

	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">18.07 - July 2018</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Southwest Costumers Guild</b>  <b>PO box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069</b>  <a href="http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org">http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org</a></p>
<p>President Paula Lary  Vice President Randall Whitlock  Secretary Melissa Weathersby  Webmaster Randall Whitlock  Treasurer, Editor Tasha Cady</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Officer Contacts</u></b></p> <p><a href="mailto:president@southwestcostumersguild.org">president@southwestcostumersguild.org</a>  <a href="mailto:vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org">vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org</a>  <a href="mailto:secretary@southwestcostumersguild.org">secretary@southwestcostumersguild.org</a>  <a href="mailto:webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org">webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org</a>  <a href="mailto:treasurer@southwestcostumersguild.org">treasurer@southwestcostumersguild.org</a></p>

### **Recent Events**

#### **Leprecon 44**

After several false starts, Leprecon 2018 was held June 22-24 at the DoubleTree on North metro parkway. Randall attended and sent these photos. Top is masquerade contestants on stage for awards . Bottom are the judges- left Amber Brite's "incredible" ElastiGirl costume (<https://www.amberbrite.com/>), right Masquerade Director Samantha Kitt (<https://www.thermocoplay.com/>), Judge Nola Yergen (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCez7xDUHTfX-UkIDGcc3meg>)





### Westercon 71

Westercon was held July 4-8 at the Hyatt regency in the Denver Tech Center. Your editor took a road trip and attended. Photos will be in the next issue. There were 24 entries: one large group, four twosomes, and a number of young fen. There were a few nice Hall costumes, for which ribbons were given.

### In memorium

Lyn was a long time member of SWCG and our treasurer for many years

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/phoenix-az/roslyn-jeppesen-7894419>

RosLyn, born February 20, 1945, passed away peacefully June 24, 2018, in Mesa, AZ. Her husband of 55 years, David Jeppesen preceded her in death May 8, 2017. RosLyn was born to Roscoe Spackman and Lillian Thelma Prudent in Preston Idaho. She and David married in 1962, and moved to Phoenix, AZ a year later. Lyn retired as a legal secretary in 2008, after 25 years. Lyn loved reading science fiction, crocheting afghan blankets, and bowling. She loved traveling with David to bowling tournaments and science fiction conventions, and visiting her grandchildren.

RosLyn is survived by siblings Sharon Robinson and Joel Spackman; her three sons, Daniel (Tacoma, WA), Norman Dean (Mesa, AZ), and Michael (Renton, WA), 14 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

**Briefs**



**SEND ME MORE!!!**

**Mermaid Monday**

By Randall Whitlock

In the two years since its completion, I have grown quite fond of the Odysea aquarium, located on Via de Ventura, just east of the Pima Freeway in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community. I decided to spend Memorial Day there this year. Costume-wise, this was a good call. There were mermaids!



These members of the Wands and Wishes Mermaids troupe are skilled freedivers in costumes which integrate a “monofin” to allow them to swim like dolphins. (Our Tasha has shared her experience learning to use such a swimming costume.) They appeared in the larger display tanks, swimming and interacting with children on the other side of the glass. The mermaids used a mouthpiece on a supplied-



air hose to extend their underwater time. During their performances, each mermaid was accompanied by a safety diver on scuba equipment, lurking just out of view.

Check out the YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwVQB8Wg3Ik> for Caliope's performance.

While one mermaid performed in the tank, others held court from thrones in the lobby. Naturally the event included face painting, wand making and other children's activities.

I was there for something I had been looking forward to for many months -- the "SeaTrek" experience. They loan you a wetsuit, a pair of crocs and a digital camera, then the staff lowers a supplied-air helmet onto your shoulders and your party walks about on the bottom of one of the big tanks, surrounded by rays and sand sharks. For half an hour, you get to be that little plastic diver in the goldfish bowl.

Your photos are uploaded to Google Drive and you can download them later in the day. Yes, that's me next to the shark.



The rays are accustomed to people and get downright affectionate. It helps that our guide was carrying a squeeze bottle full of krill.

As part of the weekend event, we were joined by a mermaid. The experience was extra sweet because my dive partner was her dad. Check out the photo as she gives dad a hug and kiss.



Our guide taught us to throw bubble rings by scooping air from under our helmets and pushing it forward. The effect looks just like that thing Aquaman did in those cartoons from the 1960s. One of the mermaids was so skilled that she could make the bubble rings form heart shapes.

I don't think I could pull off the mermaid look myself, but the experience tempts me to build a swimmable Creature from the Black Lagoon costume. Ever since "The Shape of Water," he gets to play the romantic lead.

## **Minutes**

### **The Pirate Slouch      SWCG Activity July 1, 2018 at 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue Sew & Vac**

Commented Upon by Randall Whitlock

Paula, Sharan, Mahala and Randall gathered at the 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue Sew & Vac location at 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Northern in Phoenix. No business meeting was convened, just a crafty session. Randall demonstrated how to make his "Pirate Slouch" hat. (Details to follow in a subsequent edition)

## 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.*

### Reynolds Advanced Materials Schedule

Event	Date	Time	Cost
<a href="#">Let's Talk About Epoxy Putties</a>	August 17, 2018	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Free</b>
<a href="#">Basics of Mold Making &amp; Casting</a>	September 14, 2018	9:30 am - 3:30 pm	\$75.00 Per Person
<a href="#">Let's Talk About Making On-Skin Wounds with Silicone Rubber</a>	October 19, 2018	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Free</b>
<a href="#">Basics of Mold Making &amp; Casting</a>	November 2, 2018	9:30 am - 3:30 pm	\$75.00 Per Person

July 28<sup>th</sup> Prescott Valley Library Con - SWCG invited, still finding out details

Jul 28, 5:30 – 10:30 PM . . [The Second Annual Harry Potter Charity Ball](#)

Tucson Scottish Rite 160 S Scott Ave, Tucson, Arizona 85701

The Harry Potter Charity Ball is a party celebrating all things Harry Potter and guests are urged to dress the part. The proceeds from this little get together will be donated (100%!) to at least four local charities. The Harry Potter Charity Ball is not affiliated with the brand, books or the movies in any way, except we dress like we are! THIS IS A 21 AND OVER EVENT!

Tickets are \$15 for Hogwarts' Students (regular) and \$50 for Hogwarts' professors (VIP). Professors receive early entry, VIP parking, and a special Charity Ball gift! Special thanks to Chris Lawler and Nova Home Loans for their support.

**\*August 5<sup>th</sup>** – Swim party at Jean / Nola's

**Aug 16-20 Worldcon 76 in San Jose** <http://www.worldcon76.org>

**Aug 24-26 Bubonicon 50 Albuquerque NM** [www.bubonicon.com](http://www.bubonicon.com)

**Aug 31<sup>st</sup> – Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018** - CoKoCon – Phoenix <http://www.cokocon.org/>

Check out WesternSFA and CASFS's new event **CoKoCon**, a traditional science fiction convention in Phoenix, AZ. We'll be hosting guests of honor, an art show, merchant room, gaming, filk, parties, you name it! Doubletree by Hilton Phoenix North, 10220 N Metro Parkway E, Phoenix AZ Memberships limited to 500.

\*September 2<sup>nd</sup> – tentative – beading workshop at a bead shop

September 14<sup>th</sup> 2018 – Mesa 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday - Pirates Block Party

October 12<sup>th</sup> 2018 – Mesa 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday – Nightmare on Main

**DECEMBER 8 - SATURDAY - LIBCON West** Is Coming! Saturday, December 8, 11 AM-5 PM at the Glendale Main Library (5959 W. Brown St.) Get ready to let loose, drop in, and geek out! Glendale Public Library is proud to present our third annual library comic convention. Celebrate all things pop culture, with cosplay, gaming, crafts, stories, trivia, vendors, food trucks, prizes and more at this free, family-friendly event. We have activities for all ages! For more information, visit <http://www.libconwest.org>. The Guild has been invited and we should have a presence there!

**January 26, 2019** from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Tempe Public Library is hosting its annual **Library FanCon** (formerly known as Comicon)

**March 22-25, 2019 - Costume-Con 37** Salem, MA

Attending Memberships are \$60 through at least 12/31/2016. \$45 for those that voted in the site-selection. Supporting Memberships are \$25, \$15 for voters. We hope to have online registration in place soon, even if it'll just be a paypal button, so please be patient. Or you can send a check (payable to Costume-Con 37) to MCFI PO Box 1010 Framingham, MA 01701 I'll be posting more information on a semi-regular basis. If there is something you would like to do for CC37, please email Aurora and myself. Sharon Sbarsky [sbarsky@gmail.com](mailto:sbarsky@gmail.com) or Aurora Celeste [auroraceleste@gmail.com](mailto:auroraceleste@gmail.com)

### Copyright Statement

Cactus Needles is the newsletter of the Southwest Costumers guild and is distributed by mail or e-mail to our member/subscribers. Back issues are posted to the SWCG web site.



Copyright for Cactus Needles belongs to the Southwest Costumers Guild. As reader, you have our permission to print and copy this newsletter, but only if you copy the entire newsletter, do not make alterations, and give it away for free. People who know what they're talking about call this the "*Creative Commons Attribution- Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 United States License*," which can be viewed at <http://creativecommons.org/>. Copyright for individual signed articles and illustrations belong to their creators. If you'd like to reprint an article or picture in your own publication, please contact the editor at [editor@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:editor@southwestcostumersguild.org) to arrange author permission. Like what you see? Consider becoming a paying member or subscriber to support the cause. Details and a signup form can be found at <http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>. Better yet, send us some content for the next issue. We're always open to costuming news, how to and other feature articles, reviews of events, books, film, television and web, and calendar items of interest to Arizona costumers. Send your submissions to [editor@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:editor@southwestcostumersguild.org).