

International Costumer

Volume XV, Issue 3

May-June 2016



The Wonder of Nature

President's Message

By Philip Gust

The ICG Board of Directors is officially in recess until it meets at Costume-Con 34 in Madison, Wisconsin on the morning of Friday, May 6th, a formality required by the state of Maryland where the ICG is incorporated. I want to give you an update on several Board actions that were pending in my last message.

The Board formally approved the creation of an ad-hoc committee to consider revisions to the "ICG Guidelines to Ensure Fair Competition." Four members have agreed to serve on the committee:

Tonya Adolfson - Gem State Costumers

Maral Agnerian - Fibre Fantasy Artists of Canada

Rae Bradbury-Enslin - New Jersey - New York Costumers Guild

Vicki Warren - Greater Delaware Valley Costumers Guild

Each has extensive experience participating in and running many different types of costume competitions, and working with the ICG Guidelines. You'll be hearing more about the Committee in the coming months. I'm confident that the revision process is in good hands. Please join me in thanking

Tonya, Maral, Rae, and Vicki for their service.

Next, the Board approved a request from the ICG Archives for a project to digitize and preserve three rare masquerade videos from 1976 and the early 1990s. The videos are part of a private collection that only became available after the 2016 budget was finalized. The project will use existing funds in the Archives account. Bruce Mai, who is coordinating this for the ICG, will give us more information about this exciting project in an upcoming issue.



Philip and Kathe Gust with the Stanford University "Tree" mascot at a rehearsal for the dance production of "Boléro Silicon Valley" in April 2016.

The Board also approved an application to recognize a new Masquerade Runners special interest group (SIG), also known as "Hey kids, let's put on a show!" (HeLP). Byron Connell, who submitted the application, will serve as its "Director" (Chair). Other offices include "Best Boy" (Vice President), "Grip" (Treasurer) and "Stunt Coordinator" (Secretary). There will be a panel about the new SIG at Costume-Con 34. You'll also hear more about the SIG in an upcoming issue. Thanks to Byron for this very successful "production!"

Finally the Board approved the application of a new ICG chapter, Costumers Anonymous of North Texas (CANT). The group is centered around the Dallas / Ft. Worth Metroplex.

CANT was established about 2010 by a group of costumers who were supporting local science fiction conventions. The group is active in several conventions and other regional events across Texas. Last year they sponsored the CANT costume repair room for one con, which was an enormous success, and fueled the request for them to do it again at several more cons. This year they are also doing the entire costuming track as well as the repair room.

Their President, Lorretta Morgan, will also serve as the ICG Board representative for the chapter. Visit their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1524589>)

[397804130/](http://www.costume.org/documents/proxy.html)) to learn more about them. Please join me in welcoming CANT to the ICG!

Speaking of meetings, don't forget the annual ICG Members Meeting also takes place at Costume-Con 34 on the morning of Friday, May 6th. I posted the agenda on the ICG website and sent out an announcement to the ICG-D Yahoo group. The main item of business will be the election of 2016-2017 ICG officers.

If you will not be attending the meeting, please consider completing a proxy and sending it with someone who will be attending to vote on your behalf. You can find a copy of the proxy form on the ICG website (<http://www.costume.org/documents/proxy.html>). If you need help locating someone who is attending, please post a note to the ICG-D Yahoo group.

On a personal note, I want to mention something that Kathe and I have been involved with for the last several months. Stanford University's "Stanford Live!" performance program commissioned the New York based Kegwin+Company to create a dance production entitled "Boléro Silicon Valley" using Ravel's music. They recruited over 70 community members, many of whom had no dance or stage experience. Kathe and I auditioned and

were chosen for the cast. The show had two nearly sold-out performances in early April.

It was a lot of work, but we had a blast. The audience loved that the dance spoofed nearly all the Silicon Valley touchstones, from the obsessive use of cell phones, to the iconic "hoodies" that Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg made famous. There were also surprise appearances by a fleet of colorful drones from the Stanford Drone Club, and Stanford's mascot, "The Tree."

The director wanted a splash of color, and asked Kathe and me to wear our "Flash Gordon" costumes, representing the costuming and sci-fi/fantasy communities. Other members of the cast and the audience really enjoyed seeing them. If you have an opportunity to wear a costume at a community event, my advice is: don't hesitate! It's a great ice-breaker, and you'll make lots of friends who want to find out more about them and how you made them.



*The Wonder of Nature.
Photo by Matt Cherwin.*

I'll look forward to seeing some of you at Costume-Con 34 this year!

From the Editor

By Vicky Assarattanakul

It's time for another Costume-Con!

The cover of this issue of *International Costumer* features three members of the Costume-Con 34 convention committee. They are (left to right), Sarah Bloy, Convention Chair, Stace Feldmann, Secretary, Events Head, and Sci-Fi/Fantasy Masquerade Director, and Catie Cherwin, Staff Nurse. These photos were taken by Matt Cherwin at the UW-Arboretum. This is one of the tour locations, and based on the current weather in Wisconsin, there will likely be flowers blooming during the beginning of May. Be sure to check it out!

I have had the privilege of serving on the Costume-Con 34 committee, and we are quite excited to see you all at the beginning of May. We have been hard at work visiting local conventions, getting together an interesting panel schedule, planning tours, and making preparations with the Madison Marriott West.

I have personally been in charge of our social media presence, and it pleases me to see the excitement brewing. If you haven't yet, you can like the Costume-Con 34 Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/Costume-Con-34-516882478383516/>, or you can follow us on Twitter @CostumeCon34. I recommend following at least one of those accounts, because they will be updated throughout the convention.

A Facebook group for discussion among convention attendees also exists at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/358918547526723/>. Finally, our YouTube channel with promotional videos can be found at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7nbCB5_flliufSScpjTsw. We had a lot of fun making these videos.

I hope that you will be able to take advantage of the tours, and see everything that our city has to offer. Madison has a unique culture, and I have yet to find any place like it.



The Thai Pavilion at Olbrich Botanical Gardens.



An Introduction from the Costume-Con 34 Convention Chair

By Sarah Bloy

Greetings, costumers, and welcome to spring!

I just wanted to take a moment to tell you a bit about this year's Costume-Con, which is only a couple weeks away. For those of you already attending, we can't wait to see you. And if you're still on the fence, know that we'd love to have you join us.

This year's theme is "The Wonder of Nature," in honor of Wisconsin's conservationist history. And with new spring growth, the timing couldn't be any better. In addition to all of the normal Costume-Con festivities, we are having a tote bag contest and there is a special category in the Future Fashion Folio for repurposed and recycled materials. The theme is quite exciting and we can't wait to see how everyone is inspired by nature.

In addition, Madison also has a number of locations where nature can be enjoyed. Right in the heart of the city, the

grounds of the state capitol are a favorite spring and summer picnic venue with lots of shade and photo opportunities. The University of Wisconsin Arboretum is a relaxing place for a stroll and a great place to see trees in bloom. And the Olbrich Botanical Gardens gives a chance to see not only trees and plants from this climate, but from the tropics as well, safely housed in a conservancy dome. You can even visit the place on the UW campus where John Muir was inspired to his life as a conservationist.

The Costume-Con staff is hard at work making everything ready for your visit. Our website already has the schedule of events up, including panels. The Friday Night Social, especially, is shaping up to be a special treat for the eyes this year.

So get those costumes ready and travel safely, everyone! It's time to celebrate everything costuming!

Status Report to the ICG on Transformations: Cosplay Project

By Richard Man

In April 2015, I was fortunate enough to receive a ICG Marty Gear Fund grant for my project "Transformations: Cosplay." This is my 12 month follow-up report.

The aim of Transformations: Cosplay is to take portrait photos of costumers in both their costumes and in "civilian" attire, on large format 4x5" film. As the cost of this project is relatively high: in particular, each sheet of 4x5" film cost \$4 and costs ~\$1 worth of chemical to process (I do my own processing and scanning to reduce the cost as much as possible), I am constantly on the lookout for funding assistance, including applying for the grant.

The 2015 ICG Grant award was very timely, as it enabled me to attend Costume-Con 33 in South Carolina. The convention chairs Sandy Swank and Rob Himmelsbach and their staff, and the official photographer Ken Warren, worked with me to be able to use the official photography space for my project (when the space was not otherwise in use), and I was able to take photographs of 20+ costumers at the convention. As these are some of the top costumers in our field, I feel the project is enriched greatly by this.

A large portfolio of over 40 24"x30" prints from the project was available in the Exhibit

room for CC33 attendees to view. Even though these are nominally "proof" prints, since they are printed from 4x5" negatives, the quality is already much higher than what most people are used to seeing, and they are helpful to demonstrate my vision for the project. I also gave a one-hour presentation about the project.

I shot over 70 sheets of film, at a cost of approximately \$350. As I was able to travel to CC33 using airline miles, the ICG Grant money was used to pay for the film and processing, plus the cost of the hotel.

The project has continued since CC33. In August, I attended Sasquan, the 73rd Worldcon. The Worldcon concomm provided me with a studio and exhibit space in the Exhibit Hall to continue the project (I was also working on a portrait project of SF&F authors and artists at the same time). I printed two images from the project at the size of 4 by 5 feet with one displayed in the exhibit space near the large viewing portfolio, and the other in the Art Show. The displays received many positive comments. At Worldcon, I was able to photograph half a dozen costumers for the project.

As a result of the presentation at CC33, the St. Louis Costumer's Guild generously granted me a \$300 donation, and in October I was able to send those two prints to Archon for Art Show exhibition.

In January 2016, I attended the Anime Los Angeles convention, where I added photographs of 4 sets of cosplayers to the project, and also re-shot a couple sets of cosplayers' "out of costume" photos, as I was not satisfied with their "out-of-costume" photos taken in previous years. (Unfortunately with film photography, unlike digital, there is no "instant feedback", and re-shoots are sometimes necessary.) My biggest "record" of retakes for a cosplayer involved shooting her out-of-costume image 4 times, including driving 3 hours round-trip for the last photo, before I was able to get the look I wanted!

In 2016, I hope to be able to attend at least one major anime convention, as well as some of the larger Science Fiction conventions, including Mid-America II, the 74th Worldcon. As my schedule has it, I will only be able to attend one day of Costume-Con 34, if any - to be able to fill out the portfolio some more. I hope to start working on a book by the last few months of 2016. The project is by no means finished, as I expect to continue to work on it at least until end of 2018 for a second book.

In closing, the 2015 ICG Grant has been used to continue the Transformations: Cosplay project, and I am very grateful to the ICG and the grant committee for helping make this project possible.

A Night At Hogsmeade

By Cay Fletcher

Time Traveler's Costume Guild is a branch of the International Costumers' Guild in the Portland, OR metro area. Yes, that mystical place known for doughnuts in the shape of voodoo dolls, putting birds on things, and keeping it weird! Portland is also a hugely diverse community of nerds, geeks, fans, costumers and cosplayers. Which is just one of the reasons why Portland is such an awesome place to live.



The entrance to our event. Photo by Cay Fletcher.

TTCG's membership reflects that great diversity, in skill level, experience, fandoms, and more. Our membership attends conventions, period encampment events (such as Civil War and SCA events), theme parties and more! We also have

many members that run panels, programming tracks, teach classes, vend at events, etc. Because of this, our group is hands-on focused. Anyone can suggest an event, teach a workshop, or collaborate with other members on projects.

Since officially forming in May of 2015, TTTCG members have attended conventions, hosted workshop days and held "fabric destashes." *A Night at Hogsmeade Inn* was the first big production put on by the group. Lorien Fletcher, President of the group has been using Harry Potter for costume inspiration since the books came to the US in the late 1990's. And since the fandom was fairly popular with the group as a whole, it was decided that something Harry Potter oriented would be a great first event.

Another big deciding factor was the use of Tabor Space, an old gothic inspired church in SE Portland that hosts a coffee shop and



All the Mrs. Weasleys with their favourite singer Celestina Warbeck (Riona). Photo by Lorien Fletcher.



The Grey Lady & Musketeer (Roberta & Joe). Photo by Lorien Fletcher.

has spaces for rent. The room we used has also been featured in an episode of *Portlandia* and has a great overall feel, and looks like an old English style pub or inn.

Members were encouraged to volunteer to help in various ways, such as being a table host, i.e. bringing decorations for one of the themed tables, managing food, we ran it potluck style where you were given a ticket discount for bringing a side dish, or set up/tear down. Everyone was encouraged to dress up, either in costume as a witch, wizard or otherwise, or as a student decked

out in Hogwarts gear, or a uniform. One of the most important things that we stress in our group is that no one is excluded just because they don't know how to sew. Many of our members run panels or workshops on budget or thrift shop costuming, and we host an event every year called "Goodwill Hunting" which is a huge thrift shop crawl.



The Olivander's Wands table. Photo by Cay Fletcher.

Originally this event started out as a gaming and dessert meetup. But over the planning sessions, it evolved into a full dinner with entertainment. During the planning stages for this event we were extremely conservative in our expectations. As a first year event in such a busy community, we figured that we'd be doing ticket sales at the door. However the event was sold out by the end of December and we ended up adding another table to

accommodate more people. The event hosted 80 people, including the 20+ volunteers.

In addition to themed tables and costumes we had members perform, had a Platform 9 ¾ photo booth and door prizes. We started off the night with our secretary's daughters singing the Hogwart's school song, and the Sorting Hat song. Member and vendor Kim, owner of Portland Black Lipstick, gave a demonstration of her "Sleekeasy" hair potion. Of course we had a magic show, as well as a member who performed Celtic songs, and we paid tribute to the late Alan Rickman.

From set up to tear down, the event was just five hours and went off without any major



Kim presenting her Sleekeasy Hair Potion. Photo by Cay Fletcher.

problems. Which is itself entirely due to our membership. Reviews were rave, good food was had and we ran out of butter beer! Members and non-members alike are looking forward to continuing the event in years to follow. And with a new movie on the way, I believe interest will be even higher. In the meantime, we're excited to be planning our next events, sewing like mad, and going to local cons!



Our muggle wizard students never go hungry! Photo by Cay Fletcher.

If you're interested in following us on social media you can find us on Facebook, at: <https://www.facebook.com/ttcostumeguild> www.facebook.com/groups/pdxttcostumers Twitter: @ttcostumeguild, and Instagram: @ttcostumeguild. You can find more pictures of our event here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/stormfeather/sets/72157663497096609/with/24118216154>

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>

Send comments and suggestions to the ICG board and standing committees:

Board of Directors

icg-board@costume.org

Budget and Finance Committee:

icg-financecommittee@costume.org

Costuming Arts & Sciences Grant Fund

icg-grants@costume.org

Public Relations Committee:

icg-prcommittee@costume.org

Publications Committee:

icg-pubscommittee@costume.org

Technology & Web Committee:

icg-techcommittee@costume.org

Editorial Board

Vicky Assarattanakul, Betsy Marks Delaney, Kathe Gust, Philip Gust, Bruce Mai, Patrick O'Connor, Jeanine Swick, Randall Whitlock.

Officers 2015-2016

President: Philip Gust

icg-president@costume.org

Vice President: Stace Feldmann

icg-vice-president@costume.org

Treasurer: Jeanine Swick

icg-treasurer@costume.org

Corresponding Secretary: Tonya Adolfson

icg-corr-secretary@costume.org

Recording Secretary: Kathe Gust

icg-rec-secretary@costume.org

Helpful Hands

International Costumer Editor: Vicky

Assarattanakul

icg-newsletter@costume.org

Webmaster: (*Position available*).

webmaster@costume.org

Acting webmaster: Philip Gust; Website

Assistant: Susan Toker, Andrew

Assarattanakul, Jacalyn Stanley

Archivist: Pierre Pettinger

icg-archivist@costume.org

Gallery Admin: Nora Mai

gallery-admin@costume.org

GEL Administrator: Bruce MacDermott

gel-admin@costume.org

Assistant administrator: Elaine Sims

Parliamentarian: Pierre Pettinger

icg-parliamentarian@costume.org

The ICG Group Exemption Letter (GEL)

The ICG is recognized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. U.S. chapters and SIGs can participate in the GEL to share in the tax-exempt status. For information on how to participate in the GEL, please visit <http://www.costume.org/gel/gel.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 "CUatCC34".

This Proxy Statement is for ICG members who will not be attending the Annual Meeting at Costume-Con. If you want 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.

=====
International Costumers' Guild 2016 Annual Meeting Proxy Assignment Form

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.