

	<u>Cactus Needles</u> 25.10 October The Southwest Costumers Guild 2320 West Seldon Lane, Phoenix AZ 85021 http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org
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Briefs

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Siliconwebinar available

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Presents webinar, "Costume-Con 2026 Virtual Competitions" with co-directors Pierre & Sandy Pettinger, Bruce & Nora Mai, and Philip & Kathe Gust took place on September 7, 2025. A recording is now available on the "Webinars" page of the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild website.

<https://www.siwcostumers.org/webinars.html#webinar-2025-09-07>

LibCon West invitation – notes from Randal

Branch Manager Erin sent this formal invitation this morning to LibCon West on December 6, 2025.

SWCG has participated in LibCon West since its very beginning.

I went ahead and filled out the online form to request space for our usual meet and greet booth.

I will bring my popup pavilion, material for back walls, and a signup sheet for potential new members.

Please let me know if you can participate. If you have a handicraft you can demonstrate at the booth, that would be great. Those always attract friendly attention from the guests. Otherwise, just come by and help schmooze. Please wear a costume comfortable for December weather.

Randall Whitlock, Veep
Southwest Costumers Guild

Hello, all you fabulous cosplayers,

LIBCON West, Glendale Public Library's free pop culture convention, is happening on **Saturday, December 6, from 10-3 PM**. This year we are bringing this fabulous event to the **Foothills Branch Library (19055 N 57th Ave)**. See the FAQ below for details.

We appreciate you all so much. Thank you for your interest and we hope to see you in December!

Erin Garred

LibCon West Coordinator

Carpet Costume

The Atlanta Marquis Marriott Hotel, one of the hosts of Dragon Con, once had a distinctive carpet with a pattern of intersecting circles.

Many years ago a squad of cosplayers dressed up as soldiers with fatigues camouflaged to blend into the carpet.

The hotel has been renovated with different floor coverings since then, but the creativity continues with cosplay groups such as the "Cult of Marriott Carpet." You can read a history of the phenomenon with lots of pictures at <https://www.thrillist.com/travel/atlanta/marriott-marquis-hotel-carpet-costumes>.

This year our own Anna joined the fun, commissioning a regency gown featuring a version of the carpet pattern available from Spoonflower. Randall Assisted by making a reticle featuring fabric scraps from the project.



Recent Events

Randall visited the Phoenix Art Museum with friends on September 14

Here are some pictures he took of the traveling exhibit featuring the work of fashion designer Anna Sui.

Full description of the exhibit at <https://phxart.org/exhibition/the-world-of-anna-sui/>.



Minutes

SWCG Activity September 29, 2025

Recorded by Randall

Put together fairly late, this was a casual meeting for ice cream at Cold Stone Creamery in Tempe Marketplace. Paula and Randall were there in the flesh while Mahala joined us by telephone.

We spoke of wide-ranging topics, with Randall showing pictures from his recent visit to the Phoenix Art Museum to view the Anna Sui fashion collection.

We brainstormed out some possible meetings for the rest of the year but did not set any of them in stone. Randall did some follow-up online research the next day, as summarized below.

Trevon Powell and Phoenix Historical Costuming Society are hosting the presentation, “Beneath the Bustle: The Transformative Fashions of the Victorian Period” at Sunnyslope Historical Society on October 5. This is a ticketed event with tix available via Eventbrite.

We received an invitation to Halloween Comic Fest at the Library at Velma Teague Library in Glendale on October 25. See the full write-up in the September Cactus Needles.

Friends of Fair Gathering will be held Saturday Nov 15 from 10-2 at Cuisine & Wine Bistro in Chandler. At first, I thought this was a follow-up to the renfaire swap meet I attended in January, but it seems this is a completely different event with a history going back 15 years. Yes, it is a garb event with food to order from the proprietors and dancing by Ghazall Beledi.

We discussed doing an antique shop crawl in downtown Glendale in connection with the annual Glendale Glitters holiday lights display. According to the City of Glendale website at [Events](#), there will be a kick-off event on November 28 at the Glendale Civic Center and the lights will remain up until January 1.

Paula would like to host a Holiday potluck at her place in Tempe in December. Details and date not yet set. Whatcha think?

Yes, there will be a LibCon West this year! It has not been officially announced yet, but the event will be December 6 at the Foothills Branch near 57th Avenue and Union Hills.

Superhero Saturday will return on Jan 17, 2026 on the good side of Metro Parkway west. Randall had a fine time there last year watching the masquerade and schmoozing among the booths. It is superhero-themed and done as a charity fundraiser by the Phoenix Police Sergeants & Lieutenants Association. The feel is much like a library con with booths from many local interest groups.

We are set up with booth space at Tempe Library Con. Note that the date has moved back to its original timeslot on January 31, 2026.

Field trip idea – From Paula

Cogburn Ostrich Ranch. It's near Picacho Peak off I-10. When I first thought of it, I had no idea how the Ranch had expanded. I've pasted their description below. I originally thought this might be a good place to shop for feathers; while I couldn't find that they had them for sale, a lady in my Writers' Group is doing a book on animals of Arizona, including their history. She has an extensive chapter on ostriches in Arizona and has been to the Ranch. She said they do have very nice feathers for about \$4.00 apiece. She's seen ostrich feathers in craft shops like Michaels' and Hobby Lobby for over \$15.00 apiece and they weren't nearly as nice. The ranch doesn't have food for sale but does have some snacks and drinks available and has a very nice picnic area-you're allowed to bring in your own food. This might be a fun outing for us with the possibility of also buying feathers.

Ye editor visited years ago and bought ostrich eggs (they're a bit gamey). One scrambled served about 10 at campout. The Ranch is veery near Picacho Peak State Park – the site of the only civil war battle in Arizona.

"You might have seen us on any number of TV shows such as “Larry the Cable Guy – Only in America”, “Extreme Roadside Attractions”, “Chef vs City”, “Amazing Animals”, “Arizona Highways”, and many more but there is no substitute for experiencing it up close and personal. Rooster Cogburn Ostrich Ranch is a three generation family owned and operated working ostrich ranch.

We have been open to the public since 1999 when it was just the ostrich to feed. Nowadays, however, there are lots of critters to feed! Joining the ostrich are Miniature Sicilian Donkeys, Nigerian Dwarf Goats, Fallow Deer, Peking Ducks, "The Goat Penthouse" and the "Hole in the Wall Gang" featuring Boer Goats, and the all-time favorite Rainbow Lorikeets. There is something for everyone here and more fun than you can imagine. Affordable family fun for all ages. Amusement parks and outdoor recreational activities."

Here is a minute of humor -

from John this month =, who says

Keep on smiling! It makes people wonder what you have been up to.

New superheroes:

Scooperman – gets his powers from scooping up and eating ice cream

Brat Girl – gets her powers from throwing temper tantrums

Irony man – solves crime with sarcasm

Axe-men – they always smell great

Wander Woman – walked out on this whole silliness

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.*

"Fun with Embroidery Machines" with Jennifer Skwarski

October. 19, 2025 at 1pm PT, 4pm ET – Silicon web webinar - <https://www.siwc costumers.org/index.html>

Halloween ComicFest @ the Library Velma Teague Library (7010 N. 58th Ave.)

Saturday, October 25, from 5-8 PM

We'd love for you to be a part of this spooktacular all-ages Halloween celebration, held in collaboration with Drawn to Comics (5801 W. Glendale Ave.), downtown Glendale's source for comic books, gaming and collectibles. Come for three hours or fifteen minutes – we appreciate any and all support! Last year's event attracted 800 participants!

Attendees will be able to choose from an assortment of free comics, meet local comic book artists, shop with cool vendors, pose with cosplayers and enjoy fun games and crafts. Costumes are encouraged for attendees. Activities will take place both inside the Velma Teague Library and at the Drawn to Comics store located across the street.

Due to construction in the park surrounding the library, most of the lawn area in front of the library will not be accessible. There is only a small area of open park space directly in front of the library's entrance, but this might be enough space for mock combat practice from Syndicate Saber and the Kingdom of Umbria. If any of you would like to do something special during the event besides photo ops/hanging out (a performance, game, etc.), please let me know. Costumes should be age-appropriate for an audience including kids and teens. Prop weapons are permitted as part of your costume, but may be tagged by security. No real weapons are allowed.

Members of Southwest Costumers Guild usually stop by Halloween ComicFest for a bit, though it is an informal outing with three or four members, rather than an organized display for which we would need any assigned space.

TusCon 2025 – Nov 7-9 2025 – Doubletree by Hilton – Tucson Airport <https://tusconscificon.com/>

Full Event (3-Day) Membership/Tickets Adult (Age 16 and above): \$60 Child (Age 6 to 15): \$30

One-day memberships will be available at the door only.

Friday – \$30 Saturday – \$45 Sunday- \$20

Hotel info: <https://book.passkey.com/event/51018510/owner/50954/home>

Hello, fellow fans. Welcome to TusCon, Arizona! More specifically, welcome to TusCon 52, our 52nd annual Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Horror convention in Tuscon... ah, we mean rather Tucson, Arizona. Attendees of TusCon are among the

most dedicated fans of science fiction, fantasy, and horror and many attendees are professional writers, film producers, artists, and reporters who keep others informed about the goings-on in the industry. TusCon is an annual literary-forward convention run by the Baja Arizona Science Fiction Association (BASFA), a Southern Arizona section 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization. The primary focus of TusCon is literary science fiction, fantasy, and horror, but we also embrace art, animation, science, media and gaming to provide a well-rounded experience.

Nov 28-30 Loscon – Hilton, Los Angeles Airport <https://loscon.org/>

Adult - \$65 thru Aug 31, \$75 thru Nov 20th Child 3-11 \$25

Hotel info - <https://book.passkey.com/event/51018510/owner/50954/home>

LIBCON West - Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 10-3 PM (guest registration begins at 8 AM)

Foothills Branch Library • 19055 N 57th Ave Glendale AZ 85308

The event will take place indoors and outdoors at the **Foothills Branch Library**, as well as around the neighboring ball parks on the Storywalk Path. However, there is ample space inside in case of rain.

CHECKING IN - Registration for cosplay guests will begin at **8 AM** and continue throughout the day. ***Please check in at the guest registration table outside the library's west entrance.*** We encourage you to attend for the entire day if possible. If you have been approved to have a table at LIBCON West (please see the **TABLES** section below), you will be sent additional check-in instructions by the Vendor Coordinator. (SWCG will have a table)

COSTUMES - LIBCON West is an all-ages, family-friendly convention. All costumes should be age-appropriate for an audience including kids and teens. Any prop weapons may be tagged by security. *No real weapons will be allowed.* The official weapons procedure can be viewed at libconwest.org/weapons-procedure.html.

AMENITIES - You may use our staff restrooms as changing areas. We will again be providing a Cosplayer Lounge for our cosplay guests in the Youth Department's Storytime Room, which will offer bottled water, snacks, an emergency costume repair kit, and a place to store your belongings. Access to the lounge will be monitored and you will be asked to sign in. There will also be food trucks on-site.

PHOTO OPS - While we are not scheduling formal photo ops, we encourage you to circulate and take photos with attendees. Feel free to bring your own photo op backdrops and/or props if you like.

PERFORMANCES AND ACTIVITIES - If you are interested in presenting a performance/activity or if you just have some suggestions, please let us know! You can perform within our small meeting room. Any questions

Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The Tempe Public Library is hosting its 2026 Tempe FanCon

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. There is no table fee for exhibitors and the event is free and open to the public.

The event will be held outdoors in the Library Plaza. All exhibitors are required to supply their own tables, chairs, and optional canopy with weights. The library will supply a 10' x 10' space for each exhibitor. External gas generators are prohibited. Battery packs are fine. Please leave all pets at home or you will be asked to remove them from the event.

Responding to Jill Brenner's invitation, your veep has reserved a space at Tempe FanCon, to be held on the Tempe Public Library grounds at SWC Rural Road and Southern Avenue on January 17, 2026.

We'll put up a canopy and table as a meet and greet booth, as we have done for the past several years. Last year's presence was a great success, gaining us three new members. Please join in!

I suggest you bring a project to work on and demonstrate while hanging at the booth. These always draw welcome attention.

Ye editor does not have much data further out

PLEASE SEND ME MORE!

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