



Cactus Needles

Newsletter of the
Southwest Costumers Guild

Volume 19, Number 10 – October 2012
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Welcome to the New President

Robin Prosjje became president of SWCG at the special election held at our August business meeting. Robin will serve out the remainder of the 2012 term vacated by Nyki's retirement.

Get Well Elaine!

We at SWCG and Cactus Needles extend our best wishes to Elaine Mami as she recovers from her recent illness.

Nola Featured in Grand Canyon University Magazine

Grand Canyon University's GCU Today online magazine features an illustrated article about our own Nola Yergen and her work as GCU costume designer. See the full story at <http://news.gcu.edu/2012/10/sew-what-no-problem-costumer-nola-yergen-can-make-anything/>

On the Web

International Costumer 11.5, September/October 2012. Cover – Two of Richard Man's photos from the Chicon 7 masquerade. From the Editor – Permanent editor needed. President's message. Working Workmanship at Chicon 7. Chapter Focus on SWCG. Chapter newsletters. E-mail contacts. ICG chapter contacts. Financial statements available on ICG web site.

If you are an ICG member in good standing, you should have received an e-mail with the URL, user name and password to download the newsletter. If not, please contact your chapter treasurer.

Richard Man's Photos from the 2012 Worldcon The Chicon7 Masquerade photos are up. <http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.358141347602049.84454.171867116229474> The same set of photos are also available here and you may purchase prints

at this site: <http://www.rfman.com/SF-and-Fantasy-Conventions/Chicon7-Worldcon/Masquerade-Entrants/>

600-Year Old Bra Discovered in Austria. Jean passed your editor an Associated Press story regarding four surprisingly modern-cut linen bras discovered by the University of Innsbruck in an abandoned castle in Austria. Previously, modern strapped bras were thought to be a 19th century invention. The story has been picked up by several online sources, including <http://www.buzzpatrol.com/discovery-of-600-year-old-bra-rewrites-fashion-history/> Apparently at least one pair of medieval tidy whities were discovered too. Some people really need to clean out their underwear drawers.

Haunted Houses – AZ Central’s list of Arizona haunted houses and other Halloween attractions. http://www.azcentral.com/thingstodo/events/articles/2020/09/20/20200920halloween-2012-haunted-houses-metro-phoenix.html?nclick_check=1



Nearly a Century of Duct Tape Dummies – It seems our favorite group project, the duct tape dress form, goes back much further than we realized. A Flickr collection of photographs from the Cornell University Library, seen at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/cornelluniversitylibrary/3855498503/in/photostream/> shows scenes from classes taught in rural New York circa 1914-1920 by Cornell’s extension service. Among the images are several of a class assembling tape dummies. Duct tape in its present form did not become available until

after the second world war. The class appears to be working with a shiny gummed paper tape. I speculate that a bowl seen on the work table in one image was for used moistening the gum. Thanks to Kathy Draves for posting the link to the ICG-D yahoo group. Image is in the public domain.

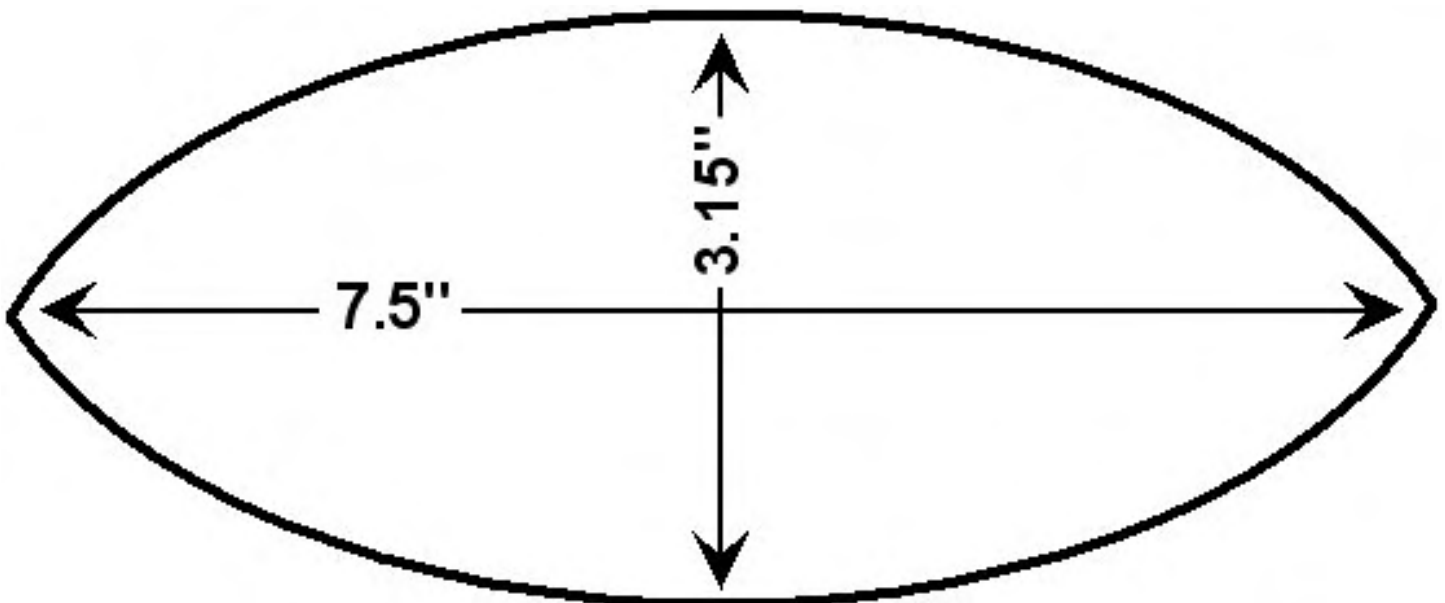
From the Mailbox

Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild **Finery** 10.5, September/October 2012. Petticoats as Outerwear? 25 Ways to Trim and Early Victorian Bonnet. Upcoming events.

St. Louis Costumers Guild **The Scarlet Letter**, July-September 2012. Brief “News you can Use” bits. Dave Kanoy’s “Christmas Chrostroming Chaos.” Archive news. CC 30 review with pictures. Chicon 7 winners. GeekKon review with lots of pictures. New BOB (best of backstage) award. SLUTS photo shoot.

Costumer’s Guild West **Squeals from Da Ghodfuzzy** 28.1, October 2012. Cover: Eileen Smolenski’s blue and silver Victorian gown. Pull-out Costume College 2013 flyer. Annual board meeting minutes. President’s message. Review of Death by Petticoat: American History Myths Debunked. Review of Claremont College’s digital fashion plate collection. Upcoming events. Dean’s corner. Welcome to new editor Eileen Smolenski.

Your editor brings the hard copy newsletters to SWCG meetings for your perusal.



Monster Pincushion!

At the August meeting, Sharan demonstrated a simple pattern for a felt pincushion. The basic pattern is a lemon-shaped gore about seven inches long. Cut six of these and sew them together to form a sphere about four inches in diameter. Leave one end open and stuff with rice for weight and polyester fluff for volume, then sew the end shut. This sphere makes an excellent basis for creating amusing creatures.



Sharan added felt flippers and eyes made by draw stringing felt around shank buttons to create our prototype, "Froggy."

Margie added some felt tentacles for a Lovecraftian beast.



Work with the pattern a bit to create pumpkins, cactus, or anything your imagination leads to. Sharan has the handout from the class where she learned to make these beasties.

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.*

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in October – **Monsterland Haunted House** at Monsterland bar & Grill, 18 W. Main Street, Mesa AZ. Go to <http://www.monsterlandmesa.com/> for details about these and other Monsterland events and features

October 6, 1012 - **ADAM NISWANDER (1946-2012) - MEMORIAL WAKE**

There will be a memorial wake for our longtime friend Frank (Friar) "Adam" Niswander who passed away recently. **It will be on Saturday, October 6th at the home of Dan Smith, located at 5422 W. Bryce Ln. Glendale, AZ 85301.** The starting time is 7:00 PM, and will end around Midnight.

We will have the original artwork for many of his book covers on display to help remember him.

Adam planned to finance a final party, but Cthulhu took him too early, before his house sold, so we are seeking donations to help with expenses. We will have basic food + alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, but it would be great if you could bring something. We will need help with logistics and cleanup as well. If you can donate some funds (any amount would be great), want to help, or have questions, please reply to me.

Markus OTDO boniece@earthlink.net 602-388-9464 (Leave a message, and I will call you back)

October 12-21, 2012 - **Grand Canyon University Presents Two One-Act Operas:** “Comedy on the Bridge” & “Beauty and the Beast” at the Ethington Theater, 3300 W. Camelback Road, Phoenix. SHOWTIMES: Fri October 12 7:30 pm, Sat October 13 7:30 pm, Sun October 14 2:00 pm, Fri October 19 7:30 pm, Sat, October 20 7:30 pm, Sun October 21 2:00 pm. The operas will be presented as a double-feature show with an intermission between them.

COMEDY ON THE BRIDGE: War rages on 'twixt two Czech villages, and everybody who's anybody seems to be caught on the bridge 'tween the two. There's time for shared secrets, a fleeting flirtation, romantic upheaval - and a mystery - before a cease-fire rights the errors aplenty in this one-act opera by Bohuslav Marinu.

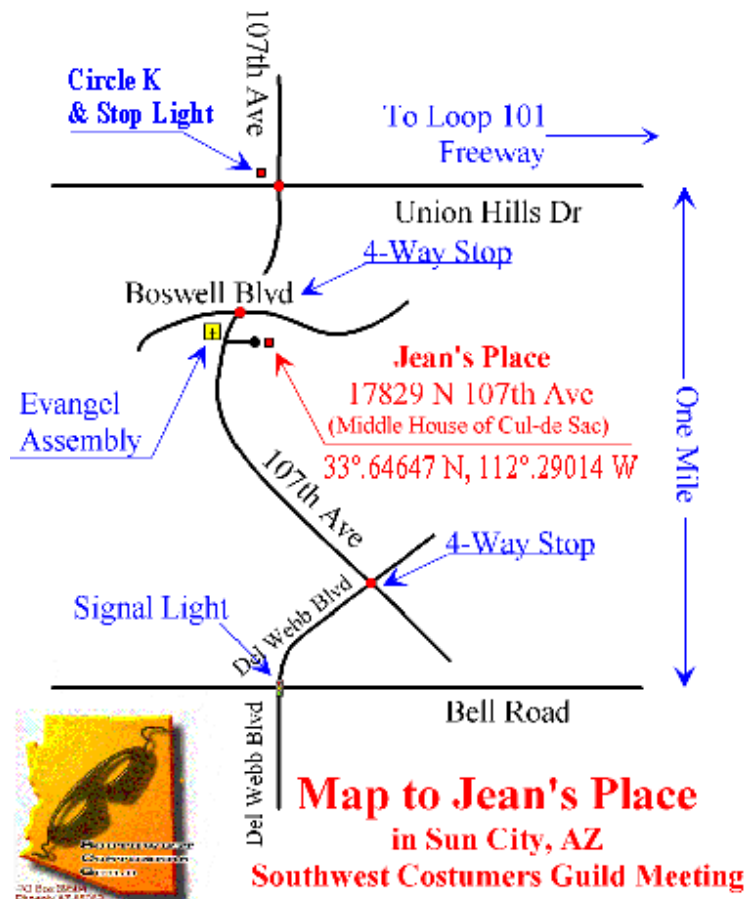
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: Vittorio Giannini's Beauty and the Beast, originally commissioned by CBS for the radio, is a beautifully rendered fairy tale that invites us to find beauty in the most unlikely of places. Vittorio Giannini's rich, romantic score is the perfect setting for this unconventional love story.

For ticketing information, contact the Box Office at: 602.639.8880 or ethington@gcu.edu

October 13, 2012, 4:30-8:30 – **Dining Among the Dead** at the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park Cemetery. The Pioneers' Cemetery Association welcomes you to a Victorian dinner party on the Gazebo Patio in the midst of the early Phoenix pioneers who grace the old Pioneer Cemetery. Package includes: Salad, Dinner (Choice of meat or non-meat dish), Dessert, Iced tea or Lemonade, music, lively turn of the century skit, one raffle ticket (You can purchase more), and a flashlight Historic Tour of the Cemetery featuring live reenactment characters. Cost is only \$25 per person...no refunds. This is a fund raiser. All proceeds will go to the Pioneers' Cemetery Association tombstone restoration.

This event is by reservation only. To order your ticket and reserve a space at the dining tables, please contact ASAP Debe Branning--a Member of the PCA Board of Directors. Debe will place your name on the reservation list and send out your tickets after receiving your payment. Bring all of your friends, family, neighbors and toast the dead! Debe Branning NAZANAZA@aol.com

October 19-21, 2012, 10AM-12PM – **Wild Western Festival** at Saguaro Ranch Park, 9802 N. 59th Avenue, Glendale AZ. <http://www.wildwesternfestival.com/>



October 21, 2012 – **Grand Inventory*** SWCG nuts-and-bolts function at Jean's place, 17829 N. 107th Avenue, Sun City AZ. We have a stash of fabric, trim and other supplies from past projects. It needs to be cataloged for our nonprofit corporation paperwork. Let's make a party out of it.

October 27, 2012, 8PM – **Monster Ball** at Alwun House, 1204 E. Roosevelt Street, Phoenix <http://alwunhouse.org/>

October 27, 2012, 7PM-1AM – **Nightmare on Main Street** Halloween block party sponsored by Monsterland and the Downtown Mesa Association. Main Street from Center to Drew in downtown Mesa. <http://www.downtownmesa.com/index.php/single/920/>

October 27, 2012 – **Haunted Hotel Ball** at the historic Hotel Westward Ho in Scottsdale. http://www.hauntedhotelball.com/scottsdale/?gclid=CMisp8_-3rICFQXhQgodTUIAuA#home

October 31, 2012 – **Apache Junction Halloween Festival** at Prospector Park, 3015 N Idaho Road, Apache Junction AZ. <http://santanvalleytoday.com/pages/?p=228421>

November 3, 2012 – **Arizona Steampunk Society Masquerade Ball** at the Sheraton Phoenix Airport Hotel in Tempe, Arizona. It's also a kickoff party for the 2013 Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention. Tickets are limited. <http://www.wildwildwestcon.com/d/?q=masquerade>

November 4, 2012 – **All Souls Procession** in downtown Tucson. <http://www.allsoulsprocession.org/>

November 5-6, 2012 – **Tucson Comic Convention** at the Bookman's Event Center, Tucson. <http://www.tucsoncomic-con.com>

November 8-10, 2012, 10-5 – **Phoenix Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival** at the Arizona State Fairgrounds, 1826 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix. Admission coupons at JoAnn. <http://quiltcraftsew.com>

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>

November 18, 2012 – **Holsters*** – SWCG leatherworking workshop at Tasha's place. Do you have a weapon, instrument, tool or prop that needs a custom holster/scabbard/carrying case? Learn to make one.

December 16, 2012 – **Winter Social*** – SWCG potluck at Jean's place. Relax and munch. Annual officer elections and more brainstorming for future activities.

January 17, 2013 – **CopperCon 33 presents The Wrath of Khan**. Special 30th anniversary showing of the fan favorite Star Trek film at the Pollack Tempe Cinemas (NEC Elliot & McClintock, Tempe AZ) with activities starting at 7PM and the film at 8PM. Tix are \$10 for the general public and free to paid members of CopperCon 33.

February 22-23, 2013 – **Phoenix Vul-Con** gaming convention at the Phoenix Convention Center, Phoenix, AZ. <http://www.vul-con.com>

March 8-10, 2013 – **Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention** at Old Tucson Studios. <http://www.wildwildwestcon.com/d/>

March 9-10, 2013 – **Tucson Festival of Books** at the University of Arizona campus. <http://www.tucsonfestivalofbooks.org>

March 22-24, 2013 – **Con-Nichiwa** anime convention in at the Holiday Inn Tucson Airport North, 4550 S. Palo Verde Road, Tucson, AZ. <http://www.con-nichiwa.com>

May 9-12, 2013 – **LepreCon 39** at the Mesa Marriott Hotel, 200 N. Centennial Way, Mesa AZ. Guests include Jon Schindehett of Wizards of the Coast. <http://leprecon.org> .

May 23-26, 2013 – **Phoenix ComiCon** at the Phoenix Convention Center and Hyatt Regency Hotel, Phoenix AZ. <http://www.phoenixcomicon.com>

August 8-11, 2013 – **CopperCon 33** at the Windemere Hotel & Conference Center in Mesa, Arizona. <http://www.coppercon.org> .

October, 2013 – **Browncoat Ball** – The Arizona Browncoats have won the bid to host the Browncoat Ball, an annual gala in celebration of Firefly, Serenity and the other works of Joss Whedon. Watch this space for more details or visit <http://azbrowncoats.org/node/567>

Editor's Note: The Final Quarter



I've been editing Cactus Needles for several years now and the creative juices are drying up a bit. I intend to step down at the end of 2012 and I'm looking for a successor. A suitable person should have internet access and a healthy respect for deadlines and copyright. I can show you how I make layouts, print to .pdf files and send out group e-mails, but you'll be free to create your own process. You'll need internet access, but I can make an e-mail account for you on southwestcostumersguild.org. Let's hear some new voices! The job comes with an inkjet printer with scanner,

put to good use by Comet. Please contact Randall at editor@southwestcostumersguild.org.

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