

Silicon Web Costumers' Guild

Silicon Web Staff

<i>President:</i>	Kevin Roche
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Elaine Sims
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Bruce MacDermott
<i>Secretary:</i>	Deb Salisbury
<i>Website Editor:</i>	Kathe Gust
<i>Virtual Costumer Editor</i>	Philip Gust



President's Message **Kevin Roche***

Wow -- ten years! I could not have imagined all that time ago that the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild would end up being one of the most active and largest chapters of the International Costumers' Guild!

In fact, ten years ago I thought it was one of the silliest things I'd ever heard. I was one of the founders of the Costumer's Guild West, and also involved in the early days of the Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild. Both of those were very much focused on physically getting together and organizing classes and events. I couldn't imagine how a virtual chapter could compete with that. Before I chaired Costume-Con 26, in fact, Karen Tully and I typically organized a late April event every year for GBACG!

Boy, was I ever wrong. When CGW and GBACG disassociated from the ICG, I joined SiW to maintain my ICG membership, but expected I'd be doing lots of local GBACG events. What I found, instead, was that they were skewing very strongly to a majority of historical events, while SiW members were actively involved in ALL sorts of costuming and cosplay. I had found "my tribe."

You may have noticed how many ICG officers and committee members are SiW members; I don't think that's a coincidence. I'm always reading about the local and regional events you all are involved in, and it's gratifying to see the effect we have on our larger costuming community.

Congratulations, Silicon Web Costumers' Guild -- here's to another 10 dynamic years!

On the personal front, we made it through Westercon 66, with 785 attendees onsite and a total of 883 members. We've still got a few outstanding tasks (mailing program books to those 90-odd non-attending members, for one), but we ended up in the black and can breathe a bit easier.

Of course, that doesn't mean I get to rest... I just finished sewing my Worldcon Masquerade entry for LoneStarCon 3 (2 weeks before the show! A new record!) and Andy and I are in charge of recruiting

participants for the costume program items at LonCon 3 next year.

Which reminds me -- what are y'all doing the summer of 2014? Want to share some of that Silicon Web energy and experience with the world next year in London?



From the Editor **Philip Gust***

This issue turns back the clock to the Georgian and Regency periods, from George I in 1714 to the death of George IV in 1830. Historical movies and popular romantic literature are set in these periods, so it is fitting to feature the costumes of the dashing heroes, dark villains, and elegant ladies who inhabit this world.

The Georgian and Regency encompass such a large time span that all the eras and all of the topics cannot be covered here. The articles in this issue present a sampling from the mid-to-late Georgian and several less well-covered aspects of the Regency. They also include a good mix of clothing for both men and women. I hope that you'll enjoy your little excursion into the byways of the periods, and feel inspired to try your hand at costuming from these times. You don't need to be an expert.

First, though, the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year! As you will read in a piece by Dana MacDermott, one of the founders and its first president, the SiW's approval as an ICG chapter was announced on 4 April 2003. Dana takes us back to the chapter's founding to tell us the interesting story of how it came about. I also want to thank Carole Parker, another founder and its first secretary, for her valuable input.

In my review of the new “18th Century Clothing” online exhibit from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, I take you on a tour of the resources available on their website, including a fully searchable index of over 200 costumes and accessories in their collection.

Debbie Roy, a long-time theatrical costumer, tells us the story of her magical trip of a life-time to Costume-Con 31 and how she created the costume for one of the more memorable characters in Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, the lovable Mrs. Musgrove, for the historical masquerade as a historical interpretation. Did I mention that this was her first-ever costuming convention and her first masquerade?

In his article on a man's Regency-era neck cloth, Christofer Bertani, an expert in this period, shows us how to prepare and wear this important article of clothing for any well-dressed gentleman, in a way that would please even Beau Brummel.

Next, Sheryl Nance-Durst describes how she created an elegant 1770s woman's

court costume that she presented at the Costume-Con 31 historical masquerade. Starting from the inside out, she discusses every aspect of this gorgeous creation, including her secret for an easy way to cut the elaborate scalloped trim that decorates her outer-dress, and how she used her own hair to create an impressive period style.

Kathe Gust takes a short detour to tell us about the Cumberland Corset, a popular man's foundation garment at the time but one that is little-known today. Her research started out because she read about it in a Regency romance and wanted to know more, which she is happy to share with you.

The father and son team of Robert and Abel Land show us how they developed a new Regency woman's half-boot for their historical footwear business, taking us from original concept to finished product, ready for an upcoming catalog. Along the way, we also learn about the techniques and tools that they use to produce their creations.

Next, Kathe Gust returns to tell us about her “Kensington Project,” a two-year odyssey to recreate a highly-embroidered 1780 man's court costume on display in the Kensington Palace museum, using only period-accurate patterns, materials and techniques. She even compounded the makeup and wig powder. In the process she learned many unfamiliar techniques and I shaved my beard to present the costume in the Costume-Con-31 historical masquerade, a promise that I made when she began the project.

Finally, professional teacher and costumer, Lynn McMasters describes her project to recreate a very unusual 18th Century Dutch Chintz Lined Straw Hat that she spotted in a Christie's auction catalog and caught her fancy. Her extensive historical research documents the origins of this hat and how it was worn. Following her detailed instructions, you too can try your hand at creating this unique fashion original.

Here is a quick preview of what is upcoming in VC. For the November 2013 issue, it's “Hats Off!” as we celebrate the many forms of hats, masks, and headgear. From historical to fantasy and sci-fi, this issue will explore things that costumers put on their heads and the unique construction techniques that are used to make them.

The February 2014 issue will delve into the iconic costuming for one of the most popular sci-fi/fantasy series ever: *Dr. Who!* With the upcoming Los Angeles *Gallifrey One* convention in February 2014, what better way to kick off the new year?

I'm pleased to announce that the May 2014 issue will take us to the Wonderful World of Disney costuming. The many colorful characters in Disney's cartoon and live-action classics provide an opportunity for imaginative and occasionally goofy takes on some of the most iconic costumes anywhere.

See the Upcoming Issues page of the SiW website for details. Now is a great time to start writing for VC, and share what you know and love with your fellow costumers.



SiW as it Began

Dana MacDermott

A founder of the SiW and an editor of VC reminisces about the chapter's start.

There were several factors that led to the founding of the SiW and were contributory to the structure and focus we attempted to build into the group.

Ten years ago the Costuming landscape and the International Costumers' Guild (ICG) were not the same as they now are. The San Francisco Bay Area, where I live, had another chapter of the ICG, the GBACG (Greater Bay Area Costumers' Guild) which has since severed its relationship with the parent organization. This chapter had evolved to emphasize almost exclusively Historical Costuming and those of us whose muse drew us primarily to Science Fiction and Fantasy endeavors had felt increasingly out of place.

After leaving the GBACG, Bruce and I joined a succession of remote chapters in order to remain part of the ICG. This seemed less than ideal since we could not participate in what were very locale oriented groups. We began talking with friends and realized that among them were a number of Costumers who did not live near any group or who for other reasons sought an alternative to their regional organization.

The idea of a non area specific chapter began to have more appeal.

ICG rules required each chapter to have a unique geographical region, so simply starting an additional standard chapter was not possible. It seemed to those of us who were involved in the early discussions that led to the SiW that a chapter located in Cyberspace might possibly satisfy the ICG requirement and allow us to form our own group within it. After all, creative people are almost defined by their ability to think outside the box, which in this case was the tangible world.

The internet culture was still developing, and many costumers were not yet online and viewed the internet with some suspicion. We were not at all sure that the ICG would go for the idea. Fortunately, the BOD accepted our carefully worded application.

There were several significant, essentially political issues that propelled us to set up the SiW in the form and with the emphasis that we designed. There was considerable controversy about membership, with a number of chapters desiring to have members that were not in the ICG. We specifically wrote our organization's purpose to set up the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild as a strong supporter of the ICG. This meant at minimum that all the SiW members would be members of the ICG, but we hoped it would develop further into encouraging active participation of the chapter and its members on the organization

level. Clearly, that intent has been realized. All you have to do is observe how many current and past officers of the ICG and volunteers for key responsibilities are SiW members.

Another concern of the founding core of the organization was to keep the SiW free from politics, which I believe has also been successful. We had observed that a number of chapters were embroiled in what we considered political/personality disputes, which seriously detracted from what we considered the appropriate focus of the organization, that is support of Costuming in all its forms.

Over the years, my personal concern has also been to make sure that our chapter is not dependent on specific people. Individuals burn out, or life happens; it is a serious weakness for any organization if the loss of one or two core people could cause it to falter or fail. Like having kids, you want them to be able to flourish on their own. This is a major reason I withdrew from official responsibilities (although remaining available if needed). It is also why I supported the separation of the ICG board representative from the office of chapter president.

Creating The *Virtual Costumer* (VC) as a digital publication from the start was obvious. We were the virtual chapter, and to be that, our newsletter had to be online. By our nature all of our members were on line, long before it became an essential aspect of modern life. Without local events, the

emphasis on articles rather than on chapter news was also natural. Sharon Trembley was the first editor of the VC, and when she was unable to continue, I took up the responsibility. VC has now evolved beyond our early vision and, under Phil Gust, has transformed into a high quality Journal.

As one of the founders of the SiW, and as its first President, I am quite pleased with how it has matured, and what it contributes to the larger costuming community.

Dana MacDermott holds an MFA in costume design, and is a professional theatrical costume designer and craftsperson. Together with Bruce, she was honored by the ICG with it's 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Motion to Admit SiW as a ICG Chapter

Sharon Trembley, ICG Treasurer

Posted to the ICG-BOD Yahoo Group (1322) by Sharon Trembley, 21 March 2003

Yesterday in the mail I received the signed letter requesting this group's chapter affiliation with the ICG. ... Here is the text of the letter. (right).

... I move that the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild (SiW) be admitted as a chapter of the International Costumers' Guild (ICG).

21 March 2003

We, the undersigned, request affiliation with the International Costumers' Guild as the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild (SiW)

...

Our officers are listed below along with a list of our members. Please advise us if we have been accepted.

Signed,

President: Dana MacDermott
(signature of Dana Rae MacDermott)

Vice-President: Sharon Trembley
(signature S. Trembley)

Treasurer: Bruce MacDermott,
(signature of Bruce R. MacDermott)

Secretary: Carole Parker
(signature of Carole Irene Parker)

Members:

Bill Laubenheimer
(signature of William Laubenheimer)

Rima McKinzey
(signature of Rima McKinzey)

Madelaine Doherty
(signature of Madelaine Doherty)

Announcement of SiW as a ICG Chapter

Carl Mami, ICG V.P.

Posted to the ICG-BOD Yahoo Group (1445) by Carl Mami, 4 April 2003.

It is with great pleasure I inform all that the ICG has a new chapter, SiW (Silicon Web Costumers Guild). I hope you will all join in welcome of this new chapter

C. D. Mami, Vice President ICG



Silicon Web Costumers' Guild

Introducing the newest chapter of the ICG - - - -

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild (SiW) hopes to attract members worldwide and has the following purposes:

- To be a supportive and fully participating chapter of the International Costumers' Guild (ICG).
- To be an educational organization to foster interest in costuming in all its forms.
- To be and maintain a quality group utilizing the resources of the Internet to extend communication and participation beyond geographic boundaries.

Sound like a group you would like to know more about?

Then please visit our web site at <http://www.geocities.com/siwcostumers> to meet our group's members and to find out more about our chapter's benefits.

Text of SiW application for admission as ICG chapter.

Early SiW recruiting flyer, mid-2003.