

Cactus Needles

16.01 – January, 2016

The Southwest Costumers Guild
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Nominations for ICG Lifetime Achievement Award Open

From Phil Gust, ICG President

The ICG presents its highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award each year at Costume-Con. The award recognizes "a body of achievement in the costuming art and service to the costuming community." Thirty two recipients, including five couples, have been honored since 1990. Nominations for 2016 are now being accepted.

The ICG President oversees the nomination and election process. Nominations can be made by any ICG member, chapter, or SIG in good standing, and are due no later than March 5, 2016. ICG chapter presidents and the five elected officers vote on the nominations. Send nominations to laa-nomination@costume.org and use "LAA Nomination" as the subject line. </p>

Preparing a good nomination really does take time so I strongly recommend starting now. Visit <http://www.costume.org/lifetime> for qualifications and to read past recipients' citations. Citations are based on information provided in recipients' nominations.

Here are some tips for preparing an effective nomination:

- Not all chapter presidents and officers who vote on the award are familiar with the person you are nominating. Give them a good understanding of your nominee's qualifications and accomplishments.
- Start with a one- or two-paragraph "executive summary" that addresses all the qualifications for the award. This is your best chance to make your case, so spend some quality time on this.
- Follow that with some notable accomplishments that support what you said in your "executive summary." A few well-chosen examples are usually enough.
- If you are describing costuming skills, include a couple of URLs to photos in the ICG's International Costumers' Gallery or other photo sites as examples.
- Nominations typically run from several paragraphs to a full page (200-500 words). Quality is more important than quantity.

Thanks in advance to those who submit a nomination for your efforts on behalf of a fellow costumer who deserves this special recognition.

SWCG Meeting December 27, 2015 at Mahala's House

Recorded by Randall Whitlock, SWCG Secretary

We gathered for a holiday dinner at Mark & Mahala's place. Mahala brought out the good dishes and served us home-made mushroom soup, a spiral cut ham main course and finished with baked Alaska (or was it British Columbia?).

A formal meeting was not convened and officer elections will be deferred until January. Some business was done, including payment of our domain registration and web hosting for the next two years.

Randall described plans for our fan table at the upcoming Library ComiCon on January 23 and asked for help with more table-sitters, display stuff, and pictures to run as a slide show.

We parted with many bagged leftovers. Here are a few words from our hostess:

Our 2015 Christmas Party

By Mahala Sweebe

I want to thank everyone who came to the Christmas party at my house for everything you did and everything you brought. It has been my fantasy to do a proper, elegant Victorian Christmas party for several years with the good silver and china, and the holly pattern platters and serving pieces that were wedding presents to my Grandma Mollie who was married in 1903.

I had planned on having a very peaceful and relaxed day, but no day is ever perfect and runs as smoothly as you plan. I forgot the holly platter and the soup tureen wasn't big enough... I did have plenty of little relish dishes though, most of which got used, so I'm happy.

A special thank you to Tasha and Chuck for all of the appetizers. I knew they would bring something wonderful and exotic, and they did. The liqueur was a souvenir of their latest vacation to Europe. This was from Estonia??? and was their favorite, so we were very lucky they were willing to share with us. Randall volunteered to bring several bottles of sparkling cider. He did an unexpected "wine tasting" presentation of three different varieties during dinner. That was fun.

Thanks also to Frances for bringing the deviled eggs and coming under adverse conditions. She was battling a cold and feeling miserable. It was her suggestion that we get a Honey Baked ham for the meal and it was a great idea. Jean brought scalloped corn, which I believe is a family tradition with her. Paula made an elegant cranberry and glazed pecan green salad with blue cheese. She also brought cranberry and orange relish, which is a particular favorite of mine. I could eat it any season of the year. Sharan brought baby green beans and new potatoes with bacon – very appropriate for the upcoming new year. She also made a traditional gingerbread -- appropriate for ending the old year. We also had a Christmas stollen.

There were a few glitches, most notably my Baked Alaska/Spring Thaw, and I forgot to put on background music, but we worked around them and, like a convention, hopefully the attendees (you) weren't aware of the cracks and flaws. If you had a good time, then it was a success. Thanks again.

Briefs



The Scarlet Letter Dec 2015, presented as an e-mail message, features reviews of TeslaCon with lots of pictures. Several St. Louis area businesses and events are moving.



Rukshana Dances Here are some YouTube videos of guildfriend Gail Wolfenden-Steib performing dances with swords and candles (found by Paula)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPzMZxeuz28> BDUC performance sword
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtUZGF6YyTc> Tray performance with some floor—The Grind Coffee house.



International Costumer 15.1 (Jan-Feb 2016) features a cover photo of members of the 501st Stormtrooper Legion and Rebel Legion. Editor Vicky introduces these Star Wars reenactors. President Phil Gust brings us up to speed on efforts to update the ICG archives software and how to nominate someone for the lifetime achievement award. Kathe Gust reviews costuming blogs. Bruce Mai introduces the CC34 single pattern contest and its “Wicked Plants” theme. Stace Feldman introduces the CC34 tote bag contest. Byron Connell reviews “Steampunk Soldiers” art book. ICG members receive a link, username and password to access the newsletter online.



Angela Clayton. Here’s some brilliant cosplay work by Angela Clayton inspired by Disney characters and renaissance art. (found by Stephanie)
http://www.boredpanda.com/costumes-incredible-dresses-young-designer-angela-clayton/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=BPFacebook



Links to many **Free Historical Patterns** on the Costuming Diary web site (found by Stephanie)
<http://www.costumingdiary.com/2010/12/free-historical-costume-patterns.html>



Architecture, Designs, and Clothing of the Medieval Lifestyle Here is a collection of links to various pages on medieval costume, architecture and art presented on the BuyCostumes.com site. The link was sent to my own commercial page by someone who may or may not be shilling. (Gads, I’m getting cynical.)
<http://www.buycostumes.com/ideas/trends/medieval-clothing-architecture-designs/>

Randall’s Swan Song

This is my last issue as editor of Cactus Needles for a while. I’m been at this since 2003 and the creative juices are running a bit dry. It’s time to try something else. Look for the first issue from my able successor next month. In my dozen years at the helm (It’s really 13, but there was a skip year in the middle), I’ve done my best to bring you your newsletter on time with something worth reading.

You will still hear from me fairly often. I’m just switching from being the J. Jonah Jameson of this Daily Bugle to more of a Peter Parker. I’ll swing around town with my camera, looking for costume news.

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.*

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>

January 1-3, 2015 – **London Bridge Renaissance Faire** in Lake Havasu City, Arizona This inaugural event includes activities for all ages including a storybook corner, knighting ceremony, hair braiding, and artisan demonstrations. Have tea with the royal court and celebrate at the victory breakfast. Lake Havasu State Park, Lot 4 (Windsor 4), 171 London Bridge Road, www.golakehavasu.com

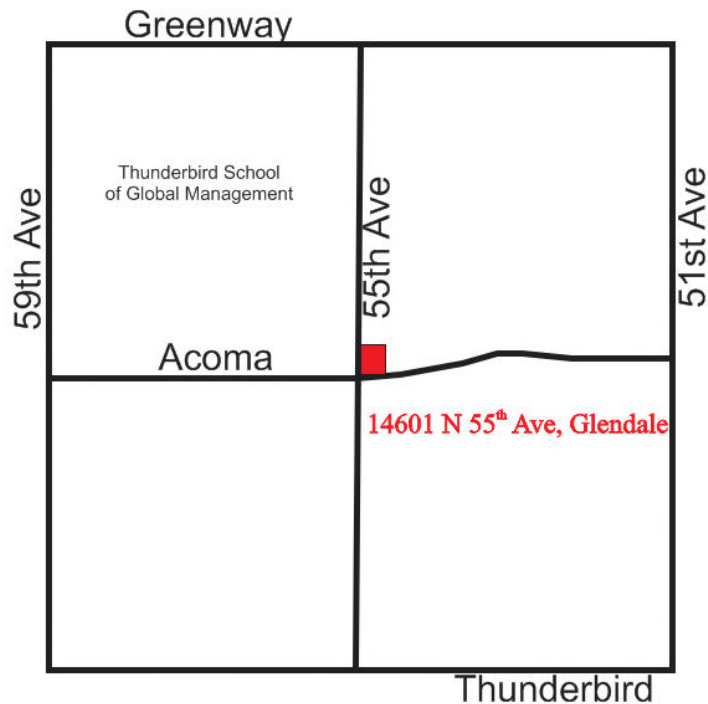
January 8-10, 2016 – **Flagg Gem & Mineral Show** at Mesa Community College, 1833 W. Southern Avenue www.flaggshow.info

January 15-17, 2016 – **Taiyou Con** anime convention at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, AZ <http://taiyoucon.com/>

January 20, 2016 – **Dolls and Friends Doll Show** at First Church of the Nazarene, 301 N. Hartford Street, Chandler AZ. Enjoy antique and modern dolls and teddy bears. 602-550-9933

January 23, 2016, 10-3 – **Library ComiCon** at Tempe Public Library, SWC Rural and Southern in Tempe, Arizona. FREE EVENT! ALL ARE WELCOME! Fans of Marvel, DC, Star Wars, Wholocks and even Trekkies are invited to gather at the Tempe Public Library in costume for a celebration of pop culture. Speakers, artists and writers will be present to discuss and sell their work. There will be a costume contest sponsored by Phoenix ComiCon and activities for children too. www.tempe.gov/comicon **SWCG will run a fan table. Coordinate with Randall regarding stuff to bring and when/where to be. Send him some pictures of SWCG people having fun in costume to display at the table.**

January 28-30, 2016 – **Phoenix Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival** at the Arizona State Fairgrounds, 1826 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix. <http://quiltcraftsew.com>



Center, 44th Street and the Red Mountain Freeway, Phoenix
<http://www.phoenixchineseweek.org/>

January 31, 2016 – **Wrap Up*** at Tasha's place (14501 N 44th Avenue, Glendale AZ). Let's finish up some of the various garment construction projects began in 2015.

February 5-7, 2016 – **Two Rivers Renaissance Faire** Pirate and Faerie Festival at Yuma County Fairgrounds, Yuma AZ.
<http://www.tworiversfaire.com/>

February 6-March 27, 2016 (weekends + Presidents' Day) – **Arizona Renaissance Festival** on US 60 east of Gold Canyon, Arizona.
<http://www.royalfaires.com/arizona/>

February 12-14, 2016 – **Phoenix Chinese Week** at the Chinese Cultural Center, Phoenix

February 12-17, 2016 – **Amazing Arizona Comic Con** at the Phoenix Convention Center
<http://amazingarizonacomicon.com/>

February 13-14, 2016, 9-4 – **Annual Winter Tractor Show** at Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area, 9802 N. 59th Ave., Glendale AZ. Enjoy tractor pulls, displays and more! \$5; Ages 12 and under free. Presented by Arizona Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association. This event is operated in conjunction with the Glendale Historical Society, a separate, non-profit organization. (Note: A few people may show up in steam or steampunk costumes, but not many. - More in overalls or farm clothes.)

February 19-21, 2016 – **Tucson Quilters Guild 2016 Quilt Fiesta** at Tucson Convention Center 260 South Church Street, Tucson, Arizona Hundreds of quilts, vendor mall, raffle quilt, small quilt auction, quilt appraisals, door prizes. Tucson Convention Center, \$10 per day.
<http://tucsonquiltersguild.com/quiltshow.htm>

February 20-21, 2016 – **Button Show** at Hilton Garden Inn, 11460 W. Hilton Way, Avondale Arizona Arizona State Button Society's Annual Show includes educational exhibits, workshops, competitions, and more. 928-778-7299

February 20-21, 2016- **Annual Apache Junction Rock and Gem Show** at Skyline High School Gymnasium, 845 S. Crismon Rd., Dealers sell handmade jewelry, gems, beads, slabs, rocks, minerals, fossils, and jewelry-making supplies. www.ajrockclub.com

February 21, 2016 – **Mardis Gras*** SWCG social at Tasha's place. A bit early, but do it in costume please. **Date changed to avoid time conflict with the Estrella War.**

February 22-28, 2016 – **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/> Feb 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Costume Contest – Working Costume – Main Tent. 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Costume Contest - Dress Costume – Hospitality Tent. 8 p.m. Costume Awards – Main Tent

February 23-29, 2016 – **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/>

February 27 & 28, 2016, 10-5 – **Matsuri Festival of Japan** at Heritage & Science Park, 7th Street & Monroe in downtown Phoenix. Free admission . www.azmatsuri.org

March 12, 2016, 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://stpatrikcsdayphoenix.org/>

March 4-6, 2016 – **Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention** at Old Tucson Studios <https://www.wildwestcon.com/>

March 18-20, 2016 – **Con Nichiwa** anime convention at the Tucson Convention Center, 260 S Church Ave Tucson AZ 85701. <http://www.con-nichiwa.com/>

March 19-20, 2016 - **52nd Arizona Scottish Gathering & Highland Games** at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E Indian School Road in Phoenix. <http://www.arizonascots.com/05games.shtml>

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

June 23-26, 2016 – **LepreCon 42: The Meaning of Life, The Universe and Everything** at the Embassy Suites North (SEC I-17 & Greenway Road) in Phoenix. <http://leprecon.org/>

June 2-5, 2016 – **Phoenix ComiCon** at the Phoenix Convention Center <http://www.phoenixcomicon.com/>

November 11-13, 2016 – **TusCon 43** at Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 4550 S. Palo Verde Road, Tucson, AZ 85714. This year's guest of honor is George RR Martin. <http://tusconscificon.com/>

April 20-24, 2017 – **Costume-Con 35** at the Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale, 6750 Mississauga Road, Mississauga (near Toronto), Ontario, Canada <http://costumecon35.com/>

July 1-4, 2017 – **WesterCon 70** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel. Guests include Julie Dillon, Larry Elmore, Gini Koch and Weston Ochse. www.westercon70.org

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

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