

Silicon Web Costumers' Guild

Silicon Web Staff

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Virtual Costumer Editor:	Kathe Gust



President's Message Kevin Roche*

OK, I freely admit, I'm going to cheat. Phil asked me to describe what the chapter president does, and we did this last year, too, so I'm stealing from myself, with minor edits. If this sounds familiar, it's because it is!

What does your President do? Well, if you read the description on our website (gasp!) it sounds pretty straightforward: Chief executor of the Chapter's business. It is the President's responsibility to shepherd discussions on the SiliconWeb Yahoo! group as the web group is our chapter's virtual meeting place.

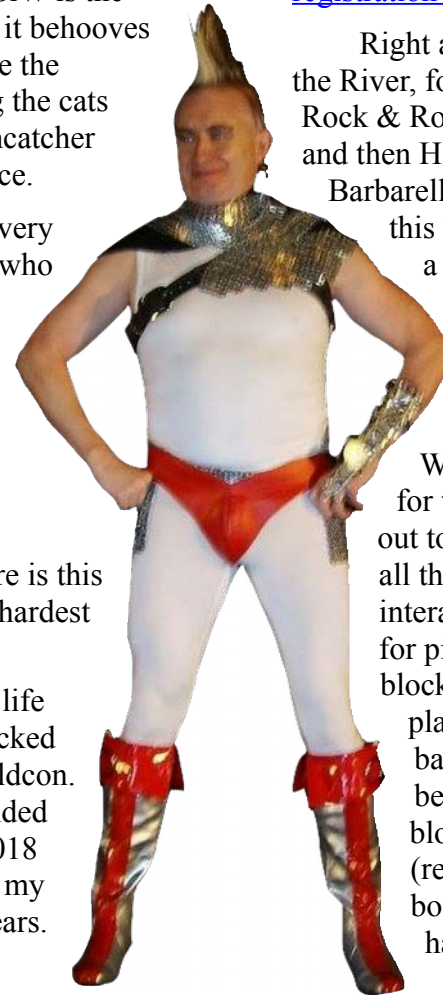
And, in fact, it is that straightforward. Fortunately, your board is a fairly congenial group, so the shepherding is more on the

order of noodging folks when we have business to proceed. I also am a non-voting member of the ICG board discussion group so that we have two sets of eyes watching for matters coming up in the Guild overall that you should know about. SiW is the largest chapter of the ICG, so it behooves us to pay attention! I also have the executive privilege of herding the cats involved in selecting a Dreamcatcher recipient if I am in the audience.

Also fortunately, I have very sharp officers on your board, who remind me if I forget a date that's coming up, so between the lot of us we keep the chapter ticking along. The most common reminder is whether we've done anything about elections that year.

And then, of course, there is this column. I think it may be the hardest part of the job...

Every year it seems like life suddenly and mysteriously kicked into overdrive right after Worldcon. This year, at least, it all depended on whether our San Jose in 2018 bid was successful. It was, so my life is nuts for the next two years. (And yes, I knew what I was getting into. Sort of.)



Kevin Roche as Boybarella at 60's SciFi party.

The official name, as I mentioned last issue, is Worldcon 76 in San Jose. It'll be at the McEnery Convention Center in Downtown San Jose, Aug 16-20, 2018. You can visit the [website](#) at, or go straight to the [registration page](#).

Right after Worldcon was the Rodeo at the River, followed by Convolution and the Rock & Roll 10K race, one of my faves) and then Halloween. We reprised our Barbarella Party as a Sixties SciFi Party this year, and the Boybarella proved a hit again. I have nefarious plans for next years Convolution with my friend Bill Howard.

This year we tried something new for Halloween. We took the Reaper (that I built for the Sasquan Hugo Ceremony) out to a neighborhood that pulls out all the stops for trick-or-treaters, and interacted with the crowds and posed for pictures. The route was about 6 blocks to get there, 3 blocks of playing, then back to our home base (a friends house). It took the better part of an hour to do that 3 blocks! Exhausting physically (remember the Reaper is a rolling body puppet), but so much fun! We have Engineering Improvements in mind for future adventures. The most



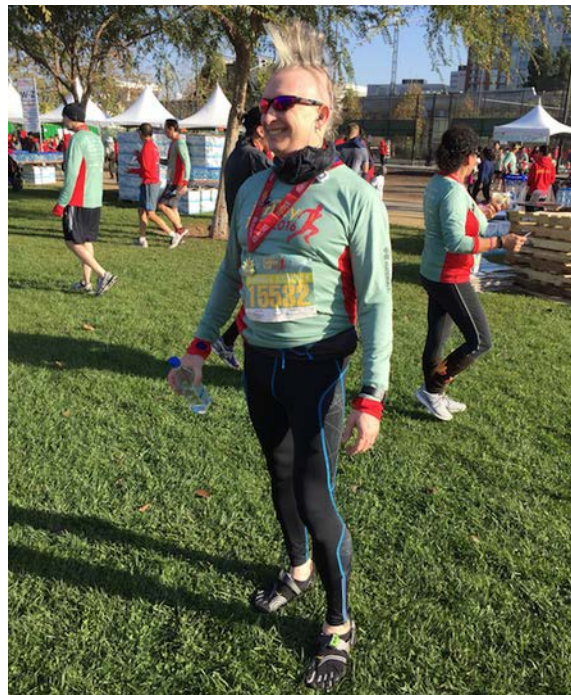
Kevin Roche as the Reaper.

common (surprising) assumption we got was all the people who assumed it was “a robot” of some kind.

Today is Thanksgiving, and this morning I ran in the wackiness that is the Silicon Valley Turkey Trot (5 kilometers in 25:21, a personal best), and I’m waiting in the airline terminal as we hop a plane to Los Angeles for LosCon 43. There will be San Jose parties TWO nights (Friday and Saturday) in a row. Then we’re off to Chicago for SMOFcon (the convention-runners convention), which will be my first appearance before the dreaded “Fannish Inquisition.”

The next weekend is the December meeting of the Peninsula Wearable Arts Guild (PenWAG), including their infamous “stash sale” event. For months, members have been donating fabrics, notions, garments, etc. from their collections at home, and on December 10th it goes on sale for bargain basement prices. If you live anywhere near the southern SF Bay Area and can get to the meeting at the Campbell Community Center, it’s only \$5 for non-members, and there are treasures to be found! Visit their [website](#) for more details.

My crazy friends and I are doing the Santa Run again. Last year we ran as a menorah; this year we’re hoping to do a string of giant holiday lights.



Kevin Roche at Silicon Valley Turkey Trot

Christmas itself is with family, and then we’re off again(!) with Further Confusion, and then it’s on to Gallifrey One, and Costume-Con 35 in Toronto in April.

My best wishes to you and yours through this winter holiday season. Whatever your faith and whoever your family, it is a good time to appreciate each other, to light (or be) a candle in the darkness, and be kind to the other passengers on our big blue marble. Have a great season!



From the Editor *Philip Gust**

If you ask most costumers why they devote the time and energy to create a costume, you’ll get a range of answers. Those who costume for a hobby might talk about the personal satisfaction in making something and being able to share their creation with an appreciative audience. Professional costumers might also mention satisfying the needs of a customer, whether an individual client, or a movie or theatrical production.

And then there is that special breed of costumer who revels in doing something difficult, who wants to test their personal boundaries, to take risks, and to try things that they don’t yet know how to do. In this final issue of *VC* for 2016, we’ll meet some costumers who enjoy pushing the envelope, and learn about some amazing costuming projects that are truly labours of love.

Lisa Zagone lives in Cork, Ireland. Her work, primarily in theatre set and costume design, is characterized by a commitment to artistic stylization – often playful, densely textured and packed with detail and fantasy. In her article, Lisa describes a project she recently undertook to create three drag costumes that represent the “Female Trinity.” Entitled “Dressed As A...,” the costumes explore issues of gender fluidity, idealized femininity and body image. Her work was funded by the Cork City Council Arts Office, in Ireland.

Professional photographer Scott Johnson found a way to show off the work of costumers that creatively captures images appropriate to the costume and the overall context for the outfit. He does this with a “green screen” technique, commonly used by Hollywood, to add fantasy backgrounds that place costumers’ creations in novel and exotic settings. In his article, Scott talks about how he taught himself, describes the basics of the technique and his extensive collection of backgrounds, and shows some fascinating examples of his work.

Most public and private universities in the U.S. have mascots that represent their teams at sports events. Stanford University in Northern California is different. The University has not had one since saying goodbye to their American Indian mascot in the early 1970’s. Instead, the Leland Stanford Junior University Marching Band has adopted its own mascot, the “Tree,” inspired by a large tree near campus that was

a landmark when the first Spaniards arrived. Each year, students compete fiercely to become the Tree. The winner designs, builds, and wears the costume whenever the band performs that year. In his article, this year’s Tree, Sam Weyen describes winning the honor, and the process of creating his imaginative interpretation of “El Palo Alto.”

Just moments after accepting their Journeyman Judge’s Favorite award at Worldcon 2014, Lorretta Morgan’s husband, Tim, popped the question, “what do you want to do next?” Thus began a two-year odyssey that took a group of intrepid costumers on a flight of fantasy, from a winged Greek youth, to airships, astronauts, and finally to an alien world where people fly dragons. In her article, Lorretta describes



Philip & Kathe Gust as unseelie faeries. Photo: Scott Johnson.

how the group juggled work, families, and busy schedules to complete the costumes for “Flights of Fantasy” that they entered in the Worldcon 2016 masquerade, and won Best Presentation in the master division.

For over 80 years, the *Pageant of the Masters* in Laguna Beach, California has put on a unique theatrical production. They present a series tableaux vivants, or “living pictures,” motionless scenes depicting the work of great artists using live people, with professional music, lighting, and narration. Creating the illusion of paintings, sculptures, and other art requires a very different kind of costuming. Reagan Foy, the Costuming Director for the Pageant tells us about how she and her staff create over 150 costumes, and why more than 250 volunteers put in over 60,000 hours to put on this amazing production in July and August every year.

Costumer Judy Grivich likes to think big, and to take on costuming projects that would cause any sane person to give up before they started. In her Virtual Soapbox article, “Why I Do What I Do,” Judy explains what drives her to create some of the most spectacular costumes from cosplay fandom, and why she keeps doing it. She also discusses some of her favorite costumes over the years, from Gimli the Dwarf and the Easterlings from *Lord of the Rings*, to Ursula from the *Little Mermaid*. She advises that if you paralyze yourself expecting every new technique to be perfect before you let yourself walk out the door, you’ll be a lot less likely to try new things.

Here is a preview of what is upcoming in *VC*. The theme for the February 2017 issue, will be is “Props and Costume Special Effects,” focusing on the art and practice of making props and creating special effects to add an extra spark or a look of authenticity to costumes and their presentation.

In May 2017 we’ll experience some “Summer Magic.” As spring ends and summer approaches, this issue focuses on exploring new and interesting materials and techniques that will be useful when planning and creating costumes for the fall and winter seasons ahead.

I’m please to announce that the theme for the August 2017 issue will be “Stepping Out,” featuring articles about shoes and anything else that costumers wear on their legs and feet.

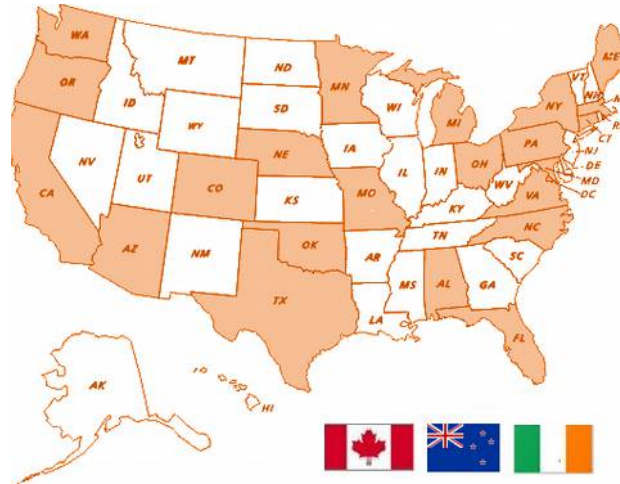
See the [Upcoming Issues](#) page of the SiW website for details. Now is a great time to start writing for *VC*, and share what you know and love with your fellow costumers.

Happy Holidays!



From the Secretary **Deb Salisbury***

As of October. 31, 2016, the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild has 69 members in 22 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia. SiW is also international, with two members in Canada, one in Ireland, and one in New Zealand. We even have an honorary member: Gunther Berger from the Greg



Evans comic strip, *Luann*. Welcome and thanks to all of our members!

If your contact information changes, please let me know so that you continue to receive your SiW and ICG member benefits: secretary@siwcostumers.org.



From the Web Diva **Kathe Gust***

Silicon Web is still one of the largest chapters in ICG, and I'm proud to maintain our chapter website . This year saw a refresh of the color scheme and I will be doing that again in 2017. You'll have to wait and see whether I can correctly guess the Color of the Year again, but if you have ideas of your own I'd be delighted to hear from you.

Our Costuming Links and Vintage Sewing Book collection still resides under

the [Resources section](#). All of them have increased slightly this year. A reminder that if you find good resources you think we should include please let me know so that everyone can benefit. Are there any other links we could add that you would value?

The one section that is still not a complete as I would like to see it, is our [Member Profiles](#). Since many of us meet infrequently at conventions, or perhaps not at all, it is really great to see photos and find out a little bit about everyone. If you'd like your profile included, send a head shot and a short bio to webmaster@siwcostumers.org and I'll be more than happy to add you. Not quite sure what to write? Get some ideas about that while finding out more about your fellow members by reading their profiles!

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at Costume-Con 35 in Toronto this spring. Happy Costuming in 2017!



From the VP and ICG Board Representative **Elaine Sims***

Hello there, Silicon Web! It's been a busy year for the Board, with discussion on the 2017 budget currently on the slate.

We have a new publication group under the Publications Committee: the ICG Press, with Tonya Adolfson as managing editor. There are multiple publication opportunities, such as the Costume Maker's

Art Volume 2, and it would fulfill the educational aspect of our non-profit mission. I do believe that the Publications Committee would be happy to hear from ICG members about other ideas for publications.

The Marty Gear Fund currently has only one application pending for a grant, and we'd like to see many more. If you have a project idea related to costuming, or know of someone who does, be sure to fill out an application. We want to see this Fund utilized to its fullest potential!

We were reminded that the ICG has an account with Amazon Smile, so if you are a frequent Amazon shopper as I am, consider designating the International Costumers' Guild (with the Lunenburg, MA address) as your Smile beneficiary!

The ICG recognized Myrtle R "Morojo" Douglas as the Mother of Convention Costuming, and is featured on the "Special Awards" page under "Awards" on the ICG website. The page also includes our previous recognition of Forrest J Ackerman as the "Father of Convention Costuming.

We had a new chapter join our ranks this year, Costumers' Anonymous of Texas, AKA 'CANT', but we all know they can! We also have a new SIG: Masquerade Runners SIG AKA "Hey, Everyone, Let's Put On a Show" (HELP).

My wishes to all of you for a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season, whatever your traditions may be!



From the Treasurer Bruce MacDermott*

As can be seen in the Statement of Financial Position, over the 12 month period ending October 31st, the SiW increased its reserves by \$194.17 to \$2724.47. Income in 2016 has exceeded expenses by \$131.36 with income totaling \$831.84 thru 10/31, We

Statement of Financial Position

	Oct 31, 16	Oct 31, 15	\$ Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
1010 · Cash in bank-operating			
1010-01 · Wells Farge Checking	1,345.24	956.94	388.30
Total 1010 · Cash in bank-operating	1,345.24	956.94	388.30
1030 · PayPal	28.55	251.09	-222.54
1070 · Wells Fargo Savings	1,336.68	1,336.27	0.41
Total Checking/Savings	2,710.47	2,544.30	166.17
Accounts Receivable			
1110 · Accounts receivable	0.00	-14.00	14.00
Total Accounts Receivable	0.00	-14.00	14.00
Other Current Assets			
1299 · Undeposited Funds	14.00	0.00	14.00
Total Other Current Assets	14.00	0.00	14.00
Total Current Assets	2,724.47	2,530.30	194.17
TOTAL ASSETS	2,724.47	2,530.30	194.17
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable			
2010 · Accounts payable	-28.74	-67.11	38.37
Total Accounts Payable	-28.74	-67.11	38.37
Total Current Liabilities	-28.74	-67.11	38.37
Total Liabilities	-28.74	-67.11	38.37
Equity			
3001 · Opening Bal Equity	794.48	794.48	0.00
3010 · Unrestrict (retained earnings)	1,827.37	1,612.49	214.88
Net Income	131.36	190.44	-59.08
Total Equity	2,753.21	2,597.41	155.80
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,724.47	2,530.30	194.17

had sufficient funds to sponsor an afternoon of the Con Suite in CC-34.

We are looking for opportunities to put or surplus funds to good use in support of the costuming community. If you have suggestions, please send them to the SiW board at board@siwcostumers.org.

I'd like to remind members that you can also designate Silicon Web Costumer's Guild as your Amazon Smile beneficiary!

Statement of Financial Income and Expense

	Jan - Oct 16
Income	
4000 · Contributed support	
4020 · AmazonSmile Contributions	5.00
Total 4000 · Contributed support	5.00
5000 · Earned revenues	
5210 · Membership dues - individuals	792.00
5310 · Interest-savings/short-term inv	0.34
5490 · Miscellaneous revenue	34.50
Total 5000 · Earned revenues	826.84
Total Income	831.84
Expense	
8500 · Misc expenses	
8520 · Awards	35.04
8530 · Dues - organization	448.00
8560 · Outside computer services	22.37
8590 · Other expenses	27.65
Total 8500 · Misc expenses	533.06
8600 · Business expenses	
8620 · Advertising Expenses	167.42
Total 8600 · Business expenses	167.42
Total Expense	700.48
Net Income	131.36

Author Acknowledgements

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild honors the 31 people who generously shared their knowledge and experience in the pages of *The Virtual Costumer* in 2016. SiW members are indicated with an asterisk beside their names. Thanks to all!

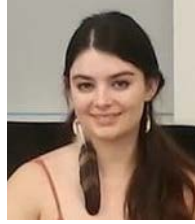
If you'd like to join these and other authors by sharing what you love doing, consider writing an article for one of the 2017 issues. For information on upcoming issues visit the [Upcoming Issues](#) page. To learn how easy it is to write for *VC*, see the [Author's Guide](#) online!



Janet Wilson
Anderson



Lisa Ashton



Ashley Bilke*



Byron Connell



Don McCunn*



Lorretta Morgan



Bethany Padron



Jeanna Parham



Heather K. Fleming



Reagan Foy



Judy Grivich



Kathe Gust*



Pierre Pettinger



Kevin Roche*



Rick San Nicolas



Deb Salisbury*



Philip Gust*



Dale Hope



Scott Johnson



Jay Jorgensen



Elaine Slms*



Janet Stephens



Andrew Trembley*



Kendra Van Cleave



Bruce MacDermott*



Patrick Makuakāne



Richard Man*



Ashley Phaneuf
Wakai



Terry Walker*



Sam Weyen



Lisa Zagone*