



Cactus Needles

Volume 21, Number 1 – January, 2014
Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504
Phoenix AZ 85069

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

Butterfly Wonderland, the nation's largest butterfly pavilion, is now open at Via de Ventura and the Pima Freeway. www.butterflywonderland.com. Left, a denizen of the pavilion becomes a temporary shoe accessory.

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It's January

For most of us, that means it's time to renew your membership. Better yet, volunteer for an officer position at the January meeting!

Welcome back to Cactus Needles for 2014. I'm still with you as editor for a while, though I would be glad to train a padawan with a laptop computer in place of a lightsaber.

There are about three active newsletters in the ICG and I want to keep Cactus Needles among the top five. That means I need content, lots of it and on time. The way to get content is simply for each of us to keep our eyes open. There is costume 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, personal milestones to announce and opinions to express. Life moves fast. That camera in your phone is there for a reason.

Please get your submissions to me by the 5th of each 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, such as web site reviews.

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, single-space fill-justified paragraphs with an extra return between them, italics for block quotes, etc. (No, I'm not completely consistent.) Web links must begin with <http://> or www for my semi-obsolete software to create usable hot links.

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

Chandler Light Parade

Reviewed by Paula Lary

On Saturday, Dec. 7, members of two Mesa belly dance classes participated in what's become an annual event for us, the Chandler Light Parade. We had been hearing reports that the weather was going to be extremely frigid and would probably rain, so we dressed accordingly.

The parade rules stated each individual in each entry, i.e. each dancer, wagon, whatever, had to be covered in at least 100 lights. We've been through this before, so most of us already had lots of battery operated lights. Most of mine were the old type with the C batteries, but I had 5 strings of LED's from last year so I used those. (Gave me 90 lights - who's going to count in the dark in the staging area?) The LEDs use AA batteries, which are lighter and the battery packs are much smaller and easier to turn on. They fit very nicely in the pockets of the jeans I wore under my skirt. (I'm not going to say where I stuffed the ones I had on my top, but it's a good thing I was using a costume bra.) I had sewn lights to my top last year, but the new string that lit when I first put in the batteries quit after I had spent half an hour sewing them on, so I had to take them off, buy more the day of the parade and frantically sew them on in time to get to the parade and then the other string on the other side of the top wimped out just before the parade. (The same strings lit this year and are on a small tree).

This year I safety-pinned on all the lights and that worked. Took lots of safety pins. Note: most safety pins now are very flimsy, but I bought these at Michael's and they are much stronger. The package states these are nickel. I think that is the key.

Keeping in mind the weather, we all dressed in many layers - tank tops, long sleeves, heavy stuff under our costumes and wore cloaks and jackets until just before judging. We had a designated friend gather all the warm stuff and keep those and our purses, etc. until after the parade. Since just plain belly dancing for 3/4 of a mile following and leading floats, etc. would be hard to keep up, we always do some sort of prop instead. This year, as in several in the past, we used hollow plastic candy canes with battery lights stuffed in them. They really look nice and we were able to have something flashy to wave around, although after not only 3/4 of a mile down Chandler Blvd. plus coming from the staging area and going back to it-all in dance mode, our arms got a workout! Of course, since we planned for the bitter cold and rain, we got nice mild weather, not a drop of moisture-except for the sweat we generated.

In addition to the lights, various dancers used glowstick necklaces and bracelets and fiber optic hair ornaments. (A note of warning on glowsticks: if you ever plan to use them for something, buy 2-3 times as many as you will actually need, about 1/2 of them don't work right out of the package) I decorated a Santa hat with one of those necklaces that has those tiny bulbs that look like Christmas lights - they light up and can be made to flash. I also added two very long fiber optic hair ornaments that stood up like antlers. Others had lights that looked like snowflakes. One dancer had poked many little holes through her black velour top, stuck a tiny light from a long string of white lights through each, backed them on the inside with duct tape, and in the dark it looked almost like the dark night sky. Others draped the lights as though they were a coin belt. Everyone had a different idea of how she wanted to wear the lights.

We also had to have music to "dance" to, so one of our members decorated a Tiny Tyke wagon with lights, filled it with foam to cushion the boom box, draped lots of veils over the foam to

disguise it and one dancer walked in the middle of our group pulling it. This was the first time the whole group was able to hear our music in a parade.

One of the best things about doing the parade is the time spent in the staging area before the parade because we get to see all the entries up close. There was a high school band that had dark uniforms. They wrapped varicolored lights around them in a distinct pattern that all used and each had a tall glowstick on his band hat sticking up where a plume normally would be. We were standing next to a group from a senior citizen center. They had a flatbed all decorated up as though it was a living room ready for Christmas with a couple people sitting in rocking chairs. They had several people walking around the flatbed dressed as Christmas packages and it looked like they had put a lot of time and work into them.

Every year I do this, I have to experiment with how I'm going to put on the lights, and for me, this year has been the best result using the safety pins. My teacher has a bra and belt that she wove lights on through the crochet that attaches the coins to them. She keeps that set just for the parade. The duct tape idea worked well; that lady used that last year, put the top away and it was good to use this year.

ICG LAA Nominations Open

Nominations for ICG's Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) are now open. The LAA is the highest honor that the ICG pays to a costumer. It has been presented since 1990 to recognize a body of achievement in the costuming art and service to the costuming community. Visit the LAA page at <http://www.costume.org/lifetime> to see past recipients.

Candidates may be nominated by any member in good standing, or by any chapter. Nominations should be submitted to icg-president@costume.org.

On the Web

International Costumer 8.1, Jan-Feb 2014. President Phil highlights the ICG web site's mega convention calendar. Editor Carole will be stepping down in mid-2014 to work on CC33. Phil Gust's Cosplay and its history. Lisa Ashton's "Miss Lizzy's Traveling Historical Fashion Show," Victorian photography project. Kathe Gust reviews Hollywood Sketchbook: A Century of Costume Illustration. ICG members will receive a link by e-mail.

In the Mailbox

Costume Guild West **Squeals from Da Ghodfuzzy** 29.4, January 2014. On the Cover is Karla Silva's steampunk ensemble. Inside is her feature on building steampunk costumes and props with lots of color pictures. President's message on costuming ordinary folks from history. Whovian remembrances from the Treasurer. Seeking classes/teachers for Costume College 2014. Ostrich egg reticule, part 3. Eileen's review of "Bead Romantique." Upcoming events. Editor Dani Crum at the Nottingham Festival, a new SoCal renfaire. Look closely at this issue my friends, there has been a big upgrade in the quality of paper and color printing.

Meeting Minutes September 9, 2013

Recorded by David

Attending – Mike C, Teresa C, Randall W, Tasha C, Mahala, Paula, and David R.

Meeting began 1:30pm

The reading of meeting minutes for the last meeting was waived.

Treasury Report: No report given, as Treasury officer Margie not in attendance.

Old Business:

- “Outreach” workshop for Rocky Horror cast group as proposed at prior meeting cancelled due to no response of interest.
- State Fair/Star Trek Exhibit field trip 10/20
 - Meetup time set for 10am
 - Meetup place to be designated away from fairgrounds due to paid parking, would carpool to save on costs
 - Reminder that exhibit was separate admission from general fairground ticket.
 - No business to be done.

New Business:

- Brainstorming Session
 - Where do we want to go with the Guild?
 - Social gathering till funds run out?
 - “goodwill” group assisting other costuming groups?

Announcements:

- Robin P. had notified the Vice President Michael C. that she would not run for re-election as Guild President.

Meeting adjourned at 2:52pm.

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.*

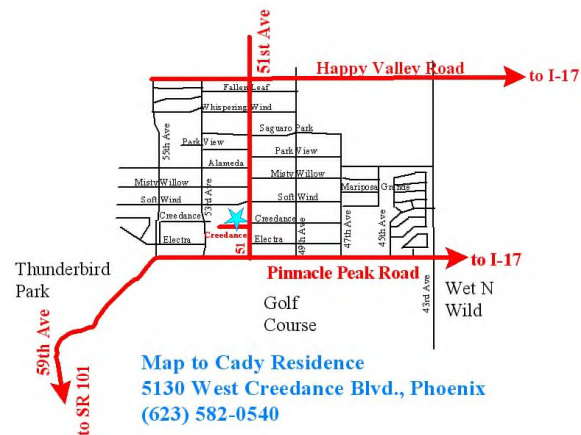
September 15, 2013 – February 9, 2014 – **The Cape** exhibit in the Ellman Fashion Design Gallery of the Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix. <http://www.phxart.org/exhibition/thecape> (See pictures in the October, 2013 Cactus Needles)

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.

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

January 10, 2014, 6-10 PM – **Renaissance Reigns on Main**. Mesa Second Friday Night Out event in Downtown Mesa, Arizona. Live bands, Art booths, entertainment, art activities for kids, and more. Renaissance costume contest 8PM. <http://www.2ndfridaynightout.com/>

January 24-26, 2013 – **Amazing Arizona Comic Con** at the Phoenix Convention Center <http://amazingarizonacomicon.com/>



January 26, 2014 – **Vambraces*** SWCG leatherworking workshop at Cady Castle West (5130 West Creedance, Phoenix). We have some ideas for vambraces (leather cuffs or long bracelets) that would fit a variety of science fiction and fantasy costumes. **Annual officer elections.**

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/>

January 31-February 2, 2014 – **Two Rivers Renaissance Faire, Pirate & Faerie Festival** at Yuma County Fairgrounds, Yuma AZ. <http://www.tworiversfaire.com/>

February 22-23, 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 24-March 2, 2014 – **Winter Range** at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility, 4044 W. Black Canyon Blvd., Phoenix, Arizona. The Single-Action Shooting Society's annual cowboy action shooting shindig. First-rate sutler's row to stock up on your wild west/steampunk costume supplies. <http://www.winterrange.com/>

February 8-March 30, 2014 (weekends + Presidents' Day) – **Arizona Renaissance Festival** on US 60 east of Gold Canyon, Arizona. <http://www.royalfaires.com/arizona/>

February 25-March 3, 2014 – **Estrella War 30** at Schnepf Farm, 24810 S. Rittenhouse Road, Queen Creek, AZ <http://estrellawar.com/>

March 7-9, 2014 – **Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention** at Old Tucson Studios, Tucson, Arizona. <http://wwwc3.com/>

March 8, 2014 – **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/index.html>

March 15-16, 2012 – **Battle of Picacho Peak** at Picacho Peak State Park, I-10 between Casa Grande and Tucson - reenactment of Arizona's only Civil War battle. <http://azstateparks.com/parks/pipe/events.html>

March 21-23, 2014 – **Con-Nichiwa** anime convention in at the Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, AZ. <http://www.con-nichiwa.com>

March 22-23, 2014 – **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 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>

April 25-28, 2014 – **Costume-Con 32** “Myths, Monsters & Legends” at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. <http://costumecon32.com/>

May 8-11, 2014 – **LepreCon 2014: 50 Shades of Green** SF convention at the Phoenix Mesa Marriot, 200 North Centennial Way, Mesa AZ. Author GOH Gail Carriger <http://leprecon.org/lep40/>

June 2-8, 2014 – **Highlands War** SCA event 14 miles south of Alpine, Arizona. <http://highlandswar.org/>

June 5-8, 2014 – **Phoenix ComiCon** at the Phoenix Convention Center. <http://www.phoenixcomicon.com/>

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