

# *International Costumer*

Volume XVI, Issue 6

November-December 2017



*Here Come the Holidays*

*Photo from Pixabay*

## President's Message

*By Marianne Pease*

Autumn is always my favorite time of year when the leaves change colors, sweaters are socially acceptable again, the rush of summer conventions is over, school is back in session for the kids (leaving me with 50% more time to sew!), and it's cool enough to wear costumes outdoors without risk of heat exhaustion. With Halloween sewing completed, I get to dive into my favorite part of our hobby-- the planning and sewing of new costumes for next year. This time around I have to try to calculate just how much I can stuff into my suitcases while still being airline approved in order to get to Costume-Con 36 in San Diego. With (only!) six and a half months to go, however, there's plenty of time to procrastinate and focus on another project for the ICG.

I am pleased to announce that we are expanding our social networking options! As things currently stand, our only method of guild-wide discussion is via the D-list on Yahoo Groups. I would like to emphasize that this list is not going anywhere! It is still extremely useful to have an email list, and members are not required to join Facebook or Slack unless they wish to.

First off, the most familiar: Facebook. Whether you use it or not, you're probably familiar with how it works. While many



*Stitch Witchery. Photo by r a ü l.*

people, including myself, have severe concerns about privacy and other issues as they pertain to Facebook, it is the single largest and most popular social networking site. We will be creating a group where guild members can discuss costuming and share their projects in a faster paced and more social environment than the yahoo group allows.

Secondly we will be creating a Slack team for the ICG. While Facebook offers an ideal platform for casual chatter among guild members, Slack-- which is an acronym for "Searchable Log of All Conversation and Knowledge" is a program with a focus on team discussions and organization. It can be accessed via the platform of your choice-- whether it's logging in on your browser, a desktop program, iOS, Android, and a Windows phone apps. In Slack, discussions will be organized into topical channels that encourage more in depth conversations and mutual education. The topic-focused

approach will even provide the opportunities for our SIGs to share their specialties with the guild as a whole more openly. Pictures and documents can easily be uploaded and incorporated into the conversations as well, and as the acronym indicates, it is all easily searchable and archivable. As a non-profit we will have access to several important features including group voice and video chats for up to 15 people at a time, up to 10GB of storage space for uploaded files and photos per person, user authentication features for security's sake, and several other organizational features that will be useful for us but are somewhat less flashy from an end user perspective.

I hope to get the Facebook group and Slack team rolled out in November, and announcements will be posted to the D-list when that happens. Members will be able to request membership to the Facebook group when it is created but the Slack channel will be by invitation only, sent to the email each member has on file with the guild. If you've changed your email address recently please check in with your chapter's treasurer to make sure your membership record is up to date. I'm very excited to expand the conversations and look forward to getting to know more of you!

Happy Holidays,  
Marianne Pease  
ICG President



## The Costume Making Guide: A Book Review

By Patrick O'Connor

Edited by Melina Chestley

My wife loves knitting, crochet and murder mysteries. As a result, the bookshelves and the sewing room in our house have very little space left in them. In view of the fact that neither of these rooms is going to get any bigger, she has become a most faithful devotee of the Chicago Public Library and I have become the teacher of the Defense Against the Overdue Fines course at our version of Hogwarts. In that capacity, I visit the local library with her far more often than I would probably go otherwise.

Thus, I found myself browsing the New Books area, which brought me to *The Costume Making Guide--Creating Armor and Props for Cosplay*, by Svetlana Quindt (aka Kamui Cosplay). Having just started using Wonderflex for the bracers and belt of a costume I made for this year's Costume-Con, I was curious to see how this cosplay generation did things. I immediately found a section of the book on making bracers, which explained very clearly how she built the excellent armlets glimpsed on the cover picture of the book. Apart from the fact that I was using Wonderflex rather than Worbla, my approach was close to what she described. Her result, however was much



The cover of Quindt's book.

more elaborate and beautiful, as Worbla has a self-bonding capability which isn't a feature of Wonderflex. The rest of the prop-making in the book is equally well-explained.

Svetlana says the book is for beginners, and before CC-35, I'd never made anything remotely like a superhero or anime costume, so in that realm, I'm definitely a beginner. This book impressed me highly. Svetlana's Wonder Woman was particularly noteworthy--and much closer to the Wonder Woman I remember from DC comics of the 1950's, than what Gal Gadot wore in the movie. If only my physique were as good a match to Henry Cavill as Svetlana's is to Gal Gadot--but hey, let's get real--my Chick Magnet costume from CC-35 will probably be my only venture into the superhero/supervillain genre.

These techniques might even be used in the Historical Costuming/Re-enactor genre--for armor, particularly. While the materials might not be "period," they could definitely be "exclamation point!"

I strongly recommend the book and her web-site, for anyone with an interest in beginning to explore the superhero/supervillain/anime character end of costuming. Check out more of her work at:

<https://www.kamuicosplay.com/>

## Costume-Con 36: Ports of Call

By Rebecca Rowan

There are 7 months until Costume-Con 36? Where did the time fly? In May 2018, Costume-Con® will return to San Diego for the first time in over 30 years. It will convene over Mother's Day weekend at the Doubletree Hotel in Mission Valley. We've been planning to make this an enjoyable convention for everyone. My staff and I have been diligently working on the convention in order to make it the best Costume-Con yet. It will be informative with many activities for all costuming interests. And what do we have in store for the convention this year?

The theme for this Costume-Con is Ports of Call. After all, San Diego is a port city. But this theme isn't limited to our maritime history, or even reality! There will be fun for the whole crew, whether you arrive by airship, clipper ship, or intergalactic spaceship. One of our themed events will be the Crosstime Victory Dance. It's loosely based on a USO show (think 40s, WWII, and swing dancing), but we are hoping to also see pirates, aliens, and explorers of all kinds in attendance.

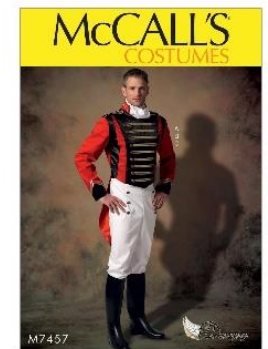
We know that some of you are planning on arriving early or maybe staying over after the convention. San Diego is a beautiful location with lots of interesting attractions.

The Thursday before Costume-Con gets rolling, we are organizing tours to show off our home town and its theaters. We are working on tours through the costume shops of the San Diego Opera, the award winning La Jolla Playhouse and the Old Globe Theater. Maybe even a famous designer's studio. More info to come.

Or you can explore the city yourself! Check out our cherished Balboa Park, which is home to the world famous San Diego Zoo and a host of excellent museums, beautiful gardens, and distinctive architecture originally designed for the Panama-California Exposition in 1915. For family fun, you can try Seaworld on Mission Bay, or head north to Legoland in Carlsbad or the San Diego Zoo Safari Park near Escondido.

Closer to the convention we have Mexican food, local history, and shopping galore in Old Town. And nearby in downtown San Diego, we have lively nightlife in the Gaslamp Quarter, plus the Embarcadero with its Seaport Village and the aircraft carrier, the USS Midway Museum. By the bay, we have our Maritime Museum which includes the world's oldest working sailing ship from 1863, the Star of India. It also includes the HMS Surprise which you may have seen in "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World" along with 9 other ships to explore.

But getting back to the convention itself, on Friday, we ramp up in the morning with a new comers' orientation at 9am and the annual ICG meeting at 9:30 and the start of our many classes. The Merchant's Alley will open at noon. There, we're striving for a wide variety of different vendors. We've signed up 2 bead merchants, an antique dealer, a vintage dealer, corset supplies and fabric, patterns, wigs and a men's clothing supplier. We are also hoping for some additional vendors who will carry theatrical makeup, prosthetics, shoe paints and fabrication materials like Worbla.





At 7:30 our first competition, the Single Pattern Fashion Show, will begin. If you are interested in competing, check out the [rules for the Single Pattern contest](#) on our website. How will you interpret one or more of the patterns into a single costume?

After the fashion show and awards, there will be a slight pause as we set up for the victory/uso dance. Our chairperson Rebecca Rowan will say a few words. Then our hosts, Shawn Crosby and Jamie Hanrahan will start off the show. Remember, this is a *dance*, so get ready to cut a rug and shake your booty! Tune in to the next newsletter to hear more about the exciting events happening during CC36!

## Shop and Support the ICG!

With the holidays coming up, we would like to remind you that you can support the ICG through purchases on Amazon Smile. Through this program, a portion of the sales go back to the ICG. This is a great way to support the organization while going about your daily business. The link to support the ICG on Amazon Smile is :

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

## From the Editor

*By Vicky Assarattanakul*

I have always viewed Halloween as the start of the holiday season for me. Don't worry, December decorations go up in the appropriate month! Thanksgiving is a big holiday in our family, so there is a lot of preparation in November.

My personal convention season extends into November, with Teslacon being the final event of the calendar year. No sewing break for me after Halloween this year! Now that I am part of the 501<sup>st</sup> Legion, a Star Wars costuming charity group focused on "the dark side," I will be doing even more costuming events outside of conventions. Right now, I am planning on attending the premiere of *The Last Jedi* in costume. Will you?

I want to thank everyone for the positive feedback I received for my article, *Cultural Appropriation and Appreciation in Costuming* from the last issue of *International Costumer*. This is a subject that I am passionate about, and I hope to continue adding to the conversation and inviting others to share their voices.

Due to the amount of positive feedback I received, I am hoping to present the panel



*Vicky in her 501st Legion costume*

again at Costume-Con 36. I hope you will attend and join the discussion!

As the year winds down and you start thinking about what your new year's resolutions will be, consider writing for *International Costumer*. What sorts of costuming events do you attend in the winter? Let us know! Send me an e-mail at [icg-newsletter@costume.org](mailto:icg-newsletter@costume.org) and we can share your event with the entire membership!

## 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](mailto:icg-board@costume.org)

### **Budget and Finance Committee:**

[icg-financecommittee@costume.org](mailto:icg-financecommittee@costume.org)

### **Costuming Arts & Sciences Grant Fund**

[icg-grants@costume.org](mailto:icg-grants@costume.org)

### **Public Relations Committee:**

[icg-prcommittee@costume.org](mailto:icg-prcommittee@costume.org)

### **Publications Committee:**

[icg-pubscommittee@costume.org](mailto:icg-pubscommittee@costume.org)

### **Technology & Web Committee:**

[icg-techcommittee@costume.org](mailto:icg-techcommittee@costume.org)

### **Editorial Board**

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

### **Officers 2017-2018**

**President:** Marianne Pease

[icg-president@costume.org](mailto:icg-president@costume.org)

**Vice President:** Mera Babineaux

[icg-vice-president@costume.org](mailto:icg-vice-president@costume.org)

**Treasurer:** Jeanine Swick

[icg-treasurer@costume.org](mailto:icg-treasurer@costume.org)

**Corresponding Secretary:** Tonya Adolfson

[icg-corr-secretary@costume.org](mailto:icg-corr-secretary@costume.org)

**Recording Secretary:** Anne Davenport

[icg-rec-secretary@costume.org](mailto:icg-rec-secretary@costume.org)

### **Helpful Hands**

*International Costumer* Editor: Vicky

Assarattanakul, Co-editor: Melina Chestley

[icg-newsletter@costume.org](mailto:icg-newsletter@costume.org)

**Webmaster:** Philip Gust

[webmaster@costume.org](mailto:webmaster@costume.org)

Website Assistant: Susan Toker, Andrew

Assarattanakul, Jacalyn Stanley

**Archivist:** Pierre Pettinger

[icg-archivist@costume.org](mailto:icg-archivist@costume.org)

**Gallery Admin:** Nora Mai

[gallery-admin@costume.org](mailto:gallery-admin@costume.org)

**GEL Administrator:** Bruce MacDermott

[gel-admin@costume.org](mailto:gel-admin@costume.org)

Assistant administrator: Elaine Sims

**Parliamentarian:** Pierre Pettinger

[icg-parliamentarian@costume.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 "Get18Ready"