

# *International Costumer*

*Volume XIX Issue 3*

*May-Jun 2020*



## From the President's desk :

April 2020

### Costuming in Place... Day 30

Kevin Roche

Greetings from your President *pro tem*; I hope you and yours are all safe and healthy during these trying times.

It is hard to believe that just a month ago, I was in the air with my husband Andy, en route to Montreal for Costume-Con 38, my biggest concern being how best to wrangle the annual ICG meeting to ensure we completed all the required business in the limited time allotted. Of course, as soon as we lit up our phones on landing, we discovered that Costume-Con had been cancelled and found ourselves, instead, cocooned in a hotel in a largely shut-down city hoping we'd be able to fly home in four days. We managed to do so, obviously, after some hard work by a counter agent at the airport) to a Bay Area ordered to shelter in place. I don't know about you, but it has taken me this long to get my daily schedule even slightly figured out.

So, here we are in April, with our work-and-shelter-at-home routine somewhat established, and the biggest concern on my ICG agenda is *still* how to wrangle that annual meeting, since we cannot meet in person. The most important part of that

meeting is our election of officers, and I will be discussing with the BoD in the very near future how we can accomplish that. It may be as simple as using our G Suite for Nonprofits system to run a poll, or it may be as ambitious as a live virtual networked meeting event.

The ongoing BoD online meeting is about to restart, and the ICG has several important orders of business to take care of this year. Some of that business requires your involvement as members, *not* just the BoD:

- The aforementioned annual election of officers by members.
- The Policies and Procedures committee revealed significant legal and structural defects in our governing documents (Bylaws and Standing Rules). The board can amend the Standing Rules, but any changes to the Bylaws require a vote of the membership with advance written notice. This is a major project and a committee will be appointed to review the documents and prepare the amendments for your consideration. If you are interested in this project, please let me know.
- The ICG Guidelines committee worked very hard on a significant update to the guidelines. It is

traditional (though not required) for the membership to ratify such updates. Their report also recommends establishing a standing committee to continue future maintenance of the Guidelines.

Fortunately, the ICG has access to significant technical resources and expertise we can put to use (this was going to be one of the reports presented in Montreal.). I will continue that discussion below; I apologize for how much of that part of this column will be technical, but you need to know how we will keep the ICG going this year and in years to come.

One thing I have noticed during the last month is how many ICG members have been reaching out, continuing to share, and trying to *help* during this public health emergency. The number of folks diving into their stash to make and donate face masks is astonishing and heartwarming to see (a special personal thank-you to Lisa Ashton, who sent some to my National Parks Ranger sister Kelly when her doctor recommended she start wearing them). Or, if you want a bit of fun, check out one of the virtual masquerades going on (I'm a moderator for the "Concellation Masquerade" on Facebook, one of several such endeavors).

The world will be a different place on the far side of this emergency, but I'm confident we will find a way to keep doing and sharing the magical art of Costume we love in so many different ways.

Kevin Roche  
President *Pro Tem*

*PS.* When we do figure out how to do the annual election, *please* cast your vote. I'd really like to just be your Prez, *no pro tem* or "Acting" attached to it.

## Editor's Message

*By Melina Chestley*

Well, this has ended up being a vastly different start to the con season than expected. For a great number of us the 2020 con season ended before it even really began. I know it is hard being at home and unable to socialize the way we're all used to, but we will make it through this. Like many people I'm sure, creativity stems from inspiration and I'm blown away by the way the various costuming and crafting communities that are coming together online to help encourage and support each other. For some this time of physical isolation has seen our motivation wander away, for others it has been a time to catch up on UFOs or get to that project you just haven't had the time to pursue, and there are those that fall somewhere in the middle. All reactions are valid and I hope you find

the tools you need to help yourself make it through this difficult time. We will come out the other side of this into a world that is not yet defined. But, as the internet has proven, we all need the arts and creativity in all the ways people choose to express it. If your muse has faded away, I hope it comes back to you soon. If your muse is stronger than ever, I look forward to seeing the results. And I wish everyone good health, safe practices and happy crafting.

Thank you to the contributors to this issue: Kevin Roche, Patrick O'Connor, Mera Babineux, Lorien Fletcher and Phil Gust.

Cover page photo of Sally Fink, 2020 LAA recipient provided by the ICG Archives

## Harnessing technology for the ICG

*By Kevin Roche*

*Note: this was going to be prepared as an informal report to the annual meeting by Andrew Trembley based on our discovery work for the Technology Committee; I have summarized it for a general audience in this column.*

### G Suite

You will hear me mention our Google **G Suite for Nonprofits** a lot.

**First:** this is not new; ICG has had its license for G Suite for several years. We applied for the license grant when the first murmurings about YahooGroups disappearing began. We just have not been taking advantage of all its capabilities.

**Second:** If you are unfamiliar with the details, this is *not* the same as the free Gmail and Google Drive products, although the interfaces are identical. Our G Suite system is the same product provided to schools & universities, and offers [far more security and privacy protection](#) than the free consumer products, with vast amounts of secure cloud storage (unlimited storage for shared Team Drives, and 30G for each of ~3000 individual named accounts.)

A key feature is that the ICG \*owns\* all the data in our G Suite, with archive and download tools built in. Our data (file and email) are *not* "mined" for advertisers (and there are no ad banners built into the interface!). We have a perpetual license grant from Google for this installation. If you are interested in knowing more about that program, in general or for another group, details are here: <https://www.google.com/nonprofits/offering/apps-for-nonprofits/>

**Third:** Our G Suite apps can be made available to individual chapters with their own subdomains; the Silicon Web chapter is already taking advantage of it with [siweb.costume.org](http://siweb.costume.org) email and Drive

accounts. *Any chapter may do the same, including the creation of accounts for individual members of their chapters.* We can actually, in theory, offer secure Google mail and Drive accounts to all members of the ICG who want them. That's a lot of room for sharing and collaboration!

### **Google Groups and our online presence**

The first thing we will be taking advantage of is the **Google Groups** technology, which will let us replace our vanishing YahooGroups with very similar replacements. Google Groups can be accessed as both email lists and web forums, which means both smartphone and email users will have an interface to access those announcements and discussions. The board of directors voted before going on its pre-meeting hiatus to move our electronic meeting from Slack to a Google Group. The ICG Slack workspace will remain active as one of our social media , but we learned that its non-intuitive threading and lack of moderation tools made it impossible to use effectively for meetings with the widely varying technical experience of the board members. That BOD list is going live this week, as well as phasing in replacements for our ICG discussion lists.

All our other faces to the public -- FaceBook, website, etc., will stay live as well. We recognize that every member has their preferences for online interaction and

intend to maintain those different channels. We will use Google Groups for the official business channels.

### **Virtual Meetings**

Another possibility is for us to hold virtual meetings via Zoom or Google Hangouts meetings. We have several members with professional expertise who can help us use these tools effectively.

### **Zoom**

I mention Zoom specifically, because part of my husband Andy's day job is administering G Suite and Zoom accounts and webinars for San Jose State University, and much of his time the last month has been helping university faculty switch with almost no warning to online and virtual instruction. While there have been a number of scare-mongering headlines about Zoom recently, Andy has the expertise and knowledge to configure any Zoom meetings or webinars we might arrange for appropriate security and adequate organization. We used Zoom for almost all of the Worldcon 76 committee meetings, so I am confident in its utility. Just like free Gmail vs G Suite Mail, using a Zoom Pro (paid) account offers significant improvement in features and security.

The ICG has been offered occasional use of several Zoom Pro accounts belonging to members and supporting organizations at no cost; the BoD may consider whether

obtaining our own license to make available to chapters would be of value. That could include the facility to host live online classes!

### **Google Hangouts**

G Suite for Nonprofits includes Google Hangouts Meet, which can support up to 100 participants in a video conference virtual meeting. Any member with an account in our G Suite system can host a meeting. It is a less sophisticated environment than that provided by Zoom.

For any virtual meetings, we'll need to publish some "best practices" instructions to help keep them organized and secure. Andy has offered to help us draft those instructions.

### **Storage and Google apps**

I mentioned Google Drive earlier. Each individual account comes with 30Gb of cloud storage, and access to the G Suite document, spreadsheet, and presentation tools. Files and folders may be shared or published to the web with varying levels of security.

We can also create Shared Drives, which belong to the organization instead of to individual accounts. These have effectively unlimited storage, 400,000 files, with a maximum single file size of 5Tb. These can

be a hugely useful tool for our online archives and presence.

### Future Technologies

As I mentioned, the ICG has already had its license for G Suite for Nonprofits for some time; the current situation has prompted the BoD to examine how to use more of its capabilities in the immediate future, to better enable our ongoing activities without fundamentally changing our nature. I think making more of those capabilities available would offer genuine value to all to chapters and the membership in general.

The Tech committee is also looking at some longer-term innovations; those will be presented to the Board for consideration as they come up. The art of costume has always been a blend of ancient techniques and new technologies; we need to keep the ICG as an organization nimble and up to date if we want to stay vibrant and relevant. Please stay engaged with your chapter representatives and let them know what you think of each such potential innovation!

For reference, the security link above is to [https://gsuite.google.com/security/?secure-by-design\\_activeEl=data-centers](https://gsuite.google.com/security/?secure-by-design_activeEl=data-centers)

## A New Era of Mask Making

*Intro by Melina Chestley; Link gathering/research by Patrick O'Connor*

There have been a few requests to have some mask-making resources made available. With the help of Patrick, we've put together a few links to tutorials for you to peruse and, perhaps, use up some of your fabric stash sitting there in the corner.

Making a mask for yourself means finding a pattern that works for you, your needs and the supplies you have on hand. Thankfully there are a number of resources available all over the internet.

If you wish to make masks (or scrub caps or earloop holders) for people in health care, please make sure to check with them and/or the groups who are organizing these types of donations, to ensure you are making something that they need and can use. For that you will have to do some research on your own to make sure you are getting local needs.

For personal use, Patrick has kindly gathered up a few links that have patterns and/or tutorials. This is by no means the only options nor an exhaustive list.

Face Mask

[http://covidmaskcrafters.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/FuFaceMask\\_PatternInstructionsCombined-1.pdf](http://covidmaskcrafters.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/FuFaceMask_PatternInstructionsCombined-1.pdf)

[https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0050/2474/3524/files/Suay\\_Mask\\_Pattern\\_1.1.pdf?v=1586398631&fbclid=IwAR2Z\\_GbgnEVWLDsSHWaHAwKCOFkjhuKm1sP8cMM7OjsWTNsFOj-5Uj8oCII](https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0050/2474/3524/files/Suay_Mask_Pattern_1.1.pdf?v=1586398631&fbclid=IwAR2Z_GbgnEVWLDsSHWaHAwKCOFkjhuKm1sP8cMM7OjsWTNsFOj-5Uj8oCII)

This is similar to the first link, but has a nose-grip (I had to fake one of these into mine using garbage-bag ties.)

(I slid one of those twist-ties into the top of the nose before final stitching.)

This is probably the best one I've seen: <https://anest.ufl.edu/wordpress/files/2020/03/PROTOTYPE-2-TUTORIAL.pdf>

This link is to a video for a pleated mask, approved by some authorities: <https://www.gfclinic.com/approved-pattern-info-for-homemade-masks/>

Patrick also gathered up a collection of links to the research on masks: [https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1HLrm0pqBN\\_5bdyysOeoOBX4pt4oFDBhsC\\_jpblXpNtQ/mobilebasic?fbclid=IwAR1XmU8dHLLBp35GkKk1CfxiCqw9KNmBy0mjgQXEa1qNzPIhPRaFcVjI780#heading=h.9yzzp\\_xufkt5ow](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1HLrm0pqBN_5bdyysOeoOBX4pt4oFDBhsC_jpblXpNtQ/mobilebasic?fbclid=IwAR1XmU8dHLLBp35GkKk1CfxiCqw9KNmBy0mjgQXEa1qNzPIhPRaFcVjI780#heading=h.9yzzp_xufkt5ow)



## BEGINNER SEWIST QUICK & EASY FACE MASK!

By Lorien Fletcher

Do you have a sewing machine and are a beginner sewist, or don't have a lot of time and want to make a few personal face masks? I found this REALLY simple beginner friendly mask designed by a nurse and it is pretty clever. It uses items you already have around the house or are available at hardware stores. No elastic or ties. Just a clever cord. See the material sizes in the notes, and in the Youtube text.

### You need:

\* Sewing machine, and thread (install a newly wound bobbin and a NEW needle!)

\* Iron

\* Straight pins or binder clips

\* 3/16" 50-60" long clothesline from a hardware store, I would use cotton clothesline for comfort. The longer it is the more adjustable the fit, You could use a "cord stop" instead of tying.

\* Cotton fabric: sheets and pillowcases work well, and dress shirts- the tighter the weave the better

\*\*Make sure you wash, dry and iron your fabric pieces BEFORE cutting\*\*

(2) pieces of fabric for the interior filter

pocket cut 10" long x 8" high

(1) piece of fabric for the exterior of the mask cut 10" long x 8" high

\* Wire. twist ties or pipe cleaners for "nose wire"

\* Removable "Filter": For a removable "filter" you can use OLY-Fun material available through craft store (hard to find right now) but you can also cut up polypropylene grocery shopping/tote bags. Wash if repurposing. This polypro material is washable on gentle and air dry. Some use two layers for a filter. Don't use the part of the polypro bag material that has been silkscreened with a logo in your mask- you won't be able to breathe through it. Note: the video text has a link to a product on Amazon- I'd skip it and use materials you have.

### Care for masks:

\*Always replace your mask if it gets wet from breathing. Don't mix used masks with the clean ones.

\*Do wash the cotton mask daily with detergent.

\*Remove the filter before washing and drying- filter is gentle wash only- hang dry Most say leaving a mask alone for 4-12 hours will allow the virus to die off.

### Editor's notes:

Video tutorial is here:

<https://youtu.be/zmNmpdgWWA>

Lorien also recommends the following link as a frequently updated resource for medical based information regarding masks.

<https://covidstudentresponse.org/resources/mask-making/>

## The 2020 ICG Presidents award recipients

By Mera Babineux

### President's Award for Excellence in Service to the Members: Vicky Assarattanakul

Over the last year, Vicky has worked tirelessly to ensure that the members were kept up to date with the information that was being presented across the guild communication platforms, and gave copious amounts of her time to that endeavor. This award is given in gratitude for her hard work and dedication to ensuring that communication was presented to the members in a timely fashion and also preserved and archived for posterity.

**President's Award for Leadership in the Costuming Community: Elaine Mami, Byron Connell, Bruce and Nora Mai, and Lorien Fletcher**

This award is being given to five tireless Costuming advocates who have inspired countless others to costume in their communities and led their chapter's growth and continued success through their dedication to the costuming arts, their chapters, and the organization.

**President's Award for Excellence in Stewardship:  
Jacalyn Boggs and Sarah Richardson**

While the last year has been challenging on many fronts, these two women stepped forward to steward the organization through their tireless commitment to their chapters and the Board of Directors and gave of their time and resources freely and without hesitation to ensure the future of the organization for generations to come.

**President's Award for Technological Advancement: Andrew Trembley, Kevin Roche, and Leslie Johnston**

Though the path of technological advancement has been difficult, these four members have dedicated their time, efforts, and energies to ensuring that our archives are preserved and accessible, our website and technologies are current and relevant,

and our future footprint online continues to meet the requirements of our educational goals for the Costuming community and the communications needs for the organization.

And finally,  
**President's Award for Excellence in Costuming Leadership and Inspiring Hope: Marianne Pease**

Marianne is shining example of what the ICG's Costuming community has to offer. Her costumes are well-researched, meticulously documented and executed, and her dedication to educating others through her website and online forums on each of her cosplays as they are made and worn is an inspiration to many in our craft. She has inspired hope through her ideas and presentations and is recognized and awarded for her excellence in leadership and Costuming.

Cordially,  
Mera Babineaux

**Guild Highlights**

*Intro by Melina Chestley and recipient write-up by Phil Gust*

In the last issue I highlighted the awards that the ICG hands out. This issue, I'm happy to highlight the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient: Sally Fink.

*She was there at Costume-Con number 1 wearing an "omigosh!" costume in the F&S/F masquerade (and thereby setting the high standards for subsequent Costume-Con masquerades). – Karen Schnaubelt*



*Costume-Con 29. Photo by Ken Warren*

Very active from 1970's to the late 80's, and still participating today, Sally C. Fink is the recipient of the 2020 ICG Lifetime Achievement Award. Photographs from many conventions demonstrate the breadth of her design

skills. Originally recognized for glitzy science fiction and fantasy confections, her later expansion into historical garments and elaborate millinery means that she is an influence on a wide variety of “next generation” costumers.



*Photo provided by the ICG Archives*

From 2004 to 2011, one of her fantasy costumes, “The Iron Orchid,” was on exhibit in the Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame in Seattle, Washington. She has also mounted over a dozen one-woman costume and art-to-wear shows at local venues in western Pennsylvania, exposing the public to our hobby.

Johnstown Magazine had this to say about her shows: Pattern drafting, machine embroidery, millinery, beading, soft and clay sculpture, wire work, velvet embossing, fabric deconstruction and manipulation — Sally C. Fink has done it all. Considered a master costumer by the International Costumers Guild, Fink, a Westmont resident, has crafted hundreds of costumes over the last four decades, each one a beautiful display of handcrafted creativity.

Sally is also active with her local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism under the sobriquet Mistress Charmaine of Falkensee where she acts as a consultant on Garb research, sewing, and sources for fabrics and period patterns. In addition to

costuming for full sized humans, Ms. Fink is also noted for her dolls.

After many years concentrating on historical clothing, Ms. Fink returned to science fiction/fantasy competition costuming in 2009. These days she sometimes transfers her formidable skills from working on her own designs to the area of interpreting and constructing the designs of other costumers by participating in the Future Fashion Folio or Single Pattern Competitions at Costume-Con. Her entry in the Future Fashion Show at Costume-Con 30 in Tempe, “Empress in the Court of Jewels” not only won “Best in Show” for that competition, but demonstrated her continuing commitment to our craft; her steampunk hall costume at the same event shows that this veteran costumer is still taking on the challenge of new genres and putting her own stamp on them.

Sally’s donation of her photo collections to the ICG Gallery documents an otherwise difficult to find era in our collective history.



## 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>

Join the ICG-D Yahoo! group for lively discussions on costuming-related topics:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/icg-d>

**Amazon Smile link:**

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

Send comments and suggestions to:

### 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)

### Costuming Arts & Sciences Grant Fund

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

### Editorial Board

Vicky Assarattanakul, Melina Chestley, Betsy Marks, Kathe Gust, Philip Gust, Andrea Lewis, Bruce Mai, Patrick O'Connor, Jeanine Swick, Randall Whitlock.

### Officers 2020

**Acting President:** Kevin Roche

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

**Vice President:** Kevin Roche

[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:** Vicky

Assarattanakul

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

**Recording Secretary:** Anne Davenport

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

### Helpful Hands

**International Costumer Editor:** Melina Chestley

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

**Webmaster:** Philip Gust

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

**Website Assistant:** Susan Toker, Andrew

Assarattanakul, Jacalyn Stanley

**Archivist:** Pierre Pettinger

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

**Gallery Admin:** Nora Mai

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

**GEL Administrator:** Bruce MacDermott

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

**Assistant administrator:** Elaine Sims

**Parliamentarian:** Pierre Pettinger

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

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

### Newsletter Delivery

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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 cannot be re-mailed.

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