

# *International Costumer*

Volume XII, Issue 6

International Costumers' Guild

November-December 2013



## *Pointing the Way*

*The Past - Reports from the  
field*

*The Future - What the ICG is  
looking at for next year*

## President's Letter

by Phil Gust

Your board of directors includes the five officers elected annually by members and a representative appointed by each chapter. Rather than holding meetings at fixed times, the ICG board stays in session throughout the year using the ICG-BOD Yahoo group. That means board discussions and business can happen whenever it's needed.

You are welcome to view current and past board discussions by visiting

<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/ICG-BOD>

You can also comment and provide feedback through your chapter representative or any of the officers. We'd be happy to make sure that your input is heard. Our e-mail addresses are on the *Officers & Board* page of the ICG website. I'd also be happy to talk with you by phone if you let me know the best number, date, and time.

The period between September and the end of the year is usually the busiest time for your board. We'll be discussing a list of items that were posted on the ICG-BOD group earlier this week and others as they come up. I'd like to take you behind the scenes by highlighting several:

- I was delighted to receive an application from the Gem State Costumers in Idaho to affiliate with the ICG as a chapter. They sound like a great addition to the ICG. The board just needs to review and approve their application. Watch for the announcement on the ICG-D Yahoo group soon.

- Committee chairs have submitted budget items, and the Finance Committee is preparing a budget to submit by Nov 1. The board must approve a final budget by December 31.
- We're planning to move to a new website hosting service. The ICG Gallery has become too big for our current provider. Besides giving us more space for images, the new service may allow the ICG to offer website hosting at no cost for chapters who want to take advantage of it. We'll provide more details early next year.
- ICG provides a way for U.S. chapters who want to participate to become tax-exempt organizations at no cost. A small amount of financial reporting is required, so we're proposing to provide copies of Quickbooks software to participating chapters at no cost to make that easier for them.
- The Board plans to permanently honor ICG founder Marty Gear, who passed away in July. It is considering several options and will adopt at least one of them. The ICG previously honored Pat and Peggy Kennedy by naming the Archives after them.
- The Member Benefits working committee, under ICG VP Aurora Celeste, is considering ways to make ICG membership more valuable for individual members. The board is currently discussing how to implement the first of their recommendations. The committee will provide more information as it becomes available.

- We'll also consider several items that require revisions to the Standing Rules, which are the guidelines under which the ICG operates. I'll provide more details as changes are approved.

As you can see, your board is working behind the scenes on a range of items that benefit individual members, chapters, and the costuming community.

Since this is the last issue of the *International Costumer* for the year, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

### From the Editor

by Carole Parker

Taking a look at my personal crystal ball, I see a very busy future. In 2015, I am responsible for Costume-Con 33's Future Fashion Folio and Sasquan's (Spokane Worldcon) Costume Program track.

The **2014 May-June** issue of the *International Costumer* will be my last issue, and someone else needs to step forward as the new editor starting for the **July-August** issue with a **June 26** publication date.

We are fortunate to have three reports - two convention and one event at a local National Trust Property in California that Phil and Kathe Gust attended.

Plus, we have information from costumers like you!

To all who celebrate, *Happy Chanukkah*. To everyone else: *Season's Greetings*. May your holidays be safe and joyous. *Happy New Year*, and I look forward to seeing you in 2014!

## Bruce and Nora's Excellent Adventure

by Bruce Mai

We were very flattered to be invited as this year's *Cosplay Guests of Honor* at Anime North, in Toronto, Canada. This was our first major convention guest experience, and what an experience it was! Having mostly attended conventions less than 2,400 people, a 20,000+ convention was a bit of a culture shock.

We were invited up, ostensibly, for two reasons. The first reason is because of our work with the ICG Archives. The second reason was to show the con-goers that just because you "grow up" you don't have to stop costuming. Apparently, it's fairly common that once a cosplayer reaches their upper 20s or early 30s, there is pressure to get out of that costuming community.



While we were very pleased to provide programming, our success in drawing interest was hard to measure. Of the two panels we presented – a retrospective of our own costuming works, and *Bookercon 7* (a masquerade judging simulation), we only had perhaps ten people

in either one. A few of our Canadian friends were part of those audiences.



Nonetheless, those present seemed to enjoy them. One reason for low attendance was possibly because there were so many events going on simultaneously that it would be hard to choose. While our experience would seem to indicate lack of interest, we still believe it was a worthwhile effort by the con staff to bring in costumers from outside the cosplay community. We were scheduled to be on at least two costuming how-to panels, but due to scheduling conflicts, we couldn't make them. Having panelists with a variety of ages and experience is a good idea, and hopefully AN will continue this in the future.

As to costuming at Anime North, it was refreshing to see so many people in different outfits wandering about the convention area. With so many people, it was like attending a big street festival. We took lots of pictures, and these will eventually be uploaded to the ICG Gallery.



We also had the opportunity to judge the masquerade. We admired the organization and enthusiasm of both the staff and the contestants. The only disappointment was that there was no presentation of awards, for practical reasons. Because people don't want to sit around waiting, the awards were announced later.

Overall, it was a very pleasant

experience at Anime North. With the late Marty Gear's guest appearances at anime cons in the past couple of years, and just recently, Byron Connell, it bodes well for the future that these large anime conventions are beginning to take an interest in speakers from our community. It may take a few years to reach a sizable percentage of these young costumers, but



it's a trend we hope will continue.

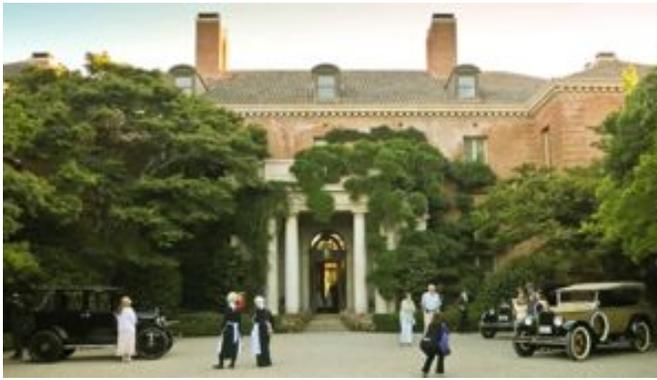
To see my video log of our time at Anime North, you can visit the Casa Mai YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/therealcasamai?feature=watch>

## Flappers at Filoli

by Kathe Gust

San Francisco Bay Area costumers have been casting envious eyes at the Filoli Estate for ages. It is one of the very few National Trust Properties on the West coast and has been used in movies and television.



Remember *Dynasty* – yes that house is Filoli! The house was actually started before WW I, and built through the 1920s, but the architecture is based on late 17th and early 18th century English country houses. Any costumer can see the appeal – think of the events, think of the background you'd have. Naturally. Everyone wants to go there in costume. Until this summer, the answer has always been "no." No costumes of any kind were permitted.



Now that may be changing. A new director decided to try a last minute summer event that they called *Step Back in Time*. For one evening in July, attendees could visit the estate in costume for a two hour 1920s themed party. Costumes were optional, and

the event was not widely advertised outside the Bay Area, but the number of people who turned up in stylish outfits may help insure this becomes more frequent.



There was a live jazz band playing for dancing on the tennis court, several hors d'oeuvre and beverage stations with costumed maids and waiters from the house staff, and the gardeners all turned out garbed as their Italian counterparts from the '20's complete with a display of the antique Bocce Ball set they'd discovered in one of the sheds on the estate.

A local vintage car club brought some of their vehicles for display and a grand time was had by



attendees of all ages, and families as well.

It was such a success, that the director (costumed as one of the gardeners) seemed inclined to do it again. We hope they will! If they do, we'll certainly post it to the chat list next time.



## Dragon\*Con Heaven and Hell

(Atlanta, Georgia, 30-Aug to 2-Sep, 2013)

by Anne Davenport

I swore I wouldn't do it again, but I did. It was a whim. I entered a costume contest at Dragon\*Con 2013. So many reasons exist not to do things like this:

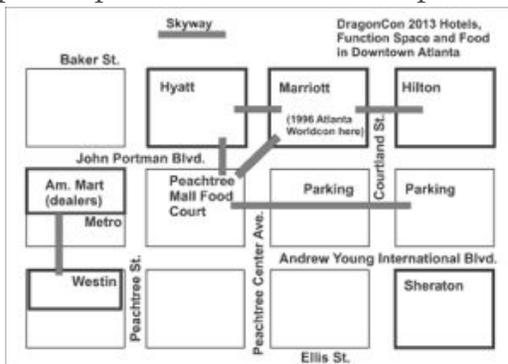
- Minimal prejudging (if any)
- No official photography
- No green room
- Bare minimum organization

Basically, the perfect breeding ground for any costume disaster that you want to avoid. Thankfully, my experience was successful. I was awarded *Best Master Level Costume* at the *50th Anniversary Doctor Who* party on Friday night at Dragon\*Con 2013 for my recreation of a *Sister of the Flame* costume from the episode *The Brain of Morbius*.

### Background: Dragon\*Con

Dragon\*Con is a huge multimedia convention that has been going on in Atlanta since the late 1980s. It settled on Labor Day weekend and has progressively gotten bigger, so that it now consumes five hotels plus separate dealer/exhibit space (see map).

I have never



gotten the same number twice when I ask how big D\*C is: 35,000, 50,000, or 60,000. It's just big. One of its most distinguishing features is the large number of people who wear costumes.

Even if Dragon\*Con had no contests or main masquerade, it would still be a huge costume event. Just walking around, you can see 10-25% of the people in the halls in costume, sometimes even more. They're good costumes, too. Superheros (with not only perfect costumes, but worn by people who have done serious time in the gym), anime, fantasy, *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, historical, walking around singly and in groups. They have a parade on Saturday morning in the streets of Atlanta that includes pirates, steampunk, *Games of Thrones*, *Tolkien*, *Star Wars*, *Ghostbusters*, *Stargate*, zombies (including zombie *Village People* because disco is soooooo dead). You can walk through the lobby of the Hyatt and pass *Superman*, *Superwoman*, *Gandalf*, and a full-sized *Bender* from *Futurama* before even getting a third of the way through. This year, I saw one clever costumer in a World War II style infantry uniform done with a camouflage pattern that was an exact match for the carpet in the Marriott (I asked him about it and he said he purchased the fabric pattern license through his job at a print shop). While odd fans in capes and tennis shoes exist, the overall costuming quality is very high both in the halls and on stage.

Dragon\*Con has several costume contests: Hall, Friday Night Workmanship, *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, Superhero, and a Main Sunday Night Masquerade. The larger contests are aired on Dragon\*Con TV in all

the convention hotels. I have never entered the Friday or Sunday events, but I have *not* seen tech rehearsals or official photography, and winners are not announced in the con newsletter. In 2012, I did enter my *Master Sinube* costume in the *Star Wars Costume Contest* (also entered in the SF&F masquerade at the 2012 CostumeCon). No green room, no photography, no prejudging, no sound, no special lighting existed. You just showed up at the assigned ballroom, in your costume with your paperwork, 15 minutes before the contest started. Someone sorted us in a line for going up on stage, and they did have helpers. I went on last, since it was a recreation of a *Clone Wars* cartoon character with a full head, digitigrade legs, tail, and props. The MC was on stage and he engaged in pointless banter with the contestants. I was at least able to threaten him with my lightsaber. I won *Best in Show* and got a certificate plus a lightsaber umbrella.

### Background: My Costume

I originally made this costume in 1985 to wear to a *Doctor Who* convention and other events. It is from a fourth *Doctor* episode from the days when the BBC's costuming budget was similar to mine. It was a fun horror movie kind of episode that included the semi-antagonistic *Sisters of the Flame* who wore nice looking outfits and makeup that were well within my ability to recreate. I won a *Best Doctor Who Villain* since the costume included a *Brain of Morbius* made from a pair of large sponges. However, I used hot glue on the headdress and tabard that badly deteriorated over the

years and I put it in my overflowing repair bin.



Anne's refurbished *Sister of the Flame* costume from the *Doctor Who* (4th Doctor, Tom Baker) episode, *The Brain of Morbius*.

When I saw that there would be a 50th Anniversary Party at this year's Dragon\*Con, this became my motivation for

taking that old costume off of my 'out-of-service' list. The results were good. Reference material was easily obtained since *The Brain of Morbius* is on DVD now. The remains of the hot glue were removed and the headdress re-made with a cloth base (instead of the original red bathing cap that had also deteriorated), the tabard was painted properly and the dress touched up to better match the costumes in the episode. The sponge-Brain-of-Morbius was still in good shape, so it needed no work. I added a long scarf to hang on my arm and a hidden pocket for my sonic screwdriver, just to let people know that this obscure costume was from a fourth Doctor episode.

I was ready to party.

### **The Contest**

The 50th Anniversary *Doctor Who* party was at 10 PM Friday night in the Imperial Ballroom in the Marriott. A line to get in existed and the ballroom had minimal decoration with rave style flashing lights

and music. I like dancing and the *Sister* costume is perfect for it with a long comfortable dress and flat shoes. I had noticed that Costume Contest Prejudging was listed in the program for 8:30 PM when they were setting up the ballroom. However, since I did not plan to enter, I did not go. People were in good costumes with lots of *Doctors*, *Time Lords*, women in *Dalek* dresses, villains, companions, and more than one person dressed as a *TARDIS*.



*Cyberman* and *Miss Hartigan* from *Doctor Who* (10th Doctor, David Tennant) episode *The Next Doctor*.

I was surprised when the MC on stage announced that if anyone wanted to enter the costume contest, there was still time to fill out your form and talk to the judges who were at a table in the corner. I thought *why not?* Maybe they did not get enough people to show up for prejudging.

I filled out the form and on experience level I checked 'Master' level. I've won at Worldcon. I've won at CostumeCon. There really wasn't any other level that I could enter in. The judges were very nice and one of them had his own copy of *The Brain of Morbius* on DVD, so he recognized it.

The party had a stage and an MC who made announcements about the *Doctor Who* guests and the contest, but there were no presentations of the contest contestants. We just mingled around with all the other partygoers, talked, danced, and took pictures of each other. They did call for all

the people dressed as *Doctors* and companions to come up on stage for a group photo, but that was it.

They were supposed announce the winners at 11 PM, but it was closer to midnight. I was really not expecting to win anything, since the *Sister* costume is not very elaborate. When they announced a winner for *Best Master-Level Costume*, they called my name.

The room was dark, crowded, and I had to climb over chairs to get to the stage, but I made it. I took my bow, held up my sponge-Brain-of-Morbius, gave it a triumphant squeeze and collected my certificate. After the contest winners were announced, the party was over.

An *Angel* from *Doctor Who* (10th Doctor, David Tennant) episode 'Blink' (won 2008 Hugo Award).

I have no idea why I won anything. There were lots of quality costumes in attendance. Maybe a lot of people did not list themselves as 'Master Level' on their entry forms?

Maybe it was because one of the judges knew the episode my costume was from? Whatever the reason, it was nice to win, especially since I did not expend much more time and effort than what I would have if I had not entered at all.

I got my greatest sense of accomplishment out of taking that costume off of my 'to do' list. I highly recommend that.



## Wig Tips From the D List

Editor Note: This D list conversation happened in June.

JoAnn Abbot

I haven't worked very much with wigs- most of what I have had were fast and easy to style. Actually, most were "take out of bag, put on." The wig for "Make A Wish" was different though. I wanted to exactly copy the specific look of the carved wooden head of the gypsy manikin. I had a shoulder length dark wig, a bag with one of those sets of very long fake hair used in braiding, some industrial strength hair spray, hairpins and a black bun form. The problem was that a styrofoam wig head is very light, and I had no way to make it stay put while I worked on building the wig.

I checked out the cost of wig stands at the local Sally's Beauty supply shop, and when I stopped gasping in horror, I turned to my palace of refuge and cheap safety. The local thrift shop where I spend so many happy hours. There it was.

A vertical wooden paper towel holder. Wonderfully stable, the spoke for the paper towel was JUST the right height to put the Styrofoam head on. I am going to keep checking the thrift shop for more of these, because who knows? Maybe I will want more for future wigs, or to hold a head which displays a particularly fancy hat that I don't want to get messed up. Since it only cost me four bucks, it is VERY worth it!

Tomorrow is Saturday yard sale day..time to scrounge! Make a wish, everyone!

Trudy Leonard

You can also use the stand part of a standing fan, frequently to be found in

your neighbor's trash pile (and, in a nice turnaround on your suggestion, Fiona now uses the fan stand for her dress form because the previous stand broke).

Jeanine Swick

If you just need to keep the head stable once you are done working and want to set it on a shelf - get some six or eight ounce fishing weights and push them into the head.

Dave Kanoy

I wanted to be able to work on a wig for an extended period while watching TV.

My solution was a Christmas tree stand (amazingly cheap outside of Christmas season at Goodwill) and a length of wooden closet rod. I had to shave down the end a bit so the styrofoam wig head would fit over. The bowl where the water goes in the tree stand makes a wonderful container for brushes, clips, combs and the like.

Randall Whitlock

If Christmas tree stands and fan stands work, beach umbrellas stands should work too.

Kate

I have a vise that attaches to whatever table I want, and I put an old pool cue in the vise to put the foam head on.

Julie Zetterberg-Sardo

Coming in late on this discussion, but a couple months ago I bought a mannequin wig head stand at Sally and paid less than \$10 for it. After I first saw Victoria Ridenour using one of these at (I think) CC 8, I wanted one but never got around to looking into getting it. I just finally decided

it would be worth checking out, since I was doing some wig styling.

I've seen similar ones on the Intrawebs for as low as \$4.99 plus shipping. So while these alternate ideas being described are wonderful, you might just want to check out the real thing.

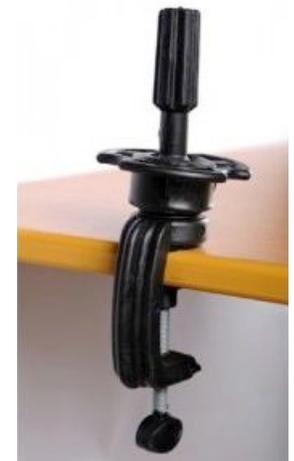
[http://www.giell.com/Cosmetology-Mannequin-Head-Holding-Clamp-p/040124.htm?gclid=CPDt96G\\_zbcCFWKCOgodnzoApQ](http://www.giell.com/Cosmetology-Mannequin-Head-Holding-Clamp-p/040124.htm?gclid=CPDt96G_zbcCFWKCOgodnzoApQ)

Marty Gear

When I started working Castle Blood, I bought two of them. It does everything that it should, and the price is reasonable. Sometimes, you can find them at Sally's on sale, or your local Korean wig shop. For storage of the wigs I use a 3/4" dowel tapered at one end with the other glued and screwed into a piece of 3/4" wood that's about 9" square. This way, you can make the dowel as long as you need it to keep the bottom of the wig off the shelf, but for styling the wig, the \$5.00 professional clamp is the way to go.

Julie Zetterberg-Sardo

If it's one of these (canvas-covered cork) it is actually made for wigs -- you use t-pins.



<http://www.wigsunlimited.com/store/>

## 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)

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## ICG Membership Benefits

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

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

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## 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 "pointing2014."

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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