

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***

As I look at the first page of this issue of the *Virtual Costumer* that our diligent and thorough editor has provided me, I can see the table of contents of the Heroes and Villains Issue ('tho not the actual articles). It brings to my mind the question of why we choose the costumes we decide to create.

Clearly some of us choose to build costumes worn by characters for whom we have developed a special affinity. Some of the costumes we choose are of a period or type of character from history where the clothing appeals to us, or would look particularly good on the type of body we inhabit. Maybe we have seen or imagined something we just want to get our hands on in the real world, or a fabric or technical challenge or a process we want to tackle. Or,

something that came up in a conversation or book or movie grabbed us by the brain and insisted to be made. (This is my normal method.)

I notice we have an article on why to choose a Villain costume. (But I have no idea what it says; perhaps it speaks to the path less taken.) I find myself not to be terribly interested in just pretty. I am enamored of texture, of character, of the interesting...of the challenge of stretching beyond the confines of the human body. I like ugly more than elegant, prefer twisted to stately, commentary to representation.

I think that what we choose to create may have at least as much to say about us as the quality of the creation.

I guess this is part of my personal fascination with how the creative mind works. This is where I argue for more philosophical and viewpoint sharing to go side by side with the more concrete how-to's, and historical and material considerations we are accustomed to sharing. I began proselytizing this when as Programming Director for the Utah Costume-Con I organized the beginning of the series of retrospectives by a variety of our costumers.

We can learn new ways of approaching costuming, different ways of looking at what we are doing and this can contribute to the

richness and quality of our work and understanding.

And this last paragraph is where I thank Philip for allowing me to muse and put out my thoughts for sharing with the group. Thank you, Philip.



From the Editor **Philip Gust***

The struggle between heroes and villains, is timeless. Throughout history, we've relied on costumes to distinguish the good guys from the bad guys. Until recently, military garb enabled soldiers on the field to distinguish friend from foe, and the movies have enshrined the idea that the good guys wear white hats while the bad guys wear black.

However, there has always been a much thinner line than we like to admit between the two. A "turn coat" as someone who switches allegiance by turning his coat inside out to hide his earlier colors is just one example that is rooted in costuming.

The articles in this issue explore various aspects of how clothing and costumes help define and shape our notion of heroes and villains, and perhaps provide food for thought to costumers thinking about creating costumes for either or both.

Kathe Gust reviews *Superheroes: Fashion and Fantasy*, a book based on a 2008 Metropolitan Museum exhibition that explores the imagery and aesthetics of comic book superheroes. The creative imagery in the photos could be an exciting starting point for costumers to get a new take on this venerable art form.

Jim Shepard's article on the making of the first Gojira (Godzilla) movie provides a fascinating insight into the creation of the iconic costume and the people who made and wore it. Jim's deft narrative makes us feel like we are there on the spot.

Actor Charles McKeithan, who portrayed Stevenson's pirate anti-hero, Long John Silver in a stage production of "Treasure Island" describes how he built and wore his own peg-leg prosthetic, one that even allows him to dance. Charles provides a [video clip](#) that readers can view to study how he walks with it. This is the first video on SiW's YouTube channel, [SiWCostumers](#).

In my article on the Real Life Superhero Movement, I look at how urban crusaders like Phoenix Jones and the *Rain Street Superhero Movement* use superhero costumes of their own design to fight crime and social injustice.

Kaja Foglio uses paper dolls of her own design to show how easily a simple change of clothing for one of the characters from the *Girl Genius* world transforms him from a hero into a villain.

Some of our greatest heroes were the men and women who served during WWII. The insignias they wore helped identify not only their rank, but also their role and qualifications. Historian and costumer Byron Connell's illustrated guide will help you accurately recreate that important aspect of uniforms worn by U.S. Army officers.

Finally, we present a point and counterpoint in two "Virtual Soapbox" articles. Costumer Mette Hedin puts forward six reasons why she likes to portray the villains. Comic book writer Stan Lee explains what he loves about heroes and what makes them so popular with readers.

I've saved the first article in this issue for last. Long-time costumer Jeanette Peters reviews the web site of a non-profit that uses donations from the public to provide superhero capes that help children with congenital heart defects and need to undergo life-saving surgery be brave. [Heart Heroes](#) was founded by a mother whose own child had surgery for a congenital heart defect.

I don't normally do this, but I'd like to suggest that costumers consider supporting this organization for a very special reason. A year ago, in December 2010, I underwent open heart surgery to correct a life-threatening congenital heart defect that went undiagnosed until it was found during a physical exam. A special pillow made by hospital volunteers helped me sit up and lay down during recovery, so I understand how a superhero cape can bring comfort to a frightened child before and after heart

surgery. If you're looking for an inexpensive way to make a difference this holiday season, please consider making a donation to purchase a cape for a child who needs it.

Here is a quick preview of what is upcoming in VC. 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. In May 2012 we'll be "Stepping off the Stage and Silver Screen," celebrating 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."

I'm pleased to announce that the theme for the August 2012 issue of VC will be "Haunting and Horror." Just in time for the Halloween season, this issue will provide ideas and techniques for costuming in the supernatural and horror genres and look back at some your favorite characters and the people who created them.

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.

On behalf of *Silicon Web Costumers' Guild*, I wish you a very happy holiday season!





**From the
Treasurer
Bruce MacDermott***

As treasurer, one of my responsibilities is to prepare a financial statement and report on the SiW's finances each year. Here is an unaudited financial statement on an accrual basis from 1 January to 19 November 2011.

Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	
1010 · Wells Fargo Checking	799.70
1030 · PayPal	130.45
1070 · Wells Fargo Savings	1,101.32
Total Checking/Savings	2,031.47
 Total Current Assets	 2,031.47
 TOTAL ASSETS	 2,031.47

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity	
3001 · Opening Balance Equity	794.48
3010 · Unrestrict (retained earnings)	1,050.78
Net Income	186.21
 Total Equity	 2,031.47
 TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	 2,031.47

Income & Expense

Income

4000 – Contributed support	
4010 – Individual/Business contribution	1.00
Total 4000 – Contributed support	1.00
 5000 · Earned revenues	

5210 · Membership dues – individuals	750.00
5310 · Interest-savings/short-term inv.	0.43
5490 · Miscellaneous revenue	36.25
Total 5000 · Earned revenues	786.86

Total Income 787.68

Expense

8500 · Misc expenses	
8530 · Membership dues – organization	388.00
8560 · Outside computer services	184.23
8590 · Other expenses	29.24
Total 8500 · Misc expenses	601.47

Total Expense 601.47

NET INCOME 186.21

Cash Flows

Operating Activities

Net Income	186.21
Net cash provided by operating activities	186.21
 Net cash increase for period	 186.21
Cash at beginning of period	1,845.26
 CASH AT END OF PERIOD	 2,031.47



**From the
Secretary
Deb Salisbury***

As of 31 Oct. 2011, SiW has 65 members in 18 US states, about the same number of members but two more states than in 2010, and up from 50 members this time in 2009 and 43 members this time 2008. See the [Members](#) page on our website for details. SiW remains the largest ICG chapter.



Arizona	3	Alabama	1
California	33	Connecticut	1
Florida	2	Kansas	1
Kentucky	1	Louisiana	2
Massachusetts	4	Maryland	3
Nebraska	2	Nevada	1
New York	1	North Carolina	1
Oklahoma	1	Pennsylvania	2
Texas	3	Washington	1

A Great Holiday Gift Idea!

If you're looking for an inexpensive holiday gift idea for your costuming friends or a young adult in your family, how about a [membership](#) in SiW?

For the cost of two movie tickets, they receive an entire costuming community, and a costuming magazine too. You'll get an [announcement](#) to send with your gift membership.



Author Acknowledgements

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild honors the thirty-four people who generously shared their knowledge and experience in the pages of *The Virtual Costumer* in 2011. The fourteen who are also SiW members are indicated with an asterisk beside their names. Thanks to all!

If you'd like to join them, consider writing an article for one of the 2012 issues. For information, visit [VC](#) on-line!



Mette Hedin*



Sadie Jackman



Mercedes Lackey



Stan Lee



Laura Liu



Katrina & Mikhail Lynn



Bruce MacDermott*



Dana MacDermott*



Tara Maginnis*



Jean Martin



Richard Man*



Charles McKeithan



Lee Moyer



Carole Parker*



Jeanette Peters*



Kevin Roche*



Lenna Andrews



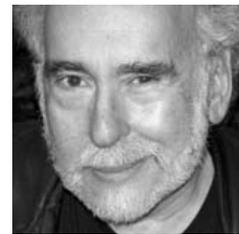
Lisa A. Ashton



Kathleen Barcos



Kayta Barrows*



Peter Beagle



Gunther Berger*



Christofer Bertani*



Byron Connell



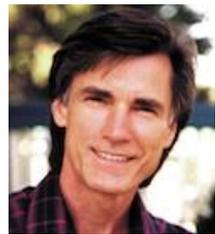
Dawn Devine*



Deborah Lynn Dixon



Larry Dixon



Greg Evans



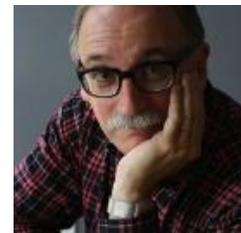
Kaja Foglio



Kathe Gust*



Philip Gust*



Jim Shepard



Eric Solano