From the Guest Editor
by Carole Parker
Well, I thought a different person would be guest editor of the September-October newsletter. We’re still looking to find a permanent newsletter editor. If you believe you can do better, or want to do something different from what I have been doing, please step forward.

I’m only doing this newsletter because no one else has come forward. I will happily hand over the responsibility to someone else.

As the next newsletter editor, you’ll have creative control of the newsletter, and you’ll have the assistance of the Editorial Board. All current Editorial Board members are experienced editors, so you can get as much or as little help as you want.

The three requirements for the Editor position are: 1) Current membership in the ICG, 2) Reliable access to a computer with Internet capability, and 3) Ability to receive standard file types.

Past newsletter experience a plus.

To indicate interest in being the next editor, please send an e-mail to:

icg-newsletter@costume.org

Personally, I had fun being a Workmanship Judge at Chicon7. Find out more in the article Working Workmanship at Chicon7 that follows.

President’s Letter
by Phil Gust
I want to start my second column with another ‘thank-you,’ this time to Carole Parker, for being the guest editor for a second issue. After just arriving back home from Chicon7, where she acted as a workmanship judge and showed off some beautiful dyed textiles, Carole dove right in to produce this Chicon 7 masquerade issue. Thanks so much, Carole, for doing this!

Last time, I outlined three items that I think are important to the ICG: Providing Value, Cooperation, and Participation. I’d like to focus on Providing Value. At Costume-Con this year, I had a chance to talk with costumers from several chapters, including ICG board members who represent their chapters, and to hear about issues that chapters are facing. Many were similar, like membership and volunteers, and others were more local, like meeting when chapter members live so far apart.

A frequent question was how the ICG can provide resources and experience to chapters, to help them thrive and grow.

We recently did a few small things, such as chartering the ICG standing committees to offer direct advice and assistance to chapters who ask for it. Chapter members who are responsible for finance, publications, technologies and the web, and public relations are also invited to participate in the ICG committee discussion groups. This gives chapters a chance to share experiences and ask for help from committee members and other chapter participants in those areas.

The ICG could potentially do more things to help chapters:
- provide tools to help chapters form and grow
- offer ideas for events and publicity
- share technology resources
- answer questions about operating a chapter.

The question for chapters is, what are the most valuable things the ICG can do to add real value for ICG members through their chapters?

During the next few months, I will be contacting every ICG chapter representative to learn about specific issues and hear your ideas. I will also be asking a small volunteer committee to look at what the ICG provides chapters today, and evaluate ideas for additional ways the ICG can help chapters serve their members.

As an association of chapters, the ICG can only prosper because its chapters do. If you have ideas you’d like to share, or would be interested in participating on the committee, I’d love to hear from you. You can reach me at icg-president@costume.org.

Next time, I’ll talk in more detail about the second item, how the ICG can reach out and cooperate with other costuming groups.
Working Workmanship at Chicon7

by Carole Parker

I was pleasantly surprised and thrilled to receive an e-mail from the Chicon7 Masquerade Director, Byron Connell, asking me to be one of the Workmanship Judges.

My co-judge, Gregory Rihn, and I were almost there when the Masquerade Green Room doors opened. We thought that we would have plenty of time to see everyone before the Masquerade started at 8 p.m. The best laid plans... We wound up not getting out for our introductions since we were still judging. We missed seeing the first five or six presentations before we could get out to the front of the house.

The most frustrating aspect, for me, was the number of people who came up with re-creation costumes, but they didn’t have their documentation with them. Some tried to do a download of an image on their phones or computer, but the Internet connectivity was not good, so we did not get to see the images. Another contestant said that they left their reference images "in their room." One contestant did have an image, but the artwork was ill defined, so it was hard to tell if they were correct in their reproduction. The important lesson that I learned from this is, if I ever do a reproduction costume for a masquerade, to make sure that I have a clear hard copy image with me. Or a clean file saved on my laptop or tablet that the judges can view without requiring Internet access.

We both took notes on what impressed us about each costume. We worked on the philosophy that excellence deserves reward. The hard part came when deciding on what to award to whom. In fact, I would say that was the most time-consuming part of our job after spending so much time with everyone.

When we presented the Workmanship Awards, we not only gave cute titles along with the serious ones, but we also briefly explained why the contestants were getting the awards. While not noted in the convention newsletter, I remember the announced reasons for most of the awards.

Novice

Folken Fanel by Mark Cloud

In the Balance award for wing work. The wings were counterbalanced, so that when he changed body position, his wings opened, closed, and went to an intermediate position for walking.

Steampunk Kimono by Emma Roberts

Cover photo on left side.

Judge’s Theft award for dye work. Because I wanted to steal it off of her. This was her first masquerade.

Sith Inquisitor by S. Kay Nash

The Face of Evil award for makeup. She did an excellent job of makeup re-creation from a video game image.

Dragon Riders of Pern by Sharon Bass and Ita Vandenbroek

The Between award for pattern modification (enlarged the dragon) and repurposing of materials.

Suzaku the Phoenix by Sarah Mitchell

Phoenix Rising award for embroidery. She hand stitched all the feathers on her kimono.

Sally Ragdoll by Jennifer Skwarski

One by One award for embroidery and piecing.

Phedre as Mara by Christie Gibbons

Most Daring award for daring workmanship. This was her first sewing experience, and she attempted things that I haven’t done yet! Judge Rihn thought that the character that she portrayed was a difficult one to do, and he was impressed by her choice of character.

Suzaku the Phoenix by Sarah Mitchell

Best Novice Workmanship Not only did she have all the feather embroidery, but she also had historically correct under kimono under her kimono.
Journeyman

Gur by Daniell Roth
Foaming Over award for foam work. She took a foam pillow, sawed it in half, shaped it, and used it as the eyes for a character.

Sakura Hime from Tsubasa by Michelle Mussoni
Pointed Quill for feather work. She shaped and hand painted every feather.

Margaret Gentile
Mad Genius award for attention to detail and Best Journeyman Workmanship. Lights blinked on and off, she carved a gun out of wood, plus used both contemporary and antique components to achieve the desired effect.

Master

Prince Zuko by Torrey Stenmark
Nailed It award for nail work. Not the finger nails, the nails used on the material plus the stamping that was involved.

Pleased to Meet You by Leah Reed, Janet Catherine Johnston, Carol Botterton, Joni Stopa Award (aka Best in Show)
She also received the Chicago Costumers’ Guild Cement Shoes award that honors the costume that they would like to take from the costumer.

Donald Eastlake III, Jill Eastlake
Quietest Baby award went to the baby doll that had a hand spun, dyed, and knitted outfit, and Spun Gold award for the spinning wheel. The spinning wheel was able to be taken apart for travel as well as be functional on stage both were done by Leah Reed.

Welcome to the Future by Julie Zetterberg, Greg Sardo, and Lisa Satterlund
Topper award for their hats. They used unusual materials to get the desired effect.

Leather Sole Airship Pirates by Charles, Kendra, and Paul Wayman
Mechanical Wizard and Best Master Workmanship. They also received a Dreamcatcher award from Silicon Web that honors best use of technology. The fans worked, the CO2 container went off when it was supposed to, and it looked really cool.

Lady of the Lake by Aurora Celeste
Cover Photo on right side and next page.

Photo Credits

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All the other images were by Richard Man. Permission granted for use of these images for the ICG and SiliconWeb newsletters. All Rights Reserved.
Inspiration and Results
for Lady of the Lake at Chicon7
The original illustration is from M. Alice Legrow’s story Bizenghast:
http://www.bizenghast.com/index.html
Ms. Legrow has kindly given her permission for this image to be published in International Costumer, and I thank her for allowing us to publish the illustration.

Richard Man has also given permission for his photographs to be published:
Permission granted for use of this image for the ICG and Silicon Web newsletters. All Rights Reserved.
http://richardmanphoto.com
This was Man’s last outing as a convention photographer. His website has striking fine art photography that people should look at.

Man has been supportive of costumers for some time, and has taken outstanding photographs that many have loved.
I have enjoyed working and participating in several masquerades that Man has worked, and I will be disappointed to not see him behind the camera at future masquerades.

Thank you, Richard.
Chapter Focus

Southwest Costumers Guild (SWCG)
by Randall Whitlock, Webmonster

SWCG has its murky origins in the lead up to the masquerade at CactusCon, the 1987 NASFiC. We’ve maintained a close relationship with SF fandom in central Arizona ever since, with one of our members usually directing the masquerades at CopperCon and LepreCon, and the rest of us appearing on both sides of the curtain.

Members’ interests are widespread beyond SF, including Medieval/Renaissance/Elizabethan, Regency, Victorian/wild west, steampunk, animé, and my own proclivities for sewing odd baggage and camping gear. Some are full-time professionals in theater and education while most of us are dedicated amateurs. Skill sets run from stitching to corsetry to photography and lighting.

Approximately 30 members are on the books, with about eight typically present at our monthly meetings in members’ homes. Meetings run toward workshops demonstrating construction techniques or our own peculiar brand of social, such as the annual in-the-swimming pool costume party. My personal favorites are our “sweatshops,” where we team up to build costume items for fundraisers, local charities, or as prizes for local conventions. There has been much talk lately about getting back into the habit of attending public events together in costume.

The jewel in the crown (okay, a rhinestone), is our newsletter, Cactus Needles. Features include a calendar of Arizona costumed events, store reviews, how-to articles, etc. It has run more or less monthly since 1995 and all back issues can be read on our web site at www.southwestcostumersguild.org.

We became an Arizona Nonprofit Corporation in 2010 as we prepared to host Costume-Con 30 in Tempe, Arizona earlier this year.

Chapter Newsletters

Does your chapter publish a newsletter? Is there a costuming e-zine that would be of interest to ICG members? Send your recommendations to:
icg-newsletter@costume.org

If your ICG chapter wants to start a newsletter, the Publications Committee can help you get started. To learn more:
icg-pubscommittee@costume.org

Cactus Needles
Southwest Costumers’ Guild
http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org

Virtual Costumer
Silicon Web Costumers’ Guild
http://www.siwcostumers.org/vc_current-issue.html

Yipe!
A privately published e-zine.
http://www.yipezine.com

ICG By E-Mail or Internet

WebSite: http://www.costume.org /
Yahoo! Groups:
   General Discussion
   ICG-D@yahoogroups.com
   Board of Directors and Officers
   ICG-BOD@yahoogroups.com
   Technical and Web Discussion
   ICG-TW@yahoogroups.com
   Publications Discussion
   ICG-Pub@yahoogroups.com

ICG-D is open to everyone, including nonmembers. Everyone can read message archives of the other groups, but only invited members can submit messages.

ICG Membership Benefits

Your ICG membership benefits include voting rights and a subscription to International Costumer. Chapters that fail to report their members and submit their dues run the risk of being deactivated. Members of deactivated chapters who wish to participate in activities as ICG members must join an active chapter of the ICG. Members of Chapters that have ‘expired,’ but are in good standing, are temporarily placed in the ‘T-chapter,’ a sort of limbo for members ‘between chapters.’

Advertising

Until a permanent editor and format are found, the ICG Newsletter will not be accepting advertising.
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ICG Chapters
If you spot an error or something that needs updating, please send a message to the newsletter e-mail address.

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Contact: Barbara Wright
ICG Board Rep: Sue Edmunds

Denver Costume & Cosplay Society
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http://www.sickpupsnot.org/
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Keri Doerring  

NOTE:  
If you see the word acting attached to  
a position, that means that person is  
doing it because no one else stepped  
forward. If you’re interested in the  
position, please contact the person  
listed.

Items of Interest  
Costume-Cons:  
http://www.costume-con.org/  

For conventions in your area:  
http://www.costume.org/conventions.html  

Numbers  
ICG Treasurer Jeanine Swick would  
like to announce that the 2012 Second  
Quarter treasurer’s report is now  
available on the Financial Statements  
page of the ICG website:  
http://www.costume.org/documents/FinancialStatements.html  
Please send comments and questions to Jeanine at  
icg-treasurer@costume.org.

ICG Editorial Board  
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