



SOUTHWEST COSTUMERS' GUILD

Volume VI, Number 10

October 1999

SouthWest Costumers Guild

meets generally on the last Sunday of the month, 1:00PM at members homes or someplace fun. The Guild dues for our chapter are \$10 per year, an optional additional \$1 for membership in the International Costumer's Guild, and \$8 to receive the International Costumer's Quarterly. \$8 to receive only our chapter newsletter. Send money to Frances Burns, she will notify the Editor. SWCG Webpage:

<http://members.aol.com/souwesgld/guild.html>

International Costumers Guild Webpage: www.costume.org

For further information write to SWCG, PO Box 39504,

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**October Meeting - Halloween Party
October 31 - 4PM**

Guild meeting and pot-luck at Tasha's place. We'll do food & costumes.

From Our President

Hey Guildsters,

As most of you already know, Bruce and Nora Mai are putting together an International Costume Guild publication, to feature pictures of ICG individual and Group activities. This first volume will feature pictures taken before 1999. I would like the SouthWest Costumers Guild to be properly represented.

Please bring me pictures of yourself or others in costume that I can send to Bruce to be scanned and returned. He wants to do all the scanning and printing himself for consistency of format. For legalbeagle purposes (Bruce is adamant on this point), each photo needs to be accompanied by a release note with signatures from the photographer and each of the persons in the picture. I can work up a form for this if it would be helpful. Some notes explaining the picture would be useful, such as costume titles at what occasion the picture was taken.

Please pass your pictures to me at or before the SWCG Halloween Party at Chuck & Tasha's place on October 31. We're already late, but the Halloween party would be a good place to catch release signatures. New party game—Bobbing for Waivers.

My best group picture was taken at Devonshire about four years ago. It includes: Chuck Cady, Tasha Cady, Tom Vincent, Jo Webber, Frances Burns, Jean Palmer, Paula Lary, Randall Whitlock, and Pete Manly

I would like to send it in, so I will need to catch each of you for a release signature. Please let me know when would be a good time and place to meet up with you, especially if you won't be at the party.



Sincerely
Randall Whitlock
SWCG President

CALENDAR

NOTE: Information in this calendar is provided as a service to our guild please contact the individual organizations for verification of information.

The CopperCon 19 Masquerade and Lessons Learned

By Randall Whitlock

November 21, 1999, 10 AM - The Cloaking Guild meeting at Jean's place. We'll build some more capes and hats for our semi-annual fundraiser.

December 19, 1999, 1 PM - Holiday Party Guild pot-luck at Frances' place. Food, Holiday Spirit, Annual Elections, Planning for the next year

Ideas for possible meeting topics, road trips, and the like. Here are some of the notions that came up:

Cosmetics, stage makeup & prosthetics
Airbrushing & distressing
Accessories like parasols, etc
Woodworking for accessories—Pete?
Alice in Wonderland Mad Tea Party
Western re-creation events at Ben Avery Range
Basic shirt or chemise
Highland Games in February
How to run a sewing circle—Frances?
Persona development
Masks—Buckram, Leather—Frances?
Moulage face castings
Embroidery
Embellishments for basic garb
Maker Labels—Randall?
Bead Store

If you can host or demo at one of these, let Randall know. If you have another meeting idea, also let Randall know. A schedule for Y2K will be hashed out at the December party meeting.

In Memoriam Marion Zimmer Bradley June 3, 1930 - September 25, 1999

Marion Zimmer Bradley suffered a major heart attack on Tuesday, September 21 and died Saturday, September 25, 1999. She was survived by her brother, Leslie Zimmer; her sons, David Bradley and Patrick Breen; her daughter, Moira Stern; and two grandchildren.

Her funeral will be held on Sunday, October 17, 1999, at 2:00 PM. at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in Berkeley, CA. Memorial donations may be sent to Mrs. Bradley's church: Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

A memorial led by Diana Paxson will be held at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, 685-14th Street, at 2:00 PM. on Oct. 31, 1999.

Every four or five years I get talked into directing a convention masquerade. This year my number came up again when my sales resistance was low.

As always there are things learned, sometimes soon enough to be of use, usually not.

What worked:

The Crew—showed great resourcefulness in improvising solutions to problems as they came up. For example, when my original plans for sound did not materialize, Tannon Weber did a brilliant job of making my cheap bookshelf stereo talk to the ballroom's PA system. Unfortunately, there wasn't much that could be done about its proclivity for eating tapes. The tape deck has been permanently retired.

The Stage—We seem, over several years of trial and error, to have worked out a pretty good stage arrangement for the Navajo Ballroom. Tweaks made this time included a reduced span of pipe and drape to reduce setup time and to take better advantage of the sliding wall at the back of the room.

The Lights—This was also the first time out for my lights. Earlier this year, I decided not to deal with rental companies. I invested some of my own filthy lucre in four Par 56 spots, two collapsible trees, and a metric buttload of extension cord. The system worked with no problems other than a semi-botched cue on my part. There is less wattage in these instruments than I usually like to have, but the system can be expanded later. It definitely needs a switchboard or dimmer system so one operator can control the whole thing effectively. I intend to make this system available for future CopperCons and LepreCons, with a minimal rent to pay for replacement lamps, and a firm "You break it, you buy it" policy. Directors of future masquerades should talk to me at least a couple of months before a con.

The Prizes- It was great to have cool prizes to attract entries. This year we had Master Gannd's Jaeger Knife and the trimmed cloaks made from some woolen Frances picked up in LA and some trims from my supply closet. I found some glue guns at a dollar store for adult participant prizes and filled some drawstring bags from a previous con with candy for children's prizes. Note to self: wait til the last couple of days before the con to fill the candy bags. Otherwise you get that weird mixed "Halloween Bag" smell.

What didn't work:

My weird-elbow categories were a little difficult for judges to follow. I suppose they need to be more flexible.

The pipe & drape changing screen in the green room was unnecessary extra work. Masquerade contestants usually aren't shy about changing in front of other contestants.

The single-use Polaroid "Pop Shot" camera was a good idea on paper, but didn't work well in practice. The print is small, the film is not very forgiving of lighting conditions, and the built-in flash is not nearly bright enough. It's probably fine for party pictures, but not for the longer-distance view you need for a head to toe costume. Polaroids are necessary for documentation, but

the pictures Paula took with her "real" camera are soooo much better. I sent a print of the good picture to each contestant. I hope this small courtesy will help to bring people back next time. I sure wish I had doc photos for my earliest masquerade costumes.

General lessons learned:

Contestant Meeting-Forget it. At a con this small, the potential contestants don't want to take much time out of their Saturday to go through the technical details. Three-quarters of them simply won't show up. It worked much better when I moved the sign-up operation out to the hallway and

interviewed contestants one by one.

Judges will be Judges-Say to a judge panel, "Here are five prizes for you to give away," and they will give away seven. It's happened to me twice in a row. I covered after the fact by making special mention ribbons and sending them to the winners. I should have made up a couple or three of these in advance so the judges would have something for favorite costumes that don't quite fit the categories.

Thank your concept of the divine for the press gangs-I don't know who all was involved, but you did a great job this time convincing people to show costumes and helping them to create improv presentations. Certain dragons, doublets, and chili peppers looked very familiar.

General Thanks:

Thanks to one and all for helping out. Here is a partial list of the crew. Omission does not mean you weren't there, just that you didn't get your name onto my sign-in sheet.

Master of Ceremonies—Cary Riall

Half-time Entertainer—Nancy Freeman

Judges—Brett Bass, Robert Daniels, Maryeileen Flanagan

Videographer—Jim Cryer

Key Grip—John Kitelsrud

Den Mother—Kim Martin

Pusher—Jean Palmer

Photographer—Paula Lary

Disk Jockey—Tannon Weber

Fast-Moving Gofer—Melissa Tribble

Catchers and Stage Hands—Fred Rees, Kretin, Rick Andrews,

Jessie Foster, John Bucholtz, Patrick Hilary-Burroughs, Jo

Sharp, Wil McDonald, Chris Wilcoxson

The Winners:

Judges' Special Mention for Novice Presentation—"A Gypsy and her Ever-Faithful Dragon" Sherry Estabrook and Kelly Rybarczyk

Judges' Special Mention for Experienced Presentation—"Tarzan of the Ewoks" Chuck, Chet, Sam, and Tasha Cady

Best Novice—"Hudson the Gargoyle" Heather Rice

Best Experienced—"1880's Ball Gown: A Vision in Green and Blue" Frances Burns

Best Classic—"Creation's Image" Larry Vela and Gail Wolfenden

Best in Show—"Thomas Kent, A Young Actor of a Company"

Dena Cady

Paula's pictures of these and all of the other entries are on display at <http://members.aol.com/cumask/>

Tax Seminar

Kim Martin writes to us:

The State of Arizona runs tax seminars constantly, and this one caught my eye as being of possible interest to SWCG members. The seminar is called "Hobbies and Crafts — What is Taxable." It is a free seminar, but reservations are recommended for seating. It is aimed at vendors at swap meets, hobby and craft fairs, special events, or to anyone considering selling their handiwork. The topics covered are: What is taxable; Which classification to report under; Form instruction; Model City Code. The times and locations for the 4th Quarter of 1999 are: Phoenix - Nov. 2: Glendale Public Library, 5959 W Brown, 7-9 pm.

Tucson - Nov. 16: AZ Dept of Revenue Basement Training Room #7, 400 W Congress, 2-4 pm.

Flagstaff - Nov. 18: City Council Chambers, 211 W Aspen, 2-4 pm.

Peoria - Nov 23: Peoria Public Library, 8463 W Monroe, 7-9 pm.

Phoenix - Dec. 7: AZ Small Business Association, 1500 E Bethany Home Rd, Suite #140, 9-11 am.

For more information, contact the AZ Dept of Revenue Community OutReach and Education Section, 1600 W Monroe, Phoenix, AZ 85007, (602) 542-3062.

The Bead Museum

The Bead Museum had its grand opening on Saturday, October 10th. It bills itself as the world's largest collection of ancient and contemporary beads, and also has a gift shop, book store, and reference library. The hours are M-Tu-W-F 10AM-5PM; Th 10AM-8PM; Su 11AM-4PM. Location: 5754 W Glenn Drive, Glendale, (623) 931-2737. (Editor's note: If someone goes to the museum I would love a review)

