

# *International Costumer*

Volume XII, Issue 5

International Costumers' Guild

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## Remembering Marty Gear aka Uncle Vlad



## *President's Letter*

by Phil Gust

Welcome to this special issue of the *International Costumer*, celebrating the life of Marty Gear, one of the founders of the ICG. It was a shock to all of us in the costuming community to learn of Marty's passing on July 20th, and I'd like to extend condolences to his family on behalf of the ICG.

I met Marty, only once, at Costume-Con 30 in Tempe. I wish that I could have spent more time with him then because he was someone who had many lessons to teach.

The one thing I remember clearly was when we were first introduced on the Thursday before the convention started. He looked me up and down sternly and said that he heard I was running for ICG President that year. I had heard stories and was more than a little nervous. Then he broke into a smile and said that he guessed that I hadn't run fast enough.

I have a feeling I wasn't the first person running for the office that he tried that one on. Unfortunately, I was the last, and I'm deeply saddened to realize that.

Several proposals have been put forward for how the ICG can honor Marty, and the Board will be considering them in the next couple of months.

I was looking forward to continuing our conversation at CC-31, but unfortunately, Marty wasn't able to make it. So, if you're out there, Marty, remember: one knock means "yes"...

Convention season will soon be upon us. Many of us are already thinking about costuming projects, and a few have even started working on them. You can see from the "monster" convention list on the ICG website that there are a wide variety to choose from. Assistant Webmaster Susan Toker's work to promote the list has literally garnered the ICG worldwide fame as one of the "go-to" locations for convention directors promoting their events.

Kathe and I participated in Westercon 66, over the July 4th weekend as masquerade directors, ably assisted by Jill Eastlake as green room manager, Sandy Manning as assistant green room manager, a panel of judges including Bjo and John Trimble, David *Trouble with Tribbles* Gerrold as M.C., Jade Falcon as photographer, and Steven Nelson as videographer. We had 12 entries, including one young fan and several large groups. The quality of the entries was excellent, and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the event.

We are grateful to Kevin Roche and Andy Trembly for the opportunity. Kevin took us under his wing several years ago and taught us what we know about running masquerades. We kept waiting for something to go wrong this year, but it just didn't. It's a testimony to Kevin and Andy's running of Westercon this year, to the excellent staff that we were fortunate to have recruited, and to all the contestants whose cooperation and performances made this masquerade a delight to run.

*Good luck with all your costuming projects!*

## *From the Editor*

by Carole Parker

Well, I'm excited about LoneStarCon3 coming up in short order. Too quick for those planning to enter the masquerade. *Got your costume done yet?*

That's tempered by the loss of a special member of the ICG, Marty Gear. You'll read and see people's memories of Marty in this issue.

One thing I can say about Marty is that he was *always* kind. I, personally, never saw him be mean or cruel to anyone. He was welcoming to newbies, willing to share information with anyone, participated not only in the general science fiction costuming community, but also in the cosplay community as well. If Marty was not running a masquerade, it seems like he was either the MC, part of the tech crew, or entering.

Special thanks go to *Aurora Celeste* for gathering up memories found on Facebook, and to *Lisa Ashton* for reporting on the memorial service that included family and people from all the groups that knew him.

I have made an effort to get as many viewpoints as possible, so people can have a fuller understanding of the special man who was known as *Marty Gear*.

*Thank you everyone for your contributions to this special issue.*

**Editor Note:** *All photographers have given permission to use their photographs in this issue, and all rights are reserved by them.*

## *From A Son*

*by Daniel Gear on Facebook*

Last night, the world lost a great man. My father, Marty Gear, passed away in his sleep. This is a man that took in a total stranger (me) and adopted him as his own son when I was 12 years old. He taught me so much and loved me unconditionally. I hope he is resting gently as he deserves it. It takes a hell of a man to raise another person's child and love them as their own. He was more than a father - he was a friend. We became very close in the last several years, and I will miss him more than words can say. I love you Pop. Rest in peace until we meet again. The world seems to be less without you. Thank you for all you did for me. Without you, I would be lost in this world. Thanks to everyone for your prayers, calls and messages. It has truly touched my heart that he was loved by so many.

*Saturday night filk at Counterpoint. Photo by David Weingart.*



## *Family Memorial Service*

*by Lisa Ashton*

The Memorial for Marty was packed. People started arriving well before the stated time of 4 p.m.; WE arrived early and there were already many there. It was held at Historic Savage Mill, in Savage, Maryland. The buildings were renovated from the actual historic buildings from an old mill--and include buildings for Carding, Spinning, and Weaving. Today the compound includes many shops and artisans, antiques, as well as restaurants and cafes, but it has all the original wooden floors and stairs with some odd angles. Marty's affair was held in a large open room at the end of a building, on the second floor, it is a lovely elegant room, very open, with long windows at two ends. For some of us, it was a strange flashback to June of 2005, when we all gathered there for a Memorial for Bobby Gear.

Walking in, there were guest books on a table--many of us signed them and wrote comments. Several of Marty's costumes were hung at the entrance into the room--one was Cohen the Barbarian.

Many of Marty's costumes were hung on stands and looked, as he always did, elegant and well-put-together. It was wonderful to be able to look up close and see the machine embroidery and the detail work, such as on cuffs or collars. Marty loved doing really perfect tailoring, and was content to take the time and effort to make his costumes look REAL--that is, like actual clothes inhabited by real people. This was evident even seeing them lying flat on their hangers.

We all saw many people we knew--it was almost like a convention, only very compressed. Probably about a third of the attendees were in costume--many capes, and vampires, wizards and gentlemen in top hats. A few ladies in bustle dresses. A few recognizable science fiction costumes.

In one corner, to the right of the entryway, was a photo tribute projected onto a large screen, this began with Marty's life as a young man, meeting and marrying Bobby, and onward. Many photos of him in various costumes, and on different sets.

There was food offered: meatballs, artichoke dip, crackers, cheese, fruit, and in the corner with coffee and tea, pastries and cookies. For the first hour or more, people arrived and mingled. Many people came from a distance.

Danny, Marty's son, who has been living with him in his house in Columbia, got up to speak first. He made everyone feel welcome, perhaps even he was surprised at the number of folks who came. After that, there were a number of speakers, who spoke to Marty's talents and generosity as a costumer, as part of many different communities; and also those who spoke to Marty's involvement in non-costume-related enterprises, such as Baltimore's *Reading is Fundamental* project, his love for theater and live performances, his generosity in teaching everything from computer skills to prosthetic sculpture to audio technology. It truly was a celebration of Marty's life.

## *Memories From Costumers*

*Pierre and Sandy Pettinger*

Devastating.

Marty was one of our closest friends in costuming. He epitomized everything a gentleman should be.

We met him first in 1983 at the first Worldcon masquerade we entered.

He was kind and helpful to two newbies wide-eyed about appearing among so many notables.

Three years later, at Confederation (the 1986 Worldcon) in Atlanta, Marty remembered who we were (and we had not yet won any awards or otherwise done anything particularly noteworthy). We had entered the Costume-Con 4 Future Fashion Contest, but we could not attend the convention (One of only four CCs we have not attended.). One of our designs was made by a lady named Beth Moberly. At the Friday night party at Confederation, Marty asked us if we were pleased with her interpretation. To not only remember us, but to remember the design entry and that it had been made, truly impressed us.

Over the years, we were always delighted to see Marty and have the opportunity to spend time with him. He was always available to talk, consult, and advise. No one was higher on our list of people to call for advice.

We will miss him terribly. He will be in our prayers.

*Goodbye, Marty.*

*Lisa Ashton*

I met Marty and Bobby Gear at a long-ago Disclave in the Washington, D.C. area, back at a summer con in the mid-1980's. It was held at a sort of garden apartment hotel, with the rooms surrounding a courtyard with a pool, and the parties would have everyone spilling out into the open pool area, very convivial. I remember talking to Marty quite a long time, and how encouraging he was about my starting into making costumes (When I look back on the costumes I envisioned back then, it's almost embarrassing.). My son, Tommy, was an infant then, and like many, I can say that Marty watched both of my children grow up, as they joined us at conventions. Marty was a true mentor to lucky local costumers. Always generous with his time, skills, equipment, books, supplies, new ideas, work space ...

The last time I saw him was here, at my own house in June, when we held a memorial for my long-time partner Roger Bennett, who died suddenly in April. In fact, Roger was supposed to be at Marty's house the next day, to finish staining his wood shingles.

How many of us have high-quality vampire fangs because of Marty?



*Marty with his special teeth. Photo by Tina Connell.*

So many were introduced to the joys of haunting because of Marty. He was always working to improve the sets, the atmosphere,

the performers' backstage space. He always had suggestions for improving makeups, and was willing to lend his own. In fact, he often bought duplicates to share.

How many of us fell in love with machine embroidery because of Marty? He took me to buy my machine after teaching me on his model, after I would spend literally hours upstairs in his embroidery machine room using his machine for my first heavily embroidered piece (He would go out, do errands, come back, and I'd still be there sewing!!). He was always my point person when I ran into difficulties, and could digitize anything, having taught himself how to use the software. Again, he was generous with all of us, knowing that most couldn't afford the software. He had many groups, haunts and charities, for whom he designed and embroidered patches and promos, for years.

I was very honored when, after Bobby died, Marty asked me to complete some quilts that she had left unfinished, that were earmarked for special people for special occasions. He didn't want to let her down.

His sewing and tailoring skills, for the costumes he made and wore, were excellent. Marty understood the necessity of mockups and fittings. He was always pushing for more program panels about men's costumes. He always looked beautifully put together and dressed and behaved like a gentleman (of another era, possibly, and with fangs).

Computer skills? Very few can match him. He was a terrific teacher. I learned how to scan, and how to work up presentations in

Powerpoint from him. He always left me feeling that "I could do it." I was very reassured at cons, knowing that if my soundtrack failed, he would have the original on his hard drive -- with him. His audio production skills, to me, were excellent. We did many soundtracks together for presentations. Over the past five years, he had done all of mine, including the narration of *The Letter*, the first time I made an audience cry. He even gave me software to play around with -- again, his legendary generosity.

No one would rejoice in someone's costume successes like Marty. He was inordinately proud of all of us.

Marty was so much of a constant for so many East Coast annual conventions that he became indispensable. He built up the Balticon Masquerade to be the envy of many conventions. He believed in outreach to all the corners of the costume community, and it's because of this that the spectrum of costuming extends as far as it does. Others will speak to Marty's place as a founder of many aspects of our playground; his sense of humor, his myriad interests, he was truly an anchor to many of us whose enthusiasm grew as the years went by, as well as the stalwart believer in inclusion. He was always pushing for better tech, better sound and lighting, more costume programming, more varieties of costume programming. He never stopped learning. In the past few years, I have known him to participate in college level courses including sound technology, computer skills, molding and plastics, plus others. He was one of the

most widely knowledgeable costumers on any number of subjects.

Marty Gear -- one of *The Essentials*.



*Marty as the MC at Balticon. Photo by Tina Connell.*

*Steve Sheets*  
Our first introduction to Marty was meeting him on stage, in a rather memorable

confrontation. It was our first BaltiCon, though we regularly did masquerade at other conventions. We had not realized that Marty was the Vampire Master of Ceremony when we created our costume. As you see in this video, it was a fun moment.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMF6DatNOMs>

*Randall Whitlock*

I first got to know Marty in the course of an e-mail conversation, in which he offered some helpful advice on putting together the first NADWCON Maskerade back in 2009. I learned more about the practicalities of running masquerade registration when I served as his assistant for the Costume-Con 30 F&SF Masquerade than in all the masquerades I had directed up to that point.

*Byron Connell*

In addition to his many other contributions to the costuming community, for which we honored him as the second recipient of our Lifetime Achievement Award (in 1991), he was one of the founders of the ICG and served as its Executive Director from its establishment in 1985 until our incorporation in 1989.

Perhaps more than anyone else in our community, Marty was responsible for bringing masquerades and other costumed stage events to their present state.

*Elaine Mami*

Marty was responsible for giving Carl (Mami) the "official" *Go for it!* when Carl asked if he could begin a costuming archive for the brand new ICG.

Between Costume-Cons 3 and 5, Carl and Ricky Dick traveled to California and back filming the major costumers of that time. He used that footage - plus miles more - to create the infamous *Interview Tapes*, which debuted at CC5. Marty was the MC and supposed interviewer. He was using questions based on the ones Carl and Ricky had asked, and he often took artistic license with the script, making the tapes even better. That stuff is still in the Archives, and worth watching.

*Gordon Rose*

Marty was one of the great inspirations for being an emcee. I always looked up to him, and he was such a card too! A true man of poise, style, full of fun and humor. Always a kind word, always a fond memory.

A great voice in costuming has fallen silent.

## Memorial Blogs

Some recommended memorials that were too long to put in the *International Costumer*.

<http://pinterest.com/gfireman/marty-gear/>

Photographs with some having links to articles, some incorporating Marty's memories.

<http://www.stevenhwilson.com/2013/07/22/alexander-martin-gear-1939-2013/>

<http://www.urbanthreads.com/blog/?p=1642>

<http://puppetmaker40.livejournal.com/941132.html>

<http://www.modehistorique.com/blog/?p=1650>

## Memories From Cosplayers

### Mechafaux

I first met Marty a few years ago at NY Comic Con. I couldn't believe how incredibly sweet and calm he was, despite the crazy situation we were all in (backstage at a quickly falling apart masquerade, kids in panic everywhere, masquerade organization staff bailed). We equate cons and cosplay with drama these days, but there is so much more positive stuff there. I have so much respect and awe for him. He was such a big inspiration for me to *never give up*.

### Ger Tysk

I just heard about the passing of Marty Gear. I only knew him for a short time, but he was so kind and welcoming and wanted the best even for us young uns who had discovered this new thing called *cosplay*. I am so glad I got to talk to Marty for my book, especially now. Thanks for everything.

Marty, you told me in your interview, "I probably won't stop costuming until I am

dead, and maybe not even then." I'm holding you to that. I fully expect to see you decked out in your vampire regalia when I see you next. You will be missed dearly.

**Editor Note:** The interview mentioned is <http://www.breakingalltherules.net>

and is taken from the book *Breaking All the Rules: Cosplay and the Art of Self-Expression*, to be published in October 2013.

An interview done with Marty at *Anime USA* in 2012. It runs for 26:47 minutes:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zr8oitvanRc>



Marty enjoying the Hogwarts themed Friday Night Social at Costume-Con 22.  
Photo by Sandy Pettinger.

Transcript of the Otakon Masquerade Memorial, provided by Joe K by the Otakon Masquade Staff

Before we begin tonight's masquerade, we'd like to tell you about

a long-time friend of the cosplay community and Otakon. Alexander Martin Gear, also known as Marty or Uncle Vlad, passed away on July 18th. You'd have to look back to 1953 for Marty's first convention, Worldcon in Philadelphia. Marty helped found BaltiCon and was heavily involved in Costume-Con and many other conventions over the years. In 2008, Otakon had the privilege of having

Marty as a member of the Masquerade craftsmanship judging team.

Marty became the second recipient of the International Costumer's Guild (ICG) Lifetime Achievement Award in 1991.

Perhaps Marty is the reason we're all together here tonight to watch our favorite cosplays perform. His contributions are far and wide, perhaps too many to describe, perhaps too many to be discovered years from now. But in spite of his contributions, his achievements, and his talents, which were tremendous, Marty will perhaps be most be missed as a friend.

Marty loved vampires and jokes about vampires, no matter how bad they were. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire, Marty asked. The answer, frostbite.

Marty was the man when you needed anything, and expected nothing in return. He always had a smile on his face, often singing, and has been described as the most humble man you would know.

Please join us in celebrating the legacy of our friend, Marty Gear, through the skits and participants of tonight's show.

At this time we ask you join us in a round of applause in tribute of the great cosplayer and friend, Marty Gear.

### Dany Slone

Marty was one of the first people I met when I *officially* started this hobby (versus all the false starts that occurred as far back as around 1999 or so). He was the one who told me not to compete at SDCC because of the bad crowd, and I was happy to neener at him and do it anyway. Looking back, I'm

sure he saw this newbie costumer and was trying to look out for my delicate ego. Little did he know my ego is delicate, but not *that* delicate. Can't blame the guy for trying.

### *Memories From S.C.A.*

*Toni Lay*

Last month, I was at Pennsic 43. For those who don't know, Pennsic is a 10,000-person Medieval/Renaissance event given by the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), held annually in western Pennsylvania. Every year, a model of a Viking ship is built. People come to honor those who have died within the past year - famous people, relatives, friends. This can be done by writing the name or names on a slip of paper or, if they stop by early in the day, painting a wooden disk (a shield) with a device that represents the person being honored.

Jeannette Holloman and Ron Robinson painted a disk to look like a gear.



*Amber Dionne (aka Barbara of Bonei), painted two white fangs dripping red blood on another disk. Photo by Betsy Marks Delaney of Hawkswood Productions.*

Betsy Marks Delaney took many pictures of the ceremony. I use the word "ceremony" because, although it is not religious in any way, many people make it a point to attend this. I had a piece of paper where I wrote down the names of people I wanted to honor: a very good friend, my brother, my cousin, Wombat, and of course, Marty. This was placed in a compartment for such

items. Other people bring locks of hair, pieces of fabric, etc. At an appointed time in the early evening, the boat is carried to the lake in a procession and burned. Sometimes someone comes with a drum to play and chant, sometimes people speak aloud the name(s) of people they are honoring, but mainly maybe 100 or so just stand or sit quietly by the water and watch the boat burn. It was surprisingly moving.

*Betsy Marks Delaney (Elizabeth of Hawkswood)*

Also on the Viking ship were shields for Judy Gerjuoy (Jaelle), Mistress of Darkover Grand Council, Craig Levin (Pedro de Alcazar), Nancy O'Neill Allison (the original reason I was there at Pennsic this year, with a green and gold spinning wheel I painted), and others. Besides Wombat, Patti Paczolt was also remembered at the event.

The ship originates with Clan Cambion and others, my SCA household. Fred Blonder, and others local to my area in Maryland, are responsible for the ship each year, an outgrowth of the Longship Company and Markland.

Last weekend, over 200 people gathered at the Great Room in Savage Mill, MD, in body or in spirit, to honor Marty Gear. The next gathering is set for Worldcon, and more will take place throughout the year. I think that's a testament to the depth and breadth of Marty's reach, in multiple areas of fandom.

With luck, video from the event will be available in the next week or so, through Doc Gandalf among others.

When I walked with the ship, and lit the first candle, I knew it would be difficult, but being surrounded by others and seeing the respect from everyone who saw the ship pass made it possible to feel the strength of mutual support. Keep that legacy alive, even in your sorrow.

### *Memories From Haunts*

*Chuck Rothman*

I'm saddened to hear this. Marty was a true gentleman.

Marty once told this story about when he was at one of the early Costume-Cons in San Diego. It was Sunday night. He was staying over and sitting in the bar with friends, in his usual vampire garb. The servers, of course, had seen plenty of costumes that weekend.

Also at the bar were a couple of salesmen, no doubt in town to call on the naval base. They were having a little nightcap and talking quietly.

A server came over to Marty's table and asked what they were having.

One of Marty's friends says, "Wine."

Another friend says, "Wine."

The server turns to Marty and says, "What about you, Count? Do you want wine, too?"

Marty stands up indignant and cries, "I never drink wine! Get me a bloody Mary!" The two salesmen gulp down their drinks and leave the room.

He'll be sorely missed.

## *My Friend, Tormentor, and Mentor*

### *Marty Gear*

by Ricky Dick

**Editor Note:** *Until 2011, Castle Blood was a Halloween haunt run out of the home of Ricky Dick and Karen Dick (now Schnaubelt) in western Pennsylvania.*

I'm not sure if he ever told any of you this, but when he was twelve years old out in Ohio, Marty ran away to join the circus. Oh, you heard that one? Five to six times at least? *Got it.*

Well, I met Marty a couple years after my real dad died. Who was also named Alexander.

It was at a convention, of course, and as part of the masquerade, of course.

It was my first big competition, as Balticon back then was only topped by Worldcon as a masquerade.

I said hi to him that Friday afternoon, and he said, "Oh, you're the pros from Dover that John Flynn told me were coming" with a sarcastic smirk on his face. For the first time of what would be hundreds of times, taking a moment to both welcome me and call me on my shit.

We won Best In Show that night. At the after party, he came up to me, and in his evangelical costume guru best, said "nice job, can I talk to you about BSFS and the costumers guild?" That started my tough love brotherly fatherly relationship with him.

Marty was the first person to ask me to be a MC in a masquerade he was running,

and him giving up the reigns was a big deal.

When he and Bobbi had a family emergency one spring, he asked me to do the toughest job ever, sub for him at Balticon. I wore a nice generic costume, there was no frikkin way I was gonna step on that stage as a vampire. My joke for more than 20 years now has been that I'm the only living person to have MCDed a Balticon Masquerade. It used to be funny. Now I'll need to do it again for him this next Costume-Con (CC).

We won awards in group costumes where he was always the calm one in the masquerade storm. Of course, I got to be his co-chair for CC27 in Baltimore, still the largest non-Californian CC ever. Like I have to tell you. I think the whole committee is here.

When Castle Blood started, and really got going, it was full of fannish costumers. We asked Marty many times to come, and that he would love it. It took a few years to convince him, but then he told me "it's time I let other people be in charge and for me to just come play in your sandbox," but, of course, taking a back seat was just not in his nature. He took to the Castle as only a true stage actor can and loved having fully realized sets to perform in - chewing up every one of them.



*Marty chewing up the scenery at Castle Blood. Photo provided by Ricky Dick.*

I won't say he was the fastest least chatty performer we ever had, or wasn't the cause of many bottlenecks on the tour, but for more than a decade, he was one of the very top attractions as far as how the public felt. Customer comments and stories that flooded the Castle Facebook page at the news of his passing prove that.

Early on at the castle, Marty decided to become the grandfather my daughter Caitlin never had on my side of the family, and since she still lived in Maryland, they became road buddies driving back and forth to the Castle multiple weekends each year. It was lovely to see them have their own relationship separate from me. When money was tight to send her for a college semester abroad, it was Marty who wrote the final check to make it happen.

He became an integral part of the Castle. An unnamed manager, who would write me the most blistering personal e-mails about how I ran things, and what I was doing that I ever read. That didn't stop me from going to him for advice on just about everything.

I changed a lot. What I thought was important changed as well.

Marty became our biggest supporter. Any time we were in a jam, he was there. Anytime there was a real need, for a prop, for an idea, or for cash, he was there. No questions, just an overly organized reaction to what was needed. I really doubt the Castle would still exist if not for him

When the TV show *Midnight Monster Hop* was started, one of the first few things I



knew we needed was Marty's bad vampire jokes. It was awesome to have brought him on that show as it even went national for a while, and is still in reruns. I have about 40 we haven't used yet on tape. If plans go thru, in a year or two, you might even be able to watch the show on Hulu. Imagine being able to log on anytime, see him in full garb, telling some heinously bad joke at a moment's notice.

Now we have the responsibility of one part of his legacy, as he wanted his vampire stuff to go to the Castle.

As matter of fact, as he was about his age, Dawn McKechnie told him once, if he felt that way, we need to cast him and make a Marty robot that tells jokes forever. He would laugh that laugh with the big eyes and big smile and say YES YES. As many of you know, his ego would last well past his passing. We didn't get that face cast. We were supposed to do that this summer. We have been looking around for someone good enough to get it sculpted from scratch. Eventually it will be on permanent display with us.

I'll try to finish the book we started, *Uncle Vlad's Way Too Many Bad Vampire Jokes*.

There are just so many more stories to tell. Like how he and I once got thrown out of a church for blasphemy, but that's what this day is for. As we ALL have those stories.

He was invested in so many of our lives. He was everyone's big brother, uncle, father, or grandpa.

That really makes us all cousins or something. He'd be so happy to see the

family all together. Oh, and, I don't know if you know this, but when he was twelve he ran away to join the circus. I know, we've all heard it so often, and will always wish we could here it one more time.



*Marty greeting customers at Castle Blood.  
Photo provided by Ricky Dick.*

# Rest in Peace

Alexander

Martin

Gear

*Your patience, willingness to share with everyone, love of costuming, welcoming presence, joyfulness, kindness, and wicked sense of humor will stay with many of us for a long time.*

*Blessed be.*

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:icg-pubscommittee@costume.org)

## ICG By E-Mail or Internet

All members are welcome to join the ICG general discussion *Yahoo! Group* and participate in lively conversations on costuming. Please send comments and suggestions to the board and the standing committees using these e-mail addresses:

WebSite: <http://www.costume.org/>  
*Yahoo! Groups*

General Discussion

[icg-d@yahogroups.com](mailto:icg-d@yahogroups.com)

Board of Directors

[icg-board@costume.org](mailto:icg-board@costume.org)

Budget and Finance Committee

[icg-financecommittee@costume.org](mailto:icg-financecommittee@costume.org)

Public Relations Committee

[icg-prcommittee@costume.org](mailto:icg-prcommittee@costume.org)

Publications Committee

[icg-pubscommittee@costume.org](mailto:icg-pubscommittee@costume.org)

Technology & Web Committee

[icg-techcommittee@costume.org](mailto:icg-techcommittee@costume.org)

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Your ICG membership benefits include participation in a chapter(s) of your choice, voting rights, and a subscription to the *International Costumer*.

## ICG Editorial Board

Betsy Delaney, Philip Gust, Bruce Mai, Patrick O'Connor, Carole Parker, Jeanine Swick, and Randall Whitlock.

## ICG Officers 2012-2013

President: Philip Gust

[icg-president@costume.org](mailto:icg-president@costume.org)

Vice President: Aurora Celeste

[icg-vice-president@costume.org](mailto:icg-vice-president@costume.org)

Treasurer: Jeanine Swick

[icg-treasurer@costume.org](mailto:icg-treasurer@costume.org)

Corresponding Secretary: Jan Price

[icg-corr-secretary@costume.org](mailto:icg-corr-secretary@costume.org)

Recording Secretary: Kathe Gust

[icg-rec-secretary@costume.org](mailto:icg-rec-secretary@costume.org)

## ICG Helpful Hands

*International Costumer* Editor:

Carole Parker

[icg-newsletter@costume.org](mailto:icg-newsletter@costume.org)

Acting Webmaster: Philip Gust

[webmaster@costume.org](mailto:webmaster@costume.org)

Website Assistants:

Carole Parker, Susan Toker

Archivist: Pierre Pettinger

[icg-archivist@costume.org](mailto:icg-archivist@costume.org)

Gallery Admin: Bruce Mai

[gallery-admin@costume.org](mailto:gallery-admin@costume.org)

GEL Administrator: Bruce MacDermott

[gel-admin@costume.org](mailto:gel-admin@costume.org)

Parliamentarian: Pierre Pettinger

[icg-parliamentarian@costume.org](mailto:icg-parliamentarian@costume.org)

## Newsletter Delivery

The ICG Board of Directors authorized an online as well as print edition of the newsletter. Your newsletter delivery preference is part of your ICG membership record. If you want to change or verify your delivery preference, contact your local chapter. The newsletter staff relies on these records to determine who receives a newsletter and by what means of delivery.

Members who have an e-mail address on record are notified when a new edition is available. Those who receive the print edition are welcome to view the online edition by going to:

<http://www.costume.org/currentnewsletter>

When prompted, enter the user name "costumer" and the password "goingCC31."

Back issues of the ICG newsletter are available online for the entire costuming community to enjoy. Contact the newsletter editor e-mail address to report problems or comment on the newsletter. If your postal or e-mail address changes, notify your local chapter promptly, or send your updated information to [icg-membership-corrections@costume.org](mailto:icg-membership-corrections@costume.org). Returned copies of the print edition will not be re-mailed.

## Online Submissions

Submit copy as rtf, doc, docx or txt files to the newsletter editor e-mail address. All current graphics formats are accepted.

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