

The International Costumer

The newsletter of the International Costumers' Guild, Inc.

Vol XXIII Issue 1 - January 2024

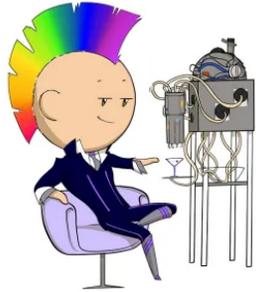


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From the President's Desk — February 2024

By Kevin Roche



Out and About

This winter we've been to PawCon and Furcon, and I'm currently in Boston as the Hal Clement Science Speaker (science GoH) at Boskone 61. Next weekend I will be in Los Angeles for Gallifrey One, and have been building a *Tron:Legacy*-inspired

hall costume for that. I'm also deep into a build for the Historical Masquerade at Costume-Con 42.

If you are interested in seeing the build process for either of those projects, I've resurrected my Twisted Image website and you can see them at <https://twistedimage.com/closet/build-diaries/>. *Note: The CC42 project has a simple password for entry to avoid spoilers for judges (or anyone who wants to be surprised with its reveal at Costume-Con).*

Annual Meeting at Costume-Con

In about seven weeks is Costume-Con 42 in Colorado, where we will be holding our Annual Meeting on Friday March 29th. If you are attending CC42, please do take time to attend the meeting; this is your opportunity to elect our board officers and vote on any business before the membership. We *may* have a new set of governing documents to approve, or at very least to learn about their progress.

That weekend I will also be announcing the recipient(s)* of the 2024 ICG Lifetime Achievement Award

About the ICG Lifetime Achievement Award Process

The gallery of recipients of the LAA (<https://costume.org/wp/icg-lifetime-achievement-award/>) describes its intent and the rules for nominations, but the actual selection process is somewhat buried in our governing documents (SR 21, to be precise), so in case you've ever wondered, here is how it works:

- **Administration:** the entire LAA selection process is administered by the current President of the International Costumers Guild.
- **Nomination:** a nomination may be nominated by any member, Chapter or Special Interest Group (SIG) in good standing by sending it to the President. Nominations may be submitted at any time, but a nomination for a particular year's award must be received no later than 60 days before the Annual Meeting. Practically, this means that the board and members will receive a reminder from the President roughly 90 days before the meeting of that nomination deadline
- **Ballot:** The President then assembles a ballot of all the nominated members as well as a packet of any supporting information supplied by the nominators, and distributes it to the electing officers (I am currently in the middle of that process).
- **Election:** the ballot is distributed to all chapter presidents and the corporate officers. They are asked to indicate their preferences and return them to the President by 30 days before the Annual Meeting. The rules require a majority (not just a plurality), so the vote is done as a ranked choice (instant run-off) ballot. On occasion, it may take several stages of elimination through those ranked choices to achieve a result.
- **Award:** presuming there is a majority, the name(s)* are supplied to a trusted agent to have the award plaque prepared for the announcement and presentation at Costume-Con. (We then proceed to the annual cat-herding

that is attempting to photograph all the LAA recipients on site at the event for a “class picture”)

*The LAA has on occasion been presented to a couple, hence the singular/plural construction.

Hope to see lots of you at Costume-Con 42!

Kevin Roche
President, International Costumers Guild

Welcome to the Maryland Costumers and Cosplayers Chapter

By Philip Gust

Welcome to chapter president Jamie Peddicord and the founding members of the Maryland Costumers and Cosplayers. The ICG Board approved their application on December 17, 2023. Information on the ICG’s newest chapter appears on the “[ICG Chapters](#)” page of the ICG website.



Focus on ICG Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

By Philip Gust



Did you know that in addition to geographically-based chapters, the ICG also has Special Interest Groups (SIGs)? A SIG is an organization of ICG members with a common interest in a particular aspect or genre of costuming, without regard to the geographical location of its members. SIGs were approved by the ICG Board in 2014.

SIG Benefits

SIGs receive similar benefits available to chapters. For example, SIGs are entitled to website hosting, use of the ICG Zoom platform for meetings and events, accounts and groups on the ICG Google Workspace, and non-profit status through participation in the [ICG Group Exemption Letter \(GEL\)](#).

Starting a SIG

If you have an interest in a particular aspect or genre of costuming, and have at least five other ICG members who are also interested, why not start your own SIG? Information about starting a SIG is located on the [Starting a New Special Interest Group](#) page of the ICG website.

The process is similar to starting a chapter. The prospective SIG submits its request in writing to the ICG Board of Directors. Include the name of the SIG, the special interest served by the SIG, how the SIG will be organized, and the name of the initial Chair. The request should be signed by a minimum of six ICG members in good standing who will be members of the SIG. The ICG Board will promptly act on the request and the ICG Corresponding Secretary will notify the SIG of its decision.

Joining a SIG

ICG members can belong to any number of SIGs. Although SIG membership does not confer voting rights for its members and SIGs do not have representation on the ICG Board of Directors, an ICG Officer (e.g. the Vice President) appointed by the ICG President serves as a liaison between the SIGs and the Board.

The ICG currently has four SIGs that focus on specific aspects or genre of costuming. See the [Special Interest Groups \(SIGs\)](#) page on the ICG website for detailed information about each of them and how to join.

Cosplay Photo Shoots



A group of costumers who enjoy learning special techniques required to photograph and capture the spectacular costumes and the characters of cosplayers, including posing, lighting, locations, and photographic effects.

Miss Lizzy's Traveling Historical Fashion Show



Educational outreach to extend knowledge of Victorian and Edwardian culture and dress by collecting, preserving, studying, and repairing extant garments, photographs, artifacts, style periodicals, and ephemera of that time period, from approximately 1830 to 1930.

Masquerade Runners

AKA: "Hey Kids, Lets Put on a Show!" (HeLPS)



Represents ICG members involved in organizing, directing, and/or providing support for masquerades or similar stage costume competitions or displays on the local, regional, and international-competition levels.

Props and Costuming FX



Provide a focus for members who are interested in the art and practice of prop making and costuming special effects, and offer encouragement and support to ICG members who are interested in these areas of costuming.

Spring 2024 Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Webinars

By Philip Gust

Register now for these Silicon Web Costumers' Guild Presents webinars in the spring 2024 semester. There is no charge for these webinars, but space is limited, so register soon.

Egyptomania: The impact of the Discovery of Ancient Egypt on Popular Culture – Feb. 25, 2024



On Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024 at 1pm PT, 4pm ET, the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild presents the webinar "Egyptomania: The impact of the Discovery of Ancient Egypt on Popular Culture" with Leslie L. Johnston.

Following Napoleon's invasion of Egypt in 1798, images of Egyptian archaeological sites and artifacts were widely distributed through the illustrated press and the wildly popular series of publications Description de l'Égypte. The mania for all things ancient Egyptian led to interpretations of its culture and iconography in fashion, art, music, and literature in varying degrees of authenticity. The discovery of King Tut's tomb in 1922 launched a later wave of Egyptomania.

Leslie L. Johnston will discuss how the illustrated and popular press helped create the Egyptomania craze in popular culture, and show images of clothing, architecture, art, and music influenced by ancient Egypt from the 1790s through to the 1920s.

To register, visit: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvdeigpzljHtUHwSBCVeN6sd5t_5Arqi7o

Screen Accuracy Is a Myth! – Apr. 14, 2024



On Sunday, Apr. 14, 2024 at 1pm PT, 4pm ET, the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild presents the webinar "Screen Accuracy Is a Myth" with Johanna Mead.

It's only natural to strive for "screen accuracy" when building cosplays. But what if you were told that "screen accuracy" is a myth, and a shortcut to frustration and bankruptcy? Johanna Mead will provide examples of how a costume can look completely different when it's off-screen and why. Learn from a cosplayer with 25+ years' experience about where you can most effectively expend your resources striving to duplicate the details, and when it's okay to compromise.

To register, visit: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZludOisqDlpG9fC_vWn9hkjwm4ZZx39IPEY

To view previous webinars in the series, visit the [Webinars](#) page on Silicon Web Costumers' Guild website

The chapter acknowledges the International Costumers' Guild Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund for a grant to help develop this webinar series, and the ICG for making Zoom available to chapters and SIGs.

Philip Gust
SiW Webinar Coordinator

Did You Know About the History of Men and Knitting?

By Carole Parker

[This article was originally published by Dharma Trading Company (<https://dharmatrading.com>) and is republished with their kind permission. My husband, Bill Laubenheimer, enjoyed knitting.]

Earlier this year the topic of men who knit was spotlighted by the [viral image of Louis Boria knitting on the NY Subway](#). It got us thinking about the idea that men who knit are like rare mythological creatures, because nothing could be further from the truth. While men may not have knit quite so socially or publically in the past as women, who use knitting and quilting groups as a way to pass time with friends, historically men have knit for themselves and for others.



Prior to industrial/mechanical knitting production, knitting used to be something that everyone learned, either at home or school. It was just considered an essential life skill. Everyone needed socks, hats and sweaters, so anyone with free hands was expected to be working on something. Professional knitting guilds had many male members, as did many other textile professions.



Knitting, along with basic sewing skills, was considered a needed skill for sailors (and pirates!) as well. Many sailors wore heavily lanolined sweaters to keep them dry and warm. These include the well known Aran sweaters, Guernsey and Jersey sweaters, each named for the islands the styles originated from. The sweaters were often knit by the women in the fishing village but there is no one to mend or make

things for you out at sea so you had to know how to do it yourself for repair work, and many knit their own sweaters and socks as well.

All of these types of sweaters featured heavily textured stitching in many different patterns. Villages became known for certain

patterns and it is said that these stitch patterns helped identify men if they went overboard.

Marketing for fancier patterns and other needle work was published for middle and upper class women as they had the money and time for making items that were decorative vs. functional. This really is what lead to the “feminization” of modern knit and crochet work. There were even [songs about ladies knitting](#).



Charity knitting drives for the Red Cross resulted in campaigns to “Knit Your bit” and while many of these targeted the women on the home front, no one with free fingers was exempt, like this class of young men, taking a stitch for victory.

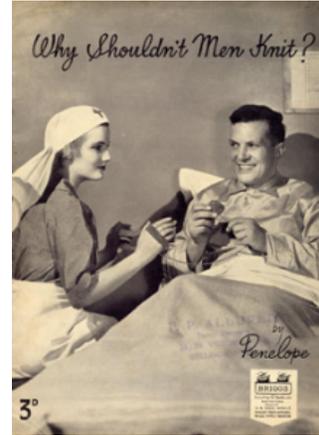
Even the local firemen knit while they waited for the next call.

Knitting was a popular form of occupational therapy during WWI and WWII. Here is an eight page booklet produced during the second World War to encourage the wounded among the armed forces to take up knitting as therapy. Source.

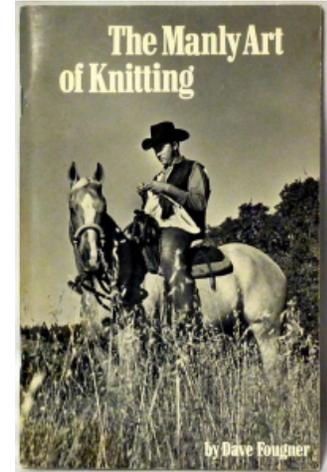


Today knitting is a popular therapy to help stroke patients re-develop fine motor skills in their hands. One article asks “Is Knitting the new yoga?”. The relaxing process of making something with your hands works no matter your gender.

[The Manly Art of Knitting](#) is a fun intro to knitting book, with projects such as a horse blanket and hammock; it was one of the



few post war books for men about knitting vs. books that assumed it was a woman knitting for a



man. Meanwhile many learned to knit from fathers and grandfathers that had learned in the service or from female relatives that wanted to keep young kids busy.



Tyler is a US Marine, he learned to knit after watching his girlfriend and wanted to give it try. Other Vets, like Kevin of [Warrior Woven](#), are using dyeing and knitting as a way to create after hard tours of duty that have left them dealing with the effects of PTSD, providing an outlet along with some income.

The biggest change for men and knitting, since WWII, really is the increased visibility and a greater social acceptance of both men and women doing activities that were once more associated with the other gender.

There are many famous male knit designers including [Kaffe Fassett](#), [Jared Flood](#), [Stephen West](#) just to name a few. Men’s knitting groups are growing and more gents can be found at the bigger conventions like Stitches. More than ever, knitting (and crochet!) are for everyone who wants to pick up some needles and yarn.

About the International Costumers' Guild

The International Costumers' Guild (ICG) is an affiliation of hobbyist and professional costumers, dedicated to the promotion and education of costuming including cosplay as an art form in all its aspects. The ICG is a U.S. 501(c)(3) non-profit, educational organization.

Benefits

Member benefits include participation in local Chapters and Special Interest Groups (SIGs), voting rights, eligibility for grants, online forums, social media, learning and volunteer opportunities, and announcements about ICG business and activities. Chapters and SIGs are eligible for tax-exempt status, Quickbooks, web hosting, Zoom, and Google Workspaces.

ICG Officers

- **President:** Kevin Roche (president@costume.org)
- **Vice President:** Leslie L. Johnston (vice-president@costume.org)
- **Treasurer:** Jeanine Swick (treasurer@costume.org)
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Merrily Wolf (corr-secretary@costume.org)
- **Recording Secretary:** Anne Davenport (rec-secretary@costume.org)

Helpful Hands

- ***The International Costumer:*** (newsletter-editor@costume.org)
Digital Edition: Philip Gust
Print Edition: Patrick O'Connor
- **Webmaster:** Philip Gust (webmaster@costume.org)
- **Archivist:** Pierre E. Pettinger, Jr. (archivist@costume.org)
Assistant Archivists: Bruce Mai, Nora Mai
- **Gallery Administrator:** Nora Mai (gallery-admin@costume.org)
Gallery Webmaster: Leslie Johnston
- **GEL Administrator:** Bruce MacDermott (gel-admin@costume.org)
Assistant GEL Administrator: Elaine Sims
- **Parliamentarian:** Pierre E. Pettinger, Jr. (icg-parliamentarian@costume.org)

The International Costumer is published by the ICG Editorial Board. We welcome short costuming articles, book reviews, event reports, and news items. For the latest content, visit the [International Costumer webpage](#).

ICG Editorial Board: Kathe Gust, Philip Gust, Betsy Marks, Patrick O'Connor, Kevin Roche, Jeanine Swick, Randall Whitlock.

Printable ICG Annual Meeting Proxy Form

This Proxy Statement is for ICG members who will not be attending the Annual Meeting at Costume-Con. To vote, print and complete the form and give it to someone who will be attending. You must sign this form for it to be valid. You can also submit your proxy online at <https://forms.gle/e3EBj4HchvKFiwDE8>.

On this _____ day of _____, 20____, I, _____,

assign my vote to and authorize the below named member of the International Costumers' Guild,

belonging to _____ Chapter, to represent me in

all business coming before the 20_____ Annual Meeting of the International Costumers' Guild.

Assignee Name*: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Assigner Name**: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Signature: _____

*Who you are authorizing to vote on your behalf. **Your name.