

	<h1 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h1> <p style="text-align: center;">19.11- Nov</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Southwest Costumers Guild PO box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069 http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org</p>
<p>President Paula Lary Vice President Randall Whitlock Secretary Randall Whitlock Webmaster Randall Whitlock Treasurer, Editor Tasha Cady</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Officer Contacts</u></p> <p>president@southwestcostumersguild.org vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org secretary@southwestcostumersguild.org webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org treasurer@southwestcostumersguild.org</p>

Recent Events

<p>The November meeting was an outing to Encanto park – in costume, of course! None of us had been there in a while. There is an island with children’s’ rides Participating – bottom left Mahala, Paula and Jean; bottom right, Randal, Jean and Paula</p>	
	



There was also a Halloween Con at the Glendale Library. Randal got a chance to go, and hung out with our friend Anna. He is a “scare quote”, she is All Mother Frigga, with babies Thor and Loki (Her friend Kerri made the caps)



Briefs



(SEND ME MORE!!! – Always)

Interesting link – shared by Paula

<https://www.thevintagenews.com/2019/08/20/queen-elizabeth-cloth/>

It seems that some fabric from one of Elizabeth I's gown has been discovered being used as an alter cloth.

See You Later Neck Gaiter

By Randall Whitlock

Neck gaiters are those stretchy sleeves worn around the neck for a variety of purposes. According to Wikipedia, they were invented circa 1982 by Millie Merrill. Done in fleece or thick knit, they replace a muffler and ear muffs for warmth.

In lighter fabrics, they can provide sun protection for the back of the neck. Kayakers face the odd situation of needing sun protection from below as well as above when the rays reflect off the water. Neck gaiters are good for this purpose and many are sold as fishing accessories. Some brands are made of special fabrics to cool the neck when wetted or chilled.

As a layer of light fabric over the lower face, a neck gaiter can be as effective as a surgeons' mask in keeping dust out of your nose. You will often see neck gaiters worn by landscaping professionals and construction workers. I recently purchased a lightweight neck gaiter for this purpose. It worked pretty well. The knit could stand to be a bit tighter to catch the finer dust.

My gaiter is simply a tube of knit fabric about 16 inches tall and 20 inches around with hems at either end. This should be very simple to make from bargain bin t-shirt knit, spandex, or fleece, depending on your purpose. Less stretchy fabrics might use a drawstring around the top to adjust size.

For my future experiments, I may try adjusting the shape of the seam to make it fit more closely without pressing my nose down. I will keep you posted on the results.



Do an internet search for neck gaiter images and you will find many novelty items. Neck gaiters can be purchased printed with a variety of images. Don one and your lower face becomes a skull, scary clown or cartoon character. The possibilities for Halloween and hall costume applications are endless. Start out with plain white T-shirt material and paint your character by hand or draw it on computer and use T-shirt transfer paper.

Minutes

Guild Outing November 3, 2019 at Enchanted Island

Reported by Randall

Present were Jean, Paula Mahala and Randall

We gathered at the Enchanted Island amusement park within the City of Phoenix Encanto Park to walk about in light costume. This is a rather nice little amusement park that went through a major renovation in the 1990s. It has a miniature train, carousel and a variety of rides, including a mini coaster in the shape of a dragon. The weather was clear and this looks like a place to visit again, perhaps with a costume theme.

Afterwards we repaired to a fairly nearby Culver's for burgers and frozen custard.

A bit of business was discussed. President Paula will call Tasha and Sharan to resolve the question of who is hosting the December holiday get-together. Paula may host the January meeting. We are open to suggestions for crafty activities in the coming year.

Reminder: we will be running a meet and greet booth at the Glendale Public Library's LibCon West on December 7. There is no formal "Glendale Glitters" street fair this year, but the tree lights will be up and there will be a lightsaber parade after the con.

Randall reported from the ICG Board of Directors online forums that the ICG president and vice president have resigned over a variety of recent heated controversies. Look to the ICG newsletter for details. Kevin Roche has been nominated for interim president, but the election has not taken place as of this writing.

Randall reported that Yahoo will continue to operate the Yahoogroups listserves, but several functions are shutting down, including the ability share and archive files. This is a significant problem for the ICG listserves and officers are working hard to create backups. For our own Guildsters and SWCGmembers lists, it is not so much a problem as we have rarely used those functions. Meeting minutes posted to those file sections are also present in back issues of Cactus Needles.

Paula reported that a costume supply company contacted her via the president@southwestcostumersguild.org address. General consensus was that this is spam of the harmless variety. [P.S. Treasure also got this (and googled the company name and address) – it does seem to be an ad for a legitimate company in NYC selling to costumers]

Mahala shared an adorable photo of a little girl in Victorian costume with a lavishly decorated doll buggy.

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.*

Cosplay Opportunity: Saturday, November 23, the City of Glendale's Community Services Department will be hosting the **Glendale Family Health and Resource Fair** at the Glendale Civic Center (5750 West Glenn Drive, a few blocks away from the Velma Teague Library). The library will be providing a "kid zone" with simple crafts, games, and a storytime from **9 AM- noon**; cosplayers dropping by at any time during those hours to interact with the kids and pose for photo ops would be awesome. Here's the link: <https://www.glendaleciviccenter.com/event/glendale-family-health-and-resource-fair/>

December 31st – 8:30pm to 12:15 am

Randal got this email. Tickets start at \$75 and are nonrefundable. Adults only.

Hi there! I am throwing an event that I think many people in your group would be interested in. It's a Roaring 20s New Year's Eve with a live band playing authentic music and costumes are required! Let me know what you think.

The Ashley Castle

1300 South Price Road

Chandler, AZ 85286

<https://www.facebook.com/events/417225485812255/>

DECEMBER 7 - LIBCON West 2019! Get ready to geek out at LIBCON West! Glendale Public Library is proud to present their fourth annual library comic convention, this time in the heart of downtown Glendale at the Velma Teague Library and Murphy Park. This all-ages celebration of all things pop culture will feature comic book authors, cosplay groups, dozens of vendors, programs and demonstrations, live music, games and crafts for kids and teens. This special event will culminate in a Star Wars Lightsaber Walk through the holiday lights of downtown Glendale, led by the Syndicate Saber United cosplay/lightsaber choreography group, beginning at 5 p.m. Following the convention, participants are encouraged to experience the delicious restaurants, holiday shopping and festive entertainment in the downtown area.

Date: Saturday, December 7, noon – 5 p.m.

Location: Velma Teague Library, 7010 N. 58th Avenue and the surrounding Murphy Park

Website & Vendor Information: <https://www.libconwest.org/>

Tempe FanCon 2020 Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Comic and cosplay fans grab your capes and superpowers and come to the Tempe Public Library for a celebration of comics and pop culture. Join us for free family fun including costume contests, authors and artists, entertainment, activities for the kids, photo ops with characters, fandom related items for sale, and food trucks.

The guild has had a table for the past few years. It's a nice little event. Fun to watch all the costumes.

The Countess of Melbury's Ball March 14 2020

I'm the organizer of [The Countess of Melbury's Ball](#) coming up in Walnut Grove, CA this March 14, 2020 and wanted to spread the word to your talented members if possible! I understand your events calendar is primarily for events near you, but we currently have attendees coming from 7+ states (and we're not too far away!).

Here's a brief description of the event (more info at the link above):

Hosted at a beautiful estate in Walnut Grove, CA, our first annual 18th-century ball will be an unforgettable evening of historic immersion. The setting is 1789 in Georgian Era England and the guests will be invited to a private ball and evening hosted by the Countess of the estate. Arriving in full costume, guests will be taken by horse and carriage up to the estate before they enter an enchanting candle-lit evening featuring a multi-course Georgian meal and beverages, card games and billiards, English Country Dance called by a British Dancemaster, and surprise live performances by skilled artists.

Please let me know what you might need from me to make spreading the word possible. I greatly appreciate it!

Sincerely thanks,
Shannon

Shannon Portnyagin

Sartorial Events

<http://www.countessofmelburysball.com>

P.O. Box 671

Roseville, CA 95678

Cell: 916-741-2414

shannon@sartorialevents.com

Westercon 73, July 2-5, 2020, Seattle (SeaTac) WA

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