

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 that the year shifted into a higher gear in hyperdrive as soon as we got back from our trip to London and Dublin, and now I'm already having to avert my eyes from the ever-increasing mercantile temporal leakage that is Holiday Shopping. The tinsel should not be appearing on the shelves next to the Hallowe'en costumes, if you ask me (and while I'm at it -- *Hey, You Kids! Get Offa My Lawn!* ©)

On the other hand, maritime freight seemed to slow down while everything else sped up, so the boxes filled with the Tiki Dalek only just arrived this week (November 13, to be precise). The important part is he made it home, intact, although for

some reason US Customs felt a need to inspect his box of coconut half-shells -- and *only* his box of coconut half-shells. Thanks again to everyone who contributed to his travel fund!

My explorations into e-textiles have continued; I completely re-did the embellishment on the suit I put together for Loncon and entered it (and won an award) in the Pacific International Quilt Festival Wearable Art Competition in October; you can read more about that in my article in this issue. (For those of you who know me well enough to know my distaste for handwork, note that said project entailed hand-sewing 120 NeoPixels onto the trousers and jacket. If I ever doubted my actual ability to do handwork, such doubts have evaporated).



September saw Andy and me at the Best Buck in the Bay gay rodeo, which has relocated to Guerneville, California. The new location seems to be a great fit, and the evenings included, as always, some very fun Western and drag dress-up. Mette Hedin and Bryan Little joined us this year, and for the "barn dance" Saturday night they wore their almost-screen-perfect *Alias Smith & Jones* "Hannibal Hayes" and "Kid Curry" outfits while I ventured out with the "Red Chaps of

Mars" on over my jeans, to great acclaim from the rodeo gang.

On the other hand, Hallowe'en was a quiet celebration for us this year; we got into Western wear and went to friends' for pizza, poker and whiskey tasting, and watching to see how fast the candy bowl out front would empty. It was actually great fun.

On the convention scene, I know many members will be attending LosCon on Thanksgiving weekend (I will not), and the holiday season is inexorably rushing upon us. Here in the Bay Area, the Guggenheims (the folks behind the RetroDome) are staging a live production of their Hannukah-themed musical [The Meshuganutcracker](#) in San Francisco and San Jose this

year. Having heard a concert version, I highly recommend it as a great and fun evenings entertainment --with *amazing* costumes! (Disclosure -- I am a backer of their efforts to take the show to New York.)

Do you have any special holiday outfits you'll be wearing this season? Any favorite "ugly sweaters?" Share some photos with the *Virtual Costumer*! Have a great rest of the year, and Happy Holidays!





From the Editor *Philip Gust**

This final issue of 2014 is “Odds & Ends,” but make no mistake: this is no mere grab-bag of left-overs. Every now and again, the opportunity to publish in-depth articles by some amazing authors on a range of topics comes along, and this is one of them. Here, for your reading pleasure, is a holiday potpourri to inspire you during the winter season. So pull up a chair, throw another log on the fire, and enjoy!

The Masquerade at San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC) is legendary for its size and the quality of costumes and presentations. Some of you have been lucky enough to watch one, and a few have even been contestants. For the last 23 years, Martin Jaquish and his talented team have made sure each one runs smoothly. In his article, Martin takes you behind the scenes to give you a Masquerade Coordinator's perspective on what it takes.

Vanessa Koch was honored this year at Costume-Con 32 with SiW's coveted “Dreamcatcher” award for the technical innovations in her *Back to the Future* inspired *Transformer* creation. In her article, Vanessa explains her inspiration, and shows the steps she followed to build it.

One of the most astounding costumes in the 2014 SDCC Masquerade was based on a Marvel Comics character from the 1960s and 1970s. “MODOK” is a twelve

foot tall steel and fiberglass recreation of a scientist turned into a giant brain by a shadowy organization called A.I.M. In the first of a two-part article, Kevin Pishion takes us on a two year costuming odyssey.

While the art of dying fabrics may be mysterious to many costumers, Carole Parker tells us that it's easier than it looks. In her article, based on a beginner's class she teaches, Carole introduces us to the techniques and the vocabulary of fabric dying, and offers a wealth of reference resources to learn more about it.

Each year in early Spring, the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) Museum puts on its annual exhibition of Oscar-nominated costumes from films made the previous year. In an in-depth interview, FIDM Museum Registrar Meghan Grossman Hansen tells us about her role in the year-long process of planning and mounting this much-anticipated show.

The Estrella War is put on each year by The Society for Creative Anachronism in the desert outside Phoenix, Arizona. Samantha Hirsh attended this year with her mother and grandmother. In her article, Samantha reports on several costume-related activities in which she participated, including making her first costume, based on an historical *Senmurv Kaftan* from the 8th-9th centuries.

Finally, Kevin Roche gives us his perspective on the importance of breaking through unspoken barriers between costuming and other artistic communities.

He shares his experience entering a costume in the Pacific International Quilt Show and learning the unwritten rules, as his entry went on to win a “Most Innovative Design” award. According to Kevin, the effort for members of the costuming community is both worthwhile and rewarding.

Here is a quick preview of what is upcoming in *V.C.* For February 2015, the theme is “Gods and Men,” with costuming for all manner of deities, faeries, elves, trolls, and super-natural beings, and those who worship them.

The theme for the May 2015 issue will be “Dressing for the Great War,” in honor of those who served their countries on the 100th anniversary of WWI, and covering the war's influence on clothing, military and civilian.

I'm pleased to announce the theme for the August 2015 issue is “The Wild West,” about the clothing of gun slingers, gold miners, robber barons, and pioneers of fact and legend who tamed the American West.

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.



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.



From the Secretary
Deb Salisbury*

As of October 31, 2014, the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild has 64 members. Our chapter has members in 21 states in the U.S. SiW is again also international, with one member in Chile and two in Canada. Welcome and thanks to all of our members!

Silicon Web Costumers' Guild
Membership by State or Country

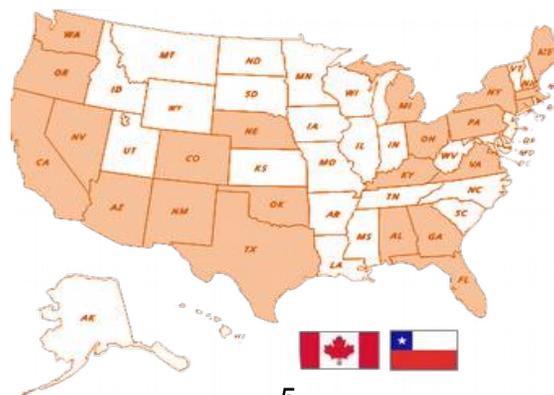
Alabama	1	Arizona	2
California	32	Colorado	3
Connecticut	2	Dist. of Columbia	1
Florida	1	Georgia	1
Kentucky	1	Maine	2
Maryland	1	Massachusetts	3
Michigan	3	Nebraska	1
Ohio	1	Oklahoma	1
Oregon	1	Pennsylvania	1
Texas	1	Virginia	1
Washington	1	Canada	2
Chile	1		



From the VP and ICG Board Representative
Elaine Sims*

Hello there, SiliconWeb! Here we are again, at the end of another year. Its been a busy year for many members of our chapter. So many travels to conventions across the globe, recognitions for service and skills, participation in art sales and auctions, Best in Show awards, pieces on exhibit in museums and other curated shows open to the public, You all are amazing and I hope to be as skilled as you when I grow up! In all seriousness, though, congratulations to everyone. I'm proud to be a member and an officer of this organization: you are some amazingly talented folk.

Here is an update from the BoD. Right now, discussion is focused on the 2015 operating budget for the ICG. Some of the line items include support for the GEL chapters in the form of accounting software and web hosting, as well as funds for grants under the Marty Gear fund.



We recently approved the first Special Interest Group (SIG), Miss Lizzy's Traveling Historical Road Show. The focus of Miss Lizzy's is to bring the Victorian era to life by allowing people to handle and examine extant garments and other items from the period, something that most people don't get the chance to do in museums.

We are looking forward to future SIG applications, because it allows a group to focus on one topic or area of interest. Since SIGs are not considered to be full ICG chapters with voting rights, all members of a SIG must hold a primary membership with a chapter such as SiWeb.

The [Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund](#) is another fantastic thing that happened in 2014. Any member or group of members can apply for a grant to pursue an educational project related to the world of costuming. Since we all know how vast this world is, I expect some great things come from this. I think Marty would be proud.

Costume-Con 33 is just around the corner, and I'll admit, I don't know if my competition piece will be ready. However, I am working towards some great things for the quilt show, and I can't wait to see what people bring. Phil Gust is working on something that will be absolutely fantastic if we can pull it off. I'm super excited, but don't want to spill the beans just yet, in case things don't work out the way we hope.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season, and I'm looking forward to seeing what you all bring next year!



From the Web Diva

Kathe Gust*

In 2014, SiW became the first chapter to move its [website](#) to a free hosting account provided by the ICG as a benefit of affiliation. This saved SiW around \$135 in web hosting fees!

2014 also saw a refresh of the color scheme and the installation of a rolling photo script to highlight our Dreamcatcher Award winners. We replaced the lost Vintage Sewing Books with a less vulnerable set of materials. I'm not sure what else the members would like to see.

Let's at least do another color update for 2015! If I don't hear from any of you I'll pick one of the official Colors of the Year. If you don't want a "Radiant Orchid" (or worse!) selected for you, write to me at webmaster@siwcostumers.org with your better idea. For 2015 Benjamin Moore paint has chosen "Guilford Green", AzkoNoble chose "Copper Orange", Sherwin-Williams selected "Coral Reef" and Pantone hasn't chosen yet. Remember, I picked the green we have now. You have been warned!

We have our new [Vintage Sewing Book](#) collection. A few more sources were added this year as I find time to poke through the riches of Google Books and the Internet Archive. As always, if you find good resources you think we should include please let me know so everyone can benefit.

We also still have a big gap on 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. However, nothing approaching all of our members have a photo and profile on the site.

If you'd like to be seen there, send a photo of your choice and a bio to 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 2015!

Silicon Web Costumers Guild Profit & Loss January through October 2014		Jan-Oct 2014
Income		
5000 · Earned revenues		
5210 · Membership dues - individuals	596.00	
5310 · Interest-savings/short-term inv	0.25	
5490 · Miscellaneous revenue	24.00	
Total 5000 · Earned revenues	620.25	
Total Income	620.25	
Expenses		
8500 · Misc expenses		
8520 · Awards	20.00	
8530 · Membership dues – organization	348.00	
8590 · Other expenses	69.59	
Total 8500 · Misc expenses	437.59	
Total Expense	437.59	
Net Income	182.66	



From the Treasurer

Bruce MacDermott*

Below is a financial report for the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild as of October 31, 2014 on an accrual basis.

Silicon Web Costumers Guild Balance Sheet As of October 31, 2014				
	10/31/14	10/31/13	\$Chg	%Chg
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
1010 · Cash in bank – operating				
1010-01 Wells Fargo Checking	599.42	295.42	304.00	102.9%
Total 1010 · Cash in bank – operating	599.42	295.42	304.00	102.9%
1030 · PayPal	400.51	514.27	-113.76	-22.1%
1070 · Wells Fargo Savings	1,335.87	1,335.59	0.28	0.0%
Total Checking/Savings	2,335.80	2,145.28	190.52	8.9%
Total Current Assets	2,335.80	2,145.28	190.52	8.9%
TOTAL ASSETS	2,335.80	2,145.28	190.52	8.9%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Equity				
3001 · Opening Balance Equity	794.48	794.48	0.00	0.0%
3010 · Unrestricted (retained earnings)	1,358.66	1,177.34	181.32	15.4%
Net Income	182.66	173.46	9.20	5.3%
Total Equity	2,335.80	2,145.28	190.52	8.9%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,335.80	2,145.28	190.52	8.9%

Author Acknowledgements

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild honors the 33 people who generously shared their knowledge and experience in the pages of *The Virtual Costumer* in 2014. The 13 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 2015 issues. For information, see the VC [Author's Guide](#) online!



Lisa Ashton



Terry Banker



Gunther Berger*



Frank Billecci



Sahrye Cohen



Deborah Lynn Dixon*



Félicia Dussault



Rae Bradbury-Enslin



Christopher Erickson



Kathe Gust*



Philip Gust*



Meghan Grossman Hansen



Mette Hedin*



Samantha Hirsch



Martin Jaquish



William H. Kennedy



Vanessa Koch*



Bruce MacDermott*



Milo Martinez



Regan McHugh



Al Megas



Stacy Meyn*



Tracy Newby*



Karen Nyberg



Bethany Padron



Carole Parker*



Pierre Pettinger



Kevin Pishion



Kevin Roche*



Deb Salisbury*



Elaine Sims*



Zenzie Tinker



Jeniffer Wylie