

International Costumer

Volume XV, Issue 6

November-December 2016



MidAmeriCon II Photos by Richard Man.

President's Message

By Philip Gust

The ICG Board is currently voting on taking the first step towards forming an ICG Press that publishes books and monographs of interest to the costuming community.

The ICG has a long history of offering publications to keep its members informed, and fulfill its mission as a non-profit educational organization. The ICG has published a bi-monthly newsletter, *International Costumer* which you are now enjoying, since 2002. It includes information about happenings with the ICG, its chapters and SIGs, and short articles about events like Costume-Con and Worldcon that are of interest to members.

Between 1987 and 2001, the ICG published *Costumers Quarterly (CQ)*, a quarterly print magazine with long-form articles on costuming, and official ICG documents like annual meeting proxies, agendas, and minutes. Kathe Gust recently located, digitized, and indexed every available issue, and you can access them on the ICG website. It's a wonderful costuming resource.

Several chapters also have long-running publications that are available to ICG members, including *Cactus Needles*, the monthly online newsletter of the Southwest Costumers' Guild, and *The Virtual Costumer*,



Kathe & Phil Gust and "friend" at the Soiree au Moulin Rouge, an 1890-1910 era costumed event held recently in the San Francisco Bay Area.

the online costuming magazine of the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild.

It is not uncommon for established professional and hobbyist organizations to publish books and monographs. For the ICG, publishing books and monographs would further our educational mission by providing an avenue for members and others in the costuming community to share their expertise in more depth than in a newsletter or magazine article.

The motion before the Board asks the ICG Publications Committee to develop a detailed proposal for the Board to consider.

Corresponding Secretary Tonya Adolfson, who made the motion, is on the Committee. She has considerable background in book publishing and works for a small-press publishing house. Her expertise will be a valuable resource in developing the proposal. Adopting modern publication techniques like print-on-demand and e-books will eliminate many of the costs and risks associated with traditional book publishing.

If the Board eventually adopts the Committee's proposal, one of the first books could follow in the footsteps of *The Costumer Maker's Art* from the early 1990s that featured many ICG members of the time. Tonya has volunteered to be the editor for this title. Another could be a *Masquerade Handbook*. A highly valued publication on the subject was privately produced many years ago by several ICG members, but is long out of print.

There has already been considerable interest and positive feedback on the idea of an ICG Press in Board discussions, and everyone is looking forward to seeing the proposal that the Publications Committee puts forward if the motion passes at the end of October. I will keep members informed of progress towards this idea.

Since this is the final issue of the year, let me wish you a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

Rebecca's Costuming Adventures

By Rebecca Rowan



Romance Writers of America historical fashion show.

During the last three weeks of July, I had a costuming event every weekend. It started with a historical fashion show for the Romance Writers of America. It was the debut of the Bluebird dress, a dress that was inspired by the hat I bought last January.



Rebecca's Bluebird Dress.

We answered questions from the writers what it felt like to wear "all" the clothing. One of the women in the group came out in chemise and drawers and showed how they would get dressed. The writers loved being able to see and touch and observe what it was to get dressed in historical dress.

The next weekend was Comic-Con. Talk about major costume overload. Both this year and last year seemed to be heavy on Harley Quinn although there was a preponderance of Wonder Woman too. There were some Guardians of the Galaxy, and of course, Star Wars....



CC36 booth at Comic-Con.

We met, saw and conversed with a lot of great costumers as we talked to them about Costume-Con 36.



The following weekend, July 28 through 31, was Costume College. This year, I managed to get to a couple of classes that I really enjoyed. Of the classes I attended, I enjoyed the class of making a pattern that should fit me to a tee once I get off my duff and make the mockup.



Costume College 2016

Cathy Hay, from *Your Wardrobe Unlocked* and *Foundations Revealed*, taught the class and helped everyone in the class to make a paper pattern. She left us with the job of tracing them off to add seam allowance and then make the mockup. Thursday, there's the pool party, which really isn't a pool party because very few get in the pool. I went down to take pics. I actually did pretty well on the photo front this night.



Costume College 2016

On Friday, the Ice Cream Social theme was *Running Away to the Circus*.



Everyone wore their finest to the Red Carpet event on Saturday.



I enjoyed these three weekends. I love costuming. Now off to do more!



A Comprehensive List of Costuming Panel Ideas - Part One

By Lisa Ashton

Planning a convention? In charge of the costuming programming at your local event? Need a workshop idea for your chapter? Here is part one of an extensive list of ideas for programming, organized by Lisa Ashton. More ideas will be included in the next issue.

Demos/Workshops:

1. Mask making: papier mache, buckram, foundations
2. Face lifecasting workshop or demo
3. Build a Duct-tape Dress Form
4. What Pointy Horns You Have: Make a set of horns
5. Mini Hats-embellishment
6. Fascinating Fascinators: Making a Fascinator from Scratch
7. Basic Beadwork: Sewing beads onto fabric, materials, supplies
8. Beaded Project: Brooch, barrette, Necklace, earrings
9. Stage Makeup 1: Basics—essential supplies and techniques
10. Stage Makeup 2: Prosthetics, shading, Glitz and glue, templates
11. Latex Prosthetic Workshop: Basic Scars to More Advanced
12. Stage Makeup 3: Witches, wizards, aliens



Panels at conventions and public workshops can be excellent ways to spread costuming information.

13. Stage Makeup: Horror Demo, wounds etc.
14. LED's and Basic Electronics for Costumers
15. Polymer Clay Beads & Cabs: Make Custom Jewelry for your Costume
16. Making Customized Fit Fangs
17. Making Steampunk Weapons from Kids' Toys
18. Costume Weapons: Make and embellish a sword or dagger
19. Airbrush Painting Basics Demo for Fabrics, Costumes and Makeup

20. Knotting Techniques: Lucets, Macrame, Kumihimo Demo, each could have a separate workshop
21. Macrame Workshop: Necklace or bracelet project, making trim
22. Braiding Workshop: Basic Patterns and Combinations, can be applied to hair braiding
23. Hand painting Trim & Lace
24. Ribbonwork Embroidery
25. Basic Fabric Dyeing Workshop
26. Silk Ribbon Dyeing Workshop
27. Advanced Fabric Dyeing Workshop
28. Tanning animal skins
29. Making Shoes & Boots
30. Making Fantasy, Monster & Alien Feet
31. Kimono Dressing
32. Steampunk Accessories, could each be a separate workshop: Goggles, Belts, Garter Belt, weapons, Compass, backpack
33. Basic Hand Embroidery Stitches Workshop
34. Needle Felting workshop, small object
35. Knitting for Beginners
36. Crocheting for Beginners
37. Tatting for Beginners
38. Bead Crochet for Beginners
39. Making a Nifty Pincushion or Hat Stand By Recycling
40. Make A Custom Hatpin

Basic Costuming Topics:

- Prop Weapons
- Buying Costume Pieces off the Rack
- Costuming Villains
- Making a Basic Bodysuit
- Gilding the Lily: Adding Sparkle to your Costume
- Embellishment on Difficult Fabrics: Spandex, Fur, tulle
- All Hail Glitziana: Sequins and Rhinestones and Sparkle
- Basic Costume Shapes Without Patterns, and How Far You can Go
- Inspirations for Recreation Costumes: Beyond Book Cover Art
- Costuming on a Budget: Easy Ways to Create a Fantastic Look
- Using Found Materials: Thrift Stores, Yard Sales, Grandma's Attic, & the Recycling Bin
- Using all 360 Degrees of your Costume
- Children in Costuming: Building & Presenting a Costume
- Quick and Easy Halloween Costumes for Kids
- Creating Your Own Elf or Hobbit
- Release Your Inner Princess: Fairy-Tale Gowns, Wands & Crowns
- Superhero Costuming: Spandex, Capes & Beyond
- Costuming Wizards: Basic Costume Shapes, Fabrics & Props
- Klingon Costumes and Weaponry
- Costuming Without Sewing
- Jedi & Star Wars Costumes: Shapes, Patterning, Layering

- Armor for Fantasy or SF costumes
- Sculptable and Moldable Materials for Costumes
- Goth, Vampire and Horror Costumes: What's Classic, What's New
- Transformation Costumes: Start with One Thing, End with Another
- Anime Costuming & Cosplay
- Mens' Costume Challenges
- SF and Fantasy Military Uniforms
- Furry Costuming: What's It All About?
- Fursuit Construction and Characterization
- Belly Dance Costume Basics
- Defying Gravity: The Belly Dance Bra
- Costuming for Dance: From Ballet to Jazz to Historical
- *The Lord of the Rings* Costume Universe
- *Pirates of the Caribbean* Costume Universe
- Embroidery Machines: What's Out There and How to Begin
- Digitizing Designs: How to Start and the Learning Curve
- Costumes of the Wild Wild West
- Steampunk: Inspiration to Creation

Costuming Necessities

- Having a Good Hair Day: Wigs and Styling
- Wiggling Out: Cosplay Wigs



A wig panel can be a great addition to convention programming.

- Making Wigs from Scratch
- You WILL Be Accessorized: Appropriate Accessories and How to Achieve Them
- Horn and Tails, Claws and Paws, Oh My!
- Thy Shoes and Thy Feet Must Match Thy Costume
- Shoes, Boots & Footwear in Costumes
- Big Silly Things on Your Head(s)
- Balancing Large Headpieces
- Hat Blocking (could be a workshop)
- Fangs For the Memories: Goth & Vampire Costumes and Personae
- Wings of Wonder: Many Different Ways to Fly
- Making & Transporting Props
- Steampunk Accessories: Goggles, Holsters, Belts, and Weapons
- Parasols, Canes and Other Self-Defense Techniques

A Wedding Dress for Toni

By Philip Gust

When cartoonist Greg Evans decided that two characters from his popular *Luann* comic strip were getting married, he needed a wedding dress for the bride, Toni Daytona, who would be marrying Luann's brother Brad. Greg and his daughter Karen came up with the idea of a contest for fans to submit designs for Toni's wedding dress and to vote for the one she would wear through the LuannFan.com website. He announced the contest in his comic strips in September, and voting took place from October 7-17.

I've been a fan of Greg and the *Luann* comic strip for many years. Being an incurable romantic, the Brad & Toni story arc really struck a chord with me. I felt a special connection to Toni and the kind of wedding dress she'd like to have. Although I've never designed women's clothing, I wanted to give her this as a wedding present.

I started by creating a model sheet for Toni from images in past strips. Next I selected a pair of croquis (body outlines) that match Toni's body type from several free online sites, and replaced the croquis heads with Toni's. I wanted to make sure that the design would be perfect for Toni, and would work with her facial shape and hair.



Phil's winning design.

I also felt that it would help those voting to imagine Toni wearing the dress.

Next, I spent time looking at the wide range of wedding dresses online. Toni is both traditional and adventurous, and she has a marvelous figure, so I went with a fish tail design that hugs her curves but flairs out dramatically at mid-thigh and gives her very feminine swish as she walks. I added a simple fabric belt that emphasizes her waist without breaking the line of the dress.

One of my considerations was drawability. Complex designs and patterns don't "read" well in a comic strip and could be more

difficult for Greg to draw, so I kept the lines simple and did not indicate a pattern for the fabric. (I'd use an off-white color-on-color floral Jacquard fabric if I were actually making the dress.)

To play on Toni's adventurous side, I decided to use a fall of multi-color ribbons instead of a veil. The ribbons attach to the back of her hair, which I styled in an up-do. The ribbons, her bouquet, and the corsage on her belt all match her wedding color scheme.

The website asked for a 600x800 pixel image that showed both the back and front of the dress, so I combined the two images and submitted it. Several days before voting began, Greg announced that, to his amazement, there were nearly 600 entries to the contest.

That's when I realized that having my design noticed would require getting the word out, so I posted a message to every online community where I participate, describing the contest and asking people to vote for my design if they liked it. I also asked people to repost it and forward it to their friends. I'm not a heavy user of social media, so I had no experience with this kind of thing and didn't know what to expect.

To my surprise, in less than a week my design was among the top ten, so I sent out another message to let everyone know and remind them that they could vote every day of the contest. Several days later, my design was #6, then #4, then #2. On the afternoon before the last day, my design edged to #1, so I posted another message reminding people to vote.

The lead switched several times overnight, with only a handful of votes separating the top two so I posted a final reminder early on the final day. When the contest closed at 10pm, my design was ahead by a slim 36 votes out of over 2000 votes for each of the top two. I received a note from Greg shortly afterward congratulating me and saying that there were an astounding 46,000 votes total. Greg said that he was overwhelmed by the response to the contest.

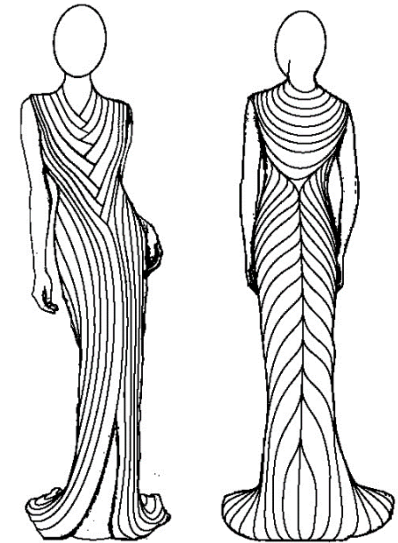
I am so grateful to everyone who liked my design for Toni's wedding dress, and took time to vote and repost my messages to their networks. There were so many wonderful designs, and any of the top choices would have made Toni very happy. I'm just thrilled that Toni will be wearing the wedding dress that I designed for her when she walks down the aisle with Brad in December. It's been a memorable journey for Brad and Toni – and for me!

From the Editor

By Vicky Assarattanakul

One of my favorite parts of being the editor of *International Costumer* is looking back at past issues as I put together the most recent one. What a year 2016 was! There is so much talent within the International Costumers' Guild, and I am pleased that I have the privilege of seeing so much of it.

Customarily, I become quite nostalgic at this time of year as I reflect upon what changes have occurred in the past 12 months. I helped run Costume-Con 34, which was quite fun. Several members have reported on conventions that they have attended and helped run. We have heard about costume history, textile preservation, and about various costuming books that our members have read. We even had two members enter a nationwide wedding dress design contest! In addition to Phil's dress, Patrick O'Connor also entered a fabulous design! According to the story behind the dress, "The off-world look that Patrick O'Connor created for the heroine NaDii on the cover of *Good Vibrations*, book one of his *HaChii Concatenation* trilogy for Amazon Kindle Books, inspired his multi-layered design for Toni Daytona's wedding dress." I hope to see more designs from both of them in the coming Future Fashion Folios!



Patrick O'Connor's design for Toni Daytona's wedding dress.

It is hard to believe that the year is drawing to a close, and even harder to believe that 2017 is already full of costuming potential. Costume-Con 35 planning is well underway. Some new information about cosplay in Japan during the 1980s has come to light, and I'm looking forward to seeing the full report on that. Personally, I have started a video blog (vlog) and website that I will give a full report on once it is "done enough" to promote.

What are you and your chapter planning to do in 2017? I hope to hear all about it! In the meantime, please have a wonderful holiday season, and may all of your costuming wishes come true!

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:

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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.

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