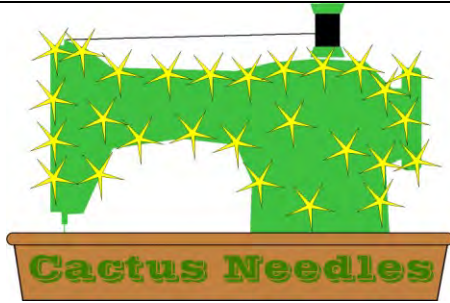


# Cactus Needles

26.05 May 2026

The Southwest Costumers Guild  
2320 West Seldon Lane, Phoenix AZ 85021  
<http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org>



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## Recent Events

From Randall –

My "Ensign Beariner" Star Trek Lower Decks teddy bear will be among the minor entries for the Costume-Con 26 online doll costume contest. . This was my answer to Tasha's teddy bear challenge a few years ago.

Follow up – The Ensign won a minor award – she got the recognition Randall hoped for.



**Briefs**

**SEND ME MORE!**

From Paula

Thought this might be of amusing interest. Tonight on the CBS 6:00 Evening News there was a story about some weird fashions by Chanel that were shown at a Fashion Show. They were all "1/2 Fashions". The garments were literally 1/2 of what they were supposed to be. There was a half baseball cap-vertically down the head leaving one side exposed. There was a dress which was worn upside down with the skirt hem above the head and covering the entire head and torso with nothing on the lower body. The weirdest, if those weren't weird enough, were the shoes. They were literally just heel cups with straps around the ankle to hold them on, The heels were decorated in various ways, one was black leather, but the glitziest one had it covered entirely in gold sequins. For all of these the rest of the foot was exposed. The commentator stated no price tag was quoted, but the news blurb showed some email comments with one person stating she wasn't going to pay \$800 to go barefoot! The commentator asked if anyone spots someone wearing one of these at a Circle K or elsewhere to please let CBS know-and he was serious. My reaction was that I've seen lots of weird and creative costumes at Cons, but nothing this weird, and it looks like the Fashion Industry is now grasping at anything they can think of for new ideas. If you want to see the story, Google CBS Evening News/Weird Fashions for today, April 30. There is a picture of the black "sandal" and you can click on it to see the story on You Tube. Now we know what to do with those small scraps of fabric or leather that we just can't throw out but are too small to use in a costume.



- [Costume-Con 2026 Virtual Competitions](#) by Bruce Mai, Nora Mai, Pierre Pettinger, Sandy Pettinger, Kathe Gust and Philip Gust
- [Miss Lizzy at TeslaCon 2025](#) by Lisa Ashton and Leslie Johnston
- [ICG Officers Elected at 2026 Annual Meeting](#) by Philip Gust
- [Steward Hartman Receives 2026 ICG Lifetime Achievement Award](#) by Kevin Roche

### [Gmail Feeding Emails To AI – How to Disable These Settings](#)

by [Philip Gust](#) | Apr 26, 2026

Google Gmail now includes smart features that also use Gmail messages to train their AI models. This may raise privacy concerns for Gmail users. A YouTube video describes the issues and shows users who are concerned about this how to turn off two Gmail settings to help ensure your privacy.

[read more](#)

Community Issue of *The Virtual Costumer* magazine is online!

"A Lifetime of Costume Design"

Covers an interview with a theatrical costume designer, the life of a professional mascot and more.

To read the issue go to:

[http://www.siwcostumers.org/vc\\_current-issue.html](http://www.siwcostumers.org/vc_current-issue.html)

Select the Community Issue on the lower half of the page and answer the confirmation question.

Want to read the current member's issue? Join Silicon Web Costumers now at:

<http://www.siwcostumers.org/join.html>

Enjoy!

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Philip Gust

Editor, "The Virtual Costumer"

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Co

## **Book Review: Costume Design – by Paula**

I bought this book several years ago at the Phoenix Art Museum when they had their Hollywood Costume exhibition and have read it through many times. It was written/compiled by Deborah Noodleman Landis who designed, among other films, the Raiders of the Lost Ark costumes. It features individual chapters on 16 working designers and 5 “Legacy” designers who were instrumental in developing costume design as an art, and it was through their efforts that costume design was finally taken seriously as part of the filmmaking process. There are discussions with the world’s most notable filmmakers who told of how they found their way into the world of costume design, how they worked with actors, directors, and producers and how they sometimes had to fight producers who thought they knew better what a character’s costume should look like-or more to the point-how they had to argue against the choices of cost versus what the character should wear. Budget has become an increasingly bigger part of the design process and the designers related how they got creative in getting the character on screen with the designer’s vision. Budget also affects how much time a designer has to research, produce a design, get approval from the director-and to some extent how the director and designer must battle. There are a few examples of having to design, make and fit a costume almost overnight for an early morning call for the actor. Sometimes the actor hasn’t been cast until the last minute, and the designer has to design a costume not knowing who will wear it. The designer must develop a relationship with the actor and consider what the actor sees as the character wearing. Johnny Depp is one actor who envisions his characters so thoroughly that the designer has a good idea of what the costume(s) should look like. For Pirates of the Caribbean, Depp had already decided Jack would be someone like rock star Keith Richards, (and who was later cast as Jack’s father). Jack’s costume had already been created; it just lacked the hat. I learned at a visit to Universal Studios costume shop that 27 hats were laid out on the floor. Depp walked in and immediately pick up a hat declaring “That is Jack’s hat”. Then there are the actors who meet with the designer for the first time and just tell the designer to “put something on me”. No help for the designer because the costume should reflect the character’s personality and what vision the actor has in creating the character. The designer also has to work with the set designer and the director and sometimes has to argue with a director who had his own vision of what the costumes should look like. A red ball gown, no matter how striking isn’t going to be seen if the walls and furniture in the scene are also red!

CGI was at the time of the book’s writing a new invention. Joanna Johnston was the costume designer for “Who Framed Roger Rabbit” and it was her task to bring Jessica Rabbit’s (who was a CGI animated character) red sequined gown to life. The gown was an homage to Rita Hayworth’s “Gilda” and it was a challenge to get the sequins to show and sparkle. They attempted to have the sequins present in all of Jessica’s scenes, but it was too costly and time-consuming to do, so they opted for the sparkle in just her performance scene.

I was going to offer where you might purchase this book-it is an interesting read and offers so many insights into the film industry’s costuming division, but when I looked it up, I found this message: “Sorry this title is not available for purchase in your country/region.” I have no idea why. There are several titles in FilmCraft series, including Directing, Screenwriting, and Producing and all of those titles are available. The main imprint is Focal Press of which FilmCraft is a division. I can’t even find it on Amazon. If you ever see one in a used bookstore or wherever, grab it.

## **Minutes**

We met in April – just a little get together. Ice cream in May -with costumes welcome

### **The obligatory minute of humor**

Why did the Star Wars movies come out in the order 4 5 6 1 2 3? In charge of the sequence, Yoda was.

## 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.*

Greater Bay Area Costumers' Guild – proposed 2026 calendar

As usual, we hope to stick to this schedule, but events may change dates or themes based on availability of venues. More details will be coming soon! Additional events may also be added later. Watch for announcements in the newsletter and on our Facebook page.

- May 16 - Goes to Monet at the de Young Museum
- June 7 - Gods and Heroes Celebration
- August 30 - Cable Car Day in San Francisco
- September 27 - Count of Monte Cristo
- October 25 - Steampunk/Gaslamp Zoo Safari

### Local events

**May 9<sup>th</sup> – Guild get together Packers Family Ice Cream (formerly Papa Ed's) 7146 N 58<sup>th</sup> Ave, Glandale Az – 1pm**

Monthly guild get together. Packers is costume friendly – we've been there before. Wild west theme is kind of suggested. Maybe Star Wars – it's near May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**June 5-7 Pheonix fan Fusion** <https://www.phoenixfanfusion.com>

Phoenix Convention Center 100 N Third Street Phoenix, AZ 85004

**July 10-12, 2026 – Mad Monster Party** <https://madmonster.com/arizona-2026/>

RENAISSANCE PHOENIX GLENDALE HOTEL FRI 6PM-11PM SAT 11AM-7PM SUN 11AM-5PM

**9/4 - 9/7 2026 Saboten Con 2026** [info@sabotencon.com](mailto:info@sabotencon.com)

Anime con – the year of transformation Sheraton Phoenix Downtown 340 N 3rd Street Phoenix AZ 85004

**9/5-9/6 Tucson Comic Con -** <https://tucsoncomic-con.com/>

Tucson Convention Center 260 S Church Avenue, Tucson, Az

**11/13-11/25 TUSCON** -*The longest-running science fiction, fantasy, and horror convention in Arizona*

DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Tucson Airport 7051 S Tucson Blvd, Tucson, AZ 8575

Ye editor does not have much data further out

PLEASE SEND ME MORE!

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