



Cactus Needles

15.01 – January, 2015

Who?

The Southwest Costumers Guild, of course.
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<http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>

Burrowing Owl, Photo by Randall Whitlock

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From Your Editor

A new year has begun, which tends to happen every January.

I'll be around for a little while longer as newsletter editor, but only so long as I keep getting good material to publish. If not, I reserve the right to run screaming into the night.

Please get your submissions to me by the evening of the 5th of every month and I'll get the issue stitched together and e-mailed by the 10th.

The beginning of the year is a good time to go through the calendars and newsletters of your various interest groups to look for events which might also be of interest to your fellow Southwest Costumers Guild members.

A suitable event for the SWCG newsletter/web site calendar should be within reasonable weekend travel distance. I regard this as anywhere in Arizona or the nearby portions of bordering states, maybe as far out as Riverside if it's something really good. A special exception is made for Costume-Con, which will still be listed even if held on Mars. Previews and reviews of events further away are quite welcome as feature stories.

A calendar event should be broadly of interest to costumers. This includes events from costumed reenactment societies such as SASS and SCA, cultural festivals that feature national or ethnic costumes, museum displays related to clothing and wearable art, parades, street festivals, and community theater productions. I'm not good at finding the latter, so please send me details and web links. Please make it a pavlovian conditioned reflex to drool me an e-mail as soon as you hear about an event. It's better for me to get many duplicate reports of an event than for it to be missed because folks assume I already know. If you're organizing an event yourself, please get me a press release as soon as you can.



Don't let this happen.

Seen-on-the-street news items and pictures are fun. That's why they put a camera in your phone. Please send pictures by e-mail since my phone did not do well on its SATs and cannot receive texts or pictures. When you send a picture, please make it clear that you took the picture yourself or you have permission from the photographer for me to reproduce it. (That burrowing owl image has already popped up several places on the web I didn't mean it to.) Images grabbed from web sites or e-mails likely belong to someone else and I will not have time to track them down for permission. If I can't reproduce the image, I may still be able to give a hyperlink to it. Anything you can see from a public place without taking extraordinary means (like looking over a fence) is legal to photograph.

Movie, book, product and web site reviews are perfect for our format.

Please tell us about your personal costume and costume-friendly interests. How-to pieces and pictures of your latest project are very welcome. If it's just me writing, you might get another year of nothing but diving jargon and bird pictures.

The best way to get newsletter items to me is by e-mail via editor@southwestcostumersguild.org.

If your submission exists only in hard copy, I leave it to your creativity on how to get it to me. Mail to the guild PO Box works fine if there is enough time. Dropping items in the cat tent in front of my house is okay.

I'm no stenographer, so dictating text to me over the phone will not work well.

Sometimes a lead is enough, but I won't always have time to follow up and do research. I'm supposed to be more J. Jonah Jameson than Peter Parker here; he says crunching an imaginary cigar.

Briefs



International Costume Guild **International Costumer** 14.1, Jan-Feb 2015. President's message encourages branching out to new skills, maybe quilting. Sandy Swank & Dora Buck introduce the jazz-themed Friday social for CC33. Carole Parker reviews the LonCon 3 masquerade. Leah O'Connor recommends several web sites for determining fiber content in fabrics. If you are a member in good standing of ICG, you should have received a link, user name and password to download the issue.



Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild **Finery** 12.6 features Denise Robarge Tanaka's "Creating a Costume for a Fictional Character" (How an author envisions her creation). Yay! GBACG now shares their online newsletter with everyone! http://www.gbacg.org/newsletter-links/finery-issues/2014_NovDec.pdf



Your editor received an e-mail from the operators of **Sew Essential**. This is a cloud-based inventory system for sewing professionals or hobby clothing makers who are better organized than I am. Enter descriptions and storage locations of your fabric stash, notions collection and tool set on the web so you can retrieve information on the fly through your phone/tablet. Keep track of deadlines and meetings. Here's how they describe themselves:

“Sew Essential is a company dedicated to helping sewing professionals like you manage their ever changing stash of fabric, notions, patterns, and anything else you may need to keep track of within the world of your sewing nirvana. Our aim was to create an easy to use system designed by the avid sewing enthusiast, for the avid sewing enthusiast.” <http://www.sew-essential.com/>



St. Louis Costumers Guild “**Scarlet Letter**” December, 2014 features op-ed pieces on the present state and future of cosplay and many pictures from recent conventions. It’s hard copy, so catch Randall next meeting to peruse the mag.

Julie’s Quilt Shop, Hill Street Mall and other Globe/Miami Highlights

From Cathie Yankovich

People drive from the Valley and further to visit Julie’s Quilt Shop on Sullivan Street in downtown Miami, AZ. The owners, Don and Julie Reiman, comb the trade shows for a selection of quilting fabrics which features Arizona themes. If you’re looking for dress fabric, this is probably not the shop for you. It’s a small shop, with a big quilting machine eating up a big chunk out of the middle. (Don does quilting for some folks who don’t have their own machine. If I remember correctly, he’s won awards for his quilts.) Don and Julie are friendly people with time to talk and a lot of knowledge.

Hill Street Mall is an antique and cloth store located in an Arizona-shaped building on Hill Street (one block off US 60) in Globe. The cloth selection isn’t large, but Bunny, who pretty much runs the store for the owner, works hard to provide an interesting and affordable supply. Predictably in these times, most of the cloth is for quilting. Although I haven’t sewn for a while, I did notice some bolt ends that said “Sally’s Fabrics.” The antique store is where some locals, including me, go first to check for odd items – an old store display for nuts or small chips (made a great catch-all for the porch), china Christmas plates at a reasonable price, an old shelf that was redesigned into a cat tree, glassware.

If you’re looking for an excuse to get out of town, a visit to these can be an excuse to come to Globe, but they’re not the only thing to see. For cooking (or clothes if you’re thin), a visit to Simply Sarah on Broad Street in Globe is worthwhile. I needed a tool to cut butter into pastry; the one I got there was expensive but works better than any I’ve used in the past. And, from her gourmet food selection, the dill-pickle-flavored peanuts are surprisingly tasty. This is another shop people drive from the Valley and further to visit. The Pickle Barrel, also on Broad Street, is tourist-oriented, but fun. The yard full of metal sculpture is worth seeing, but generally pricey. On weekends, during snowbird season, the antique stores on Sullivan Street in Miami are open. Just down the street from Julie’s, they offer the quaint experience Glendale and Prescott used to offer when they were smaller.

Food is easy to find. The Mexican restaurants are all good, although the food is different from the Valley and Tucson. Both Chinese restaurants are good, although China Taste has a bigger buffet for about the same money as Jumbo. The Copper Bistro is more pricey but makes a good blue cheese burger. The Cobre Valley Café at the Country Club is open to the public M-F, 7-3 and has wonderful food. Of the two American-style restaurants, Judy’s is better and offers some spectacular views if you get the right seats. Jerry’s makes a good bacon-blue cheese burger, but isn’t quite as good.

Another destination in Miami is the Bullion Plaza Museum. Of course, you'll see lots of rocks, because the Cobre Valley has been a major mining area for over 100 years. But among the exhibits are several traditional Croatian outfits; Serbian and Croatian ethnic groups have been part of the mining contingent since the early 1900's.

For the quilters, a visit between February 7th and the end of March adds a bonus; the annual quilt show will be on display at the Cobre Valley Center for the Arts. Some interesting and eye-catching examples of the art always show up.

SWCG Activity, December 21, 2014 at Chuck & Tasha's House
Recorded by Randall Whitlock

Attending: Tasha, Paula, Mahala, Sharan and Randall.

This was our annual holiday potluck social, appropriately set on the day of the winter solstice. Mostly casual conversation, but we got some business done too.

The business meeting convened at 3:47 PM.

Randall was reimbursed for renewing the southwestcostumersguild.org domain name.

Mahala was reimbursed for baking supplies used in preparing cookies for the SWCG room party at LepreCon 2014. Mahala suggested that the cookies went over well and that we should do them again for LepreCon 2015.

Mahala suggested a re-inventory of SWCG fabric and supplies stored in her mini-storage unit. Given the late hour, this will be done at a later date.



Treasurer Tasha moved that the SWCG fiscal year and dues due date be moved to March 21 (spring equinox) to get it away from all the messy business everyone experiences at the beginning of the calendar year. Motion passed 4 in favor, one abstention.

Sharan described her experiences volunteering at the recent Phoenix ComiCon winter event with the suggestion that the other volunteers and attendees would make fine SWCG members. Randall reminded the group that

bookmark flyers and other recruiting materials can be downloaded from the web site if one does not have time to grab hard copies from him.

Materials, design elements and other details for next month's pet mattress/comforter project were



discussed. Mahala brought over an ample supply of blue poly that might be used for that purpose.

A donation of sewing materials and supplies was made by Kathy McCloskey from the estate of her mother, Millie. The materials are stored in Tasha's garage. We will consider how best to use this valuable resource and discuss further at the next meeting.

Annual elections were held. No new nominations were made. Since the candidates ran



unopposed, they were elected by unanimous acclamation with Jean Palmer as president, Mahala Sweebe as vice president, Tasha Cady as treasurer and Randall Whitlock as secretary. Randall will continue as volunteer webmaster and newsletter editor for the time being and will continue to represent SWCG at ICG online board meetings.

Mahala demonstrated some clever glitter tattoo pens, designed for temporary skin art.

Meeting adjourned at 4:29 PM.

Pictures above include the tattoo pens, Tasha's' pincushion pet from November and Sharan's loom knitting in progress.

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 10, 2015 – **Daddy O's Desert Caravan Open Belly Dance & Drum Circle** at Daddy O's, SE Corner of 43rd Avenue and Thunderbird, Phoenix. This is one of our own Paula's performance venues. All shows start at 6:30 PM. This month's theme is "Comedy Bash"
<https://www.facebook.com/DaddyOsDesertCaravanBellydanceDrumCircle>

January 16-18, 2015 – **Taiyou Con** anime convention Mesa Convention Center and connected Phoenix Marriot Mesa in Mesa, AZ <http://taiyoucon.com/>

January 17, 2005, 8-4:30 – 21st Annual **Belly Dance Swap Meet** at Mesa Women's Club, 200 N. MacDonald, Mesa AZ. <http://www.joyofbellydancing.com/swapmeet21.htm>

January 17, 2015 – Andover Fabrics presents **The Downton Abbey Trunk Show** at 35th Avenue Sew & Vac, 35th Avenue & Northern, Phoenix 10AM – Noon or 2PM-4PM. You are invited to a lecture, tea and giveaways from Dennis Beeves of Andover Fabrics. Tix \$5.
<http://www.35thavesewandvac.com/module/class.htm?classId=74613>

January 18, 2015 – Andover Fabrics presents **The Downton Abbey Trunk Show** at 35th Avenue Sew & Vac, 4939 W. Ray Road, Chandler Noon - 2PM. You are invited to a lecture, tea and giveaways from Dennis Beeves of Andover Fabrics. Tix \$5.
<http://www.35thavesewandvac.com/module/class.htm?classId=74613>

January 29, 2015, 1-2 PM – **Downton Abbey World of Fashion** at Maricopa County Fairway Branch Library, 10600 W. Peoria Avenue, Sun City AZ. Phoenix Art Museum's Fashion Design Department & Docents program that highlights the glamorous fashions worn by the aristocratic Crawleys and functional clothes adorned by the staff. Learn how social change impacted fashion before, during and after World War I.

<http://evanced.mcladaz.org/evanced/lib/eventsignup.asp?ID=7081>

Your editor admits he doesn't quite "get" Downton Abbey.

January 30-February 1, 2015 – **Two Rivers Renaissance Faire** Pirate and Faerie Festival at Yuma County Fairgrounds, Yuma AZ. <http://www.tworiversfaire.com/>

January 31, 2015 – **Doggie Beds*** SWCG workshop at Chuck & Tasha's place. Build pet mattresses/comforters to donate to a local animal shelter.

January 29-31, 2015 – **Phoenix Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival** at the Arizona State Fairgrounds, 1826 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix. <http://quiltcraftsew.com>

February 7-March 29, 2015 (weekends + Presidents' Day) – **Arizona Renaissance Festival** on US 60 east of Gold Canyon, Arizona. <http://www.royalfaires.com/arizona/>

February 13-15, 2015 – **Phoenix Chinese Week** at the Chinese Cultural Center, 44th Street and the Red Mountain Freeway, Phoenix <http://www.phoenixchineseweek.org/>

February 13-17, 2015 – **Amazing Arizona Comic Con** at the Phoenix Convention Center <http://amazingarizonacomicon.com/>

February 14, 2015 – **Daddy O's Desert Caravan Open Belly Dance & Drum Circle** at Daddy O's, SE Corner of 43rd Avenue and Thunderbird, Phoenix. This is one of our own Paula's performance venues. All shows start at 6:30 PM. This month's theme is "Faerie Tails"

<https://www.facebook.com/DaddyOsDesertCaravanBellydanceDrumCircle>

February 21-22, 2015 – **Arizona Matsuri** festival of Japan at Heritage and Science Park in downtown Phoenix. <http://azmatsuri.org/>

February 22, 2015 – **War Prep*** SWCG workshop at Jean's place. Get your costumes in condition for the annual SCA Estrella War.

February 23-March 1, 2015 – **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 24-March 2, 2015 – **Estrella War** at Schnepf Farms, Queen Creek, Arizona. The Society for Creative Anachronism's annual week of medieval arts, sciences and whacking each other with sticks. <http://estrellawar.org/>

March 6-8, 2015 – **Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention 4** at Old Tucson Studios, Tucson AZ. <https://www.wildwestcon.com/>

March 14, 2015 – **Daddy O's Desert Caravan Open Belly Dance & Drum Circle** at Daddy O's, SE Corner of 43rd Avenue and Thunderbird, Phoenix. This is one of our own Paula's performance venues. All shows start at 6:30 PM. This month's theme is "Maneater (80s Night)" <https://www.facebook.com/DaddyOsDesertCaravanBellydanceDrumCircle>

March 14, 2015, 10 AM – **St. Patrick's Day Parade** in downtown Phoenix Staging Area Location: 3rd St. from Virginia to Sheridan Route: 3rd St. South from Sheridan to Moreland. <http://stpatricksdaysphoenix.org/>

March 20-22, 2015 – **Con Nichiwa** anime convention at the Tucson Convention Center, 260 S Church Ave Tucson AZ 85701. <http://www.con-nichiwa.com/>

March 21-22, 2015 – **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 21-22, 2015 – **Arizona Scottish Gathering & Highland Games** at Steele Indian School Park, 300 East Indian School Road, Phoenix <http://www.arizonascots.com/05games.shtml>

March 29, 2015 – **Fabric Challenge*** SWCG workshop at Chuck & Tasha's place. Create a project using the silver satin stash. Maybe something we can appear in together at conventions?

April 11, 2015 – **Daddy O's Desert Caravan Open Belly Dance & Drum Circle** at Daddy O's, SE Corner of 43rd Avenue and Thunderbird, Phoenix. This is one of our own Paula's performance venues. All shows start at 6:30 PM. This month's theme is "Beyond the Sea" <https://www.facebook.com/DaddyOsDesertCaravanBellydanceDrumCircle>

May 9, 2015 – **Daddy O's Desert Caravan Open Belly Dance & Drum Circle** at Daddy O's, SE Corner of 43rd Avenue and Thunderbird, Phoenix. This is one of our own Paula's performance venues. All shows start at 6:30 PM. This month's theme is "Retro Rockabilly" <https://www.facebook.com/DaddyOsDesertCaravanBellydanceDrumCircle>

May 15-18, 2015 – **Costume-Con 33** "Buccaneers, Belles & Bootleggers" at the Charleston Plaza Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina <http://cc33charleston.org/wp/>

May 28-31, 2015 – **Phoenix ComiCon** at the Phoenix Convention Center <http://www.phoenixcomicon.com/>

June 4-7, 2015 – **Fangirls** by Manda Leigh Blunt at the Brelby Theater, S of SEC 58th Avenue and Glendale Avenue just off the Glendale town square. <http://brelby.com/2015-studio-series/>

With Comic Con only days away, Lila is shocked to find that her arch nemesis has stolen her idea for the original character contest. She has only four days and her three best friends to help her come up with a brand new idea. Matters aren't helped when Lila's cousin Marcie comes to visit, a budding fashion designer who is nothing like Lila and does not understand her obsession with all things fandom. Throw in a Wonder Woman bedspread, a Dr. Who Sonic Screwdriver, a Benedict Cumberbatch pillow, a Captain Planet salute, Vulcan ears, a lynx costume, a book on

potions, a date, a make-over, a betrayal, and light sabers, this is one week that these girls are never going to forget. That is, if they make it Comic Con in one piece.

June 13, 2015 – **Daddy O’s Desert Caravan Open Belly Dance & Drum Circle** at Daddy O’s, SE Corner of 43rd Avenue and Thunderbird, Phoenix. This is one of our own Paula’s performance venues. All shows start at 6:30 PM. This month’s theme is “Folkloric Fest”
<https://www.facebook.com/DaddyOsDesertCaravanBellydanceDrumCircle>

June 25-28, 2015 – **LepreCon 2015** at the Embassy Suites Phoenix North (I-17 & Greenway).
www.leprecon.org.

July 9-12, 2015 – **Highlands War** near Flagstaff, Arizona. The SCA Barony of Ered Sul’s midsummer event moves to a new site near Ashurst Late this year. <http://highlandswar.org/>

October 30 – November 1, 2015 – **TusCon 42** SF convention at the Hotel Tucson City Center in Tucson. This year’s con features guests Seanan McGuire and Bridget E. Wilde.
<http://tusconscifcon.com/>

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