

	<u>Cactus Needles</u> 26.10 – October 2026 The Southwest Costumers Guild 2320 West Seldon Lane, Phoenix AZ 85021 http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org
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Recent Events

Southwest Costumers Guild Pancake Social September 26, 2026
Remembered by Randall
In attendance were Tracey, Paula, Jim, Trisha and Randall.

We gathered at the IHOP restaurant in Mesa for a relaxing lunch and stimulating conversation. Our server kindly took our picture.



We were joined by Trisha and Jim, who met the guild at Tempe FanCon early this year. They shared their costuming interests, including the many costumes Trisha has made for their children and their daughter's career as a costuming professional in Utah. Jim described his interest in 3D printing, which he intends to pursue later this year. We look forward to many more conversations.

Trisha told us about the upcoming Pinners Arizona! crafting show at Westworld on November 13 & 14. "Pinners" describes creative persons who share their crafts via the Pinterest social media platform.

https://pinnersconference.com/pages/arizona?srltid=AU7gw4U-V5Y1Zie-LNkqGulyGFvHe16ggChW4XOf9wfzeyBMsM4ee8_I

Tracey has been investigating local public maker spaces, including Phoenix Forge near 7th Avenue and Van Buren Street in Phoenix. Their website lists woodworking, metal fabrication and welding, laser cutting and engraving, jewelry making and metalsmithing, 3D printing, sewing and textiles. Access is free for students of ASU and the Maricopa Community Colleges. Memberships are available to the general public. A tour of the place could be a fine SWCG field trip.

<https://phxforge.com/>

No business meeting was officially convened, but we did discuss some possible activities for the rest of the year.

Other meeting activity ideas discussed include a serger practice session at Randall's (once repairs to his kitchen are complete), a holiday party and workshops in the classrooms at 35th Avenue Sew & Vac. We have booth space reserved at Licon West at the Glendale Main Library on December 12, 2026 and Tempe FanCon at the Tempe Public Library on January 30, 2027.

Randall announced he will be attending the new North Inch Renaissance Faire in Payson, Arizona, next weekend, October 2-4 at Payson Golf Club. <https://www.northinchrf.com/> He'll take some pictures and report on the experience.

We are invited to the Glendale Public Library's Halloween Comic Fest on October 17, 2026, 5-8 PM. Velma Teague Library is closed for repairs, so the event will be held at Glendale Civic Center, 5750 West Glenn Drive.

Randall has designed a poster promoting Southwest Costumers Guild that can be pinned up on community bulletin boards. The poster features tear-off tabs with the SWCG web address and contact e-mail. He passed out some hard copies. You can download the poster and other promotional materials from the links on our webpage at www.southwestcostumersguild.org. Please print some and do a bit of guerilla promotion at craft stores, libraries and similar locations.

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild announces two upcoming webinars for the Fall 2026 term of its Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Presents webinar series. There is no charge for these webinars but capacity is limited, so please register soon. By registering, you will also receive notification when a recording is available. See Calendar for details on dates/times.



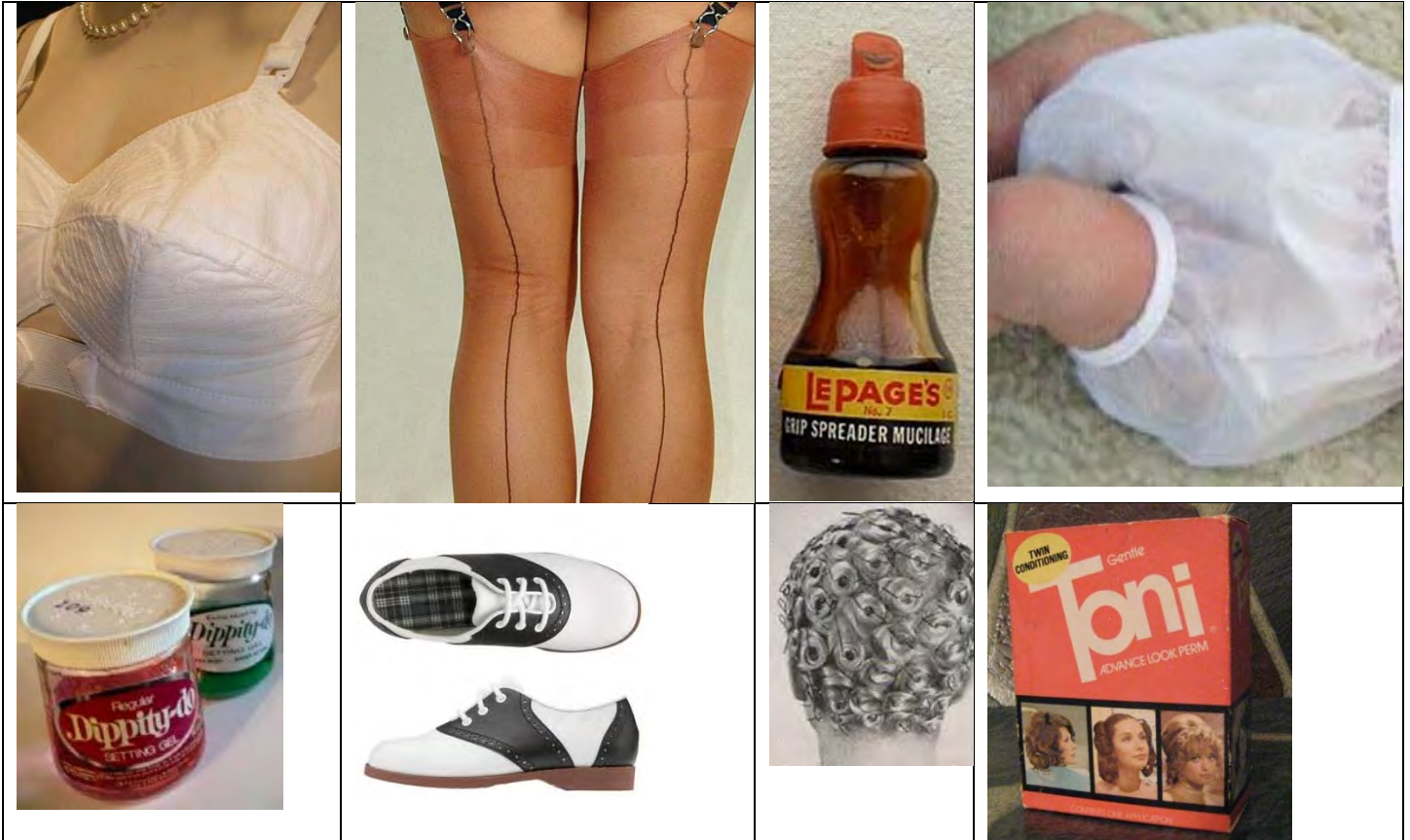
Some Reminiscences from John A

I have bought many theatre props over the ages. I learned long ago to buy them when you see them, and figure out what to do with them later. As I know that I will NEVER EVER FIND IT AGAIN when I need one for a show. So, I do own one of the 50's DINER MUSIC SELECTION CHROME COUNTER BOXES but trying to find it is ... a whole different story.

However my 10 foot long all wood ALASKAN DOG SLED is a little bigger and easier to find. It is hanging from the ceiling in the garage in Tempe.

If you remember most of these -You (like me) must be really old.
Spread the laughter, share the cheer,
Let's be happy while we're still here!!

Some vaguely costume themed memories.



The obligatory minute of humor – with a Halloween theme

What do nearsighted ghosts wear? Spooktacles.
Why don't ghosts like rainy weather? It dampens their spirits
Why did the skeleton come to the party alone? She had no body to go with her.
Witches like what kind of makeup? Ma-scare-a.
Why did the young lady ghost go on a diet? So she could keep her ghoulish figure
What do the ghosts of Pandas eat? Bam-Boo.

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. October 25 - Steampunk/Gaslamp Zoo Safari

Local Events

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 - Halloween Comic Fest - Downtown Glendale on Saturday, October 17, from 5:00–8:00 PM! No exactly a guild event, but we usually try to attend in costume

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 24, 1PM lunch at IHOP, 913 North Dobson Road in Mesa, AZ,
Guild meeting for October - further conversation and planning.

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 1, 2026 at 1pm PST, 4pm EST - "Inexpensive, Lightweight Steampunk Gauges" with Philip and Kathe Gust (Silicon Web presentation) note: standard time resumes in North America on Nov. 1

Steam gauges are common props in steampunk costuming. Real metal gauges are expensive and heavy. In this webinar, prop maker Philip Gust shows you how to make convincing, lightweight gauges for nearly free. He will also suggest where to find the materials that you will need for the project. Kathe Gust will discuss how to paint, distress, and antique your gauges.

Register https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Bn-_mkPDTlmoBUSlEXtq4Q

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 toastmaster Linda Addison. <https://tusconscificon.com/>

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

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

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 6, 2026 at 1pm PST, 4pm EST (Silicon Web presentation)

Lisa Ashton is well-known in the costuming community for her beautiful beaded embroidery work, and frequently offers classes at conventions and other events. In this webinar, Lisa will discuss how she developed her unique beaded embroidery style, and show examples of how she incorporates beaded embroidery into her costumes. She will also offer suggestions on how to get started in this rewarding decorative art.

Register <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/CuYsrbcLQYC584MgBQbtQw>

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.



**SOUTHWEST
COSTUMERS
GUILD**

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