	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">17.10 - October 2017</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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In Memorium

This is rather belated, but it was rather poignant to write. Patti was one of the founders of the guild



Pati Cook

June 29, 1950 – June 9, 2017

Red hair, green eyes, lots of freckles. Laughing and smiling, a twinkle in her eye. A typical Irish lass.

Or was she...?

She was that, and a whole lot more. Typical, no. Extraordinary, yes.

Here is what her obituary from the funeral home said:

“Pati passed away just shy of her 67th birthday and her 36th wedding anniversary. Pati was loving, gentle, patient, kind and always ready to help. She was a sewer, costumer, quilter, middle eastern dancer, cook, feastocrat, embroiderer and a mistress of any craft she turned her hand to. Although declining health, including surviving a bout with lung cancer, had limited her activities in recent years, she kept work at projects right up until the day she died.

Pati was a born teacher. She could teach anything from remedial college math to how to sew a proper seam. For a few years she taught home economics in an innercity junior high school. Later she taught quilting at several Valley quilt shops.

Pati loved the SCA and attended events, especially in the Barony of Sundragon whenever she could. She could be found sitting off to one side with her sewing basket talking to people. The events took a lot out of her toward the end and she usually needed most of the following week to recover.

She was truly one of a kind and will be deeply missed.”

Her husband, Rick Cook, THE founder of the SCA in Phoenix, and a science fiction author, survives her.

* * *

In addition to that, I would like to add some personal reminiscences.

I first knew Pati in the late 1970s when she was living in Tucson. And while she was starting to be active in the SCA there, her previous love was square dancing. She and her then husband Chuck danced on a regular basis and she made square dance costumes for both of them. I got to see several of her outfits – yards and yards of ruffles – and beautifully done. He had a middle eastern persona in the SCA and she started making middle eastern costumes and bellydancing there before she ever moved to Phoenix.

A lot of people knew Pati from the SCA but Pati was also very active in sci-fi fandom and attended many conventions (another venue to make and wear costumes). It was at one of those cons that several of us costumers started talking and decided that we needed to form a group. And so the Southwest Costumers Guild was born. Pati was the founder, organizer, first president and served as such for quite a few years.

Pati had a great sense of humor, laughed and smiled frequently and had a twinkle in her eyes. Everyone has their own special memories of her. Here is one that I would like to share. After Rick and Pati had been married for some years, she made several T- tunics for a friend. And then some more that a couple of guys new to the SCA bought. And then some more after that. After a while she decided that she could start a business making and selling them, which she did quite successfully. One time we were talking and she told me how she had gotten it down to where she could cut out and sew a simple T-tunic in just over half an hour. I thought about it for a minute, decided it wasn't possible, (I couldn't even cut one out and pin it together in that time), murmured something vaguely like, that's nice, and asked about what trim she used. Well, the joke was on me. Her eyes started to twinkle and finally she told me the secret of her speed sewing – she had gotten a serger...!

Red hair, green eyes, lots of freckles. Laughing and smiling, a twinkle in her eye. An extraordinary woman.

-- Mahala Sweebe



Dateline: October 12, 2017—

ATTENTION, ALL COSTUMERS

Only **21** shopping days left until Halloween

A REVIEW

I Found Gold, Twice!

by Mahala Sweebe

It is possible to find gold in Arizona where I live. It's not common for prospectors to go searching out in the desert in the middle of summer. But that's exactly what happened to me when I went to the dealers' room at Westercon in Tempe. Here's what happened.

Paula bought me a necklace from the dealers' room. It was a silver filigree crescent moon with a pendant hanging from it. The pendant was round with an astronomical picture inside it. Perfect, but the chain was too short. I took a chance and went to their table to see if they had a longer chain. Yes, they did and exchanged it, no problem. Then I looked at the rest of their merchandise and got my mind blown. They had necklaces, some earrings, bracelets and keychains, all with astronomical pictures that look like they came from the Hubble telescope. Everything was unisex except for the pendants with filigree (not to be sexist, guys could wear some of that too, there were several styles). It was predominantly silver but there was some bronze also. They also had a few matching earrings.

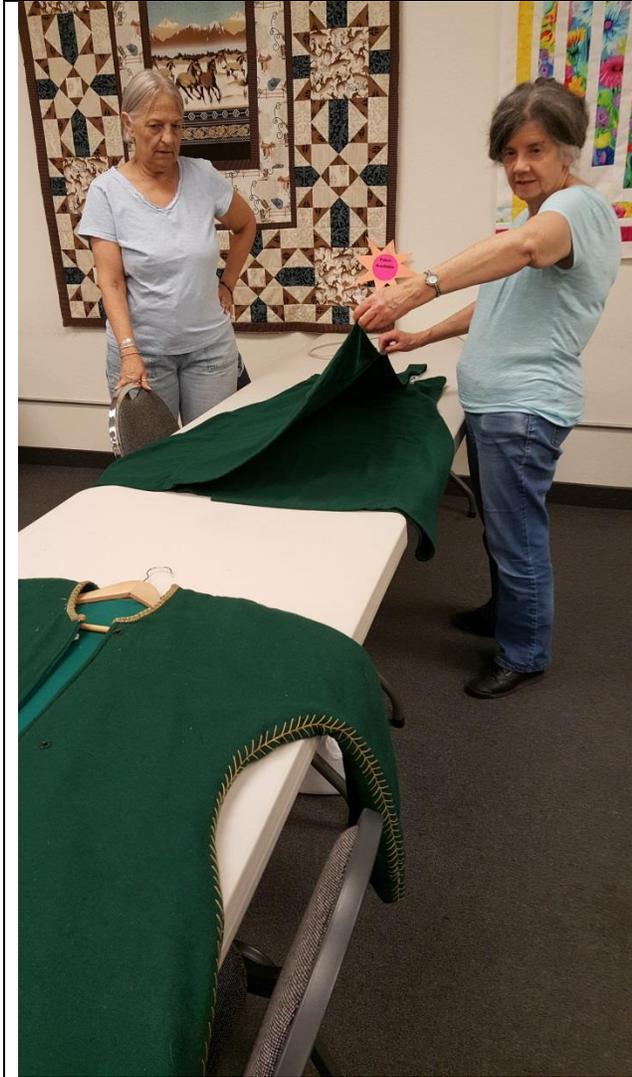
Now for the best part. Everything was \$5.00! I would have paid \$20 and not blinked. So I bought two more necklaces and a matching pair of earrings for \$3.00.

They have a website. www.tlsmithbooks.com. Go to it and on the menu on the top line far right, click on "space bling" to find their jewelry. They have half a dozen different styles and nearly 60 designs of space pictures. Some are duplicates, but that may be that they come in bronze or silver. They are primarily a book dealer for several scifi authors, and there are other menu selections to order their books. The business is a local Phoenix business, so in the spirit of supporting your local hometown businesses, you should go on the website and see what they have.

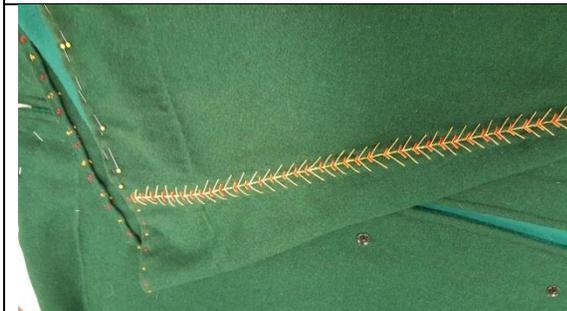
Which brings me to my second "gold" find. They were selling books by a local author which I had never had the opportunity to read -- Gini Koch. Some of you know her, she is at local cons. I got to meet her in the dealers' room, talked to her for a few minutes, found her delightful and had to buy her first book, "Touched by an Alien". I thought it was funny, smart and I want to read the rest of the series. I'm only sorry it took me so long to find this one. From her promo, she writes two books a year in this series, and is up to #12 by now. It was a fun read, and if I can't find the next one I'm going to have to read the first one again while I'm waiting. I could say a lot about the characters and their potential development, speculations about what happens in the rest of the series, etc., but I won't. I'll just say for anyone who hasn't read this series, try to find one of her books.

Recent Events

At the last minute, our October Meeting had to get changed, our teacher sprained her wrist. Baroness Dalla very kindly agreed to come back and talk to us some more about Viking garb.



Left - Dalla and Paula. This apron dress is a wrap-around: see how Paula is holding up the one open flap. The under-dress is below. Note the decorative stitching on the seam. Both are a lovely wool. Below we have a sock, made by Nalbinding (a kind of one-needle knitting). The technique was actually known as far back as ancient Egypt) and shoes to wear the socks in.



This is more detail on the decorative seam stitching



Dalla with our guest Mellissa. (You're in the newsletter, Mellissa, you have to come back!)

Minutes

SWCG Meeting

October 1, 2017 at 35th Avenue Sew & Vac

Observed by Randall

Present were Mahala, Paula, Jean, Sharan, Tasha , Randall and newcomer Melissa. (Please come see us again!)

Baroness Dalla gave us a show and tell with many pictures about Viking garb, with emphasis on construction of the apron dress. She really has her shift together.

Mahala reminded us of some costume programming on public television this evening, including The Secret of Henry VIII's Palaces and Tales from the Royal Wardrobe. Randall may have a recording of the latter. Look for both on the PBS streaming channel. Mahala also showed us a newspaper article about the new Ace Comic Con coming up in Glendale January 13-15 2018 at Gila River Arena. Keep watching our web page and newsletter.

Mahala also reported that she has checked up on the status of award certs from the Westercon 70 masquerade. They're coming.

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.*

OCTOBER 15 - Saturday - Apocalypse Later International Fantastic Film Festival 2017 - All day, Tickets are \$30 and include free parking and free popcorn. More info <http://www.alfilmfest.com> (It just seems like there should be some costume inspiration in these films)

November 5th – Guild Meeting – Members will be notified.

NOVEMBER 10-12 2017 – Tucson Quilt Craft and Sewing Festival, Tucson Expo Center 3750 Irvington, 10am-4pm. Free parking

NOVEMBER 10-12 2017 - Tucson - Tucson, AZ - <http://www.tusconscificon.com/>

Guests: Timothy Zahn, Theresa Mather, Hal & Dee Astell, Weston Ochse and Geoff Notkin.

Venue: Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites. Memberships limited to 500.

November 17-19, 2017 at that McCormick Resort hotel 7700 East McCormick Parkway.

Arizona Furcon www.Arizonafurcon.com They have a fursuit parade on the Saturday afternoon

The panels are interesting and helpful ... all the way from G to XX late nite panels. Also the dealers room has lot of items for sale ... as well as artwork, coloring books, and comic books that venture into worlds of art not seen at the usual cons with their cats, fairies, and butterflies artworks.

DECEMBER 9 2017 - LIBCON West - Saturday, December 9, 2017, from 11 AM - 5 PM

Glendale Public Library (Main) 5959 W. Brown St., Glendale, AZ 85302 libconwest.weebly.com
Anna Caggiano, Cosplay Coordinator 623-930-3439 (work) acaggiano@glendaleaz.com

Points to remember:

Any prop weapons will be peace-bonded during registration. No real weapons will be allowed.

We will again be featuring a cosplayer lounge. We have two very small changing rooms in the auditorium which will be available before 11 AM, plus two staff restrooms which can be used as changing rooms throughout the day.

January 13-15 2018 - Ace Comic Con, a three-day event aimed at the geek community, will reportedly take over Gila River Arena in Glendale and offer an “immersive” experience for attendees (New Times)

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

May 24-27 2018 – ComicCon, Phoenix.

In order to ensure the safety and security of all of our exhibitors, guests, attendees, and staff, our parent company, Square Egg Entertainment, has revised its Safety and Security Policies & Procedures, including cosplay and prop weapon policies, for all our events. Updated information is available now on our website. <https://phoenixcomicon.com/info/costume-weapons-policy/>

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 or Aurora Celeste auroraceleste@gmail.com

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