

# Cactus Needles

Volume 17, Number 9 – September 2010

Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504,  
Phoenix AZ 85069

<http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>



*Left: Randall tends his “MoiRandall’s” costume table at the Mid-East Feast, August 28, 2010. Photo by Mike Contos*

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## Calendar

Do you know an event of interest to Arizona costumers? Please 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.* **Green Text** indicates an event hosted by our friends at SunaCosu (<http://www.sunacosu.com/>)

Third Saturday of Every Month, 10 AM – **Personal Projects Workshops\*** at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. Bring your current project, socialize, pick our brains, Stitch and B. . . . Contact VP Nyki for details.

September 8th, 2010, 12:30pm - **Thing To Wear** (Lecture on the Kimono) at the Phoenix Art Museum.

September 10, 2010, 5-8 PM - **Free Fashion Night at Neiman Marcus** A free evening of fashion at Neiman Marcus, 6900 E. Camelback Road, Scottsdale. The event features live jazz music, a performance by Scorpius Dance, exhibits from the Phoenix Art Museum’s fashion collection, The Art Institute of Phoenix and designs created by Phoenix Home & Garden magazine. For more information call 480-990-2100.

September 10 & 11, 2010 - **ENCREDICON!** Evermore Nevermore's (127 West Main Street, Mesa, Arizona) Comic Review of Enlightened Drawing & Inscribing Convention! A mini-comics con with focus on local independent comics creators. We currently have a dozen participants and the event will include a Sci-Fi Fashion Show with original designs and characters by local creators, and a FREE showing of the locally produced monster movie SACRIFICE! <http://www.evermorenevermore.com/encredicon.htm>

September 11, 2010, 1PM – **SunaCosu Feather Wing Workshop** at the Pyle Adult Education Center, Southern & Rural in Tempe.

September 11, 2010 – **LaughingMoonCon** at Desert Edge High School, 15778 Yuma Road, Goodyear AZ 85338. Gaming convention with special appearances by Arizona's 501st (Imperial Stormtroopers), Knight Rider's K.I.T.T., the A-Team Van, and more to come!! <http://www.upcomingcons.com/upcomingcons/1704-Laughing-Moon-Con>

September 19, 2010 – **Can't Stop the Space Pirates** at the MadCap Theater, East of 7<sup>th</sup> Street & Mill Avenue in Tempe, Arizona. **See attached flyer.** [www.azbrowncoats.org/CSTS/Phoenix](http://www.azbrowncoats.org/CSTS/Phoenix).



September 26, 2010 – **Fabric Swap\*** - SWCG meeting at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. Sure, that piece of fabric, notion, or tool seemed like a good idea at the time, but it's been sitting around for years. Maybe someone else has a better use for it. Maybe they have something you can use. Let's barter!

October - Feb **Tucson Historic Hauntings** a tour of Downtown Tucson's Historic buildings, Hauntings, and Stories costume are welcome make sure to bring camera \$10.00 per person for info and reservations please contact [tuazghostgirl@q.com](mailto:tuazghostgirl@q.com)

October 5, 2010 – Submissions Deadline for October Cactus Needles. What are your plans for Halloween?

October 8, 2010 - **Steampunk Street!** at Evermore Nevermore, 127 W. Main Street, Mesa AZ. For the downtown Mesa 2nd Friday event on October (10/8/10) we'll be placing as many Steampunk Artisans, Costumers and vendors as we can get on the south side of Main Street between Robson & MacDonald. We don't have our web page up for this yet, but we have our initial email blast link. <http://www.evermorenevermore.com/ENSteamSt.png>

October 15-17, 2010 – **Wild Western Festival** at Sahuaro Ranch Historical Park, 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue, north of Olive in Glendale, Arizona. [http://www.wildwesternfestival.com/WWF\\_Home.htm](http://www.wildwesternfestival.com/WWF_Home.htm)

October 15-17, 2010 – **Helldorado Days** in Tombstone, Arizona. Began as a celebration of Tombstone's 50th anniversary in 1929! Street entertainment, Chili Cookoff, carnival, Live Music, Parade on Sunday. Free <http://www.tombstonechamber.com/Helldorado-Days-81st-Annual>

October 23, 2010 – **State Fair Demo\***. From Lyn: “The Guild is scheduled for a whole day at the State Fair, on Saturday, October 23rd (second weekend of the Fair). MaryEllen would appreciate us coming in costume to get more attention, and has promised a prime spot for us. Anyone also wanting to work on a project may do so. It is suggested that we do 4 hour shifts so no one has to stay all day. Parking (17th avenue entrance) and admission is free.”

October 24, 2010, Noon to Five – **Steampunk Arms Race\*** at Mike and Theresa's home in Casa Grande. Bring a squirt gun, soft dart gun, or other suitable nonlethal ordnance to paint up and decorate as a steampunk/SF/fantasy costume prop.

November 7, 2010 – **All Souls Procession** in Tucson, Arizona. Capstone of events surrounding the Dia de Los Muertos celebration. <http://www.allsoulsprocession.org/>

November 12-14, 2010 - **TusCon 37** at Hotel Tucson, 475 N. Granada in Tucson, Arizona. Guest of Honor is Jim Butcher, Author of the Dresden Files and Codex Alera novels. <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/> or <http://www.tusconscificon.com/>.

November 20-21, 2010 – **Phoenix Faerie Festival** at Estrella Mountain Park in Goodyear, Arizona. <http://www.westerngatesfaerierealm.com/PhoenixFaerieFestival.htm>

November 21, 2010 – **Workshop – Topic to be determined\*** at Laurie Taylor's place in Scottsdale.

December 26, 2010 – **Hatmaking and Decorating\*** at Elaine and Carl Mami's in Tucson. Hats, Holiday potluck celebration, and annual elections.

January 6-9, 2011 – **MythosCon** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in downtown Tempe, Arizona. This is a convention for fans of H.P. Lovecraft and his works. <https://www.mythoscon.org/>

January 13-15, 2012 – **DarkCon 2012**. [www.darkcon.org](http://www.darkcon.org)

January 22, 2011 - **Dillinger Days** at the Hotel Congress in Tucson, Arizona. See where 1930s public enemy John Dillinger and his gang were nabbed in Tucson, with historical reenactments. <http://www.hotelcongress.com/>

March 4-6, 2011 – **Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention** at Old Tucson Studios, Tucson, Arizona. Arizona's first steampunk convention. <http://wildwildwestcon.com/>

March 12-13, 2011 – **Tucson Festival of Books** on the University of Arizona campus in Tucson, Arizona. <http://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/>

March 20, 2011, 10AM – **131<sup>st</sup> Railroad Silver Spike Festival** at the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N. Toole Avenue in Tucson, Arizona. Celebrate the coming of the railroad in 1880. <http://www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org/>

May 11-13, 2012 – **Costume-Con 30\*** “Sands of Time” at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona. <http://www.costumecon30.org/>

### **Costume-Con 30 Update**

We Have a Hotel! Costume-Con 30 will be held at the Tempe Mission Palms in downtown Tempe, Arizona on May 11-13, 2012. This is the same hotel where FiestaCon and North American Discworld Convention were held in 2009. Membership rates are \$75 through 12/31/10 and \$80 Through 5/31/2011. <http://www.costumecon30.org/>

## **Theater Works Costume Shop Volunteers Needed**

Theater Works is currently in need of individuals to assist with wardrobe, and costume construction for our 2010-2011 season.

Sewing and non sewing jobs are available! Hours are flexible and time slots are available for days, evenings and weekends to accommodate your schedule. Some projects can be done at home.

If you sew, we have projects ranging from minor repairs on costumes to full costume construction.

Daily projects that need completed include:

- 1) organizing, cutting out, and filing patterns,
- 2) cutting out and organizing fabric, trim and notions
- 3) hand sewing, hemming, minor repair work, buttons
- 4) basic machine sewing, and serging
- 5) laundry, ironing, folding and organization of costume stock
- 6) keeping dressing rooms and workshop tidy, wiping counters, cleaning mirrors, and restocking supplies

Volunteer application forms are available in the box office Mon to Fri 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Please contact Renee Brown, Resident Costume Designer or Terry Burns, Costume Shop Manager at 623-815-1791 X104 or [costumeshop@theaterworks.org](mailto:costumeshop@theaterworks.org) for more information.

Theater Works, 8355 W. Peoria Avenue, Peoria, Arizona 85345

## **Will Nola Take Castle by Storm?**

Our own Nola Yergen-Jennings participated as an extra at the shooting of an upcoming episode of the popular ABC mystery series "Castle," starring Nathan Fillion. Part of the episode is set at a Steampunk club. Look for her in the background, though there is always the possibility that the shots containing Nola won't make it into the final cut. The episode is scheduled to air on October 15, 2010. Check your local listings for time and channel.

Go to Nola's web site at <http://www.designbynola.com/> for some images to help you recognize her, as well as many samples of her fine theatrical costume work.

### **The Jewish History Museum**

564 S Stone Avenue, Tucson, Arizona

<http://jewishhistorymuseum.org/>

reviewed by Elaine Mami

Last weekend Rebecca & I visited the Jewish History Museum in Tucson for the first time. It won't be my last!

The museum is in the original building that housed the first Jewish house of worship in the Arizona Territory in 1910. It is downtown between Tucson's Armory Park & Barrio Historic

districts, at 564 S Stone Ave. In fact, USA TODAY listed the museum as one of the top ten places in the U.S. to learn about Jewish History. However, the museum houses an extensive history of Tucson, including a huge collection of photos printed from recently found negative plates.

Rebecca, being LOTS more historically savvy about Tucson than I, was in hog heaven! I was drooling over all of the original parts of the temple itself, and the reproductions of the original stained glass windows, which had been damaged earlier.

The best part (for costumers!) was their collection of actual clothing from the period around the construction of the building, with photos showing them worn by their original owners, and several pieces of jewelry and other accessories. Since the museum is really only in the one room that had been the sanctuary, only a small part of their large collection can be on display at one time, so it will see me back every month or so, certainly. Feb. is when they display wedding dresses, wedding portraits and marriage certificates (ketubot), and I have promised to led them my parents' portrait and ketubah, and my grandparents' portrait.

One garment on display is a costume that had been made for a celebration that several young women participated in. It is the only one known to exist, and took lots of restoration. It is preserved in a specially constructed and hermetically sealed case, and the Smithsonian has asked to purchase it! However, since it is a piece of history unique to Tucson, and Tucson's Jewish heritage, it's not going anywhere!

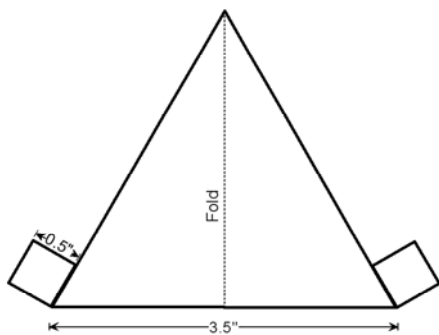
When you visit Tucson, we both hope you will visit this little-known gem. We'll be delighted to take you there ourselves, too.

### iPod Origami by Randall Whitlock

I have been *Absorbed*. I am *Of The Body*. Yes, I finally bought an iPod Touch.

I'm having fun with the device, but my hand gets a bit tired holding the thing at arm's length to watch videos, read e-books or surf the net.

How about a small stand so you can set the device on your desk or the tray table of an airplane seat?



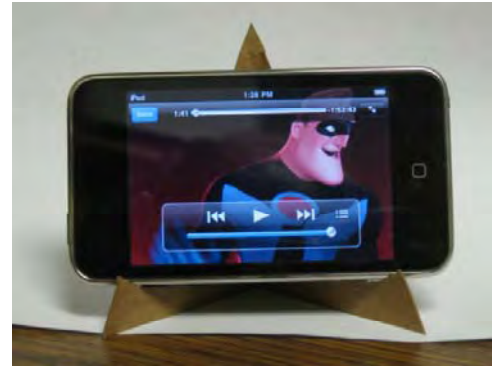
is larger or smaller.

I was inspired by those stands used to display collectible dinner plates. If you ignore all the scrollwork, they're basically two notched triangles joined by a hinge.

1. Acquire some cheap cardboard. A pizza box or the back panel of a writing tablet will do fine.
2. Draw an equilateral triangle on the cardboard. The bottom edge of the triangle is the edge of the cardboard. The sides are about 3 ½ inches long. Adjust if your device



3. Draw a square about ½-inch on a side along the left side of the triangle, from the bottom up. Do the same on the right side.
4. Cut out the lumpy triangle figure along its sides.
5. Fold the triangle down the middle and crease.
6. Open up the fold to about 90 degrees and you have a jack stand that will support your device with surprising stability.
7. Veg out with some old TV episodes or a good e-book.



**Images from the August 29, 2010 Pool Party**  
Photos by Randall Whitlock and Mike Contos



## Aug 29, 2010 SWCG Meeting Minutes

Gathered by Lyn Jeppesen

Discussed: State Fair Presentation (October 23d), and Topic, Location and Dates of the October, November, and December meetings, and Treasurer's Report:

1. Several members will be at the State Fair on October 23d, in costume, to represent the Guild. Our hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., hoping to have 4 hour shifts. We will also be presenting the award for the Best Costume (including craftsmanship), \$25.00 and one year membership in our guild.

2. Meetings:

Sunday, October 24th, Noon, at Mike and Theresa's home at 3146 N. Medalion Court in Casa Grande, [(520) 426-1590, if you get lost] to paint and otherwise decorate water guns as Steam Punk. Time 1:00 p.m. until approx 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 21st, at Laurie Taylor's house: 8531 E. Laredo Lane, Scottsdale, AZ [(480)-460-7016], Hat making and decorating, 1:00 p.m. until approx. 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 26th, at Elaine and Carl Mami's in Tucson, Holiday potluck celebration, and annual elections, contestants to be announced at the meeting, 5372 W. Rafter Circle Street, Tucson (520) 344-9305.

3. Treasurer's Report (not actually given but here it is): checking account: \$3,060.36; cash: \$258.35.

### On the Web

The new community issue of Silicon Web Costumers Guild's **The Virtual Costumer** is available for your enjoyment. This all-steam issue features an interview with Phil & Kaja Foglio, A Virtual Tour of the TechShop, Steampunking Othello, Costume-Con 28, and much more. NEW FEATURE: Select the FULL issue or use the image link to go to the Table of Contents and read/download only the individual articles you want! These smaller files are much better for people with slow internet connections.[http://www.siwcostumers.org/vc\\_current-issue.html](http://www.siwcostumers.org/vc_current-issue.html)

**YIPE!** Volume 2, Issue 8, "Loose Threads," is now available for download from <http://www.yipezine.com/> in both high- and low-resolution versions. In addition, we have now set up an email notification subscription, so you can get instant notification directly into your inbox when we post a new issue. – Kevin

Check out **Threads** magazine's take on one of our favorite workshop projects: the duct tape dummy. <http://www.threadsmagazine.com/item/3659/clone-yourself-a-fitting-assistant>. (found by Lainey.)

Richard Man has posted his photographs from **Costume College 2010** to <http://www.rfman.com/SF-and-Fantasy-Conventions/Costume-College-2010/>.

## **Bits and Pieces from Costume College**

by Frances Burns

This year I went tourist class and did not teach any classes, which was very relaxing. The convention is at a new hotel, the function space is better and the rooms are smaller. The venue is nice and a reasonable trade off from the old hotel.

I attended a limited class on working with bias. I learned some tricks of working with bias, specialty basting tips for bias, and why you stretch some seams while sewing. Silk thread pulls out easier than cotton for hand basting. There is actually a dressmakers carbon that works (it is Professional Transfer Paper - Each sheet measures 26" by 39" from Greenburg and Hammer or Richard the Thread.) You only use white dressmakers' carbon on your fashion fabric, even when the fashion fabric is white. And most important: that I really do not have the attitude for haut couture style sewing on a regular basis.

The process:

1. Get a properly fitted muslin (see this issue of Threads magazine)
2. Transfer the sewing lines to the fashion fabric using dressmaker's carbon paper
3. Thread trace the sewing lines on each individual piece of fabric by hand
4. From the right side of the fabric hand baste the fabric using a sort of whip stitch
5. Re-fit the garment and make any changes
6. Sew the garment by machine
7. Finish the garment

All that hand basting is more than I want to deal with.

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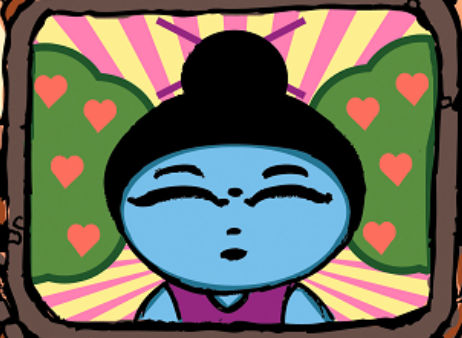


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# Admission: \$17\* online, \$18 at the event

\*Online price includes \$2 service fee