

International Costumer

Volume XVII, Issue 4

July – August 2018



Photo: Ken Warren



Photo: Steward Hartman

*Congratulations to Elaine Mami, Recipient of the 2018
Lifetime Achievement Award*

President's Message

By Marianne Pease

Happy Summer Everyone!

Normally for the president's address I try to share what's going on with the guild at large, my goals for the future, or things that have been accomplished. While all of that's very important (**and if anyone has any technical computer/web skills or social media talents that they want to share... we need you! Volunteer Today!**), this month I wanted to change things up a little bit and talk a bit more about the *fun* side of costuming. That's why we're all here after all.

We love the creative process and the joy of showing off the final product and yet things always seem to get in the way of fun. That pesky 'real life', work, family, finances, vacations, and general responsibilities... getting the "me time" to sit down and work can be difficult! Procrastination runs rampant because all too often, everything else comes first.

Last year, I shocked several people by getting all of my actual costuming done for Costume-Con months ahead of time - which was a good thing because I was still working up to the last minute on everything else that needed to be done. This year I'm hoping to do the same and thought I'd share some of my tactics.



Darth Marianne, made for CC36's Single Pattern Contest. Photography and Photoshop magic by Alicyn Drew.

Plan Ahead and Organize

I personally keep a multi-year spreadsheet with one tab covering events through the next five years and what to wear each day. Another tab covers a list of costume ideas within various categories. I know others in the community who organize their ideas on Pinterest boards, Cosplanner or dead tree notebooks. It's easy to lose track of just how much I need to accomplish unless I put it right in front of my nose on a regular basis.

Set and Keep Early Deadlines

It's easy to put things off until I have a firm deadline. It's a problem for me when all of the deadlines are the same event so last year I tried to spread them out. I finished my Darth Mom costume (and Star Wars costumes for the rest of the family!) for Halloween while I

made sure to finish my Pea-montaise dress for a

photoshoot with our new Cosplay Photo Shoots SIG. Other events like guild tea parties and smaller local conventions also make great early deadlines to help push me into getting things done.

Work in Groups

I personally find working with other people to be extremely motivating. It might mean putting a group presentation together but even for 'solo' costumes I find it helpful to have the external motivation of someone else's expectations. Sometimes I'll find someone to sew with once a week, have a friend online listen to me blab about my costuming ideas and progress while

holding me accountable to get things done, or even just post my costuming progress on Facebook if it's not going to be a big reveal on stage.

Finish Before the Convention

I have a few personal rules for sewing. No scissors or power tools after midnight is the biggest one but another is that if a costume isn't done before a convention, it doesn't get packed. I love costuming but I love hanging out with friends and making new ones too. I can't do that if I'm trapped in the hotel room and if I can manage to finish it in a few hours at the convention then I should have found those few extra hours the week before. This rule has saved me a lot of stress over the years, and helped me get better at judging how much time I need to finish a task.

Have Fun!

This may seem like a no-brainer but costuming is our hobby. While it can sometimes be frustrating, stressful and occasionally cause an unexpected visit to the emergency room, we do this for the love of the art. If we're not enjoying the process, the process should be revisited.

Do you have any tactics for getting things done on time that you'd like to share with

the rest of us? Pop on over to the ICG's Facebook group or Slack channel!

Here are a few ideas for some seasonal suggestions to help get you read for Costume-Con 37 in Salem!

Summer Swimwear: The hotel for CC37 has a huge waterpark inside it and while there isn't an official swimwear competition, I suspect we'll be seeing a few mermaids and water-friendly costumes! Now that it's summer, it's the perfect time to break out the spandex and make that Miss Marvel burkini.

Halloween: Get your Single Pattern or FFF entry ready to go! You've got to have something to wear for Halloween after all, and with the con's Witchy theme next year it's the perfect time to get a jump on one of these costumes!

Holiday Historical: Wrap up the year by finishing up your historical costumes! Bonus points if it's Victorian and you can squeeze in some Dickensian caroling.

All that should leave you free to kick off 2019 with a panicked frenzy for not having even thought about starting your 40K witch hunter's power armor. Happy costuming this summer!

NJ-NY Costumers' Guild Awards a Spazzy at Costume-Con 36

By Byron Connell



At any stage event, the members of the New Jersey-New York chapter ("Sick Pups") present may agree on an entry deserving a Spazzy award for the sickest and most demented humor in the show. At Costume-Con 36's Science Fiction and Fantasy masquerade, we agreed on awarding a Spazzy to Courtney Rayle for her entry, "Air Tardis." She received a certificate and a rosette with Spaz's face and doggy footprints on it.

The Spazzy is named for the chapter's mascot, Spaz, whose likeness appears on our listing in the roster of chapters on the ICG web site.

Members of the NJ-NY chapter are ineligible to receive a Spazzy, no matter how sick and demented their humor is on stage. Upon receiving a lifetime total of three Spazzys, non-Pups are named honorary members of the chapter and may not receive any more Spazzys.

Worldcon 76

By Carole Parker

If you ever wanted a costumer-friendly convention, this is your convention! Many of the staff members are costumers (chair, division heads, and others), and we have Special Guests Pierre and Sandy Pettinger!

For the costumers who have been inspired by his writings, Spider Robinson will be here at Worldcon 76!

Our costuming sessions are shaping up with not only panels but workshops and demonstrations as well. Plus, we have:

- * A Cospitality Area that will be in the Exhibit Hall.

- * Costuming exhibits in the Exhibit Hall.

- * Worldcon Masquerade.

Along with all the costuming items, we'll have the usual hard science, media-related items, writing, and other subjects covered.

Other items of interest, for those that have a little time before or after Worldcon 76:

- * San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles (<https://www.sjqiltmuseum.org>) less than

a half mile away.

- * Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose (<https://www.cdm.org>).

- * The Tech Museum of Innovation (<https://www.thetech.org>).

- * The Winchester Mystery House (<https://www.winchestermysteryhouse.com>) has opened something like 30 new rooms in the mansion. So if you've been before, you have new stuff to look at.

- * The Lace Museum (<http://www.thelacemuseum.org>) in Sunnyvale, about 20 minutes away, is the first U.S. Western museum dedicated to lace. They also have lace making supplies that you can purchase.

For those wanting to go a little further afield, we have wineries within an hour's drive. You don't have to go Napa or Sonoma to get wine. You can find some wineries within Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties - the county we're in and the next one over closer to the coast.

We hope to see many of you here at Worldcon 76 in San Jose, CA from August 16-20!

Costume-Con 36 Report

By Elaine Mami

I was having a great time at the con and totally enjoyed the Saturday night SF/F masquerade. The only problem was that the judging (as is often the case) took an eternity to complete.

Some of you may have noticed that I'm getting just a wee bit older. Yup. It's true! And I was fading fast, so Carl took me to our room to go to bed.

Sunday morning I staggered into the con suite for a bit of breakfast, and folks were hugging me and offering congratulations. Huh? Before coffee? That's how I learned that I had gotten the Lifetime Achievement Award!! After the Historical, and before the judges left the room! The award was presented to me, and the group picture was taken. Nobody wanted to take the chance of me wandering off again!

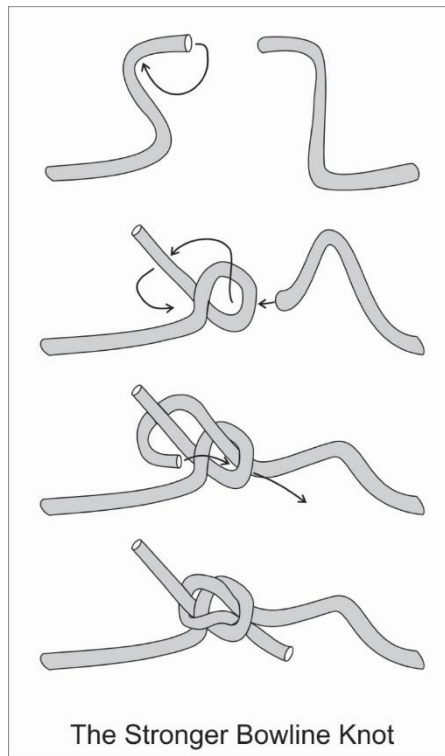
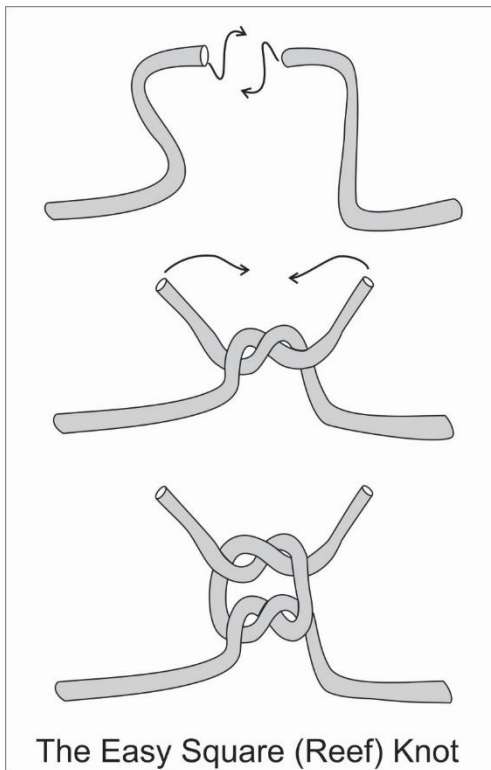
Life Lesson Learned? Don't leave until the fat lady of the ICG President has a say 😊

Better Knots

By Anne Davenport

There you are, with two ends of string that need to be connected. The connection does not need to be too smooth and you're in a hurry, and maybe the ends are short. So, twist, reverse twist and you have a little square knot.

And maybe ten minutes later it loosens or even pulls apart. And if you didn't reverse before the second twist and made a granny knot, maybe it pulls apart five minutes later.



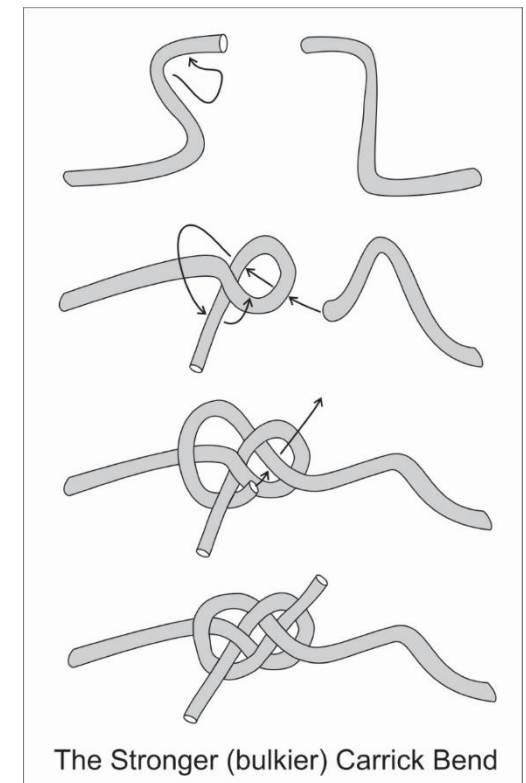
There are better, and remarkably similar, knots for quick connections.

Two recommended alternatives in "The Ashley Book of Knots" are the bowline and the Carrick bend. Ashley particularly recommends the Carrick bend for its strength.

In his book, Ashley is so adamant about the safety hazard of the easy-to-tie reef knot (the square knot) that he annotates it with a skull-and-crossbones. The problem with both the reef and granny is that pulling on their ends will deform them, turning them

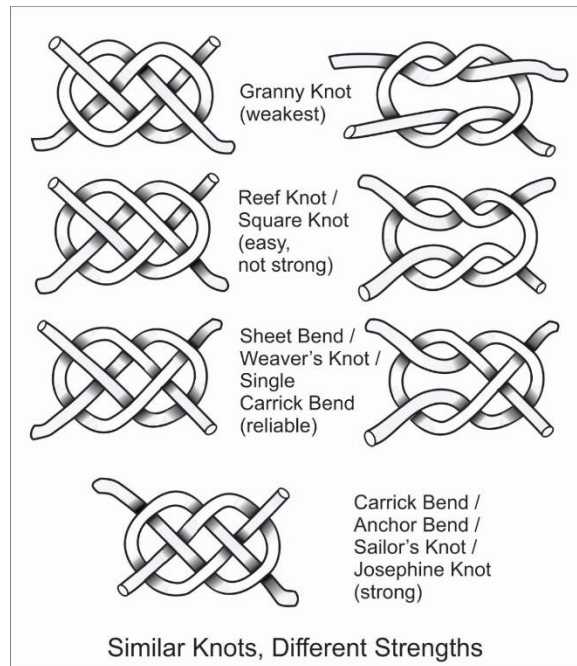
into something even less sturdy. And anyone who has done macramé knows that a string of half-hitch knots (effectively a string of granny knots) tend to twist, an undesirably trait in a knot that you want to stay put.

The bowline (structurally the same as the weaver's knot) and Carrick bend (anchor bend, sailor's knot) are remarkably similar to the reef and the granny, but because of their more 'woven' tie, are less likely to deform when pulled on. The stronger Carrick bend has the added benefit of being



structurally the same as the decorative Josephine knot though a Carrick connection is bulkier on a string than the slimmer bowline.

So, try them out. Practice. Look for knot-tying Boy Scout videos on YouTube. Learn the right way to tie them. And learn the wrong ways to tie them, so they can be avoided. Ashley points out a few of these wrongly tied Carrick bends, highlighted with skull-and-crossbones, to warn the reader. The better knots do need longer leads and a little more dexterity to tie, but the reward is a knot that is more likely to stay.



How Tabi's Characters Came To Be Part of Creative Costuming

By *Tabi's Characters*



In the fall of 2017, [Creative Costuming](http://creativecostuming.store) of Hudson, NH became the exclusive owner and distributor of [Tabi's Characters](http://www.tabischaracters.com): famous for its Broadway-quality costumes, Tabi's had become an icon in the costume industry, and upon the retirement of its principal owner, the decision was made to transfer all of Tabi's assets from their facility in Los Angeles to the Creative Costume facility in Hudson NH.

Since then, Creative Costuming has been absorbed in finding new ways to serve its expanding customer base, while ensuring that it remains a business of value to the local customers and communities which gave it its start.

"We may costume the stars, but our feet are firmly on the ground."

Let us help you make your dreams come true today.

<https://creativecostuming.store>

<http://costumesofnashua.com>

If you were a Tabi's wholesale customer, we would be pleased to speak to you about how we can best continue to earn your patronage. Call us at 603.882.5640 or email dressupnh@gmail.com to find out how we can help you continue to offer these iconic costumes- for as long as they're available.



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:

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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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