

	<h1 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h1> <p style="text-align: center;">25.05 May</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Southwest Costumers Guild 2320 West Seldon Lane, Phoenix AZ 85021 http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org</p>
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Recent Events

In Memoria

Elaine Mami passed away on April 7. She had been ill, but we had not heard anything for months.

Those of us who have been around the International Costume Guild for a while remember her as one of the founders of the New York/New Jersey chapter, affectionately known as the Sick Pups. Elaine and Carl later moved to Tucson, where she was one of the driving forces behind SWCG's hosting of Costume-Con 30 in 2012. Later she founded a new chapter for southern Arizona, the Lower Arizona Costume Enthusiasts (LACE).

There is a much more complete memoriam of her by Tina and Byron Connell in the current International Costumer at [Elaine Mami – In Remembrance](#) .

WhatWe Did (not) Do In April

Thanks to Randall

Most of us had RLI (real-life interference) and did not make it to the Glendale Public Library event this past Saturday May 3.

I stopped by in case any new potential members appeared. I was solo, so no costume.

I stopped first at Papa Ed's for an ice cream as planned, then walked on down to the library to see the artists and interest groups.

I learned that our favorite ice cream hangout is about to change hands. Linda, who has run the place for 17 years, is retiring effective May 10 and passing the business along to her employees. After a couple weeks to install some new equipment, the shop will re-open under the name "Packer Family Ice Cream." Linda is confident the Packers will continue her excellent recipes and service.

Below, thanks to Philip Gust philgust@siweb.costume.org Chair, ICG Publications Committee

The International Costumer Volume XXIV Issue 2 - April 2025 [Download File 1.53 MB](#)

- [Elaine Mami – In Remembrance](#) by Tina Connell and Byron Connell
- [ICG Officers Elected at 2025 Annual Meeting](#) by Philip Gust
- [Revision of ICG Governing Documents Approved at 2025 ICG Annual Meeting](#) by Leslie Johnston
- [Maral Agnerian Receives 2025 ICG Lifetime Achievement Award](#) by Kevin Roche
- [President's Award Presented to Documents Review Committee at 2025 ICG Annual Meeting](#) by Kevin Roche
- [2025 ICG President's Report](#) by Kevin Roche
- [ICG Press Titles Now Available in Digital Formats](#) by ICG Press

[Summaries...](#)

A new Community Issue of *The Virtual Costumer* is online! Volume 23 Issue 1, February 2025

"Soundsuits" - Covers Angel Gowns, ASU FIDM Museum, Marvin the Android, Nick Cave's Soundsuits, and more.
To read the issue go to: https://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: <https://www.siwcostumers.org/join.html>



Briefs

SEND ME MORE!

Courtesy of AZ HAUNTERS

10 Spray Foam TIPS!

1. **ALWAYS** wear eye protection and gloves and clothes you can afford to lose. This includes your shoes.
2. Always put long hair up, or it will end up **SHORT!**
3. Acetone, Goo Gone and Goof Off can clean up spray foam before it cures.
4. If you don't get one with a "reusable cap", either plan to use the whole can, or clean the nozzle and straw with Goof Off / Goo Gone before storing.
5. Start slow. Do a little at a time. It may expand a lot more than you expect!
6. Moisture causes it to cure. If doing a large/thick piece, try spraying water on it as you go.
7. Spraying water on it can also create a "skin" on top faster.
8. Hold the can upside down while spraying. **Always**
9. You get different effects by holding the nozzle closer or farther away, and by varying pressure on the trigger.
10. Great Stuff comes in several colors – for a price. :-)

Play with it and have fun!

AZHaunters.com

A recording of the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Presents webinar, "Conservation and Care of Costumes in Museum Collection" with textile and costume conservator Cara Varnell that took place on April 27, 2025 is now available on the Webinars page of the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild website. <https://www.siwcostumers.org/webinars.html#webinar-2025-04-27>

From Randall - Here is the link for a smartphone case with lanyard like we were discussing at the last SWCG meeting. Should keep your phone safely out of volcanoes (Ye editor had been to Kilauea.)

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B083158CBJ>

Facebook Finds

Ye editor did quite a bit of web surfing this month

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1GHSCwfoT1/> - how Victorian women kept their hems clean

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19TeRznrnm/> - modern hairdresser recreated Roman women's hair styles

<https://www.facebook.com/share/169AXGFcn6/> - Danish warrior from 950 and 1150.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1ALGzXiroa/> - Sprang. This ancient technique can be traced back to the Neolithic

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1USGaPpPuN/> - Iron Age. 2/1 twill

Minutes

SWCG Meeting April 19, 2025

Reiterated by Randall

-
We gathered at Tasha's home on April 19, 2025. This was a casual thing with snacks from Tasha, Mahala and Tanya. We kept our hands busy with small-scale personal projects. A slideshow of the pictures from our March photo shoot ran in the background on Randall's old computer.

Present were Tasha, Paula, Tanya, Mahala, Randall and a first time attendance by Tracy. (Welcome Tracy! We hope to see you again soon!)

Randall did a demonstration of his smartphone pouch, suitable for use with lightweight fabrics such as novelty prints. He passed out some spare copies printed on light cardboard. You can download the pattern with instructions at: <https://moirandalls.com/randwulfssmartphonepouch1.pdf> .

Mahala and Tasha discussed plans for our May 24, 2025 meeting at Tasha's home. This will be an experiment with using a quick-setting resin plus gauze material to make lower leg casts for designing shoes, boots and socks. I love a good mad science project! Since this may take a bit of preparation, we'll start earlier than usual – 12PM.

Coming up even sooner, We'll gather at Papa Ed's Ice Cream at 7146-B North 58th Avenue [HOME | My Site 2](#) in downtown Glendale for a snack, then head down to the Velma Teague Public Library for their Free Comic Book Day event with artist booths and other attractions.

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.*

May 17th Learn Face Painting (Arizona Haunters event – azhaunters.com)

More info as we get it.

***May 24th – BOOT forms at Tasha's**

The guild is going to try out hands at using plaster wrap to make boot forms. Be prepared for mess.

June 6-8 2025 - Phoenix Fan Fusion (<https://www.phoenixfanfusion.com/>)-- Phoenix Convention Center

Memberships are only sold online, starting Jan 6th (\$89 early bird)

***June 14th – Save the date for the a guild meeting**

June 21, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Intro to Soldering - Flickery Flames – an AZ Haunters event

HeatSync Labs 108 W Main St Mesa AZ 85201

Soldering is a fundamental skill for anyone looking to add electronics to their show. It's easy to learn, but many people hesitate because they don't know where to start.

Jeff will show people how to solder up Flickery Flame kits, which can be combined to light up your monsters or other props!

This is a great first soldering project, and it gives you a very nice-looking flame effect, with no programming needed. It can be used for a fire effect inside a lamp, pumpkin, or monster head.

Register HERE: <https://guestlist.co/events/783525>

July 11-13 Phoenix Mad Monster Horror con –(<https://madmonster.com/az25/>) Err on the side of creepy -

Renaissance Phoenix hotel, Glendale 9495 W. Entertainment Blvd., Glendale, AZ 85305

\$80 for 3 days **FRI 6PM-11PM SAT 11AM-7PM SUN 11AM-5PM**

August 16, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Demented Dolls 7: New Blood – an AZ Haunters event OR

August 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. NIGHT of the Demented Dolls – an AZ Haunters event

HeatSync Labs 108 W Main St Mesa AZ 85201

\$15 gets you a vinyl baby doll or a delicate porcelain doll, and all the materials to do unspeakable things to them.

NEW! Add sound to your creations with a Recordable Sound Module - \$12.50 (Subject to change based on availability) Registration ends Monday, August 11 at 8PM AZ time.

Notes on Tuscon and Loscon to come.

Saturday, January 17, 2026, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The Tempe Public Library is hosting its 2026 Tempe FanCon

Comic and cosplay fans grab your capes and superpowers and come to the Tempe Public Library for a celebration of comics and pop culture. Join us for free family fun including costume contests, authors and artists, entertainment, activities for the kids, photo ops with characters, fandom related items for sale, and food trucks. There is no table fee for exhibitors and the event is free and open to the public.

The event will be held outdoors in the Library Plaza. All exhibitors are required to supply their own tables, chairs, and optional canopy with weights. The library will supply a 10' x 10' space for each exhibitor. External gas generators are prohibited. Battery packs are fine. Please leave all pets at home or you will be asked to remove them from the event.

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