

International Costumer

Volume XVIII Issue 3

May - June 2019



President's Message

By Marianne Legume



"Marianne as Robin Sena from Witch Hunter Robin, Photography by Kevin Nguyen"

Welcome back from Costume Con! It was wonderful to see so many people there. The masquerades were amazing and the competition was fierce. I am particularly pleased to have been able to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Carol Salemi.

This year has already been one that's been keeping me busy and together with Vice President Mera Babineaux

we presented an ambitious five-year plan. We took a look at where the ICG has been over the past decade, and what steps need to be taken to bring us where we want to go.

In brief, our goals include the following:

- Double our active chapters and members within five years
- Expedite new chapter formation
- Improve membership incentives
- Improve our technical infrastructure
- Update the Guidelines and masquerade resources

A month after Costume Con, these goals have not been forgotten and we are actively taking steps to accomplish them.

During the BoD meeting, the Board approved a plan to speed approval of new chapters, reducing the mandatory time the board took to handle the new chapter proposal from a month or more down to two weeks- a much more responsive turn around for prospective members!

I am also very pleased that we are actively seeking out retailers who are willing to offer discounts to our membership. Most of us were disappointed when Joann's VIP program was removed but today you

can access a 10% discount at Fabric.com. Other discounts are currently being sought, including wig, pattern, and costume supply retailers as well as several other fabric stores both in the US and in Canada. If you have any suggestions for shops you'd like a discount at that we may not have on our Big List of Places to Contact, please let me know and I'll add it! The worst thing a retailer can do is say no.

Go to the website

<http://www.fabric.com/>

Click on the Business Program button at the top of the page.

Input your information and then upload a PDF or JPG copy of your proof of membership found in the email that this newsletter arrived in. Elected and Chapter officers can use the link to the ICG webpage listing their position instead of uploading proof of membership. An email will be sent to you within 3 business days with your special code. Your code works only with your account and cannot be used on another account.

Our technical infrastructure also has several planned upgrades in progress. Mera is currently working on a new membership management database

with a higher degree of automation than our current system as well as increased security for our members' personal information. Our goal is for the new system to be integrated into our website with a member login so members can control and update their personal information as necessary.

Other technical infrastructure improvements are on our radar for the future as well.

Finally, if anyone has any experience or talent in these areas and want to help out, please send me an email at icg-president@costume.org

- Art - Character drawing
- Art - Design
- Podcasting/YouTube - Editing and Sound
- Podcasting/YouTube - Voice talent
- Canadian Law and/or non-profit experience
- Anyone with the time and inclination to pick up a project and take the initiative to help see it through!

I look forward to keeping you all updated on our progress in the next newsletter. I am enthusiastic about the direction and potential the ICG has and

hope that we can continue to build it up to better serve the community.

Yours in costuming,
Marianne Pease

Co-Editor's Message

By *Melina Chestley*



The Druid. Photo by FirstPerson Shooter

I hope everyone who went to Costume Con had a wonderful time and while that particular con crunch is over, there is still more summer con fun to be had. But, for now, onto some business.

This is a reminder that this newsletter is published bi-monthly with issues sent out on the first day of the following months; January, March,

May, July, September and November. We are always on the hunt for content and we love to hear what new things you've learned or what your chapters have been up to in the last few months. We are more than willing to take in articles ahead of time if you have an event you wish to promote. Just let us know in which newsletter you need it published.

Article due dates are:

Dec 15	Jun 15
Feb 15	Aug 15
Apr 15	Oct 15

We like to keep the newsletter to a total of 10 pages with 2-3 of those pages taken up with regular letters and information. That leaves 7-8 pages for your content. We'd prefer to keep articles short (1 to 3 pages in length) but that can be negotiated if you contact us beforehand. I prefer to receive article in a word or text format with photos sent as separate attachments.

If you have any questions about the newsletter, how it is put together or whether your idea would work as

content, feel free to contact either Vicky or myself at icg-newsletter@costume.org
We welcome your input.

Thank you to Anne Davenport and Vicky Assarattanakul for their contributions to this month's newsletter.

About the Cover Photo:

From the CC37 Hat Competition. Entry title: Cat Tree Bed for the Witch Cats. Photo taken by Melina Chestley

On Taking Up Knitting: Part Two

By Anne Davenport

You Will Make Mistakes; Learn What They Look Like

There are many mistakes to make, but these are some of my most common errors and --- if I don't go back, pull them out and re-knit them --- how I cover them up:

- Having the yarn in front of the needles when it's supposed to

be behind for knitting (accidentally does a 'yarn-over', adds a stitch on the needles – gloss over by decreasing by a stitch in the next row)

- Having the yarn in back of the needles when it's supposed to be in front for purling (accidentally does a 'yarn-over', adds a stitch on the needles and makes the loops tight and hard to work with – gloss over by decreasing by a stitch in the next row)
- Splitting the yarn by poking the needle under the wrong loop for a knit or purl (makes the loops tight and hard to work with – gloss over by just powering through and don't split the yarn again on the next row)
- Ending up with a hole in the work because a stitch was accidentally dropped or added (looks bad – gloss over by weaving the tail end of the work through it with the tapestry needle, if the tail is long enough)

- Dropping a stitch where the loop is just hanging out (makes a 'run' in the work – the loop has to be 'caught' with a crochet hook and looped up through the work back to the needle – no way to gloss over this one)

Glossing over mistakes can make the final project look terrible especially if there are a lot of errors, but it is a useful skill to develop because sometimes there are only one or two errors that no one will notice.

However, acceptance is the first step to dealing with some mistakes. The first step in acceptance is sometimes undoing the knitting back to the mistake and fixing it, especially if you are a perfectionist. It is painful to do and the yarn is never as smooth to work with the second time around, but if you do it enough, you can at least learn to do it quickly. Knitting 'backwards' is a slow but a safe way to do it if you don't have to go too far (insert needle into the stitch under the last one and take it off the other needle

so that only the last stitch can be pulled out).

Finally, the most important thing to realize is that the mistakes you make as a beginner will be exactly the same fancy stitch techniques that you learn as you advance. Examples are: you will want to put the yarn on the wrong side of the stitch, or group two loops together to make lace. Or you may be poking the needle into other loops to make boucle stitches. So, pay attention to those mistakes!

Learn how to read knitting instructions

Thinking about making future beautiful projects (and why take up knitting if you can't do that?) leads to looking at knitting instructions and patterns (and we can also wonder why Professor Dumbledore declares a fondness for knitting patterns in the 6th Harry Potter book). They are written in their own particular code that is not too hard to work out and get used to. This is by no means complete, but it is a reasonable start. I keep a printed copy in my knitting bag.

Knitting Pattern Punctuation

Abbreviation	Description
[]	work instructions within brackets as many times as directed – group of stitches to be repeated
()	work instructions within parentheses in the place directed – group of actions to be done as one stitch; also used like []
* *	repeat instructions following the asterisks as directed
*	repeat instructions following the single asterisk as directed
"	inch(es)

Knitting Pattern Abbreviations for Common Words

Abbreviation	Description
alt	alternate
approx.	approximately
beg	begin/beginning

Abbreviation	Description
bet	between
CA	color A
CB	color B
CC	contrasting color
cm	centimeter(s)
cont	continue
fol	follow/follows/following
g	gram
LH	left hand
m	meter(s)
MC	main color (in multi-color work)
mm	millimeter(s)
oz	ounce(s)
pat(s) or patt	pattern(s)
prev	previous
rem	remain/remaining
rep	repeat(s) – do the same thing the number of times specified
RH	right hand
RS	right side (of work)
WS	wrong side (of work)
yd(s)	yard(s)

General knitting abbreviations, tools and parts of knitting in knitting patterns (applicable to both knitting and purling)

Abbreviation	Description
BO	bind off – finishing row, removing/knitting work off of the needle; refers to any type of bind off stitch
cn	cable needle
CO	cast on – starting row of the work on one needle; refers to any type of cast on stitch
Dec or dec	decrease/decreases/decreasing – reduce the number of stitches/loops on the needle(s) by one or more
dpn	double pointed needle(s)
fl	front loop(s)
Inc or inc	increase/increases/increasing – add one or more stitches/loops on the needle(s) by one or more
lp(s)	loop(s)

Abbreviation	Description
pm	place marker, a small ring or loop of yarn to mark a place to come back to later, like on the next row
pop	popcorn (type of stitch)
pssso (see k2tog, p2tog, pssso, skp, sl 1)	pass slipped stitch over – take up the first stitch inward from the last one on the RH needle and pull it up over the last stitch and off the needle; same technique as a decrease and the simplest bind off (BO)
rev St st	reverse stockinette stitch – wrong side of stockinette stitch
rnd(s)	round(s) – rows in circular knitting
skp	slip, knit, pass stitch over – one stitch decreased (see pssso)
sl	Slip – slip one stitch from one needle to the other without a knit or purl
sl st	slip stitch(es) (knit or purl)
ss	slip stitch (Canadian)
st(s)	stitch(es)

Abbreviation	Description
St st	stockinette stitch/stocking stitch (case sensitive)
tbl	through back loop (either purl or knit)
tog	together – work 2 or more stitches together leading to a decrease
work even	continue without any increase or decrease
wyib	with yarn in back (yarn going into work is in back of work, needles)
wyif	with yarn in front (yarn going into work is in front of work, needles)
yb	yarn to back (between needles)
yf,yfwd	bring yarn forward (between needles); this creates a yarn over (yo) when done between 2 knit stitches
yfrn	a yarn over (yo) done after a knit and before a purl; after knit stitch, yarn is behind needles; bring the yarn forward, then all the way around the needle until it is in front again before purling next stitch

Abbreviation	Description
yo, YO	yarn over – for increasing -- in knit, do stitch with yarn in front of work (creates extra loop on RH needle); in purl, do stitch with yarn in back of work; going from knit to purl, wrap loop of yarn around needle with yarn in front (just leaving yarn in back for purl creates a tight, hard-to-work extra stitch); going from purl to knit, take yarn over RH needle (instead of between them/under RH needle) creating extra stitch before the knit
yrn	yarn around needle – for increasing or making eyelets in work between purl stitches – wrap extra loop around RH needle before purl; makes hole in work

Abbreviation	Description
yon	yarn over needle – a yarn over (yo) going from purl to knit – after purl take yarn over RH needle to back for the knit (not between them), creating extra loop on RH needle, between the purl and the knit; a yarn over (you when done between two purl stitches

Abbreviations specific to knit and purl stitches

Abbreviation	Description
k or K	knit
k1 or K1	knit one (1) stitch
kN or KN	knit N stitches (N = 1,2,3....etc)

Abbreviation	Description
k tbl	knit through back of loop – with working yarn in back, poke RH needle through loop -- pointing from LH needle tip toward end --, wrap yarn and complete knit – like a purl stitch in back
kb k1b, k1-b	knit one (1) in back of stitch (twisted stitch)
k1B (kNB) k1-B (kN-B) K1-below KN-below	pick up one (or N = 2, 3, 4, etc.) stitch below (picks up stitch below and the stitch on the needle (and any between) and then knit with below stitch and above stitch(es) together.
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together (decrease)
kwise	knitwise, as if knitting
M1	make one stitch – specific type of increase by 1 (knit)
M1 p-st	make one purl stitch – specific increase by 1 (purl)

Abbreviation	Description
sk2p	slip 1, knit 2 together, pass slip stitch over the knit 2 together; decrease by 2 stitches
sl1k sl 1 wyib	slip 1 knitwise – sliding needle under stitch as if starting a knit, yarn in back
ssk	slip, slip, knit these 2 stitches together – a decrease by one
sssk	slip, slip, slip, knit 3 stitches together – a decrease by two

Abbreviations specific to purl stitches

Abbreviation	Description
M1 p-st	make one purl stitch – specific increase by 1 (purl)
p or P p1 or P1 pN or PN	purl purl one (1) stitch purl N stitches (N = 1,2,3....etc)

Abbreviation	Description
p tbl pb p1b, p1-b	purl through back of loop – with working yarn in front, poke RH needle through loop -- pointing from LH needle end toward tip --, wrap yarn and complete purl purl one (1) in back of stitch (twisted stitch)
p1B (pNB) p1-B (pN-B) P1-below PN-below	pick up one (or N = 2, 3, 4, etc.) stitch below (picks up stitch below and the stitch on the needle (and any between) and then purl with below stitch and above stitch(es) together
p2tog	purl 2 stitches together (decrease)
pwise	purlwise, as if purling
sp2p	slip 1, purl 2 together, pass slip stitch over the purl 2 together; decrease by 2 stitches

Abbreviation	Description
sl1k sl 1 wyib	slip 1 knitwise – sliding needle under stitch as if starting a knit, yarn in back
ssp	slip, slip, purl these 2 stitches together – a decrease by one
sssp	slip, slip, slip, purl 3 stitches together – a decrease by two

EXAMPLE: KNITTING PATTERN FOR A SIMPLE DISH CLOTH

--- CO 4 sts
 --- K2 YO K2
 --- K2 YO K to end of row
 --- Continue knitting rows, inc by one stitch with each row, until the desired number of stitches on RH needle is reached (35-45 recommended along diagonal length of dish cloth)
 --- K k2tog YO k2tog K to end of row
 --- Continue knitting rows, dec by one stitch with each row, until there are only 4 sts rem on RH needle
 --- BO

Knitting Goes Reasonably Well with Re-Watching Movies and Binge-Watching TV Shows

Knitting, especially after getting used to it, does not occupy enough brain cells for me, so break out the videos, the music, the audiobooks, the podcasts and get caught up while you're doing it.

 * An analysis of an Egyptian Coptic sock was published in 1954 by Louisa Bellinger and referenced by an SCA (Society for Creative Anachronism) researcher online. Currently, the earliest confirmed example of knitting, Louisa Bellinger confirmed that the sock in the Textile Museum in Washington DC was in fact true knitting by making her own socks with the same pattern and similar materials and demonstrating that they were the same. Along with being a textile expert, she was also a champion at knitting and crocheting, notorious for being both fast and accurate. She also happened to be my great aunt. Yet another incentive for me to pick up knitting.

References:

Anahita (aka Urtatim), "Medieval Egyptian Cotton Child's Sock - Documentation", http://home.earthlink.net/~urtatim/Ibex_Sox-docu.html, last viewed on 14-Dec-2018.
Anahita (aka Urtatim), "Recreating A Medieval Egyptian Cotton Child's Sock", http://home.earthlink.net/~urtatim/Ibex_Sox-pat.html, last viewed on 14-Dec-2018.
*Bellinger, Louisa. "Patterned Stockings: Possibly Indian, Found in Egypt", *Textile Museum Workshop Notes, Paper No. 10 (1954). Textile Museum, Washington DC.**

In Memoriam 2019

By Vicky Assarattanakul

At Costume-Con 37, the ICG Archives presented their yearly memorial video during halftime of the Sci-Fi/Fantasy and Historical masquerades. Among the artists featured in the video is Jennifer Adams Kelley, a member of the Chicagoland Costumers' Guild. Jennifer worked with Henry Osier on Costume-Con 28 in Milwaukee, and last attended Costume-Con 35 in Toronto. She was the masquerade director for Gallifrey One from 2009-2018 and also served as the

programming director at Chicago TARDIS. A memorial site for her exists at:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/522261831633843/?ref=group_browse_new

Another great loss to our community occurred just before this year's Costume-Con. Jamie Hanrahan passed away just before the event and was sorely missed by everyone who attended. Condolence cards were available to be signed at Costume-Con and were sent after the event was over. Other artists featured in this year's memorial video include Deborah Feaster Sears, Nathalia Quirk, Irene Leeson, and D. Jeannette Holloman. If you were unable to attend Costume-Con 37, or missed the halftime shows, the video is publicly available for viewing at

https://youtu.be/N_kbmhPaV94



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>

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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.

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