

# International Costumer

*The Newsletter of the International Costumers' Guild*

Volume XXI Issue 5

Sep-Oct 2022



The Co-director of Costume-Con® 39 provides an update about planning and progress

## From the President's Desk

By Kevin Roche

### Getting ready for Chicon 8

All right, then. As the world continues adjusting to whatever version of “normal” we have day by day, we’re coming up on the first “normal” Worldcon in 3 years. I’d be lying if I said I was not excited at the prospect of our trip to Chicon 8 at the end of August.

I’m signed up to be on a short collection of program items – one a costume-problem-solving Q&A panel, another on effective stage presentation, a reprise of my (reportedly very accessible and fun) Introduction to Quantum Computing, and a Table Talk (a beverage-free-because-of-the-pandemic equivalent to a kaffeeklatsch or Literary



*Silicon Valley Pride is August 27-29, so Happy Pride Again!*

Beer), where a small group can talk with me about whatever we choose to discuss.

I am not planning to enter the Masquerade, but to enjoy it from the audience, and at this time I am not working on it either. Chicagoland Costumers’ Guild is running it, and if you are there and have the bandwidth, I hope you can pitch in and help. (I have been involved in running, hosting, or judging every Worldcon Masquerade save one since 2015, so I’m sure y’all will forgive me for taking a short break.)

That doesn’t mean the costume-bunnies have not been nibbling at my brain, however. Andy and I made 3 trips to the greater DC area in the course of 5 months in the last year, and every single time at least one frazzled mom in the airport pointed me out to their kids as “Rainbow Dash” (from *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic*) in an attempt to calm/distract them.

While that isn’t why I shifted to rainbow-colored from zebra-striped hair, I certainly don’t mind the comparison. Rainbow Dash is a great character – an aerobicic weather-manipulating Pegasus tomboy with a valiant



*Rainbow Dash*

heart (and has mortifyingly supportive parents). She’s awesome. (I recommend the series even to adults; it’s a lot of fun, has a great girl-power centered writing, and an amazing voice cast.)



*Clip-on rainbow ponytail fall*

So I have embraced the magic and am working up wardrobe pieces for a Rainbow Dash-inspired hall costume. I already have the mane, so I’m whipping up a tail, wings, and will put embroidered “cutie mark” patches onto the back pocket of some stretch jeans shorts (cutie marks appear on the flank of the MLP character when they come into their own). Dash wears goggles when doing particularly extreme aerobicic maneuvers, so I got a nifty pair with changeable lenses for further punctuation of the look.

### Horsing around at the rodeo

Right after we get back from Chicon, we are loading up the car and driving to Guerneville for the first Bay Area Gay Rodeo ([www.bayarearodeo.com](http://www.bayarearodeo.com)) since the lockdown. I’ve agreed to be the volunteer coordinator (partly because I’m comfortable with the digital interface we’re using to manage them) and am looking forward to a probably small but fun weekend.

We are also (as we have for many years) sponsoring a number of award buckles and a special Team Costume cash prize for the “Wild Drag Race” event. I’ll try to have photos of the winners for y’all next issue (as well as the assembled Rainbow Dash).

That’s it for now – hope to see many of you in Chicago!

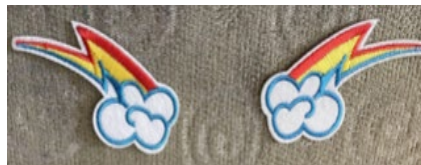
**Stay safe. Stay well. Make friends. Make beautiful things to wear and show off!** And then share pictures with us so we can ooh and aah over them.



*Signature 2-layer wings from EVA foam*



*Nifty goggles.*



*Embroidered cutie mark patches*

## Guest Editor’s Letter

*By Philip Gust*

Welcome to the September-October 2022 issue of *The International Costumer*, the newsletter of the International Costumers’ Guild (ICG). As a member of the ICG Publications Committee, I have been your Guest Editor for the most recent nine issues while we look for a permanent editor and supporting staff.

After publishing calls for close to two years for volunteers who have experience writing or editing for a newsletter, or are interested in learning, it seems increasingly unlikely that there are members with the skillset or interest. I will be stepping down as Guest Editor after the next issue. I will continue to publish calls for volunteers until then, in case we have new members, or current members whose circumstance change, and who are able to volunteer for these positions.

**Editor(s):** responsible for soliciting content and creating the newsletter. Two people could be co-editors.

**Website helpers;** responsible for uploading the newsletter to the website and posting newsletter announcements to members.

I am willing to collaborate with volunteers on up to two issues to help them get started.

The Newsletter Editor is also the Chair of the Publications Committee, and as Guest Editor, I am also acting in that capacity temporarily. The committee is beginning to discuss the role of the newsletter in our organization as a way to disseminate information to members, and to consider other ways to accomplish

that going forward. Many organizations are having similar conversations. I will report on progress in the next issue.

In this issue, several chapters report on news about their members and activities. The Pat and Peggy Kennedy Memorial Archives and the Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences fund have also provided updates. Next, a co-chair of Costume-Con 39 shares information about progress and how planning for the event in April 2023 is coming along. Finally Kathe Gust offers her insights about a recently-published book on leathercrafting.

## In Memoriam – Chuck Cady

*By Tasha Cady, Southwest Costumers’ Guild*

With great sadness I announce the passing of Chuck Cady, long-time local fan, costume wearer (with his family), art collector (particularly centaurs), and SWCG member.

Chuck passed away of natural causes on the morning of Friday, August 5th according to his wife and SWCG Treasurer/newsletter editor Tasha Candy. He willed his body to the



*Chuck and Tasha Cady host SWCG luncheon at their home a few years ago. Photo: Randall Whitlock.*

University of Arizona medical school. A celebration of his life was held on Sept. 3rd at his family home in Glendale, Arizona.

Chuck was known for humorous costuming to body type:

- He was the Cyclops with a 10 year old Odysseus and his 7-10 year old crew
- With his baby son Sam he did “Zaphod Beeblebrox’s younger and older brother”
- With his wife of 20 some years, he did “Nymph and Satyr – 20 years later”

RIP – he will be missed.

### **Silicon Web Costumers’ Guild Virtual Salons and Webinars on Zoom**

*From the August 2022 issue of the chapter’s “The Virtual Costumer” magazine.*

Silicon Web Costumers’ Guild (SiW) is the virtual chapter of the ICG, with members throughout North America. Most member interactions happen online through its member forum or via social media. The only time that members meet in person is at conventions like Costume-Con or Worldcon.

Now that the ICG has made its Zoom video conferencing account available to chapters and SIGs, the SiW board conducted a member survey on having regular “virtual” chapter meetings and other events on Zoom. The survey asked for member input about this.

The survey showed that members were enthusiastic about trying it out. The most popular topics according to members were how-tos/demos/workshops, outside speakers, and

show-and-tells about member projects. Histories of costume-related topics, virtual tours, and general socializing were also mentioned.

When to meet was the most difficult question to analyze. There were no obvious overlapping times, as member schedules varied across four time zones, both on weekdays and weekends. The board finally decided to schedule two times per month initially, one on the second Wednesday of the month in the evening, and the other on the third Sunday in the afternoon. These are “virtual salons” where members can drop in and share anything they are working on. The first virtual salons took place in August. Members receive session information quarterly by email.

The chapter is also developing a series of virtual events on specific topics that will usually take place at one of the regularly-scheduled meeting dates. These will include how-tos, demos, workshops, and presentations by outside speakers. Events will be announced to members and listed on the chapter’s new “Calendar” web page (<https://siwcostumers.org/calendar.html>). Registration may be required for these events. The chapter hopes to add hands-on workshops at some point.



The series begins in September with a presentation by Ukrainian folk artist Vera Sukhorukova, who will join us virtually from her home outside the capital of Kyiv. Her presentation is about traditional and modern embroidered Ukrainian wedding towels (Rushnyk).

These towels play important roles in traditional Ukrainian wedding ceremonies. Vera will talk about and show pictures of these elaborately embroidered towels, from ancient times and those being made now. She will also show various stitch techniques and discuss the meaning of symbols used in the embroidery patterns.

This free event is on Sunday, September 18 from 11am-1pm PT, 2pm-4pm ET. It is made possible in part by a generous grant from the Marty Gear Costume Arts and Sciences fund.

#### **Registration information**

Registration for SiW members began in late August and is now open to all ICG members: [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpd-hqzkoEtewT5G6k6wtOsJk3lFuXd\\_1](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpd-hqzkoEtewT5G6k6wtOsJk3lFuXd_1)

### **Marty Gear Fund Grant Awarded**

*By Byron Connell, Chair of the Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund.*

In July 2022, the Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund approved Philip Gust’s application on behalf of SiW to support development of a webinar series drawing on the expertise of presenters located anywhere in the world, who will provide talks, workshops, tours, and how-to demos about topics of interest to costumers. The webinars will use the ICG’s Zoom conferencing system. They will help promote the ICG and further its educational mission.

The initial three or four webinars are scheduled to begin in the fall of 2022 and continue

through the summer of 2023. The initial presenters will be members of the costuming community of Ukraine, who will address Ukrainian costuming and folk wear topics. SiW intends to offer presenters from diverse communities world-wide an established channel for sharing their expertise. Presenters also will be encouraged to prepare written contributions to *The Virtual Costumer*, SiW's online magazine (<http://www.siwcostumers.org/vc>). If the initial series is a success, SiW may expand it to include workshops to give hands-on instruction to participants.

The \$800 grant will help SiW cover expenses associated with developing and presenting an initial series of webinars and making them available at no cost to participants to help build an audience for the series. The initial webinars will enable it to gauge interest, establish a format, and explore ways to make the webinars sustainable and self-supporting in the long-run. SiW will share this experience with ICG chapters and SIGs.

The Ukrainian presenters will receive honoraria of \$200 each for their work. Other presenters may or may not receive honoraria, depending on circumstances. ICG members will not be eligible for honoraria paid from the grant. SiW will provide the Fund short reports following each webinar and its board's assessment of their success. A final report will include details on the logistics of developing, presenting, and promoting the series, issues encountered, and an overall assessment of the series' success.

The Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund was created in 2014 to make

grants to any member of the ICG for innovative projects and activities promoting the art and science of costuming, either in a specific locale or in the community as a whole. Past grant recipients have included Miss Lizzy's Traveling Historical Fashion Show, the Costume-Con Visual Archive, and the Transformations: CosplayPortraiture Project. To date, the Fund has never denied a grant.



The Fund is named in honor of Marty Gear, a founder of the ICG and a strong supporter of costumers branching out and trying new things. It is supported by a combination of ICG membership dues and the generosity of individual and institutional donors. For more information, including a complete list of all approved grants and information on applying for a grant, contact Byron Connell at [icg-grants@costume.org](mailto:icg-grants@costume.org) or visit the Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences section on the ICG website. (<http://costume.org/wp/marty-gear-costuming-arts-and-sciences-fund/>)

### Update on the ICG Archives

*By Bruce Mai, Associate ICG Archivist*

The ICG Pat and Peggy Kennedy Memorial Archives has been identified as the Guild's best promotional tool, putting 80+ years of convention costuming history onto the Internet. Most ICG membership have heard of "the Archives" but some of the more recent ones may not be fully aware of the functions and people behind it so let us reacquaint you!

First, some history: the collection was first started by Carl Mami. As he was videotaping the masquerades of the 1980s, it occurred to him that the images of this art form were not being preserved for people to see how it had evolved over the years. To that end, he founded the ICG Library. He made acquaintances with other photographers and videographers at the conventions he and his wife Elaine attended, collecting copies of their material. In addition to the images, he made efforts to collect paper ephemera from conventions, like convention program books, Guild chapter newsletters, the Guild's own publication called the *Costumers Quarterly*, the *CostumAPA* (a story for another day) and paperwork of the ICG's proceedings.

The Library was established in the basement of Carl and Elaine's house in New Jersey. He did his best to organize, catalogue and store all that material and keep it in good condition. Technically, anyone could access records, but they had to travel to the Mamis' house. For a few years, he would bring a slide and/or video "Road Show" to certain conventions so that others could see a small part of the collection. When their friend and costumer Patrick Kennedy died in 1995, the Library was renamed in his honor. His wife and costumer Peggy passed away in 2000, and her name was added. Somewhere around that time (as early as 1999), the Library became "The Archives".

As the 21st Century began, Carl was making use of digital technology to scan all the photos and documents for storage on CDs. It was still a daunting task, and he was aware that

videotapes were beginning to deteriorate. In the early 2000s, he had personally paid for the early digitizing equipment, along with a few donations from individuals and guild chapters. Even with help from family members, it got harder to keep up with collecting and digitizing, especially while serving as the ICG President from 2003-2006.

By that last year, he stepped away from both the Archives and the President's position for health reasons. At this time the process of transferring the collection to the new Archivist, Pierre Pettinger (with consent from Sandy, of course!) had begun. Nora and I offered to help to continue collecting and digitizing records. As ICG President, Nora set in motion the effort to put the Archive photo records online. By approximately 2008, the first iteration of the International Costumers Gallery was available, at one point containing several thousands of photos from the Archives and personal collections.



By the middle of the second decade, the software for the Gallery had become obsolete and could no longer run. Initial research for new facilities was performed by Philip Gust. Leslie Johnston joined the team in 2019 and lent her technical expertise as an archivist for the National Archives to help with the transition from the old Gallery files to a new online archiving software that can also host exhibits. To that end, the team

eventually met in person in Columbus, Ohio to discuss organization and timetables. The Gallery was back on line in April 2021.

There are literally hundreds of thousands of convention photos yet to be inventoried and uploaded, making the task to catalogue it all a bit overwhelming. The team has set some priorities in regards with what should be handled first. Pierre Pettinger is most familiar with the Worldcon masquerades. Based on the thought that Gallery visitors will be most interested in seeing photos from the most recent years, he has been working backwards in time, which makes it easier to gather all the data about each masquerade entry.

At this writing, Nora has completed inventorying Costume-Con 40 non-official photos donated to the Archives, which is some 2500 images. At some point, she will turn her attention back to the multi-year project cataloguing the thousands of photo prints on loan from photographer Jack Krolak.

Another ongoing project has been inventorying the Pettingers' personal collection. This collection of 90-odd photo albums is unique in that they are organized alphabetically by individual costumer names. We've been inventorying those on and off for several years. About half of them have been scanned, inventoried and loaded on the Gallery already. The plan is to finish that project next year (and get them out of our basement!).

With research that is gleaned from online and offline sources, I've been working to identify the costumers in older Worldcon photos and the awards they won. When that work is

complete, several new exhibits will be created, drawing from different collections that will become the biggest record of Worldcon costuming during the 1970s anywhere.

Those are the priorities for the team at this writing. There are many other costuming events to be inventoried and uploaded. Smaller collections from the past will most likely be uploaded more often as well.

While no official Costume-Con photos will appear on the Gallery, the Archives has received many photos taken by conference attendees. What makes these interesting is they often include hall costumes, which show a different kind of creativity than competition pieces. These can reveal more of a costumer's personality.

It has been mentioned before, but it bears repeating – the Archivists are always interested in more than one source for event photos because they may show a different angle of a costume's detail, construction or design. The Archives offers free professional scanning in return for a digital copy for preservation.

It's a lot of work to get most of the collections up on the Gallery by just three people, we are reaching a point where volunteers could be trained to help with data entry. It just requires enthusiasm, dedication and a knowledge of working with spreadsheets.

Now that some of the team are either retired or soon to retire, we hope we can accelerate the inventorying the photo collections, but it will still depend on balancing free time, house maintenance and fun activities that may or may not be related to costuming!

## Update on Costume-Con 39

By Jennifer "Radar" Wylie, Costume-Con 39 co-chair.

Costume-Con is an international convention, that moves to a new location every year, with a new hosting committee as well. Costume-Con has been around for 40 years! Each year, Costume-Con starts on Friday morning and ends Monday afternoon. It's all about costuming and cosplay and encompasses everything from anime, comics, fantasy, sci-fi, fur-suiting, theater, television, film, millinery, accessories, and more.

There are panels, workshops, exhibits, five competitive events (all on different days) including two full Masquerade competitions (science fiction & fantasy and historical), a vendor's hall, and lots of hall costuming to behold. Our Maker Guest of Honor is "Evil Ted" Smith, a professional prop maker and foam crafter. More information about the history of Costume-Con can be found at <https://www.costume-con.org> which includes the Visual Archive and other documents.

This upcoming one is Costume-Con 39. Christine Doyle and I are co-chairs. The convention was originally slated to run in 2021 but due to COVID, the convention had to "jump over" Costume-Con 40, which was held in April of 2022, and Costume-Con 39 unofficially became Costume-Con 41 as there were no bids for that year. Numbering resumes with Costume-Con 42 which will be in the Denver, Colorado metropolitan area in 2024. Bids are open to host Costume-Con 43 in 2025. For information about how the bidding process works visit: <http://costume->

[con.org/constitution/how-to-bid-for-a-costume-con-conference/](http://costume-con.org/constitution/how-to-bid-for-a-costume-con-conference/)

For more information about Costume-Con 39 in San Jose in April 2023 and to purchase your membership, please visit the <https://costumecon39.org> website. There you will find information about booking a hotel room, purchasing a membership, getting a fan table for your organization, hosting a party on our hospitality floor, information about how to enter our events, becoming a vendor, and getting directions to our venue- which is less than a mile from the San Jose (SJC) airport.

If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a staff member or a volunteer, please send them to [info@costumecon39.org](mailto:info@costumecon39.org)

## Book Review: *Leathercrafting*

By Kathe Gust, *Silicon Web Costumers' Guild*.



*Leathercrafting: a Step by Step, Beginners Guide to Creating Leather Armour, Costume & Accessories for Ren Events, SCA, LARP, Cosplay, Film & Theatre* by Alex Agricola. 2022. Kindle or Paperback \$20 - \$33

This is a well-organized instructional guide to learning how to design and craft leather armor, costumes, and accessories. Full of professional tips and tricks gathered over 25+ years, this is by far the most comprehensive

book that has ever been brought together in one publication.

The book was originally produced to support students following online courses provided by The Black Raven Academy and includes QR code links to short demonstration videos. Whether the readers' interest lies in Renaissance fairs, SCA events, LARP, Cosplay, Theatre, and TV productions, the solid set of guidelines and processes will enable them to learn the basics.

Full of professional tips and tricks from over 25+ years of practice, the book discusses not merely basic how-tos, but also goes into design philosophy, body mechanics, and purpose-appropriate materials. Many ideas in the book will also be of interest to those working with foam and thermoplastics.

Nothing has been overlooked. Readers will discover where to source materials and tools, pattern making, leather tooling, water forming, leather hardening, coloring, gilding, finishing, and even where to find inspiration in everyday things. It is well written and includes beautiful pictures. The class styled structure of the text covering the creation of armor from inspiration to final touches is easy to understand and follow.

Alex Agricola is the Founder of Black Raven Armoury and The Black Raven Academy. His previous book is *The Crystal Anvil*.

<https://www.amazon.com/LEATHER-CRAFTING-Beginners-Creating-Leather-Accessories-ebook/dp/B09RCQFJ1R>.

## About the ICG

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

### ICG Online

**ICG Website:** <http://www.costume.org/>

**ICG Facebook group:** <https://www.facebook.com/internationalcostumers>

### ICG Gallery

<https://gallery.costume.org/>

### Members-only Google discussion group:

<https://groups.google.com/a/costume.org/g/cos-chat>

### ICG Board meeting Google group:

<http://groups.google.com/u/6/a/board.costume.org/g/meeting>

### Use Amazon Smile to support the ICG:

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

### Board of Directors:

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### Technology & Web Committee:

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### Guidelines Committee:

<http://guidelines-committee@board.costume.org>

## ICG Member Benefits

Member 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* newsletter.

### ICG Officers

**President:** Kevin Roche

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### About the *International Costumer*

The *International Costumer* newsletter is published bi-monthly. The current issue is for

members only. Back issues are available to the costume 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 editor at [newsletter@costume.org](mailto:newsletter@costume.org). All graphics formats are accepted.

### Contacting the Editor

Please contact the editor to report problems, or to offer comments and suggestions:

[newsletter@costume.org](mailto: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 update your information or change your preference, contact your local chapter. 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. The online edition is at <http://costume.org/wp/the-international-costumer-newsletter/>. The password is "Upd8OnCC39".

### Editorial Board

Kathe Gust, Philip Gust, Andrea Lewis, Betsy Marks, Patrick O'Connor, Kevin Roche, Jeanine Swick, Randall Whitlock.

### Writing for the *International Costumer*

Members, chapters, and SIGs are encouraged to share projects, skills, or events with the costuming community by writing an article for the *International Costumer*. Articles by new or long-time costumers are welcome. For information or to submit an article contact the editor at [newsletter@costume.org](mailto:newsletter@costume.org).