



# Cactus Needles

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Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504  
Phoenix AZ 85069

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



←The Browncoat Ball comes to town. See Page 2.  
It's a dry heat at the Contos' haunted luau (photo by Raymond DeLisle). →

## Officer Contacts

President Robin Prosjé  
Vice President Michael Contos  
Treasurer Margaret Grady  
Secretary David Ramirez  
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)

## On the Web

**Help support Aurora's new project** (posted to ICG-D)

I've started a new project I wanted you all to know about. For almost a decade now I've had this idea of doing costuming videos. It started as "someone should do this" and eventually morphed from "I should do this" to "I HAVE to do this". So what is it? I want to produce a series of topical videos about costuming. Each episode would concentrate on science and techniques, not projects you won't be motivated to finish. It'll have information for everyone, from beginners to advanced users who want to learn the why of things they do. I've been hard at work these past few months putting together a business, budget, and business plan as well as lining up topics and starting on scripts and storyboards.

Sound cool? You can help! I'm funding the first season through Indiegogo here: <http://igg.me/at/dramaticthreads/x/281227> . Please donate a few dollars, and share it with your friends!

**Bruce & Nora's Excellent Anime North Adventure**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar6qUZq5mM4>

**International Costumer 12.6 – Nov-Dec 2013** features president's message. Bruce & Nora's Excellent Adventure (see video link above). Flappers at Filoli (SF costumers visit the historic mansion from "Dynasty." Anne Davenport's "Dragon\*Con Heaven and Hell." Wing tips from the D-list. ICG members should receive a link with username and password or a dead tree copy.

**Bras in Space?** Story behind a new documentary that details how Playtex helped lift and separate humans from the earth and send them to the moon.  
<http://www.thecredits.org/2013/09/bras-in-space-the-incredible-true-story-behind-upcoming-film-spacesuit/>

## **Southwest Costumers Guild Outing 10/20/13**

A few of us (Mike, Theresa, Paula and Randall) gathered on October 20, 2013 to walk the Arizona State Fair. The fair is not at all a bad place to see some costuming efforts. As well as assorted dancers (belly, baton, hoop, etc.) many costume and sewing projects are on display among the arts and crafts competitions.

The highlight of the event for me was the traveling "Star Trek: The Exhibition," which features costumes, props, sets and makeup from every one of the Star Trek series and films. Iconic costumes include those of Khan, Spock, Captain Archer, Mara (the only female Klingon in the original series), Guinan and one of the chicks from "Spock's Brain." Sorry, no pictures were allowed. You'll have to look at the web site. <http://www.startrektheexhibition.com/>

### **The Browncoat Ball**

Reviewed by Randall

The Browncoat Ball is an annual event for fans of "Firefly," "Serenity" and other works of Joss Whedon. The event was inspired by the Firefly Episode, "Shindig," but usually doesn't end in a sword fight. This year the Browncoat Ball was hosted by the Arizona Browncoats (<http://azbrowncoats.org/>) October 4-6 at the Phoenix Airport Plaza Hotel, which changed names twice during the event planning. The committee was ably led by Cindy Pickard and our own Margaret Grady.

For me, the event had the feel that local cons used to have, back when we had fun instead of fretting about budgets and how we have to "change with the times for a younger audience."

Friday was a general purpose mixer with a T-shirt theme. Yay! a no-effort costume. I arrived too late for the epic squirt gun fight.

Saturday day featured a number of potential field trips, including a "Companion Cruise" on Saguaro Lake, A "Lassiter" trip to play laser tag in Mesa or the "Whitefall" trip to Rawhide. I opted for the last. Rawhide is kind of a watered-down Old Tucson. I expect it's livelier during the main season. I had a good time. The hamburger was excellent.

Saturday evening was the ball itself, with a fine Mexican buffet dinner followed by dancing with live music. Marty and Alice Massoglia, our local regency dance masters, gave lessons during the day to get us ready. The attendees were in their finest, ranging from reproductions of Caylee's gown from the original Shindig to Niska's double-breasted coat. Inara-like saris were popular. I went along with most of the other gentlemen, wearing an off-the-shelf Wah Maker frock coat and brocade vest. My top hat and silver walking stick went over well.

Yes, there was a floating chandelier, arranged by Margie with creative use of helium balloons.

A few thumbnail pictures I shot are reproduced on the next page below. For some professional-grade photography, follow these links:

Here's Wilgar's pics: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/keyholeprod/>

Here's other people's pics: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/bcb2013/>

Here's Ivana's pics: [https://www.facebook.com/azbrowncoats/photos\\_all](https://www.facebook.com/azbrowncoats/photos_all)



## CASFS Book Social

The Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society hosts a Science Fiction and Fantasy readers group at 7PM on the third Tuesday of every month at Samurai Comics, 1051 East Camelback Road in Phoenix. Come join us to discuss tomes of SF lore popular and obscure. Haven't read the book? No problem. Use the rest of us as your personal slush pile reviewers. Here are the dates and books for the next few months.

November 19, 2013 - Sandman: Preludes & Nocturnes, Sandman: Doll's House, Marvel 1602  
by Neil Gaiman

December 17, 2013 - World War Z by Max Brooks

January 21, 2014 - Foundation by Isaac Asimov

February 18, 2014 - The Law of Nines by Terry Goodkind

March 18, 2014 - Written in Red by Anne Bishop

April 15, 2014 - Out of the Dark by David Weber

May 20, 2014 - Hexed by Kevin Hearne

June 17, 2014 - The Last Dragonslayer by Jasper Fforde

## On the Web

(Continued from Page 1)

**JoAnn Offers Free Classroom Space.** Forwarded by Anna. Apparently, when their regularly scheduled classes are not in session, the teaching rooms at JoAnn superstores can be booked for use by clubs and nonprofits. Care to look into this further for one of our workshops next year?

<http://viewemail.joann->

[mail.com/o20131102/MSCJoannCom\\_2013E0\\_web.html?r=3004872\\_1651303&i=3001411002](http://viewemail.joann-mail.com/o20131102/MSCJoannCom_2013E0_web.html?r=3004872_1651303&i=3001411002)

## 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.*

September 15, 2013 – February 9, 2014 – **The Cape** exhibit in the Ellman Fashion Design Gallery of the Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix.

<http://www.phxart.org/exhibition/thecape> (See pictures in the October, 2013 Cactus Needles)

October 25, 2013 – January 28, 2013 – **Steampunk: An Exquisite Adventure** exhibition in Gallery@theLibrary at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library, 3839 N Drinkwater Blvd, Scottsdale.

November 6, 2013, 2-3:30 PM - **Steampunk Style Workshop** at the Gallery @ the Scottsdale Civic Center Library. Join The Junk Lady, Shari Keith, and the Scottsdale Civic Center Library for a free walk-in workshop in which participants create bracelets using recycled belts.

Supplies included; no registration is necessary. Ages 10+

The essential social nature of Steampunk is featured in this exhibition of artwork, artifacts, costumes, characters, and adventurous stories. Local, national, and international Steampunks share their creations—building a world of romance, adventure, imagination, and beauty amid the timeless themes of exploration and investigation.

[http://www.scottsdalepublicart.org/events/steampunk-style-workshop/%7bpage\\_204%7d](http://www.scottsdalepublicart.org/events/steampunk-style-workshop/%7bpage_204%7d)

November 7-11, 2013 – **Southern Crusades** – Society for Creative Anachronism combat, arts & sciences camping event at Winkelman Flats Campground in Winkelman, Arizona. <http://www.southerncrusades.org/>

November 8, 2013, 6-10 PM – **Steampunk Street VI** in downtown Mesa. Mesa Second Friday street fair with a steampunk theme. <http://steampunkstreet.com/steampunk/>

November 8-10, 2013 – **TusCon 40** at the Hotel Tucson CityCenter features guest author Juliet Blackwell and artist Jessica Feinberg. A memorial will be held for Gary Hayes. <http://www.tusconscificon.com>

*Here is the info for Gary's memorial: It will be on Nov 9 @ 3:00 pm in the Copper Room. Everyone is invited. I am encouraging costumes. The memorial is FREE. If you want to go to the con after or before, you must have a day pass. -- Rebecca*

November 23-24, 2013 – **Otherworlds Festival** at Castles & Coasters, next to Metrocenter in Phoenix AZ. Our favorite Faerie Festival folk in a whole new venue. <http://otherworldsfestival.com>

November 24, 2013 – **Steampunk Stroll\*** SWCG field trip to the “Steampunk: An Exquisite Adventure” exhibit at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library (3839 N. Drinkwater. Meet for lunch first.

December 15, 2013 – **Holiday Happening\*** SWCG potluck social Chuck & Tasha's place. *Note change of venue.* Relax and converse, brainstorm upcoming guild activities. Annual officer elections.

January 9-12, 2014 – **DarkCon 2014** at the Phoenix Airport Marriott, 1101 N. 44<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix. <http://www.darkcon.org>

January 26, 2014 – **Vambraces\*** SWCG leather workshop at Tasha's home. We have some ideas for vambraces (leather cuffs or long bracelets) that would fit a variety of science fiction and fantasy costumes.

January 30-Feb 1, 2014 – **Phoenix Quilt, Craft and Sewing Festival** at the Arizona State Fairgrounds, in Phoenix. Admission is \$10. Dollar-off coupon at <http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/862191/55aea802d8/1773714301/f2f4449882/>

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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