



# Cactus Needles Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild

Southwest Costumers Guild  
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## Calendar

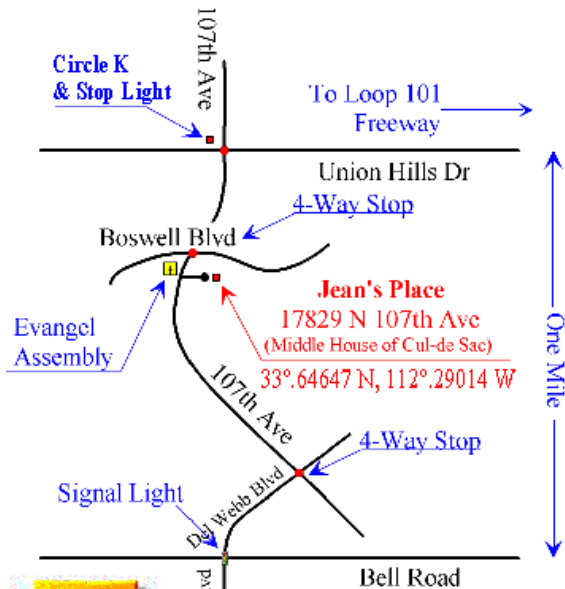
Know of a costumed event of interest to Arizonans? Contact your editor with the details. Red text and an asterisk designate an SWCG-sponsored event. Unless otherwise noted, our monthly meetings start at 1PM.

February 9 - March 30, 2008 (Saturdays, Sundays and Presidents' Day Monday) - **Arizona Renaissance Festival** east of Gold Canyon in Pinal County, Arizona. <http://www.royalfaires.com/ARIZONA/>

March 13-16, 2008 - **National Festival of the West** at Rawhide, near Wild Horse Pass exit (I-10 and SR 202) south of Phoenix, Arizona. <http://www.festivalofthewest.com/>

March 15, 16, 2008 – **Aloha Festival** at Heritage Square in downtown Phoenix. There are several stages of live entertainment, including music, dance and lectures of Hawaii and Polynesia. The Island Marketplace is huge, with vendors offering traditional crafts, fresh flower leis, baskets, hats, carved bone necklaces, and tapa cloth. There are island wood products, and Hawaiian jewelry, surfer shorts, Hawaiian coffee, and Hawaiian music. The food court offers traditional American snacks, but don't miss this chance to sample some of the favorite foods of the people of Hawaii and the South Pacific, like kahlua pig, manapua, haupia, Vilo Vilo chicken, or Spam musubi. Children can make island crafts to take away. On Sunday afternoon, the Island Jam offers an open invitation for everyone to dance -- no costumes or choreography needed.

March 15, 2008 - **21st Anniversary – A Night in the 40's Big Band Dance and USO Show** at the CAF Aircraft Museum features a WWII 1940s musical show followed by a Big Band Orchestra playing sounds of the era to dancing men and women dressed in the period, in the shadow of the vintage B-17, 4:15 pm, a contest for the best dressed 1940's costume, and a swing dance contest, \$35-40, 480-924-1940 or <http://www.bigbanddance.com/>



**Map to Jean's Place**  
in Sun City, AZ  
**Southwest Costumers Guild Meeting**

March 16, 2008 - **4th Annual Drama Queens on the Green** at The Phoenician, a theatrical fashion show and tea party featuring Emmy-winning designs and costumes from past ATC productions, 3 pm, \$125, benefits Arizona Theatre Company's education and community-based programs, 602-256-6899 ext. 6302 or <http://www.arizonatheatre.org/>

March 29 & 30, 2008 – **5th Annual SRP Dragonboat Festival** at Tempe Town Lake. Traditional Chinese team rowing race. <http://www.azdba.com/>

March 30, 2008, 10AM – **Measure Me\*** at Jean's place in Sun City. SWCG workshop. Prepare a complete set of measurements of yourself for your costume projects. It's a lot

easier when you have someone else do it! We'll also do a "sweatshop" session to make more fundraiser costume items for upcoming renaissance fairs. Please bring your sewing machine and tools, if they're handy.

April 9-13, 2008 – **Maricopa County Fair** at the state fairgrounds, NEC 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue & McDowell Road, Phoenix. <http://www.maricopacountyfair.org/>

April 12, 2008 10-4 – **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Gilbert Global Village Festival** at the Gilbert North Civic Center. This family event highlights some of the traditional and contemporary forms of dance, music, children's activities, arts & crafts and ethnic foods from countries far away on the green open spaces of the Gilbert North Civic Center Campus. Our mission is to create opportunities for individuals and communities to celebrate, share and sustain the arts and the rich cultural traditions of countries from around the world.

April 19, 2008 – **Across Plus Anime' Event** at Bookman's, NWC 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Northern Avenue in Phoenix. All-day celebration of anime', including a cosplay competition. Contact Shane Bryner [ninjakittyofdoom@gmail.com](mailto:ninjakittyofdoom@gmail.com) for more information.

April 20, 2008 – **Victorian and Steampunk for Dummies** at Mike and Dorothea's place in Tempe. SWCG roundtable. Demos on basic Victorian styles and ideas on how to develop "Steampunk" fantasy personas. (See article in this issue.)

April 25-28, 2008 - **Costume-Con 26** at the Doubletree San Jose hotel in San Jose, California welcomes space cadets, living history aficionados, reenactors, textile designers, theater designers, fursuiters, mascots, cosplayers, fantasy costumers, costume professionals and folks who just like to dress up! We look forward to mixing it up with all types of costumers (and those who appreciate costumes, such as photographers and artists). <http://www.cc26.info/>

May 9-11, 2008 - **LepreCon 34** at the Francisco Grande Hotel in Casa Grande, Arizona. Guests include artist Howard Taylor, authors Emily and Ernest Hogan, local artist Liz Danforth and special FX/makeup artist David Ayres. Go to [LepreCon, Inc.](http://www.leprecon.com) for more information.

May 18, 2008 – **Swap Meet\*** at Dorothea and Mike's place in Tempe. Have some fabric, costume pieces or costume supplies you want to get shed of? Why not barter them with your fellow guildsters?

June 21, 2008, 7 PM – **Serenity Now** at The Loft Theater in Tucson. Special showing of Joss Whedon's film "Serenity" for the benefit of Equality Now. Sponsored by the AZ Browncoats. These showings usually feature costume contests and other fan participation events. Best to buy your tix in advance.

June 21-22, 2008 – **Renaissance in the Pines** at Fort Tuthill Park near Flagstaff, Arizona. This is a fine single-weekend faire in the cool country. Look for your webmaster's "[MoiRandall's](http://www.moirandall.com)" costume pavilion among the merchants. [www.renaissanceinthepinesinc.com](http://www.renaissanceinthepinesinc.com)

June 29, 2008 – **Art and Costume\*** – SWCG field trip to the West Valley Art Museum, 17420 North Avenue of the Arts, Surprise AZ (114<sup>th</sup> Ave & Bell Road), which features an extensive collection of costume from all over the world. We'll meet at the museum restaurant for lunch at 11:30 then take a guided tour of the museum. Please RSVP to Anna at [annamc@ix.netcom.com](mailto:annamc@ix.netcom.com).

July 27, 2008, 4PM – **Pooling Around\*** at Tasha and Chuck’s place in northwest Phoenix. SWCG’s annual costumed pool party. This year’s theme: Steampunk.

August 1-3, 2008 – **Costume College** in Van Nuys, California. A whole weekend of costuming workshops sponsored by Costumer’s Guild West. The college is full for this year, but you can join a waiting list at [www.costumecollege.org](http://www.costumecollege.org).

August 24, 2008 – **Say Cheese\*** at Mike and Dorothea’s place in Tempe. Bring some of your costumes for a photo shoot.

August 29-31, 2008 - **CopperCon 28** at the Embassy Suites Paradise Valley, 4415 East Paradise Village Parkway South in Phoenix, Arizona Annual fan-organized science fiction convention. Your Editor will direct the masquerade. [www.coppercon.org](http://www.coppercon.org) or <http://members.cox.net/coppermask/> for masquerade details as they become available.

September 28, 2008 – **Fabric Field Trip\*** (tentative). Some of our members have a lead on a fabric inventory for sale in the far east valley. If this pans out, we’ll go have a look. If not, we may do another fundraiser sweatshop.

October 19, 2008 – **Not All Dummies are Duct Tape\*** (tentative) at Jean’s place in Sun City. We have a lead on an alternative method to build a personally fitted dresser dummy, but more research needs to be done to see if it’s practical. Keep watching this space.

November 30, 2008 – **Evening in the Garden\*** at the Phoenix Botanical Gardens. Get together in the evening to walk the annual “Las Noches de las Luminarias” event. Wintry costume highly encouraged.

December 28, 2008 – **Holiday Party\*** SWCG Social and annual officer elections. Location to be announced.

July 2-6, 2009 - **FiestaCon** (WesterCon 62) at the Tempe Mission Palms hotel in Tempe, Arizona. Guests so far include author Alan Dean Foster, Analog editor Stanley Schmidt and artist Todd Lockwood. Sponsored by [LepreCon, Inc.](http://LepreCon, Inc.)

September 4-7, 2009 - **North American Discworld Convention** in Tempe, Arizona. The first convention in the United States for fans of Terry Pratchett's Discworld, featuring guest of honor Terry Pratchett himself. [www.nadwcon.org](http://www.nadwcon.org) Sponsored by [LepreCon, Inc.](http://LepreCon, Inc.)

**SWCG Special Workshops at Bookman's** – We have the following Saturdays in 2008 reserved from 9AM to 2 PM at the Bookman's Entertainment Exchange at the Northwest Corner of 19th Avenue & Northern in Phoenix. Come join us for stitching and conversation.

March 29

April 26

*Now that Bookman’s is no longer available, we’re open to suggestions for a new workshop location.*

## From the Mailbox

### Silicon Web Costumers Guild *The Virtual Costumer* 5.4 Sep/Oct 2007

Editor Dana MacDermott promotes Future Fashion Show, Carol Parker's Dye and Fiber Arts Retreat (with lots of pictures), Gail Wolfenden-Steib reviews and demonstrates "Photo EZ Stencil," a fast, inexpensive silk screen method, Dana MacDermott's photo essay of Burning Man 07 Fashion. Back issues of The Virtual Costumer can be viewed at <http://www.siwcostumers.com/>.

### International Costume Guild, *ICG Newsletter*, Issues 1 and 2, 2007.

President's Year-End Message (Five new chapters in 2007!), Part 2 of Bruce Mai's "Steampunk: The Next Costuming Wave?," Treasurer's year-end report.

*Randall carries incoming newsletters to meetings in his trademark army surplus map case. Afterwards, the newsletters go to Jean for the archives.*

## **ICG Officer Nominations Open**

posted by Nora Mai

Nominations are now open for The officers of the International Costume Guild, including President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. As pointed out by the President in her recent post to the ICG-D List, the responsibilities of each office are spelled out in the bylaws and standing rules at <http://www.costume.org/documents/bylaws.html> and <http://www.costume.org/documents/StandingRules.html> respectively.

Yes, it's okay to nominate yourself if your wish to serve your fellow ICG folks in one of these positions. Nominations are due March 26, 2008 and can be sent to President Nora Mai at [von\\_drago@yahoo.com](mailto:von_drago@yahoo.com).

## **ICG Seeking Newsletter Editor**

posted by Nora Mai

The newsletter is looking for a new editor. Denisen Hartlove, who has served dutifully for the past several years, wishes to pass on the job to someone new.

So is anyone out there interested in taking up the reins for the newsletter? You won't be completely on your own, there is an editorial board that can assist you & the position conveys a certain permission to harangue ICG officers & members of the community for content.

Responsibilities: Acquiring content, doing layout, getting it printed, folded, stamped & mailed (member address labels procured through the ICG Treasurer). Production is bi-monthly so 6 times a year).

Requirements: Must be a member of the ICG (but we have a lot of chapters, so that's not hard, right?)

Apply to the ICG President [icg-president@costume.org](mailto:icg-president@costume.org) . Come on! Let's swamp that mailbox!

## **Report from the Faire**

by Lyn Jeppesen

Just a short update: our goods are not selling well, but we did not expect them to because we did not do that well last year, and this year the decline in the economy is having an additional effect. David and I are spending the first four weekends of March and the last Saturday with CROFT because we want to; we're questioning whether we'll do it next year, no loss to the Guild if we don't. Randall's report on PreFaire Costume Swap pretty well tells the story. Yesterday was a record sales day at CROFT, and two of our hats sold. No one did exceptionally well, it was across the full range of products available. We probably will have more sales during the Faire's run, but probably nothing to shout about. We are having a great time, enjoying the fresh air, making lots of new friends, giving out lots of contact info, and will continue to show our products.

## **Upcoming Productions at Theater Works**

posted by Jae Smith

Hello I just wanted to invite and encourage everyone to attend the Theater Works Production of "An Inspector Calls." It runs March 7-22, with performances on Thursday evening, Friday evening and matinee on Sat and Sunday, and a matinee on Wednesday March 19. It is set in England in 1912. I helped with the costumes as well as being Stage Manager and a few other things. The great news is that as SWCG members just tell them you are a student of Jae's (We are still putting together the different discounts so they know who is who) and you save over 50% with tickets only \$14.00

Theater Works has several upcoming productions, and we are reaching a point that we need some help in costumes, so anyone interested please let me know. In the future any productions which the guild participates in will be listed in our program along with a short description if we want.

For Gun buffs, "The Assassins" will be the next main stage production starting April 4. The youth will be doing "Bridge to Tarabithia" followed by "Peter Pan." Like I said, a lot going on and we could use some help. Different productions offer some stipends and of course materials are provided, and a few other spiffs. It is a great deal of fun.

The preview shows at Theater Works are all free and open to anyone. Opening night for main stage productions include a wine and cheese meet and greet after the show. Costumes are always welcome to be worn at any of the period shows or just to show off some of your handiwork.

More information on Theater works can be found at <http://www.theaterworks.org/>

Any questions? Feel free to contact me.

Jae Smith

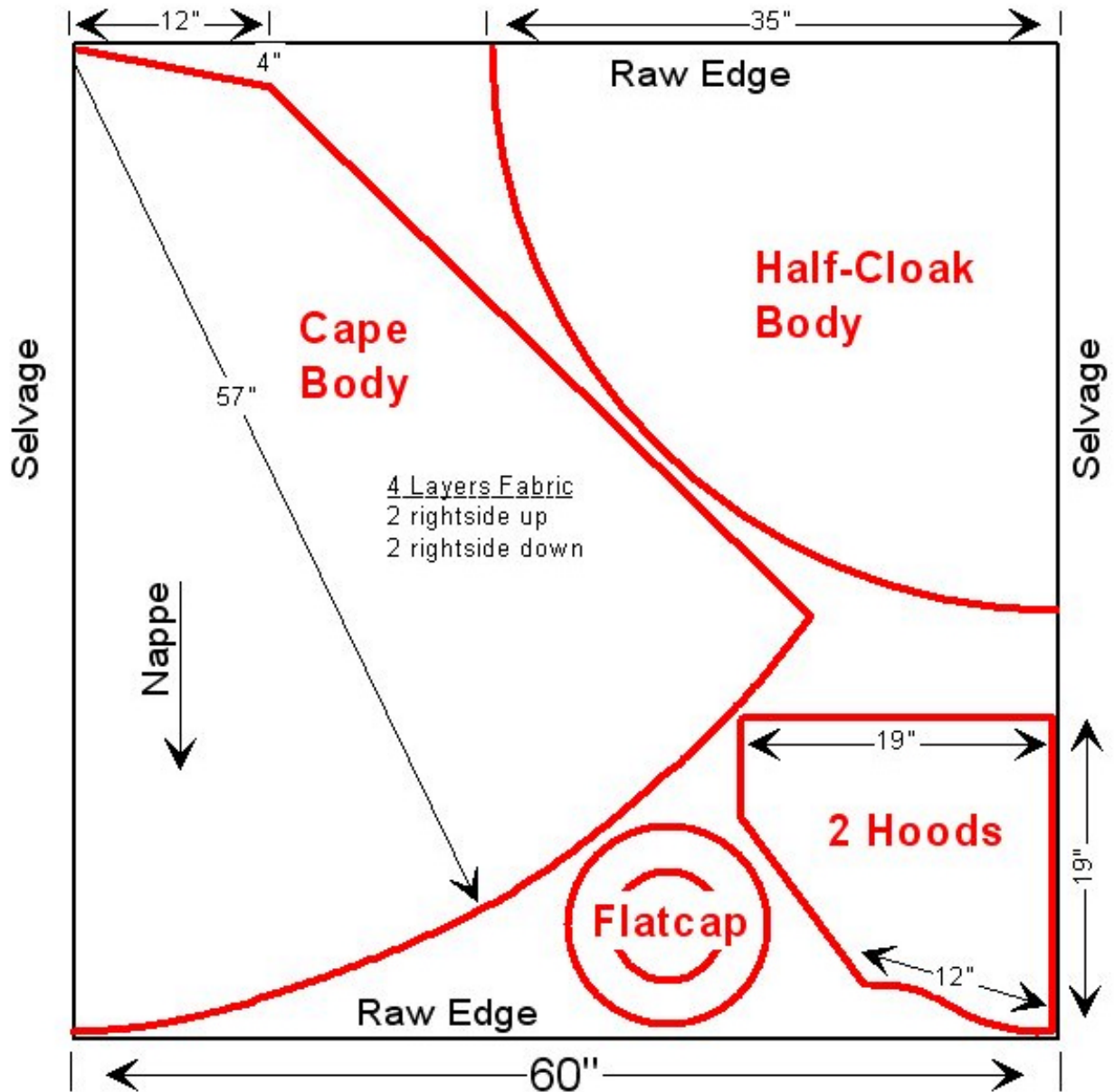
480-766-2611

## The Two-For-One Cape Cut

by Randall Whitlock

We've built velvet capes at "sweatshop" sessions for many years. It's one of the guild's main fundraising activities. The original "dreaded black fuzzy" velvet had no nappe, so we could orient our cape panels either way with some rightside up and others upside down in order most efficiently to use the fabric. The material we've found in recent years, however, has a strong nappe. We tried running the nappe downward on the front panels and upward on the back panels. Customers never complained, but somehow it was aesthetically displeasing for the fuzz to reverse itself on opposite sides of the garment.

Last fall, I came up with a compromise solution I call the "two for one" cut. By cutting a half-circle cloak and a full-circle half-cloak together, we can cut the fabric with practically no waste. In my experience, these half-cloaks sell quite well. They're wrist length on adults and full-size capes on children.



First off, cut four pieces of fabric a bit longer than the full length of the full-size cape, say 60 inches or so for a 57-inch long cape. Lay the pieces on top of one another as two pairs of fabric, right sides together and with the nappes all running the same direction.

Measure out a string compass 57 inches long. Place the center of the compass at one of the top corners of the fabric and chalk out about 45 degrees of arc on the bottom end of the fabric. Lay out the shoulder as a line segment that begins at the center point of the arc and runs about 12 inches into the fabric and four inches down from the top edge. Run a line down from the end of the shoulder segment at a 45-degree angle from the top edge until it intersects the chalked arc. You've just laid out the four pieces of a half-circle cape body.

Place the center of your string compass at the opposite corner of the top edge of the fabric. Extend the compass until it just about touches the side line of the cape. This comes out to about 36 inches on 60-inch fabric. Scribe a 90 degree arc. This becomes the four body panels of a full-circle half cloak.

There is enough room just below the half-cloak to lay out a hood. Since there are four layers of fabric, this is actually two hoods, one for the full-length cape and one for the half cloak.

If you've done the layout very, very carefully, you can draw a 12-inch circle next to the hood and make the four layers of a flatcap. Use the same 5.5-inch diameter circle to create the head opening of the flatcap and the necklines of the cape and half-cloak.

Assemble the pieces, finish the edges and you have three garments and very small scraps.

### **Member Cathie Yankovich Invites Us to Participate in the LepreCon 34 Charity Auction**

Greetings,

As you may already know, LepreCon 34, the 34th annual metro Phoenix speculative fiction convention, will be held May 9 -11, 2008, at the Francisco Grande Hotel and Golf Resort. We expect membership to be around 500 attendees. LepreCon 34 is sponsored by LepreCon, Inc., an Arizona volunteer non-profit corporation.

Each year the convention hosts a charity auction to benefit a worthy organization. The beneficiary of this year's event will be the American Cancer Society. The ACS is a non-profit, 501(c)3 association nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem. To meet their goal, the ACS is involved in cancer research, advocacy, cancer information services and community programs to educate the public about early detection, prevention, treatment, survival and quality of life. If you want to learn more about ACS, visit their website is: [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

If you would like an ad in our convention program book, we offer the option of trading merchandise for advertising at the following rates:

- Merchandise valued at \$ 25 - Free business card ad in program book or \$20 off larger ad
- Merchandise valued at \$ 50 - Free 1/4 page ad in program book or \$30 off larger ad
- Merchandise valued at \$100 - Free 1/2 page ad in program book or \$50 off larger ad

To ensure the ad will be included in the program book, we need the donation and ad copy no later than April 20th. Donations will be accepted until the convention; however, we cannot guarantee an ad in the program book after that date

If you are interested in purchasing an ad in the program book, our full rates are:

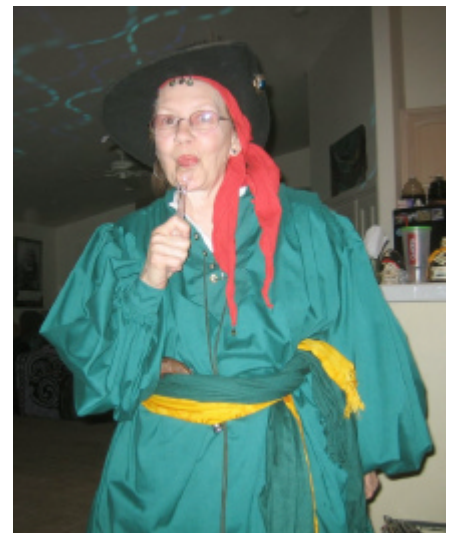
Full Page	\$90 (7.5" x 10")
Half Page	\$50 (7.5" x 5")
Quarter Page	\$30 (3.75" x 5")
Business Card	\$20 (3" x 2")

We are also happy to offer you the opportunity to have a link to your website placed on the convention website on the Charity Auction page.

Thank you for your consideration.

Catherine Yankovich, LepreCon 34 Charity Auction Director  
602-252-2638 [cathiey@cox.net](mailto:cathiey@cox.net)

### **Randall's Roving Camera**



Ambience Artist Margie created a perfect table display for the Dark Ones' pirate-themed February party. Jean enjoyed the coconut pudding.



Randall, Nyki, Jean, Paula and Mary hit the Arizona Renaissance Festival on Feb 24.



Diane helped out at her friend's "Katie's Millinery" booth at Winter Range on March 8 & 9.



## **Cabaret Belly Dance Bra and Belt Construction**

Instructor: Gail Wolfenden-Steib aka Rukshana / four weeks

This is a hands on workshop that will include information on theatrical costume design basics, ready to wear alteration techniques and assorted tricks of the trade that will be used to create a custom fit bra (with a hard cup typical of Egyptian and Turkish style bras) and belt suitable for cabaret style belly dance costumes. In addition, students will have an opportunity to practice basic beading techniques and will receive material resource information. Please wear dance clothing to the first class (measurements will be taken). Some hand sewing skills required. Estimated materials cost is \$50 and up (a detailed course handout and material list will be provided prior at the first class). Minimum 5 Maximum 6 participants.

**\*\* American Tribal Style dancers will benefit from the techniques covered!\*\***

**Tuesdays March 18 through April 8—7 to 9:30 PM \$66  
Classes held at the Mesa Arts Center**

**Three ways to register!  
Log on to the web: [www.mesaartscenter.com](http://www.mesaartscenter.com)  
Web trac: 480-644-4449**

***Call the registrar: 480-644-6520***