

# *International Costumer*

Volume XVII, Issue 1

January-February 2018



Happy New Year!

*Photo from Pixabay*

## President's Message

*By Marianne Pease*

As the Christmas and the New Year approaches there's some mad stitching going on at the Pease house though little of it productive in terms of costuming. Holiday preparations and 'real life' have thrown more than one wrench into my fun this year but as we kick off 2018 I can only express my appreciation for all that our guild is and does.

In 2017 my focus has been primarily on putting in new avenues for building our community. We now have Slack available for internal guild communication with 103 of our members having signed up through the invitations that were sent out. (If you didn't receive one, please contact me at [icg-president@costume.org](mailto:icg-president@costume.org)) We also have a Facebook discussion group connected to our page has been set up as well. Please join us there and share your thoughts, ideas, and projects with the rest of us! Now as 2018 approaches my goals are shifting to prioritize the website's upgrade. Aside from the visual facelift that switching to WordPress will provide, the gallery is in need of software upgrades that can support the incredible amount of material available there and it's a large project that has needed attention for a while now.



*1567 Plunderhosen shown in the Historical Masquerade at Costume Con 29.*

Whatever needs to be done, however, I am extremely proud of the guild. We welcome everyone with open arms, regardless of race, creed, religion, sex, or any other way of dividing one group of people from another. In a time when it's so hard to escape the divisive rhetoric that can be found almost everywhere we have a hobby that unites us, and members who are enthusiastically generous with their time,

talents, and resources. Thank you for opening your homes and fabric stashes. Thank you for teaching panels at conventions and workshops in your chapters. Thank you for the work you do in the community whether it's hosting events or going to visit hospitals in superhero costumes for the kids.

Thank you for supporting one another both in costuming and in life in general, whether it's simply by being a friend who picks up the phone and chats, dropping a note on Facebook, swinging by for a sewing session, or simply keeping an open offer for a safe and supportive place to go, or any other number of acts of friendship and compassion. As we move forward into the New Year I hope that we can continue to uphold the standard of inclusivity for the costuming community at large- that we can reach out to others at our conventions and interactions online and encourage them in their costuming endeavors.

Don't forget to set your own costuming resolutions for the New Year and may you all be able to keep them with more consistency than the resolutions to go to the gym!

Marianne Pease

ICG President

## A Message from the Co-Editor

By Melina Chestley

Hello everyone!

I've been lurking behind the scenes for the last few issues, taking lessons from Vicky on how this newsletter works and I figured it was time to introduce myself.

I found the ICG just a few years ago after attending Costume-Con 33 and was welcomed warmly by the Silicone Web guild chapter. I'm in rural Eastern Ontario, Canada and the SW was a good fit so I was very happy to find such a group existed. Of course, this lead me down a rabbit hole of interesting people, wonderful costumes, new ideas and here I am.

Though I love it, I'm an amateur when it comes to sewing. I've been creating medieval costumes as a member of the SCA for more years than I can count but few years ago I wanted to learn different things, take a different creative path and that's when I finally moved to cosplay/costuming.

The first masquerade I ever saw was in 1991, and eventually (or finally) I have come back to the place I was then that said "I want to do that". Every new skill I learn I discover there is so much more to learn. It's kind of wonderful.

Have a safe and healthy New Year.



Melina as Marvel's Scarlet Witch from House of M.

### Editor's note:

*Please give Melina a warm welcome! She has been exceptionally helpful in putting together the newsletter for the past few months. Feel free to speak with her or ask her questions about the newsletter. We're always looking for news from you!*

## Help Needed at Balticon 52!

Costumers wanted for Balticon 52, happening May 25-28, 2018.

We need masquerade entrants, creative talent, den parents for the green room, staff, panelists and ideas. Please let me know if you are attending and would like to help out.

Please send panel and workshop ideas to:

[program@balticon.org](mailto:program@balticon.org)

All other inquiries can come to me at [masquerade@bsfs.org](mailto:masquerade@bsfs.org)

Many thanks,

Dr. Karen

Balticon Masquerade Director

# COSTUME-CON 36 - *San Diego May 11-14 2018*

## Costume-Con 36: Ports of Call

By Rebecca Rowan

Saturday morning, we start the events of the day at 9 a.m. More workshops, make and takes, and classes. Saturday afternoon, you can take a break by stopping to have Tea by the Sea and enjoy the Captains and Beachwear fashion show. We'll have some vintage swimwear being modeled and I have to tell you, the selection for the tea is scrumptious. After tea, back to classes or maybe it's time to start getting your entry ready for the Sci-Fi/Fantasy Masquerade that evening. If you are interested in participating, be sure to peruse the [rules for the SF&F Masquerade](#) on our website.

Sunday morning will bring more classes and the Future Fashion Folio design contest. Have you submitted your designs yet? The deadline for submissions is October 31, and the [rules for the Future Fashion Folio](#) are available on our website. Designs can be entered in any category you specify. Some potential categories are bridal, sportswear, business, children's, party, formal, or casual. But really, this is wide open, so pick any category you can think of. If you don't include a category in your submission, a category will be assigned for you. There are

also some specific, specialty categories that reflect the theme of the convention:

1. Maritime: Clothing appropriate for any Navy, coast guard, merchant marine, pirate or any other nautical individual or group. This is not limited to the planet Earth or water.
2. Shore Leave: Clothing appropriate for service, entertainment, or any person, company or group intended to cater to sailors on shore leave.
3. Culture Mash-Up: Assume two disparate cultures colonize a planet. Over time they will cross-pollinate each other. Design costumes featuring this crossover. Cultures need not be limited to current or past earth cultures. Projected future cultures as well as cultures from film and literature welcome. (Mayan-Klingon? Centauri-Castithan?)

On Sunday afternoon, classes will wrap up in time for dinner and/or prep for the Historical Masquerade. If you're interested in competing, be sure to read the [rules for](#)

[the Historical Masquerade](#) and remember, documentation is required! Please note that there is a "hysterical historical" category, so this competition is not always all cut and dry.

Monday the convention will wrap up, after a full day of classes and possibly some more local tours.

Speaking of classes, we are looking forward to several special guests at the convention. One of our special guests will be Susan Lazear, who is the head of the Fashion Department at Mesa College. Her interests lie predominantly with the study of textiles. She has traveled all over the world to see how various cultures deal with textiles. She will be giving a lecture or two about her travels and textiles.

Another special guest is Bob Mogg, known in steampunk circles as [The Iron Tailor](#). Bob comes up with a seemingly endless series of great ideas for his ingenious costumes. He often incorporates lights, gadgets, and wings into his designs.

Our main guest of honor is Karen Schnaubelt. She, along with Kelly Turner, started the first Costume-Con here in San Diego, CA in 1983. It was here for two years and has since traveled around the world before returning here to San Diego, CA in May 2018. She has been a prolific customer

and will be showing some of her costumes available for viewing in the exhibit room.

Want to commit this weekend to memory? Visit the Photo Studio located next to the Green Room on the main floor. We will have two official photographers, Andy Schmidt, of the Shotwell Collection using his digital cameras and Richard Man will be there with his 4 x 5 film camera.

During Costume-Con, we will have a Hospitality Suite providing food and refreshments for our guests. If your group would like to sponsor time in the hospitality suite, please let us know!

The Doubletree Mission Valley Hotel is very conveniently located next to a small shopping mall called Hazard center, which features a Starbucks, a Barnes & Noble, and a BJ's, along with several other shops, restaurants, and even a movie theater. There are also multiple grocery stores within walking distance and a Denny's across the street. If you have a car, the larger Fashion Valley and Mission Valley malls are a short drive away. There is also a trolley station across the street, which can connect you to most of metropolitan San Diego.

Plan on lots of activities during the con. And if you can, plan to come early or stay a little while after the convention. Enjoy beautiful San Diego!

## From the Editor

*By Vicky Assarattanakul*

Happy New Year! It feels like the years go faster and faster. I hope that 2018 will go at the pace you would like, and that you will have plenty of time for your costuming projects.

This year is already shaping up to be a busy one for the ICG, and for most of our members. In addition to our local conventions, many of us will be attending Costume-Con 36 in May. I hope I will see you there!

In November, I attended Teslacon 8 with a couple of other ICG members. Teslacon is a Steampunk convention that has historically taken place in Madison, Wisconsin.

This year, the convention was set in Bucharest. Given that it was only the weekend after Halloween, the dark and eerie setting was simply perfect. Although attendees are not expected to act in character, many do, and it gives the event a charm that I do not experience elsewhere. I normally do not attend immersion events, so Teslacon is a real treat for me.

The gentleman who runs the event has announced that he will be expanding to have a "Teslacon West" in 2019 in Seattle. I am already planning to check it out, and I



*Vicky in her Steampunk attire at Teslacon 8.*

hope to see some of our West Coast members there now that it is on your radar.

I have had the fortune of connecting with many of you on social media, and seen your many photos from your own events. Please consider sharing your thoughts about them with us! We would love to run an article about your local convention, meet-up, or chapter even in *International Costumer*.

Please send your articles, comments, and questions to [icg-newsletter@costume.org](mailto:icg-newsletter@costume.org). I love to hear from you!

## About the Cover

By Vicky Assarattanakul

It has been some time since I explained the cover art in an issue of *International Costumer*. The photo on the cover is of decorations for the Chinese New Year.

I have always been fascinated by the costumes associated with the Chinese New Year celebrations. Red is typically a prominent color as it symbolizes good luck. It is often paired with gold, the color that is considered the most beautiful. This color



*Children performing the Lion Dance at a Chinese New Year Celebration.*

scheme is abundant at the Chinese New Year festivals.

Though we may see interesting clothing at celebrations in North America, the costumes at a Chinese New Year celebration are striking in a different way. I love that luck is so important that it translates into vibrant red and gold costumes.

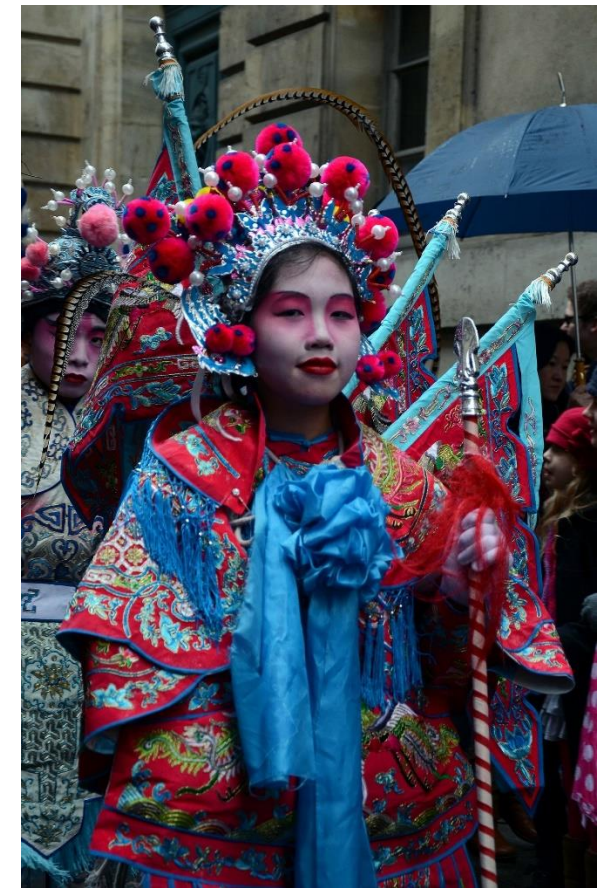
The Chinese New Year is not solely celebrated in China. My relatives in Thailand celebrate the holiday. Celebrations take place in various locations in North America. One user on Pixabay even posted pictures from a parade in Paris.

Regardless of where we are in the world, those of us who love costumes can appreciate the workmanship and design

that goes into the garments that appear at these celebrations. For me, the Chinese New Year is probably the holiday with the most impressive costumes.

What costumes are associated with your holiday celebrations?

*Note: all images in this article are from <http://pixabay.com/>.*



*A woman at a Chinese New Year parade in Paris.*

## 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)

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

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### **The ICG Amazon Smile Program**

As a non-profit organization, the ICG is funded solely through membership dues and donations. If you would like to support the ICG financially with little effort, please consider using our Amazon Smile link when you shop on Amazon. When you use this link, a portion of the sale goes back to the ICG. The link is:

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

## **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.

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