

# *International Costumer*

Volume XI, Issue 4

International Costumers' Guild (ICG)

July - August 2012





### *From the Guest Editor*

*What in blazes has happened to the newsletter? This isn't like any ICG newsletter that I've seen before.*

You're right. Patrick O'Connor retired as newsletter editor, and a replacement editor has not been found yet. Until a permanent Editor is found, we will have Guest Editors.

As the first Guest Editor, I decided that since most people view the newsletter on their computer monitors, that a landscape format would be easier to view. The Editorial Board is interested in your comments and opinions about the newsletter.

I also wanted to have a name for our newsletter, so I chose *International Costumer*. Like or hate the name? This is only a *proposed* name, so it can be changed.

For those that don't know me, I'm Carole Parker. I've been involved in publications for more than 30 years from typesetting to technical editing and writing. A sample of my dyework is at the top of this column.

I've been a den mother in local, regional, and Worldcon masquerades since the early 1980s, and competing for the last five years. I've also been on concoms as well.

Stay tuned. Next issue will have a different Guest Editor who may do something dramatically different.

### *President's Letter*

*by Phil Gust*

First, I would like to thank Patrick O'Connor for being the ICG Newsletter Editor for the last three years. As every member of the ICG Editorial Board knows, it is a labor of love. I'm especially grateful to Patrick for remaining active on the Editorial Board and continuing his service to the ICG.

I want to talk about a few items that I think are important to the ICG. All of them are related to community.

First is how the ICG can provide real value to its chapters, and, through them, to its members. What services can ICG provide to help chapters better serve their members, to build bridges among chapters, and to encourage new costuming communities to join the ICG out of enlightened self-interest? I was excited recently to hear someone from the Washington, D.C. area talking about forming a new ICG chapter. What can the ICG and its chapters do to help?

Second is how the ICG can reach out and cooperate with other costuming organizations, not only in the U.S. and Canada, but also in other parts of the world. All of these organizations serve the wider costuming community, and we all enjoy getting together and having fun whenever and wherever there's an excuse. What are your chapters already doing with other organizations in your area, and what new opportunities are there in your own communities?

Third is about participation. Most of us have barely enough time and money

for our favorite pastime. The last thing we need is to take on something else. Being an ICG officer, board member, or committee member is a commitment few people can make. Even helping to run a local chapter takes more time than many people have. What small things can you do to help them? Can you blog or tweet about an event? Bring snacks to a meeting? Organize a fabric or pattern exchange? Update a web page? Host a class? Write a how-to article? Even little things make a big difference to your chapter, to the ICG, and to those who help keep them running for you.

I'll have more to say about each of these in the coming months.

### *Editor Wanted*

We're looking to find the next newsletter editor. You'll have creative control of the newsletter, and you'll have the assistance of the Editorial Board to help you out. All the current Editorial Board members are experienced editors, so you can get as much or as little help as you need.

The two requirements for the Editor position are: 1) Current membership in the ICG, and 2) Reliable access to a computer with Internet capability.

Past newsletter experience a plus.

To apply for the position, please send an e-mail to:

[icg-newsletter@costume.org](mailto:icg-newsletter@costume.org)

## *LAA Interview - Penny Lipman*

*by Carole Parker*

2012 Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) winner Penny Lipman shares some thoughts with us.

***When did you realize you were a costumer?***

When I was a kid in England, birthday parties were often costume parties. My grandmother made my costumes. She taught me to sew, and I never looked back.

***Where do you find your costuming inspiration?***

From fantasy, from life, all around.

***What appeals to you about costuming?***

I see it as an art form and a form of meditation. Like acting, it's great to be able to inhabit another being.

***What was your reaction when you received your LAA?***

I was thrilled. Thank you.

***What do you think makes for a successful masquerade presentation?***

I wouldn't know. I never get to see a masquerade until the DVD because I'm always in the Green Room.

***To receive an LAA, service to the costuming community is one of the criteria. What would you suggest to others on how they could serve the costuming community?***

Every masquerade needs volunteers, judges, etc. Please help out if you aren't competing.

***Was any one particular costumer an inspiration or mentor to you?***

That's easy: Byron Connell.

Whenever I wasn't competing at Costume-Con or Worldcon (I won Best

Show at CC11 in 1993), I worked with Connell in the Green Room. At some point, I came to realize that my true passion came from being backstage and not on stage. I developed my own style and kit, and I have been Green Room Manager for nearly every masquerade in town for the last 16 plus years without ever missing a year.

Some of the reasons why this is important to me are:

A successful Green Room isn't just about the contestants and fulfilling their needs, that's a given. I try to make sure the staff has a good time, too. I love it when the friend/significant other is reluctantly dragged along as a Den Mom or Dad by their other half. Often, at the end of the night, they tell me they had a good time, and come back a couple year after year. I love to see the shy ones, the reluctant ones, blossom over the course of the evening.

I have some Special Needs staff, too, who work with me every year. Often, they have suggested a job that is within their capability, such as looking after the water service. No task is insignificant, and they are pleased to be Masquerade Staff.

To run a successful Green Room, apart from ingenuity, you need a sense of humour. Faced with a night of true horror, such as when the 100 chairs didn't arrive, or finding out at the last minute that the Green Room is in the Food Court, and yes, it's still open and selling pizza and Coke, we laugh and paraphrase "Shakespeare in Love."

To sum up, my philosophy is: It's hard to go out on stage and present to the public art that came from inside you. I

try to make it the best experience for them as possible. In my Green Room, I make sure that each contestant is treated with dignity, respect and compassion. I make sure all Green Room staff know their jobs and have a good time doing it, too. It should be a fun evening for all. Cookies help too!

I run the backstage Green Room for many masquerades, and I have competed on stage for eons also. Many cons/masquerades treat the contestants like s\*\*t. I try to make sure this doesn't happen to the contestants and staff in my care.



*Lipman as Green Room Manager at Anime North, in Toronto, May 2012 with approximately 97 entries.*

## Member FAQ - Buggy Feathers

From the ICG 2009 Archives.

### Becky D

*I got out the feather fans I made to go with my Elizabethan gowns last week and found them full of some kind of dead bugs. I showed them to my husband who said they looked like head lice but they seemed much bigger. Another friend suggested they might be silver fish.*

*I know birds can carry lice, but I thought the feathers you bought at the craft and fabric stores were treated for that. Anyone have any idea what this could have been, and how to stop it from happening again? I don't mind remaking the fans, but I HATE bugs.*

### Sandy Pettinger

My guess would be moth larvae - standard clothes moths. They like feathers, just like they like wool. The best way to conquer them without leaving a stink is to put your stuff in a paper or cloth bag, and put it in the freezer for about a week. Do this once or twice a year, and when you remove and thaw them, do it where there's good airflow, so you don't get mildew or other moisture problems.

Sandy (Who has WAY too many molting feather headpieces in the attic - too big for the freezer.)

### Carolyn Kayta Barrows

If they look like little pill bugs but about a quarter of an inch long, they may be carpet beetles, which started out in wool rugs years ago and went upscale since then. Ask your local Department of Agriculture about whatever you have, and show them

samples. But, I otherwise agree with the previous advice.

### Martin Gear

They are called feather mites. The best way to avoid them is to bag your feathers (plastic zip locks work well) and put them in a freezer for a couple of days, thaw them out for 24 hours, shake them, then freeze them again to get rid of any eggs. If possible, store the feathers in cedar boxes or a good quality cedar chest. There is a spray called "Scalex" mite and lice spray for birds and feathers which you can get at a pet store. Spritzing the feathers with that will help to keep the mites from coming back. Any time that you get new feathers, be sure to treat them the same way no matter who or where you got them from.

Advice comes from #2 son who is native American and really knows from feathers.

### Charles Galway

I think of carpet beetles, as smaller, about one-eighth inch (6.3 mm) beetle. The larvae are small fuzzy-tailed "worms." Plus, they eat a lot of stored plant seeds or animal parts. As said, they are sensitive to freezing. In the winter, the item can be set outside in a bag, and frozen a few times at night. If smaller, the fridge works. Plus the other insect protection methods.

Carpet beetle and larvae (dermestids), silver fish (insect, no flying adults), mites, and wool moths all look very different.

### Carolyn Kayta Barrows

I could leave them outside all winter here, visiting them daily while wearing a t-shirt and jeans and sandals, and it would have no effect - I live in California. But you're right about carpet beetles, except that I sometimes find them in my feathers.

### JoAnne Abbott

Put your feathered things in plastic bags, seal them well. Then put the bags in your freezer for a week. That will kill both bugs and eggs. Works for moths and wool, too.

### Henry Osier

I have known for years that insects cannot handle fast freezes, such as going from normal room temperature to below freezing. They can take a slow cool down, but not the sudden change.

If the feathers themselves can handle a freeze, put them in the freezer for a day.

### JoAnne Abbott

Here is a feather tip from an SCA friend of mine: Before one makes a feather bed or quilt, one bakes the feathers for an hour or so at a low heat - but one high enough to kill bugs - say 150 degrees. Some bugs can be killed by heat, some by freezing. I'd go to poison only as a final resort (Putting them in a plastic bag with moth balls, etc.). Traditionally, there are several herbs you put in with your long storage garb - lavender, rue, etc., that keep the bugs away. I never pack away my garb without lavender packets any more.

Hope this helps! I would trust baking the lil monsters to freezing them - think of how many bugs survive the winter in their egg forms, only to reappear with the flowers...

### **Martin Gear**

I have to rely on native American son about this, but he gets feathers from all over the world for regalia and the first thing that he does is bag them and put them in our freezer. (Which can be quite a shock when looking for lasagna.) He keeps the completed regalia in a cedar box after he has completed making it and has yet to lose any feathers to the critters. While a little controlled steam can freshen feathers, too much causes them to deform, and I have no idea about micro waving them, but I'd just as soon he not do that in my microwave. YMMV

### *About the Cover*

Two mola panels in the Los Angeles County Museum, currently on display. To create a mola, layers of colored cloth are stitched together. Designs are then cut out on the upper layer, revealing the color of the layer beneath, and the cut edges are folded under and stitched down. Additional patches of cloth are placed beneath some areas to form underlayers, and small cloth pieces are applied to the surface using a combination of cutwork and applique. Embroidery is sometimes used to further embellish the design. Although machine stitching is employed occasionally, most of the work is done by hand.

The origin of the mola techniques is unknown. The materials and tools--colored cloth, thread, sharp-tipped scissors, and needles--may have arrived with missionaries or other eighteenth- or nineteenth-century travelers.

### *Kinetic Pattern*

Along with the Mola exhibit, the Los Angeles County Museum has a kinetic sculpture called *Metropolis II*. The patterns and colors of the structures were eye catching. *Metropolis II* will be at the L.A. County Museum for at least ten years, and it is worth seeing if you happen to be in the Los Angeles area.

*Blouse with rooster mola panels on front and back from the L.A. County Museum exhibit.*



## Chapter Focus



### Silicon Web Costumers' Guild (SiW)

SiW is the Internet-based chapter of the ICG, which makes it a chapter without borders. This chapter has had members not only in the U.S., but also Canada, England, and Japan. A map showing where current members are located:

<http://www.siwcostumers.org/members.html>

SiW members tend to be active in the chapter and ICG. Several SiW members are past and current ICG officers as well as being members in other chapters.

While some chapters skew towards one particular area of costuming, SiW members have a variety of interests, including: science fiction and fantasy, anime/cosplay, historical, wearable art, and the crafting aspects of costuming.

The Dreamcatcher Award is presented by the chapter for innovative use of technology and/or creative problem solving in costume construction. The last one was presented at Costume-Con 30 to *Kimono Dragon* by Becky and Michael Maung for creative use of electroluminescent (el) wire.

## Chapter Newsletters

Does your chapter publish a newsletter? Is there a costuming e-zine that would be of interest to ICG members? Send your recommendations to:

[icg-newsletter@costume.org](mailto:icg-newsletter@costume.org)

If your ICG chapter wants to start a newsletter, the Publications Committee can help you get started. To learn more:

[icg-pubscommittee@costume.org](mailto:icg-pubscommittee@costume.org)

### Cactus Needles

Southwest Costumers' Guild

<http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org>

### Virtual Costumer

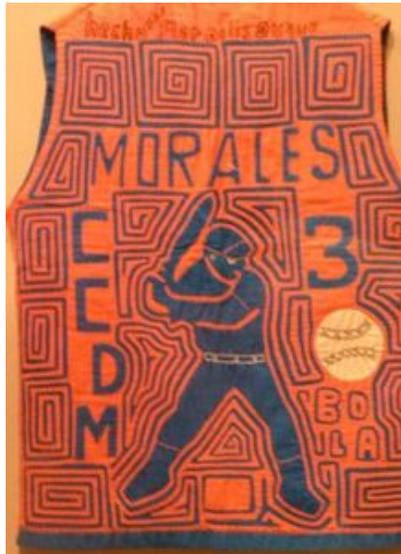
Silicon Web Costumers' Guild

[http://www.siwcostumers.org/vc\\_current-issue.html](http://www.siwcostumers.org/vc_current-issue.html)

### Yipe!

A privately published e-zine.

<http://www.yipezine.com>



Mola vest on display at the L.A. County Museum.

## ICG By E-Mail or Internet

WebSite: <http://www.costume.org/>

Yahoo! Groups:

General Discussion

[ICG-D@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ICG-D@yahoogroups.com)

Board of Directors and Officers

[ICG-BOD@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ICG-BOD@yahoogroups.com)

Technical and Web Discussion

[ICG-TW@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ICG-TW@yahoogroups.com)

Publications Discussion

[ICG-Pub@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ICG-Pub@yahoogroups.com)

ICG-D is open to everyone, including nonmembers. Everyone can read message archives of the other groups, but only invited members can submit messages.

## ICG Membership Benefits

Your ICG membership benefits include voting rights and a subscription to *International Costumer*. Chapters that fail to report their members and submit their dues run the risk of being deactivated. Members of deactivated chapters who wish to participate in activities as ICG members must join an active chapter of the ICG. Members of Chapters that have 'expired,' but are in good standing, are temporarily placed in the 'T-chapter,' a sort of limbo for members 'between chapters.'

## Advertising

Until a permanent editor and format are found, the ICG Newsletter will not be accepting advertising.

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## **ICG Chapters**

*If you spot an error or something that needs updating, please send a message to the newsletter e-mail address.*

### **Armed Costumers' Guild**

c/o Henry Osier Re: ACG  
2705 N. Shepard Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53211  
Contact/ICG Board Rep: Henry Osier

### **Beyond Reality Costumers' Guild**

c/o BRCCG  
650 NW 76th Street  
Seattle, WA 98117-4044  
<http://www.brcg.org/>  
Contact/ICG Board Rep:  
Julie Zetterberg

### **Chicagoland Costumers' Guild**

aka: The Chicago M.O.B.  
c/o Renata O'Connor-Rose  
5708 W Addison Street  
Chicago IL 60634-4315  
<http://www.chicostume.org/>  
Contact: Barbara Wright  
ICG Board Rep: Sue Edmunds

### **Denver Costume & Cosplay Society**

c/o Michael Bruno  
1218 Florence Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80905  
<http://www.denvercostuming.org/>  
Contact/ICG Board Rep: Mike Bruno

### **Fibre Fantasy Artists of Canada**

c/o Dawn McKechnie  
2001 Bonnymede Dr. Suite 148,  
Building 2 Mississauga, ON  
L5J 4H8 Canada  
<http://sites.google.com/site/fibrefantasyartists/home>  
Contact/ICG Board Rep:  
Dawn McKechnie

### **The Greater Columbia Fantasy Costumers' Guild (GCFCG)**

Post Office Box 683  
Columbia, MD 21045  
<http://www.gcfcg.org/>  
Contact: [gcfcg@yahoo.com](mailto:gcfcg@yahoo.com)  
ICG Board Rep: Ann Hamilton

### **The Greater Delaware Valley Costumers' Guild**

c/o Chuck Whitney, Chapter President  
128 Greenwood Ave  
Jenkintown PA 19046  
<http://www.costume.org/dvcg/index.html>  
Contact: Chuck Whitney  
ICG Board Rep (acting): Rob Himmelsbach

### **Kansas City Costumers' Guild**

c/o Erica Binns  
901 Aviation Rd. Apt. F  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kccostume/>  
Contact: Erica Binns  
ICG Board Rep: Kerri Knorr

### **Madison Area Costuming Society (MACS)**

c/o President: Stacey Lee Feldmann  
604 Cherrywood Court #14  
Madison, WI 53714  
<http://community.livejournal.com/macscostume/>  
Contact/ICG Board Rep:  
Stacey Lee Feldmann

### **Minnesota Society of Costumers**

aka: MN-SOC  
c/o Laura Ulak  
4200 W. 70th Street  
Edina, MN 55435  
<http://www.facebook.com/?sk=ff&ap=1#!/group.php?gid=135881173098890&v=wall&ref=notif>  
Contact: Laura Ulak  
ICG Board Rep: Chelsey Barnes

### **NJ/NY Costumers' Guild**

aka: Sick Pups  
c/o Dora Buck  
1973 Pine Ridge  
Bushkill, PA 18324  
<http://www.sickpupsnot.org/>  
Contact: Elaine Mami  
ICG Board Rep: Byron Connell

### **Northern Lights Costumers' Guild**

c/o Susan Smith  
1 Glen Meadow Road  
Franklin, MA 02038  
<http://www.northernlights.pothole.com/>  
Contact: Susan Smith  
ICG Board Rep: Janice Dallas

### **Oklahoma Costumers' Guild**

aka: Oklahomasque  
c/o Sterling Ranne  
128 SW 130th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73170  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Oklahomasque/>  
Contact/ICG Board Rep:  
Sterling Ranne

### **The St. Louis Costumers' Guild**

aka: The St Louis Ubiquitous Tailoring Society (SLUTS)  
c/o Bruce Mai  
7835 Milan  
University City, MO 63130  
<http://www.casamai.com/slcg/index.html>  
Contact/ICG Board Rep: Bruce Mai

### **Silicon Web Costumers' Guild (SiW)**

c/o Deb Salisbury  
100 PR 232  
Abbot, TX 76621  
<http://www.siwcostumers.org/>  
Contact: Deb Salisbury  
ICG Board Rep: Dana MacDermott

## Southwest Costumers' Guild (SWCG)

PO Box 39504

Phoenix, AZ 85069-9504

<http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>

Contact: Randall Whitlock

ICG Board Rep: Marg Grady

## Utah Costumers' Guild

aka: The Sew-and-Sewzz

UCG 289 W. Hidden Hollow Drive

Orem, UT 84058-7552

[http://www.utahsf.org/clubwiki/index.php?title=Utah\\_Costumers\\_Guild](http://www.utahsf.org/clubwiki/index.php?title=Utah_Costumers_Guild)

Contact/ICG Board Rep:

Keri Doerring

### NOTE:

If you see the word *acting* attached to a position, that means that person is doing it because no one else stepped forward. If you're interested in the position, please contact the person listed.

Items of Interest

Costume-Cons:

<http://www.costume-con.org/>

For conventions in your area:

<http://www.costume.org/conventions.html>

Vintage Color Photographs:

<http://www.afar.com/afar/a-trip-through-time>

Women of the Future - 1902 photos

<http://www.laboiteverte.fr/les-femmes-de-lavenir-1902/>

## ICG Editorial Board

Betsy Delaney, Philip Gust, Patrick O'Connor, Carole Parker, Jeanine Swick, and Randall Whitlock.

## ICG Officers 2012-2013

President: Philip Gust

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[icg-parliamentarian@costume.org](mailto:icg-parliamentarian@costume.org)

## Newsletter Delivery

The ICG Board of Directors authorized an online as well as a print edition of the newsletter. Your newsletter delivery preference is part of your ICG membership record. If you want to change or verify your delivery preference, contact your local chapter. The newsletter staff relies on these records to determine who receives a newsletter and by what means of delivery.

Members who have an e-mail address on record will be notified when a new online edition is available. Those who receive the print edition are also welcome to experience the online edition by going to:

<http://www.costume.org/currentnewsletter>.

When prompted, enter the user name "newsletter" and the password "International."

Back issues of the ICG newsletter are available online for the entire costuming community to enjoy. Contact the newsletter e-mail address to report problems or comment on the newsletter. If your postal or e-mail address changes, notify your local chapter promptly, or send your updated information to [icg-membership-corrections@costume.org](mailto:icg-membership-corrections@costume.org). Returned copies of the print edition will generally not be re-mailed.

## Online Submissions

Submit copy as rtf, doc, .docx or .txt files to the newsletter e-mail address. All current graphics formats are acceptable.