	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">17.02 - February 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Southwest Costumers Guild</b>  <b>PO box 39504, Phoenix AZ 85069</b>  <a href="http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org">http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org</a></p>
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### **Recent Events**

SWCG participated in the annual Tempe Library ComiCon on January 28 with a meet and greet table.

Tasha, Randall and Paula hung out under Randall's new sunshade and greeted passersby, gathering six names for further contact and giving out many bookmarks, business cards and flyers.

Left – Warrior Ocelot and Ursula won 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the adult division

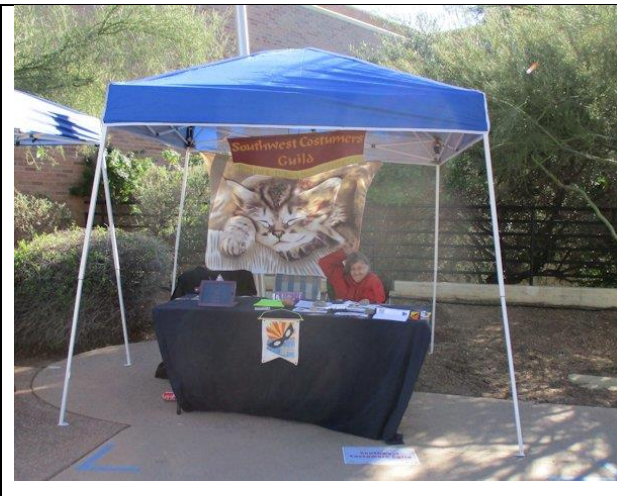
Next page

Below left – the costume parade passes our table

Below – Paula tends the table while Randall is on the other end of the camera. The kitten blanket, improvised for extra shade, made an appropriate banner.

For any friends to whom this may be of interest, I'm trying to get many of my thoughts and images I've collected over the years onto a slightly more lasting platform than my memory or my computer. I am also trying to scan and post old magazines I've collected over the years on my favorite subject which is the history of clothing. To this end, I've started trying to write a blog and also I am posting images to Pinterest. Sometimes I'm posting things to both places. If you take an interest in the history of clothing, you are welcome to check out the blog at <http://searchingforjulietscap.blogspot.com/> or my Pinterest pages at <https://www.pinterest.com/damekoch>.

Catherine Cook Is a long time SCA member and a fine costumer



**Briefs**

**SEND ME MORE!!!**

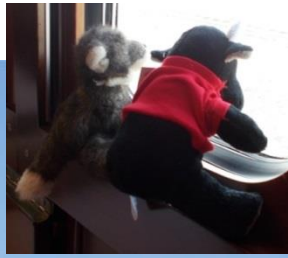
**Victorian hairdressing**

This looks interesting. I've been saving my hair after brushing for a while. I want to try this.

<https://mimimatthews.com/2016/03/13/a-victorian-ladys-guide-to-hairdressing-2/>

### Matadors and the ‘Suit of Lights’

Bullfighting, as we think of it today, is a fairly recent performance-art form. (This is how the Spanish refer to it – there is no direct competition so it is not a sport.) Historically in Spain, from Moorish times forward, bullfights were performed by noblemen on horseback, with lances. It was a popular attraction on festival days. It was also a way to practice their martial skills. This style was called the *rejoneando*, from the *rejón*, or lance, that was used. Another test of skill was riding at a wooden head. Various rulers and religious leaders felt that bullfighting was too bloody, and tried to ban it, but never succeeded for long until the 1700s when King Phillip the V of Spain did manage to forbid noblemen from participating for long enough for it to turn into the a-foot form we know today. The low-born assistants took over the activity. (The modern form is credited to the commoner Francisco Romero of Ronda, who in 1726 began using cape as is done now. ) About this time, the fights were moved from the town square to a specially built bull ring (plaza de toros) The costumes solidified about that time into what is now known as the *traje de luces* (“suit of lights”). This costume is a variation on the traditional garb of the *majos*, Castilian dandies in the 18th-century who were characterized by extravagant fashions. The pictures show the jacket and the tight trousers. The Matador’s suit is trimmed in gold, his assistants’ in silver. A *traje de luces* and cost several thousand dollars, and a bullfighter is expected to have several of them. The short jacket is called a *Chaquetilla*. It has shoulder reinforcements, attached only at the upper shoulder to allow the necessary free, unimpeded movement of the arms. The close-fitting tights, called *Taleguilla*, extend from above the waist to below the knee. They are held up by *tirantes* (suspenders) concealed by the vest. In addition, the matador wears the following. *Zapatillas*, flat slippers similar to ballerinas’. *Medias*: two pair of socks. Those of underneath are white cotton, the external pair are almost pink silk. *Camisa*: a plain white shirt. *Capote de paseo*: a short silk cape with rich and luxurious embroidery, wore used during the *paseillo*. Before the main performance starts, it is exchanged for a red or purple *muleta*, the long cape used to entice the bull to charge, which has stiff reinforcing rods at the sides In the 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, becoming a bullfighter was a way for a poor man to win fame and fortune. Today, most bull fighters are born into a family of bullfighters, and people who illegally jump into the ring to try their skill are frowned upon. However, one of the most famous bullfighters of the 1960’s, *El Cordobés*, got his start this way. There were some female bullfighters. The picture is, I think, Nicolasa Escamilla, better known as La Pajuelera, who was active in the late 1700s. All of the pictures were taken by Chuck or Tasha Cady.



Above – the bullring in Ronda.  
Right, the bullring in Seville.  
Inset, a plush ‘brave bull’  
souvenir of Ronda looking at the  
Spanish scenery from a train.

Above – tilting  
at heads. The  
morning-star  
would hit you  
if you missed



Above Nicolasa Escamilla (La Pajuelera)



Above – the cape on the wall is for display, parading around, not for actual fighting.



Left and right – early *rejoneando* style bull fighting. Photos from the Seville museum.





Selection of costumes from the Seville bullring museum.

## Stage Costume for a Dog

On Friday, 10 February, spouse and I went to see Two Gentlemen of Verona at the Grand Canyon University Ethington theater. Costume director is our own Nola Yergen. One of the non-speaking parts is a dog. A small white poodle-ish cutie-pie. Who has a cute little blue cape jacket. Congrats to Nola for costuming a canine.

## 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 11-April 2, 2017 (Weekends plus Presidents' Day) - **Arizona Renaissance Festival & Artisan Marketplace** in Gold Canyon, Arizona. <http://arizona.renfestinfo.com/>

February 17-19, 2017 - Tucson Quilters Guild Annual Quilt Show at the Tucson Convention Center. <http://tucsonquiltersguild.com/quiltshow.htm> at the Tucson Convention Center, 260 South Church St., on Friday, February 17 and Saturday, February 18, from 9 AM-5PM and on Sunday, February 19 from 10AM-4PM. You will receive a **FREE GIFT with purchase** when you mention this e-mail at the Trims on Wheels booth.

Feb 18-19 **Arizona State Button Society** - education exhibits, mini-workshops, competition. Hilton Garen Inn, Avondale, 928-778-7299

February 20-26, 2017 - **Winter Range** at Ben Avery Shooting Facility (I-17 and Carefree Highway). The Single-Action Shooting Society's annual tournament features costume contests and a sutlers' row suitable for restocking your wild west/victorian/steampunk wardrobe. <http://www.winterrange.com/>

February 21 – 27, 2017 **Estrella War** at beautiful [Schnepf Farms](http://schnepfarms.com/) in Queen Creek, AZ. <http://estrellawar.org/>



March 3-5 **Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention** – Old Tucson

<https://www.everfest.com/e/wild-wild-west-steampunk-convention-tucson-az>

March 4-5, 2017 - **53rd Phoenix Scottish Games** at Steele Indian School Park, Phoenix AZ. <https://www.arizonascots.com/05games.shtml>

March 5, 2017 - **Loom Weaving\*** SWCG social at Jean's place. Sharan will demonstrate her loom knitting techniques.

March 11-12 **Arizona Aloha Festival**

A free family event in Tempe! 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Tempe Beach Park. <http://azalohafest.org/>

April 2, 2017 - **Viking Garb\*** SWCG social at Tasha's place. Baroness Dallah of the Misty Forest will show us some basics of Viking costume.

April 20-24, 2017 – **Costume-Con 35** at the Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale, 6750

Mississauga Road, Mississauga (near Toronto), Ontario, Canada <http://costumecon35.com/>

May 7, 2017 - **May Kup\*** SWCG social at Nyki's place. Cap'n Moreg Zahm will demonstrate some basic makeup techniques for cosplay.

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](http://www.westercon70.org)

August 9-13 2017 – **Worldcon 75** in Helsinki Finland. <http://www.worldcon.fi/>

Editorial comment: I was in Helsinki in August in 2015 and the weather was lovely. It's a charming city.

March 30- April 2 2018 – **CostumeCon 36**, San Diego, Ca. <http://cc36sandiego.org/>

March 22-25, 2019 - **Costume-Con 37** Salem, MA

Attending Memberships are \$60 through at least 12/31/2016. \$45 for those that voted in the site-selection. Supporting Memberships are \$25, \$15 for voters. We hope to have online registration in place soon, even if it'll just be a paypal button, so please be patient. Or you can send a check (payable to Costume-Con 37) to

MCFI  
PO Box 1010  
Framingham, MA 01701

I'll be posting more information on a semi-regular basis.

If there is something you would like to do for CC37, please email Aurora and myself.

Sharon Sbarsky [sbarsky@gmail.com](mailto:sbarsky@gmail.com) or Aurora Celeste [auroraceleste@gmail.com](mailto:auroraceleste@gmail.com)

## **Minutes**

SWCG Meeting January 8, 2017 at Tasha's Place  
Recorded by outgoing Secretary Randall Whitlock

This was a relaxed "stitch & bitch" session around Tasha's dining room table with enjoyable food and company. Tasha worked on some clothing repairs. The rest of us provided the bitching.

Present were Tasha, Mahala, Paula, Jean, Sharan, Bella, Nyki, Randall and Chuck.

Business meeting convened at 3:25 PM.

President Mahala had no specific report, but asked Randall & Tasha to look into a possible good deal on new guild business cards she found online.

Treasurer Tasha asked for member address updates to report to ICG. Annual dues are now due.

Webmaster Randall reports hearing from former president Tom Vincent by e-mail.

Activities Coordinator Sharan requested a firm location for the February workshop with Gail Wolfenden-Steib. Jean volunteered her home. This led to a discussion of how to promote this workshop to other costume-related groups. Sharan requested Randall make up a flyer for our table at Tempe Library Comicon.

Sharan led a further discussion on upcoming activities, suggesting a supper meeting followed by a walk through the Glendale Glitters street festival toward year's end. Several possible restaurants were discussed. Tentatively, Randall will demonstrate a brass etching technique for October. Jean noted that the Dark Ones Halloween party will be at her home. Tasha will contact her teacher to demonstrate metal enameling for September. Annual pool party will be in August. The July meeting will be at WesterCon in Tempe - we will show the silver satin costumes in the masquerade and potentially do a brunch.

Randall reminded us of our meet and greet table at Tempe Library Comicon on January 28. Please come and schmooze!

Officer elections were held. The new slate for the rest of 2017 is:

President: Mahala Sweebe  
Vice President and Secretary: Sharan Hoyle  
Treasurer: Tasha Cady

Continuing appointed positions/committees of one are:

Webmaster and ICG BOD representative: Randall Whitlock  
Activities Coordinator: Sharan Hoyle  
Newsletter Editor: Tasha Cady

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM.

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