

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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Peter Sullivan writes:

You know, thinking about it some more, I came up with another reason why SF/SF needs to be an e-zeen rather than paper. And that's the photos. Trying to do full colour in a paper medium is normally just far too expensive. But of course for e-fanzeens, it costs nothing extra. And given your coverage of cosplay and similar costume-based fandoms, photos are an obvious (you might even say necessary) addition to event reports. Do pure cosplay fanzeens exist, or is it pretty much a web-based community? If there *are* cosplay fanzeens, how do they get over the colour issue?

It would be interesting to know how many people's first convention is a Worldcon. As you say, it's often large enough for newcomers to feel lost in the chaos, so it's not really an ideal introduction. And yet that "Worldcon" tag will lead to *mainstream* local media coverage that no other convention – even a large regional like SiliCon (I promise to get the middle capital right this time!) or Baycon – can get. So it will tend to drag in people who have a fringe fan interest – what Arnie Katz refers to as "anybody who does more than

just read the books or watch the movies" – and possibly lead to them getting more involved. With everything else going on at a Worldcon, I guess that reaching out to these newcomers can be difficult, although the Information Desk section will normally go out of their way to help if they possibly can.

Anyway, at the moment, I would say that there is about a 50% chance of me making it to Worldcon in Los Angeles next year, so if I do, see you there!

I suspect that Lloyd's point about requiring "many fans of those various interests to accept the other fandoms and interests as valid" is the crux of the matter. I guess the problem is that what *should* happen is that the various fandoms should support each other against the mundane world's view that "being a fan of X/Y/Z is stupid/silly/a waste of time." Making common cause and sharing ideas on infrastructure - does it make sense to have fanzeens in a particular fandom? How about conventions? What would be the cosplay equivalent of a book author signing? And so on.

Instead, there is a tendency to share the mundane world's view of other fandoms. Not recognizing that supporting someone else's right to be a fan of X is also supporting your own right to be a fan of Y. The fact

that you may have no personal interest in X doesn't matter - everyone is free to set the limits of their own personal fandom. But this doesn't have to involve dissing other fandoms. It may be a noble and lonely thing to be a fan, but we sometimes seem intent on making this even more so for each other.

OK, rant over. Especially since I'm probably preaching to the choir here, as SF/SF is probably about as inclusive as fandom gets.

Your piece on Robert Jordan mentioned that one of his fans had bought "naming rights" to a character in a charity auction. This is an idea that increasingly seems to be taking off. Of course, there is a long and venerable tradition of this in Science Fiction novels - the practice is named "Tuckerization," after Bob Tucker, the fan and pro writer who started it. And other SF authors have long used it as a way of ego-boosting their friends or irritating their enemies. But auctioning off "Tuckerizations" for charity seems to be a fairly new, and welcome, development.

Jack Avery replies:

Yes, Science Fiction/San Francisco is a very image-heavy zine and printing out those pages in color would be prohibitively

expensive. Even in black and white, printing out and mailing copies of a 50 to 100 page zine every two weeks would be too expensive to contemplate. To do color, we'd need a grant, a large one.

As for cosplay zines: Well, there's two that I know of, Backnumbers Press published five issues of the now defunct *Cosplay Magazine* (the first issue was titled *Cosplay at Fanime*) that were devoted to the Bay Area cosplay scene. The zines attracted very little attention as the cosplayers seemed to be more attuned to html-based rather than pdf-based publishing and Traditional Fanzine Fandom gave the whole thing a big yawn. There was also quite a bit of cosplay coverage in the only issue of Backnumber Press' genzine *Don't Shake Me*. These issues are still available at www.efanzines.com. Since these were efanazines, they are filled with color photos. Only a few copies of issue one of *Cosplay Magazine* were ever printed, and were franked through a mailing of the Pulp Era Amateur Press Society.

The second cosplay zine is apparently still active. Joe E.'s *American Costumer/Cosplayer* is a hard copy zine that tries to publish once a year. The zine is in full color and printed on Joe's home printer. There should be at least two issues published to date. His website is at <http://www.snowcrest.net/fox/jag/>.

Cost for each issue is \$8, which is pretty good for a 40-page zine in color. I haven't actually seen copies of this, but I'm told it does exist.

There are a great number of web sites that take the place of zines for the cosplayers. Among the best is <http://www.usagichan.com/> which has con reports and photos by Bay Area cosplay photographer Lionel. Lionel travels to most of the major anime conventions. The California Cosplay Times (www.california-cosplaytimes.com) run by Oakland-based photographer Brocas (who is also the bass player for legendary heavy metal band Brocas Helm), focuses on West Coast cons, and is particularly good at covering the smaller local cons. Another good site is www.consplayers.com with many photo galleries and which is known for studio-quality set-ups at conventions. It's run by a northern California family, including daughter Pikmin Link, who is a prominent local cosplayer, her brother Jedi Master who is very involved in local Star Wars fandom, and their parents. Nationally, www.cosplay.com is a major site that features the work of San Francisco photographer Eurobeat King. *Cosplay.com* also has a very active forum with hundreds of members.

Of course, a lot of the cosplay fan action

takes place on the networks of livejournals interconnected by friends lists.

Our coverage, so far, has skewed toward costume-oriented fandom. I don't think it's a case of too much costuming, but rather not enough coverage of other fandoms. Since Jean is a costumer and I like anime, we have those areas covered pretty well. Personally, and not speaking for the editorial board, I'm disappointed that we don't have better representation from Filk fandom, traditional fandom, literary fandom, conrunning fandom, SCA fandom, gaming fandom... The list goes on and on.

We make a real effort to get people out to as many different areas as we can and have as broad a coverage as possible, but without people who are "inside" those fandoms contributing, there's a limit to what we can do. In the early days of the zine, I spent one Saturday driving several hundred miles trying to cover as many

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different events as possible by myself. That didn't work well, I didn't get to half the events I should have, I ended up being too tired to get all of the articles done in time for the issue, and I certainly can't be doing that every weekend.

I have noticed that we have photos of the same folks in issue after issue. That's simply a reflection of the fact that those people enjoy the same sort of events that our staff members enjoy. Hopefully, as we recruit more people, we'll see some different faces.

When I founded this zine, I was looking at Arnie Katz's *Vegas Fandom Weekly* for inspiration. I thought *SF/SF* would end up looking a lot like his zine, but it seems we've ended up with almost the complete opposite in term of coverage. He's got all the traditional bases covered, yet I notice he never mentions the media groups or anime groups in Las Vegas, and he didn't cover the recent Anime Vegas at all. I think he's missing a bet there, but it's his zine. While we have event and media fandom coverage, we are surprisingly weak on social fandom and traditional fandom. I'd like to see that change, but without those sectors pitching in and sending us coverage, there's not much we can do.

The local Worldcon held here a few years ago was hardly my first convention,

but it didn't stop me from feeling lost in the chaos. But then again, I'm one of those Fringe Fans you mention. I grew up thinking that I was a Fan, I just didn't live anywhere where there were any other Fans with whom I could engage in Fanac. Now that I'm here in the Bay Area, I've come to realize that I never was a Fan. I just read the stuff. The thing that puzzles me is that it seems enjoying science fiction doesn't have much to do with being a fan. Just look at all the science fiction fanzines that don't publish anything about science fiction.

The Balkanization of Fandom is troubling, and I'm not sure what needs to be done. I must admit, I just don't "get" some segments of fandom. And I know that some fellow fans just don't "get" my fan interests. I know anime fans who are flabbergasted that I actually READ old pulp stories from the 1930s and 1940s. At the same time, there are some fellow pulp fans who just don't understand what I see in that Japanese cartoon stuff. But the problem goes deeper than just not sharing interests in a subculture. There seems to be an actual animosity among some of the groups.

My personal bias is that some people take things a bit too far. I get along well with anime costumers, even though I don't cosplay myself, because they have a sense

of perspective. They are just regular people who are in a costume. They don't try to convince you that they ARE the character they are dressed up as. Some other folk take things too far, insisting that they ARE an alien or whatever character they are dressed as and insisting that everybody play along. As far as I'm concerned, that's just short of wearing a tinfoil hat to thwart the CIA's mind control microwaves. If you insist that you're Slag-Blah of the Krusties Empire I'll treat you just as I treat the guy who wanders around downtown Santa Rosa screaming incoherently at invisible demons.

And it's not just the costumers and media fans, many fans seem to feel positively evangelic about their chosen fan interests. Everybody is so insistent that their way is the only true fannish way and everybody else is apostate. It often seems easier to avoid other fans rather than have them try to convert one to the cause. Pretty soon we'll have fans in costume going door to door asking folks if they've accepted Ghu as their personal savior.

But that doesn't mean that fans shouldn't make the effort to get along. Jean is a fan of the Firefly/Serenity universe, while nothing that Joss Whedon has ever done has raised more than a yawn from me. That doesn't stop us from collaborating on a zine, and I think the article she did on the

SF Browncoats was one of the best articles I ran back when I was the only editor around here. I just don't understand Chris' interest in pro wrestling, and I doubt he shares my fondness for cosplay photography, but that hasn't stopped us from finding common ground in our fanzine interests.

SF/SF has always had an inclusive editorial stance. When I founded it, I deliberately tried to include areas of fandom in which I had no interest. I didn't want to offend any fan by showing disrespect for the things they liked.

I think traditional fandom is just plain in the wrong for ignoring the "new" fandom.

Many people are talking about the graying of fandom, how instead of being driven by teenagers, fandom is now being driven by senior citizens. But they are only looking at their narrow slice of fandom. The younger generation of fans is just as active as previous generations, is greater in number, and is greater in diversity. I'm really happy that anime fandom is bringing large numbers of women and minorities into contact with science fiction fandom.

One of the things I found is that most fans have diverse fan interests; rare is the fan who is involved in only one narrow fan pursuit. A young fan I recently met

through anime fandom turned out to be a fan of one of my favorite fantasy authors. While she'll never be a pulp collector, and I'll never be a Yaoi fan, we have quite a number of other fan interests in common. I would have missed out on a new friendship had I dismissed her as just a costumer who

dressed up as a character from a video game that I'd never heard of.

Hopefully we're exposing our readers to a wider range of fandom than they would otherwise encounter and perhaps we're breaking down some of the prejudices that exist.

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Autumn is the season when the Northern Hemisphere transitions from warm and sunny Summer to dark and chilly Winter. Not abruptly, but over a period of time when it feels like Summer one day and Winter the next. But Daylight Saving Time has ended and the rains have begun, and the leaves outside my window are turning. So I guess we're now truly in the midst of Fall. Having grown up in a tropical climate close to the Equator, this time of the year is very difficult on me health-wise. I'm suffering my first, and hopefully the last, cold of the season. I've also been very introspective and somewhat gloomy.

Looking on the positive side, however, Fall is a time of celebration. Halloween just passed, and what a Halloween that was for me (see my article on the Foster City and

Castro Halloween festivities)! Thanksgiving and Dickens Fair (see the News and Notes section for more information on the Dickens Fair) are around the corner. A lot to look forward to. On the other hand, it would be nice to slow down a bit after the whirlwind year I've been having!

Traditionally, Autumn was a time of reaping as well as celebration. Pagan cultures, which were more attuned with nature's rhythm, took this time to celebrate the harvest as they also slowed down for the Winter. We could probably all take a page out of their book and use this time to reflect on the good things in our lives, our friends and family, as well as our accomplishments. And yes, take the time to slow down and take care of ourselves. A tall order but one that I will try to subscribe to. I wish you all a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

News and Notes

Dickens Fair Preview

The Great Dickens Christmas Fair has been ushering in the holiday season for several decades to the delight of the young and the young at heart from all over the Bay Area and beyond.

I went to one of these a long time ago when it was still at Fisherman's Wharf and I remember being immersed in the Victorian age during Christmas. I felt like I was part of Charles Dickens's popular novel, *A Christmas Carol*. But I also recall it being a confusing, labyrinthine location and didn't go back to it until a couple of years ago at its new home at the Cow Palace. From then on, I was hooked.

The streets are laid out better and it does seem like you're in Victorian London as you interact with costumed players, eat Cornish pasties, take afternoon tea, play games and watch some amazing theater (Mad Sal's Dockside Alehouse is bawdy old-style fun). And then, of course, there's the dancing at Fezziwig's Warehouse. Straight out of a scene from *A Christmas Carol*. Don't be intimidated, get up your courage and find someone to dance with! There are several dance hosts and hostesses who are more than willing to teach you the waltz and the

polka. It is so much more fun to participate than just watch on the sidelines. There are also a few English Country dances, which I personally prefer as the waltz and polka tend to make me dizzy. And if you are lucky enough, you can dance or watch my favorite (and most everyone's in the vintage dance community), the *Congress of Vienna Waltz*. The excellent Bangers and Mash usually perform the lively tunes. At the end of the day, Fezziwig's does a sing-along *Messiah* in four-part harmony and Christmas caroling too. No Scrooge will be left unmoved by all this holiday spirit.

Shopping is also a treat at the Fair. You can purchase lace gloves, fans, Victorian attire, antique books, jewelry, Christmas ornaments and decorations, etc. So you can have fun while buying unique gifts for your loved ones or yourself! Food and drink abound as well.

Dickens Fair is similar to Renaissance Faires as it is run by the Pattersons who started Ren Faires in the 1970s. So come in costume and be a part of it, or not, as you prefer. You'll have a jolly good time in olde England either way.

The Dickens Fair will be held at the Cow Palace Exhibition Halls for four weekends and the day after Thanksgiving

from November 25 through December 18. Tickets are \$20 at the door. For advance discounted tickets and more information, visit

<http://www.dickensfair.com/>.

— Jean Martin

Fanzines Published

Cheryl Morgan's Emerald City has put out a new issue and it's currently available at EmCit.com. It heads off with a review of the hotly anticipated George R.R. Martin novel *A Feast of Crows*.

Christopher J. Garcia has been busy, as always. *The Drink Tank* 48-52 are now available on eFanzines.com, as is *Claims Department* 4 + 5, the travel/light review zine that will soon be a part of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association mailings. Found in Collection, the regular Garcia column in *Catchpenny Gazette*, is also up in issue Number 12 on eFanzines.com, as is a review of *Constantine* in *Some Fantastic* #6. Also, the most recent issue of *Nth Degree* has an article on Toastmastering BayCon.

— Chris Garcia

Blogwatch

Christopher J. Garcia

I like art. I really do. I even worked at the National Museum of American Art right after I got out of Santa Clara High. While trolling the net for images to use for The Drink Tank, I discovered deviantART.com, a website where artists can put up any art they like. I quickly became addicted and have been going to it all the time.

The first name that comes to mind when I think of BArea folks who are a part of deviantART is Bri-chan (aka Brianna Garcia [no known relation]). She's a student at the Art Institute (my favorite haunted college in the US) and she does a lot of great work in the realm of fangirl art. Lots of gargoyles, tons of anime-influenced works, and fan art of Disney and *Nightmare Before Christmas* characters that I think are wonderful. I'd say my favorite of her pieces is a beautiful portrait of Mitch Hedberg, the comedian who died last year and made me very sad.

There's a woman who calls herself GrrlintheCorner whose stuff I really like. She is a photographer from the city where I will soon be Mayor, San Jose. There's a lot of great photography on deviantART, but her stuff seems so wonderfully shaped with

a range that goes from abstract to poignant. Her work with structures like freeway overpasses, parking garages and rockscapes really shows a strong sense of formalism and attention to strong formations.

Another photog that I enjoy goes by populationcontrl. Representing the Silicon Valley, she has a small gallery of work, including several taken at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. They are remarkable photos, especially one of a shark in the big tank down there. Well worth the time.

One last photograph maven that I have marked is Laura of Sunnyvale, who goes by Xeyda. Not only has she done some great straight photography, including a beautiful piece of an icon at a church in Sunnyvale that I used to drive by all the time, but has done some fine photo manipulations and fractal art. I'm a big fan of fractal art and some of the stuff she does is just simple and clean and arresting. Kendra Ann Madsen is another Sunnyvale photographer that you should look out for.

Santa Cruz is a strange town, and an artist out of SC is another that I visit regularly. Michael H Lee goes by Monertia and does some great, surreal and somewhat filthy works in pen and ink and various other forms. While some of the images are a

bit adult, they are all well designed and feel like they'd fit in with the Santa Cruz vibe quite nicely. I'd say you can see influences from R. Crumb and old Fillmore rock show posters. One piece, a silkscreened thing called *A Patient Man*, is beautiful and disturbing.

So, if you like interesting art, and are willing to wade through a bit of lesser work to get to the great, I highly recommend deviantART.com.

Artists Mentioned:

Bri-Chan- <http://bri-chan.deviantart.com/>
GrrlintheCorner-
<http://GrrlintheCorner.deviantart.com/>
Populationcontrl-
<http://Populationcontrl.deviantart.com/>
Xeyda- <http://Xeyda.deviantart.com/>
Kendra Ann Madsen-
<http://withinillusion.deviantart.com/>
Michael H. Lee-
<http://Monertia.deviantart.com/>

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KTSF Presents Wind and Cloud II

By Jack Avery
Editor

San Francisco television station KTSF continues to serve the Asian fantasy and martial arts fans in the Bay Area with a subtitled broadcast of *Wind and Cloud II*, the sequel to the television series based on the *Storm Riders* comic book.

The television series has a different cast than that of the *Storm Riders* movie that was based on the same material, and the second series picks up the story from where the movie ended. Unfortunately, it's far from the best thing KTSF has aired in the Chinese fantasy TV genre.

The 28-episode series began on



Peter Ho as Striding Cloud

November 9 and will finish its run on December 19. KTSF aired the original *Wind and Cloud* series from January to March 2003. *Wind and Cloud II* is broadcast Monday through Friday on KTSF at 8 p.m. Adding a bit of confusion, the San Francisco *Chronicle's* TV listings are incorrectly calling this "Wind and Clouds."

The station broadcasts two hours of Chinese-language dramas Monday through Friday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. When possible, these are also subtitled in English by the station. While not all of these are of interest to science fiction fans, quite a few of the series have fantastic content. Earlier this year, the station subtitled and aired the excellent martial arts epic *Tian Xai Di Yi* (*Number One in the World* or *World's Finest*) under the title *Hero*. They also showed *My Date With A Vampire III*, unfortunately without subtitles.

The showing of *Tian Xai Di Yi* was subtitled by the station itself and is the only English-subtitled version of the show. Unfortunately, there are no plans to re-run it and the station does not have the rights to sell the subtitled version.

KTSF Director of Programming Victor



Zhao Wen Zhuo as Wind

Marino said the station will continue to show Chinese dramas in the future, and some of them will be subtitled in English, even though the station's target audience speaks Cantonese or Mandarin.

"As far as future plans go -- we always look to air the highest rated series that is available and, when possible, subtitle them in English," Marino said. "It's the last part that's tricky.

"It falls upon us to have a series translated into English and then, using a clean master, reposition the Chinese subtitles so that there is room for both languages.

“Additionally, clearing English subtitle rights can be a problem -- some companies refuse to release them due to other obligations that they may have.”

I wish I could say that *Wind and Cloud II* is good. But after watching the first couple of episodes, I have to say that sadly it's actually pretty bad. And I'm speaking as a fan of this sort of thing.

The first problem is with the martial arts. Every fight scene – and I must admit, there is an abundance of fight scenes – is filmed at high speed. This is an old martial arts movie trick used to make inexperienced actors look like they can throw kicks and punches as fast as a real martial artist. It also serves to hide the awkwardness of their form. Some of these fights are speeded up to the extent that you can see the stuttering frames.

In addition to this, bad CGI special effects are overused to “enhance” the martial arts and cover up the ineptitude of the actors. In one scene, they don't even bother to film the actors; they just create CGI images that look like video game characters fighting. It's as if one were suddenly watching a video game cut scene instead of a live action show. Of course, the martial arts here are supposed to be of the comic book variety, with punches that blow up buildings and kicks that level mountains,

but the producers let the special effects sell the fights rather than the actors.

There are also a number of cheap camera tricks, such as close-ups and the implying of action off-screen, used in place of actually showing the characters fighting.

This is all the more disappointing as Zhao Wen Zhuo (Wind) actually has some martial arts chops. He majored in martial arts at Beijing Sports University and studied the same form of martial arts as Jet Li. Even if he is not at Li's level, he should be able to convincingly throw a punch or a kick without needing tricks. Sadly, he's

reportedly said that he enjoyed filming the original *Wind and Cloud* series because it was easy. He didn't have to fight, he just had to pose and the computer did all the fighting for him.

It's hard to believe that Tony Ching Sui Tung, a noted martial arts director, is in charge of the fight scenes. He's done excellent work in the past, and has experience in blending martial arts action with computer graphic enhancements.

And then we have the plot. It's based on the *Storm Riders* comic book by Mah Shing Wing, so not much can be expected.



Our Heroes Assemble!

Storm Riders is hardly the *Watchmen* of the Chinese comic book field, despite its popularity.

The first episode starts out with a lengthy recap of the ending fight from the first series. We see Lord Conquer about to take over the Martial Arts World, but wait, Wind and Cloud show up riding on the back of a giant flying manta ray that can swim through the earth. A CGI battle follows until Wind and Cloud hit the cmd B, up, up, right, down buttons and unleash their special move. Conquer dies and all is right with the world.

But wait, unbeknownst to our heroes, an evil CGI cloud appears and sticks an ice mask onto a random henchman. Our new villain is born: "Ice Mask." (Actually he doesn't seem to have a name, but Ice Mask seems to be the internet consensus.)

Ice Mask is a comic book villain in the most negative sense of the term. He doesn't have any reason to do any of the evil things he does, other than liking to mess with the heroes. At least Lord Conquer wanted to rule the world.

Ice Mask poses and preens, threatens and rants, but he doesn't seem to have any goals other than to be the bad guy tormenting our heroes.

Wind has retired to spend his days pining for his lost wife, Dream, who was killed in the first series. Cloud has also

retreated from the world of the martial arts to be with his wife, Muse, and son, Striding Cloud Jr.

Ice Mask steals the body of Dream and attacks Wind, telling him that he can restore Dream to life. All Wind has to do is kill one person for every 3 years of Dream's life. Wind is understandably unhappy and doesn't believe Ice Mask can restore Dream to life. Many CGI-enhanced fights ensue, including one particularly silly one where the pair battle while skiing downhill without the benefit of skis. Meanwhile the four jerks of the compass (The Lion of the North and the Laughing Buddha of the East are the only two memorable enough for me to, well, remember their names) show up trying to convince Cloud to take



Yes, the villain is a ding-a-ling.

over the World of the Martial Arts. Much CGI-enhanced kung fu occurs when Cloud tells them to get lost.

The whole thing goes downhill from here, with Dream resurrected but without her memory and thinking that Wind killed her family. A guy named Morn shows up who turns out to be a good guy who, under the influence of a drug, raped Muse in the last series. (It seems that Striding Cloud Jr. may really be Morn Jr.) Oh, the angst! This is basically a soap opera with martial arts and lots of computer-aided special effects. Which would be fine if the martial arts and special effects were any good.

The acting is not very good either. Zhao Wen Zhuo not only chews up the scenery, in some cases, he uses his martial arts to blow it up. Peter Ho, who plays Striding Cloud, doesn't have much to work with, as his character is supposed to be unemotional, but he seems pretty wooden anyway. Whoever is behind the Ice Mask (unfortunately I don't read Chinese, so I can't tell who is credited here) has to act with a silly mask covering his face. He makes up for it with ridiculously overblown gestures and silly prancing.

Overall, this is a disappointing entry in the Chinese fantasy TV series genre, although admittedly, I'm basing my review on only the first two episodes. Perhaps it will improve in the coming weeks.

The Universe According to Stephen Hawking

By Jean Martin
Editor

When I heard that Dr. Stephen W. Hawking was going to give a couple of lectures in the Bay Area, I jumped at the chance to see him. I was able to get a ticket for his appearance at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts last November 7th. I looked forward to being in the presence of one of the most brilliant scientific minds of our times, who is also credited with making the science of cosmology accessible to the layperson. I was also curious as to how he would give an entire speech because he suffers from Lou Gehrig's disease, and can only communicate through a computerized voice synthesizer.

He exceeded my expectations in that respect. He was a very entertaining, and even humorous, speaker! Hawking wheeled onto center stage, with his personal/technical assistant behind him, as Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries" blared out from the speakers. Curious choice of music! I guess it was meant to highlight his strength of character and indomitable spirit. I remember the last time I was at the same venue, I was there to watch Patrick Stewart, Captain Picard from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. The theme song for his talk, "You're Unbelievable," was similarly interesting. Which brings me to an interesting bit of trivia. Hawking appeared on an episode of *ST:TNG* playing poker with Sir Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein and Commander Data! Yes, Hawking follows in the



footsteps of the Newton and Einstein. He currently holds the Lucasian Professorship of Mathematics at Cambridge University in the U.K., which was at one time held by Newton. Hawking is also generally considered the modern-day Einstein.

Backtracking a bit, the evening began with an introduction by Walter C. Rhines,

CEO of Mentor Graphics, which sponsored Hawking's lecture. Rhines explained how Hawking delivers his speeches. He tapes his lectures beforehand and during the actual event, he feeds it to the computer one sentence at a time. A short film was then played, which showed Hawking visiting students from the Bay Area's Bridge School,

a school for the developmentally disabled. In the film, he retold his story about how he was a university student at Cambridge when he found out he had motor neurone disease. And how he communicates through a speech synthesizer by choosing words on a computer screen by clicking a switch with his fingers and forms one sentence at a time. Rhines updated this after the film by saying that now Hawking uses blinks instead of the switch.

After thunderous applause and a standing ovation from the audience, Hawking proceeded to give a brief history of the science of cosmology for about 30 minutes. He is, after all, the best-selling author of the most popular science book ever, *A Brief History of Time*. The talk was pretty basic. Most of it I already knew from school, my own readings, PBS documentaries, and other speeches. However, it was a thrill and privilege to hear it from the foremost expert in the field. As I mentioned already, he was also very entertaining. He peppered his monologue with jokes and colorful slides on a huge projector screen behind him.

Well, here is my brief summary of his brief history. Basically, his talk, entitled "The Origin of the Universe," aimed to address two questions humans have asked since we evolved into thinking and conscious beings: "Why are we here?" and



God Really Does Play Dice With the Universe

Photo: Malibu Burns

“Where do we come from?” He began with a creation myth from an ancient culture. He then moved on to the ancient Greeks, specifically Aristotle who believed in an eternal universe with no god. Then he recounted Christian theology from the first millennium with St. Augustine of Hippo as an example. From the 18th century and the Age of Enlightenment came Immanuel Kant with his concept of absolute time. Then, of course, came Albert Einstein in the 20th century. Einstein postulated that time is combined with space in spacetime, which is curved by the matter and energy in the universe.

Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity, however, only explains how the universe evolves, but not how it began. Thus, the search was on for a more complete theory, as Einstein does not account for the small scale governed by Quantum Theory. Current theories now aim to combine Relativity Theory with Quantum Theory.

They are aided by more advanced technology and methods for studying the universe, including observations by Edwin Hubble, who discovered that stars are not uniformly distributed in space, and galaxies are moving away at a faster speed the farther away they are. This supports the theory of an expanding universe, one that

began around 15 billion years ago. Another observable phenomenon is radiation left from the universe’s early dense state called Microwave Background Radiation. The universe expanded in a tiny fraction of a second.

This falls in line with the theory formulated by Hawking and his colleague Roger Penrose. Together they came up with the Hawking-Penrose Theory, in which the universe began with a Big Bang. Other concepts Hawking discussed included:

- Time can behave like another direction in space.
- The beginning of the universe was governed by laws of science.
- Nothing happened before the universe began.
- There are lots of other possible universes but most are too small and collapse before forming galaxies and intelligent life.
- We are the product of early fluctuations in the universe.

Hawking ended his talk with the thought that there has been tremendous progress in the field of cosmology, and that we are getting close to answering the age-old questions he began the lecture with: “Why are we here?” and “Where do we come from?” He also added another

question: “Will the universe expand forever or will the universe eventually collapse?”

The floor was then opened to questions from the audience. Most of the questions were answered by his personal assistant, based on his knowledge of how Hawking has answered similar questions in the past. Such as his favorite food (curry), that he’s an opera fan and goes to see the San Francisco Opera whenever he’s in town, and that he believes in God — not in a personal one but in the laws of nature. For new questions, it took a while for Hawking to answer as he had to formulate the sentences from scratch. The most interesting one was when someone asked if he believed humans could eventually achieve time travel. His answer was that we are all going forward in time anyway! That was quite a clever comeback and something that we do forget to think of as such. The most humorous question was what he thought of Homer Simpson’s donut-shaped universe. Hawking has appeared on the TV show *The Simpsons* several times, apparently. He said that there are extra dimensions that we don’t see curled up like a donut.

All in all, it was an evening well worth the price of admission. Entertainment with an educational focus is always a good way to spend one’s time and money.

Cosplay at Anime Destiny at UC Berkeley



Photos: Jack Avery





Photos: Jack Avery





Lemony Snicket (Daniel Handler) In The Haight

By Diane Rooney
Staff Writer

It was a dark and stormy night. No, really, it was. But rain and wind didn't keep Daniel Handler away from All Saints Church to talk about *The Penultimate Peril*, the 12th in his *Series of Unfortunate Events*. An audience of about 150, including lots of children, braved the weather for the Booksmith-hosted event November 7. Some had been waiting over an hour, so the noise and energy levels were pretty high.

If you've never seen Lemony Snicket, you definitely should, if for no other reason than that Handler is in character the whole time. He moves through the audience, interacts with the kids, sings, dances, manipulates mysterious props, plays the accordion, and talks (a little) about his books. His facial expressions and gestures are wonderfully droll.

Handler began by explaining that "all this water outside" had prevented Snicket from attending. Turns out, Snicket had

been the victim of an unfortunate event, paralyzed from the armpit down. A shark bitten in the armpit by a shark and in a glass bottle, "so fearsome it should not



Daniel Handler signs a book for a fan.

Photo by Diane Rooney

be seen by children” was dutifully revealed, with the wry comment: “One day all of us will be dead and in a jar.”

Handler had three important moral lessons to impart:

1. Never raise your hand. (You risk a shark bite in the armpit!)
2. If you see Count Olaf, scream and run away.
3. If you squeeze anything hard enough, eventually it will make noise.

Just after imparting the first lesson, he asked who had read any of the books, and nearly every hand went up. “Have you learned NOTHING?!” he screamed at the room full of sharkbite-vulnerable arms.

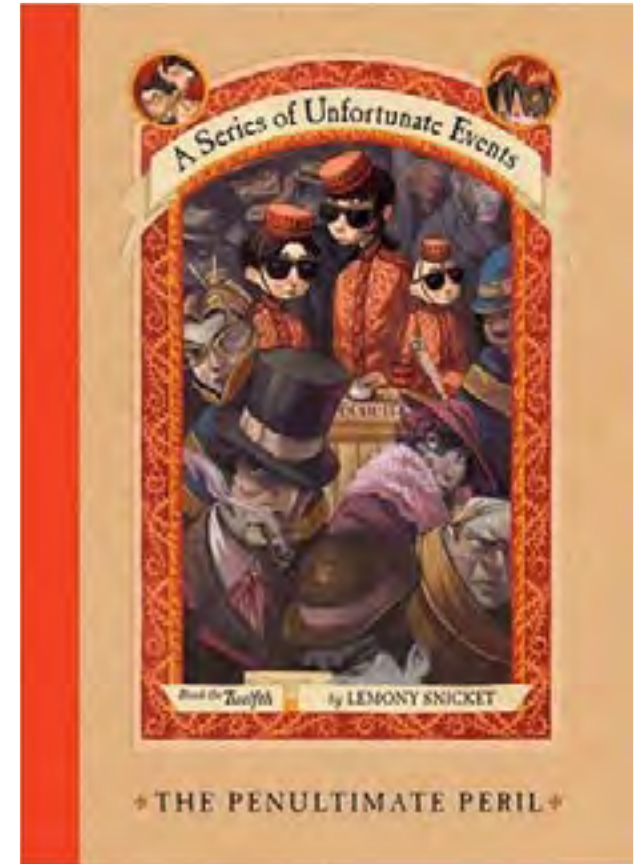
To demonstrate the third lesson, he selected two kids who were friends to come to the stage, where one demonstrated squeezing the other as hard as he could.

Handler floated effortlessly from topic to topic, taking his enthusiastic audience



Daniel Handler shows his talents extent to more than writing.

Photo by Diane Rooney



along as he riffed on why people hate the accordion and as he acted the part of Count Olaf, enraged that the children had made puttanesca sauce rather than roast beef for dinner.

“I’m sorry it was such a disappointment,” Handler said at the end. But his audience wasn’t listening. They were too busy rushing to the front of the hall for photos and autographs, before making their way home through San Francisco’s shark-infested waters.

A Tale of Two Halloween Cities

By Jean Martin
Editor

Halloween... Samhain... All Hallow's Eve. The one night of the year when the spirits of the dead and of the underworld are said to all come into our world and



Foster City Skeletons Out and About
Photo by Jean Martin

roam freely. Based on a pagan celebration from before recorded history, the modern world's version of Halloween seems less spiritual and more commercial... but a lot more fun!

Here in the U.S., Halloween has become a candy fest for children and a costume party for adults. This dichotomy was clearly evident to me this year as I celebrated Halloween first with my parents, sister and nephew at the yearly Foster City safe streets; then it was on to the annual Halloween Castro block party.

The Foster City event was wholesome entertainment. We followed my nephew as he trick-or-treated through several blocks of beautiful and amazingly decorated houses in one Foster City neighborhood. There were hundreds of people who were kept safe as the local police blocked off traffic



Foster City Pirate Ghost Ship

Photo by Jean Martin

into and out of the area. So we were all able to walk the streets as well as the sidewalks. It was pretty dark and some vendors were selling different colored neon glow tubes to place around kids' necks. Some people even had glow sticks. In addition to the elaborate decorations, the homeowners actually were giving out lots of candies and other treats. What a generous community! I ran into a couple who used to be my neighbors and their daughter. I also came across a co-worker, his wife and three children. The male twins were wearing matching Buzz

Lightyear costumes. My nephew, Franco, who was dressed in a blue Power Ranger costume, enjoyed meeting them. Franco also liked seeing a lot of other children in Batman, Superman and other superhero costumes. There was also a family in Star Wars costumes: a Darth Vader, two Jedis and a Padme Amidala.

My favorites were a house with a complete spooky cemetery on the front lawn, a ghost pirate ship, and a garage door with a cartoon projected on it. We must have walked for over an hour and we didn't manage to see it all. It was quite a huge setup. For some reason, this was

not advertised nor could you search for it on the Internet. It's a well-kept secret that people only know by word of mouth. So I suppose I'm blowing the cover on it with this article.

But the night was not yet over! I braved the Halloween Castro party for the first time and lived to tell the tale. I've resided in the Bay Area for 18 years, and even worked and lived in the Castro for several years, but never quite made it to this spectacle. Since it's known around the world as one of the liveliest and raunchiest of Halloween celebrations, I was curious to find out for myself what made it so popular. Lots of

people have told me over the years that it's pretty wild and dangerous. So I went there with expectations of witnessing drunken debauchery.

Well, it took a long time to fight traffic as we neared the location. It seemed like everyone in San Francisco was on their way to the Castro by car and on foot! We saw lots of



Queen Elizabeth and Carmen Miranda in the Castro

Photo by Jean Martin

people, mostly young, in costumes walking from blocks away. Luckily, I was able to stay at a friend's house for the night, and so we were able to park in his back parking lot. The police blocked off most of the streets surrounding the intersection of Castro and Market Streets. There was a helicopter patrolling the skies, and a contingent of motorcycle cops stood ready in a side alley. News vans were also in evidence as several newscasters were doing live broadcasts.

As I walked toward Market and Castro, I saw a huge sea of people for blocks on end.



Batman and Batgirl in the Castro

Photo by Jean Martin

There must have been several thousands there enjoying the live band playing on a stage, gawking at other costumed participants, eating, drinking, dancing, and just generally hanging out and having a good time. Being a Monday, the crowd was probably lighter than it could have been were Halloween on a weekend. Which was perfect as it was relatively easy to walk around, and it didn't feel too claustrophobic.

Costumes ranged from superheroes to seductive club wear. From historical garb to science-fiction attire. Men in drag had some of the most colorful ones, as expected. There was a man in a really cool Willy Wonka outfit, two twin-looking girls in cute but sexy schoolgirl uniforms, Carmen Miranda and showgirls.

I know the Castro area like the back of my hand but it looked so different that night! It actually reminded me of Burning Man as it was dark, people in costumes were partying and drinking, and everyone was headed in one direction like the night of the Burn. The difference is that the Castro crowd seemed more eclectic.

We also saw several people having their own parties in the apartments off of Castro Street. One particular party had two men and one woman showing their wares as the crowd below cheered them on. Other

than that, it really wasn't that raunchy. And people weren't supposed to bring drugs and alcohol so it seemed tamer than I expected actually. Still, I had an awesome time, and I had a grin on my face pretty much from the time I walked in to the time the police swept the place at around 12:30 a.m. asking everyone to leave.

Well, Halloween this year will be hard to top. I'm a costume enthusiast, as most people know, but Halloween is still special to me, as I didn't grow up with Halloween where I come from. And this is the night of all nights for people who love to dress up and party.



The Vampires Have Their Ball

By Eva Kent
Staff Writer

On the haunted evening of Saturday, November 5th, living dead from around the Bay Area congregated at Pleasanton Senior Center for the annual Le Bal des Vampires put on by the Period Events and Entertainments Re-creation Society (PEERS). Throughout the year, PEERS explores specific time periods such as the



1950s with their Prom Ball, but the folklore of vampires spans many eras and this was reflected by the wide variety of costume, dances, music, and entertainment taking place at the ball.

Costumed guests walked into a darkened ballroom lit by black lights that emitted a purple haze, making the white of gentlemen's gloves and the trim of ladies' dresses glow. Golden strands of miniature lights hung from the rafters, creating a soft ambiance. Costumes at the ball included Merlin, Dracula, Xena, an evil winged sprite, pirates, and Victorian ladies and gentlemen. Death was also there. He was draped in a black mantle and seductively caressed his elegant Goth date. A few women wore adornments on their heads such as a bouncing bat, a dead bird with extended wings, and a large black and orange spider.

The music, performed by Brazen Hussey, a Celtic inspired violin-based band, and dances performed by the shockingly

Left: Dracula and Eva Kent.

Right: A Victorian Vampire

Photos by Jean Martin





undead, spanned the ages. The first set dance consisted of partnered guests following in a line behind the leaders of the set as they made a slow rotation of the room. The band played an eerie tune that was punctuated by ladies' hoopskirts bouncing back and forth from their movement to the beat. Later on in the evening, another set dance was played and the tune was livelier than the first. Three long sets of partners were made and an estimated 60 people took part. Confused dancers swirled around as they tried to remember the sequence of steps they'd just learned. The dance was reminiscent of the scene in the movie *A Knights Tale* where participants at a ball danced to David Bowie's *Golden Years*.

Werewolves of London was one of the first modern dance songs played and sung by Brazen Hussey. Guests did crazy free-form dancing and swing dance to this song. A smash hit with the crowd was the *Rocky Horror Picture Show's Time Warp* song and dance. Everyone ran to the dance floor creating rows to sing along with PEERS performers on the stage. A performer held up a dance chart to instruct us where to step as they sang, "It's just a jump to the left. And then a step to the right. With your hands on your hips. You bring your

knees in tight. But it's the pelvic thrust that really drives you insane. Let's do the time-warp again!" Another modern rock song performed by a PEERS singer and Brazen Hussey was the Rolling Stones' *Sympathy for the Devil*. Four well-dressed Victorian ladies crowded the front of the stage and expressed their adoration for the singer.

For guests who wished to know what was in store for them during this epoch in time, a tarot card reading table was set up in the back of the room. Dracula, aka John Barrows, had his cards read and found that the predictions sounded accurate and applicable to his life. Abra Kent also had her cards read and they told her that she would



Theatre des Vampires

Photo by Jean Martin

would experience pain that was not her fault and would accomplish the goals she has set for herself. Guests listened respectfully and nodded their heads in agreement as the readers told them what the cards said.

During the band break, Theater of the Vampires entertained the crowd with a three-part performance that looked at different periods of time when vampires thrived. The first was set in the 1970s where a young vampire wooed a model with his disco dancing ability. The second part was an interpretation of Sheridan Le Fanu's novella, *Carmilla*, which showed the dangers a female vampire imposes. The last part was a comedy titled *Carpe Draculum*, where a family of vampires attempts to adjust to the modern world. The play ended—as many of the guests' evenings ended—with the question, “who should we have for breakfast?”



More Victorian Vampires

Photo by Jean Martin

BASCon

by Corbeau

The fifth Bay Area Slash Convention was held November 4-6 at the Embassy Suites hotel in South San Francisco. Accurately billed as a convention “by fans for fans,” it’s small (about 130 this year, as hall rumor had it) and friendly, with a lot of repeat attendees. It grew out of the somewhat larger and more elaborate Friscon – which I can remember attending at least fourteen or fifteen years ago – so it’s part of a tradition older than it is.

If you don’t know what slash is (and didn’t read Andy Trembly’s report on YaoiCon in the last issue), I’ll give you the short version: It’s fan fiction, usually based on TV shows, in which the writers postulate same-sex romantic/sexual relationships between characters. It’s not science fiction *per se*, but I presume that this august publication wants a report on it because it’s a relative. Not unlike a somewhat disreputable cousin. As Andy pointed out, it grew out of *Star Trek* fanfic in the beginning. In addition to all the *Trek* series, many of the TV shows that are or have been popular with slashers have a science fiction or fantasy premise: both

Stargates, *Highlander*, *Dead Zone*, *Xena*, sundry vampire shows – even *Harry Potter* and *The Lord of the Rings*. (Yes, that sound you hear is Tolkien spinning.)

It’s a very relaxed and informal con. Main programming starts Friday afternoon, with the more popular fandoms or topics scheduled for Saturday. One- or half-hour slots and a room are made available for people to discuss different fandoms or more general topics. A lot of these are unmoderated, which means they wander way off the point – or they can be very nice discussions with a chance for older fen to dispense wisdom to newbies (“Why, kids, I remember when these stories were distributed only by mimeo...What do you mean, ‘What’s mimeo?’”). Since a fairly high percentage of fans at this con are also fanfic writers, it’s also a good chance for writers and readers to meet. Slash fanfic is indeed largely but not exclusively a phenomenon of heterosexual women, mostly middle-aged ones. BASCon, however, always has a healthy sprinkling of gay men and lesbians, and an increasingly wide age range.

Various types of discussions are scattered throughout the con. Some cover general topics which would be of interest

to any fen, particularly those involved in fanfic. “Generation Fan: Live Social Networks vs. Lone Wolves on the ‘Net” asked the question, “Do in-person social networks still have the same impact as they once did in the age of the Internet?” A couple other discussions dealt with the migration of much fanfic and discussion from email lists and plain old web sites to LiveJournals. There was a “LiveJournal 101” introduction, and a comparison of the relative merits of different ways/places to post fanfic: personal website, themed hosting site, LiveJournal, etc.

There was a NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) writing session, filking, and even an “Eye of Argon” reading that actually got through the whole thing. “Your Showbiz Questions Answered” was this year’s “expert” panel in which someone who worked in the industry answered questions.

Discussions that focused on the shows of interest to slashers verged from the specific to the general. At one end of that particular continuum are individual shows. What gets scheduled depends largely on the expressed interests of the con members (as was stated on registration forms or communicated later

via the con web site <http://www.bascon.org> and Yahoo Groups mailing list). The most popular category of shows other than SF is, broadly defined, law enforcement. That includes the perennial favorite, *Starsky and Hutch* – an interest almost as venerable as *Star Trek*. Others with large followings have fantasy elements, like *The Sentinel* and *Due South*, or not – *The Man from Uncle*, or the British series *The Professionals*. (At least no more fantasy than the average TV show.) Next comes groupings of shows by type or theme, e.g. “Spies and Slash in the 60s,” “Older Fandoms and New Fans” (what a difference a DVD makes), “Darkfic,” “What’s New on the Tube?,” “Fresh Girls – Femmeslash,” and “Your Favorite Vampires.”

That segues into the general theme panel – usually moderated and sounding not unlike many an academic conference I’ve attended. Sort of. “Geeks with a Gun,” moderated by the excellent Lady Ra, was particularly good. We reached a consensus that there was something intensely erotic about the combination of glasses and a thigh holster. I moderated one called “Slash Archetypes: Warrior and Wizard/Scholar/Mage,” which had a gratifying response from the audience. BASCon attendees are, by and large, a bunch of very articulate and creative people. All a moderator has to do is

throw out a few ideas for discussion, stand back, and occasionally keep people from going too far off-topic.

For those of you who are dubious but still reading, and are asking yourselves, “Who are these people and why are they interested in this stuff?,” one of the most interesting sessions was “Girls Who Like Boys Who Like Boys: An Anthropological Overview of Slash.” Although that doesn’t describe all of slash, it describes most of it. This was a discussion panel organized by two young female slash fans, Megan Haines and Jaclyn Nelson, who are also anthropology majors at a university in Virginia doing a grant-funded (!) research project on slash and yaoi fans. Those kids will definitely go far in academia if they could get a grant to go to BASCon, which they did. It was ninety minutes that felt way too short, and was as illuminating for this long-time fan as for the researchers. It was fascinating to hear from a largish audience just what about slash fandom attracted them. A lot of it, maybe most of it, is true of fandom in general: the opportunity for a creative outlet as writer or artist, and the sense of community. Because slash fandom is a subset of a subset of a subset, that sense of community is perhaps all the stronger. If I’d known I was going to be asked to do this report I’d have taken better notes, but I can

tell you it was a fascinating and illuminating experience. If you’re interested in getting updates on their research, they have a mailing list: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/anthro_of_slash_and_yaoi/.

BASCon also has a modest – belay that, it’s most definitely *immodest*, just small – art show. The Dealer’s Room is nice and spacious, with zines and photos being the most common items available. There was a book dealer with a lot of SF items – your correspondent was happy to buy a copy of *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell* (among other things) so she had a chance of finishing it before the library’s copy came due. A very nice jewelry dealer and a purveyor of swords and other fantasy paraphernalia put a dent in my wallet, but I now have the coolest business card holder of anybody at work, with a book-and-dragon theme. (It wasn’t designed to be one, but it is now.) A recent BASCon tradition has been to include a masseuse in the Dealer’s Room, and this year was no exception. She did an exceptionally good chair massage and I greatly regretted not be able to fit a room massage into my schedule.

One of the highlights of BASCon is the song vid program. (Little-known fact: Slash fans were doing music videos long before MTV was ever heard of.) This is another area where the digital revolution

has wrought an amazing transformation. I can remember people back in the seventies spending hundreds of hours putting these together in the days of videotape. Now DVDs and editing software allow people to create an astonishingly professional-looking end product in a fraction of the time. There were thirty-three separate vids, all put together on a DVD with a nice intro. Wonder of wonders, they actually managed to have copies available right after the program, and all sold out immediately. More will be available later. Not all vids were particularly slashy – some were just exuberant or dramatic paeans to good old-fashioned “cult TV” fandom, from *The Tick* to *Star Wars* to *Alias Smith & Jones* to the latest incarnation of *Dr. Who*. They were set to an interesting variety of music; it’s not often you hear Frank Sinatra and ZZ Top and Indigo Girls and The Dandy Warhols in the same program. There was a great deal of hootin’ and hollerin’ in the audience, and an exceedingly good time was had by all.

If you like small, friendly cons and you like slash – or even if you just think you might – I highly recommend BASCon. Proceeds, including those from raffle tickets, usually go to a local charity. Due to the importance of Hurricane Katrina, this year BASCon supported a national charity,

America’s Second Harvest, instead. Sunday morning has a combined breakfast, Dead Dog Party, and raffle. Prizes are also handed out for the art show (based on voting of attendees) and the popular photo caption contest. Most of the winners cannot be repeated here.

BASCon labels itself gen-friendly, but it’s just friendly, period. Embassy Suites isn’t perfect – what con hotel is? – but since breakfast is included, as well as happy hour, it can be a great bargain for budget-minded con-goers. Each room has both a bedroom that can fit up to four people, plus a separate living room with a sofa bed. There’s also a small fridge and microwave,

for those who don’t have the time or funds to eat in the hotel restaurant, which has a decent if unimaginative menu. There are also a lot of cheaper places to eat within walking or short driving distance. If one is not particularly budget-conscious but just likes the luxury of a spacious room – or just has a partner with a different biorhythm – the bedroom/living room setup is nice.

BASCon is usually at the same time of year, which happens to be just before my birthday, so I’ve come to view it as a very nice birthday present – a chance to visit with old friends, let my hair down (metaphorically) and eat too many carbs. What can be better?



A mixed group of aliens
at the
Lunar Express Event at
Chabot Space Science
Center in October

Photo by Mike Wilson

More photos from this event,
with funny captions, can be
found at www.ikvbloodlust.net

BASFA Minutes: meeting 798

November 7, 2005

Trey Haddad, President

Nathan Slerm-r & Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began at 8:01 p.m. - as folks outside slavered to set up the polls.

8 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 797 were accepted as 'speeded

up'.

No Treasurer [week 4] but the proxy report was that last week we took in \$36.45 in the regular jar & \$5.75 in the party jar.

VP reports = neither VP was in attendance.

The President reported that he had nothing fannish to report.

Announcements: Joni announced that she will be absent several weeks due to jaw surgery & that if you want to contact her, her email addy is current.

Reviews: Dave C reviewed BASCon as it went much as slash fiction cons usually go for him [he's not really into the genre] & was worth pre-reg - & that the photo caption contest frightened him.

Joni reviewed 'The Rapunzel Problem' by Vivian VanGeld as YA fiction and an interesting little book.

We adjourned at = 8:15 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was '80% of BASFA's members are away, waiting in line to vote at their polling places'.



Klingons from the
Starfire Region
at the
Mars Will Return Event at
Chabot Space Science Center
in October

Photo by Mike Wilson

More photos from this event, with
funny captions, can be found at
www.ikvbloodlust.net

BASFA Minutes: meeting 799

November 14, 2005

Trey Haddad, President

Nathan Slerm-r & Chris Garcia, VP

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began at 8:04 p.m. - with a Galen sighting. 17 people attended [when you count the baby].

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 798 were left at home.

Treasurer report was a bit late, but last week we took in \$0.50.

VP report = VP Chris reported that he finished his novel, did a script, did a movie, watched Evelyn, put out Drink Tanks & started another novel. [no Nathan, wk 3]

The President welcomed back old members & commented that the Boondocks on the Cartoon network is worth watching.

Announcements: Cheryl announced that she brought copies of the latest Emerald City & she has the souvenir book from World Fantasy Con for folks to check out.

Chris announced that SFSF will be very large & will contain a BASCon report & a surprise article & he might have a TV

show.

'Bob' announced that KTEH will have a profile of the first Dr Who that will air at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Reviews: Kevin S reviewed Orycon as the result of a traumatic relocation & the new hotel is more vertical than horizontal. There was a lot of gaming programming now, the publications were quite nice and he was on 4 panels & participated in gaming: Texas Holdum - and won the Friday night tournament & came in 2nd on the Saturday night tournament. He had a good time & it was worth what he paid for it. Kevin also reviewed a NESFA Instant Messenger CCCP proposition as amusing.

Cheryl reviewed World Fantasy Con as there were more authors present than fans - she found a few panels that she liked & she accumulated piles of books. She commented they were rained on but she had brought her brelly, the art show was pretty good & 819 people attended. Chris follow-on'd that a pro-wrestler friend of his was at the same hotel and had a great time chatting with authors there. Dave G follow-on'd that he approved of the book ratio in the Dealer's room & he liked the hotel.

Chris reviewed the single greatest thing that happened on the internet [check out the Colbert report] as hilarious & also reviewed an El Sato movie, 'Wrestling Women vs the Aztec Mummy', as the best thing ever put on tape and sold at a flea market for \$1.75.

Kevin R reviewed a load of utter rubbish on the SciFi channel, especially 'Path of Destruction' as so incredibly awful that it was barely worth the price of not being able to move off the sofa.

Dave C reviewed 'robot cock-fighting time' = ComBots as it's back to basics robot fighting & Sewer Snake won in the heavyweight division. He thought it was fun and worth full price, even though he managed to get in free.

Ed reviewed 'Jarhead' as he enjoyed it. It was well-worth matinee and reviewed 'There Won't be War' by Harrison as highly readable.

Dave G reviewed seeing a Santa at Stoneridge as terrible & insidious.

Then we auctioned off a lot of books for = \$5.00; \$0.25, \$0.25; \$1.25; \$3.37 & \$1.25.

We adjourned at = 9:26 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was 'that next week's meeting will be conducted

Bay Area Fan Resources

This is not a complete list of resources, as time goes by and we discover more resources, this list will grow.

If you know of a resource not listed, please send the information to sfinsf@gmail.com for inclusion in future issues.

General Science Fiction Groups:

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

BASFA meets Monday nights at The Original Hick'ry Pit at 980 E. Campbell Ave. in Campbell.

www.basfa.org

Peninsula Science Fiction Association

Send an email to commander@pensfa.org to be subscribed to their email list.

This group holds parties, usually every two weeks on Saturday, at members homes.

Starship Decatur

www.livejournal.com/community/starshipdecatur/

Hosts monthly meetings with viewings of the latest episodes and movies from all science fiction genres. Coordinated participation in events with the IKV Black

Dragon and USS Northern Lights

Fantastic Frontiers (Sacramento County)

www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/

Fantastic Frontiers meets the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m.

Email frellingbored@yahoo.com or call 530-417-3365 for directions, details, or RSVP. All are welcome!

Meeting usually consist of social chit-chat, videos/DVDs, sci-fi-themed games, book exchanges, brief discussions of club business, and the like. They are casual and very informally structured. Members are welcome to bring books they'd like to exchange, collectibles they'd like to display, videos or games they'd like to play, etc.

Conventions

3DB Con

Sunday, April 24, 2006

www.threedollarbill.com/3DBcon

Three Dollar Bill Cafe 1800 Market Street
San Francisco

10 a.m.-10 p.m.

\$10

Game Convention.

Anime Overdose 2006

August 4-6 2006

www.animeod.com

San Francisco

\$30 to ?, \$45 at door

Anime convention.

Baycon

May 26-29, 2006

San Jose Doubletree Inn

San Jose

www.baycon.org

\$45 until August 31

The largest annual general SF convention in the Bay area. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, anime room, much more.

Consonance 2006

March 3-5 2006

www.consonance.org

Crowne Plaza Silicon Valley

777 Bellevue Drive

Milpitas

Memberships: \$35 to 10/31/05, \$40 to 2/18/06, \$45 at door

Filk convention. Guests: Bill & Gretchen Roper, Marty Coady Fabish, Puzzlebox, Chris Conway

Creation Salutes Star Trek:
The 40th Anniversary Celebration
September 8-10, 2006
www.creationent.com
Doubletree Hotel
Sacramento
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento

Memberships: Gold Weekend Package:
\$399.

Creation brings William Shatner and
Leonard Nimoy to Sacramento. And no,
that's not a typo on the price. Cheaper
packages will be announced later.

Dundracon
February 17-20, 2006
San Ramon Marriott
2600 Bishop Drive
San Ramon
www.dundracon.com
\$?

Gaming convention.

Fanime Con
May 26-29, 2006
San Jose Convention Center
San Jose
www.fanime.com
Price

The largest annual anime convention
in the Bay Area. Dealer's room, panels,
costume contest, multiple tracks of anime,
Asian films, J-pop concert, much more.

Further Confusion
January 19-23, 2006
San Jose Doubletree
www.furtherconfusion.org
\$40

Furry convention with an emphasis on
art. Dealer's room, programming, anime.

Game and Music Experience
December 2-4
www.experiencegame.com
Moscone Center
San Francisco
\$20 -\$35 (discount if registering before
October 31)

Play video games, see live bands, and
other stuff. See the website for more
details.

Japantown Anime Faire 3
Saturday and Sunday, December 17-18
www.jtaf.com
Japantown
San Francisco
6 p.m.

Fun local anime convention with anime
showings, dealer's room, costume contest,
panels.

Kublacon
May 26-29 2006
www.kublacon.com
Burlingame Hyatt Regency
1333 Bayshore Highway
Burlingame
Guests: TBA.
Memberships: TBA.
Gaming convention.

PantheaCon
February 17-20, 2006
www.pantheacon.com
San Jose Doubletree
Pagan convention. Workshops, lectures,
performances, rituals, vendors, drumming,
dancing, costume contest.

SacAnime 2006
Saturday, January 14, 2006
www.sacramentocomics.com
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
\$5.00

Dealer's room, anime viewing room, contests, Yugioh & Magic tournaments, cosplay contest.

Sacramento Comic, Toy & Anime Show
Sunday, December 11
www.sacramentocomics.com
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
\$5.00

Dealer's room, anime viewing room, contests, Yugioh & Magic tournaments, cosplay contest at 2 p.m.

Wintersshoppingland
Saturday, December 10
www.wintersshoppingland.com
Hayward Centennial Hall
22292 Foothill Blvd.
Hayward
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
\$2 (Free 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

This is an anime event organized by the group that puts on Yaoi Con and Tales of Anime. Costume contest, dealers room, programming to be announced.

Westercon 60: Gnomeward Bound
July 6-9, 2007
spfli.org/westercon60/
DoubleTree Hotel
San Jose

Wondercon
www.comic-con.org/wc/
February 10-12 2006
The Moscone Center
San Francisco

Comic book convention with anime, summer movie previews, panels, dealers, costume contest, more.

World Horror Con 2006
May 11-14, 2006
www.whc2006.org
Gateway Holiday Inn
The world horror con comes to the bay area.

Anime/Manga

Anime Baka
www.thetoytrader.com
462 Mendocino Ave.
Santa Rosa

Anime viewing/club hosted by a local anime store. Held first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. First Monday is a potluck dinner.

AnimeFX
userwww.sfsu.edu/~animefx/
San Francisco State University
San Francisco
University anime club. Hosts free showings on Fridays during the school year.

Beefbowl Anime
www.beefbowl.org
Albany Library
1247 Marin Ave.
Albany

Anime club. Hosts a monthly anime viewing on Saturday at the Albany Library.

Cal Animage Alpha
www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~animage/
Univeristy of California
Berkeley

University anime club. Hosts a weekly anime showing Mondays during the school year. Also sponsors AnimeDestiny convention in the fall.

Foothill Anime
foothill.anime.net
Foothill College
Los Altos Hills

This university anime club meets the first Sunday of the month for a free showing starting at noon.

Newtype Anime
www.stanford.edu/group/newtype/
Stanford University
Palo Alto

University anime club. Hosts free showings each Tuesday is in session.

No Name Anime
www.nnanime.com
San Jose

Anime club. Hosts a monthly anime viewing on Saturday at local libraries.

Tempura Anime
tempura-anime.us
Anime Club at Santa Clara University
Hosts anime showings on Wednesdays during the school year.

Tsunami Anime
studiokyuu.com/tsunami/
San Jose State University
WSQ 109
San Jose

University anime club. Hosts free showings on Thursdays during the school year.

Anime Cosplay

The California Cosplay Times
www.californiacosplaytimes.com

This website is dedicated to promoting cosplay at conventions, with an emphasis on California and particularly Bay Area conventions.

In additon to hosting cosplay photos from members, most notably from Brocas

and hosting Cosplay Magazine, the site also features a forum with a small but friendly group of participants.

Consplayers.com
www.consplayers.com

Known for setting up a portable studio at conventions for better photos.

Cosplay.com
www.cosplay.com
forums.cosplay.com

One of the best resources for cosplayers both nationally and even internationally. This site hosts extensive member photo galleries and their forums are a meeting place for cosplayers who are planning on attending local events.

Usagichan Search and Rescue
<http://www.usagichan.com/>

Home to Bay Area cosplay photographer lionboogy and his Linus Lam Network News coverage of conventions coast to coast and even internationally.

Book Groups

Futurist Salon Book Group
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Hillsdale Shopping Center
11 West Hillsdale Blvd.
San Mateo
650-341-5560

Meets montly

Science Fiction Book Club
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco

Meets monthly at Borderlands books at
6 p.m.

Gay Men's Science Fiction Book Club
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco

Meets the second Sunday of the month
at Borderlands Books. Contact Christopher
Rodriquez at cobalt555@earthlink.net for
more information.

Bookstores (specialty)

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com

Dark Carnival
www.darkcarnival.com
3086 Claremont Ave.
Berkeley

Elsewhere Books
260 Judah Street
San Francisco

Used and collecible science fiction and
mystery

Kayo Books
www.kayobooks.com
814 Post Street
San Francisco

Best bookstore in the bay area for pulp
fiction, including old science fiction pulps.

The Other Change of Hobbit
www.otherchangeofhobbit.com/
2020 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley

Spellbinding Tales Bookstore
www.spellbindingtales.com
1910A Encinal Ave. @ Chestnut
Alameda
510-523-1105

Hosts SF-related events and authors.

Costuming

The Greater Bay Area Costumer's Guild
www.gbacg.org

Comic Art

Cartoon Art Museum
655 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: 415/CAR-TOON,
415/227-8666
Hours: Daily 11:00 - 5:00, Closed
Monday
Admission Prices:
\$6.00 - Adults
\$4.00 - Students & Seniors
\$2.00 - Children (ages 6 - 12)
FREE - Children (age 5 & below)
The first Tuesday of every calendar month
is "Pay What You Wish Day."

Media Fan Groups

Doctor Who

Legion of Rassilon

Meets one Friday a month in San Jose at Carl's Junior, 2551 N. First Street at 7:30 p.m. The group shows episodes of the Dr. Who series and has discussions of recent movies and a raffle.

Serenity/Firefly

SF Browncoats

www.sfbrowncoats.com

Cafe Murano

San Francisco

Noon

Free

Serenity/Firefly fan group. Meets every second Saturday of each month at Café Murano in San Francisco.

Join the yahoo group from the link on their website for schedule updates.

Silicon Gulch Browncoats

www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org

Serenity/Firefly fan group. Meets on the first Saturday of every month from Noon - 2:00 p.m. at the Tied House Cafe Brewery, 54 Villa Street, Mountain View.

Sacramento Browncoats

groups.yahoo.com/group/SacramentoBrowncoats/

Star Trek

IKV Bloodlust

www.ikvbloodlust.com

A very active Klingon ship, part of the StarFire Region of the Ring of Fire Fleet.

IKV Midnight Dagger

home.earthlink.net/~mitjos/index.html
Oakland

IKV Black Dragon

www.ikvblackdragon.com
Fairfield

USS Augusta Ada

San Francisco

<http://trek.starshine.org>

Starfleet chapter. Meets fourth Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Round Table Pizza at 5160 Geary in San Francisco.

USS Defiance

www.ussdefiance.org

Sacramento

Starfleet group. Meets monthly at the Round Table Pizza on Howe Ave. (near Howe and Arden Ave.)

USS Eagle

Fremont

For information email to ncc1919@yahoo.com

USS Northern Lights

www.ussnorthernlights.org

Starfleet chapter. Meets monthly at the Great Mall Food Court in Milpitas

USS Renegade

www.geocities.com.renegade73101
East Bay

USS Tikopai

San Jose

www.usstikopai.org

Star Wars

Sacramento Valley Rogue Force:

www.svrf.swanb.net/

South Bay Star Wars Fan Club

sbswfc.com/

Supposedly meets monthly, but no recent meetings have been listed on their calendar

501st Legion Golden Gate Garrison

www.goldengategarrison.com

501st Legion Central California Garrison
www.thestormtroopers.com/CCG.asp

Period Recreation

The Bay Area English Regency Society
www.baers.org

PEERS
(The Period Events & Entertainments Re-
Creation Society)
www.peers.org

Society For Creative Anachronism

Principality of the Mists
mists.westkingdom.org

Cloondara Shire
San Francisco
www.cloondara.org/

Meetings are held on the second and
fourth Tuesdays of each month at the
Round Table on Geary Avenue.

Shire of Crosston
Palo Alto, Mountain View and Los Altos
www.halimal.com/crosston/

Barony of Darkwood
Southern Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa
Cruz and Monterey Counties
baronyofdarkwood.org

Province of the Mists
Western Contra Costa County
provinceofthemists.org

Hosts fighter practice at the Rockridge
Bart Station parking lot every Thursday
from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

College of Sainte Katherine
UC Berkeley SCA chapter
www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~sca/

Role Playing/Board Games

Bay Area Role-Playing Society
www.BayRPS.com
Go-Getter's Pizza
1489 Beach Park Boulevard
Foster City
6pm to 10pm

Hosts a weekly game night. For club
and game night details send email to:
GM@BayRPS.com. (Not confirmed, check
before attending.)

Silicon Valley Boardgamers
davekohr.best.vwh.net/svb
Match Play
560 Showers Drive, Suite 4
Mountain View

A loosely-organized group that meets
every Monday and Wednesday at 7 p.m. at
a game store to play mostly German-style
strategy boardgames and cardgames.

Bay Area Games Day
davekohr.best.vwh.net/gamesday
Los Altos Library
Los Altos
Free

Regular event featuring German-style
strategy boardgames like Settlers of Catan,
Avalon Hill-type multiplayer games, lots of
cardgames, and historical board wargames.

SF Games
vax.hanford.org/dk/games
Muddy's Coffeehouse
1304 Valencia Street near 24th
San Francisco

SF Games is a collective name for a
bunch of people who get together and play
board games and card games every Friday.
Also has a cards night on Tuesdays at Café
Macondo, 3159 16th Street between
Guerrero and Valencia.

Stafnord RolePlayers (SRP)

http://www.rahul.net/pierre/SRP/SRP_home.html

San Francisco Bay Area Gaming Groups

www.rahul.net/pierre/SRP/SRP_local_groups.html

Sacramento Games Portal

www.freewebs.com/sacgames/

Space/Science/Technology/Skeptics

Bay Area Skeptics

www.baskeptics.org

East Bay Skeptics

www.eb-skeptics.org

Mars Society Northern California Chapter

chapters.marssociety.org/northca/

Robotics Society of America

Meets at San Francisco State University

Chabot Space & Science Center

www.chabotspace.org

10000 Skyline Blvd.

Oakland

Genre-influenced Musical Groups

AkaiSKY

www.akaisky.com

Trio that performs covers of J-Rock and anime music.

Ramen and Rice

ramenandrice.metaminstrel.net

Cello and Violin duo who play anime and game music at conventions

Warp 11

Star Trek theme rock band. Based in Sacramento.

www.warp11.com/

Wanted:

Contributors to cover
the following groups
and activities:

The Gaylaxians

South Bay Star Wars Fan Club

PENSFA

Northern California Mars Society

The Society for Creative Anachronism

Star Trek groups

Star Wars groups

Legion of Rassilon

Filk Fandom

Furry Fandom

Role Playing/LARP

Fandom in Sacramento

All other Fan Groups and Activities

We want to have regular reports on all Bay Area fan groups and we want to list your events in our calendar. Contact Jean Martin and Chris Garcia at SFinSF@gmail.com

The Bay Area Fannish Calendar

While some effort (OK, OK, damn little effort) is made to verify event listings, please check on events before attending as events are sometimes cancelled or times and locations changed.

New listings are in red.

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour

www.sfghosthunt.com

Begins: Queen Ann Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia

San Francisco

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

\$20

Ongoing Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Wallking Tour

www.hauntedhaight.com

Meets at PlanetWeavers Treasure Store

1573 Haight Street (at Clayton)

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Reservations required

\$20

Ongoing Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

www.sfvampiretour.com

Meets corner of California and Taylor

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$20

Led by Mina Harker. Tour is cancelled if there is heavy rain.

Ongoing through March 12, 2006

Gross, Gruesome and Gothic

Cartoon Art Museum

655 Mission Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: 415/CAR-TOON,

415/227-8666

Hours: Daily 11:00 - 5:00, Closed Monday

Admission Prices:

\$6.00 - Adults

\$4.00 - Students & Seniors

\$2.00 - Children (ages 6 - 12)

FREE - Children (age 5 & below)

The first Tuesday of every calendar month is "Pay What You Wish Day."

From their website:

"From the darkest depths of the cartoon vaults comes the Cartoon Art Museum's latest exhibition, Gross, Gruesome and Gothic. This horrifying display features over 50 original cartoons from a wide array of artists and comics, from spine-tinglers to rib-tickers and everything in between.

"Exhibition highlights include:

"Masters of the Macabre: Edward Gorey, Charles Addams and Basil Wolverton Three of the most influential humorists of all time present their unique views of the world around us in a selection of comics and illustrations dating back to the 1920s.

"Spotlight on Gahan Wilson: This creator spotlight focuses on Gahan Wilson, one of the most celebrated and respected cartoonists of our time. In the past half-century, Wilson's distinctive cartoons and illustrations have graced the pages of The New Yorker, Nickelodeon, Playboy and National Lampoon. In 2005, Wilson received the coveted Milton Caniff Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Cartoonists Society, one of the highest honors that a cartoonist can achieve.

"The Vault of Horror: Graham

“Ghastly” Ingels From the pages of EC Comics’ seminal comic book *The Vault of Horror* comes “Shoe-Button Eyes,” a complete seven-page story illustrated by Graham Ingels.

“The Stuff That Dreams Are Made Of: Neil Gaiman’s *Sandman* One of the most popular and acclaimed comic book series of the past 20 years, Neil Gaiman’s *Sandman* tales from DC Comics set new standards in excellence for fantasy and horror. Featured artists include Chris Bachalo, Duncan Eagleson, Marc Hempel, Kent Williams and series cover artist Dave McKean.

“Scared Silly! Scary comics don’t always take themselves seriously. Bongo Comics’ annual *Treehouse of Horror* special features *The Simpsons* as you’ve never seen them before, as illustrated by Sergio Aragonés, Peter Kuper, Bill Morrison, Scott Shaw and Jill Thompson; *Batman* Lash’s *Supernatural Law* warns us to beware the creatures of the night...and their lawyers; and Charles Schulz’s classic comic *Peanuts* asks the burning question, “When will the Great Pumpkin arrive?”

“It came from the Seventies! As the Silver Age of comics came to an end, the Marvel, DC and Warren publishing companies unleashed a wave of horror comics that pushed the boundaries of comic book art. Alfredo Alcalá, Jim Aparo, Frank Brunner,

Gene Colan and Dick Giordano, among others, bring new life to classic characters from *Dracula* and *Frankenstein’s monster* to anti-heroes including *The Spectre*, *Vampirella* and *Morbius*, *The Living Vampire*.

“Nothin’ But Misery: *The Goon* by Eric Powell Powell is the Eisner Award-winning creator of *Dark Horse Comic* series *The Goon*, a horror comedy that pits the title character and his pal Frankie against killer robots, zombies, Spanish-speaking lizards and other supernatural menaces.”

Through November 19

Runs Fridays and Saturdays

There Be Monsters!

EXIT Cafe

156 Eddy Street

San Francisco

8:30 p.m.

\$12-\$20

From their website:

“A Forgotten Man and a Gremlin Chorus present a passionate excursion into unseen realms, descending a dark staircase to a land that falls somewhere between a Pre-School Easter Pageant and a Murderous Nightmare!

“Presented somewhat in the manner of a turn-of-the-century Magic Lantern show of worlds within worlds, *There Be*

Monsters! with its absurdist multiple-character monologues, slides, puppets and mechanical creatures (including a monkey astronaut, a sleeping pig, a dead Elvis waiting on the Highway of Eternity, and Jesus, paired with a hallucinatory, evil monkey named *Jungle Belle*) delves into the logic of dreams and the nature of childhood perceptions regarding the discovery of things unknown.

Thursday, November 17

George R. R. Martin Appearance

Stacy’s Books

581 Market Street

San Francisco

12:30 p.m.

Free

Friday, November 18

George R. R. Martin Appearance

Kepler’s Books

1010 East Camino Real

Menlo Park

Noon

Free

Venue reopened.

Friday, November 18

AnimeFX Meeting and Showing

userwww.sfsu.edu/~animefx/
HSS Building room 135
San Francisco State University
San Francisco
4 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Free

In addition to the usual showing of anime, the group will host an open discussion on the Para Social Relations Within Anime Fandom.

Friday, November 18

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza
Howe Avenue
Sacramento
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Free

Friday, November 18

George R. R. Martin Appearance

Bay Book Co.
Half Moon Bay
7:00 p.m.
Free

November 18-19

The Vampyre

Dreamweavers Theatre
www.dreamweaverstheatre.org/2005/the-vampyre.html
1637 Imola Avenue
Napa
(River Park Shopping Center)
8 p.m. Friday and Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
\$18

Tounge-in-cheek presentation of a play based on a famous Shilling Shocker.

Friday-Saturday, November 18-19

Enter the Dragon

Aquarius Theatre
430 Emerson Street
Palo Alto
Midnight

Running as part of the theater's Midnight Madness program.

Friday-Saturday, November 18-19

The Neverending Story

Landmark's Act 1 & 2
2128 Center Street
Berkeley
Midnight

Saturday, November 19

Starship Decatur Meeting/Potluck

www.livejournal.com/community/starshipdecaturn/
San Ramon
email eyeofcannan@gmail.com for directions.
2 p.m.
Free

Science fiction club meeting and potluck. Gas grill available. Episodes of Firefly and the new Doctor Who series available for viewing. The group may be planning a movie outing to follow the potluck.

Saturday, November 19

Amber Benson and Christopher Golden author event

The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.

Free

The *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* actress will sign copies of *Ghosts of Albion: Accursed*, a book that was co-written with Christopher Golden.

Saturday, November 19

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, November 20

Terry Bisson

Other Change of Hobbit

2020 Shattuck Ave.

Berkeley

2 p.m.

Free

Author will read from *Greetings and Other Stories*.

Sunday, November 20

Paul Park

Other Change of Hobbit

2020 Shattuck Ave.

Berkeley

2 p.m.

Free

The author will read from and sign *A Princess of Roumania*.

Sunday, November 20

Mark von Schlegell

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

From the publisher: "An American-born recent ex-patriot to Germany. . .Mark von Schlegell's fiction deftly scrambles the codes of traditional science-fiction and fantasy with high literature and philosophy, generating a psychedelic weave of theory and pulp tradition. His SF and otherworldly ficto-criticism appears regularly in the international art underground -- from Brazil to Auckland to Berlin. VENUSIA, the inaugural volume of The System Series, is his first novel."

Sunday, November 20

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Tamsin* by Peter Beagle. The author will visit. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Monday, November 21

Cal Animage Alpha

Location TBA

Univeristy of California

Berkeley

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Free

Schedule:

Sosei no Aquarion

Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday, November 21

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

More Events Next Page

Tuesday, November 22*The Shire of Cloondara*

SCA group

www.cloondara.org

Round Table Pizza

5188 Geary Boulevard

San Francisco

7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Free

Group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. First meeting of the month is a business meeting, second is arts and sciences. Please check with contact to make sure meeting will be held as scheduled before attending.

Tuesday, November 22*Newtype Anime*

Room 60-61H

Stanford University

Palo Alto

8 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Free

Meeting and anime showing. This event is held weekly while school is in session.

Friday, November 25*Legion of Rassilon**Doctor Who fan group*

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

7:30 p.m.

Free

Showing episodes of the new Dr. Who series, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

Saturday, November 26*USS Augusta Ada*<http://trek.starshine.org>

Round Table Pizza

5160 Geary Blvd.

San Francisco

1 p.m.

Free

Star Trek group. Meets fourth Saturday of the month.

Saturday, November 26*Roman Dirge appearance*

Hobby Monkey

10000 Fairway Drive #140

Roseville

Free

Creator of *Lenore* and *Haunted Mansion*.

Saturday, November 26*Rocky Horror Picture Show*

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, November 27*East Bay Skeptics Society Meeting*

China Village

1335 Solono Avenue

Albany

3 p.m.

Free

Discussion on evaluating scientific studies.

Sunday, November 27*Michael Moorcock*

Dark Carnival

3086 Claremont Avenue

Berkeley

3 p.m.

Free

More Events Next Page

Monday, November 28

Star Wars Book Authors
Copperfield's Petaluma
140 Kentucky Street
Petaluma
7 p.m.
Free

Steven Sansweet, Peter Vilmur and Pablo Hidalgo will sign two new Star Wars-related books, *Star Wars Poster Book* and *Star Wars Chronicles*.

Monday, November 28

Cal Animage Alpha
Location TBA
Univeristy of California
Berkeley
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Free

Schedule:
Initial D: The 4th Stage
Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday, November 28

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
The Original Hick'ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free
www.basfa.org.

December 2-4

Game and Music Experience
www.experiencegame.com
Moscone Center
San Francisco
\$20 -\$35 (discount if registering before October 31)

Play video games, see live bands, and other stuff. See the website for more details.

Saturday, December 3

Bay Area Games Day
davekohr.best.vwh.net/gamesday
Los Altos Library
Los Altos
Free

Regular event featuring German-style strategy boardgames like Settlers of Catan, Avalon Hill-type multiplayer games, lots of cardgames, and historical board wargames.

Saturday, December 3

Beefbowl Anime showing
Albany Library
1247 Marin Avenue
Albany
12:15 p.m.
Free

Saturday, December 3

Jingles
SCA Event
Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto
505 East Charleston Road
Palo Alto
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
\$15

Yule revel. Choir, feast, bell competition, classes, a play, more. Email kim@gallagherclan.net for tickets and information.

Sunday, December 4

Foothill Anime
foothill.anime.net
Building 5015
Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
Noon
Free

Meets the first Sunday of the month.

Monday, December 5

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
www.basfa.org
The Original Hick'ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free

Thursday, December 8

Thrillville's Holiday Tiki Monster Mash Mothra

www.thrillville.net
www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Cinema
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
9:15 p.m.
\$7

Aloha and season's greetings! Welcome to THRILLVILLE'S HOLIDAY TIKI MONSTER MASH featuring the original exotic Japanese monster-piece MOTHRA (1962) in a brand new print plus the soothing, swaying sounds of THE MAIKAI GENTS with THE MYSTERIOUS MISS MAUNA LOA live on stage!

Friday, December 9

Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me

Castro Theater
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
9:40 p.m.

"In this challenging prequel to the TV series, the film begins with the investigation by FBI agents into the murder of waitress Teresa Banks. One year later, the sordid events of Laura Palmer's double-life are depicted, gradually intensifying into an all-out nightmare. Beyond what the series

ever did, the film detaches itself from any connection to reality; the result is Lynch's most controversial film." Double feature with Mullholland Drive.

Saturday December 10

Beaconsgate Boar Hunt and Feast

Province of the Mists
SCA Event
provinceofthemists.org

Contact the autocrat for more information.

Saturday, December 10

Wintershoppingland

Hayward Centennial Hall
22292 Foothill Blvd.
Hayward
www.wintershoppingland.com
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
\$2 (Free 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

This is an anime event organized by the group that puts on Yaoi Con and Tales of Anime. Costume contest, dealers room, programming to be announced.

Saturday, December 10

No Name Anime

www.nnanime.com
Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Ave.
Saratoga
12:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. or so
Free

Showing Godzilla: Final Wars.

The new Godzilla movie. It's awesome. You should go to this show. All of you. Bring your friends.

Saturday, December 10

SF Browncoats

sfbrowncoats.com
Cafe Murano
San Francisco
Noon
Free

Serenity/Firefly fan group. Meets every second Saturday of each month.

Join the yahoo group from the link on their website for schedule updates.

Sunday, December 11*Gay Men's Science Fiction Book Club*

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *To Your Scattered Bodies Go* by Philip Jose Farmer. Please contact the group leader, Christopher Rodriguez at cobalt555@earthlink.net for more information.

Sunday, December 11*Dune*

Castro Theater

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

4:20 p.m., 9:20 p.m.

The 1984 David Lynch version,

“The desert planet Arrakis—we enter the year 10191 and the whole universe depends on the spice Melange which exists only on this dry and desolate planet. Its natives await the arrival of their Messiah who will lead them into a holy war against the evil Harkonnen Empire. So sets the stage for Lynch's bizarre, truly otherworldly vision of Frank Herbert's saga.”

Double feature with *The Elephant Man*.

Sunday, December 11*Sacramento Comic, Toy & Anime Show*

www.sacramentocomics.com

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$5.00

Dealer's room, anime viewing room, contests, Yugioh & Magic tournaments, cosplay contest at 2 p.m.

Monday, December 12*Bay Area Science Fiction Association*

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Wednesday, December 14*Petaluma Book Club*

Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury

Copperfield's Petaluma

140 Kentucky Street

Petaluma

6:30 p.m.

Free

This general fiction book group will be reading *Dandelion wine* this month. Call Mat Brown at (707) 762-0563 or Railey Album at (707) 766-7056 for more information.

Thursday, December 15*The Nightmare Before Christmas*

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$6

The REEL CULT FREAKOUT presents Tim Burton's ghoulish holiday stop-motion classic *A NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS* (1993) - trivia, prizes and more freaky festive fun!

More Events Next Page

Friday, December 16*USS Defiance Meeting*

Round Table Pizza

Howe Avenue

Sacramento

7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Free

Saturday and Sunday, December 17-18*Japantown Anime Faire 3*

Japantown

San Francisco

www.jtaf.com

6 p.m.

Fun local anime convention with anime showings, dealer's room, costume contest, panels.

December 17- January 29, 2006*Lestat*

Curran Theater

445 Geary

San Francisco

Tickets on sale October 30. Musical based on Anne Rice's Interview with the Vampire and The Vampire Lestat. Music by Elton John, lyrics by Bernie Taupin.

Sunday, December 18*Science Fiction Book Club*

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonegut. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Monday, December 19*Bay Area Science Fiction Association*

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

December 22, 23, 26*Mirrormask*

Red Vic

1727 Haight

San Francisco

Monday, December 26*Bay Area Science Fiction Association*

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Saturday, January 7*Twelfth Night Coronation**SCA Event*

www.westkingdom.org/calendar/12th_night2006.php

San Jose Doubletree Inn

2050 Gateway Blvd.

San Jose

\$15-\$20

Meet and greet at the hotel bar on Friday night. Merchants, Fine arts, practical science and wooden spoon competitions.

More Events Next Page

Thursday, January 12

Thrillville's Sexy Sword 'n' Sorcery Show

The 7th Voyage of Sinbad

www.thrillville.net

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

The Cyclops, the Swashbuckling Skeleton, the Roc, the Dragon, the Snake Woman, the Evil Warlock and the teeny tiny Genie all come to magical life in Ray Harryhausen's colorful fantasy classic THE 7TH VOYAGE OF SINBAD (1958) plus the sword-swirling sorcery of the Bay Area's bodacious belly-dancing troupe CLAN-DESTINE live on stage!

Saturday, January 14, 2006

SacAnime 2006

www.sacramentocomics.com

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

\$5.00

Dealer's room, anime viewing room, contests, Yugioh & Magic tournaments, cosplay contest.

Sunday, January 15, 2006

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *The Stars My Destination* by Alfred Bester. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

January 19-23, 2006

Further Confusion

San Jose Doubletree

www.furtherconfusion.org

\$40

Furry convention with an emphasis on art. Dealer's room, programming, anime.

Thursday, February 9

Thrillville's Sexy Sci-Fi Valentine's Show

Dr. Goldfoot and the Bikini Machine

www.thrillville.net

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

It's a SEXY SCI-FI SPY VALENTINE'S SHOW featuring Vincent Price, Frankie Avalon, a crazy car chase thru San Francisco and an army of alluring androids in DR. GOLDFOOT AND THE BIKINI MACHINE (1965) - live burlesque act TBA!

February 10-12 2006

Wondercon

The Moscone Center

San Francisco

Comic book convention with anime, summer movie previews, panels, dealers, costume contest, more.

Send your items for inclusion in our calendar section to:
SFinSF@gmail.com

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February 17-20, 2006

Dundracon

San Ramon Marriott

2600 Bishop Drive

San Ramon

www.dundracon.com

\$?

Gaming convention.

February 17-20, 2006

PantheaCon

San Jose Doubletree

Pagan convention. Workshops, lectures, performances, rituals, vendors, drumming, dancing, costume contest.

February 19, 2006

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Wonderland* by Joyce Carol Oates. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

March 3-5 2006

Consonance 2006

www.consonance.org/

Crowne Plaza Silicon Valley

777 Bellew Drive

Milpitas

Memberships: \$35 to 10/31/05, \$40 to 2/18/06, \$45 at door

Filk convention. Guests: Bill & Gretchen Roper, Marty Coady Fabish, Puzzlebox, Chris Conway

Saturday, March 4, 2006

The Phantom of the Opera Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo

Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.

Dance lesson: 7:15 p.m.

Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by February 28)

At the door: \$20.00

Don't let those wild rumors of an Opera Ghost keep you from attending the social event of the season, the Opera Ball of the Paris Opera Populaire. This is destined to be the most spectacular of all our masquerade balls and Management assures you that "Everything is under control."

Our special guests - Monsieur Frank Beau Davis, that American trumpet virtuoso and his brilliant Brassworks Band

from San Francisco, will play an evening of opera and ballet tunes arranged for ballroom dancing and brilliant Viennese Waltzes, polkas, mazurkas, schottisches, reels, and quadrilles. All set dances will be taught or called and there will a pre-ball dance class to help you brush up on your mid-Victorian dance skills. And, of course, they will play those perennial favorites, "The Congress of Vienna Waltz" and "Sir Roger de Coverley" (with a distinctly Wagnerian edge).

Suggested costume for this gala event is Victorian evening or ball dress (circa 1860's-80's), period fancy dress, or modern evening dress. Masks are strongly suggested.

The fashionable young gentlemen of the Jockey Club will be pleased to know that evening's entertainment includes operatic and ballet excerpts by the company, including the premiere of the ballet from the controversial new opera "Sappho," choreographed by the celebrated Mme. Giry for the Peerless Ballet.

Refreshments will be served throughout the evening (Since we lack the catering budget of the Paris Opera Populaire, your potluck contributions will be deeply appreciated).

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Thursday, March 9

*Thrillville's Hipster Holocaust Blow-Out
Panic in the Year Zero*

www.thrillville.net
www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Cinema
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
9:15 p.m.
\$7

It's a HIPSTER HOLOCAUST BLOW-OUT featuring Ray Milland and once again, Frankie Avalon in a torrid tale of post-nuked LA survival, PANIC IN THE YEAR ZERO (1960)! With explosive cocktail swingers Johnny and Gin of THE ATOMIC LOUNGE SHOW live on stage!

March 17–April 16, 2006

Zorro
Berkeley Repertory Theater
written and performed by Culture Clash
The Roda Theatre
2025 Addison Street
Berkeley

From their website:

“California was born from a clash of cultures, and now Culture Clash explodes the romantic myths surrounding its creation. Following their 2002 hit, Culture Clash in AmeriCCa, these missionaries of

mayhem return to Berkeley Rep with the world premiere of *Zorro*. Employing their usual irreverence, the trio takes on this legend to explore questions of homeland security in the Wild West—when Anglo-Americans struggled with such issues as Mexican immigration, Indian gambling and a governor born on foreign soil. At long last, it's a Latin look behind the mask of this mainstream icon invented by an Irish American. *Zorro* rides out of the pages of pulp fiction, through the Hollywood image machine and beyond the barriers of class, race and ethnicity to become a hero for the oppressed in every land. Both history and histrionics play a role when *Zorro* is unsheathed!”

March 19, 2006

Science Fiction Book Club
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
6 p.m.
Free

This month's book is *Declare* by Tim Powers. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Saturday, April 1, 2006

The Toon Town Hop
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
Doors Open: 7 p.m.
Dance lesson: 7:15 p.m.
Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by March 25)
At the door: \$20.00
From their website:

“As any cartoon aficionado can tell you, some of the best film music actually appears in cartoons. In celebration of the classic age of cartoons, we invite you to the Toon Town Hop, a vintage dance ball inspired by the best cartoon music of the 20th century.

“Suggested costume is vintage or modern evening dress (Mouse ears optional!). Guests may also attend as their favorite cartoon character (vintage or modern!).

“The dazzlingly versatile Divertimento Dance Orchestra will play a multi-period program of beautiful and energetic dance music from both classic and modern cartoons. Dance classic waltzes and polkas, ragtime teens and 20's dances, 30's and 40's Swing and fox trot, stirring marches, and a variety of other ballroom and set dances at this wildly varied event. For us diehard

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dancers, there will be DJ dance music of some truly off-the-wall but extremely danceable cartoon music during the intermissions.

“There will be a light buffet of T.V. snacks – everything your mother said was bad for you (and she was probably right) and complimentary non-alcoholic drinks. Contributions to the buffet are, as always, very welcome. Intermission entertainment includes vintage dance performances by the Peers Flying CirCUS and a cartoon music sing-along.”

Thursday, April 13

Thrillville's Ninth Anniversary Show

Forbidden Planet

www.thrillville.net

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

It's THRILLVILLE'S NINTH ANNIVERSARY SHOW featuring the all-time sci-fi favorite FORBIDDEN PLANET (1956) and spaced out theremin lounge band PROJECT PIMENTO live on stage!

April 16, 2006

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Dark Beyond The Stars* by local author Frank Robinson. Author will visit. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Sunday, April 24, 2006

3DB Con

www.threedollarbill.com/3DBcon

Three Dollar Bill Cafe 1800 Market Street

San Francisco

10 a.m.-10 p.m.

\$10

Game Convention.

Saturday, May 6, 2006

The Fairy Tale Masquerade Ball

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo

Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.

Dance lesson: 7:15 p.m.

Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by April 29, 2006)

At the door: \$20.00

May 11-14, 2006

World Horror Con 2006

Gateway Holiday Inn

www.whc2006.org

The world horror con comes to the bay area.

Thursday, May 11

Thrillville's Mad Mexican Monster Mash

Night of the Bloody Apes

www.thrillville.net

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

It's a MAD MEXICAN MONSTER MASH featuring the lurid South of the Border clas-sick NIGHT OF THE BLOODY APES (1969), with masked female wrestlers vs a rampaging rapist

Send your items for inclusion in our calendar section to:
SFinSF@gmail.com

apeman and his evil mad scientist creator!
Live opening act TBA!
Admission: \$7

May 21, 2006

Science Fiction Book Club
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
6 p.m.
Free

This month's book is the graphic novel *Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

May 26-29, 2006

Fanime Con
San Jose Convention Center
San Jose
www.fanime.com

The largest annual anime convention in the Bay Area. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, multiple tracks of anime, Asian films, J-pop concert, much more.

May 26-29, 2006

Baycon
San Jose Doubletree Inn
San Jose
www.baycon.org
\$45 until August 31

The largest annual general SF convention in the Bay area. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, anime room, much more.

May 26-29 2006

Kublacon
Burlingame Hyatt Regency
1333 Bayshore Highway
Burlingame
Guests: TBA.
Memberships: TBA.
Gaming convention.

August 4-6 2006

Anime Overdose 2006
www.animeod.com
San Francisco
\$30 to ?, \$45 at door
Anime convention.

Saturday, September 2, 2006

Captain Morgan's Privateers (We Ain't Pirates No More) Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.
Dance Lesson: 7:15 p.m.
Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by August 26, 2006)
Tickets: \$20.00 at the door

September 8-10, 2006

Creation Salutes Star Trek: The 40th Anniversary Celebration
Doubletree Hotel
Sacramento
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento
Memberships: Gold Weekend Package: \$399.

Creation brings William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy to Sacramento. And no, that's not a typo on the price. Cheaper packages will be announced later.

Send your items for inclusion in our calendar section to:
SFinSF@gmail.com

November 4, 2006

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS

Venue: TBD

No information as yet for this just announced vampire-theme ball event.

July 6-9, 2007

Westcon 60: Gnomeward Bound

DoubleTree Hotel

San Jose

Ongoing:

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

Mondays at 8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org

Legion of Rassilon

Doctor Who fan group

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

Meets every fourth Friday at 7:30 p.m.

(No December meeting)

Free

Showing episodes of the new Dr. Who series, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

Anime Style Drawing and Animation Techniques

Frank Bette Center for the Arts

www.frankbettecenter.org/

1601 Paru Street

Alameda, CA 94501

510-523-6957

Fridays 4 p.m – 6 p.m.

\$10 teens per session

\$35 adults per session

Professional illustrator and fine artist

Ken McGhee helps participants develop the skills they need to draw characters, taking the class on a journey through the process and techniques of manga. Drop-in class, all skill levels welcome.

Bay Area Role-Playing Society

www.BayRPS.com

Go-Getter's Pizza

1489 Beach Park Boulevard

Foster City

Wednesdays from 6pm to 10pm

Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details send email to: GM@BayRPS.com. (Not confirmed, check before attending.)

SF Games

vax.hanford.org/dk/games

Muddy's Coffeehouse

1304 Valencia Street near 24th

San Francisco

7:00 p.m. to midnight

Free

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 cards night on Tuesdays at Café Macondo, 3159 16th Street between Guerrero and Valencia.