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Art Credits
Cover Surfers are crazy by Lucy Huntzinger
Editorial

By España Sheriff

Editor

This is my first editorial for SF/SF, but I won’t be offended if you can skip past it. Editorials are like introductions to novels, I think; folks mostly just cut right to the meat of the thing. Not me, though. I’m a introduction, afterword, dedication and acknowledgements page reader. I read plaques, ingredients lists and stay to the end of the movie to read the credits. So I guess I won’t be surprised if you haven’t skipped ahead, either.

I started with SF/SF in 2006 and am extremely happy at how it’s grown over the time I’ve been with it. It looks and reads better with every issue and since it began it has made a pretty good effort at covering the breadth of local fandom. It’s a Herculean task — Sisyphean actually — but that’s what makes it fun, and there’s always room to expand. Personally I would like to see more gaming coverage since that is huge in the Bay Area, and it’s something that most of us regular contributors don’t seem to have a whole lot of experience in. It might be nice to have some more interviews with local authors, artists and fans, and general articles that are not event reports. But that’s the beauty of it all…we’re spoiled for choice out here and could probably put out a 200 page magazine every month and still not get to everything (that was not a challenge).

When this issue goes up I will be packing for Gallifrey One (a Southern California convention, but one which is always full of Bay Area fen). The week after that we will be gearing up for the Nova Albion Steampunk Exhibition at which Jean Martin and myself will be throwing a Time Machine-themed party to celebrate both of our birthdays. Around and in between there will be more dances, readings and other one-shot events than I could manage to attend even if I had nothing but free time and spare cash. At the same time I will try to keep the SF/SF calendar updated and write for this and other zines, catch up on books, TV and film from 2009 so I can nominate for the Hugos and work on art and costuming for conventions. As it turns out, fandom is not so much a way of life as it is a full-time job!

But it’s worth it, and that is one of the reasons I was glad that Jean decided to keep SF/SF going, and that Rina Weisman volunteered to join us. I couldn’t think of a better team to work with, I just hope I can carry my weight.

Join our crew!
We are looking for writers to cover local events, conventions, fan groups and the fannish scene in general. Contact Jean Martin at SFinSF@gmail.com
Renovation Announces Young Adult Rates

The 2011 Reno Worldcon, Renovation, sent out this release announcing the pricing for Young Adults:

Reno – Renovation, the 2011 World Science Fiction Convention, announced today that it would be the first Worldcon to introduce a reduced membership rate for young adults, thus enabling many more young people to participate in this unique event.

Worldcons have traditionally offered discounted membership rates for children, and Renovation is no exception, with a membership price of just $75 for children under 17. This has, however, left many teenagers, students and other younger fans having to pay the full adult rate – until now.

Renovation’s new Young Adult (YA) membership will be available to anyone aged 17 to 21 as of August 17, 2011 (the first day of the convention). The YA membership will include all of the benefits of adult membership, including all convention publications and the right to vote in the prestigious Hugo Awards, and will initially cost just $100 – saving 30% or more on the adult rate. Existing members in the YA age range will be issued refunds where they have already paid for a full adult attending membership. Please contact memberships@renovationsf.org to do this. Full details of the YA membership are available from Renovation’s website, at www.renovationsf.org.

Renovation Chair, Patty Wells, said “I strongly believe that we need to do more to attract young people, especially when so many of them are discovering the genre through writers such as J. K. Rowling and Stephanie Meyer. Our YA rate will allow these new fans to be part of the Worldcon experience: meeting and listening to writers, exploring our art show, dealers’ room and exhibits, and attending the Hugo Award Ceremony, Masquerade and other special events.”

This is an issue that’s near and dear to my heart. It wasn’t so long ago (okay, 17 years, but who’s counting?) since Worldcon was in my town and I couldn’t afford to go. ConFrancisco was coming to town; I knew exactly what a Worldcon was and I wanted to go and I couldn’t afford it. What was an 18 year old kid with no job to do? Well, I ghosted it, of course, and I ended up convincing a friend of mine to let me stay in his room. It was a good time. I think I did the same thing for the 1996 Worldcon in Anaheim. I couldn’t have gone to any of the other Worldcons (at least three), because I couldn’t afford the membership or hotel.

I’m one who often complains about the high price of fandom, The costs involved with putting on a con as large as a Worldcon have skyrocketed over the years, and this has contributed to the increasing age of the average Worldcon attendee. Well, that and time. I’ve been priced out of Worldcons a number of times, with memberships being the first cost that usually need to be paid. It’s usually between plane tickets (usually high for anywhere outside of the West Coast) and memberships.

Increasing the number of young attendees is a very good idea. Youth
movements have led to impressive increases in fan activity. The famous Trek Bump following the release of the original Star Trek and the other following Star Wars’ release led to larger numbers at cons and a lowering of the age of attendees. There have been cons that have gone through youth movements, sometimes with very difficult pains associated. Still, Worldcons have not seen a youth movement in a good long while.

The fact is Reno might not be the best test case. London, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, Boston — these are the cities where there are a lot of kids who could stay at home and make their way into the con on their own. Daily driving distance is an important factor in getting young attendees to come and try it out, and there’s not much within that range of Reno. There’s the difficulty…but still, it’s a good start to look at this process as a way to draw in a future generation of fans.

There are a few questions left. Will it work? Will it be carried forward? Have we thought this through? We’ll get all these answers in the soon!

**The DUFF Race**

The Down Under Fan Fund (“DUFF”) sends a North American fan down to Australia and/or New Zealand and vice versa. It’s the second-oldest fan fund and has been won by some of the most important names in the history of fandom. Art Widner, Rusty Hevelin, Bill Rotsler, Guy Lillian and many others have made the trips, and DUFF tends to do better than TAFF about publishing trip reports (Suzle, me and Steve Stiles being the first three U.S. TAFF reports published since 1976).

This year’s race is to send folks to the Australian Worldcon.

The nominees are a great bunch. From Canada, there’s Jeffrey Boman, who I happen to have nominated. He does the Aurora-winning zine *The Original Universe*. He’s a good guy from Quebec and I think he’d make a good DUFF delegate. John Purcell, another pal of mine, is also running. He’s the editor of *Askance* and he’d also make a good delegate. John Hertz, as well a good friend of mine, is also running. He’s been a Hugo nominee a few times, he’s a really good writer and he would make a good DUFF delegate. Melanie Herz is also running. Sadly, I don’t think I’ve met her. I’ve heard good things and her nominators are Julian Warner, Alan Stewart from Australia and Elaine Brennan, Pat and Roger Sims and Jim Mann from the U.S. I’m sure she’d make a good DUFF delegate. Finally there’s an interesting pair running. It’s Terry Fong and Jannie Shea, another pair I can’t say I’ve met. I know they’ve both worked Worldcons and so on. I’m sure they’d make good DUFF delegates.

You can find more info at wrevenge.com/duff2010/.
I agreed to interview James Blaylock at the upcoming Nova Albion Steampunk Exhibition convention (www.steampunkexhibition.com). That meant rereading much of his work and rereading the pieces that I know we’ll be covering. It’s a good thing because I enjoy Blaylock, but it meant that I won’t have much time to do any reading or commenting on Fanzines. So, before I launched into the novel readings, I got through a few fanzines I hadn’t gotten through yet.

First, it was one I had started in on and had yet to read. It was Robert Lichtman’s Trap Door. I’ve loved Trap Door for years, and it doesn’t come out as often as I’d love it to. This issue, number 26, was one of the best zines to come out in 2009. It started with a lovely Steve Stiles cover. Steve is long over-due for a Best Fan Artist Hugo, and the cover showing a guy looking up towards the San Francisco skyline is fun and funky. Inside, there’s a fantastic piece called “The Great GAFIA of 1967” from Gordon Eklund. Gordon won the FAAN Award for Best Fan Writer in 2004 for his long piece in Trap Door, and I wouldn’t be surprised to see him win another for this one. Then again, there’s a great Dave Langford piece in the same issue. It’s called “South Wales Alphabet” and it’s one of the few full-length Langford articles I’ve read in recent months. When he writes long stuff, not just what we get in Ansible, it turns out that he’s one of the best of all time. Sadly, it’s not that often that it happens. On the other hand, Dan Steffan, probably my favorite fan artist for more than a decade now, does small illustrations for each letter and they’re great.

Trap Door is probably the best regular fanzine out of the Bay Area and hopefully we’ll see more of them at shorter intervals.

Another Bay Area fanzine is Rich Coad’s Sense of Wonder Stories. It also opens with another really fun Stiles cover. I have to say something right off: he recommends two Australians for Fan Hugos (Bruce Gillespie for Best Fan Writer and Ditmar for Best Fan Artist) and I can not agree more. Those two deserve every accolade under the sun, plus a couple more. I also echo his recommendation for Steam Engine Time…I just had to get that out.

This is a really fun issue and I’m glad that I set aside the time to get around to actually reading it. There’s a lot of good writing, and the first two pieces from Randy Byers and Graham Charnock are wonderful. I especially like Randy Byers’ article on Homer Eon Flint. He’s a writer I’d never heard of and the article made me very interested in actually reading him. Well, after I finish the Blaylock Priority. Graham’s look at
H. G. Wells’ The Croquet Player is another that does much the same, and Graham is a writer who I think more of us should go out of our way to read.

Bill Burns, my hero and head honcho of eFanzines.com, writes a fun little piece on Wardenclyffe Tower. If you’ve never heard of Wardenclyffe Tower, it was a part of Tesla’s experiment in long-distance power transmission. I really like it when Bill gets to writing about technologies, and he’s an expert on Transatlantic Cables, too!

Good stuff!

Yipe! is at least partly a Bay Area zine, and especially much so since many of the writers for the zine are based in the Bay Area. First off, they have the best recurring column title of all, España’s “Sheriff Don’t Like It.” Anytime you can reference “Rock the Casbah,” I’ll be happy. This issue has Jason Schachat on Avatar, a film I have not seen. James Bacon’s in there too, with a very cool look at a costume sale in the U.K. I wish I could have been there. Catherine, Jason’s sister and another Bay Area-ite (and mother of Archer, the adorable kid on the cover), talks about Anime LA, and I’ve got a thingee on Wrestling Masks. It’s a really good issue and it’ll be on my Hugo ballot for next year, though it’s not eligible yet. Look at yipezine.com for all the issues.

I re-read Journey Planet issue 3, which you can find at efanzines.com/JourneyPlanet/JourneyPlanet03.pdf, and I still say it’s one of the best single issues of any zine I’ve read in a long, long time. It’s the type of zine I would love to say I did, but I only wrote a couple of pieces for it. Still, I’m on the masthead, so it’s Bay Area! The two key pieces here folks you seldom see in zines: L. J. Hurst, Christian Payne, John Perivolaris and Andrew F. Wood. There’s also Tony Keen, Padraig O’Mealoid, James Bacon (with a great piece that looks at the various covers of 1984) and a piece that only lightly touches on the overall theme of 1984 from me. It looks at the year of 1984 in reality. I love this issue and I think James, Claire and Peter Young all did a great job with it. Issue 4 of JP was also pretty good, and issue 5 is coming soon. Take a look at efanzines.com/JourneyPlanet/index.htm.

And there’s still The Drink Tank, which is normal, and there’s Claims Department, and Exhibition Hall, and there are various Garcia Zines out there. If you wanna know more, look at eFanzines.com.
Lloyd Penney writes:

Dear Jean and Chris and España and Rina and Tom,

Some of you are new, others are just a little rearranged, and it’s good to see there is an *SF/SF* 101. The frequency is changed a little, but its usefulness is still there, and I look forward to looking inside.

Jean Martin responds: Hi Lloyd, glad to know that people are still reading *SF/SF* and are happy that we are still around.

Hi, Jean, hope you’re feeling better, and hope you’re right about 2010 being a better year for us all. Employment, money, a little fame, peace of mind, we’re not greedy, we just want it all. I know what kind of job I want, but I’m at the point where just having employment is good enough. Rina, I’m a professional proofreader/copyeditor/editor as well, and only recently has our local literary convention taken advantage of my decades of offering my services. Good for you for volunteering, and good for you, Jean, in taking her on. I’d love nothing better than to go to Nova Albion and help you and España celebrate. There are now two Steampunk conventions within driving distance of us, in Dearborn, MI and Parsippany, NJ, but we will get to neither because of previous commitments and our decision not to go to out-of-town conventions in 2010.

With everyone in fandom so busy with their own jobs, personal lives and various pursuits, it’s hard to find volunteers who are willing to commit to something as regular as a fanzine. But I’m always astounded that there’s always someone willing to step up to the plate when I’m looking for replacements. I’m very grateful for the efforts of our past staff members and am very happy to have new people on board as well.

I’ve never thrown a birthday party at a convention before and got the idea from Gigi Gridley who celebrated her natal day at the World Fantasy Convention last year. She told me that she thought it was great that her friends from everywhere were already there so it quite convenient. I never thought of that since there haven’t really been any cons close to my birthday until SteamX this year. WonderCon used to be fairly close to my birthday but that’s a huge con with everyone scattered all over the place. There really isn’t even an official “con hotel” for that one.

Hi, Chris! I have seen resignations happen with convention committees, and sometimes two or three people all at once to make a point, but when twenty committee members resign from a committee, there’s definitely something wrong. Twenty people is a lot, and in some places, twenty can make up an entire committee. Egos can get bruised and battered in this situation, so it looks like the BoD has to do some soul-searching, and see what they’ve done wrong. Twenty people is a lot, and in some places, twenty can make up an entire committee. Egos can get bruised and battered in this situation, so it looks like the BoD has to do some soul-searching, and see what they’ve done wrong. Twenty people is a lot, and in some places, twenty can make up an entire committee. Egos can get bruised and battered in this situation, so it looks like the BoD has to do some soul-searching, and see what they’ve done wrong. Twenty people is a lot, and in some places, twenty can make up an entire committee. 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but also the trust of the local fandom that staffs and attends it. Same goes for the Animecon. I suspect that most people have a child’s mind in an adult body, but some of us are able to bring a high level of professionalism to the office in which we work. Why can’t we bring that same level of professionalism to the projects we work on, like conventions? I have dealt with so-called professional people who do a half-assed job at a con, and shrug their shoulders like they just don’t care. That attitude would get you fired in your workplace; please don’t bring it to the con.

As far as I know, BayCon is still happening. I’ve kept out of the politics of it because I don’t like taking sides even when one side is obviously in the right. There are always personality and/or business conflicts in any organization. It’s just a matter of degree and frequency. I’m amazed that these organizations exist to begin with, and for the most part, get the job done every year. I hope BayCon gets cleared up and ready to go and get strong again.

My loc... the DUFF ballot is out, with four individual candidates, and one two-person team. I’ve never seen the ballot so crowded, which is a good sign. The job at the Law Society continues on, and it’s still good. There have been no hints as to my fate there, so I am prepared for all outcomes. Where is your new job, Jean?

I’m still working at the same financial services firm I’ve been at for 10 years. I’m just switching departments. Which is great because I get to do something new but still have the same location, corporate culture, benefits, etc. So I won’t have to adapt to a completely new environment and situation.

There’s a new idea for a story... the Garcia engine. Produces lots of power, gets lots done, well, I could go on, but I’d just get myself in trouble. I’ll let others fill in the gaps about what the Garcia engine does. Steve Green says that election dates are at the whim of the current administration in the UK, and it’s the same in Canada. We’ve had four federal elections in the past six years, and we still have a minority government. (That’s where the ruling party has more seats than any other party, but has less than 50% of all seats. We have four federal parties in the current Parliament, and there may be the emergence of a fifth in future elections.) Our current prime minister, Stephen Harper, tried to Americanize our elections by making law elections every four years, and then he broke his own law and called a snap election. Is there anyone happy with federal politics in any country?

Chris is a formidable engine that gets a lot done. It would make a great story! As I mentioned in the last issue, though, I’ve been called the female Chris Garcia. Except, I think, my efforts are a little bit more scattered into different arenas. My engine is a little bit run down right now, though, and preoccupied with work, and so our new monthly schedule seems the best alternative.

John Purcell writes:
To the best of my knowledge, and a quick Google to make sure, the first SF fanzine was called The Comet, and was published by the Science Correspondence Club in Chicago in 1930. This means we’ve marked 80 years of fanzines. We have quite a history behind us. What format a fanzine might take after e-zines, I do not know.

That’s not surprising that fanzines have been around for a long time. Fans
of scifi like to write and talk about our interests. And, nowadays, there are zines for every interest out there. It’s a great way of sharing our passions with others and connecting with a community.

A fanzine lounge at an Animecon...well, I know it wouldn’t fly at all at our local anime con, and if I tried, I’d be sitting by myself all weekend long. If even Worldcons fail to think that a fanzine lounge is important, other conventions will probably slough it off, and conveniently forget it. As always, create your own fun. And, kidnap a toy pony, too. Works for me. Great photo on page 17...Yoda’s been caught in the girl’s dorm! Explanations for my presence here have I... Terrible that someone would steal chairs and couches! How many did you wind up with, anyway? Chaz might make you all guests next year. It would be the only we’d be able to keep an eye on you all.

I wouldn’t think younger people at Anime conventions would be interested in fanzines either. So more power to España, Leigh Ann and all those who put the fanzine lounge together to spread the word about fanzines. I think the draw is that it is a “lounge” where people can talk and get together in a comfortable and friendly atmosphere.

Coming up this year is a special Harry Potter exhibit at the Ontario Science Centre, and we have a friend who is working on creating it for the OSC. With luck, there might be some kind of preview at Ad Astra this year; guess we’ll find out soon enough. Yes, we have Matt Smith as the Doctor, the 11th Doctor. If indeed a Time Lord has 13 incarnations, and therefore 12 regenerations, what will happen when he runs out? I’m sure there are more regenerations available on eBay...

A Harry Potter exhibit sounds great. I’m not really too much into the franchise, especially the books, but I do like the look of the movies as well as the actors who’ve brought the stories to life. We’ll see what happens after we have 13 Doctors. I do hope we get that far! After that, I’m sure the creators will think of something. Or it may be good to just end on a high note and leave it as something special to remember. I’m still hoping they get Jon Pertwee to take on the role his father had decades ago.

Whoever reviews The Wolfman, and likes it, I hope someone will write up “Clap for The Wolfman.” If no one gets it, I will be officially old.

I’ll see what I can do. I just got invited to go on a group outing to see it. I can’t make the outing myself but I’ll try to tap someone to write something about it. The premise looks good, and it’s got Benicio del Toro in it, but the trailer I saw looks like it’s going to fall short. Oh, and I vaguely remember that song by Guess Who. I liked Wolfman Jack growing up. He even showed up in American Graffiti and Galactica 1980, which I am unashamed to admit that I liked.

I have run out of zine, so I must be done. Off it goes to the Gmail account, and onto my LJ when I get to it, which is usually the weekend. Thank you, Jean, for keeping on keeping on with the zine, and I’ll see you with 102.

Thanks for keeping up with us. Hope we keep you entertained as long as we keep publishing.
The end of January, 2010, saw the 12th incarnation of one of the Bay Area’s most distinctive conventions, Further Confusion (FurCon). Having outgrown the oft-missed Doubletree, FurCon staffers adjusted swiftly to their new digs at the San Jose Fairmont.

“Gold Rush” was this year’s theme. “Chuck,” a cartoon miner’s cat in prospector overalls, appears as the 2010 website mascot. Standard registration packages included drinking skins and small bags of pyrite (aka “fool’s gold”). Some lucky winners instead got bags with slips redeemable for real gold!

But what is the furry fandom all about? Between the diversity of answers, confusing media treatment, and unchecked taboo, it’s difficult to get a clear explanation as to exactly why people like dressing up in fur suits. We addressed those most heavily involved with FurCon, along with visitors old and new.

Firstly, convention attendees and staffers shared their experiences transitioning to the new hotel.

Danielle “Angel” D. reminisces: “R.I.P. Doubletree. The Fairmont Hotel has large shoes to fill. I’ve been pleasantly surprised how well they have done so far. Hopefully the hotel trusts FC more now and will start to slowly give benefits we came to expect from the Doubletree like FC TV.”

Jason “Loran” Thomas tells us: “We had a wonderful convention staff as well as hotel staff. There where a few bumps that would occur from coming into a new hotel, but nothing major. The Fairmont was excellent to work with.”

Lee “Chairo” Strom: “A lot of very hard work went into making FC2010 a success. The transition to downtown San Jose from the Doubletree was a great challenge, however, 2010 was one of the smoothest rides we’d taken. But the staff, hotel, city of San Jose and many local businesses came through wonderfully and the hotel liaison’s experience and very hard work made the transition to a new location seem far easier than it should have. Personally, I can’t wait to see what happens next year.”
Adding to thoughts on the new hotel, David “Flint Otterhall” Cooksey contributes: “I was very surprised at just how welcoming and friendly the regular ordinary staff folks were to our attendees at both the Fairmont and the area businesses.”

Ben, screen name CheeseMonkeyGa, enthuses: “Fairmont was huge! It had plenty of room and was located close to several good restaurants.”

Danielle is a long-time FurCon fur-suiter. Chairo serves as the con’s PR Director and facilitated most of the interview answers in this article. Loran was the 2010 convention chair. Flint Otterhall is a long-time board member and highly active staffer. Ben, who did not supply this publication with a last name, volunteered as an A/V technician.

The board members take pride in their volunteer staff. They also expound a bit on the merits of seeking new staffers to fill key positions year after year.
Flint Otterhall: “I cannot begin to say enough about my fellow staff workers. Their individual sacrifices for this fandom and for the con are the primary reason I keep doing it myself. I love the fact that the con basically reinvents itself each two or three years since everyone gets fired each year. Sure that gives you some increased reinventing of the wheel, but it also puts in institutional barriers to white tower-ism. Fresh blood and change give way more good than bad.”

Danielle comments: “I’ll give a shout out to the idea that higher end staff positions must always be ran by someone new, to give a fresh outlook. FC is truly community-run, unlike other conventions that are often run by one or two people for a profit.”

Chairo: “Every staff member and volunteer stepped up to the plate with determination and dedication this year. The A/V crew did a stellar job with Main Stage; they really brought a new level of professionalism to Further Confusion. Our registration staff
successfully tackled many new changes. Everyone came together in the eleventh hour to produce one of the best shows we’ve had to date. The staff and volunteers for Further Confusion are truly talented people!”

There’s a variety of perspectives on how best to explain just what the furry fandom is.

Excerpt from the official FurCon press guide: “Today they’re called furry fans, furries, or simply furs, but fans of funny animals have been around for a long time. Interest in various forms of anthropomorphic animals goes back many centuries, to at least as far back as Aesop’s fables, and maybe as far back as the first cave paintings. Modern furry fandom first took the form of room parties at science fiction conventions around 20 years ago, before growing large enough to make conventions catering exclusively to furry interests possible. This growth was helped tremendously by the Internet, which enabled furry fans to stay in touch and share artwork and stories, providing a sense of close community among people scattered around the world. Conventions, especially large ones like Further Confusion, give furries a chance to meet face-to-face with friends they might not otherwise get to see during the year, and even make some new friends the old-fashioned way.”

Chairo adds: “I personally describe it as such: Furry Fandom is much like the science fiction fandom. Fans and artists of many types hold a common interest in the anthropomorphic arts, specifically, animal and fantasy creatures that combine both human and animal characteristics which can vary greatly. Cartoon characters such as Bugs Bunny, Draco from *Dragonheart* another and even werewolves make up some examples.”

Ben suggests: “Think of it like a Trekkie or anime convention except, instead of Borg or disproportionately endowed girls, we have animals!”
Mary Madesky submits: “That’s a really tough one...it is alot of things in general but maybe only a few to each person. Aspects include costuming/mascoting, art (especially anime), spirituality in terms of having an animal spirit or persona that you feel is part of your personality, and a love of animals.”

Mary is highly active in the furry community and did more than her part to promote FurCon.

The Black Hole, a mobile, Klingon-run bar is a regular feature at FC and other conventions in the area. DoQnar Sutai-vuarwi, a co-proprietor of the bar, notes: “For the first time in the history of the bar, the FurCon attendees drank every bit of booze we had for Saturday night and damn near drank it dry Friday night as well. In fact they drank it all 10 minutes before the party rooms were forced to close down (midnight).”

Lisa Deutsch Harrigan writes: “I spent most of my weekend at the WC64 fan table. The costumes that went by my table were great fun.”

DoQnar Sutai-vuarwi sometimes masquerades as a human named David Hansen. Lisa was, of course, there on WesterCon business. (See www.westercon64.org for information on this touring convention’s scheduled appearance at the Fairmont in 2011.)
The main events include the Fursuit Parade, the Masquerade and FNL. One of FC’s biggest attractions is parade in which everyone in costume is invited to march through the venue with pride. (There were 749 in the parade this year, according to the website.) As with so many cons, there is the traditional Masquerade on Saturday nights featuring anthropomorphic costumers showing off their stuff on stage. Additionally, there’s Furry Night Live, the animal-themed variety show with musical acts, talent demonstrations, and comedy sketches.

Chairo: When taking part, my favorite event is usually the FNL or the Masquerade. However the sheer size of the Fursuit (costume) Parade and group picture that follows is a sight to behold. The number of fuzzy critters together at one time had nearly hit 600.

Lisa offers some constructive criticism: “They need to work on where the Furry Parade is going. I almost missed it because they moved it from going in front of my table to another hallway! FNL was small and not nearly as much fun as previous years. Which figures since I couldn’t make it to the Masquerade and everyone says that was Real Good This Year.”

Flint Otterhall’s favorite event was: “The preview panel by the artists known as Blotch, Guest of Honor for FC2011, of their upcoming mainstream product Nordguard. I think its gonna be competing for an Eisner in the near future.”

Ben and Danielle both cited the dance competition, a newly-created event, as their favorite.

Here’s what our interviewees replied when asked if they had favorite costumes, furries, and fur stories.

Loran: “A few, mostly the cute bunny suits I saw.”

by Andrew Trembley
Chairo: “Being a costume designer myself I see so many excellent designs out there. I have been designing and building costumes for 13 years. The fandom itself is progressing by leaps and bounds in quality and creativity. Here is my latest that was seen at FC briefly.

www.ringtailstudios.com/Costumes/Nougat.jpg.”

Flint Otterhall: “1) Terraluna the bat fursuit finally returning to perform a bit in suit after his performer suffered a near fatal motorcycle accident several years ago. 2) Devin, the cute dog fursuit who got the CBS5 Reporter to accept a very doggy hug from him and seeing the “light” go on in the reporter’s mind. He suddenly got exactly why close to 900 costumers would chose to spend their weekend like this! His story showed exactly that, and that’s only one of many, many, stories our attendees have to tell.”

Ben: “Wampa!!”

After all this insight, they bequeathed us with some final thoughts.

Chairo gives the convention’s bottom line figures: “We don’t have our charity numbers for this year yet, but we anticipate giving between $12,000 - $15,000. Our attendance was 2,770 with 129 dealers and 167 staff. Art Show sales were $40,502.”

Ben, who was a first-timer, is already looking forward to next year: “I hope we have even more fun!”

Mary also addresses where the con should go from here: “I hope more panelist volunteer time for new classes, etc. Seemed we had many of the same events as last year.”

As each chair only does a 1-year tour of duty, Loran resolves “to relax and enjoy it next time.”
Singing in the Rain

By Carole Parker

Contribute Writer

It was raining in Seattle. That isn’t news — especially this time of year. The news item is that some BASFAns were singing in Seattle while it was raining outside. The BASFAns singing where it rained included Bill Laubenheimer, Howeird, and yours truly. It wasn’t just us, though. It involved around one hundred and eighty or more people singing.

Every convention has guests of honor, and Conflikt is no exception. The big name guest of honor was Tom Smith. Imagine Tom Lehrer and Alan Sherman combined into one, and you get something close to Tom Smith. Smith is known for writing humorous songs, and writing songs quickly. To see what the people at Conflikt said about him, visit conflikt.org/guestbio.php?name=Tom+Smith&title=Guest+of+Honor. Smith also has a website tomsmithonline.com plus a LiveJournal filkertom.livejournal.com. In conversation with Smith, he indicated that he is considering making a 2011 tour that would have several stops in California. Stay tuned for more information on his website and LiveJournal page.

Interfilk is to filking what TAFF and DUFF are to general fandom. It makes it so that someone who you would not ordinarily get to meet, see, or hear can come to the convention in your area and infect you with their music. This year’s Interfilk Guest was October Country, two guys from Texas who were very enjoyable in their quiet way. Laubenheimer and I enjoyed spending time with both gentlemen, Casey Sledge and Shaddow Walter. To find out more

Callie Hill and Aislinn

by Howeird
Interfilk has fundraising auctions, and this year at Conflikt, managed to raise more than $2800 for the travel fund that makes it so that people can travel to places that they would not otherwise get to. I’m proud to say that all the BASFAAns helped contribute to the success of the Interfilk auction.

What would a convention be without a toastmaster? Conflikt’s Toastmaster was Andrew Ross, who looked like someone transported from the late 1960s or early 1970s. For those into costuming, he wore a top hat, has a full beard, and wore some different-from-mundane clothing. Ross is one of the northwest hidden gems. Those individuals who do a lot in the background, are appreciated by those that have met them, but aren’t known about by many people. However, like Ken Uhland, he’s one of those quiet people who helps make things happen. To find out more about Andrew, [conflikt.org/guestbio.php?name=Andrew+Ross&title=Toastmaster](conflikt.org/guestbio.php?name=Andrew+Ross&title=Toastmaster).

We did not get to spend any time with Ross, but he was fun to listen to, and we look forward to seeing him at other conventions. Unfortunately, we missed his concert, and I’m rather unhappy about that.

On Sunday evening, before the Smoked Salmon (aka, the Dead Dog), Laubenheimer and I enjoyed dinner with our northern BASFAAn friends, John and Amy Bradley. John says “hello to BASFA.”

So, we had good music, reasonable food, friends to make, and good friends to visit with. Worthwhile reasons to go “singing in the rain” in Seattle!
By Thad Gann  
*Contributing Writer*

The 10th annual Edwardian Fair and Ball was held at the Regency Ballroom January 22nd and 23rd, 2010. Co-hosted by Rosin Coven and the Vau de Vire Society, it was a weekend of song and dance and storytelling featuring tales from Edward Gorey. I’d been to the Fair once when it was at the Great American Music Hall in 2006. I had fun but this was before I knew very much about steampunk so I didn’t go for a couple years. Still I knew some of the vendors and a few of the attendees so I had a good idea of what to expect.

I wasn’t even close. It was huge, it was packed, it was fascinating. It was stunning. On Friday night I arrived an hour after the doors opened to find a line down the block and around the corner. Costumed ladies and gentlemen of all sorts were waiting patiently to enter the building. There were top hats and tails, and hoop skirts and bustles. There were adventurers and sky pirates, and costumes both Victorian and Edwardian...and many more.

Once inside, it became really interesting. Up the stairs and inside the double doors was the foyer, a large round room which served as a central hub for most of the weekend. Straight through the foyer was the main ballroom. The ballroom was almost a half block long with a multi-level stage at one end and a balcony 3/4 the way around the top. There were acts on the main stage throughout the evening, and
the Master of Ceremonies was Jim Sweeney, The Kingfish himself, of Hubba Hubba Review.

A sign leading downstairs promised “The Edwardian Bazaar & Croquet Gardens.” Winding down the stairs led me to a decent sized room with several more vendors than I saw at the last Edwardian Ball I went to. In the center of the room was a steam driven motorcycle, Yes it really runs, I’ve seen it in operation. That night though it was just idling with enough steam to power the whistle.

Still, exploring I walked around the corner into a place I can only describe as breathtaking. I heard one person say later that evening that it was “Ren Fair meets Dickens Fair meets steampunk after dark.” The room was huge, and it was packed and it had stuff. There were dozens of vendors of every sort imaginable, with all manner of hats and clothes of every sort for both inner and outer wear. One vendor was selling vacuum tubes and dials and switches and watch parts next to a store selling custom-made, custom-fitted top hats and fedoras. Another was selling hat pins and hair pins, and Dark Garden was there selling corsets, hats and other fine items. At one end of the room was a small stage with almost constant performances, while at the other was a croquet green straight from Edward Gorey.

I spent ages going up and down the aisles meeting friends old and new. I went upstairs in time to catch Le Can Can Bijou and City Circus. Several other performers graced the stage. Sadly, I saw precious little of the show with everything else that was going on. Kinetic Steam Works had a steam-powered tea house on the main floor. I made my way to the balcony on a couple occasions to photograph the stage from above. Then went back downstairs to explore more nooks and crannies in the Bazaar. Several times I went up and down the stairs, exploring this room and that, taking pictures of beautiful costumes and people. It wasn’t the lack of things to do that sent me home, it was BART shutting down at midnight.

And that was only Friday.

On Saturday, the Edwardian Bazaar & Croquet Gardens was open free to the public from noon until 7:00PM. I got a room in the City so I could properly enjoy the ball. After dropping off my bags I went down to the Bazaar and looked through the booths in a more sedate and leisurely pace. I was measured for a hat at Paul’s Hat Works. They used a mechanical device that measured the shape of my head as well as the size. (I was assured those strange bumps were normal). I also looked over hats at Hey Sailor, a purveyor of “Ladies Vintage Inspired Hats of Distinction.” I thought they looked cool, but of course, I thought everything looked cool. I
bought a dozen radio vacuum tubes because I though they would make a cool... something. A couple of walks through the Bazaar and I was off for dinner and a nap before the main event.

I arrived at the Regency Ballroom at nine o’clock Saturday evening. Thanks to having gotten a weekend pass, I bypassed the ticket line (around the corner again) and went right in. This evening was even more spectacular. I don’t have the attendance numbers but many more people showed up for Saturday night. I was so glad I went with the top hat and my fancy coat. People were dressed to the nines. After a tour of the ballroom and balcony, and dropping off my coat, I went again downstairs. It was a carnival atmosphere in the Bazaar. I ran into my friend Louise, who graciously let me take several more photos of her on the steam-powered motorcycle. Then she told me we had to go upstairs because Jill Tracy was performing.

By this time, the ballroom was packed. Jill Tracy was set up on the lower of the two stages. Her music was mesmerizing. You can find out more about her at www.myspace.com/jilltracymusic. Behind her on the upper stage was The Vau de Vivre Society performer Shredder, who did an amazing aerial hoop performance to Jill’s music.

After Jill Tracy’s performance we walked through one of the anterooms to check on the line for photographs (huge) then I stood in a hallway between there and the foyer to watch the endless parade of people and costumes. On the way back to the ballroom I noticed several ladies in Dark Garden corsets, among them Autumn Adamme, the owner of Dark Garden. When I mentioned that a corset was untied she said “There’s a reason for that. You’ll see.”
Back in the Ballroom Rosin Coven was just setting up and the Vau de Vivre Society was setting up for another performance. Both were stunning. I worked my way to the stage, took off my top hat, set down my drink, and started taking pictures. Rosin Coven was amazing and the performance by The Vau de Vivre Society of a goddess that was alternately protective and vengeful gave me chills. The second act was a piece by Dark Garden about a woman who wanted her corset so tight it crushed her.

After that I lost track. There were high wire acts, circus acts, more and even more music. We went back outside (photo line still huge) had another drink and took more pictures. The stilt walker was still in the foyer. Louise finally got her picture taken at the official photo booth. Then we got one taken together. She said goodbye around 1 a.m. to head back down South. The last act I recall seeing was Fou Fou Ha!

I was as much amazed by the people I knew were there and didn’t see as the ones I did see that evening. I wandered the ballroom and halls taking photos and taking in the atmosphere. The Bazaar was still going strong when I last went at 1:30 a.m., though I do believe the last of the croquet games were over. It was hard to tell. People were still on the court drinking and hitting the croquet balls.

The neverending parade was only slowed when people would stop and talk in the middle of the hall. Then at 2 a.m. the music stopped and the main lights came back to full brightness. If there was anything I regretted over the entire weekend, it was that moment.
By Kathe Gust  
_contributing writer_

It was a dark and stormy night...but that didn’t keep the crowd away when author Connie Willis came to Borderlands Books in San Francisco to talk about her new book, Blackout. Connie apologized to the audience for making fans wait until this fall for the final installment of this work, which will be titled All Clear, but since the book was five years in the writing no one complained about the publisher’s decision to release it in two parts.

Blackout returns to the world of the Oxford time-traveling historical observers that has appeared in some of her earlier works, including the popular Doomsday Book. I will not talk much about the plot here, as you can read the blurbs elsewhere, but the Q&A revealed some interesting insight into Connie and her work, so that’s where I’ll take you.

The book is set during WWII and the research Connie did for the book is incredible. A bibliography of material will be appearing on her website soon for those who want to read more, but what cannot be replicated there is the afternoon tea Connie spent with women who were living and working in London during the blitz, including the MI-5 employee who filled her in on the Fortitude South operation. For instance, did you know that the actor David Niven was involved in the scheme to trick the Third Reich into ignoring the actual site of the D-Day landing?

Connie spent 17 years as part of a southern Colorado writer’s workshop. She recommends that all aspiring writers try to join one of these types of groups. The more senior members offer advice and help mentor beginners in a way that is no longer possible for editors. If you want to write — go seek them out.

Writing is hard work! If you wait until you have time, it will never happen. Carry a notebook and write whenever you are waiting for someone or something. Joining a workshop group and being unable to report progress leads to shame. Shame is a powerful incentive to progress on your book.

One of the reasons this particular book took five years wasn’t because she wasn’t writing — it was because she decided that the way she planned to end it wasn’t fair to readers who had invested themselves in the characters and the world she created. Once she decided that was true, she knew she would have to rewrite most of the book, so that’s what she did.

We caught a quick glimpse of the next book as well. It will be totally different in character from Blackout / All Clear. It will be a comedy with aliens, Roswell, NM, and no explanations. She would say nothing more about it except that she expected not everyone would have a sense of humor that would let them laugh about it, and that’s okay with her.

Connie reads all types of literature, but highly recommends Charles Williams, one of the Oxford “Inklings” - especially his book All Hallows Eve, but warns that he can be a challenging read. She also currently recommends the short stories of Philip K. Dick and Theodore Sturgeon.

Connie also revealed that she is a “world-class, nickel video poker” fiend. The inside straight is frequently her downfall. She admits at losing as much as $5 at a time on this! If you decide to hold a Con in Reno or Las Vegas invite her. Connie will come.
Meeting 1017

January 25, 2110
Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary
Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 fwy), Sunnyvale.

Began 8pm.
We established a party jar.
23 people attended.
Secretary’s report: the minutes of meeting 1016 were accepted as “what happens between consenting goalies is none of our business.”

The Treasurer reported last week we took in $2.50 in the regular jar and $8.25 in the party jar.

The Vice President reported “hello” and that there is a new Drink Tank out — and he has art to pass out for some folks to color.

The President had nothing fannish to report.
Recommendations for the Hugo awards will be done the next 2 weeks.

Announcements

Mo announced that she currently has no 'net connection.

Davc C announced that Wet Planet — the company that produces Jolt Cola — has gone into bankruptcy; then comments were made about this.

Reviews

Radar reviewed the Friday night FurCon BASFA party as fun — lots of fun — and there were comments made about it being lots of fun and worth missing sleep for.

FurCon was reviewed — Mo said she liked the vet panel best, especially the comparative anatomy & she had fun; Lisa was disappointed that the Westercon fan table had so little business, there were LOTS of complaints about the hotel and 2700 attended the con; Sarah had fun and enjoyed the interaction of furries with the Sabrecats; Ed had hotel complaints and thought they treated the party floor badly; Carole thought the Masquerade went well and she had fun; Dave C thought the dealers room was still a fire marshal's nightmare, but sales were good.

Lisa reviewed End of time as she’s finally seen it, so you can mention spoilers now.

Chris reviewed The Napoleon Concerto as very good but it made him listen to Lady Gaga and that he [HE!] was catching spelling and editing errors as he read the book; he reviewed a Danish film, Bruden, as possibly the darkest film he’s ever seen, but well worth the time; reviewed a fanzine about con running from the 80’s, ConRunning as interesting and strange & laid out on an old Mac, which mad him nostalgic.

Fred reviewed Creation — a film about Charles Darwin — as an incredibly well done movie with substance, engrossing, really good & worth full price.

Dave G reviewed CreationCon in SF at the St. Francis hotel as entertaining & they had decent sales & there were follow on’s.

We did auctions: we auctioned off videos for $1.00, $0.50, $5.50, $2.00, $1.50, $0.25; CDs for $1.00, $2.00, $3.00; a clock for $4.00, & fresh oranges & a FurCon program book for $1.25.

We adjourned at 9:21.
And the rumor of the week was: “nothing is fool proof.”
Meeting 1018

Commenced at: 201002.08 2015 hours
27 people in attendance
President: Trey Haddad
Emergency Holographic Secretary: Glenn Glazer

Kevin pre-announced the Hugo discussion for after the meeting.

Party jar moved and passed.

Trey read minutes of 1017, maybe. Passed as blacked out.

VP: Two new Drink Tanks out.

P: Nothing fannish to report, Barbara has shingles.

Kevin announced more details about the Hugo recommendation spreadsheet.

Announcements

1) Dave C: BASFA LJ page has a bit on Terry Pratchett’s Nation. // Hilo Hattie is back from bankruptcy. // Cargo Cult books has a new catalog.
2) Adrienne: BAG is meeting at Double D’s in Los Gatos at 1300 on 2/20/10.
3) Evil Kevin: Yipe 2.0 is out. // Gallifrey is coming up.
4) Chris: DUFF ballot out. // Phil Klass
5) Fred: Post-con tour with the Ontells.
6) Julie: Kage Baker passed away.
7) Josh: Jolt may be relaunching soon.
8) Glenn: fursuiters learned.

30 second Speed Reviews

1) Dave C. SF Sketch: Cinema Titanic’s riff of Danger Island // Fiorina sheep ad deserves our support ;)
2) Adrienne: Reviewed a bunch of films in twitter form.
3) Evil Kevin: Arisia was a blast, FC was fun despite the whinging about the hotel.
4) Andy: Swedish Eurovison contest started. Goofy, knowing Swedish not required.
5) Josh: Met’s high def rebroadcast of Carmen. Not as oversexed as he thought it would be.
6) He stole my review
7) Mike — Shinjuku Incident: mature role, not typical of Jackie Chan.
8) Andy: The September Issue, documents Vogue issue creation, utterly mad.
9) Chris: Lost is back, I didn’t miss it, but now that it is back I’m even more confused than ever.

Rumors

1) None in print so far.
2) BASFA, now with lights
3) The red velvet cake is not a lie
4) in the darkness find them
5) red velvet, wider than a mile
6) You have been eaten by a grue
7) If you didn’t like crottle grues, what did you order them for?

Meeting 1019

February 15, 2010
Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary
Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway
(Lawrence Expressway/101 fwy), Sunnyvale.

Began 8pm — with talk of zombies.
We established a party jar.
23 people attended

Secretary’s report: the minutes of meeting 1018 were accepted as “vaporware.”

The Treasurer reported that at meeting 1017 we took in $6.60 in the regular jar and $23.02 in the party jar — and meeting 1018 we took in $0.25 in the regular jar and $10.525 in the party jar.

The Vice President reported that there is a new Drink Tank out — and that the Drink Tank is not a menace — it’s printed on recycled electrons.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

Announcements

Howeird announced that today is LeVar Burton’s birthday.

Andy announced that a convention is coming up — Gallifrey in 2 weeks — and their Titanic party will be on Friday night in the Anaheim suite.
Dave C announced that he plans to do a money motion about Bryan Barrett.
[evil] Kevin announced that a new issue of Yipe! is out.

Reviews
Harold reviewed Lovely Bones as visually stunning, well acted and he hated it & doesn’t recommend it; he also reviewed The White Ribbon as it’s German and the subtitles were in white in a black and white film — so you know it’s evil and he recommends it & reviewed Percy Jackson etc. as he enjoyed it, that Uma Thurman made a good Medusa, it was a fun film and worth matinee.

Chris reviewed Steam — a steampunk romance sold in a grocery store as it had tedious sex scenes and the best part of it was the cover.

Andy reviewed Eurovision national finals — “so you don’t have to” as amazing and sometimes amazingly bad and isn’t sure if it’ll be a good or bad year yet.

Stellan reviewed This is not a Game by Walter Jon Williams as a book about a near-future game — not his best book but workmanlike and worth paperback price.

Dave C reviewed Nation, performed by the National Theatre as really neat & reviewed the Walt Disney Family Museum as he walked about seeing all sorts of things and needs to go back there — worth full price.

Carole reviewed a Dutch wedding ceremony as everyone got to sit down and relax, the bride was beautiful and the reception was fun.

Diane reviewed PantheaCon as nice and so well-behaved as to make pagans seem tame.

Rick reviewed an apocalyptic show Survivors as interesting and worth checking out.

Dave G reviewed Valentine’s Day as he rocked Spring’s world and he enjoyed the hot rock massage.

We adjourned at 8:51.

And the rumor of the week was: “the Summer Olympics are being held in Vancouver right now.”
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Bay Area Fannish Calendar

Life is complicated; putting on an event is even more so. Please check before attending, as events are sometimes canceled or times and locations changed.

Follow the calendar on Twitter:
@sfsfcalendar

New listings are highlighted in red. Ongoing events are toward the back.

Friday-Sunday, February 26-28
Gallifrey One
LAX Marriott
5855 West Century Blvd, Los Angeles
gallifreyone.com
Doctor Who convention. GOH Sarah Sutton, Georgia Moffet and many more. Original GOH Peter Davison canceled due to scheduling conflict.

Friday-Sunday, March 5-7
Consonance
Hilton Newark/Fremont
39900 Balentine Drive, Fremont
www.consonance.org
Filk Convention. GOH are Tricky Pixie, Chris O’Shea, Ju Honisch & Katy Droege. Toastmistress is Judi Miller.

Saturday, March 6
An Evening at Cabaret
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo
Spend a swinging evening in the most decadent cabaret in 1930’s Berlin. Guest band for the evening is the brilliant and notorious Lee Presson and the Nails. Suggested costume is 1930’s costume or vintage or modern evening dress. Theatrical costume, including showgirl attire, is also welcome. Just about anything goes at Cabaret, as long as it’s acceptable to the local police, who are among Cabaret’s clients, after all!
7 p.m. $15 (till February 27)

Sunday, March 7
SACCON
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sacramentocomics.com/html/index2.html
Sacramento’s Toys, Comics and Anime show.
10 a.m. $6

Wednesday, March 10
SF in SF Steampunk Film Night
Variety Preview Room in the Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org
In conjunction with the Nova Albion Steampunk Exhibition being held in Emeryville
SF in SF will screen The Mysterious Geographic Explorations of Jasper Morello, Dr. Horrible’s Sing-A-Long Blog and Perfect Creature. Reception and cash bar opens at 6:00PM - champagne & absinthe cocktails a specialty tonight! $10 donation at the door benefits Steampunk Conventions. Bar proceeds benefit Variety Children’s Charity.
7 p.m. $10

Thursday, March 11
Thrillville Forbidden Planet Sci-Fi Nite
Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge
1304 Lincoln, Alameda
www.thrillville.net
Thrillville presents Forbidden Planet Scifi Nite, featuring movies, cocktail specials and live space-surf music by The Tomorrowmen!
8:00 p.m. Free

Friday-Sunday, March 12-14
The Nova Albion Steampunk Exhibition
Hilton Garden Inn
1800 Powell Street, Emeryville
www.steampunkexhibition.com
$60
Friday-Sunday, March 12-14

Sonora Celtic Faire
Mother Lode Fairgrounds
220 Southgate Dr., Sonora
sonoracelticfaire.com
Celebrating the cultures of Ireland, Scotland, Cornwall and Wales.

Saturday, March 13

SF in SF: Chaz Brenchley and Malinda Lo
Variety Preview Room in the Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org
Each author will read a selection from their work, followed by Q&A from the audience moderated by author Terry Bisson. Authors will schmooze & sign books after in the lounge. Bar proceeds benefit Variety Children’s Charity.
7 p.m. Free

Saturday, March 13

Writers With Drinks
The Make-Out Room
225 22nd. St., San Francisco
www.writerswithdrinks.com
Readings by Jerry Stahl (Permanent Midnight), Dylan Landis (Normal People Don’t Live Like This) Michael Shea (Copping Squid And Other Tales)
7 p.m. $3-$5 Sliding scale.
Thursday, March 18
*Michael Chabon*
UC Berkeley Jewish Studies, Berkeley
Details TBA

Thursday, March 18
*Thrillville*
4 Star Theater
2200 Clement, San Francisco
www.thrillville.net
*Monsturd* and *Retardead* double bill, live music by Meshugga Beach Party. Filmmakers and stars in person.
7:30 p.m. $9

Friday-Sunday, March 19-21
*ConQuest Sac V*
Sacramento Marriott Rancho Cordova
11211 Point East Drive, Rancho Cordova
www.conquestsac.com
Gaming convention
$45

Friday-Sunday, March 26-28
*Contact*
NASA Ames Research Center
www.contact-conference.com
Keynote speaker is Dr. Penelope Boston. Please check website for registration details and pricing.

Friday, April 2
*The Ball of Justice: A Pulp Fiction Dance Party*
DNA Lounge
375 Eleventh Street, San Francisco
www.facebook.com/event.php?
invites&eid=451045959463
To celebrate Wondercon weekend Swing Goth presents surf-rockin’ Luchadores, intrepid space explorers, superheros and superhero burlesque. Live music by The Phenomenauts, Los Straightjackets. Burlesque by Comic Strip. DJs: Molly (Death Guild and 1984) Skip (New Wave City) Shatter (Bondage-a-Go-Go) MzSamantha (Clockwork). Hosted by MC Kingfish (Hubba Hubba Revue)
7 p.m. $20

Friday-Sunday, April 2-4
*WonderCon*
Moscone Center South
747 Howard Street, San Francisco
www.comic-con.org/wc
Comics convention
Details TBA

Saturday, April 3
*La Legion Fantastique: A Victorian Steampunk Ball*
PEERS Event, www.peers.org/legion.html
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo
Guests are invited to dress in conventional mid-
to-late Victorian evening dress (1850s – 1900) or Victorian Steampunk attire. Costumes, as always, are admired, not required and modern evening dress is a perfectly acceptable substitute for period costume). Live music provided by Bangers & Mash. Punch and a light snack buffet will be served. As usual, the Legion appreciates your potluck contributions to the buffet.

7 p.m. $15 (till March 27th)

Thursday, April 15

Thrillville
Camera 3 Cinema
288 S. 2nd St., San Jose
www.thrillville.net
13th anniversary party! The Brain that Wouldn’t Die and Attack of the Giant Leeches. Special guest Mr. Lobo and Actual Rafiq live!
7:30 p.m. $10

Friday-Sunday, April 23-25

Robogames
San Mateo County Fairgrounds
2495 S Delaware St, San Mateo
roblogames.net
RoboGames invites the best minds from around the world to compete in over 70 events. Combat robots, walking humanoids, soccer bots, sumo bots, and even androids that do kung-fu.
7 p.m. $20

Wednesday, April 28

One Book One Marin VIP Reception
Dominican University of California
50 Acacia Avenue, San Rafael
www.onebookonemarin.org
5 PM VIP reception at San Marco Art Gallery, Alemany Library followed by 7PM lecture in Angelico Hall
5 p.m.

Saturday, May 1

The Courts of Faerie Ball
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo
The Unseelie King and Queen of the Fae honour May Day and resign their crowns for six months to the blessed Seelie King and Queen.
Fantasy, fairy, or fairy tale costume from any tradition is admired, not required. Period costume (authentic or creatively “mixed”), vintage evening dress, or modern evening dress is also welcome. Masks, either worn or hand-held, are strongly recommended. While wings are very welcome on our Faerie creatures, be sure to wear wings you can dance in. Live music by Avalon Rising. Intermission entertainment includes dance performances and romantic DJ dance music for the insatiable dancers. Complimentary light refreshments will be served throughout the evening and, as usual, your potluck contributions are very welcome.
7 p.m. $15 (till April 24)

Saturday-Sunday, May 22-23

Maker Faire 2010
San Mateo County Event Center
1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo
makerfaire.com
Maker Faire is a two-day, family-friendly event that celebrates the DIY mindset. It’s for creative, resourceful people of all ages and backgrounds who like to tinker and love to make things.
$25

Saturday-Monday, May 28-31

Kublacon
The Hyatt Regency Burlingame
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
www.kublacon.com
Gaming convention
$35 (till February 28)

Saturday-Monday, May 28-31

Baycon
The Hyatt Regency Santa Clara
5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara
www.baycon.org
GOH Peter Beagle, Colleen and Steve Savitzky, Toastmaster Tadao Tomomatsu.
Special Guests: Mercedes Lackey & Larry Dixon
$60 (till March 15)
Saturday-Monday, May 28-31

**Fanime**
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos St., San Jose
www.fanime.com

$55 (till March 31st)

**Saturday, June 5**

**The Golden Anniversary Victorian Ball**
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo

Please join us in celebrating the 50th birthday of Mr. Fezziwig, the most gracious party host in all of Dickens’ London. Live music by Bangers & Mash. Late Georgian Regency, Victorian, or modern evening dress is admired but not required. Punch, cake and a light Old English buffet will be served (Potluck contributions to Mrs. Fezziwig’s kitchen would be most welcome).

7 p.m. $15 (till May 29)

**Sunday, June 6**

**SACCON**
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sacramentocomics.com/html/index2.html

Sacramento’s Toys, Comics and Anime show.
10 a.m. $6

**Thursday-Sunday, July 1-4**

**Westercon 63: Confirmation**
Pasadena Hilton
168 S. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena 91101
www.westercon.org
This year Westercon is combining with ConChord 23, the Southern California filk convention. Your membership gets you both conventions.
Westercon GOH: Rudy Rucker, John D. Berry, Mark Schirmeister,

$60 (till May 31)

**Thursday-Sunday, July 22-25**

**San Diego Comic-Con**
San Diego Convention Center
www.comic-con.org
Preview night July 21. Weekend passes sold out, see website for pre-reg.

**Saturday, July 31-Sunday, August 1**

**The Great Pan-Kinetic Exposition**
Vallejo Waterfront
www.pankineticexpo.com

The Great Pan-Kinetic Exposition is a historical re-creation of the famous World Fairs that once thrilled the nations of the globe, in which science, art, theater and history meet under one roof!

$12

**Friday-Monday, August 6-9**

**Costume College**
Warner Center Marriot
21850 Oxnard St, Woodland Hills
www.costumecollege.org
A three-day educational conference on all subjects relating to costuming and clothing. Check website for details and registration.

**Saturday, August 7**

**Jane Austen Picnic Dance**
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Lincoln Park
1450 High Street, Alameda (Near the Rose Garden)

Our guests are invited to bring their own period-style picnic lunch and to make their picnic site look as period as possible (Please note that the event is not a potluck. Our hard-working catering staff will be taking a well-deserved holiday!). Suggested costume for the event is late 18th century or Regency summer afternoon dress (1780-1818), but, as usual, costumes are admired, not required. Live music will be provided by Bangers & Mash. This event is a thank you to all of our devoted fans, and we will not be charging a fee for admission. Donations for our brilliant and hard-working musicians will be gratefully accepted, however, both before and during the event.

11 a.m. Free
Saturday, September 4
The Gilbert and Sullivan Ball
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Gilbert request the honour of your presence at a fancy dress ball honouring the musical achievements of their colleague, the recently knighted Sir Arthur Sullivan. Guests are welcome to attend either in “normal” evening dress of the late 19th century (1860-1900) or in costumes inspired by the operas of Gilbert and Sullivan (Costumes are, as usual, admired but not required, at the ball). Live music by Bangers and Mash and intermission entertainment includes a performance of song and dance excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan’s operettas. As usual, punch and a light snack buffet will be served throughout the evening (Mrs. Gilbert will gratefully welcomes your potluck contributions to the buffet).
7 p.m. $15 (till August 28)

Saturday, September 26
The Handcar Regatta
Railroad Square, Santa Rosa
handcar-regatta.com
Erasmus P. Kitty Presents: The 2nd Annual 2009 Great West End & Railroad Square Handcar Regatta & Exposition of Mechanical & Artistic Wonders.

Saturday, October 2
The Evil League of Evil Villains’ Ball
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo
Guests are invited to attend as their favorite Evil character – historical, fictional, or original. Live music by Avalon Rising. Costumes may be historical, science fiction/fantasy, modern evening dress. The event includes musical performances, a no-host (cash) bar, and a light snack buffet. Potluck contributions to the buffet will be greatly appreciated.
7 p.m. $15 (till September 26)

Saturday-Sunday, September 24-25
From the Land Beyond 3
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.fromthelandbeyond.com
Horror & Sci-Fi con.

Friday-Sunday, December 3-5
SMOFcon 28
Sainte Claire Hotel
302 South Market Street, San Jose
www.smocon28.org
SMOFcon is an annual convention for people who run science fiction conventions.
$50 (till May 1st)

Sunday, December 12
SACCON
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sacramentocomics.com/html/index2.html
Sacramento’s Toys, Comics and Anime show. 10 a.m. $6

Sunday, March 6, 2011
SACCON
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sacramentocomics.com/html/index2.html
Sacramento’s Toys, Comics and Anime show. 10 a.m. $6

Sunday, June 5, 2011
SACCON
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sacramentocomics.com/html/index2.html
Sacramento’s Toys, Comics and Anime show. 10 a.m. $6

Wednesday-Sunday, August 17-21, 2011
Worldcon: Renovation
Reno Sparks Convention Center
4590 South Virginia Avenue, Reno, NV Reno, Nevada
www.renovationsf.org
The 69th World Science Fiction Convention. GOH: Tim Powers, Ellen Asher, Boris Vallejo, Charles N. Brown.
$140 (till April 30)
**Sacramento’s Toys, Comics and Anime show.**
10 a.m. $6

**Cartoon Art Museum**
655 Mission Street, San Francisco
www.cartoonart.org
11-5pm $6 (Closed Mondays)

**San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour**
Begins: Queen Anne Hotel
1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco
www.sfghosthunt.com
Closed Tuesdays.
7 p.m. – 10 p.m. $20

**VIZ Cinema**
1746 Post Street, San Francisco
www.newpeopleworld.com/films
VIZ Cinema is a 143-seat underground cinema inside NEW PEOPLE in San Francisco. Its programming focuses on the latest and hottest films from Japan, as well as classics, favorites, documentaries and anime. Please check theater for showtimes and tickets.

**MGI SF&F/Horror/Speculative fiction Writing Group**
Personal Residence (email for details)
Emeryville
games.groups.yahoo.com/group/MGISFFWriters
7:30 p.m. Free

**Sakuramoto Anime Society**
Rancho Cordova Library
9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova
Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.
3-7 p.m.

**Bay Area Science Fiction Association**
Coco’s
1206 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale
www.basfa.org
8 p.m. Free

**Dukefish**
Jake’s of Sunnyvale
174 E. Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale
games.groups.yahoo.com/group/dukefish
Group meets weekly to play German-style strategy board games such as Settlers of Catan, Carcasson and other games, plus an occasional game of bridge breaks out. Meet up at 8:00 p.m., figure out who wants to play what, and typically start playing games no later than 8:30 p.m.
8 p.m. Free
Mondays and Wednesdays

**Silicon Valley Boardgamers**
Mountain View Community Center
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View
www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb
Group meets regularly to play mostly German-style strategy boardgames such as Settlers of Catan; also multi-player Avalon Hill-style, historical war games, and others.
6:30 p.m.  $2

**East Bay Strategy Games Club**
EndGame
921 Washington, Oakland
www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html
7:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.  Free

**Fanboy Planet Podcast**
Illusive Comics and Games
2725 El Camino Real, Suite 105, Santa Clara
www.fanboyplanet.com
Live from Illusive Comics and Games, it’s the Fanboy Planet Podcast with your host, Derek McCaw.
6 p.m.  Free

Tuesdays

**MGI Boffers & Outdoor Games**
Codornices Park
1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley
mgisciaf.angelfire.com
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyclub
Bad weather: we meet the same time at 33 Revolutions Record Shop & Cafe, El Cerrito for boardgames.
3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  Free

**Wednesday Collectibles Show**
22300 Hathaway Ave (rear bldg), Hayward
www.toysandbaseballcards.com
Wednesdays 3 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  Free

**FyDy SyFy**
Eclipse Lounge, Hyatt Regency
5 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco
Casual meetup in the atrium lobby bar.
5:30-7:30  Free

**Haunted Haight Walking Tour**
Meets at Coffee To The People
1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco
www.hauntedhaight.com
Reservations required.
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.  $20

**Fridays-Mondays**

**Hayward Collectibles Show**
22300 Hathaway Ave (rear bldg), Hayward
www.toysandbaseballcards.com
Wednesdays 3 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  Free

**SF Games**
Muddy’s Coffeehouse
1304 Valencia Street, San Francisco
vax.hanford.org/dk/games
SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week. Also has a regular cards night at Atlas Cafe, 20th and Alabama Streets, Tuesday nights from 6:30-10.
7 p.m. to midnight  Free

**FyDy SyFy**
Eclipse Lounge, Hyatt Regency
5 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco
Casual meetup in the atrium lobby bar.
5:30-7:30  Free

**Fridays**

**FyDy SyFy**
Eclipse Lounge, Hyatt Regency
5 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco
Casual meetup in the atrium lobby bar.
5:30-7:30  Free
Biweekly

**PenSFA Party**

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions. Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending. PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host $2. Don’t smoke in the house without checking with the host first. Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers’ Group

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco
Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jade Livingston at sfscifi@yahoo.com for more information.

Monthly

**Dorkbot-SF**

www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/
Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity. Free, donations welcome.

**East Bay Star Wars Club**

Central Perk
10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito
510-558-7375
www.ebstarwars.com
Meets the second Friday of every month.
7:30 p.m. Free

**Fantastic Frontiers**

www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/
Social club for Sacramento County sci fi/fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.

**Foothill Anime**

Building 5015, Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.
12 p.m. Free

**Legion of Rassilon**

Carl’s Jr.
2551 N 1st St, San Jose
www.legionofrassilon.org
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.
7:30 p.m. Free

**Micro Gods, Inc.**

Berkeley Public Library, West Branch
1125 University Ave, Berkeley
mgisciaf.angelfire.com
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/
Family Club for fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Movie, Anime & Manga. Meets every 3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for updates.
2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free

**No-Name Anime**

Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga
www.nnanime.com
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.
Free

**Other Realms Book Club**

Books, Inc.
1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame
www.booksinc.net/localinterest/291027
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month.
6:30 p.m. Free

**QSF&F Book Club**

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.qsfandf.com
Meets the second Sunday of the month. The book for March 14th will be *Elantris* by Brandon Sanderson.
5 p.m. Free
Religion & SF Book Club
First United Methodist Church
1183 “B” Street, Hayward
Meets the 4th Sunday of the month. Please contact Rev. Randy Smith at RSmith2678@aol.com for more information.
7 p.m. Free

Rocky Horror Picture Show
The Clay, 2261 Fillmore Street San Francisco/
The Guild, 949 El Camino Real Menlo Park
www.bawdycaste.org
The Bawdy Caste presents the classic midnight movie the first Saturday of the month, alternating between the Clay in San Francisco and the Guild in Menlo Park.
Midnight

Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book Club
Clayton Books
5433 D Clayton Road, Clayton
www.claytonbookshop.com
Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The book for February 17th is Freedom’s Landing by Ann McCaffrey.
7:30 p.m. Free

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Meets the third Sunday of the month. The book for March 21st is Hominids by Robert Sawyer. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.
6 p.m. Free

SF Browncoats
Cafe Murano
1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco
www.sfbrowncoats.com
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.
Noon Free

Silicon Gulch Browncoats
Various locations (see website for details)
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.
Noon - 2 p.m. Free

USS Augusta Ada
Round Table Pizza
3567 Geary Blvd, San Francisco
trek.starshine.org
Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and *BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month.
1 p.m. Free

USS Defiance
5026 Don Julio Blvd, Sacramento
1566 Howe Ave, Sacramento
www.myspace.com/d2121978
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.
7 p.m. Free

USS Northern Lights
Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for specifics.
sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights
‘Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International and a swell group of science fiction fans. We do more than Trek. Usually meets the third Saturday of the month, with social event TBD.
7 p.m. Free

Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE
Round Table Pizza
4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento
916-338-2300
Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.
6 p.m. Free
Surfers are crazy by Lucy Huntzinger
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