

# The International Costumer

---

The newsletter of the International Costumers' Guild, Inc.

*Vol XXIII Issue 3 - July 2024*



<https://www.costume.org>

Copyright © 2024 The International Costumers' Guild, Inc.

## 2024 ICG Annual Meeting Reelects Officers, Welcomes New Chapters

By Philip Gust



The 2024 ICG Annual Meeting was held on Friday morning March 29 2024 during Costume-Con 42 in Aurora, Colorado. The items of business were to approve the application for a new chapter and to elect ICG Officers for the 2024-2025 term. Both meetings were also available online

through the ICG's Zoom account.

### Board of Directors Meeting

At the Board of Directors meeting, ICG President Kevin Roche noted that the ICG had lost several chapters over the past year due to inactivity or other chapter issues. However he welcomed a new chapter, *Maryland Costumers and Cosplayers* that joined recently, During the meeting, the ICG Board also voted to approve the application of another chapter that had recently applied, the *Pennsylvania Haunted Cosplay Guild*, aka "Gargoyle Players". A member from each of them will join the ICG Board of Directors to represent their chapters. Kevin said that he looked forward to the enthusiasm and energy from members of these new chapters.

Other officers, administrators, and committee chairs also presented brief summaries of their reports, which are available in full on the [BOD & Meeting Minutes](#) page of the ICG website.

### Member Meeting

At the Members meeting, Kevin presented his President's report and welcomed the two new chapters. Other officers, administrators, and committee chairs also presented brief summaries of their reports.

The main order of business was the selection of a slate of candidates as ICG Officers for the 2024-2025 term. Since all current officers agreed to stand for re-election and there were no further nominees, members voted to select these candidates by acclamation.

Under nonprofit corporation law in the State of Maryland where the ICG is incorporated, members select a slate of candidates and present them to the ICG Board for election. Following the member meeting, the ICG Board briefly reconvened and elected the slate of candidates selected by the members, including

- President: Kevin Roche
- Vice President: Leslie L. Johnston
- Treasurer: Jeanine Swick
- Corresponding Secretary: Merrily Wolf
- Recording Secretary: Anne Davenport

For more information about each of the officer, visit the [Officer Profiles](#) page of the ICG website.

Draft minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting will be posted by the Recording Secretary on the [BOD & Meeting Minutes](#) page of the ICG website prior to the 2025 Annual Meeting.

## Jeanine Swick Receives 2024 ICG Lifetime Achievement Award

By Kevin Roche

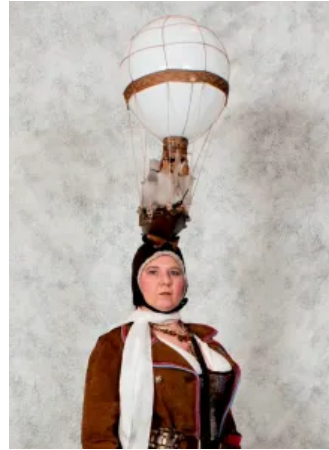
On March 30, 2024, ICG President Kevin Roche presented the ICG's highest honor, the ICG Lifetime Achievement Award, to Jeanine Swick. The award was presented at the Science Fiction and Fantasy masquerade at Costume-Con 42 in Aurora, Colorado.

The award is made in recognition of the formidable role she has played for over 15 years in both the International Costumers' Guild and in the wider costuming community.

For her many years of service to the ICG, her role in the wider costuming community, and her costuming skills, Jeanine Swick was selected by the LAA electors to receive the 2024 Award.

View [her LAA award page](#) to learn more about her.

Here is the complete text of Kevin Roche's announcement at Costume-Con 42:



Jeanine Swick, Recipient of the 2024 ICG LAA

---

*One of the responsibilities and privileges of being the President of the ICG is administering the selection process for and presentation of the International Costumers Guild Lifetime Achievement Award.*

*The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes a body of achievement in the costuming art and service to the costuming community. Candidates for the award:*

- *Shall have been active in the costuming community for at least 10 years.*
- *Shall have achieved significant recognition for their costuming skills, which may be in the form of, but not restricted to, competitive awards, professional accomplishments, teaching of skills, and/or media recognition.*
- *Shall have made significant contributions in service to the costuming community.*

*Any ICG member, chapter or special interest group in good standing may nominate candidates; the selection is done by the Chapter Presidents and elected ICG officers via secret ballot administered by the President.*

*This year we had \*seven\* deserving nominees, and it is my privilege tonight to announce the 2024 recipient.*



Kevin Roche presents 2024 LAA to Jeanine Swick.

*For over fifteen years this costumer has played a formidable role, both for the International Costumers' Guild and in the wider costuming community.*

### ***Service to the ICG***

*As ICG Treasurer since 2009, they have exceeded all expectations in performing the duties of the office. Not only have they ensured that the ICG's finances have been impeccably maintained and annual budgets prepared and submitted, but they have also performed all the*

*membership functions including interacting with chapters on monthly membership updates, contacting chapters who have become delinquent, and in a few cases the difficult job of notifying chapters that they are no longer associated with the ICG when they have lapsed.*

*They are also active on multiple ICG committees, including Budget and Finance, Publications, Technology and Web, and the Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund Administration.*

*Their exemplary service has been recognized with the ICG President's Award on four occasions. indicating high regard for their services to the ICG; to say that they have played and continue to play a pivotal role in the life of the ICG would be a considerable understatement.*

### ***Role in the Costuming Community***

*This member is widely recognized in multiple costuming communities for both their participation and craftsmanship, and*

*for offering encouragement to others. They are especially active in medieval costuming within the Society for Creative Anachronism, where they also vend costume accessories that are highly regarded for their quality and craftsmanship. They are also known for offering helpful advice to newer costumers. Finally, they are the first of a three-generation family who participate in costuming, textile and wearable arts, and competition.*

### **Costuming Skills**

*This year's recipient has demonstrated considerable costuming skills, including costuming construction and performance during various local, regional, and international competitions, including many Costume-Cons. In addition, they have made or participated in making costumes for their daughter and grandson, have been a judge or judges' clerk, and a frequent volunteer in many roles at these events.*

*It is my honor and privilege to announce that the recipient of the 2024 International Costumers' Guild Lifetime Achievement Award is Jeanine Swick*

## **ICG Mourns the Passing of Fandom Legend John Trimble**

By Philip Gust



It is with great sadness that the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild, the International Costumers' Guild, and the larger costuming community mourn the passing of Silicon Web member and fandom legend John Trimble. It was John who first said to his wife Bjo that, "it's a shame a good science fiction show like

*Star Trek* is going to be canceled. We should do something about that!"

For over 58 years John, along with Bjo have been ambassadors for science fiction, the space program, the SCA, and the costuming community, meeting and hosting people from all walks of life, all over the world. In 1992, John and Bjo were honored with the [IGG Lifetime Achievement Award \(LAA\)](#).

John has touched thousands of lives in a way that was positive and full of joy. He will be greatly missed.

## **St. Louis Costumers Guild Painted Lady Award**

By Bruce Mai

The dictionary defines art as "the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power." An artist must make a leap of faith, opening themselves to critique and interpretation by their audience. In the context of being a masquerade costumer, they are using their presentation and costume as a platform for personal expression. With each new creation, they strive to be memorable.

Previously, the St, Louis Costumers Guild (aka the St. Louis Ubiquitous Tailoring Society – SLUTS) gave "The Slatern," (a hand-made garter) to an entry that appeared to be having the most fun on stage. Our more recent award, The Painted Lady keeps to the spirit of our chapter while honoring the art of costuming and the courage of the artist(s). It is only presented at Costume-Con, and can be given either for a Fantasy and Science Fiction or Historical masquerade entry.



Photo: Nora Mai.

After a show, SLCG members are polled to determine what entry was the most original in design and/or concept. This

includes incorporating aspects from different cultures, using unconventional materials, presenting in a unique style, or any other innovative approach that makes it exceptional. The award is a flask to be filled with the person or persons' favorite drink (possibly alcoholic).

Bruce Mai  
St. Louis Costumers Guild

## What Is the Marty Gear Fund?

By Byron Connell



The Marty Gear Costuming Arts & Sciences Fund is an International Costumers' Guild program to provide grants in support of projects by ICG members that advance the art and science of costuming and benefit costumers in general or in specific groups. These are grants, not loans, and do not require repayment.

The Fund was established in 2013. For 2024, it has \$2,000 available to fund projects. Any ICG member may apply for a grant, using the application form on the ICG web site.

Marty Gear was one of the founders of the ICG and its executive director during its formative years. In 1991, he became the second costumer to be awarded the ICG's Lifetime Achievement Award.

**How Much Money Does the Fund Have?** The Fund receives an annual appropriation in the ICG's budget. Through 2023, it received \$1,500 a year for each year. At the end of each year any unexpended funds expire. For 2024 the ICG increased the appropriation to \$2,000. The Fund also may accept donations.

**If I apply for funds for my Project, How Likely is it I will Receive an Award?** Very likely. We have never turned an application down.

Over the ten years since our first award year, 2014, six ICG members have applied for grants:

- 2014: Lisa Ashton (Sick Pups), for Miss Lizzy's Traveling Historical Fashion Show (an ICG Special Interest Group),
- 2015-2016: Photographer Richard Man (Silicon Web), for the Transformations: Cosplay/Portraiture Project (two successive grants),
- 2022: Betsy Marks (Silicon Web) and Karen Schnaubelt (Sick Pups) on behalf of Costume-Con to purchase software for its Visual Archive. This was our first grant directly supporting Costume-Con.
- 2022: Philip Gust (Silicon Web) in support of a new Silicon Web series of costume-related webinars, and
- 2023: Henry Osier (Armed Costumers' Guild) in partial support of start-up costs for Costume-Con 43 (Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 2025). This was our first grant directly supporting a Costume-Con committee.

In other years, the Fund had received no grant requests. As of the spring of 2024, it has received no grant applications.

**How is My Application Reviewed?** Pursuant to ICG Standing Rule 31, when we receive an application, the Administration Committee reads it to assure it is complete. then sends it to two members of its panel of reviewers to evaluate its content, proposed timetable, and requested funding. The panel consists of highly experienced costumers appointed by the ICG president — truly masters of our art. They may request additional information in order to complete their review.

The panelists recommend approval or disapproval of the application (including approval with conditions) and the amount to award. The applicant is notified and payment is arranged. For applications that will take an extended period to fulfill, payment may be spread over several tranches.

**Now What?** Now you should consider funding for that idea you have floating around in the back of your mind, one that may be beneficial to all costumers or some of us, but that seemed too costly and/or complex to implement. Write it down and put it on

our application and send it to the Marty Gear Fund. You will reach the Fund directly at <https://www.costume.org/wp/marty-gear-costuming-arts-and-sciences-fund>.

Byron P. Connell, New Jersey-New York Costumers' Guild, Inc  
Chair, Administration Committee, Marty Gear Fund

## Happy Anniversary, ICG!

By Philip Gust



The International Costumers' Guild has an anniversary in 2024. Which anniversary is part of the story behind the ICG's founding. Here is a brief summary of how the ICG came to be, and some of the milestones that lead up to it.

In November 1983, a group of costumers met at Marty Gear's house to plan Costume-Con 3 after receiving permission from Kelly Turner and Karen Schnaubelt (then Kelly's wife). Gear, a prominent East coast costumer and masquerade MC, was serving as the Chair of Costume-Con 3, slated to take place in Columbia, Maryland in 1985. In the first issue of the GCFCG newsletter, published in mid-1984, Gear recounted:

“Somewhere in the middle of the discussion, someone suggests that we form not just a group to put on Costume-Con 3, but an ongoing group of people who are interested in all aspects of costuming and who are willing to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with others. Out of this discussion and several more was born The Greater Columbia Fantasy Costumer's Guild, and the response from costumers and 'interested parties' all over has been most gratifying.”

Gear explained that “Columbia” was not only the name of the city in Maryland where the group met, but also the original name proposed for this country. “Greater Columbia” indicated that they were not just a local club, but welcomed members from all over (including Canada). “Costumers” was obvious, and “Guild” was because the group hoped to promote standards and

possible rules for use by others as well as information and education.

Although “Fantasy” was perhaps somewhat misleading, as members were also interested in accurate historical and ethnic costuming, Gear said that it was a “tip of the hat” to the Fantasy Costumer's Guild of San Diego, a “paper” organization that was formed several years earlier to put on Costume-Con 1, which is how this whole thing started.

The group held its first official meeting in January 1984. Only a handful of people attended, but they began to lay the organizational foundations for the Guild. The members approved the By-Laws in February 1984 and elected officers: Marty Gear as President; Bobby Gear as Vice President; Dorsey Flynn as Treasurer; Sue Abramovitz as Corresponding Secretary; and Pat Hammer as Recording Secretary.

Gear filed for incorporation in Maryland that month. They were approved and received their federal identification number as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in April 1984. By May, the GCFCG had 33 active members and five associate members in California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, and Ontario, Canada.

Groups of costumers in various geographic areas soon began to form chapters of the GCFCG. Costumers Guild West (The California Costumers' Mafia) in California, and the New Jersey – New York Costumers' Guild (the Sick Pups) were both launched within a few months of Costume-Con 3. These chapters were known collectively as the GCFCG. The GCFCG also served as a chapter for those in Maryland and surrounding areas. To support the organization, a portion of the dues that each chapter member paid went to the parent group to cover costs such as publishing the newsletter, running Costume-Con 3, and general operations.

By late 1985, the GCFCG had grown to about 250 members in four chapters spread out across the country, and there was serious consideration of changing the name of the parent organization to better represent the expanding membership and

avoid confusion with the chapter of the same name. One of the suggestions was the International Costumers' Guild.

Creating a new umbrella organization became imperative when the IRS questioned the GCF CG's non-profit status because it had combined the finances from running Costume-Con 3 with the membership income from the chapters. It took several years to untangle the finances. The ICG took on its present role as umbrella organization in early 1987, with the GCF CG becoming the founding chapter, still a 501(c)(3) in its own right. The GCF CG served Maryland and surrounding areas until its dissolution in 2024.

In the summer of 1987, the ICG had seven chapters as reported in the first issue of *Costumer's Quarterly*, a "New and Revised newsletter for all members of the International Costumers' Guild" to replace the GCF CG newsletter. *CQ* adopted a magazine format and included mostly long-form costuming articles, as well as some news about the ICG and its chapters, though not a list of its officers.

*Note: Back issues of "Costumer's Quarterly" are available in PDF format on the [ICG website](#). Special thanks to Kathe Gust for months of work locating and scanning issues, and indexing content, to create this amazing archive of costuming know-how and ICG history. Thanks also to Carl Coling, Byron Connell, Pierre Pettinger, and Trudi Moe Roser for making personal copies of print issues available.*

Even though the ICG had formed as a successor umbrella organization to GCF CG, it had not incorporated itself or become a 501(c)(3) non-profit. That happened 1989 when the then ICG Treasurer became concerned that she might be held personally liable for the income of the organization. As a result, the ICG

filed articles of incorporation in Maryland on November 28, 1989. On March 27, 1992, the ICG qualified as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. These records are available on the ICG website.

The story of the ICG and its founding includes several significant milestones:

**Nov. 1983:** First meeting that led to the formation of the Greater Columbia Costumers' Guild (GCF CG)

**Feb. 1984:** Adoption of the GCF CG By-Laws

**Apr. 1984:** Incorporation of the GCF CG in the state of Maryland and approval as a 501(c)(3) non-profit

**Early 1987:** The ICG became the successor to GCF CG as the umbrella organization

**Nov. 1989:** Incorporation of the ICG in the state of Maryland

**Mar. 1992:** Approval of the ICG as a 501(c)(3) non-profit

I suggest that the ICG celebrate two milestones in 2024: the 40th anniversary of the formation and incorporation of the GCF CG as the founding chapter in early 1984, and the 35th anniversary of the incorporation of the ICG in late 1989.

Many thanks to Betsy Marks for her invaluable assistance in providing archival material and institutional memory for this article. Betsy is the Costume-Con Archivist. She has been involved with the GCF CG and the ICG since nearly the beginning, as GCF CG President in the years leading up to Costume-Con 15, and as Corresponding Secretary and then Treasurer of the new ICG umbrella organization after the transition. She is a longtime member of the ICG's Board of Directors for the GCF CG, NJ-NYCG, and Silicon Web chapters, and was the founding editor of the ICG Newsletter, which followed *Costumers' Quarterly*. Thanks for the memories!

# 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](mailto:president@costume.org))
- **Vice President:** Leslie L. Johnston ([vice-president@costume.org](mailto:vice-president@costume.org))
- **Treasurer:** Jeanine Swick ([treasurer@costume.org](mailto:treasurer@costume.org))
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Merrily Wolf ([corr-secretary@costume.org](mailto:corr-secretary@costume.org))
- **Recording Secretary:** Anne Davenport ([rec-secretary@costume.org](mailto:rec-secretary@costume.org))

## Helpful Hands

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

*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.