

	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">20.02 - Feb  <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>
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### **Recent Events**

I think we've all (or t least most) been a bit under the weather.



#### Sidebar – Parachute Wedding Gowns

At the February meeting, Mahala shared an online news item found by Mark regarding a WWII veteran who gifted the parachute that saved his life to his fiancée, who had it made into her wedding gown. This appears to be the article at <https://www.wearethemighty.com/history/wedding-dress-ww2-parachute> .

My Google search opened quite a can of worms (silk worms, of course). It seems this bride's story is far from unique. Parachute wedding gowns were quite a thing in the middle and late 1940s. Think about it, fabric had been rationed throughout the war, becoming very expensive. Parachutes were made of fine white silk or nylon, were available for free or at war surplus prices, and often had gripping stories of survival connected with them. At least one of these gowns is now displayed in the Smithsonian and others are in veterans' museums around the country. Some are offered for sale as antiques on eBay and Etsy. I invite you to do your own online image search for parachute wedding gowns. Most of them are quite remarkable.

## Minutes

SWCG Meeting February 2, 2020 at Yogurtini in Glendale

Seen by Randall

This was an ice cream social and brainstorming session at the Yogurtini self-serve yogurt bar. Present were Paula, Tasha, Mahala, Sharan and Randall.

By acclamation and mutual consent, the current officers will continue for another year with Paula as president, Randall as VP and Webmonster, and Tasha as Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

Paula has been in conversation with Gail Wolfenden Steib regarding her teaching a workshop on drape fitting. This is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 4, location to be announced, but hopefully at Gail's work space in Tempe .

With the decline of Yahoogroups and historically limited participation in our Guildsters and SWCGMembers listserves, Randall asked about alternatives for getting e-mail messages out to the entire membership when needed. For the time being, Newsletter Editor Tasha will act as e-mail coordinator, since she has an e-mail list of all of our newsletter subscribers. Please contact her via [Treasurer@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:Treasurer@southwestcostumersguild.org) or [Editor@southwestcostumersguild.org](mailto:Editor@southwestcostumersguild.org) and she can forward the message. This has the advantage that a human mind will decide whether a message is spam or not before forwarding.

Welcome Ann! Webmaster/BOD Rep Randall reports that Ann Ware of Coos Bay , Oregon has joined SWCG using our online signup form. (Her dues check arrived the day after our meeting). Ann has chosen SWCG as her home chapter so that she can serve as ICG Corresponding Secretary.

Treasurer Tasha collected dues for 2020. If you were not at the meeting, please contact her.

Paula reported that she attended Tempe Library Con in January. (SWCG did not have an official presence this year.) Paula indicated the costumes were excellent.

Tasha brought us up to date regarding Chuck's health situation. He will be moving to an assisted living facility in Glendale . The facility has an excellent reputation and is near the family home.

Tasha will attend the Estrella War, again helping out at the Alteryars merchant pavilion where some of our hats and other fundraiser items will be set out for sale.

Our next activity will be to gather at 10 AM on March 1 at Randall's place ( 2320 West Seldon Lane , Phoenix ), combine vehicles, then drive up to the AZG&F Ben Avery Shooting Facility at I-17 and Carefree Highway to attend the Single-Action Shooting Society's " Winter Range " event. Besides watching the cowboy action shooting, we will walk the "Sutlers' Row" of merchants. Many of these merchants sell costume items, so it is a great opportunity to build up your Victorian, Western and Steampunk garb. Wild west costume is encouraged for the event.

After the meeting, Paula, Sharan and Randall drove down to visit Jean at home, where she is recovering from a broken hip. We delivered a get well card from the Guildsters.

## 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.*

### **Old Tucson Studios Reneactment – Feb 15 9 am – Feb 16 5pm**

Civil war battles! Hosted by First US Infrantry Company D

### **Cosplay contest at Asian District Night Market - Sat Feb 29<sup>th</sup>**

AZ international Marketplace – 5:30- 11pm. Prizes from Phoenix Fan fusion and the Cosplay Pros.

### **Indian Fair and Market - Sat Mar 7 & 8**

Artists and cultural performances at the Herd Museum – 9am – 5pm

### **Bustles, Bandanas, and Bites; A Train Ride through Gold Country Sunday, March 8th 11:30am - 2:00pm.**

.A GBACG even. Learn about Gold Rush History and have lunch in our own train car!  
Sacramento RiverTrain 400 N Harbor Blvd, West Sacramento

### **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](mailto:shannon@sartorialevents.com)

### **Costume Academy 2020 Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 9:15am-5:00pm**

Language Studies International, Berkeley, CA

There are twelve classes offered, four classes in each time slot, three time slots. Each student chooses one class from the topics in each time slot.

The cost for members of GBACG is **\$55.00**

For non-members the cost is **\$65.00**

**Here's how to register and choose your class:**

1. Pay through Eventbrite, at the bottom of the [Costume Academy page](#).
2. Receive confirmation email from Eventbrite with a **link to register for classes**, link is also on the confirmation page after registering!
3. Complete the class choice form and submit, remember to say your first and second choices, make sure to use the same name and email you used for your registration!
4. Receive confirmation email with a list of your classes. This may take a day or two, while we receive the class choices!

**Deadline to Purchase: Sunday, March 1**

**Geeks' Night Out / Tempe STEAM Festival – March 18<sup>th</sup>**

Tempe Community Complex. Free family Festival presented by State Farm.

(Randal sne tthis to me – maybe as another geek rather than a costumer. But there might be some high tech ideas)

**Verde Valley Comic Expo – March 21<sup>st</sup> 10am – 5pm**

Sounds similar to the lib cons we have been to – it's run by the Cottonwood library staff, but held at the Cottonwood rec center. \$5, \$3 with 2 non-perishable food items. Proceeds help fund the library summer reading program

**Experience Africa / Africa Fest – March 28<sup>th</sup>**

11am – 6:30pm Kiwanis Park, Tempe. Culture and entertainment focuses and features fashions.

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

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