and fan guest David Lee Summers. <http://www.tusconscificon.com>

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