

The International Costumer

The newsletter of the International Costumers' Guild, Inc.

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From the President's Desk — September 2025

By Kevin Roche



Alarums and Excursions...

After the pressure and excitement of getting the virtual ICG Annual Meeting together (including approval of our new governing documents) I have been head down dealing with work and life issues, and managing a little bit of costuming.

So here we are again, with another 5 months gap since I wrote a post for y'all. Oops. There are reasons, detailed below.

First of all, on the ICG business side, it was brought to my attention that I don't actually know the status of the reissue of our governing docs. That is a tremendous oversight on my part and I will remedy it and report to y'all as soon as possible.

Chaos, Chaos Everywhere

One major thing going on is I discovered not long after our annual meeting that my research lab in San Jose would be shutting down. Details and reasons for that shutdown, however, were not forthcoming until *July* when I had to join a meeting remotely while on vacation in Sweden.

Essentially, my work site is being consolidated with another IBM lab a few miles south, except for a few hardware/physics labs like mine which can't be relocated there. That work will be shifting to the labs in New York, and it makes zero sense for Andy and I to try and maintain two households on opposite coasts when I was already considering retirement in a couple years. My research projects will be among the last to shut down, so my position is coming to an end next summer. There has been

(and will be) a lot of scurrying about to get all my ducks in a row financially to prepare for that. This has certainly not helped my performance as ICG President, and frankly it validates many of my reasons for making this my final term.

Dancing Through the Mayhem; Costumes Required

Despite all the aforementioned confusion, I've managed a fair amount of costume-related activity through the summer.

Andy and I took a 3-1/2 week trip to Sweden and Åland in late June/early July. This included a wonderful visit with costuming friends in Uppsala, including a private Midsommarafton (Misummer's eve) gathering at a lake house where we built and raised a Midsummerstång (like a maypole) and singing a very silly song about little frogs as we danced around it. We swam (briefly) in the lake, played at dumb athletics and toasted the shortest night of the year (we weren't far enough north that the sun stayed above the horizon, but it never got darker than twilight).





We then took the bus-ferry-bus to Mariehamn on Åland, where we attended Archipelacon 2, the 2025 Eurocon. I was privileged to MC the [masquerade](#) and it was a wonderful laid back time. Our little group reunited our “Scandinavia and the World” hall costumes for a photo=op.

Andy and I then had a week to ourselves in Stockholm to explore a bit and go to some queer events, and I’m happy to say our Swedish has progressed to the point that we successfully ordered all our meals in Swedish. We plan to return next summer on a tour that will include Stockholm Pride. [And even better: nobody caught Covid on this trip!]



We returned to final preparations for the [PenWAG ArtWear! runway show](#) where I had *also* been invited to be MC, then on to Worldcon in Seattle where I installed the Tiki Dalek in Exhibits, ran a Single Pattern Contest and judged the masquerade (op-ed about that experience pending),



And just two weeks ago we were working the Bay Area Gay Rodeo again, where Andy, our friend Cooper, and I were honored to be the Grand Marshals. In a week and a half we’ll be on our way to

Reno for the World Gay Rodeo Finals, where, I’m happy to say, we are **not** working but are just sponsoring awards and can sit back and enjoy the show.

Finally, I’ve kept updating my [twistedimage.com build diaries](#), including progress on my new Qubit fursuit project with a Nov 7 deadline for Pac Anthro Weekend (aka PawCon). It’s going to be tight, but this is a “partial” fursuit build (head and paws, to be worn with street clothes). The actual Australian shepherd on whom its coloration is based has given a paws up to the head design (in particular, the ears have the correct flop), as has his owner.

That’s it for this mostly fluffy column. I may have a couple other items in this issue, too, but they deserve their own column inches

Kevin Roche
President, International Costumers Guild

Christina O’Halloran — In Remembrance

By Kevin Roche

I was saddened to learn of the passing of my dear friend Christina M. O’Halloran.

While many people knew her from SF fandom and costuming, I was forever being amazed at the many many communities I unexpectedly shared with her, and at her deep and heartfelt engagement and commitment in all of them. She was truly an inspiration in not only her genuinely kind nature, but also her fierce determination and willingness to actively aid and defend all sorts of people in need.

I can only strive to be as kind and fierce a light in this world as she was.

My heartfelt condolences to her spouse and partner in so many endeavors, John O’Halloran.

Kevin Roche
ICG President
August 27, 2025

I don’t remember at which event I first met Christina and John; they were ubiquitous at the conventions I attended, but they also turned up volunteering at Pride events, I *think* at Greyhaven parties in Berkeley, and at costume and recreation events all over California (and the world). It was truly astonishing in how many social circles I intersected with her.

To quote from the [ICG Lifetime Achievement Award page she shares with her husband John](#):

Christina and John O’Halloran are best known for their work behind the scenes, helping masquerades at all levels run smoothly and efficiently, and keeping costumers calm and encouraged. They served as Stage Directors for Costume-Con 26 masquerades in 2008. John was also

Stage Manager for Worldcon 60 (ConJose) and has worked backstage in many roles for Worldcon since 1985.

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Christina can frequently be found helping to staff exhibits, information desks, or the Green Room when she is not backstage

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Both Christina and John have appeared as panelists at multiple conventions and have written articles on their [backstage work](#) and [costume photography](#) for costuming publications

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They sometimes also appear on stage, including at Worldcon 61 (Torcon 3) in the best-in show entry, “[Trumps of Amber](#),” at Worldcon 62 (Noreastcon 4), at [Costume-Con 23](#), and at [Costume-Con 26](#). Christina occasionally costumes shows for her local community theater, and is a hall costumer, re-creating such characters as “Dolores Umbridge” from the *Harry Potter* series.

Christina and John are probably most familiar to Con-goers as the duo in tie-dye/aloha shirts, which pretty much qualifies these days as “historical” costuming.

This is all true but hardly adequate; I was privileged to work and play with her on many projects and events with her (on-stage and off) , and every single one was better for her presence and participation. Even as her health difficulties grew she continued to be a kindhearted and welcome presence at gatherings virtual and in-person.

I’d like to close by sharing a couple of photos in particular: one, of Christina with her beloved and loving husband John in their joyously loud tie-dye shirts, and a second, of her in one of the most genuinely primly frightening hall costumes ever, as Dolores Umbridge:



Farewell, Christina. May your memory be a blessing.

Maral Agnerian Reflects on Receiving the 2025 ICG Lifetime Achievement Award

By Maral Agnerian



When Costume-Con was cancelled this year, I honestly hadn't put any thought into what would happen with the ICG Lifetime Achievement Award. It hadn't occurred to me at all that I might be in the running, so I was totally blindsided when friends notified me that I'd won.

I have a lot of complicated feelings tied up with the

(probable) end of Costume-Con. For so long it was my favourite con, and from my first (CC25) to CC42, I only missed one year due to Covid. Costume-Con and the ICG brought me so many wonderful experiences and new friends, and I will always treasure those years.

And now, being part of such distinguished company as a LAA winner is both kind of wild to me and truly an honour. Thank you so much to the ICG voting members, but especially to all the people who welcomed me at my very first Costume-Con and have encouraged me over the years in my costuming journey. It's about time for me to start another crazy years-long project, so stay tuned!

[See Maral Agnerian's LAA page for the full citation and a photo of her award-winning costuming.

(<https://costume.org/wp/icg-lifetime-achievement-award/maral-agnerian/>)]

Costume-Con 2026 Virtual Competitions

By Philip Gust



Future Fashion, Single Pattern, and Doll competitions normally take place at in-person Costume-Cons. With the cancellation of Costume-Con 43 in 2025, the co-directors for the Future Fashion competition, Sandy and Pierre Pettinger, and the co-directors for the Single Pattern completions, Nora and Bruce Mai, went ahead and held them as virtual events in April 2025. Since Costume-Con is not being held in 2026, they are holding these virtual competitions again, joined this year by Kathe Gust and me as co-directors for the Doll virtual competition. Costume-Con service mark holder Karen Schnaubelt kindly gave her permission to use “Costume-Con 2026” in association with these competitions.

The theme for the Costume-Con 2026 virtual competitions is Milan, Italy. According to Pierre Pettinger, the theme celebrates the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan. Milan is also the home of high fashion, magnificent architecture, and beautiful art. As always, entries in the competitions are not restricted to the overall theme.



The virtual competitions will take place on April 18, 2026 at 5pm Pacific Time, 8pm Eastern Time on Zoom. Information about how to attend will be announced closer to the time of the event, Keep an eye on social media including the Costume-Con Facebook page where the information will be announced. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1198007390218367>)

Visit the Facebook event pages for the competitions for the latest information and rules, and to post questions. Also check these event pages for information on entering the competitions.

Future Fashion Competitions

- Event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1234257784742433/>
- Entry deadlines: October 31, 2025 (Folio), April 4, 2026 (Show)
- Contact: costumrs@radiks.net

Single Pattern Competition

- Event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/613867834481640/>
- Entry deadline: April 12, 2026
- Contact: yon_drago@yahoo.com

Doll Competition

- Event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1810360342846184/>
- Entry deadline: April 1, 2026
- Information and entry form: <https://tinyurl.com/cc2026-doll>
- Contacts: kathe.gust@gmail.com, philgust@google.com

Note that the deadline for submitting entries for the Future Fashion Folio is **October 31, 2025**. Contact the co-directors for information on submitting designs. Once the design entries are received, they will be collected into a Future Fashion Folio PDF

document. Entrants to the Future Fashion Show will create costumes based on these designs. Availability of the Folio document will be announced on social media and on the Future Fashion Facebook event page.

The Silicon Web Costumers Guild presented a webinar on September 7, 2025 where the co-directors of the three competitions described the events, and discussed the rules, how to enter, and deadlines. They also highlighted a few entries from last year's virtual events and past competitions. The webinar was recorded and is available on the Webinars page of their website.

(<https://www.siwcostumers.org/webinars.html#webinar-2025-09-07>)



Promoting Your Chapter or Special Interest Group

By ICG PR Committee

The Resources for Chapters and SIGs page on the ICG website (<https://costume.org/wp/resources-for-chapters-and-sigs/>) provides resources to help ICG Chapters and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) get started, run their organization, and connect with new members and their communities.

Promoting your Chapter or SIG is important to attract new members, let people know about your activities, and gain support in your local or interest community. The Resources page includes a section on public relations tips, and templates that



your Chapter or SIG can customize for the most common kinds of collateral.

With thousands of organizations vying for media attention, how can you make your chapter or

SIG stand out from the rest? You can't control the message the media will craft for your group, but generating "endorsement" by the media creates more credibility and can be a positive factor. The Public Relations Tips & Media Guide page (<https://costume.org/wp/resources-for-chapters-and-sigs/public-relations-tips-media-guide/>) provides a wealth of proven ideas and techniques for promoting your group. Here is an outline of the topics covered in the Guide.

- Introduction
- What does a Basic Public Relations Plan Look Like?
- Public Relations Tools for Your Plan
- Scheduling Your Media Campaign
- Designing Print Collateral
- Media Samples
- Using Social Media

Chapters and SIGs can also get ideas by looking at the Public Relations Page for the ICG. (<https://costume.org/wp/public-relations/>). This page includes links to the ICG Press Kit, and the ICG Press Contacts pages. It also includes links to collateral designed for the ICG. Your chapter or SIG can use them as inspiration, or directly adapt the ICG collateral for your purpose.

How does your chapter or SIG promote itself in your community? If your chapter or SIG has made use of material in the Public Relations Tips & Media Guide, please share your experience with the ICG community. If you have additional tips or topic that have worked for your group, please share them too!

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.

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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.