

	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">16.02 - February 2016</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Southwest Costumers Guild PO box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069 http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org</p>
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Tempe Library ComiCon By Randall Whitlock

<p>The second annual Tempe Library ComiCon was held at the Tempe Public Library (SWC Rural & Southern) on January 23, 2015. SWCG participated by running a fan table tended by Tasha, Randall and Jean. There were lots of takers for our flyers and cards, including the organizer of another library convention in Chandler. Cross your fingers that some will come to meetings and play with us.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Manties →</p>	
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The event was well attended and rich in cosplay. Our direct neighbors were the Royal Manticoran Navy (cosplaying original characters based on David Weber's Honor Harrington novels), the 501st Stormtroopers and the Rebel Legion. Basically we were caught between the Manties, the Imps and the Rebel Scum. Good neighbors with much fannish crosstalk between our tables. No actual space battles broke out.





Phoenix ComiCon's tent was right across a grassy knoll from us. (Fortunately, the second shooter had only a camera.), I had a good if distant view of the costume contest they hosted at 1:30. Contestants were lined up for a good hundred feet along a lane marked with blue masking tape. Best in show was a suitably stony weeping angel from Dr. Who. I was a bit too far away to hear the contestant names.

Down the row were several fun food trucks. One was selling soft pretzels shaped like mustaches.

← Tasha in steampunk kimono

Notes from Tempe Library Comic Con Panel

Diane Lynn (dianelynn@cox.net) gave a presentation on "Who do you want to be?" on anime costuming. She also passed out a checklist with some useful websites. She had some photos of "slanted" super hero group costumes. One set had a number of male super-heroes done as women. (Marvel is doing that with Thor.). Another was of the same superheroes but done in cabaret style. Hmm ... ideas. Below are the links

Croquis – free images –

<http://www.designersnexus.com/fashion-design-portfolio/fashion-design-croquis-template/>

Fosshape and Wonderflex <http://www.wonderflexworld.com>

(I think we got some Wonderflex and played it a few years back – it's a heat activated composite)

Worbla <http://www.worbla.com> (A thermoplastic)

Chandler Library Comicon (LIBCON)
By Tasha Cady / Phillis Sanders (librarian)

We seem to have made such a good impression at Tempe, that Chandler wants us, too,

The Chandler Comicon will be a one Saturday event oriented to teens. They are looking for panelists, as well as fan tables. Sharan is going to head up our interface with them, with Tasha as backup. More as we get it worked out.

Below is from the Chandler librarian –

LIBCON is a teen only mini con. We average 400 teens every year. This years event will be held at the Chandler Boys and Girls Club, but it is organized by the Chandler Public Library. We will have panels all day, a Vendor/Exhibition Hall, and All-Day Gaming. You can check out our pictures on Facebook (under LIBCON). Here is a link to pictures on Flickr:

<https://www.flickr.com/search/?text=libcon>

We are looking for panelists, but also for costumed folk. You can also have a table (at no charge, of course) in the Vendor Hall.

Changing of the Guard
By Tasha Cady

Randal has escaped!!!

The annual elections were held at the January meeting. Please forgive your new newsletter editor as she tries to figure out what she's doing.

D\Send me input by the 5th and I'll try to get the newsletter out by the 12th.



Briefs

SEND ME MORE!!! (Tasha's opinions – for now)

Pride and Prejudice and Zombies

The zombie makeup was what I would expect, reasonable, not spectacular.

I LOVED the way they modified the regency dresses so that the heroines could access their weapons (e.g., heavy duty boot knives). The costuming over all was nice. I need a specialist to tell me how authentic they were starting from.

The dances seemed authentic – I recognize the steps for regency dancing at Westcons/ World Cons.

Tablet Weaving

At the American Institute of Archology Conference in San Francisco in January, one panel was on clothing and status in the pre- or early Republic Roman state. The young man giving the presentation stated that they had found evidence for tablet weaving (but not the tablets – yet). When I asked if they had done any study of the plan remains found, he didn't realize that if you know the plant, you know the color of the dyes.

Tea?

Anybody for an extra-curricular outing? There are a couple of places in town that do afternoon tea. Taking one in in costume (Victorian? Regency?) would be fun.

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.*

February 12-17, 2016 – **Amazing Arizona Comic Con** at the Phoenix Convention Center
<http://amazingarizonacomicon.com/>

February 13-14, 2016, 9-4 – **Annual Winter Tractor Show** at Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area, 9802 N. 59th Ave., Glendale AZ. Enjoy tractor pulls, displays and more! \$5; Ages 12 and under free. Presented by Arizona Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association. This event is

operated in conjunction with the Glendale Historical Society, a separate, non-profit organization. (Note: A few people may show up in steam or steampunk costumes, but not many. - More in overalls or farm clothes.)

February 19-21, 2016 – **Tucson Quilters Guild 2016 Quilt Fiesta** at Tucson Convention Center 260 South Church Street, Tucson, Arizona Hundreds of quilts, vendor mall, raffle quilt, small quilt auction, quilt appraisals, door prizes. Tucson Convention Center, \$10 per day.
<http://tucsonquiltersguild.com/quiltshow.htm>

February 20-21, 2016 – **Button Show** at Hilton Garden Inn, 11460 W. Hilton Way, Avondale Arizona State Button Society's Annual Show includes educational exhibits, workshops, competitions, and more. 928-778-7299

February 20-21, 2016- **Annual Apache Junction Rock and Gem Show** at Skyline High School Gymnasium, 845 S. Crismon Rd., Dealers sell handmade jewelry, gems, beads, slabs, rocks, minerals, fossils, and jewelry-making supplies. www.ajrockclub.com

February 21, 2016 – **Mardis Gras*** SWCG social at Tasha's place. Also schedule planning for the year. A bit late, Mardi Gras was the 9th, but do come in costume please. Date changed to avoid conflict with the Estrella War. *Tasha says:* Please try to bring Mardi Gras / Carnival themed food for the pot luck. I'm going to get some gumbo.

February 22-28, 2016 – **Winter Range** at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility, 4044 W. BlackCanyon Blvd., Phoenix, Arizona. The Single-Action Shooting Society's annual cowboy action shooting shindig. First-rate sutler's row to stock up on your wild west/steampunk costume supplies. <http://www.winterrange.com/> Feb 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Costume Contest – Working Costume – Main Tent. 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Costume Contest - Dress Costume – Hospitality Tent. 8 p.m. Costume Awards – Main Tent

February 23-29, 2016 – **Estrella War** at Schnepf Farms, Queen Creek, Arizona. The Society for Creative Anachronism's annual week of medieval arts, sciences and whacking each other with sticks. <http://estrellawar.org/>

February 27 & 28, 2016, 10-5 – **Matsuri Festival of Japan** at Heritage & Science Park, 7th Street & Monroe in downtown Phoenix. Free admission . www.azmatsuri.org

When: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Where: El Mirage Branch at El Mirage Senior Center

[Written in Thread: Arizona Womens History preserved in their Quilts.](#)

This Arizona Humanities program traces the history of Arizona through women who recorded pieces of their lives in their needlework. The colorful patterns of womens quilts added a spot of brightness to their homes and their lives. They also celebrated and recorded special events with their quilts. Beginning with Mexican women of the 1860s, through Hopi women of the 1990s, this lecture introduces some of the women who pioneered Arizona through the quilts they stitched. Some of the women featured are

Atanacia Santa Cruz Hughes, of Tucson; Viola Slaughter, Southeastern Arizona; Alice Gillette Haight, Payson; Sedona Schnebly; and Emma Andres, Prescott. The program will be in the El Mirage Senior Center. Call for more information, 602-652-3000.

When: Thursday, March 10, 2016 - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Where: Queen Creek Branch at Mary Lou Fulton Story Time Room

[BUSY HANDS KNIT & CROCHET GROUP](#)

Come and join us for some yarn fun! We stitch for charities such as Wounded Warrior and Cardon's Children's Hospital as well as work on our personal projects. We can also help you build your basic skills. Contact Gwen Hayes for more information at 480-299-4654.

March 12, 2016, 10 AM – **St. Patrick's Day Parade** in downtown Phoenix Staging Area
Location: 3rd St. from Virginia to Sheridan Route: 3rd St. South from Sheridan to Moreland.
<http://stpatricksdaysphoenix.org/>

March 4-6, 2016 – **Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention** at Old Tucson Studios
<https://www.wildwestcon.com/>

March 18-20, 2016 – **Con Nichiwa** anime convention at the Tucson Convention Center, 260 S Church Ave Tucson AZ 85701. <http://www.con-nichiwa.com/>

March 19-20, 2016 - **52nd Arizona Scottish Gathering & Highland Games** at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E Indian School Road in Phoenix.
<http://www.arizonascots.com/05games.shtml>

May 6-9, 2016 – **Costume-con 34: The Wonder of Nature** at the Marriott West in Madison, Wisconsin <http://www.costumecon34.com/>

June 23-26, 2016 – **LepreCon 42: The Meaning of Life, The Universe and Everything** at the Embassy Suites North (SEC I-17 & Greenway Road) in Phoenix. <http://leprecon.org/>

June 2-5, 2016 – **Phoenix ComiCon** at the Phoenix Convention Center
<http://www.phoenixcomicon.com/>

November 11-13, 2016 – **TusCon 43** at Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 4550 S. Palo Verde Road, Tucson, AZ 85714. This year's guest of honor is George RR Martin.
<http://tusconscificon.com/>

April 20-24, 2017 – **Costume-Con 35** at the Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale, 6750 Mississauga Road, Mississauga (near Toronto), Ontario, Canada <http://costumecon35.com/>

July 1-4, 2017 – **WesterCon 70** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel. Guests include Julie Dillon, Larry Elmore, Gini Koch and Weston Ochse. www.westercon70.org

April, 2018 – **Costume-Con 36** in San Diego, California

January Meeting Minutes

SWCG Meeting, January 31, 2016

Recorded by Secretary Randall Whitlock

We met at Tasha's home on January 31, 2016. This was a social gathering dedicated to wrapping up some of the various craft and public service projects we've undertaken in the last year or so. Tasha sewed up some more "Monster Pillows" to be given to children in the foster care system. Tasha and Randall loaded the sewing notions donated from the Millie McCloskey estate into Randall's truck. Randall subsequently drove them to Jean's place, where they will be picked up by Nola for the Grand Canyon University theater department.

As is traditional for an SWCG get-together, there was potluck food including cheeses from Tasha, Chicken curry from Mahala, fried chicken from Sharan and lemonade from Randall.

In attendance were Jean, Paula, Tasha, Sharan, Mahala and Randall.

We convened a business meeting at 2:36PM

Treasurer Tasha wrote a check to Mahala to reimburse the ham and other food expenses from the December dinner social. This was passed on a motion with 4 ayes and the two parties involved abstaining. (Note, your secretary does not think a motion was needed since these expenses had been approved at a prior meeting.)

Tasha reported that the current treasury balance is about \$5,000. This informal report was accepted without any requests for documentation from the attending members.

By way of a Secretary's report, Randall summarized our participation in the Tempe Public Library ComiCon, where we ran a fan table tended by himself, Tasha and Jean. Many business cards and bookmark flyers were handed out and much schmoozing was accomplished with members of other fan interest groups, such as the Royal Manticoran Navy, the 501st Stormtroopers and the Rebel Legion. Experiencing a simpsonian "Doh!" moment, Randall realized he did not take down e-mail contact information from visitors to the table.

Subsequent to the Tempe event, Randall received an e-mail from Phyllis Saunders of the Chandler Public Library, inviting SWCG to participate in their 6th annual "LibCon" teen-oriented SF convention on March 26, 2016 at the Chandler Boys & Girls Club. Phyllis is looking for panelists, teachers, and fan tables. A straw vote was unanimous that SWCG should participate. Sharan and Tasha volunteered to coordinate our efforts.

In new business, Mahala reported that she received an invitation to the AZ Haunters dinner social at Dave & Busters in Tempe Marketplace on Feb 11 via the vicepresident@southwestcostumersguild.org e-mail address. AZ Haunters is a group of persons who love to build Halloween displays, props and costumes. (Sounds like natural allies for

SF/Fantasy costumers) Sharan and Jean expressed interest in carpooling to the event with Mahala.

Annual officer elections were held with the following results:

President – Mahala Sweebe
Vice President – Paula Lary
Treasurer – Tasha Cady
Secretary – Randall Whitlock

Tasha Cady will take over as Newsletter Editor (a volunteer position rather than an elected office by precedent requested by the prior editor.)

Most offices had single candidates and were elected by acclamation. The VP office had two candidates, with the vote so close that a second ballot was needed. New president Mahala appointed Sharan Hoyle to the position of Event and PR Coordinator so she can follow up on several excellent ideas she presented during the VP election speeches.

Randall will continue as our online representative to the ICG Board of Directors on President Mahala's behalf, at least until she can set up a stand-alone e-mail address and Yahoo identity to join the ICG-BOD email listserve.

Dues were collected by the treasurer. The new President and Vice President gathered updated contact information from the attendees.

In general discussion, several ideas for upcoming SWCG activities were kicked about. New VP Paula will follow up contacting some of the recommended speakers/teachers.

In Announcements/Show & Tell, Tasha described next month's Mardi Gras-themed social and several strings of party beads were passed out for potential use in attendees' costumes.

A Happy Birthday card was presented to Paula.

Mahala passed around a flyer for the Glendale Chocolate Affaire, to be held on the weekend of February 6. It's too soon for the newsletter, so Randall will post to the Guildsters yahoo group.

Sharan recommended the Vogue V8823 pattern, should we again build travel bags for children in the foster care system. Sharan suggests this pattern is larger and more flexible than the tote bag we have done previously.

Sharan suggested several simple hall costumes we might build and wear together to pose for pictures and otherwise show SWCG solidarity at next year's WesterCon and other events. She passed around a pattern for a double-breasted vest with a single closure that might work well for this. Other suggestions include blue magician robes from some fabric Mahala has in her stash and further development of the gray satin we worked with last year.

Paula showed an interesting sequined fabric she recently obtained and its many potential applications to her dancing costumes.

Sharan and Mahala described their visit to the recent Phoenix Quilt and Craft Show, where they had a good time and met a vendor from Prescott Valley who might be a good teacher for a workshop later this year. Mahala will follow up on the contact.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 PM, Randall Standard Time.

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