

	<u>Cactus Needles</u> 26.08 and 26.09 – Aug/Sep 2026 The Southwest Costumers Guild 2320 West Seldon Lane, Phoenix AZ 85021 http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org
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Recent Events

Ye editor had a very senior moment and didn't get out a news letter last month. Humble apologies.

Guild Activity July 12, 2026

Unfortunately, we made a miscalculation. Turns out the Tempe Historical Museum is not open on Sundays. Undaunted, Paula, Tracy and Randall retreated to Voodoo Donuts on Rural Road for some wildly flavored donuts and ice coffee, along with a couple hours of wide-ranging conversation.



AZ Museum of Natural History
From Paula

Our August meeting was at the Arizona (Mesa) Museum of Natural History 53 N. MacDonald, Mesa, 85201.

Since Arizona is still in its Easy Bake Oven season, some place with A/C was a priority. Randall and I discussed various museums and thought about the Arizona (Mesa) Museum of Natural History. Yes, another museum, but we spun it towards costuming by doing a low-key Indiana Jones event. Randall did his Henry Jones Senior tweeds. For those of you who don't know, the Museum has a lot of archeology related exhibits including a life size velociraptor breaking sideways from the exterior wall of the building. They also have Native American exhibits and others of interest to costumers giving ideas of what kind of costume you could create.



From Phil Gust at Silicon web

"Motion Picture Academy Award for Best Costume Design"

Covers Oscar nominated costumes, member news, 1990s Fashion and much more. To read your issue go to:

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' Guild now at:

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- [Still Time to Apply For a 2026 Marty Gear Fund Grant](#) by Marty Gear Fund
- [Measure of Success Award of the Northern Lights Costumers' Guild](#) by Northern Lights Costumers
- [In Remembrance: Anne Davenport](#) by Leslie Johnston
- [Karen Heim, Acting ICG Corresponding / Recording Secretary](#) by Karen Heim
- [ICG Press Publishes First Audiobook](#) by ICG Press
- [Gmail Feeding Emails To AI – How to Disable These Settings](#) by Philip Gust

From Randall

I had an e-mail conversation recently with Phil and Kathe Gust of Silicon Web Costumers Guild. The topic was how to reach more potential members for our respective guilds.

Phil and Kathe suggested simple paper flyers that could be posted on community billboards at libraries, community colleges, craft stores and the like. (I hope such boards still exist. I will check.)

*****Proposed flyer is at the end of this newsletter*****

From Paula

You have to scroll down to see the entire picture, but: The Writers' Craft group I belong to every other Thursday gives us a "prompt" to create a short story of 1,000 words or less. This next week the lady, Terri, who runs the group has this game-it's not Tarot-called Loteiria. It's a sort of bingo game using cards that some did become the illustrations for some Tarot cards. The game started around the 1500's and is/was very popular in Mexico. Terri sent us 5 cards to create a story. She sent along the history of the game and how it's played and included this picture. I did the best I could in putting it in this email.



Minutes

Again, none - just

The obligatory minute of humor

What would you call an elephant who's in a telephone booth (What's a telephone booth)? Stuck
What would you call a toothless bear? (Someone who needs dentures?) A gummy bear.
What would you call a fish (male – this is important) wearing a fancy crown? A King fish.

Randall's Latest Tool Belt From Randall Whitlock

Everyday clothing has not always included pockets and many garments still lack them. People would carry most of their daily necessities on belts, slings and purses. I came to recognize the practicality of belt pouches as a denizen of the Society for Creative Anachronism in college.

As I moved on to grad school in my car-less days of youth, I found belt pouches practical for commuting on a bicycle. Pouches rode higher on the body than trouser pockets, not interfering with pedaling and I did not have to re-load my jeans every morning.

This habit has persisted through my career as an Environmental Geologist with my belt carrying the several tools I need on a site reconnaissance or an asbestos survey. I re-build the belt every few years as the various tool sheaths wear out.

The latest edition is shown below. Individual tool sheaths are fairly easy to make from nylon fabric web strap and snaps. This time I affixed the pouches with rivets to keep them from sliding around. There are several metal grommets for pouches with hooks.

One of these days I should apply a Batman logo to the buckle.



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.

- September 27 - Count of Monte Cristo
- October 25 - Steampunk/Gaslamp Zoo Safari
-

Local events

September 26, 2026 SWCG meeting – 1pm

SWCG Pancake Social* at IHOP, 913 North Dobson Road in Mesa, AZ. Have lunch, plan future activities, maybe go crawl some local Halloween and craft stores.

We are planning a meeting at the IHOP at Riverview Mall on Saturday, September 26th.

This will be an open discussion about upcoming costuming projects and future workshops. We would love to hear what you are interested in working on or learning, including:

- Sewing specific fabrics or troubleshooting sewing machine issues
- Managing fabric scraps and fitting costumes
- Learning crafts like tatting, leatherworking, or other techniques.

Join us to share your ideas so we can start planning future workshops together.

The IHOP is at Riverview Mall, an open air mall, at the corner of Dobson and Rio Salado Parkway in Mesa (border with Tempe.)

September 26-27, 2026 - Monster Mall at Glendale Civic Center, 5750 West Glenn Drive. Spooky, Goth, Alternative merchants.

October 2-4, 2026 - First Annual North Inch Renaissance Faire at Payson Golf Club, 1504 West Country Club Drive, Payson AZ. <https://www.northinchrf.com/>

October 2-4, 2026 - UwU Con anime convention at Mesa Convention Center. <https://uwucon.com/>

October 10, 2026 - Flagstaff CreepyCon at Little America Hotel. <https://flagstaffcreepycon.com/#>

October 16, 2026 - Phoenix Greek Festival at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral - Phoenix AZ, 1973 East Maryland Avenue, Phoenix.

[https://www.facebook.com/events/1998802447734581/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A\[%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22discovery_top_tab%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark%22%7D\]%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/1998802447734581/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22discovery_top_tab%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark%22%7D]%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D)

October 17, 2027

No exactly a guild event, but we usually try to attend in costume

Halloween ComicFest - Downtown Glendale on Saturday, October 17, from 5:00–8:00 PM!

Due to an electrical fire that has temporarily closed the Velma Teague Library, this year's event will be held at the Glendale Civic Center (5750 W. Glenn Drive). We would love for you and your group to be part of this spooktacular, all-ages Halloween celebration, presented in collaboration with [Drawn to Comics](#) (5801 W. Glendale Avenue), 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 nearly 800 participants! This year's Civic Center venue provides plenty of indoor and outdoor space, so we are hoping to welcome even more vendors, artists, and cosplayers than in previous years! Halloween ComicFest gives attendees the opportunity to:

- Choose from an assortment of free comics
- Meet local comic book artists
- Shop with a variety of vendors
- Pose for photos with cosplayers
- Enjoy fun games, crafts, and other activities
-

As always, we'll have pizza, free water, candy, and snacks available for cosplayers in our Cosplay Lounge. Feel free to arrive as early as 4:00 PM; we will have a changing space available for cosplayers.

There will also be plenty of free parking available across the street in the Palmaire Parking Structure at 5835 W. Palmaire Avenue.

October 30, 2026 - DTPHX Hallows' Eve at Arizona Center, 455 North 3rd Street, Phoenix and multiple downtown Phoenix locations. <https://dtphx.org/events/hallows-eve-in-dtphx>

October 30-November 1, 2026 - Con Nichiwa at Doubletree Hilton Hotel Tucson Reid Park. <https://www.con-nichiwa.com/>

November 13-25, 2026 - TusCon 53 at Doubletree by Hilton Tucson Airport, 7051 South Tucson Boulevard, Tucson. Guests include author Rebeca Roanhorse, artist Galen Dara and musician Tim Griffin with toasmaster Linda Addison. <https://tusconscificon.com/>

November 13-15, 2026 - Anime Arizona at Phoenix Convention Center. <https://www.animearizona.com/>

November 27 - Loscon 52 - <https://loscon.org/> LA Airport Hilton

Traditional Science fiction Convention. Last year they did not have a masquerade, which was disappointing

Rates:

May 1st to August 31st, 2026 – \$65.00

September 1st, – November 20, 2025 – \$75.00

November 20th – at the door – \$85.00

Child (ages 3-11) \$25.00 all year and at the door.

December 12, 2026, 10-3 - LibCon West at the Glendale Public Library Main Branch, 5959 West Brown Street. This is a free, all-ages event about embracing fandom of all kinds! Meet talented authors and artists,

enjoy cosplay, explore vendor booths, and dive into crafts and activities. It's a day filled with endless entertainment and boundless creativity! **Look for the Southwest Costumers Guild meet and greet tent.**

January 30, 2027, 10-3 - Tempe FanCon at the Tempe Public Library, SWC Rural Road and Southern Avenue, Tempe. Each year in January, the Tempe Public Library brings together fans from all over the valley for a celebration of all things cosplay, comics and pop culture for a fun and memorable experience. Fans can enjoy this free annual family event jam-packed with local artists & authors, costume contests, games & activities, photos ops with cosplayers, prizes, over 80 vendors and delicious food from local food trucks. Fans of Marvel, DC, Star Wars, Anime, and more are invited to gather for the Tempe FanCon in costume for a celebration of pop culture. <https://www.tempepubliclibrary.org/event-calendar/tempe-fancon> **Look for the Southwest Costumers Guild meet and greet tent.**

January 30, 2027 - PHX Met Con at Metro District, 9610 North Metro Parkway West, Phoenix. (Formerly known as Superhero Saturday) Presented by the Phoenix Police Sergeants and Lieutenants Association, this curated, family-friendly pop culture and community event brings together fans, families, cosplayers, artists, exhibitors, food trucks, first responders, local leaders, and community partners for a day rooted in creativity, connection, and impact.

February 6-April 4, 2027 (weekends plus Presidents Day) - **Arizona Renaissance Festival**, 12601 East Highway 60, Gold Canyon, Arizona. <https://arizona.renfestinfo.com/>

February 22-28, 2027 - End of Trail at Ben Avery Shooting Facility, NWC I-17 and Carefree Highway, north of Phoenix AZ. The Single-Action Shooting Society's annual tournament of cowboy action shooting. The event features a "Sutlers Row" with merchants to help build up your wild west/victorian/steampunk costumes. <https://endoftrail.org/>

Ye editor does not have much data further out

PLEASE SEND ME MORE!

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Details and a signup form can be found at <http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org>.

Better yet, send us some content for the next issue. We're always open to costuming news, how to and other feature articles, reviews of events, books, film, television and web, and calendar items of interest to Arizona costumers. Send your submissions to southwestcostumers@gmail.com



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SF/Fantasy/Anime Conventions
Renaissance Faires
Street Fairs
Historical Reenactment Societies
Halloween
Sewing & Crafting Workshops
Social Meetings, Field Trips
and much more!

Please e-E-mail for directions to events.

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