

# Silicon Web Costumers' Guild

## Silicon Web Staff

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Web Diva and Assistant	
Virtual Costumer Editor:	<a href="#">Kathe Gust</a>



## President's Message **Kevin Roche\***

So, what does your President do? Well, if you read the description on our website (gasp!) it sounds pretty straightforward: Chief executor of the Chapter's business. The President shepherds discussions on the SiW Yahoo! group as the group is our chapter's virtual meeting place.

And, in fact, it is that straightforward. Fortunately, your board is a fairly congenial group, so the shepherding is more like noodging folks when we have business to proceed. I also am a non-voting member of the ICG board discussion group, so we have two sets of eyes watching for matters coming up in the ICG overall that you should know about. SiW is the largest ICG chapter, so it behooves us to pay attention!

Fortunately, I have very sharp officers on your board, who remind me if *I* forget a date that's coming up, so between the lot of us we keep the chapter ticking along.

And of course, there is this column. I think that may be the hardest part of the job!

Last year life mysteriously kicked into overdrive after Worldcon. This year, at least, I knew it was coming! My husband Andy is chairing the [San Jose in 2018 Worldcon](#) bid. Last month, the San Francisco Science Fiction Conventions board appointed me operational chair, so, if San Jose wins, I'll be chairing the 76th World Science Fiction Convention! (My friends are offering both congratulations and condolences.)

If you want to be involved in the bid, visit the website; if you want to work on the convention if we do win, drop me email at [kevin.roche@sjin2018.org](mailto:kevin.roche@sjin2018.org). Most important, if you care where Worldcon is in 2018, please at least get a supporting membership in [MidAmeriCon 2](#) (Worldcon Kansas City next summer) and cast a site selection vote.

Halloween was a hoot for us. At the start of October, I co-hosted a Barbarella-themed party at Convolution, constructing (the first draft of) a masculine homage to a Paco Rabanne design for Jane Fonda in the film. I'm not including a photo, because my design sketches for the final version were accepted in the CC34 Future Fashion Folio.

For a change, my ensemble will be finished well in advance.

For Halloween, Andy and I, on a whim, jetted off to Las Vegas to attend a fundraising event for "Vampire Strippers Must Die!," a (very funny) indie film project of my friend Keith Hartman. I'm actually an IndieGoGo backer, so we were feted as "Movie Investors" at the event, and hung out with some of the cast members. They're a great group, and I hope Keith succeeds in getting the project fully funded. The "Boybarella" outfit was a definite hit there.

As we come up on the holidays, the express train is at full steam. Thanksgiving morning I'll be running in the wackiness that is the Silicon Valley Turkey Trot. Then, we hop a plane to Los Angeles for LosCon 42. There will be Worldcon San Jose parties *two* nights in a row (Friday and Saturday). Then off to Fort Worth, Texas for SMOFcon (a convention-runners convention), and the weekend after that is GX3 (inclusive gaming convention) in San Jose.

That weekend is also the holiday meeting of the Peninsula Wearable Arts Guild (PenWAG), including their infamous "stash sale." For months, members have been donating fabrics, notions, garments, etc. from their collections, and on Dec. 12th it goes on sale for bargain prices. If you live near the San Francisco Bay Area, get to the



Campbell Community Center. It's only \$5 for non-members, and there are treasures to be found! Visit this [web page](#) for details.

That weekend wasn't busy enough, so I'm running the Santa Run on the afternoon of the 13th. Costumes are encouraged, so a group of friends and I are working on "candle" outfits so together we can form a menorah. (It's the afternoon before the last evening of Hanukkah, so one of us will probably wear a wick instead of a flame as their headdress. We may draw straws)

Christmas will likely be quiet, then we're off again with Further Confusion. We plan to flee the Bay Area during Super Bowl (seems like a good time to go wine-tasting) and the chaos in February. Then it's Gallifrey One, Robogames in April, and the slide into Costume-Con 34 in May. CC34 only *seems* to be five-ish months away. I also won't be surprised to discover a BarBot event tucked into this spring somewhere.

I'm honored to have been asked to be the final speaker in the Livermore Reads Together event this year; I'll be giving a talk and demo about my robotics work on Feb. 27th in Livermore (the book selected for the program is Asimov's *I, Robot*).

My best wishes to you and yours this winter holiday season. Whatever your faith and whoever your family, it is a good time to appreciate each other, to light (or be) a candle in the darkness, and be kind to the other passengers on our big blue marble. Have a great season!



## From the Editor *Philip Gust\**

Wings add a dash of drama to costumes. Whether they are simple wireframes worn by a faerie, highly decorated structures covered with plumes or colored fabrics, or articulated mechanical assemblies that raise and lower on command, wings evoke an emotional response from any audience. They may not actually be wings at all, but a wing-shaped cape that can be spread to show off a highly-embellished design.

Wings are also "dangerous," in the dramatic sense, because all attention is drawn to them, and they must look and move as the audience expects. Well-done wings are magical by themselves and elevate the entire costume to something that is far greater than the sum of its parts.

Many costumers are reluctant to take on a wings project because of the perceived danger, and also because they think that the technical aspects are just too difficult for them to tackle. I hope that the articles in this issue of *VC* convince you that creating a set of wings is well within your reach, and that the "danger" of attempting them is far exceeded by the rewards that come from creating something that your audience will appreciate and that you can be proud of.

Remember, there are only two kinds of costumers: those who have built wings, and those who haven't – yet!

Parry Morton leads off by telling us how he used wings to pique the interest of high school students in costuming, by teaching them to build their own for a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Their enthusiasm and the work they put in went way beyond anything he expected. In his article, Parry discusses the materials and construction techniques. The cover photo from the production shows their results.

A group of costumers organized by Rae Bradbury-Enslin reimagined a Victoria's Secret fashion show for the Victorian age for a Costume-Con 33 historical masquerade entry. The result is a "Victorian Secret" fashion show with some of the raciest lingerie from the mid 1800s, complete with angel wings that are the hallmark of the modern version, but with decidedly Victorian themes. All nine costumers contributed to this impressive article, which also offers unique insights into how a large group works together and the artistic choices each of them made.

One of the most iconic movie costumes ever was worn by Elizabeth Taylor in the "Entrance to Rome" scene of the 1963 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox film, *Cleopatra*. It featured a beaded and sequined gold winged cape that Hollywood legend Irene Sharaff designed for Taylor. In our article, Kathe Gust and I describe how we decided to recreate this spectacular costume, the research required to locate and reproduce the original designs, how we found the materials, and the techniques we developed that reflect those

used for the original. Kathe portrayed Taylor in the famous scene from the movie in the Costume-Con 33 historical masquerade.

Christina Hellmich describes how she conceived and curated the *Royal Hawaiian Featherwork: Nā Hulu Ali'i* exhibition for the de Young Museum in San Francisco, California. She also takes us behind the scenes to show off the amazing feathered capes, helmets, ceremonial staffs, and leis worn by Hawaiian *ali'i* or royalty, the materials they used, and some of the construction techniques for these centuries old cultural treasures.

Finally, cosplayer and professional wing maker Alexis Noriega gives a first report on her experiments with making pneumatically controlled wings, which use compressed air to raise and lower them. According to Alexis, pneumatics are lighter and less cumbersome than other kinds of actuators. She learned pneumatics through online tutorials and her local Hackerspace. An online video shows her wings in action.

Here is a quick preview of what is upcoming in *VC*. In the February 2016 issue, we learn about the “Art of the Masquerade.” This issue will cover the many aspects of preparing for, performing in, judging, and running these costume competitions that combine presentation, workmanship, and documentation into a unique art form.

The theme of the May 2016 issue will be “Polynesian Apparel,” looking at the traditional clothing of the people of the Polynesian islands, from the Maori of New

Zealand to the ceremonial dress of Hawai'i. The apparel of the many islands of the central and southern pacific present new opportunities for costumers to explore these cultures through their dress.

I'm pleased to announce that the theme for the August 2016 issue will be “Hair, Hairstyles, and Accessories,” covering the many ways that historical costumers as well as those in sci-fi, fantasy, anime, and other genres, use hair, hairstyles, and hair accessories to accentuate their costumes.

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.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

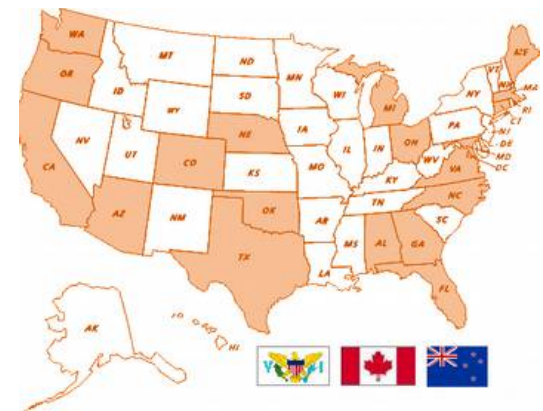


## From the Secretary Deb Salisbury

As of October 31, 2015, the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild has 64 members in 19

U.S. states plus the District of Columbia. SiW is also international, with two members in Canada, one in the Virgin Islands, and one in New Zealand. We even have an honorary member: Gunther Berger from the Greg Evans comic strip, *Luann*. Welcome and thanks to all of our members!

If your contact information changes, please let me know so that you continue to receive your SiW and ICG member benefits: [secretary@siwcostumers.org](mailto:secretary@siwcostumers.org).



SiW Membership by State or Country

Alabama	1	Arizona	2
California	30	Colorado	3
Connecticut	2	Dist. Of Columbia	1
Florida	1	Georgia	2
Maine	2	Maryland	1
Massachusetts	4	Michigan	1
Nebraska	1	North Carolina	1
Ohio	1	Oklahoma	1
Oregon	1	Texas	2
Virginia	2	Washington	1
Canada	2	New Zealand	1
U.S. Virgin Islands	1		



## From the Web Diva Kathe Gust\*

The new color scheme of the [SiW website](#) for 2016 is Rose Quartz, one that Pantone predicts is a contender for *the* hot new color in the coming year. We'll see whether it wins, but I'm guessing it will just be seasonal and not the big one.

The [Vintage Sewing Books](#) collection has added a few more sources as I find time to poke through the riches of Google Books and the Internet Archive. I also did a big refresh of the [Historical Costuming Resources](#). That does not mean just historical supply either, as you *Game of Thrones* and *Doctor Who* fans should know. As always, if you find good online books and resources you think we should include please let me know so everyone can benefit.

A big welcome to our members in beautiful Canada and tropical US Virgin Islands, and *Kia Ora!* to our member in friendly New Zealand. Look for the flags of all three on our latest [members map](#).

We still have a big gap on our member profiles. Many of us only meet infrequently at conventions, or perhaps not at all, so profiles are a great to see photos and find out about everyone. If you'd like to be seen there, send a head shot and a 30-70 word 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 the [member profiles](#) page.

Happy Costuming in 2016!



**From the Treasurer  
Bruce MacDermott\***

Here is the financial report for SiW through October 31, 2015 on an accrual basis. The chapter continues to be

SiW Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2015				
	10/31/15	10/31/14	\$Chg	%Chg
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
1010 · Cash in bank – operating				
1010-01 Wells Fargo Checking	956.94	599.42	357.52	59.6%
Total 1010 · Cash in bank – operating	956.94	599.42	357.52	59.6%
1030 · PayPal	251.09	400.51	-149.43	-37.3%
1070 · Wells Fargo Savings	1,336.27	1,335.87	0.40	0.0%
Total Checking/Savings	2,544.30	2,335.80	208.05	7.4%
Accounts Receivable				
1110 · Accounts receivable	-14.00		-14.00	
Total Accounts Receivable	-14.00		-14.00	
Total Current Assets	2,530.30	2,335.80	208.05	7.4%
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>				
	2530.30	2,335.80	208.05	7.4%
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
2010 · Accounts payable	-67.11		-67.11	
Total Accounts Payable	-67.11		-67.11	
Total Current Liabilities	-67.11		-67.11	
Total Liabilities	-67.11		-67.11	
Equity				
3001 · Opening Balance Equity	794.48	794.48	0.00	0.0%
3010 · Unrestricted (retained earnings)	1,612.49	1,358.66	253.83	18.7%
Net Income	123.33	182.66	-59.33	-32.5%
Total Equity	2,530.30	2,335.80	208.05	8.9%
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	2,530.30	2,335.80	208.05	8.9%

in very good financial condition. As you can see, we showed a light gain again this year. I will post a full end-of-year report for 2015 early next year.

SiW Profit & Loss as of October 31, 2015	
	10/31/15
<b>Income</b>	
5000 · Earned revenues	
5210 · Membership dues - individuals	756.00
5310 · Interest-savings/short-term inv	0.33
5490 · Miscellaneous revenue	33.75
Total 5000 · Earned revenues	790.00
Total Income	790.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
8500 · Misc expenses	
8510 · Grants Given	100.00
8520 · Awards	14.00
8530 · Membership dues – organization	436.00
8560 · Outside computer services	22.37
8590 · Other expenses	27.27
Total 8500 · Misc expenses	599.64
Total Expense	599.64
Net Income	190.44



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

Hello there, Silicon Web! This has been a very busy several months for me, with buying a home, moving, and now finally getting our old one on the market, so I've been remiss in getting a year-end report together. It's been a fairly quiet year for the Board, voting on the 2016 budget is currently on the slate. I'll post a complete report with a summary of ICG and Board activities in an upcoming issue of *VC*. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season! Happy costuming!

## Author Acknowledgements

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild honors the 32 people who generously shared their knowledge and experience in the pages of *The Virtual Costumer* in 2015. SiW members are indicated with an asterisk beside their names. Thanks to all!

If you'd like to join these and other authors by sharing what you love doing, consider writing an article for one of the 2016 issues. For information on upcoming issues visit the [Upcoming Issues](#) page. To learn how easy it is to write for *VC*, see the [Author's Guide](#) online!



Alicia Aldrete



Greg S. Aldrete



Gypsy Ames



Lisa Ashton



Anne Merritt



Ann Morton



Parry Morton



Alexis Noriega



Scott Bartell



Byron Connell



Gaia Eirich



Rae Bradbury-Enslin



Kevin Pishion



Shirley Powers



Don Reeves



Mark Renshaw



Kathe Gust\*



Philip Gust\*



Christina Hellmich



Leslie Johnston



Mikaela Renshaw



Kevin Roche\*



Deb Salisbury\*



Karen Schnaubelt



William Kennedy



Katrina Lynn



Bruce MacDermott\*



Regan McHugh



Elaine Slms\*



Paul Trynka



Abigail Weiner



Samantha Witt