

# Silicon Web Costumers' Guild

## Silicon Web Staff

*President:* [Kevin Roche](#)  
*Vice-President:* [Elaine Sims](#)  
*Treasurer:* [Bruce MacDermott](#)  
*Secretary:* [Deb Salisbury](#)  
*Website Editor:* [Kathe Gust](#)  
*Virtual Costumer Editor* [Philip Gust](#)



## President's Message Kevin Roche\*

How did it get to be November already?

It seems we just managed to run Westercon 66, and then off to San Antonio for Worldcon (LoneStarCon 3), where Silicon Web was well represented in all aspects of the Masquerade. Our (Andy and I, with a sextet of friends) group, "Saucer Country" (below), garnered the Best in



Saucer Country, LoneStarCon 3 – Kevin Roche, Andy Trembley and friends (above) Girl Genius inspired "Otilia" – Aurora Celeste (top right).

Master Division awards for Workmanship and Presentation, and Aurora Celeste's Girl Genius-inspired "Otilia" (the Muse) won Best in Show in Presentation. (right)

Andy and I are in charge of the Costume, Cosplay and Style area of the programme for LonCon3, so if you are going, please drop me a line so we can see how to use your talents! (If you aren't going, we're still interested in your suggestions for the programme). We're going to relax the following weekend at Shamrokon, the Dublin Eurocon.

Working up to Summer 2014 and LonCon, Winter and Spring will be full of conventions & events. The Great Christmas Dickens Fair opens this weekend. Andy and I will be at Further Confusion in January, Gallifrey One in February, as well as Costume-Con in Toronto followed by appearing as Fan Guests of Honor at DemiCon. In addition, the SF Bay Area is having its first My Little Pony conference, FanimeCon,



Clockwork Alchemy and BayCon. I know I've missed a bunch of local events, and that's just the SF Bay Area. Where are you going?

Right now, Andy and I are building some fun costumes for the Gallifrey

One masquerade. We may even take them to London. What are you working on?

Looking forward to a fun and busy 2014 -- and to seeing y'all out and about in person and on the net. Until next time!



## From the Editor Philip Gust\*

The hat is among the oldest articles of clothing, and its uses are among the most diverse. Hats are worn for protection against the elements, for ceremonial or religious purposes, for safety, as a fashion accessory, and as an indicator of social status. They are worn by mortals and their gods, across almost every culture on earth. No wonder that hats are such popular elements for so many costumes of every genre, from historical to sci-fi and fantasy, anime to cosplay to steampunk and gaslamp.

This issue of *VC* presents many of these aspects in an interesting collection of articles about hats that reflects the diversity of this ubiquitous article of clothing.

First, we present an end-of year report on the chapter, including membership, finances, the website, and the ICG. We also recognize the many authors who have written articles and generously shared what they know with readers of *VC* this year.

Elaine Sims reviews two websites she recently came across. One is a site with DIY articles on crafts and clothing, such as a cloche hat that she highlights. The other is a shoe site that enables customers to design their own and then have them delivered.

Some of you have followed Ger Tysk's odyssey in creating her crowd-funded pictorial book on cosplay. The book finally comes out this month, and Ger talks about the process of raising the money to visit many conventions across the country, and interviewing costumers about their cosplay experience, including ICG founder Marty Gear. The results are well worth the wait!

Cosplayer Parry Morton (alias "Sven the Viking") tells how he decided to create a leather Valkyrie costume, and provides construction details for the heavenly winged battle helmet he made for the costume.

In a tribute to a beloved children's author, Kathe Gust tells us about the little-know hat collection of Theodore Seuss Geisel, better known the world over as "Dr. Seuss," and how those hats found their way

into his stories and illustrations, including his *Cat in the Hat* books.

The headpiece of Aurora Celeste's "Lady of the Lanterns" entry for the Future Fashion Show at Costume-Con 31 was based on a fantasy illustration by costumer Dawn McKechnie. Aurora tells us how she built this amazing creation and about some of the problems she had to overcome.

Milliner Wayne Wichern collects antique hat blocks and uses them to create the contemporary hats he sells. In his article, Wayne tells us about their history, how hat blocks are used in the manufacture of hats, and places you can still purchase them.

Jessica Frantel introduces us to a new and challenging tubular material that she used to create an unusual crinoline for a Steampunk Circus Strongwoman costume, based on an idea from the 1920s. Jessica talks about building the crinoline, and gives some hard-won tips on using the material.

*Beach Blanket Babylon* is a San Francisco theatrical icon that offers light-hearted, satirical send-ups of current events and people in the news. A hallmark of the show is the giant hats that represent the people, places and events being depicted. Alan Greenspan, the "Mad Hatter" genius who builds the hats, together with producer Jo Schuman Silver, widow of BBB founder Steven Silver, talk in-depth about the show, the role of the hats, and how they are built. For those who think that masquerades are challenging, wait until you hear about what they go through seven or more times a week.

Finally, hat maker and costumer Lynn McMasters returns to tell us about how the chance find of a hat at an antique store lead her on a journey to learn about the hat's history, track down the maker, explore the techniques used for the original, and develop a recreation nearly 100 years later.

Here is a quick preview of what is upcoming in *VC*. The February 2014 issue will delve into the costuming for one of the most popular sci-fi/fantasy series ever: *Dr. Who!* With the show's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and upcoming Los Angeles *Gallifrey One* convention in February 2014, what better way to kick off the new year?

The May 2014 issue will take us to the Wonderful World of Disney costuming. The many colorful characters in Disney's cartoon and live-action classics provide an opportunity for imaginative and occasionally goofy takes on some of the most iconic costumes anywhere.

I'm pleased to announce that the August 2014 issue will be all about embellishment techniques and "Wearable Arts," which incorporate unusual materials and construction techniques to create wearable works of art, and provide costumers with new avenues for creativity.

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.

I wish you a safe and joyous holiday season, and a very happy new year!



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

Hello Silicon Web! I know I should have done this properly in the last issue of *VC*, but I am getting it done now, so that counts for something, I hope!

Since I haven't met all of you in person, a quick re-introduction. I live in Apache Junction, AZ, which is about 30 miles east of Phoenix, with my husband, Dave, and two kids (most often referred to as Tank and Bug) that you may have met at CC30 or 31, two dogs, three cats & about 130 gallons worth of African chichlids (ok, 130 gallons worth of tanks currently inhabited, maybe three gallons worth of fish).

Along with the costuming, which currently is finishing the pile of garb that didn't get completed for Pennsic Wars, I am also a quilter and a bookkeeper. I have plans in the works for SF&F entries at CC32 and CC33 and a Hysterical Historical for CC33.

One of the plans in the works for CC33 Charleston is another themed quilt & wearable arts contest. This time around, we are hoping to have two exhibitions: one for the quilts & art that will go home with their creators, and a second that will consist of quilts made to the Quilts 4 Kids standards to be donated to a Charleston area children's

ward. More information will be coming on that as we get it all worked out.

Thank you, everyone, for your support. I hope to serve you all well. If you have any questions or concerns about ICG issues, please let me know. I will pass information back & forth between SiW and the ICG & other chapters. As we stand right now, there isn't anything pressing that affects the chapters.

Hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season with your loved ones of choice!



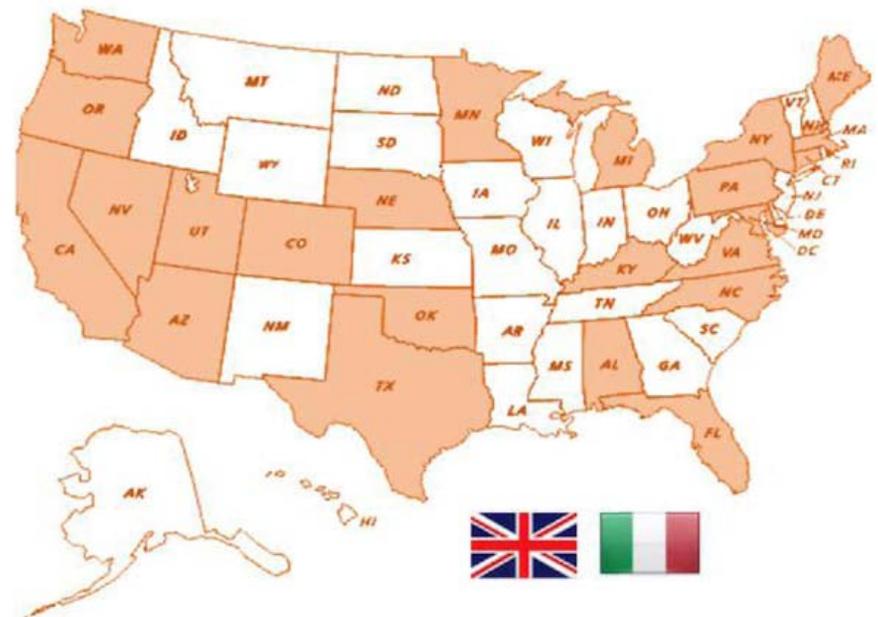
**From the  
Secretary  
Deb Salisbury\***

As of October 31, 2013, the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild has 75 member! This is up from 69 members this time last year. Our chapter now has members in 22 states in the U.S. SiW is once again also international, with one member each in Great Britain, and Italy.

Welcome to all of our new members!

**Silicon Web Costumers' Guild  
Membership by State or Country**

Alabama	1	Arizona	2
California	37	Colorado	3
Connecticut	1	Florida	1
Kentucky	1	Maine	2
Massachusetts	5	Maryland	1
Michigan	3	Minnesota	3
Nebraska	1	Nevada	1
North Carolina	1	Oklahoma	1
Oregon	1	Pennsylvania	4
Texas	2	Utah	1
Virginia	2	Washington	1
England	1	Italy	1





**From the  
Treasurer  
Bruce MacDermott\***

Here is a financial report for the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild as of October 31, 2013 on an accrual basis.



**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 the installation of a rolling photo script to highlight our Dreamcatcher Award winners. Thanks to all who helped find photos of the past winners.

We still have our [Costuming Links](#) and [Vintage Sewing Book](#) collection. As always, if you find good resources you think we should include please let me know so everyone can benefit.

The one section that is less complete than 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. Only 29 of our 75 members are on the profile page. If you'd like to be there, send a photo of your choice and a bio to [webmaster@siwcostumers.org](mailto:webmaster@siwcostumers.org). Not quite sure what to write? Get some ideas while finding out more about your fellow members by reading their profiles [here!](#)

Happy Costuming in 2014!

**A Great Holiday Gift Idea!**

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 great costuming magazine, too! You'll get an [announcement](#) to sent with your gift membership.



Silicon Web Costumers Guild Profit & Loss January through October 2013	
	10/31/13
Income	
5000 · Earned revenues	
5210 · Membership dues - individuals	836.00
5310 · Interest-savings/short-term inv	0.10
5490 · Miscellaneous revenue	36.75
Total 5000 · Earned revenues	872.85
Total Income	872.85
Expense	
8500 · Misc expenses	
8520 · Awards	42.00
8530 · Membership dues – organization	444.00
8560 · Outside computer services	134.91
8590 · Other expenses	29.98
Total 8500 · Misc expenses	650.89
Total Expense	650.89
Net Income	221.96

Silicon Web Costumers Guild Balance Sheet As of October 31, 2013			
	10/31/13	10/31/12	\$Chg %Chg
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
1010 · Cash in bank – operating			
1010-01 Wells Fargo	295.42	282.42	13.00 0.00%
Checking			
Total 1010 · Cash in bank – operating	295.42	282.42	13.00 4.60%
1030 · PayPal	514.27	392.82	121.45 30.92%
1070 · Wells Fargo Savings	1,335.59	1,281.46	54.13 4.22%
Total Checking/Savings	2,145.28	1,956.70	188.58 9.64%
Total Current Assets	2,145.28	1,956.70	188.58 9.64%
TOTAL ASSETS	2,145.28	1,956.70	188.58 9.64%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Equity			
3001 · Opening Balance Equity	794.48	794.48	0.00 0.00%
3010 · Unrestricted (retained earnings)	1,177.34	1,181.92	-4.58 -0.39%
Net Income	173.46	-19.70	193.16 980.51%
Total Equity	2,145.28	1,956.70	188.58 9.64%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,145.28	1,956.70	188.58 9.64%

# Author Acknowledgements

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild honors the 36 people who generously shared their knowledge and experience in the pages of *The Virtual Costumer* in 2013. The 15 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 2014 issues. For information, see the VC [Author's Guide](#) online!



Terry Banker



Jill Battiato



Christofer Bertani\*



Isabelle de Borchgrave



Aurora Celeste\*



Deborah Lynn Dixon



Jessica Frantal



Alan Greenspan



Kathe Gust\*



Philip Gust\*



Elizabeth Hayes



Mette Hedin\*



Able Land



Robert Land



Lynn McMasters



Bruce MacDermott\*



Dana MacDermott\*



Jill Morena



Parry Morton



Sheryl Nance-Durst



Steven Nelson\*



"Patch Packrat"



Courtney Rayle



Adam Riggs



Kevin Roche\*



Debbie Roy



Deb Salisbury\*



Jo Schuman Silver



Elaine Sims\*



Eric Stevens\*



Corey Strom



Ger Tysk



Charles Wayman\*



Kendra Wayman\*



Wayne Wichern



Gail Wolfenden-Steib\*