

International Costumer

Volume XVIII Issue 6

Nov - Dec 2019



President's Message

For the past several weeks there has been significant upheaval within the BoD. Many of you have followed it on Yahoo or Slack. As such, I would like to address a few issues pertinent to the guild at large.

First, Yahoo Groups is going away. Yahoo itself is shutting them down. While the specific timing came as a surprise, the shutdown was not unexpected. Two years ago the BoD formally approved Slack in anticipation of Yahoo's eventual closure.

At this year's annual meeting a motion to move the BoD's voting platform was approved as a response to Yahoo having a host of increasing and ongoing issues including users being unable to login, and messages unable to be sent or received. While Slack is not everyone's preferred platform and it can sometimes be hard to learn new programs, I'm grateful that the ICG was not caught unprepared like so many other yahoo groups that are now scrambling. Slack is available on all

platforms: in browser, desktop applications, and mobile devices. Slack is stable and has an excellent set of help pages to aid in learning the software.

Secondly, we have- or had, depending on developments before the newsletter is published, three new chapters that have submitted Letters of Petition to join the ICG. I am devastated that these costumers desire to join our organization has become mired in the toxic drama that is currently ongoing in the BoD. I would like to publicly state my support for these chapters and their members, and hope that the ICG will open its arms to them on their own merits rather than voting based on unrelated disagreements in the BoD.

As an organization we have sometimes been accused of being exclusive and elitist. In the past I have always vehemently countered these accusations and rumors. The ICG was a home for me for a decade, I've loved having the chance to visit chapters around the country when the opportunity has presented itself, and

the friends I've made have always been supportive and excited to meet costumers of every sort- no matter who they were. It is past time the ICG included non-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-bullying standards not only in our official documents but also in the everyday conduct of our members and official representatives. I hope that going forward the ICG and BoD can overcome its current issues to work together to pass such amendments as necessary.

Lastly, I can honestly say that I've done my best for the ICG as its president. I am not perfect and there are things I wish I had done differently or better, but I did what I could. I have strived to be fair and impartial in parliamentary procedure, regardless of my personal opinions. I have tried to help the ICG move forward and am particularly proud of the work that Jacalyn put into upgrading the website and what Leslie with the new Archives. Mera has worked hard heading up our efforts to gain more membership benefits like the fabric.com and Spoonflower discounts. There is a lot more that I

wish I could have accomplished but my plan that offered ideas- not dictates- has upset some individuals. Modernizing our organizational infrastructure, and opening the guild up to new cosplayers was my primary goal. However, none of it can be accomplished without the support of the BoD and members of the ICG.

Due to the conflicts within the BoD, I do not believe that I can be an effective leader, and that remaining in the office would only encourage the current filibuster of regular business to continue. I am deeply upset that it has come to this but cannot continue in the face of the vitriol and accusations, and I have submitted my resignation to the Board. I encourage all members to take a closer look around you. We can all work to be more inclusive, kinder, and act with integrity.

Please don't lose sight of the fact that we are all costumers and cosplayers. We do what we do because we love it and it's fun. Everyone in the ICG is a volunteer. There is no 'power' to seize control of, just an organization that

runs on the time and energy of its members.

Yours in costuming,
Marianne Pease
ICG Member

A Message from the Corresponding Secretary

Vicky Assarattanakul

Happy end of the year, everyone! Although Halloween is over and the holiday season will soon be in full swing, many of us still have conventions to create costumes for before 2019 is over. I will personally be attending Teslacon in November, and I am excited to see others from the ICG at this Steampunk convention.

Unfortunately, as many of you have heard, our President and Vice-President have resigned. As such, the Board of Directors is seeking nominations to fill these roles until our annual election in March at Costume-Con 38. If you have a nomination to make, please either post your nomination to the ICG-D or BoD Yahoo lists, or in the general or Board

of Directors channel in Slack. You may self-nominate if you feel that you can take on one of these roles. Voting and discussion will take place on Slack in the Board of Directors channel. This channel is public, if you wish to read any of the discussion.

Speaking of Slack, if anyone is in need of a tutorial to get set up, please see Marianne Pease's article in the March-April 2018 issue of *International Costumer*. Additionally, you can contact me at; icg-corr-secretary@costume.org if you are having difficulty getting onto the platform. I want to be certain that your voice is heard. Part of the reason that it is important to be sure that we have our membership on Slack is because Yahoo groups will be going away by the end of 2019. As of 28 October, 2019, no new content can be uploaded. Additionally, on December 14, 2019, all uploaded content will be deleted. Slack was intended to be the ICG's temporary communication platform until we could establish something internal that we had control over. However, with the resignation of

our President and Vice-President, this process has been delayed. Emotions have been high, and many are concerned about the future of the ICG. We have navigated our way through difficulties before and will do so now as well. As we look to appoint an interim President and Vice-President, we will do our best to be transparent and communicative with the organization. Please do not hesitate to speak up if you feel that there is a problem that needs to be addressed. The transitions within our organization may be a bit bumpy for a while, and I would personally like to ask for your support of the Board of Directors at this time. Please feel free to have your chapter representative bring any of your concerns before the board. You can always contact me as well if you have any issues that you would like addressed. The members of the International Costumers' Guild are talented, passionate people, and we want all of your voices to be heard so that we can make our organization better.

Co-Editor's Message

By Melina Chestley

There is a fair amount of upheaval going on within the ICG at the moment. I'm leaving that for others to comment on and am sending out a costuming distraction for those that might just need a moment to breathe. For those of you on Instagram, if you didn't participate in or already know about it, take a look at the hashtag #fallforcostume. This is an annual costuming prompt challenge issued by Redthreaded Corsets & Costumes (@redthreaded) for the month of October. One word prompt per day. This was my first year participating and it was a lot of fun. I have followed the challenge for a couple of years now and it has always been an interesting and, at times, a very inspiring thing to watch.

The next newsletter will be out for January 1st, 2020 (yes, we are that close to a new decade). December tends to be a busy month for a fair number of people and time passes without noticing. If there is something you'd like to submit for publication, I'm more

than willing to take it at any time. However, the deadline for any submission will be December 15th, 2019. Word format or email text is preferred. If you have any questions about the newsletter, how is put together or whether your idea would work as content, feel free to contact either Vicky or myself via email at; icg-newsletter@costume.org We welcome your input.

Thank you to Lisa Ashton, Shannon Portnyagin and Manu Henault & the CC38 team for their contributions to this month's newsletter.

About the Cover Photo:

Dancing couple from pixabay.com

A Trip to Leila's Hair Museum

By Lisa Ashton

In early July 2019, Karen Schnaubelt and I went on a road trip to fulfil a long-held dream of mine--to visit Leila's Hair Museum in Independence, Missouri. It was a dream that came true.

I initially learned about Victorian hair wreaths and jewelry about 10 or so years ago, when I became infatuated with Victorian dress, accessories, sewing techniques and domestic culture, and heard about "The Hair Museum" in Independence (also the



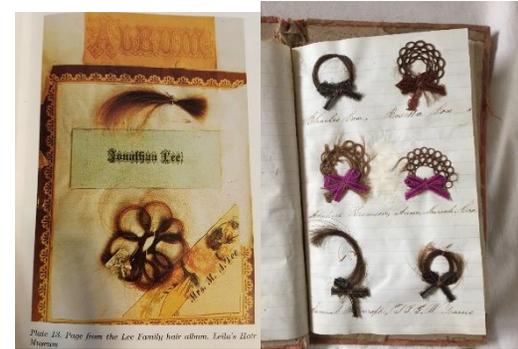
Karen Schnaubelt, Leila Cohoon, and I together in the anteroom of the Hair Museum in Independence, MO. No photography is allowed in the museum itself.

homestead of Harry and Bess Truman). Leila Cohoon (pronounced "Lee-eye-la") acquired her first piece of Victorian hair art in 1956, and has since gathered and displayed what is likely the world's largest single collection of hair art, not just framed hair wreaths, but jewelry including brooches, necklaces, watch chains, bracelets, rings, earrings, buttons and many other settings. No photographs are allowed

inside the museum, but here we are standing in the museum anteroom, already quite filled with marvelous pieces in ornate shadow box frames.

Leila was our personal guide through her museum the afternoon we were there. Through many years of evaluating and acquiring hair art pieces for her museum, she has identified 36 specific techniques of creating the hair wreaths and jewelry, and she teaches 32 of these in occasional workshops. Her book "Hair: The Lost Art of Hair Wreath Making" explains 35 techniques with many close up photos.

"To the Victorians, making a hair wreath was far more than making a flower from a family member's hair.....The wreaths on display in my museum are a combination of history, religious faith and the love of nature".
From Hair: The Lost Art of Hair Wreath Making, Leila Cohoon.



Left: A photo from the Lee Family Hair Album, in Leila's Hair Museum

Right: A page of a "hair friendship album", akin to an autograph album but with locks of hair, Miss Lizzy's private collection.

These albums were a very sentimental manifestation of Victorian expressions of warmth, affection, and friendship.

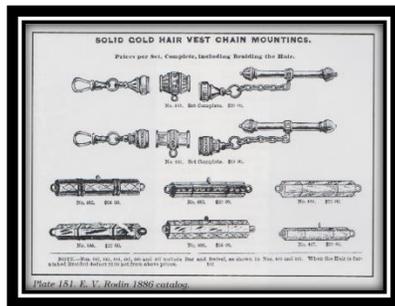
There are many hair wreaths that were worked with hair from multiple family members, generations, and friends, over many years. They commemorate deaths, anniversaries, marriages, and sometimes just friendship and affection.

In addition to History, religious faith, love of nature, and devotion to family and friends, there is a genealogy aspect to many hair wreaths, and often a sentimental purpose behind jewelry pieces made from hair such as

bracelets, watch chains, and brooches. They do not only signify death and mourning, but can be for friendship and love.



Catalog page from a Victorian-era catalog, showing a few of the jewelry designs that could be made for customers desiring to use their own hair, or a family member's hair, in a wearable piece of jewelry.



A few of the available findings for hair jewelry creations, from a catalog of the time Collectors Encyclopedia of Hairwork



A small part of Hair Wreath Miss Lizzy bought about 4 years ago and took out of its frame to restore and reframe it. One gets a sense of the delicacy and intricate needle arts talent required to create these designs.

Having Leila herself as our guide through the hundreds of displays of Hair Art was very special, and we had plenty of time to be overwhelmed by the beauty and intricacy of so many of the pieces. Some of the frames themselves were incredibly detailed, many gilded or beautifully carved wood. The large pieces are

astonishing; the miniatures enchanting. Then there are glass cases with shelves full of examples of brooches, rings, bracelets, watch fobs, pendants, earrings, and every type of jewelry and tiny keepsake you could imagine, all made with or incorporating hair, sometimes, even fur from beloved pets.

One of the most interesting items on display, for me, was a Victorian small vanity-like table with many small drawers and counter spaces, specifically made for doing hair work. It wasn't in an area where I could photograph it, unfortunately.

This museum is well worth the trip there. In addition Leila gives classes several times a year, teaching the techniques for creating wreaths and pictures with hair, that she has so painstakingly learned over the many years she has been collecting these masterpieces.

If you are interested in reading a further synopsis of Victorian Hair Work, this more complete article was published in the Virtual Costume, the Silicon Web's periodical, in 2016, and

has further photographs and examples of hair art, and can be downloaded in PDF format.

http://www.siwcostumers.org/vc_contents.html#v14_i3

Hair Jewelry and Hair Art in the Victorian Era - 2016 [v.14#3](#) page 17-22

Leila's Hair Museum, 1333 S. Noland Rd., Independence, MO 64055
Leilashairmuseum.net

Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Vintage Sewing Caddy Restoration

By Lisa Ashton



This vintage sewing caddy was given to me by an older lady whose husband had died and who had a garage full of antiques she needed to get rid of. She was going to throw it away, didn't know what it was. Very likely it was home-made by someone, for a useful caddy next to where they sat to sew, and could hold needles, pins and thread spools, with a long narrow slot in the back of the "seat" for scissors.



After I used wood lacquer stripper to clean it, and sanded it, and made sure there were no loose pieces, it looked improved.



Last steps were, first, to apply Golden Oak wood stain on it, and allow to dry, then to make the back and seat cushions, for needles and pins, then to find wooden spools to complete it!

Upcoming Event

Submitted by Shannon Portnyagin

The Countess of Melbury's Ball - March 14, 2020



Hosted at a beautiful estate in Walnut Grove, CA, our first annual 18th-century ball will be an unforgettable evening of historic immersion. The setting is 1789 in Georgian Era England and the guests will be invited to a private ball and evening hosted by the Countess of the estate.



Arriving in full costume, guests will be taken by horse and carriage up to the estate before they enter an enchanting candle-lit evening featuring a multi-course Georgian meal and beverages, card games and billiards, English Country Dance called by a British Dancemaster, and surprise live performances by skilled artists.

Further information can be found at the Ball's website:

www.countessofmelburysball.com
or call 916-741-2414



News from Costume-Con 38 by Manu Hénault and the CC38 Team

Bonjour! / Hi!

Directions

We have updated the "directions" section on our website.

Visit <http://costumecon38.org/en/location/directions/> for more details.

Memberships

We now have reached over 50% of our memberships capacity! If you know anyone who has not registered yet, tell them to hurry up! Register at:

<http://costumecon38.org/en/registration/>

Hotel

Our hotel block is now over 60% full. Hurry up, you have until February 11th, 2020 to reserve a room. More hotel and reservation details on our page at:

<http://costumecon38.org/en/location/hotel/>

Panels and workshops

Panels and workshops submission and suggestion are still in process. More details at:

<http://costumecon38.org/en/programming/panels-and-workshops>

New rates effective on January 1st, 2020

The following rates will go up on January 1st, 2020:

Attending membership – From \$115 to \$120

Special 4@3 membership – From \$345 to \$360

All other rates remain unchanged.

At any time you can reach us at

admin@costumecon38.org

Follow us here :

www.costumecon38.org



<https://www.facebook.com/CC38MTL/>



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2019 Newsletter Contributors

By Melina Chestley

I would like to send out a thank you to the following people who all contributed content for the newsletters of 2019 and a few of you did that more than once. Without any of you, Vicky and I would have a very difficult job.

Anne Davenport

Ariana Bauer

Jennifer Old-d'Entrement

Leo d'Entrement

Leslie Johnston

Lisa Ashton

Manu Henault & the CC38 Team

Sara Meserve

Shannon Portnyagin

Sick Pups

Vicky Assarattanakul

I know that there more of you out there who have experimented with techniques, have reviews about blog sites or books, have been to interesting and pertinent costuming outings or any other number of things that the rest of the guild would happily hear about. Feel free to contact us if you have questions or ideas regarding content. We'd love to hear from you.

In Memorium

Vicky Assarattanakul

As we were preparing the newsletter for distribution, we received the sad news of the loss of two members of the costuming community, Barbara Wright and Sue Kulinyi-Cannon.

Barbara Wright passed away on October 28, 2019. Barbara was a long-time member of the Chicago Costumers' Guild and previously served as their president. She also ran the masquerade at Chicago TARDIS for many years.

Sue Kulinyi-Cannon passed away on October 31st, 2019. Attendees of Costume-Con often saw Sue working

on the sidelines, helping to ensure that the various stage presentations were recorded. Sue and her husband, Eric, have made the presentations of many conventions available on DVD for us to purchase and view.

The losses of both of these individuals are devastating to the costuming community, and their presence will be missed. The ICG expresses its condolences for the families and friends of Barbara and Sue.

The ICG Archives creates an In Memoriam video that is typically presented during the CC masquerade halftime show. Please send any videos and photos that you may have of Barbara and Sue to the archivists.

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:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1656188>

Send comments and suggestions to:

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icg-board@costume.org

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icg-financecommittee@costume.org

Costuming Arts & Sciences Grant Fund

icg-grants@costume.org

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Technology & Web Committee:

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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 "time2stitch"