

International Costumer

Volume XX Issue 1

Jan-Feb 2021



From the President's desk:

Costuming in place... what day is it again?



December 24, 2020

Seasons Greetings; Happy Holidays!

Here we are at the end of quite a year,
still sheltering in place and muddling

along. I hope you and yours are healthy and well.

I continue to be a critical worker at IBM Research Almaden, which means I'm actually heading into the lab 5 days a week. I did put my foot down, however, about claiming my earned vacation and so am composing this column while trying to relax at home on a 2 ½ week staycation. Except when I get panicked text messages from the lab, of course ;-)

In unexpected consequences of the current situation, I've run *over 825 miles* this year! Most of it in very silly outfits.

You may have caught wind of some changes in the ICG online presence this month. Most noticeably, Yahoo Groups are now completely gone.

Fear not! As I outlined last spring, we have the capacity to replace them via GoogleGroups and in fact the Tech committee has already begun doing so. The ICG-D yahoogroup is the largest and most complicated, as it was actually open to non-members. If you were subscribed to the old list, you can expect an invitation to opt in and join the new Google group, which will be accessible either via email or as a web

forum.

We're also starting to roll out the advantages gSuite and Google Drive can offer to individual chapters who wish to take advantage of them. This will require some volunteers to act as admins for those chapters, so don't be surprised to hear your chapter might be looking for those. This includes the possibility of email domains and Drive storage for each chapter!

I've asked our Gracious Editor to reprint those comments I made last spring to refresh your memories.

We **will** have a virtual members meeting early this Spring via Zoom. The exact process is being sorted out and will be clearly communicated to you in advance.

One of my duties as President is to appoint the members of several committees, and one of the most important to our externally visible work is the panel of reviewers for the *Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund*. These are the people we trust to

review grant applications to the Marty Gear Fund.

It is my pleasure to announce the reappointment of Jill Eastlake, Elaine Mami, Ken Warren, Jacqueline Ward, and the new appointment of Merrily Wolf to the panel for the coming year. Please join me in thanking them for doing this important work!

One of the reports for the annual meeting that was short-circuited by the shutdown was the proposed revision of the ICG Guidelines. While the cancellation of in-person events reduced the impact of the report not being presented, the work of the committee and their recommendations are still worthy of consideration, and I would like to see them acted upon by the board or at the annual meeting. You may still read the report and draft at <http://costume.org/bod/annualmeeting/2020%20Guidelines%20Committee%20Report%20and%20Draft%20Guidelines.pdf>.

If you would like to see the board act on this in advance of the Annual meeting, let your chapter representative know; if you would like to see it happen at the virtual Members meeting, drop me a line at icg-president@costume.org.

Finally, as this is Christmas Eve in a very tumultuous year, let me wish again for the happiness of you and yours in hearth, health, and home, and for a safe and Happy New Year!

Kevin Roche,
President, International Costumers Guild

From the editor
Melina Chestley



Happy New Year!

With the coming new year there are many hoped for changes on everyone's horizons, including the possibility of in-person meetings and conventions in the later part of 2021. Time to get those costuming projects into gear I think.

Amongst those coming changes will be a new editor for this newsletter. I will be stepping down after the next issue and am looking for a replacement.

The duties include putting together the newsletter every two months, reaching out to the membership for content, sending the newsletter to the publication committee for feedback before publication and coordinating efforts of the committee to get the newsletter out to the membership on time in both the electronic and physical formats.

If you are interested in this position or have any questions about it, please feel free to contact me at icg-newsletter@costume.org

Thank you to Byron Connell and Kevin Roche for their submissions for this issue.

Issue cover photo: From Pixabay, artist Willgard Krause

NJ-NY Costumers' Guild Update

What have the Sick Pups been up to?

Our normal pattern is to meet in person about six times a year. Of course, the pandemic made that impossible, and we simply canceled meetings in the spring and summer.

However, one of the Pups has a commercial Zoom account and said we could use it, so beginning in September, we held some Zoom meetings. This made it possible for some of our out-of-area members to come to meetings. However, it clearly was necessary to adjust meeting times to accommodate Pups in Arizona and California, who had not been to a

meeting since they left the east coast! Zoom has made it possible for at least four Pups to do so.

Even when in-person meetings become possible again, we may hold at least some remote meetings so they can attend.

We met on Zoom in September, October, and November. November usually is the month for our last meeting of a year and when we elect officers for the next calendar year. We were able to do so via Zoom. This year's officers were all re-elected, largely because no one else wanted the jobs!

Our in-person meetings normally include a workshop. We are working on including some kind of workshop in Zoom meetings in 2021. Our membership has remained stable in 2020, despite the pandemic. We have a bit over 40 members, including both ICG members and local members, and expect one additional costumer to join us.

Byron Connell, Pups' Prez

Harnessing technology for the ICG:

By Kevin Roche

(editor's note : reprinted from vol XIX, issue 2).

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 gSuite, 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/offerings/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 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 gSuite 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

Newsletter content reminders:

A reminder that the newsletter can not function without your support. In this case, support means content. We need your help to put together an issue that is of relevance and interest to the membership.

People are interested in what your chapter is doing, they are interested in new techniques you've tried (successfully or unsuccessfully), they are interested in any activities you and/or your chapter have been up to or will be up to.

I recognize that providing content can be intimidating but it doesn't need to be much, even a paragraph or two is helpful and I am more than willing to answer your questions and help you out if you're having difficulty writing something up.

Here are some suggestions for content (and this is just a sample of ideas):

- Costuming in quarantine (what have you been working on)

- Chapter updates (let us know what your chapter has been up to lately)
- Online workshops or tutorials that your chapter is hosting...spread the word!
- Tutorials on techniques or tools
- Event reviews, book reviews, video reviews, etc.
- Photo submissions for the cover

The International Costumer publishes on the first of the following months:

- January
- March
- May
- July
- September
- November

This means that if you wish to add content to the newsletter I'd like it by the 15th of the month prior to publishing. You are free to send me content well in advance, just make sure you put in the subject line of the email which newsletter edition you wish it to appear in.

I prefer to get content in word or email text form with any photos or charts as

attachments. If you have any questions regarding the suitability of a piece for publishing, please feel free to contact me and I'll gladly work with you. We have proofreaders to help you out as well.

I no longer have any content stored for the next or future editions, so if you have been thinking about sending something in, I would love to hear from you.

icg-newsletter@costume.org

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 "NewYear2021"