

The International Costumer

The newsletter of the International Costumers' Guild, Inc.

Vol XXII Issue 1 - April 2023



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From The President's Desk: April 2023

Greetings from the International Robogames! I am volunteering at this year's event rather than competing, putting my event-running skills to use to help the organizers keep things going smoothly and safely; it's amazing how much similarity there is between running Costume-Con and a robotic competition weekend (although costumes *are* less likely to actively attempt to destroy each other compared to combat robots). This year I was honored and privileged to perform the US national anthem in the opening ceremonies; a role for which I wore my "anthem shirt" of starred and striped bunting.



Singing the "Star-Spangled Banner" at Robogames

In just two weeks is Costume-Con 39 and our 2023 Annual Meeting, at 11AM on Friday April 21 in the San Martin room at the Doubletree San Jose (the board gathers at 10AM to receive officer and committee reports). [This year's Agenda is posted and accessible online](#). We do not have any big agenda items requested in advance for the annual meeting beyond my President's report and recaps of those other reports, and our annual nomination and selection of the corporate officers. You can preview the reports at <https://costume.org/wp/bod-meeting-minutes/> (note that a few are being presented in person and may appear on the website later.) We have a couple of questions I've been asked to put on the agenda, but I believe those can be

simply and relatively quickly dealt with. Note: because I do not anticipate any urgent or dramatic business, at this time we are *not* planning to attempt a hybrid Zoom/in-person meeting because it is so difficult to properly include remote participants. If that changes we will post log-in information as soon as we have it.

That doesn't mean we don't have things to discuss! Several people have expressed a desire for discussion about how the ICG might adapt and thrive in our current post-lockdown, ever more highly digitally connected society, and how to encourage the growth of our community. That kind of conversation rarely works well in the formal constraints of the business meeting. So, later that day, at 1pm, we'll be doing a "Meet The ICG" gathering in one of the CC39 meetup rooms, and I encourage any attending members to come in and join in more free-wheeling and informal discussion of where we want to go.

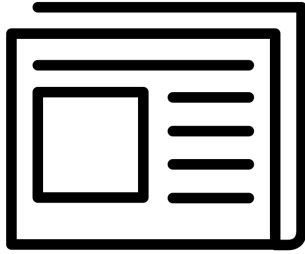
I'm building one very fun hall costume based on game design artwork by my friend Joe Phillips, and *may* have another finished in time for the F&SF masquerade, but I've had to promise my Andy to not make myself miserable if that proves impossible.

I look forward to seeing many of you in San Jose in 2 weeks! If you are not attending in person, [please take the time to fill out a proxy form](#) so online your vote may be counted as needed during the annual meeting; you may assign your proxy to your chapter representative or any member in good standing who will be present at the meeting.

Kevin Roche
President, International Costumers' Guild

From the Publications Committee

The *International Costumer* is now configured to operate without an editor. Articles are published as blog posts on the "[International Costumer](#)" page of the ICG website. Authors create their own posts rather than submitting content to an



editor, making content available immediately (continuous publication).

We also automated aggregating recent posts into an issue of the newsletter. This eliminates the need for an editor to assemble and lay out an issue by hand. It takes only a few minutes to

generate a PDF file for an issue directly from the posts. The January 2023 and all later issues are created this way.

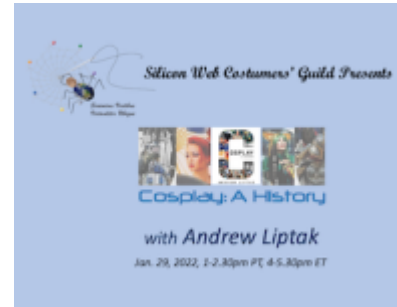
Members who have provided an email address will periodically receive email with summaries and links to recent posts that are copied from the “International Costumer” webpage. When a new issue of the newsletter is published, members will also receive email with the issue PDF file. A small number of members who need a print edition will receive a monochrome, double-sided printout of the issue PDF file by postal mail. Issues are also available for downloading from the “International Costumer” webpage.

We are relying on officers and staff to author required announcements and reports as blog posts, which will then be included in the newsletter. Reminders can be automated to a degree. For other content, it is up to chapters, SIGs, and individual members to author posts to let other members know what they and their groups are up to. Even if an editor eventually volunteers, the only role that is not currently automated is soliciting articles from chapters, SIGs, and members, which often benefits from personal contact.

To help authors get started, I have created a [“International Costumer Blog Videos”](#) playlist on the ICG YouTube channel with videos demonstrating how to create blog posts using WordPress. To set up an author account or for advice or assistance, contact newsletter-editor@costume.org. I will create additional videos on authoring posts as needed.

Philip Gust
Chair, ICG Publications Committee

“Cosplay: A History” SiW Webinar Video Available



On January 29, 2023, the Silicon Web Costumer’s Guild (SiW) welcomed Andrew Liptak, who discussed his book [Cosplay: A History](#). The book is a deep dive into the origins and culture of cosplay that covers a wide swath of its history to understand where it

came from, how it has evolved, and why it has become such a mainstream phenomenon.

In his talk, Andrew also described how he came up with the idea for the book, and talked about doing research for it and learning about the history of cosplay from its earliest days until today.

According to Adam Savage, who wrote the introduction to the book, “Andrew has done a great service to the world by writing this book and treating this beautiful art with the seriousness it deserves, despite cosplay’s penchant for absurdity.”

Andrew Liptak is a writer and historian, and a member of the 501st Legion, an international fan-based organization dedicated to the dark side of Star Wars.

A recording of Andrew’s talk with generated closed captioning, is available on the [“Webinars and Workshops”](#) page of the SiW website.

This talk was part of the SiW webinar series, with speakers on a variety of topics about costumes and costuming. .It was made possible in part through a generous grant from the International Costumers’ Guild [Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund](#). The chapter also acknowledges the ICG for making its Zoom platform available to chapters and SIGs.

The next webinar in the series is “Making and Styling Wigs for Costumers” on March 14, 2023. Fashion historian and costumer Kendra Van Cleave will discuss how costumers can learn to make and style wigs for their costumes. She will also talk about her book, [18th Century Hair and Wig Styling](#), which includes an entire section with step-by-step guides for working with natural and synthetic wigs and hair pieces. Registration is now open.

Philip Gust
Silicon Web Costumers’ Guild webinar coordinator

“Making and Styling Wigs for Costumers” SiW Webinar Video Available



On March 12, 2023, Kendra Van Cleave gave a talk entitled “Making and Styling Wigs for Costumers” as part of the Silicon Web Costumer’s Guild (SiW) webinar series. Kendra discussed how costumers can learn to make and style wigs for their costumes. She also

talked about her book, [18th Century Hair & Wig Styling](#), which includes an entire section with step-by-step guides for working with natural and synthetic wigs and hairpieces, from simple designs to the most elaborate creations.

Van Cleave is a fashion historian, academic librarian, and award-winning costumer. She has served on the board of the Costume Society of America Western Region, and is a past president of the Greater Bay Area Costumers’ Guild. She reviews historical costumes in movies and television at [Frock Flicks](#), blogs on her website [Démodé](#), creates tutorials, and publishes articles.

A recording of Kendra’s talk, with automatically generated closed captioning, is available on the “[Webinars and Workshops](#)” page of the SiW website.

This talk was part of the SiW webinar series, with speakers on a variety of topics related to costumes and costuming. It was made possible in part through a generous grant from the International Costumers’ Guild [Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund](#). The chapter also acknowledges the ICG for making its Zoom platform available to chapters and SIGs.

This was the final webinar in the Spring 2023 term. The chapter will announce speakers for the Fall term later this summer.

Philip Gust
Silicon Web Costumers’ Guild webinar coordinator

DC Cosplay Photo Shoots SIG Hosts Exhibition



The [DC Cosplay Photo Shoots Special Interest Group](#) (SIG) hosted an exhibition from February 4-11 at the Vulcan Muse Gallery in the Workhouse Arts Center of the work that guests to their events have made over the years.

SIG chair Dan Arango said that they are very excited to show off costumes and photographs to the general public and to educate them on the arts and crafts of costuming and costuming photography. This is the first time the SIG have ever been featured in an art gallery.

The SIG also participates in the Second Saturday Art Walk where people can meet members and chat about their nonprofit and outreach activities. According to Dan, these events are a great way for people to get to know members of the SIG a little better without having to attend a photo collaboration event or workshops. See the listing for the event on [Instagram](#)

Kathe Gust
Silicon Web Costumers’ Guild

Join the ICG Facebook Discussion Group



Did you know that the ICG has a Facebook group for member discussions? The ICG Discussion Group has posts by members about costumes and costuming. You will also be the first to see ICG news and announcements, and the latest posts from the *International Costumer* blog.

Joining is easy. Just go to the [Facebook ICG Discussion Group](#) and select the “Join” button. Once you do, you may see posts to the group in your Facebook feed. The more you interact with posts by liking or sharing, the more likely you are to see more of them. You can also [configure your Facebook settings](#) to receive notifications of new posts and responses by email.

Join the Facebook ICG Discussion Group now to stay up to date with your fellow costumers and ICG news and announcements.

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

Helpful Hands

- **International Costumer Editor:** Philip Gust, acting (newsletter@costume.org)
Print Edition: Patrick O'Connor
- **Webmaster:** Philip Gust (webmaster@costume.org)
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Assistant Archivists: Bruce Mai, Nora Mai
- **Gallery Administrator:** Nora Mai (gallery-admin@costume.org)
Gallery Webmaster: Leslie Johnston
- **GEL Administrator:** Bruce MacDermott (gel-admin@costume.org)
Assistant GEL Administrator: Elaine Sims
- **Parliamentarian:** Pierre E. Pettinger, Jr. (icg-parliamentarian@costume.org)

About *The International Costumer*

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.

Annual Meeting Proxy Form

This Proxy Statement is for ICG members who will not be attending the ICG Annual Meeting. To vote, print and complete the form and give it to someone who will be attending. You must sign this form for it to be valid. You can also submit your proxy online at <https://forms.gle/e3EBj4HchvKFiwDE8>.

On this _____ day of _____, 20_____, I, _____,

assign my vote to and authorize the below named member of the International Costumers' Guild,

belonging to _____ Chapter, to represent me in

all business coming before the 20_____ Annual Meeting of the International Costumers' Guild.

Assignee Name*: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Assigner Name**: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Signature: _____

*Who you are authorizing to vote on your behalf. **Your name.