



Cactus Needles

15.09 – September, 2015

**The Southwest Costumers Guild
PO Box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069**

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

Not Costume related, but I'm kind of proud of how this photograph of a giant hawkfish came out. Check out Randall's recent underwater videos at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zro5JNppRyo>

and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EN-n28h7G2M>

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L.A.C.E. is ICG's Newest Chapter!

Hey, everyone!

I am delighted to announce the birth of a new ICG chapter, The Lower Arizona Costume Enthusiasts. Yup, that's L.A.C.E. We formed because there are lots of costumers down here who just don't want to drive long distances for meetings & get-togethers. Since some of us are already almost 2 hours from Tucson, that could be a 10 hour round trip. SWCG, we love you, but the degree of difficulty was just a problem. (Especially since some of us are MY age!)

Many of our members are also members of the Tucson Steampunk Society, which means we do some historical costuming and some F/SF costuming, but - given the weather in Southern AZ - not much furry costuming. The Hokas are in retirement. However, like the Pups, (Go, Spaz!) our main goal is to have fun and learn from each other. Currently I am the President, but that's just by default for now. Once we get rolling, we'll hold real elections and that is likely to change.

Our next meeting is coming up on the 29th of this month (*actually August – Ed*), and I will continue the "ICG & CCs 101" program, which will include some masquerade videos and photos. If any of you would like to join us, you are more than welcome! I would invite you to check our web site, but that's not ready yet. Soon, I hope. SWCG, we hope to sister with you and do stuff together on occasion.

Now, a couple of shameless plugs: Since many of us are also involved with Wild Wild West Con, we hope to see you there, and hope some of you will volunteer. Also, CC 36 will be in San Diego in 2018, and I'm hoping to get LACE involved. Rebecca & I can use experienced help (like PUPS) and I am working to get some of us to caravan to CC 34 for some CC experience.

I am really excited about this, if you couldn't tell, and look forward to playing with costuming friends like I did back East.

Elaine Mami
President, LACE

Briefs



Was Leeds the first SF Convention? - Here's an e-mail we received from the author. It's a good read about the early days of international fandom:

Dear southwestcostumersguild.org,

I am writing to inform you about an article I have created about the world's first science fiction convention. The event happen in Leeds, England in 1937 and guests included a young Arthur C. Clarke.

<https://www.tinytickle.co.uk/worlds-first-science-fiction-convention/>

Given the huge popularity of such events today, I thought it would be interesting to shed some light on this little known aspect of science fiction history. Philadelphia, USA, also lays claim to the title of worlds first science convention, and this controversy is discussed within the article.

I was wondering if you could add a link from your website (southwestcostumersguild.org) to the piece to help spread knowledge of this aspect of science fiction history. The article has proven popular on social media, and I thought that it would be of interest to your readers. Alternatively, any mention you could make on social media would also be fantastic.

Any corrections, feedback or comments you may have on the piece would be greatly appreciated, either by email or via the comments form on the webpage itself. Thanks for your time.

Kind Regards
David Wilding



Two issues of **Scarlet Letter** – The June, 2015 issue of St. Louis Costumers Guild's newsletter features a review of Costume-Con 33 with pictures, archives news, news nuggets about ICG's new chapters, hot dates and news from the net. July, 2015 has pictures from CosplaCon in Jefferson City, donation to Richard Man's "Transformations" large format costume photography project, and Molding a Ghostbusters Proton Pack by Mikhail Lynn. Randall has printed hard copies to pass around our meetings.



International Costumer 14.5, Sep-Oct 2015 – Features President's Message reviewing Sasquan, welcoming the new chapter, and introducing new online resources. Memories of Sandy Swank from Elaine Sims, Jeanine Swick, Lisa Ashton, Rebecca Marcus, Carole Parker, Richard Man. Carole's Memory of an Inspiration. Introducing CC 34's Friday night social.



Cutting and Sewing Fur – Illustrated directions for cutting artificial fur from Carol Cruise of "Carol's Zoo."

<https://hosted.verticalresponse.com/220564/78becf5b6f/1413108295/c9445a072a/>



105th Squad, Phoenix Division – is a newly organized Meetup.com group of cosplayers and builders. Events so far include potluck build parties. Your editor hopes to attend one soon. http://www.meetup.com/The105thSquad_PHX/



Virtual Costumer 13.2 - "Dressing for the Great War" features articles on clothing worn by the military, civilians, members of volunteer organizations and heroines of the silver screen. Go to www.siwcostumers.org and select Virtual Costumer, then Current Issue. Look for the Community issue on the lower half of the page. Enjoy! Phil Gust, editor



A memorial to **Toni Lay** is presented in “File 770,” Mike Glycer’s newsletter of SF fandom, at <http://file770.com/?p=24629> . Thanks to Karen Schaubelt for posting the link to ICG-D.



FunTober – This web site lists the various Oktoberfest celebrations and Haunted House attractions around Arizona. <http://www.funtober.com/oktoberfest/arizona/>

Help Get Jean’s House and Sewing Room into Shape

This weekend we are continuing the “**Extreme Home Makeover- Grandma Edition**” by turning Jean’s “sewing room” from a room full of sewing supplies to a functional space in which to sew and create wonderful projects. She is still in the Rehab facility and I want to make her homecoming awesome!

I need YOUR help to make this happen! I understand that it is Labor Day weekend and many of us have plans that do not include helping out an old lady, but if you can take a few hours to stop by and lend a hand I would really appreciate it. You don’t need to stay for the whole time, any and all help will be wonderful.

THE ADDRESS: 7742 N 32nd Drive, Phoenix 85051. Cross streets are Northern and 31st Ave (This is where The Dead Man’s Party will be held on Halloween this year!)

THE PLAN

SATURDAY start at 10am –finish at 6pm

- Empty the sewing room into the garage
- Set up shelves, table and desks / lighting / machines
- Start to sort through the sewing supplies –organize by type
- Put useful items back into sewing room- organized, neat and LABELED
- Create piles for GCU donation; garage sale (Oct 18th- put it on your calendar now!); stuff that goes in another part of the house; and just plain trash.

On Saturday we will knock off around 5 or 6pm depending upon how much progress we make and how many people are there and still willing to help. **We will order pizza or something like that and go swimming for anyone who brings their suit and wants to join us.**

SUNDAY start again around 10am and work until 4pm.

At 7pm there will be a meeting for the Dead Man’s Party at Chronos Cottage (my house).

MONDAY (Labor Day) start around 10 and work until we are done with the sewing room and also start to re-arrange my office into room for mom to stay in for a few weeks after she gets out of the home. **In the evening we will BBQ and swim for anyone who is with us.**
And if you can't stop by the house to help remember that she is still in the rehab place and would love a visit from you! She is in <http://www.ahcfacilities.com/glendale>

Please pass this email along to anyone you think might have some time to come and help!

Thanks so much! Nola

Crowd Funding Can Save the Helen Larson Collection

ICG President Phil asked us BOD representatives to forward this to our local members:

The FIDM Museum has launched a #4for400 crowd funding campaign to keep the Helen Larson Historic Fashion Collection, a one-of-a-kind cultural treasure, at this academic institution in downtown Los Angeles.

The collection contains 1,400 objects, including rare garments, shoes, and accessories covering 400 years of fashion history. Significant items include garments worn by Queen Victoria and other members of European royalty, and pieces from twenty-two haute couture designers.

The goal is to keep this remarkable archive in Southern California, where it was lovingly collected by fellow costuming enthusiast Helen Larson, and where it will be available to students and visitors for research, exhibition, and inspiration. To learn more about this unique collection and the campaign, visit <http://blog.fidmmuseum.org/museum/2015/07/4-can-save-400-years-of-fashion-history.html>.

They're asking members of the costuming community to donate just \$4, (or \$40, or \$400, or any other amount) by texting MUSEUM to 243725 or through their website at <http://fidmmuseum.org/support/donate-online/>. They're also asking us to "share" the information by re-tweeting #4for400 and "sharing" the link below on social media like Facebook.

The FIDM Museum has already raised \$500,000 in donations. If they can't raise the other \$2M by the end of 2015, they will lose this collection, and the Larson family plans to break it up and sell the individual pieces at auction for much more. This would be a great tragedy for FIDM, its students, and the costuming community.

Please help save this unique collection of historical costumes, and 400 years of history, by making a donation of as little as \$4 and spreading the word by "sharing" the #4for400 message on social media. Every dollar counts and time is running out.

-Philip Gust

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 4-7, 2015 – **Saboten Con** at the Sheraton Downtown hotel, 340 N. 3rd Street, Phoenix. Arizona's premiere Japanese pop culture convention features a cosplay contest and cosplay photography contest. www.sabotencon.com .

September 19, 2015 11AM – **From Concept to Pattern** at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 South Rural Road, Meeting Room A. Where to start when designing a costume – creating your design or copying a design from a favorite character – the ever present budget, weather, and how do I carry my stuff considerations – finding the design lines – how to find a commercial pattern that has the design lines you need – figuring out what size pattern to buy – what fabric to use – and maybe touching on how to read a pattern. This is a starting point for how to plan your costume – with emphasis on finding understanding design lines and how to find them. If you already have a costume design or character picture that you want to work from, please bring them and I will show how to find the design lines and suggest patterns. (Taught by our own Frances Burns.)

<http://www.tempe.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/28453/1588?curm=9&cury=2015>

September 27, 2015 – **Library Organization*** – Meet at Jean's place (7742 N. 32nd Drive, Phoenix) to continue cataloging the SWCG book collection. Bring a laptop if you have one. *This is contingent upon how Jean is feeling as she recovers from a recent auto accident.*



Jean Palmer's House - 7742 North 32nd Drive Phoenix AZ

October 10, 2015, Noon-4 PM – **LibraryCon 2015** at the Southeast Regional Library, 775 North Greenfield Road in Gilbert, AZ. Come to the Southeast Regional Library for LibraryCon 2015! Join us to celebrate all of the stuff that you love including: comics, graphic novels, anime/manga, cosplay, cartoons, artists, horror movies, Sci-Fi/Fantasy books & movies, and games of all types. Costumes encouraged! Show off your amazing style in the costume contest. Learn something

new in one of our panel sessions. There will also be photo booths, crafts, tabletop and video games, prizes, and giveaways! <https://www.facebook.com/librarycon>

October 10, 2015 11AM – **Capes by Chalk and Line** at the at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 South Rural Road, Meeting Room A. Many historical and fantasy capes are constructed as circles or portions of circles. Cactus Needles Editor Randall Whitlock will demonstrate a simple way to cut a cape using chalk and string that will get you the broadest possible cape from a given piece of fabric, gently fitted at the neck and shoulders.

<http://www.tempe.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/28466/1588?curm=10&cury=2015>

October 16-18, 2015 – **Helldorado Days** in Tombstone, Arizona.
<http://www.tombstonehelldoradodays.com/>

October 25, 2015 – **Quilting*** at Tasha's place. Frances has found a charitable organization which provides quilts to children in the foster care system. Let's build something for the cause.

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://tusconscificon.com/>

November 4, 2015-January 18, 2016 – **The White Shirt According to Me, Gianfranco Ferré** Exhibition at the Phoenix Art Museum. Known as the “architect of fashion” and the purveyor of “power dressing,” Italian fashion designer Gianfranco Ferré never ceased to view the white shirt as the archetypal expression of his approach to design and style. The exhibition includes a selection of 27 of Ferré's most significant white shirts created over the course of his career (1982-2006). Sketches, technical designs, photographs and videos from the archives of the Gianfranco Ferré Foundation will offer visitors the chance to go beyond the confines of fashion and examine the methods, techniques and precision Ferré applied to each of his designs.
<http://www.phxart.org/exhibition/ferrewhiteshirt>

November 6-8, 2015 – **Tucson Celtic Festival** at Rillito Park. <http://tucsoncelticfestival.org/>

November 7, 2015 11AM – **No Sew Costuming** at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 South Rural Road, Meeting Room A. (Taught by our own Tasha Cady.)
<http://www.tempe.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/28945/1588?curm=11&cury=2015>

November 22, 2015 – **Further Quilting*** at Tasha's place. Continue the project begun in October.

December 20, 2015 – **Holiday Potluck*** at Mahala's place. Annual elections, of course.

January 31, 2016 – **Wrap Up*** at Tasha's place. Let's finish up some of the various garment construction projects began in 2015.

February 28, 2016 – **Mardis Gras*** social at Tasha's place. A bit early, but do it in costume please.

May 6-9, 2016 – **Costume-con 34: The Wonder of Nature** at the Marriott West in Madison, Wisconsin <http://www.costumecon34.com/>

April, 2017 – **Costume-Con 35** at the Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale, 6750 Mississauga Road, Mississauga (near Toronto), Ontario, Canada <https://www.facebook.com/costumecon35>

Summer, 2017 – **WesterCon 70** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel. Keep watching for more details.

April, 2018 – **Costume-Con 36** in San Diego, California

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