

	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>Cactus Needles</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">25.12 December 2025</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

Reflections on LosCon 51- from Ye Editor

This year, for the first time since covid, ye editor and her family attended LosCon. In the past, we have found it to be pleasant event with a good Masquerade. This year, however, that part of the convention was missing. There was someone handing out hall costume awards, but hall costumes were few and far between. Ye editor is proud to say that her younger son upheld the family tradition and wore a fine pirate costume. (Ye editor is in the middle of moving – downsizing – and all her costumes are in storage) . So, we enjoyed it as a science fiction convention. But it was very disappointing form a costumers viewpoint.

From Randall.

Remember that green fantasy regency coat I found at a renfaire swap meet back in January? I accessorized it with a top hat and cravat and wore it for this year's Halloween parties along with some trousers, cane and books already in teh closet. Photo taken by Jeff George at the Dark Ones party.

Paula and I attended the Friends of AZRF gathering at Cuisine and Wine Bistro in Chandler on Saturday, November 15. This was the fifteenth annual event. How have I missed it for so long?

The gathering was a lively assembly of folks who work or just enjoy the Arizona Renaissance Festival emceed by Joseph Ramirez. There was excellent food from the hosts and dancing by Ghazaal Beledi. There's a panoramic photo of the



Briefs

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From Phil Gust, Editor of "The Virtual Costumer"

Traveling Stitches: Quilts of Many Colors"

Covers Judging high-level costume competitions, Reenactress documentary update, and more.

To read the issue go to: http://www.siwcostumers.org/vc_current-issue.html

Select the Community Issue on the lower half of the page and answer the confirmation question.

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Recent International Costumer Posts

[Holiday Gift Ideas from the ICG Press](#) by [ICG Press](#) | Nov 2, 2025

Looking for holiday gift ideas for the costumers in your life? Books from the International Costumers' Guild Press make great gifts that provide hours of enjoyment. All titles are available in hardcover, paperback, and digital formats. [read more](#)

[\(Op-Ed\) Another Fine Mess: Behind the Scenes of Judging a Worldcon 2025 Masquerade](#)

by [Kevin Roche](#) | Oct 29, 2025

This op-ed describes a serious problem with the 2025 Worldcon Single Pattern competition. I believe that the other judges and I were unfairly limited in the awards we could make and the extremely short amount of time we had to make our decisions. This was not only unfair to the judges, but also to the contestants. I offer some suggestions to next year's masquerade directors. [read more](#)

[ICG Archives Video Collection Inventory Update](#) by ICG Archives | Oct 26, 2025

The ICG Archives has begun the process of transferring the masquerade videos on DVD and digital held in the Archives onto the new M-Disk media that could last at least 100 years. Here is a summary report of what has been collected for preservation. [read more](#)

Minutes

SWCG did participate in LibCon West. Ye editor, unfortunately, had a horrible cold and wasn't there – and doesn't have a report yet.

So, Here is a minute of humor - in honor of the season

What makes the Gring such a good gardener? He has two green thumbs.

What did the little elf learn in kindergarten? The elf-abet.

What do you get when you cross a vampire and snowman? Frostbite.

What Christmas carol do parents love the most? Silent Night.

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.

- January 18 - Online Open House
- March 8 - Historical Ice Skating
- March 22 - Costume Academy
- April 18 - Goes to BAERS Mary Anning's Plesiosaur Ball
- May 2 - Flower Fairy Frolic - A Picnic
- May 16 - Goes to Monet at the de Young Museum
- June 7 - Gods and Heroes Celebration
- August 30 - Cable Car Day in San Francisco
- September 27 - Count of Monte Cristo
- October 25 - Steampunk/Gaslamp Zoo Safari

Local events

Saturday, Jan 10th 10:00 – 4:00 Tempe Medieval Market –
Darkside / Restaurant Huanchinango – 805 S Farmer Ave, Tempe
Offsite parking across the street behind BoSa donuts
Sounds small, but interesting if you're in the area – no other info available.

Saturday, Jan 24 Bellydance workshop day in Mesa. - the Blazing Beats Bellydance Festival.

The event will be held at Upward Light Healing and Yoga - 128 W. Pepper Place, Mesa, AZ 85201.

There is a bellydance show that evening starting at 7:00.; tickets are \$15. But what costumers might be interested in is the vendors who will be on site. Although the merchandise might seem geared toward dancers, it still might be of interest to anyone. There will be jewelry, some of a "tribal" nature, some glitzy/glamorous like the cabaret dancers use-but can be used by any kind of costume they might imagine (think Sci Fi or Fantasy Princess) and full costumes. If you'd like more info on the event, it can be found on the joyofbellydancing.com website-"Yasmina's Joy of Bellydancing" Randall had vended at one of these events several years ago when it was held at the Mesa Women's Club.

Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The Tempe Public Library is hosting its 2026 Tempe FanCon

SWCG plans to attend

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.

Responding to Jill Brenner's invitation, your veep has reserved a space at Tempe FanCon, to be held on the Tempe Public Library grounds at SWC Rural Road and Southern Avenue on January 17, 2026.

We'll put up a canopy and table as a meet and greet booth, as we have done for the past several years. Last year's presence was a great success, gaining us three new members. Please join in!

I suggest you bring a project to work on and demonstrate while hanging at the booth. These always draw welcome attention.

Ye editor does not have much data further out

PLEASE SEND ME MORE!

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