

Silicon Web Costumers' Guild

Silicon Web Staff

President:	Richard Man
Vice-President:	Kevin Roche
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President's Message **Richard Man***

There was a "Robin Convention" on our trees yesterday, chirping their heads off. A clear sign that at least in the Northern California, Spring is in the air. With the turn of the new year, what are your costuming plans?

The annual Costume Con (CC28 this year) is being held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from May 7th to May 10th. I am the official masquerade photographer for the convention so I hope to see some of you there. I would encourage any SiliconWeb members that show up on Friday to gather and create some new Dreamcatchers as Dana's supply of the Dreamcatchers has nearly or already been

exhausted. With the high caliber of costumers at Costume Con, it's very possible that we would award a Dreamcatcher to the deserving costumer(s). Of course I hope that some of you would enter the competitions. Costume Con is always a great place to meet other costumers and learn from each other.

Since the last Virtual Costumer, we have six new members joining us, Kayta, Leanne, Johanna, Stacy, Tracy and Jennifer, continuing to make us the largest member chapter in the ICG. I hope the new members can find time to introduce themselves on the mailing list and connect with the rest of the membership. It is also helpful if you fill out the profile page on our website, so we can know a bit more about you. A photo of yourself may be nice too. Since we do not have face to face meetings, it would be nice to associate a face to the person. You can send the information to our Web Site Editor Kathe Gust.

I'd also encourage you to help promote SiliconWeb to your friends who are interested in costuming. Our membership rates are low and it's a nice inexpensive gift to someone or even to yourself.

Finally, our chapter typically has the annual election before Costume Con, if you are interested in any of the positions, please introduce yourself to the mailing list. I will

be stepping down as president (again :-)). We have many talented members in our group, and I hope that you will step up to the plate.

In addition, the ICG annual election occurs at Costume Con, so if you are interested in running for the national offices, it's time to throw your hat into the ring.



From the Editor **Philip Gust***

Welcome to the first issue of *The Virtual Costumer* for 2010. The theme of this issue is "A New Costuming Season". The year has hardly begun, and several major conventions are already over. SiW members Kevin Roche and Andy Trembley just returned from Arisia 2010, where they were Fan Guests of Honor. Look for Kevin's article in this issue on what can only be called, "the mother of all repair kits" that they bring to masquerades they run.

I'm pleased to welcome several new authors to the pages of VC. Leanne McWaters, who recently joined SiW, has a passion for wearable arts. She shares her experience buying her first needle felting machine, and explains how it can be used to

create some amazing costume effects. Paula Scaffidi, a leading authority on the subject, tells of a Metropolitan Opera costumer who produced some yardage with the technique, and reported that the effect on stage was better than something she had been sourcing for over \$150 per yard.

Another new SiW member and an experienced masquerade director, Jennifer Wylie, shares the stage with well-known masquerade MC Phil Foglio to discuss the role of the masquerade MC, and his fascinating experiences behind the podium at ComicCon and WorldCon.

Stacy Meyn provides expert advice on air travel for costumers. Stacy is another new SiW member, and she speaks with authority as an aviation security instructor.

Jade Falcon, a professional photographer who is well known for her outstanding masquerade photography, shows us how to pose for the camera in her first article for VC. This is the second in an occasional series of articles exploring the relationship between the costumer and the photographer.

In addition to Kevin, I'm also pleased to welcome back several other veteran VC authors. SiW member and award winning theatrical costumer Gail Wolfenden-Steib, takes us on a whirlwind tour of the Los Angeles Fashion District in her cover feature article, and gives tips for first time visitors.

Historical costumer Kayta Barrows offers her insight into why "doing it wrong" is sometimes the right thing to do when creating historical interpretations.

In my web site review, I reveal how a small textile mill in upper New York has built a solid reputation for recreating period fabrics, and has earned the respect of leading Hollywood costume designers, museums, and historical decorators.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and that it will inspire you as you get ready for your own new costuming season.

Here is a quick preview of what is ahead in upcoming issues of VC. The May issue explores Steampunk and Gaslamp costuming. This phenomenon is growing by leaps and bounds, with over a dozen conferences scheduled in 2010.

In August, we switch gears (*sorry!*) to look at clothing in the period between WW1 and WW2, the elegant styles of the most influential designer of the age, Madeline Vionnet, and her groundbreaking bias-cut draping technique.

The November issue ends the year by exploring the styles of one of the longest and most varied fashion periods in history, starting with Queen Victoria and ending with the reign of her son, Edward nearly a century later.

For more on these upcoming issues, what articles are planned, and information on how you can contribute an article, visit the [Upcoming Issues](#) page on the SiW web site. Remember, articles that aren't directly related to the theme of an upcoming issue are also welcome. Who knows, your article may even spark a whole new theme. That actually happened when a member's article suggested the theme for the August issue.

All three issues are already in production, so now is the time to start writing, and share what you know and love with other members.