



Cactus Needles

26.01 January 2026

The Southwest Costumers Guild
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Recent Events



From Randall

Paula and I tended our traditional meet and greet booth at LibCon West at the Glendale Foothills Branch Public Library on December 6, 2025.

The event was enjoyable and I got to participate as a panelist on a discussion of beginning cosplay. Our next door neighbors were the United Federation of Phoenix, so I dressed Lower Decks to help at both booths. The newly formed Star Trek Cosplay group "The Fleet" was there, bringing along a very accurate replica of Captain Kirk's command chair, complete with tribbles.





Briefs

SEND ME MORE!

From Phil Gust, Editor of “The Virtual Costumer”

[Costume-Con 2026 Virtual Competitions Now Accepting Entries](#)

by [Philip Gust](#) | Dec 11, 2025

The Costume-Con 2026 Virtual Competitions are now accepting entries for the Future Fashion Show, Single Pattern competition, and the Doll competition.

[read more](#)

[Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Spring 2026 Webinars](#)

by [SiW Webinars](#) | Dec 9, 2025

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Presents series offers webinars and workshops featuring speakers on a wide variety of topics about costumes and costuming. Registration is now open for the first two webinars in the Spring 2026 semester.

[read more](#)

There is still time to register for the third Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Presents webinar of the 2025-2026 season. There is no charge for this webinar but capacity is limited, so please register soon. By registering, you will also receive notification when a recording is available.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/OBVwdY5jTcemojexT9aRDA>

See the [“Calendar”](#) page of the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild website for information about future webinars in the series.

Facebook Finds

Hoodies are period

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1685400811535818/permalink/25101911279458108/?rdid=YLd2qaQ69brmNIkP#>

Bog fashion

<https://www.facebook.com/100063570573341/posts/1431932652269074/?rdid=0PGMyCKP0b9WwJtu#>

Unusual pouch

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1569524136596079/permalink/4222052714676528/?rdid=9PuzjIQCZMtROnhk#>

Minoan costumes

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1A7EXsW88X/>

From John A

(GBACG event reminded John) I actually have a couple of really OLD HANS BRINKER ??sp and the Silver Skates very old ice skates. I actually put them in a winter display with the SOUTHWEST VILLAGERS group that I am in for DEPARTMENT 56 collectors (of under the tree villages). They are very, very , primitive a skate blade, a wooden board (foot sole shape) and black leather binders. It was a wonder they ever stayed on your feet. I found them late in my visit to Minneapolis, and barely got through airport security lane with them, as they showed up as metal knives, in the Xray machines, as I was trying to board the plane. I was in a hurry packing to come back home, and they never got into my checked bags. But the skate blades were really imbedded in the wooden sole ... so you probably could not STAB ANYONE DEEPLY.

I also found some Victorian black leather ladies' shoes. They are positively narrow and tiny; even a cloth bonded foot, shrunken Chinese lady would not get in them.

Hanging in the garage, I still have an antique, all wood ALASKAN DOG SLED. I found and bought it years ago, at LARRY's ANTIQUE STORE BUILDINGS I bought several antique SOCIETY GOODS COSTUMES AND ROBES from him also. They seemed to be from early 1900's secret societies like the MASONs, SHRINERS, ELKS, ORDER OF WATER BUFFALOES, ODD FELLOWS, etc. I also got some really nifty "PATRIARCH CROWNS" with rear satin veils. I, at times, wore them to local CONS, WESTERCONS, and COSTUME CONS.

Do any local cons still survive? It only seems like you only get emails from TEEN JAPANAMATION GEEK CONS. I use to buy a lot of ART at Auctions, still have some. The older cons were better,

I know what I have bought over the years but finding it IS A WHOLE DIFFERENT THING. I usually find something, when I am looking for something else. Like I found some SWCG hall costume powder blue pin on awards honors so I must have not seen any quality hall costumes for that con. If I find them again, I will read them this time. Attached are a few costume photos, as I am trying to sort my computer too , to gain space.



From Society Goods – Guard Uniform



From Society Goods – brass and other metal crown (small)



From Society Goods – back of Patriarch robe

Minutes

We seem to be terrible at taking minutes – so here are some terrible jokes to waste a minute of your time

So, Here is a minute of

What dinosaur has a large vocabulary? *A the-saurus!*

What type of bear is toothless? *A gummy bear!*

What cars do sheep drive? *Lamborghinis.*

What did the mama Llama say to the baby llama as they prepared for a picnic? "Alpaca lunch!"

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

Superhero Saturday - Saturday, January 17 , 2026 10AM to 4PM

Metro Center, 9610 N Metro Pkwy W Phoenix, AZ 85051

<https://www.superherosaturday.org/>

Cosplay masquerade at noon

Saturday, January 17 , 2026 – January Guild Meeting

The January Guild meeting will be at Mark Sweebe's place.

This is to be a regular Guild meeting and we can discuss what we want to do in the first few months of the new year.

Mark is clearing out Mahala's extensive pattern and costuming/history book collection and is offering the Guild first choice at it. Mahala also had, Mark thinks, 4 sewing machines and they will be free to whoever wants them. There is also fabric and sewing machines up for grabs. Bring boxes to carry whatever you take. I'm also suggesting that you might want to bring snacks-chips, crackers, drinks, etc.-something simple for yourself and/or the rest of us to share. Please let me know if you plan to attend so I can let Mark know how many to expect.

Saturday, Jan 24 Belly dance 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, Jan 24 - Phoenix Convention Center Sout – 10am – 5pm [Time Travelers Vintage Expo](#)

Explore a vintage wonderland featuring 100+ small businesses from across the country featuring curated clothing, home goods, retro-inspired handmade, & more. From rare finds to everyday favorites, there's something for every style, budget, & era. We'll also have fun interactive experiences including Tarot Reading, Flash Tattoos, Junk Journaling Scrap Bar, Permanent Jewelry, & lots of free photo ops!

-Tickets available at the door until 4:30pm. Show ends at 5:00pm.

-The base ticket price increases to \$12 on event day, plus facility fee and sales tax.

-Online fees do not apply to in person purchases -Card only. No cash. - All sales final, no refunds.



Sun January 25, 2026 at 1pm PT, 4pm ET.

"Photographing Costumes for Virtual Masquerades" with Richard Man



Costumes for virtual masquerades or competitions are not presented on a stage. Instead, entrants submit high-quality photos or videos that may be shot in a studio, on location, or even in a virtual environment. Hugo Award-winning photographer Richard Man offers advice on creatively photographing costumes for virtual competitions, including choosing locations, using the right lighting, planning shots, adding accessories, and posing, that will make judges and the audience go "Wow!"

This webinar is especially useful for those planning to enter one of the [Costume-Con 26 virtual competitions](#).

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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