

The International Costumer

The newsletter of the International Costumers' Guild, Inc.

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<https://www.costume.org>

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ICG Annual Meeting will be held April 18, 2026

By Kevin Roche



As there is no in-person Costume-Con this year, the Annual Meeting of the International Costumers Guild is being held online via Zoom on April 18th, 2026. This is a combined board and members meeting beginning at **1PM EDT / noon CDT / 11AM MDT / 10 AM PDT**

Elections

This meeting is where the membership will elect the ICG officers for the next year. As of March 15, these candidates have accepted nominations:

- President: Leslie Johnston
- Vice President: [no candidates yet]
- Recording Secretary: Anne Davenport*
- Corresponding Secretary: Anne Davenport*
- Treasurer : Jeanine Swick

* the dual secretarial role is allowed by our bylaws

Advance Nominations are open through March 19, 2026. Submit nominations (you may nominate yourself) to the president at icg-president@costume.org. (nominations may also be made “from the floor” during the meeting)

Agenda

Items for the agenda may also be sent to the president at icg-president@costume.org (As of March 14, the president is not aware of any major business for the agenda.)

The Draft Agenda may be viewed live at https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRjKPMwnRCc4H1OUL0APgVTrQDm_NHzb0E8eZL3j6pf2NNaBV04oZ0RSYs3YvzAiTmdVkJLdpMRSR/pub

IMPORTANT: THE AGENDA INCLUDES the necessary login links for the Zoom meeting.

If you wish to preview the officer and committee reports they, as well as the agenda, will be made available as they are submitted at <https://costume.org/wp/bod-meeting-minutes/>

You will note that there are **not** separate times set for a preliminary board meeting followed by the members meeting. The order of business will be the same, but doing this as a continuous agenda avoids having to wait for a second wave of logins to the meeting, as well as eliminating the need to recap the officers and committee reports. If necessary, there will be a short mid-meeting recess for attendees’ comfort.

Hope to see many of you online April 18!

Kevin Roche, ICG President

Patricia Ann Vandenberg — In Remembrance

By Jill Eastlake



Our friend and fellow Northern Lights Costumers’ Guild member Patricia Ann Vandenberg passed peacefully around 8:30 PM on Tuesday, December 23, 2025.

Patricia Ann Vandenberg

Pat was one of my oldest and dearest friends. We met through the New England Science Fiction Association (NESFA) and worked and played together for many decades. I was one of four bridesmaids for Pat and Allan Kent’s wedding. Donald and many NESFANS were there and our son, Don (he was then 8) was the ring bearer.

Pat and Allan were a huge part in my and Donald’s first foray into costume competition at Worldcon.

Our first costumes together were for the Boston in 1980 “Mad 3 Party” bid group presented at L.A.con II in 1984. Many in fandom thought that Boston fans didn’t like or respect costuming. We brought 20+ people on stage and won in the Journeyman Division for Best Bid (I think) because one person

in our group was a Journeyman – Suford Lewis. Pat recruited her friend Deryl Burr (last name changed, now Deryl Humphrey) to help us make costumes. For about a year we met at Deryl’s house weekly with a horde of people to accomplish that goal. Deryl is also the main designer and seamstress of Pat’s wedding gown and our bridesmaid’s dresses. Deryl was also a bridesmaid.

Bid costuming was a thing. For over a year, I think, many people came to our house on Wednesday nights to work on our “Charley on the UFO” costumes and skits presented at the Winnipeg Worldcon for our Boston in 1989 bid. Won again. Can’t remember the award name.

Pat and Allan made it as Costume Masters before Donald and I, as they became Masters at CC18. They were part of Dina Flockhart’s group “Seeking Hope” where Pat and Deryl designed and made the Chinese warrior women’s armor. I couldn’t costume or compete that year, too busy being co-Chair of Costume-Con 18.

Our highest award in costuming was as part of Janet Johnston’s “Arctic Circle” entry at Noreascon 4 where we won Best in Show and Best Workmanship, Journeyman Division.

Pat and Allan were wonderful hosts on our trips to the Boston area while we were living in New York for a bit over a year. They lived with us in Milford when they sold their house in Arlington before moving to Mendon.

We SMOFed together. Pat and I co-Directed an Art Show for Arisia. She Directed the Hugo Award Ceremony at Millennium Philcon where I was co-Division Head for Events. She Chaired Boskone XX. We both love Events and helped and encouraged each other to be bold and try new things.

We laughed together. We cried together. We loved each other. Our lives are forever better for having known each other.

Rest in Peace my dear, dear friend. Missing you always,

– Jill

Costume-Con 2026 Virtual Competitions Now Accepting Entries

By Philip Gust



The Costume-Con 2026 Virtual Competitions are now accepting entries for the Future Fashion Show, Single Pattern Competition, and Doll Competition. The upcoming holiday season is a great time to start planning your entries.

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 Show

- Event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1234257784742433/>
- Design choice deadline: March 31, 2026
- Entry deadline: April 4, 2026
- Contact: costumrs@radiks.net

Single Pattern Competition

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

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>).

Why Enter the Costume-Con 2026 Single Pattern Competition?

By Nora Mai

Since 1994 there have been 25 Single Pattern contests associated with Costume-Con. And the one constant? Jacqueline Ward, who has entered EVERY one! Here are a few words from her on why YOU should enter the Costume-Con 2026 Single Pattern competition.

Since its inception at Costume Con 12 (thank you, Kevin Roche) I've entered all the SP competitions, whenever they were included in the Costume Con agenda. Why? Because of its unique makeup and the creative opportunities this kind of competition offers. Here's a chance to come up with an entry where you don't need a story, title or preconceived design to keep you in line.

Using the selected patterns as your blank canvas, your imagination is the starting point. Choose one or more and start brainstorming- an excellent opportunity to work with and refine new techniques, materials, colours, concepts... or use the talents you've already developed.

Just look at the pattern(s) you've selected and say "Now, what can I do with this?"

Remember: you own the pattern, the pattern doesn't own you! Don't like the sleeves? Change the shape, method of insertion (I often pleat the sleeve cap rather than gather, especially if using heavy material as it has a smoother look), cut it apart and add in sections, use pieces from another pattern (while keeping parts of the basic shape, for the judges). Don't like the cuffs? Remove them or recut to a more interesting shape. Same goes for collars, necklines, hemlines (longer, shorter, shape the edge). The pattern instructions will help you along with basic construction but they too can be messed about with.

I've used patterns as they were printed but with lots of decorative techniques, limited myself to a colour palette (black, white and gray), made a floofy fairy into a tailored fairy CEO suit, complete with pinstripe fabric, turned soft swags into metal armour, added see through "aquariums" into coat panels, turned tulle into rail engine "steam" and learned so many new techniques in the process. Here's a competition where the costume name is probably the last thing you need to think about.

So, join in. Be brave and cut up that printed pattern and Frankenpattern away. Your imagination is allowed to run free with this one!

– Jacqueline Ward

(See "[Costume-Con 2026 Virtual Competitions Now Accepting Entries](#)" in the December 2025 issue for information about the competitions and how to enter – ed)

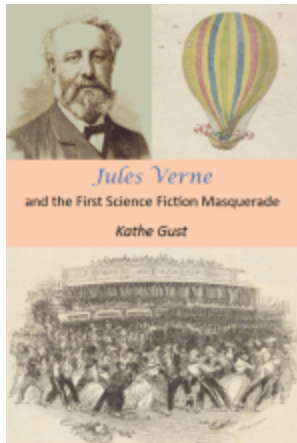


Jacqueline Ward, “In My Cosmic Garden” from Costume-Con 42; photo by DC Cosplay.

ICG Press Announces First Publication for 2026

By ICG Press

The International Costumers’ Guild Press is pleased to announce its first publication for 2026.



Jules Verne and the First Science Fiction Masquerade

by Kathe Gust

In 1877, author Jules Verne organized a costumed masquerade ball in his home town of Amiens, France, and sent out over 700 invitations. This affair was unlike anything before because hundreds of attendees came in costumes based on characters and places from his popular series of “scientific fiction” novels, known as *Voyages*

Extraordinaires (Extraordinary Voyages).

The common wisdom is that the first costumed science fiction-themed convention did not take place until over sixty years later, in 1939. Had Jules Verne once again anticipated the future?

An illustration about the event from the French newspaper *Le Monde Illustré*, lead author Kathe Gust to discoverer how Jules Verne’s popularity as an author, and his connection to his adopted home town, lead him to put on this amazing event. Based on scattered French newspaper accounts and letters from the time, she has woven together the story of what was arguably the first science fiction-themed masquerade ball ever held. She also discovered a second masquerade he put on several years later that was inspired by his novels.

The book includes historical photos and illustrations from the time, including full-color plates, that are not widely available. It also provides the author’s translations of some of the texts that she used, citations and bibliographic references, and a full index to help readers locate references in the text.

It is not only an interesting story from a human perspective, but also sheds light on the history of early science fiction literature, and costumed masquerade balls that were popular in the 19th century. It provides new insight into the man who is widely regarded as the Father of Science Fiction Literature.

The book is expected to be available in late March 2026 in hardcover, trade paperback, and ebook formats. Visit the [book webpage](#) for more details, and to locate a book seller. It will also be available directly from the International Costumers’ Guild Press.



Recent and Upcoming Silicon Web Costumers’ Guild Presents Webinars

By Philip Gust

A recording of the second webinar in the Spring 2026 term of the “Silicon Web Costumers’ Guild Presents” webinar series is now available on the “Webinars” page of the SiW website:

<https://www.siwcostumers.org/webinars.html#webinar-2026-03-01>



Miss Lizzy's Traveling Historical Fashion Show – Mar. 1, 2026

Miss Lizzy's Traveling Historical Fashion Show is a Special Interest Group of the International Costumers Guild. Its mission is to use 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.

Miss Lizzy's chair and award-winning costume historian Lisa Ashton discussed collecting and studying costumes and other historical items from the period, and illustrated her talk by showing some of the items in her extensive collection.

Registration is now open for the final webinar in the Spring 2026 term:



Jules Verne and the First Science Fiction Masquerade – May 10, 2026

A masquerade ball organized by Jules Verne in 1877 featured hundreds of attendees in costumes inspired by characters and places from his "scientific fiction" novels. It took place over 60 years before the first costumed science fiction-themed convention in 1939. Had Jules Verne once again anticipated the future?

Join sci-fi/fantasy and historical costumer Kathe Gust as she discusses the process of researching and writing her upcoming book, *Jules Verne and the First Science Fiction Masquerade*.

The webinar is on Sunday, May 10, 2026 at 4pm PT, 7pm ET. The webinar is free, but space is limited, so register now at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0KohdwdyRtGQHg7h8QEoPQ>

If you have an idea for a webinar or speaker, please send it to webinars@siwcostumers.org.

ICG Props and Costume FX Special Interest Group

By Philip Gust



The "Props and Costume Special Effects" Special Interest Group (Props and Costume FX SIG) provides a focus for ICG members who are interested in the art and practice of prop making and costuming special effects, and offers encouragement and support to the community in these areas of costuming. The SIG was formed in 2016, and was one of the first SIGs to form once special interest groups were adopted by the ICG Board.

The mission of the Props and Costume FX SIG is to share knowledge about the art and practice of prop making and costuming special effects. Members are either active in or have a special interest in the various aspects of these areas, with the hope that this SIG will be a focus for, and provide encouragement and support to, other ICG members who are interested in these areas of costuming. Membership in the SIG is open to all ICG members in good standing.

The SIG is lead by a SIG Chair, who is responsible for membership and for ensuring that information is regularly made available to its members. The SIG does not currently charge membership dues.

The primary means of member interaction is through the "ICG Props and Costume FX SIG" Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ICGPropsFxSIG>), where members can post information about articles and videos that demonstrate construction techniques and discuss new materials. A recent post was about a tutorial on how to make "Fallout NCR" TV cosplay chest armor.

Posts are viewable by the greater community, as a way to stimulate interest, but posting is restricted to SIG members. If you are invested in joining the ICG Props and Costuming FX SIG, contact the SIG chair at gust@acm.org.

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:** Anne Davenport (corr-secretary@costume.org)
- **Recording Secretary:** Anne Davenport (rec-secretary@costume.org)

Helpful Hands

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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.