

Silicon Web Costumers' Guild

Silicon Web Staff

President:	Dana MacDermott
Vice-President:	Kevin Roche
Treasurer:	Bruce MacDermott
Secretary:	Deb Salisbury
Web Site Editor:	Kathe Gust
Virtual Costumer Editor	Philip Gust



President's Message **Dana MacDermott***

This has been a very busy span of time for my household. We are deep into creative projects, which, although not actually costuming, use many of the same techniques we apply with our costume projects. There is also a wedding coming up in our family, with son, Jaron, headed for a late September event.

Creativity is one of those forces that simply will not allow you to ignore it. It can be a harsh master when you are striving to complete a project to a deadline and cannot completely ignore your real life. So why are we that way? Why are these urges so powerful when life would be so much easier without them? More sleep, less adrenaline, certainly less expensive. But not nearly as interesting; right?

It is my guess that many of our members find themselves in other than costuming creative habits. I would love to hear from you what they might be.

This (sort of) brings me to the topic of the costuming community and the SiW. We are involved in costuming because it scratches that creative itch. We are involved in the community because it feeds all of us in our fascinations, and because it is all so much more rewarding when we have like-minded souls to share with.

As SiW president this time around, I can rest assured that the group is alive and well, and does not need to be carefully nurtured to guarantee it continues to prosper.

I would like to see, however, if we can reach out to encourage and assist our members to grow their skills or increase their participation using some of our financial resources. Whether it is research and writing, attending a costume-oriented event that might have been just out of reach, or tackling a costume or related project that is special for one reason or another, I would like to see our chapter offer what assistance it can.

This is just another step in our support of the costuming community, and of the skills and knowledge base we share with each other. Suggestions, ideas and even musings are welcome.



From the Editor **Philip Gust***

The East has always held a special fascination to people in the Western World. Eastern art and fashion has always influenced our aesthetics and what we wear. The art and fashion of the Western World is also something that fascinates the Eastern World, and they are quick to adopt, adapt, and sometimes even export it back to the West.

When we think of “The East.” we usually think of East Asian countries like Japan, China, and perhaps India. However, the Eastern World is much more diverse and covers much more territory. It includes the Middle Eastern societies of the Arab world, all the countries of Asia and the Indian subcontinent, and many of the major island nations of the Pacific Ocean.

In this issue, we explore the influence of clothing and costumes from the Eastern World on the West, and how clothing and costumes from the West have influenced and been adopted by the Eastern World.

First, Jeanette Peters has been sending in “virtual postcards” from *WorldCon: Renovation* in Reno Nevada, which ends on the very day this issue is published. I'm pleased to share them with readers, along with photos by her son, Lincoln Peters.

Katrina and Mikhail Lynn tell us how they came up with the idea for their Kabuki-inspired costumes, combining traditional theatrical characters with the Japanese video game, "Dance Dance Revolution" (DDR).

I describe the samurai-inspired costume that I created in response to an invitation to enter a costume exhibit, and my fatal attraction to "difficult" fabrics.

Gilbert & Sullivan has a lot more in common with Bollywood extravaganzas than you might imagine. Kathleen Barcos talks about how she designed the Bollywood style costumes for a G&S production.

The shimmering metallic fabric Assiut, long a staple of the movie industry and the Egyptian tourist trade, is also used for belly dancing costumes. Dawn Devine reports on new research into this fascinating fabric.

Although associated with Chairman Mao, the "Mao Jacket" is actually the creation of another hero of the revolution. Fashion student Laura Liu tells us that the garment is making a fashion comeback.

Filipino-inspired attire and costumes are colorful and visually exciting, but less known in the West. Editor and writer Jean Martin interviews Eric Solano about their use by the Parangal Dance Company.

Carole Parker reports on experiments combining traditional Japanese resist dyeing and western discharge dyeing techniques.

Finally, Kathe Gust says that there are more similarities and influences between

Samurai and American Western movies than meets the eye, and gives us her top picks.

Here is a quick preview of what is upcoming in VC. The November 2011 issue has the theme "Heroes and Villains." As "clothes make the man," they also define the heroes and villains of history, literature, and our own imaginations. In February 2012, VC explores "Americana," covering elements of costuming, accessories, and related culture that are quintessentially American, from native Americans, to iconic historical costumes, to contemporary and classic American clothing.

I'm pleased to announce that the theme for the May 2012 issue will be "Stepping off the Stage and Silver Screen," celebrating the costumes and costume designers of Broadway and Hollywood that have had such a major impact on costuming, our sense of fashion and our concept of "glamor."

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



**From the
Web Diva
Kathe Gust***

Thanks to all of you who have sent in a photo and sentence or two for the member profiles! Now I can connect with a face when I read those posts in the discussion list and find out who's interested in what.

I hope you are finding the web site easy to use and useful. I'd be the first to admit that I don't like swapping things around just for the fun of it, but if there are things that you feel need enhancement, I'd love to hear about it. It's something that I enjoy doing.

I'd like to highlight two opportunities beyond your member profile to put your individual stamp on the site. I have added a new "Resources" section that contains two pages. One is the familiar "Costuming Links" page, and the other is a new page.

"Costuming Links" lets others know about web sites you find helpful when you are costuming. It also lists personal web sites, blogs, livejournals, etc., as well as SiW members' commercial web sites.

The new page is called "Vintage Sewing Books." I don't know whether any of you recall a similarly named web site that posted scans of wonderful old books. It appears to be gone now. I managed to recover a list of the titles and searched for a way to make some of them accessible again.

Our new "Vintage Sewing Books" page links you to free copies of similar books to assist with your costuming research. Do you have a favorite vintage title that isn't listed, or a topic that isn't covered? E-mail me at webmaster@siwcostumers.org and I will try to find it!