

International Costumer

Volume XX Issue 2

Mar-Apr 2021



From the President's Desk February 2021



I can't believe it's the end of February already. Without our usual parade of winter events (SMOFCon, Further Confusion, Gallifrey One), I find it very difficult to keep my internal calendar synced this year -- in spite of the fact that am putting in

regular 40 hour weeks at my IBM Research job.

That said, the days and months go by, and that includes the ICG corporate calendar. I have, however, had some rather mad costume inspirations in the last 8 weeks, including the motivation for switching from zebra to rainbow in my mohawk. I need to start construction now if they're to be ready for next year's (expected) in-person events!

I've received several nominations for this year's Lifetime Achievement Award, and the ballots will be going out to chapter presidents and ICG officers this first week of March. Thank you to everyone who took the time to submit a nomination!

Annual Meeting

We *will* have a virtual annual Members meeting in April, the weekend of Costume-Con 39s

virtual event; details will be forthcoming soon. For the purpose of the assorted deadlines associated with the annual meeting, the planned date for the meeting is April 23, 2021.

The annual meeting, of course, includes our annual elections. Any nominations for board officers are due to me via icg-president@costume.org 30 days prior to the annual meeting, or Wednesday, March 24, 2021. We have at least one vacancy, for Vice President, so please consider whether you might lend your time and talent to the corporate board as an officer.

New cos-chat Google Group!

With the demise of Yahoo groups, the ICG Tech committee has finally instantiated our new Google Group-based replacement for ICG-D, cos-chat@costume.org. This moderated chat group is sponsored by the International Costumers Guild (ICG), but you do not need to be an ICG member to participate in it!

You can either access this as a webforum or use it as a mailing list (like the old ICG-D). Current privacy regulations (and Google TOS) mean we can't simply add members of the old Yahooogroup to the new group, though we are working on a broadcast invitation.

There are two ways to sign up:

- If you have gmail or another Google mail account, visit <https://groups.google.com/a/costume.org/g/cos-chat>

- If you do not, email cos-chat+subscribe@costume.org from the address you want to subscribe!

We hope the list will become a lively online gathering and conversation space!

RIP Jan Price, ICG VP and friend



The reason for said vacancy is the sad news that Jan Price, long time costumer, costuming/cosplay supporter, and friend, succumbed in her on-going struggle with cancer, and passed away.

Jan was particularly known for her championship and organization of the Dragon Con Parade, now a famously huge costume gathering at the event. She also loved small, intimate events, and one of my favorite photos of her is this one taken of us at a GBACG "Picnic on the Nile" event in 1995 at the Rosicrucian Park in San Jose. We are both dressed as characters from the film *Stargate*; I believe Jan's costume is an actual on-screen piece she acquired on auction.

Jan's warm presence and sanity will be greatly missed. She was notoriously camera-shy, and her daughter reached out to me asking for any images we might have of her, especially in costume and/or at events (including, but especially in addition to, Dragon Con). The ICG Archives would also appreciate any such images. Please contact me at icg-president@costume.org or via Facebook if you have any to share!

As this pandemic situation continues to evolve and develop, please take care of yourselves and your friends and family, so that when it becomes possible to gather again in person, we can do so. I look forward to seeing you, and to exclaiming over, extolling, and examining (as closely as you allow) the costumes you wear that day!

Kevin Roche
ICG President

PS. We are also still looking for a new editor for the *International Costumer*. Please check Melina's column for more details.

Editor's letter

Melina Chestley



*Princess Bride cosplay and photo by
MChestley*

I know a few of you noticed that with the last newsletter we started with Volume XX. That is a fair amount of time for a newsletter and I'd like to send both a thank you and a congratulations out to everyone who has ever been a part of putting the International Costumer together: editors, contributors, proof-readers, online tech and the readers.

Putting a newsletter together with relevant content can sometimes be easy and can sometimes be challenging, especially during the

times when content submissions are at a low. I'd like to take a moment to highlight all your editors who've managed to keep the newsletter alive and meaningful over the years:

-Betsy R Marks (was
Delaney): 2002-2005

-Denison Hartlove: 2005-
2008

-Cat Robinson: 2008-2009

-Patrick O'Connor: 2009-2012

-Carole Parker: 2012-2014

-Vicky Assarattanakul: 2014-
2018

-Vicky Assarattanakul &
Melina Chestley: 2018-2020

-Melina Chestley: 2020 –
current

With time comes changes, or at the very least, a chance for reflection on current practices. Should we be looking for changes? Should we explore new formats? Are there other ways to get your content out there? Should we continue as we are?

These are all questions that should come up from time to time to ensure that we are delivering our message in a way that is useful and relatable to the members, new and old.

Getting content submissions has been a struggle and I suspect, may always be a bit of a struggle, especially at the moment when the plague times have caused a stifling of creativity for a number of people and a lack of events to report about. It is important to remember though that the newsletter can not be done by one person alone; your help is required to keep this newsletter viable. So, if you've found a new

online source, or taught yourself/learned a new technique, have convention behind-the-scenes information to pass on or a review of a book or tool; these are all things that will interest other members in the guild. Please think about submitting.

Open Newsletter Positions

We are looking to fill the following staff positions:

Website help; responsible for uploading the newsletter to the website and sending the newsletter down the mailing list.

Editor: responsible for soliciting content and creating the newsletter (6 issues per year).

If you are interested in either of these positions and/or would like further details, please contact me at: icg-newsletter@costume.org

Thank you to Leah O'Connor, Betsy Marks, and Bruce Mai for their contributions to this issue.

Cover art by Ann Jessica Johnson from pixabay.com

Submission Deadlines

The International Costumer is published 6 times a year on the following dates:

1 January

1 March

1 May

1 July

1 September

1 November

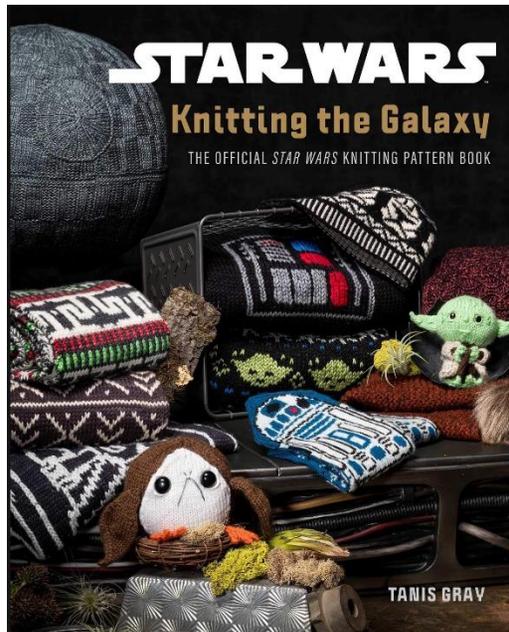
Any submissions should be sent to the editor by the 15th of the month prior to the date of publication via email.

I prefer to receive articles in either Word format or as text in an email with any photos as attachments.

Book Review:

Leah O'Connor

Knitting the Galaxy, by Tanis Gray,
Insight Editions, 2021



Book cover used with permission from the author who can be found at www.tanisknits.com

Those adventures in a Galaxy far away and long time ago are in the realm of four decades of 'long time ago', now, and haven't yet lost their

allure to young folks (and those of us a little more youthless...). Some of us original fans may even be retired, sheltering at home for the duration of the pandemic, and knitting things for the Grandkids (no idea who this description might describe, oh, no...). *Knitting the Galaxy*, a book of knitting patterns (officially sanctioned by LucasFilm and Disney!) contains twenty-eight Star Wars themed items (with quotes and photos from the movies, as well).

Each item has several photos. The patterns are well-crafted, although the stated levels of difficulty are a bit optimistic. If you're thinking of making a gift for a fellow-fan you haven't had the opportunity to measure, consider some of these projects that don't require knowing someone's size. The items listed include Clone Trooper hats, R2-D2 mittens, Wookie socks, a Darth Vader Pullover, Porg and Baby Yoda toys, and even a few home

décor items. Some items are knit interpretations of Star War costumes (and you **will** need measurements for those). Others are themed with the characters and spacecraft of the Star Wars universe. Whether your project is for a fellow SW fan, yourself, or a member of your family whose footsteps have followed yours into the faraway, this book is a great place to start.

Errata: The "Porg" body knitting pattern does not come out spherical, here is a recommended option:

<https://www.ruthhaydock.com/knit-sphere/>

Looking back to showcase something new.

Melina Chestley

While Costume-Con® and the ICG are separate entities, there is a strong representation of the ICG at Costume-Con. After my first Costume-Con, I went looking for more information. I found the ICG website which, in turn, led me to joining the guild.

Finding new groups and organizations to join is almost completely web-driven nowadays. In addition to a web presence, social media is a way for people to stay connected and feel connected, especially in these plague times.

With the newsletter now at volume XX, I thought it fitting to highlight the online concept with an article from the first issue talking about bringing about the initial Costume-ConNectons website with the introduction of a new interactive

social media group celebrating Costume-Con.

On February 13th, 2021 a new Facebook group showed up; Costume-Con: Tips, Tricks & Trivia and it is run by Nora and Bruce Mai (who are also two of our guild's archivists). The group already has 259 members as of the writing of this article with topics of discussion ranging from how the conference works behind the scenes to memories of conferences past.

The following is the welcoming message for the group (reprinted with permission).

"Welcome to the Central Service Desk for all things Costume-Con!"

"This page has been created to act as a CC-specific resource partly to serve as a replacement for the Yahoo RunaCC group, but it is also open to attendees, committee members past & present and other interested parties."

"It's also for building a CC community to provide support and consistency from year to year, provide information on typical activities both in a historical vein and to track contemporary changes."

"Have questions? We have access to the people able to answer specific questions from both past and current Committee members of all roles as well as attendees."

"Want help? We'll help – again, we'll have a wider knowledge base as well as a network of sources and continue to grow that base as we go along!"
-Bruce Mai

If you haven't found the group yet and you are on Facebook, I encourage you to check it out. It is a public group, so you just need to put it into your search bar.

Given that there is an article talking about Costume-Con on the web printed in the first ever newsletter for the ICG, I thought it fitting that

while celebrating 20 years of the newsletter that we highlight both the old and the new version of the same idea.

With permission, I've reprinted Betsy Marks' original article about the start of the Costume-ConNectiions webpage, which can be found at:

<http://www.Costume-Con.org/>

This website is a trove of useful information for those who are looking to run a Costume-Con, see the constitution of Costume-Con, costuming resources, suppliers and much more. The visual archive is undergoing some massive changes and is currently unavailable but when it returns, it will be an inspiring place to look through.

I hope to see people at a Costume-Con soon.

Editor's note: The following article is a reprint from Volume 1, Issue 1 Sept-Oct 2002. The author has undergone a name change in the intervening years and is now Betsy R. Marks.

Costume-Con On The Web

By Betsy R. Delaney

Costume-ConNectiions is the only authoritative source for information about all Costume-Con (CC) conferences past present and future. But where did it come from and how is it managed?

Costume-ConNectiions was originally based on the Costume-Con Fifteen (CCXV) web site. When CCXV ended in May, 1997, we put together some post-conference information, including competition participant lists, a newspaper review and photos, together with updates to our local costume resource list.

It wasn't long before I heard from CC16 and CC17 committees, asking for details about the previous cons. I was able to dip into my personal collection of paperwork from the previous CCs and find at least the contact information for the people who were asking for it, but it seemed to me that keeping the stuff private, in my personal collection wasn't helping anybody - it was simply taking up space in my filing cabinet.

After a discussion at Arisia with [the Costume-Con Service Mark Holder, Karen Schnaubelt], it became apparent to me that I was sitting on a goldmine of useful statistical data. At the time, I was working for a web site hosting and management company as a web designer. I did some research, talked with the company's owners. About a month afterwards, we launched www.Costume-Con.org.

Since then, the site has garnered lots of compliments. We see visitors from across the country and around the world. Visitors range in interests, age and ability. We often see high school students looking for college costume design programs. Other people are looking for information on specific costume construction techniques or places to acquire custom costumes.

Over the next few months, we will be placing more photos on the site, as well as more statistical information. Some time soon we will be moving to a database format, to dynamically generate pages. This should make it easier to search through 20 years of CC history.

If you have contributions you'd like to make to the CC Archives or for instructions on sending donations, please visit our web site.

We are in search of photographs, progress reports, program books, and

any other information you might have collected over the years. And thanks for visiting!

Postscript (Feb 2020):

The Costume-Con Visual Archive suffered a hacking attack as a result of the same vulnerability posed by the Gallery2 software on which the archive was built.

There was only one workaround to fix the hack: Update the PHP engine on which the site runs. When we did that, Gallery2 failed, as we knew it would, because the ICG Gallery originally used the same system for its archives.

We are in the process of salvaging the database and photo content (which is still there but lacks structure for display). We hope to have a functional replacement in place before the end of 2021. If you have interest in assisting with the conversion and you are experienced with WordPress, the Costume-Con

Archives would welcome your assistance! Contact us at info@Costume-Con.org and thanks!

Betsy R. Marks
Webmistress, Costume-
ConNectons

About the ICG

Membership Benefits

ICG membership benefits include participation in local Chapters and in Special Interest Groups, voting rights, eligibility for grants, online forums, learning and volunteer opportunities, and the International Costumer.

ICG Online

Visit the ICG website for current information and resources:

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

Join us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/internationalcostumers>

Coming soon: the new ICG google groups

[Amazon Smile link:](#)

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1656188>

Send comments and suggestions to:

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icg-board@costume.org

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Costuming Arts & Sciences Grant Fund

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The Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund

The Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund provides grants for projects and activities that promote the art and science of costuming. For information on how to apply for a grant, please visit

<http://www.costume.org/grants/grants.html>

The International Costumer

The *International Costumer* newsletter is published bi-monthly by the ICG. The current issue is for members only. Back issues are freely available to the costuming community on the ICG website.

Online Submissions

We welcome short costuming articles, book reviews, event reports, and news items. Submit your copy as rtf, doc, docx or txt files to the International Costumer editor:

icg-newsletter@costume.org. All graphics formats are accepted.

Contacting the Editor

Please contact the editor to report problems, or to offer comments and suggestions:

icg-newsletter@costume.org.

Newsletter Delivery

The *International Costumer* is available as both an online and print edition. Your preference is part of your ICG membership record. To change or verify your preference, contact your local chapter.

If your postal or e-mail address changes, notify your local chapter promptly, or send your updated information to icg-membership-corrections@costume.org. Returned copies of the print edition cannot be re-mailed.

Members who have an e-mail address on record are notified when a new issue is available.

Access the online edition at

<http://www.costume.org/currentnewsletter> The user name is "costumer" and the password is "SpringFever2021"