



# Cactus Needles

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## From the Mailbox

**International Costumer** 12.4 –July-August 2013. Congrats to Lifetime Achievement Award winners Tina Connell and Dawn McKechnie. President Phil Gust reviews CC31. Previews! - Jill Eastlake previews the LoneStarCon 3 Worldcon masquerade. Dawn McKechnie previews Costume-Con 32. Sandy Swank previews CC33.

## On the Web

**Apparel History Timeline – The Evolution of Clothing Over Time** is Sheryl Perkins' brief history of clothing with many resource links. It's part of the web site for Blankstyle, a clothing screen printing company. <https://www.blankstyle.com/articles/apparel-history-timeline-evolution-clothing-over-time>

**The First Book of Fashion** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-22766029> in an extraordinary undertaking spanning 40 years a style-obsessed 16<sup>th</sup> century accountant from Augsburg in Germany recorded in detail what he wore, creating what historians now think is the world's first fashion book. Interested in clothes from a young age, Matthaeus Schwarz started commissioning watercolor paintings of himself at the age of 23 and continued until he was 63. No other pictorial record like it exists, say experts. (Found by Lynn E. and Anna.)

**Corset-A-Long with Aurora Celeste** As part of her Dramatic Threads site, Aurora is presenting a series of tutorials and videos aimed at helping people make their first corset. <http://www.dramaticthreads.com/2013/06/corset-long-schedule.html>

**Lego Wedding Gown** (Spotted by Anna.) <http://lego.gizmodo.com/itll-take-months-to-get-a-bride-out-of-this-lego-weddi-524051717>

**Science Fiction Fashions that Are Now Reality** <http://www.buzzfeed.com/donnad/science-fiction-fashions-that-are-now-reality> (Found by Anna.) There are some truly bizarre high-tech fabrics and cuts out there. Fun pictures.

**Charles Dana Gibson and the Gibson Girls at the Library of Congress** We have a fabulous exhibit up at the Library of Congress now on Gibson (hence the article in our magazine) - I encourage anyone local or visiting town to come and see it! It's only up through August 17. <http://blogs.loc.gov/picturethis/2013/04/charles-dana-gibson-exhibiting-an-illustrator-who-also-shines-as-a-cartoonist/> (Posted to ICG-D by Leslie Johnston). The entire Library of Congress Magazine can be downloaded from <http://www.loc.gov/lcm/index.html> (Posted to ICG-D by Carole P.)

**Cosplay Piano** In this series of YouTube videos, virtuoso Sonya Belousova performs piano solos of well known TV and movie theme songs – in costume. Episodes so far include The Walking Dead, Batman, Superman and A Game of Thrones. The first one is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rr1mZArFvrM>

### **Store Review**

#### **In Stitches! Fine Fabrics and More**

2403 North Pebblecreek Parkway, Suite 109, Goodyear, Arizona

Reviewed by Randall Whitlock

Walking some open land for work recently I found something you just don't see anymore – an independent bricks and mortar fabric store! I was on company time, so I only passed through briefly. This is a single-suite store whose stock runs mainly to bright broadcloth prints, so it's quilter-friendly. Check it out next time you're on the fringes of darkest Goodyear. They're on the web too at [www.institchesfabric.com](http://www.institchesfabric.com).

### **Much Ado About Nothing**

Reviewed by Randall Whitlock

Speaking of Goodyear, Joss Whedon appears to be having one. I went to see "Much Ado About Nothing" with the Arizona Browncoats last weekend. I highly recommend it. Excellent use of physical comedy to supplement the Bard's words. Joss even set the words of "Sigh Not" (Hey Nonny Nonny) to an original bossa nova tune.

The film is presented in razor-focus black & white. Although the sets, cars etc. were 2012 (the film was shot in Whedon's own home), the costumes were done to suggest a 1960-ish Camelot/Rat Pack/Mad Men atmosphere with the guys in dark suits with narrow lapels and pleated pants and the ladies in cocktail dresses or sun dresses. This is the work of Shauna Trpcic, the costume mistress of "Firefly."

The cast includes many Whedonverse regulars, with Alexis Denisoff as Benedict and Amy Acker as Beatrice (they were Wesley and Fred in "Angel.") and Nathan Fillion (Captain Mal) as Dogberry. Clark Gregg who plays Coulson in the Marvel Comics movies and the new Agents of SHIELD series, was Leonato. Apparently this film was shot during post-production of "The Avengers."

**Banner Advertising**  
**Randwulf's Literature Display Banner**  
By Randall Whitlock

I used to stack my “Randwulf’s” sewing patterns on a table in my renfaire booth. It didn’t work very well. Visitors could see only the top pattern while the others were hidden. The slick packages slid off of one another, landing in the dirt.

I thought about hanging the patterns from my tent walls, kind of like a heraldic banner. Hey! Why not make my wall display LOOK like a banner?



I took about a yard and a half of some navy blue twill and cut out a banner-shaped backing with two tails at the bottom. I folded over the top to form a channel for a dowel rod. The ends of the dowel rod are finished with wooden drawer knobs that nicely engage a length of gold satin cord for hanging.

I cut six rectangles of fabric about 19 inches wide and 7 inches high, finished the top edges and sewed the other edges onto the banner, one by one. The panels overlap partially, like roofing shingles. I sewed a topstitch down the middle. This forms a set of twelve pockets sized for my 9 by 12-inch pattern envelopes. The labels at the tops of the envelopes show nicely. I used printable fabric to make a label for the top of the banner.

With so many layers, the edges of the banner were too thick to turn under. I finished these edges with a serger, then applied gold curtain fringe to enhance the flag-like look. A pair of gold tassels are affixed to the corners for decoration.

This arrangement works perfectly and has served me for many years. Even the experimental prototype, made out of light muslin with no trim, is still in service.

You can adjust the banner size and the number and shape of the pockets to fit whatever kind of literature is on display. It will work fine with magazines, saddle-stitch pamphlets, three-fold brochures, postcards, bookmarks, flyers, etc. Business cards are a bit small, so you might want to use suitably stabilized tulle or transparent plastic for the fronts of the pockets.

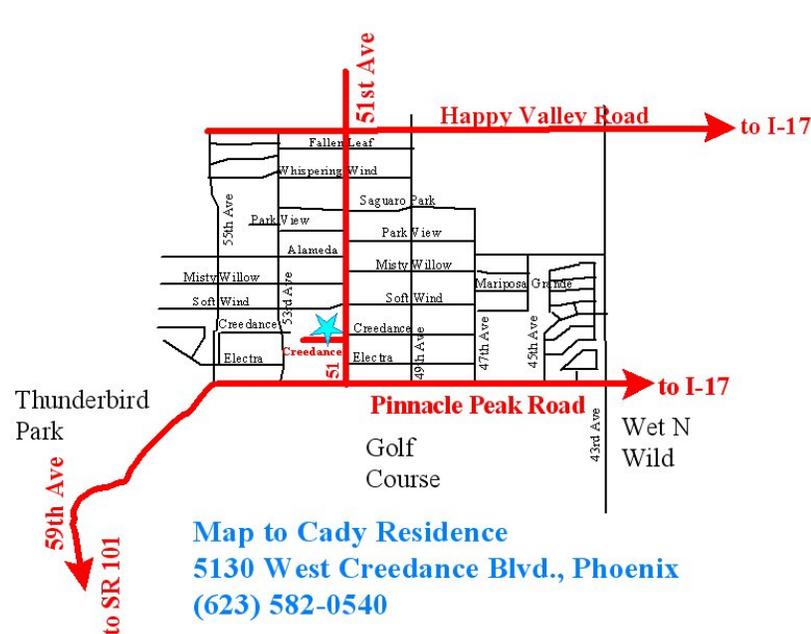
Besides my renfaire booth, literature banners might be useful for meet-the-clubs style mixers, charity fundraisers, or those petition-circulating activists in front of the library. If the greeter is sitting at a table, the banner could be made part of a fancy tablecloth. For walking promoters, the literature pockets could be sewn to the exterior of a tabard, cloak or coat; or carried on a pole like a Roman legion's standard. There are many possibilities.

### 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.*

March 2 – July 14, 2013 – **Digital Print Fashion** in the Ellman Fashion Design Gallery at the Phoenix Art Museum. (See David's review in the April, 2013 Cactus Needles.)

June 15-July 30, 2013 – **Art of the Costume: Presenting the June Bride** at the Cobre Valley Arts Center, Globe AZ. "Focusing on textiles and theatrical creations from Copper Cities Community Player's (sic) productions, costumes within their collection and a special tribute to a summer bride, this show is a feast for the eyes and not to be missed. For more information call 928-425-0884.



July 28, 2013, 3 PM – **Pool Party\*** at the Cady Casa, 5130 W. Creedance Boulevard, Phoenix. Our annual hangout in the pool (Swimmable costume encouraged). Relax and plan out SWCG activities for the rest of the year.

August 1, 2013, 7PM - **CopperCon Revolution Presents 2001 A Space Odyssey w/ Plan 9 From Outer Space** at Pollack Tempe Cinemas, 1825 E Elliot, Tempe AZ. 2001 will start at 7PM with Plan 9 From Outer Space starting at 9:30 PM. You

wanted the best science fiction films of all time and were giving them to you in one sitting. Tickets for the showing are \$10 to the general public and \$5 with a membership to CopperCon: Revolution which will happen August 8th-11th 2013. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at <http://casfs.org/cucon/2013/02/special-screening-2001-a-space-odyssey-wplan-9-from-outer-space/>

August 8-11, 2013 – **CopperCon 33 Revolution** at the Windemere Hotel & Conference Center in Mesa, Arizona. <http://www.coppercon.org> . Guests include author L.E. Modessit and artist Mike Grell. *Believe it or not, your editor is Fan Guest of Honor.*

August 17, 2012 – **Can't Stop the Serenity - Tucson** Annual charity screening of Joss Whedon's "Serenity" and "Dr. Horrible's Singalong Blog at the Fox Theater, 17 West Congress, Tucson, Arizona. <http://azbrowncoats.org/>

August 24, 2013, 10AM and August 25, 2013, 12 PM – **Participate: Cosplay Life Drawing** Studio in the Great Hall of Phoenix Art Museum, Central & McDowell. Come dressed as your favorite Video Game or anime character, and delve into a day of drawing with artists, live cosplay models, Avatars, Exquisite Corpse drawings, and more! Then get your picture taken in the Photo Booth to share and post. The Museum asks that costumes not feature weapons or masks of any kind. <http://www.phxart.org/event/b90cfd21-94a4-0ba0-9c15-188a5541372d>

September 28 & 29, 2013 – **Keen Halloween** at Sano Fitness Studio at Metrocenter Mall, 9617 North Metro Parkway West, Suite 2004, Phoenix AZ. This is a kind of makers' faire for Halloween crafters. <http://www.keenhalloween.com/>

October 4-6, 2013 – **Browncoat Ball** – at the Coastal Phoenix Sky Harbor Hotel, 4300 E. Washington Street in Phoenix. The Arizona Browncoats will host the Browncoat Ball, an annual gala in celebration of Firefly, Serenity and the other works of Joss Whedon. <http://www.browncoatball.com>

October 11- November 3, 2013 – **Arizona State Fair** at 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and McDowell in Phoenix. Rumor hath it that the traveling Star Trek display, including the original series bridge set, will be at this year's fair. I wonder if they ever got my nose-prints off the costume display cases? <https://azstatefair.com/>

October 18-20, 2013 – **Helldorado Days** in Tombstone, Arizona. <http://www.tombstonechamber.com/Helldorado-Days-84th-Annual>

November 2, 2013 – **Run For Your Lives Zombie 5K** at Wellington Ranch, Sacaton AZ. <http://www.runforyourlives.com/locations/arizona/>

January 16-19, 2014 – **DarkCon 2014**. Location TBA. <http://www.darkcon.org>

March 26 – July 6, 2014 – **Hollywood Costume** exhibit at the Phoenix Art Museum, Central Avenue & McDowell Road. Bringing together more than 100 of the most iconic movie costumes from across a century of film-making, this will be a rare opportunity to see the clothes worn by unforgettable characters from films such as *The Wizard of Oz*, *My Fair Lady*, *Superman*, *Titanic*, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, and *The Dark Knight Rises*. ***Hollywood Costume*** will explore the central role costume design plays in cinema storytelling. The exhibition contains costumes that have never left private and archival collections in California, and most have never been publicly displayed or seen beyond the secure walls of studio archives. <http://www.phxart.org/exhibition/hollywoodcostume>

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