

# Silicon Web Costumers' Guild

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Virtual Costumer Editor:	<a href="#">Kathe Gust</a>



## President's Message Kevin Roche\*

Greetings! It seems like it's been months since I wrote one of these columns... perhaps because it has been! Right at the end of a very fun Gallifrey One weekend, I came down with the fever-and-cough bug that was going around, and it took me out of circulation for the better part of two weeks. Seems like I've been running to catch up ever since!

I did build one new costume for G1, the "Ghost" from *The Return of Dr. Mysterio* (the 2016 Christmas special for Doctor Who) (right) which was really fun to wear.



So much fun, in fact, that I took it with me to Costume-Con 35 last month, along with my infamous "Gary" (from The Ambiguously Gay Duo) costume. The rest of my wardrobe that weekend consisted of assorted UnderArmour superhero tees paired with matching colored pants. That let me execute my Worldcon Chair duties at our table without having to deal with full-on costumes, and was apparently effective -- I was stopped on Saturday and asked just how many superhero costumes I owned. I guess it's all in the attitude.

CC35 was great. I especially liked the Single Pattern Contest show on Friday night; it's the closest I've seen to my original vision of it since I debuted it back at CC12! The designers did some amazing tweaks on the different costumes, and the basic fashion-show flow on stage hearkened back to its roots as part of the

Future Fashion Show. I hope future Costume-Cons keep it up.

I had the privilege to judge the CC35 Historical Masquerade, and it was amazing. That, of course, made it really tough to judge, and I want to applaud my co-judges for working diligently and with no agendas to get the job done as quickly as we could. Rae Bradbury-Enslin tickled my fancy in particular when she realized the cutoff date let her enter the classic *Doctor Who* monster "Eldrad" with companion Sarah Jane Smith as a historical entry. (left) They brought down the house. I wore my one non-super costume for the Historical: my White Star Lines Able Seaman uniform.



The competitions were packed with wonderful entries; however this year, no entries stood out in the manner necessary to win Silicon Web's Dreamcatcher award. We'll have to see what Worldcon brings in August!

**Far left:** Kevin Roche as "Ghost" from Doctor Who special *The Return of Dr. Mysterio*. **Left:** Doctor Who Companion Sara Jane Smith (Anastasia Holt) with classic monster "Eldrad" (Rae Bradbury-Enslin) from "The Hand of Fear" in CC-35 Historical Masquerade

Last weekend found me wearing a different kind of costume as I worked at the IBM Research booth at the Bay Area Maker Faire. I recently joined the “quantum outreach” team to build programs to familiarize the public with the new IBM Q Division and it’s free-to-the-public working quantum computer. So there I was in my black t-shirt with a giant Q on the front, explaining qubits, entanglement, and quantum computing concepts as best I can (and giving virtual reality tours of the new Q lab) all day on Friday.



Quantum Computing at Maker Faire.

Some of my lab work has been supporting QC research for a while now, but when IBM announced the new Q division and the new outreach program, I put my name forward to be part of it. Now I have to learn way more about how it works: I just confirmed this week I’ll be giving talks on the subject at both NASFiC in San Juan,

Puerto Rico, and at Worldcon 75 in Helsinki, Finland this summer!

I’m off to my annual pilgrimage to Punk Rock Bowling in Las Vegas, while many of my friends are off to assorted conventions for Memorial Day weekend. June is relatively quiet as we prepare for the Worldcon 76 presence in both San Juan and Helsinki. We’re actually trying to figure out if we can ship the Galactic Tower to Finland, and we’ll certainly be featuring some of Sandy and Pierre’s costume work in our booth.

As usual, I’ll close by asking where have you been lately where you dressed up, and where are you going next? I’m sure Phil would love to hear from you for the Virtual Costumer!



Promoting WorldCon 76 at Costume-Con 35.



## From the Editor *Philip Gust\**

Summer is a magical time of year when the weather finally turns the corner and warm, sunny days are at last in the forecast. It officially arrives in the Northern hemisphere on the evening of June 20<sup>th</sup> in the Pacific time zone. It is also a time for breaking out summer wear, whether modern or historical. For those who live near bodies of water, that might include beachwear, a visit to a favorite beach, and maybe even a swim.

This issue of *VC* presents a potpourri of articles, all looking forward to the start of a magical summer season. First up is Janna Standridge, and her amazing “Walking Jellyfish” costume. The idea is definitely summer, but Janna has worn the costume to a number of events during all seasons of the year. Although the costume looks exotic, it is simple to create, and can be done as a fun summer project with just a little bit of adult supervision. Janna’s article includes a complete list of materials and instructions.

With kids and parents increasingly separated from each other when they attended a local sci-fi convention, My wife Kathe and I proposed a fun “Family” project that encouraged them to work together to build their own Harry Potter wands. With just a small collection of inexpensive parts, some hand tools, and little paint, Hogwarts students and their “Tutors” could create designs that were limited only

by their imaginations. And how cool would it be to win a wizard's duel against mom or dad when you're done? Mischief Managed!

Turning to the world of swimwear fashion, Kathe Gust presents an illustrated timeline of significant swimming related milestones, together with a survey of swimwear from 1650 to 1950. Along the way, we'll view bathing attire worn by Martha Washington, track the evolution of swimwear from canvas bags to revealing garments of Lycra and Spandex, and meet French exotic dancer Micheline Bernardini, who rocked the world like an A-Bomb by modeling the first Bikini in public in 1946.

And speaking of oceans and the marine world, "Mermaid to the Stars" Linden Wolbert is back to talk about being an "Entrepremermaid," by starting and running a successful mermaid business. In this second half of her interview, she tells us about how she grew her business, and her new venture in partnership with Body Glove to create a line of mermaid and merman swimwear for children. Linden's enthusiasm is infectious, prepare to be entertained!

The fantasy/horror cop TV show, *Grimm* from NBC was filmed in Portland, Oregon for six seasons, 2011-2017. When the show finally shut down production, they decided to hold a giant "warehouse sale" of props, costumes, and household brick-a-brack from the show. It was fitting that the sale was in the same warehouse complex where the show was based. Portland area costumer Lorien Fletcher, who is President

of the Time Travelers Costumers Guild ICG chapter, and several other Guild members, braved the lines and the weather to attend. Lorien reports on the event, and shows us some of the things she picked up at the sale.

Lisa Ashton, an authority on Victorian and Civil War era fashion and culture, attended a unique event this spring where experts in the period exchanged information, shared their treasures, and partied like it was 1860 in an historical setting in Michigan. The event included educational lectures, combined with opportunities to wear their recreations of Victorian era finery. Lisa, who is the Chair of the "Miss Lizzy's Traveling Historical Fashion Show" ICG Special Interest Group (SIG), recommends this event to anyone interested in the



Kathe and Philip Gust at a 1920's yachting themed picnic on the Pacific coast of Northern California.

clothing and the customs of the period (who wouldn't be?!) and says that she plans to attend again next year.

Finally Dublin, Ireland based theatrical costume designer and SiW member Lisa Zagone tells us about three plastics products that she likes to use when creating specialty theatrical costumes that hold their shape. In her "Virtual Soapbox" article, Lisa describes and compares the benefits of the three plastics, and shows off some of her work that uses them.

Here is a preview of what is upcoming in VC. In the August 2017 issue we'll be "Stepping Out," with articles about shoes and anything else that costumers wear on their legs and feet.

The theme of the November 2017 issue will be "Barely There," about creating costumes that are daring while remaining PG, and some of the materials and techniques that costume designers and creators use to achieve the look.

I am pleased to announce that the theme for the February 2018 issue will be "Transformations" about costumes that use various techniques to change the garment or wearer, or to completely transform themselves into something completely different to what was originally presented.

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.