

Science Fiction/San Francisco

The twice-monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area.

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Bay Area Fanzines

A new issue of Emerald City hit EmCit.com. This issue features reviews of *Eternity Artifact*, Steven Erikson's *Memories of Ice*, Maurice G. Dantec's *Babylon Babies*, Tim Powers' *The Anubis Gates*, and local author Michael Blumlein's *The Healer*,

all reviewed by Cheryl Morgan. Juliet E. McKenna and Mario Guslandi also have a couple of reviews.

The Drink Tank put out three issues since the last SF/SF, Issue 54 being 12 pages, including a look at Moscow Nightlife. Issue 55 had a long article on LosCon by Redwood City's Kelly Green and a piece by

longtime San Mateo resident Mike Swan. Issue 56, a history issue, features articles by Frank Wu, Chris Garcia, M Lloyd, Jay Crasdan, SaBean and Judith Morel and others.

Chris Garcia also just finished editing The National Fantasy Fan for the National Fantasy Fan Federation (or N3F).

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Lloyd Penney writes:

After all this time, I finally have a little extra time to get writing again. This making a living sucks. I can relax a little, and get caught up with some zines, most definitely with SF/SF. I have issues 11 and 12, and you're probably all set to put out 13, but catching up is what I seem to do.

11...It is so difficult to cover such a wide area as the Bay Area. Every so often, I find something locally that is definitely fandom-related, but it's been going for many years, and I never knew about it. I'm thinking of a local SF club at a university campus in nearby Mississauga. They say they've been around for 20 years, yet never knew about the general fannish activities that's been the main part of my fannish life here. Are they insular, or are we? Two ships crossing in the night comes to mind.

It looks like the word is getting out about this zine. Good! The more readers you have, the more potential contacts you have for events and conventions. Everyone can be a stringer.

Yes, Chris Garcia is a hobbit! The world's tallest hobbit, if his admission about his height elsewhere is anything to

go by. I'd like nothing better than to come and visit in the Bay Area... got a con down there that needs a guest they can ship in? That may be the only way I'll get down there. Right now, we are saving to go to the LA Worldcon, so wish us luck and lottery wins, and we'll see you there.

I believe Alan Lee was in Toronto some time ago, at the Tolkien convention in 2003, and also at Ad Astra the year before, I believe. I would happily sit myself down and watch all three movies again, and read up on all the accompanying books and essays on the production. The *Narnia* series looks promising, but I have already seen a negative review of the movie online, saying that is too faith-based, and very slow. Well, the Lewis *Narnia* books are very Christian in nature, so I don't see any problems with that. I think those negative reviews may come from those who haven't read the books.

Good to see the Space Elevator Challenge working out. Yvonne found out about this some time ago at one of the space conferences she attended in 2004, and USask and UBC were right up to the challenge. This is just one of the Centennial Challenges NASA is putting out to universities and private organizations to accelerate the creation of the technology we'll need to go to Mars, live and work

there, and aim for the stars.

Did the end of the article on Dava Sobel disappear somewhere? (I noticed that a couple of times in both issues, where the final bit of article disappears off the page, and a new article starts.) Also, I haven't seen anything Rocky Horror-ish in Toronto in some time. No Frank N. Furters hovering around the front of a movie theatre, or anything like that. Have we serioused up too much here?

12...Yvonne and I have been able to get an overall look at local fandom because our interests have changed over time. I've been a Trekfan, a convention fan, a costumer, and of course, a fanzine fan, and I've helped out friends over the years with running their conventions, so I have at least had a look at *Doctor Who* fandom and filk fandom. We figure that as long as you're having fun and doing something constructive, your fandom and fannish activities are genuine. There are now so many interests covered by the term "fandom," and that variety of interests is invigorating fandom as we know it, IMHO. Not everyone thinks that, but look at it this way, you'll never be bored. (By the way, if you see lots of people wandering down the sidewalks downtown talking to no one in particular, don't assume they're crazy... they may just have a cell phone you can't see.)

Great photos overall... doing The Time Warp at any event raises a smile, especially at the Vampire's Ball. (Would have been great at the Regency event, too. Maybe that's too much anachronism, even for SCA.)

Our own activities... when I'm not going out at all hours to work a trade show, or go to work at the Globe and Mail, we do work cons, and our most recent activity was running the con suite for chairman Wayne Brown at Astronomicon 9 in Rochester, New York. Fun time, great to see so many old friends, and we ran a huge room, 3 rooms in fact. Guests at the con included Bob Eggleton and Spider and Jeanne Robinson, and the highlight of the weekend in the con suite for me was Spider's traditional Beatles jam.

Now that it's December officially, and everyone's gearing up for the big day (I've been seeing ads for Christmas stuff since just before Halloween), I can wish all of you folks a fun Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa/Solstice/good excuse to party, and as I usually wind up saying this time of year, party hearty, and don't look to me for the bail money. See you with issue 13.

Jean Martin responds:

Hi Lloyd... good to hear from you again.

Thanks for making us one of your reading priorities! Yes, making a living does get in the way of doing the things we really would rather do. Although I'm very grateful to have a job that's relatively creative and pays the bills. It also doesn't tax my mind, body and spirit as much as my past jobs have. So it leaves me with the time and energy to do my "real" jobs: SF/SF, BAERS, PEERS and my other dance, costuming and scifi activities.

The Bay Area is definitely a huge territory to cover and the variety of fan activities is staggering. I've been living in the Bay Area for 18 years and I just found out about fandom last year. But better late than never!

I can attest to the fact that Chris Garcia is definitely the world's tallest hobbit. Although I have a few friends from the One Ring Circus that could give him a run for his money. It's funny when I'm playing Eowyn or Arwen and they're in their hobbit outfits and they tower over me (see page 19 in Issue 10). Definitely let us know if you're ever in the Bay Area. BayCon in May is definitely worth the trip. I haven't been to WonderCon yet but will be doing so in February. It's a huge convention produced by the same folks that do Comic-Con, so it should be interesting. We hope to have some presence at both of these cons. Gotta keep getting the word out about SF/SF!

As for watching LOTR again... well, I've been meaning to get a group of friends together

to sit and watch all three extended versions in one day but everyone's just so busy. I have enough of a hard time just doing this myself! And I consider myself a huge LOTR fan (for over 20 years). There's just too many new movies coming out and I haven't been up on these this year either. King Kong is definitely on my list of must sees. The Chronicles of Narnia is probably one to see on the big screen as well. I have a feeling it might be too slow as well and might be too kid-oriented. I have that problem with the Harry Potter movies. None of them have really stayed with me. Same with the books. I mean they're entertaining, but they haven't blown me away or anything. But I haven't seen the latest one so maybe I'll change my mind. I hear this latest installment is darker and more adult.

Hmm... you're right. The end of the Dava Sobel article is missing. Not sure what happened there. We'll have to watch out for that. Thanks for bringing it to our attention.

Glad you enjoyed the photos. Jack and I both like livening up the page with colorful photos. Oh, and you'll be glad to know that we finally have an article about the local Doctor Who fan club, the Legion of Rassilon. Seems like I got roped into yet another fan club!

Sounds like you're very involved in fandom and do a lot of interesting things in your area. Working cons sounds like a lot of fun. I thought about doing that as well but my plate

is overflowing at the moment as it is. But as you mentioned, interests change as years go by and I probably will want a change of scenery at some point and do something new. It's great to know that there are so many opportunities out there for people to get involved.

Yikes, it is December already! I've already decorated my home and my office and I'm all excited about going to Mexico for the holidays.

I can't believe that the year's almost over though. This year has been such a big year for me. Lots of exciting new things have come my way. Lots of things I only dreamt about for years and years have become reality. I'm very grateful for all of these things but I'm anxious about what next year's going to bring. I hope more of the same!

It looks like though with the holidays and

all, we won't have as many fan activities to cover, and my staff seems not to have as much time available to do much for our last two issues of the year. But I guess these things are cyclical. I'm sure we'll have lots more to entertain you all in the near future. In the meantime, happy holidays to everyone in case I don't get the chance to say so in our last issue for the year.

BlogWatch: NaNoWriMo

By Christopher J. Garcia

National Novel Writing Month is over for everyone, and not just those of us with hyper-active typing fingers who finished in 3 days. It was a long and tough road, but more people finished than ever before, and since the SF Bay Area is far and away the largest participant section in the world, we managed to finish some interesting SF, Fantasy and Horror novels. According to the NaNoWriMo rules, everyone who finished by Midnight on November 30th is a winner after their word count is verified as greater than 50k by the device on nanowrimo.org.

Here are some Bay Area Highlights.

Sailor, a San Franciscan, finished a novel called *Angels Unwelcome* that topped 101k

words. That's more than 3,333 words a day! No word on whether or not he's looking for publishers, but 101k words would put him at the top of the SF winners. Mdgarcia, also from the city, hit sixty-six thousand words, an impressive number. Her novel *Knightfall* is an SF novel and the excerpt reads something like post-modern Brian Aldiss mixed with Steven Baxter. Elgimpo from Santa Cruz finished *Quarantine: Night of the Illuminati* and qualified as a winner with 24 words to spare. It's a comedy piece that features Dan Brown as one of the characters. His excerpt reads like an interview and it made me laugh a lot.

Coming closer to my neck of the woods, Ealasaid Haas of Milpitas made it five years in a row with her *Portrait of The*

Librarian as a Young Vampire. You can read snippets of it at www.ealasaaid.com/nano and it's highly worth it. HarleanC of San Jose finished too, and cut it close to the wire, with her novel *Viva Las Zombie*. Being a guy who loves a good zombie story, I was intrigued and the opening line of her excerpt is awesome. "The most beautiful chapter in your life should never end on a Greyhound bus." I've asked to see if I could give the full thing a read, and hopefully that'll happen soon. Laura Davis of San Jose finished a fantasy novel called *For She Walks in the Twilight*. Another San Josean, jfmaitre, also finished a fantasy work called *Kith and Kin* which would seem to read a

Please see BlogWatch, page 20

The Legion of Rassilon: The Doctor's In The House

By Jean Martin
Editor

I've considered myself a *Doctor Who* fan for several years now, ever since I moved to the U.S. in 1987 and discovered the series on KTEH. KTEH has introduced me to so many programs that I've loved: *Blackadder*, *Red Dwarf*, anything on *Mystery!* and

Masterpiece Theatre. Suffice it to say, KTEH has been my favorite station for almost 20 years. I don't really watch much TV anymore except for KTEH! Nope, I'm not part of the KTEH pledge drive. But yes, please become a member and support the station!

Anyway, back to *Doctor Who*: Tom Baker was a hoot, Peter Davison I thought

was quite interesting, and I even liked the Paul McGann U.S. TV version. Yes, I must admit I'm one of those who liked the romantic Doctor. Besides, it was set in San Francisco. But I really became a huge, nay rabid, fan after I saw the new Doctor, Christopher Eccleston. I enjoyed every single one of the 13 episodes that came out this year. I was lucky enough to procure all the episodes. Wow, all the episodes are modern, cutting-edge and fast-paced but still retain the quirky British sense of humor and mystery of the *Doctor Who* oeuvre. And Christopher Eccleston is just amazing! He can be silly and strange one minute, dashing and swoon-worthy the next, and dramatic and emotional after that. I think he gives the role a gravitas that none of the previous Doctors were able to impart. As the Doctor, he seems a real person, one with depth and personality. He's not just a one-dimensional sci-fi character that you can't take seriously. I mean, I do love Tom Baker's long woolly scarf but Christopher Eccleston in a leather jacket... hmmm, need I say more?

I saw him in other movies in the past but



LoR Members Waiting for Doctor Who Episode Viewing

Photo by Jean Martin

I guess he never really stood out until his role as the Doctor. If you haven't seen the episodes yet... run, don't walk... and ask anyone that you can beg, borrow or steal the episodes from. Well, maybe not steal. Yes, they're that good. And the sets finally don't look like they were filmed in the back lot of the BBC. They filmed all the episodes in Wales and you can actually see modern



LoR Current President Merv Staton Showing Doctor Who Christmas Postcard

Photo by Jean Martin

Cardiff in one episode. Oh, and now that I'm done gushing over Christopher Eccleston, I must say that Billie Piper, who plays the Doctor's sidekick Rose, is equally awesome. She's more than just a sidekick really: She's the heart and humanity of the show. She also contributes quite a lot to the plots. The romantic tension between her and the Doctor is quite delightful and believable. John Barrowman as Captain Jack also adds spice to some of the episodes. He plays a Han Solo-like character. Very playful, charming and quite the rogue. He's actually getting his own spin-off called *Torchwood*, which I'm also dying to see.

Well, if you all don't know by now, though, Christopher Eccleston quit before all the episodes were even aired. He's been replaced by David Tennant. I won't spoil it for those who haven't seen the series yet by saying anything about how this comes about. But in any case, this brings me to the dilemma I had, and the solution that serendipitously presented itself in the form of the local *Doctor Who* fan club, the Legion of Rassilon (LoR)

I was wondering how I could get to see the David Tennant episodes, and I was also thinking of doing a story on the LoR for SF/SF. But I couldn't find any information anywhere on how to get in touch with anyone in the group. As fate would have

it, when I was at SiliCon recently and went to see the "Meet the Guests" event, I sat next to the president of LoR, Merv Staton, without my even knowing it! When I met him, I told him right away that I was interested in doing an article on LoR.

So I went to their last meeting on November 25, the day after Thanksgiving. Which was great because the meeting was all the way in San Jose, and there wasn't the usual Friday rush hour traffic. I got to Carl's Jr. on North First Street, not too far from the Doubletree where I met Merv, and was surprised to see that they had a whole room to themselves in the back complete with a huge projector screen hanging from the ceiling. I was also surprised to see that one of my fellow SF Browncoats, Mike Miyake, was there as well. As I've mentioned so often in past articles, it's so great that there's such an overlap in fandom. There were around 20 members in attendance and they were all so warm and welcoming. They're a tight-knit group and seem like they've known each other forever. But still, they made me feel at home. So much so that I now consider myself part of the group and would love to attend future meetings when I can. According to Merv, LoR has been around since 1982 but they've only been meeting at this Carl's Jr. this year.

We all got something to eat first and

then we settled down to watch three episodes. The first was the new David Tennant episode! Well, it was only around seven minutes long because it was shown as part of the "Children in Need" fundraising appeal in the U.K. It was just aired last November 18 and I was so happy to be able to see it already! I saw it twice actually as Merv asked if we wanted to see it again since it was so short. Well, David Tennant is no Christopher Eccleston. He seems too young and not as serious. But I'll give him another chance when I see *The Christmas Invasion*. This will be aired on Christmas Day in the U.K. and I hope I'll get to see it through the LoR at some point. Unfortunately, I will be on vacation during the next meeting. So I hope they show it again in January!

Before we saw the episode, though, Merv's wife Judith Richardson, who's also the Treasurer of the group, sold some raffle tickets. Prizes included some really cool *Doctor Who* stuff. The drawing was held after the David Tennant episode was shown. I won two of the prizes!

Then we got to see two more episodes, this time with Christopher Eccleston. First we saw one of my favorites, *Father's Day*. I can't believe I cried at the end again like I did when I first saw it. It's such a touching story about how Rose wanted to see her

father the day he died and how she winds up wreaking havoc with Time because of it. Then we saw *The Doctor Dances*, which is the second part of another of my favorite episodes, *The Empty Child*. Both are set in London during World War II and herald the arrival of Captain Jack into the series. It was so much fun watching these episodes with a group of fans, and not just by myself in my own living room.

In between episodes, we all socialized and I found out that a lot of the members are going to the *Doctor Who* convention in L.A. called Gallifrey. This will be held on February 17-19.

I also found out some more information that a Whovian such as myself would be interested in. The *Doctor Who* web site features a countdown until the next episode, and some pictures from *The Christmas Invasion*. Merv showed us a picture of the Christmas *Tardis*. I also finally found out that the group has a web site and a Yahoo! group so that members and potential members can find out more information about them and about their meetings. LoR meets on the fourth Friday of each month at the same Carl's Jr. at 7:00 p.m. By the way, you need the approval of the moderator(s) to join the Yahoo! Group. Just tell them I sent you their way and I'm sure they'll welcome you as cordially as

they've welcomed me.

Here are the pertinent web sites:
<http://www.legionofrassilon.org/>
http://tv.groups.yahoo.com/group/legion_of_rassilon/
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/doctorwho/>
<http://www.gallifreyone.com/>



LoR Current Treasurer Judith Richardson Preparing for Raffle

Photo by Jean Martin

George R.R. Martin on *A Feast For Crows*

By Diane Rooney
Staff Writer

He's finally done it. George R.R. Martin announced to nearly 250 eager fans gathered for a lunchtime signing at Stacey's last November 17 that his latest book, *A Feast for Crows*, will debut on the New York Times Best Seller list November 27 in the #1 spot. This is the first time one of his books has debuted in the top spot.

Martin went on to thank his Bantam editor and publicist and others who made the latest book possible, especially his fans. "Some books debut at #1 because of ads or because they're by Bill Clinton or a movie star, or because Oprah liked them," he said, noting that his books, while they've made the bestseller list in the past, have spread by word of mouth rather than advertising or television appearances.

He had been on the road a week and a half at the time of his Stacey's visit, and shared an interesting story about the trials of book tours. In 1996 for *A Game of Thrones*, he was booked into a leftist-feminist bookstore in St. Louis on a

Saturday night. The publicist wasn't aware that Archon, St. Louis' annual sci fi and fantasy convention, was taking place that weekend, not in the city but some thirty

miles away in Collinsville, IL. And on that night Ray Bradbury and his friend Ray Harryhausen were speaking.

So there were only four people in the



George R.R. Martin

Photo: Diane Rooney

bookstore café when it was time to start. Martin said he'd be happy to go ahead. But when he was announced, "the four people picked up their cappuccinos and left." He joked that lots of authors have had signings where no one came, but not many have

actually driven people away!

Turning to his new book, Martin referred to *A Feast for Crows* as "the fourth book in my trilogy." The work was five years in the making, and is coming out, in Martin's view, "three years late."



George R.R. Martin signs a book for a fan

Photo: Diane Rooney

Work on the book resumed after Martin's famous Five Year Gap. He discarded some material and reworked what remained. "Then the book got long." He decided last year to divide it in half geographically and by character. So *Feast* covers characters in the Seven Kingdoms only, with nothing about Daenerys, the dragons, or the folks left up at The Wall at the end of *A Storm of Swords*. The next book, *A Dance with Dragons*, will go back to those threads. He already has 500 pages, cut from *Crows*, and needs 500-600 more. So, he assured fans, "it shouldn't be five years 'til the next book."

Martin stressed that he's been a writer all his life, not just since he began writing professionally in 1971. He wrote horror stories as a kid in New Jersey and sold them to his friends for a nickel to get money for candy bars. As a youth he was heavily involved in comic book culture.

Asked if his writing in the horror genre had influenced him to kill off so many of his main characters, he said no, noting that "people die in all of my work, it's not related to the horror genre... I was killing characters before I got into professional print. Maybe I saw *A Tale of Two Cities* at too early an age."

He described one of his early stories, *The Strange Saga of the White Raider*. The

Raider was a superhero on skis. One ski pole was a submachine gun and the other was a flame thrower. Despite the weaponry, the Raider was killed off.

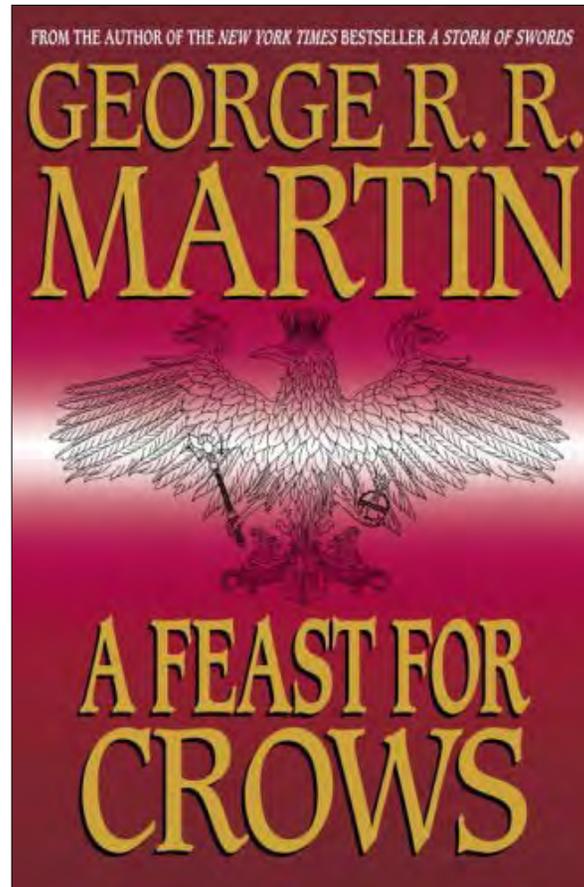
“I want to involve my readers emotionally,” he said. “I want the reader to feel that fear. The story is for keeps. That’s why I kill people. It’s not like a rollercoaster where there’s a thrill but the fear is not real, not like being in combat. Are you going for a visceral experience or just a thrill? It’s like Indiana Jones facing 46 Nazis. Those Nazis didn’t have a chance because he was Indiana Jones. I want you to be them and feel what they’re feeling. If you make a mistake, you die.”

Martin has read “everybody” in the fantasy genres, from J.R.R. Tolkien to Andre Norton to H.P. Lovecraft. To a question about whether the Drowned God was an homage to Lovecraft, he replied that it was not intended as such, but perhaps a resemblance could be seen because of how much he had absorbed over the years.

Fans were very interested in Martin’s writing process. He writes on a computer, and doesn’t use an outline, saying that’s a reaction to the 10 years of outlining material he did for “the suits in Hollywood.” “It’s a journey,” says Martin. “I know the destination and the main roads but not the details of the byways and the

people I’ll meet.” The process, he admits, leads to dead ends sometimes, so he needs to go back and revise, but he says, “It keeps it alive for me.”

Martin divides his writing process into two parts: deciding what happens in the scene and getting it down in words. He describes the latter as “a difficult, painful thing... I’ve seen it, but getting it on the page is work.” For him, making up what happens is the more creative process — “then you just have to find the words.”



How does he decide whose perspective to tell a thread from? My motto is, “Show don’t tell,” he stated. “I try to avoid flashback and tell in real time.” In the Five Year Gap, Martin says, he was using too many flashbacks and didn’t like it. As to the choice of viewpoint, he thinks about who was there, present at the event. “Do I tell it through reports, or do I create a new viewpoint character to tell a thread?”

“Every viewpoint character has their own story.” He doesn’t like to do a character just for the viewpoint. “Even the Prologue characters, all of whom die, are given a story.”

Asked how he keeps track of all his characters and locations, he replied, “I don’t know, it’s a miracle.” “I have some charts and paper but mostly it’s in my head. I’m very good at keeping track of Westeros but not the real world. If you come up again to have your book signed after the first three, I won’t remember you. I use those brain cells to keep track of Walder Frey’s household guard.”

We all could have listened to Martin talk about his worlds and about the craft of writing for many hours, but time was short, there were hundreds of books to sign, and another appearance in San Francisco later that day (for a total of five in the Bay Area.)

Costumers Gather for Harry Potter



Andrew as Professor Lockhart

Photo by Diane Rooney

Several members of the Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild attended an opening night showing of *Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire* at the Metreon in San Francisco on Friday, November 18.

Many came in costumes representing or inspired by characters from the popular series.



Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy

Photo by Diane Rooney



Darien as Professor Snape

Photo by Diane Rooney



Costumers Guild Members at Harry Potter Opening

Photo by Diane Rooney



Top: Phil Guste as Professor Lysander Philpots.

Left: Kendra Van Cleave as Professor Trelawney, Sarah Lorraine as Ginny Weasley, and Kati as Belladonna Toadsword of the Ministry of Evil.

Photos by Diane Rooney

Total Robot Carnage!

The 2005 Competition for the ComBots Cup and the Robot Fighting League National Championship

By Sasha Nealand

This year's competition for the ComBots Cup and the Robot Fighting League (RFL)



Bike Jousting

Photo by Sasha Nealand

National Championship was held in the heart of San Francisco's Marina district. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 11-13, robot Gladiators bashed it out for the ComBots and RFL championships in a bulletproof arena at Fort Mason's Festival Pavilion stadium.

The ComBots Cup is an open competition with a \$10,000 cash prize and trophy going to the winner, while the RFL Nationals is an invitational event. Friday was the big opening party, with Saturday devoted to the elimination rounds, which went on until 11 p.m., and Sunday seeing the final battles for the championships of the two competitions. The competitions were sponsored by such big names as Austin Semiconductors and Samsung, and drew competitors and spectators from all over the U.S. and Canada.

The ComBots Cup event, which has been held since 1994, was organized by ComBots, which also holds the International ROBOlympics and RoboGames. It was presented by the Robotics Society of

America, which holds monthly meetings at San Francisco State University (SFSU), headed by ComBots organizer and roboteer extraordinaire David Calkins. Calkins is a pudgy high-energy man with a red beard and curling waxed moustaches. A widely respected robot builder, he teaches robotics and computer engineering at SFSU. He is the president of the Robotics Society of America and founder of the international ROBOlympics competition. He also works with NASA's Robotics Education Project for kids, and judges for the RFL, BotBall, FIRST Lego League and BattleBots. On the side of all that, he is involved in a company which builds competition robots and home-based consumer robots. The ComBots rules are based on the RFL Standard Ruleset.

The second of the two championships at ComBots was hosted by the RFL, which was founded in November 2002 by a consortium of many combat robot event organizers. The RFL's mission is to promote the sport of fighting robots,

provide consistency between events, and support builders and event organizers.

Many of the competitors were college students and hobbyists, building their robots in their garages for a few thousand dollars. Each round is a one-on-one fight in a bulletproof polycarbonate arena that is completely enclosed and transparent for close-up viewing by the crowds in the bleachers. The crowd was about half preteens and parents, and half grunge adolescents and older folks sporting leathers, chains and raccoon caps. As the night wore on the crowd crept closer, some seating themselves atop a forklift next to the judging table. The two announcers, kitted out in black motorcycle leathers, sported punk hairdos (a spiky black do and a green fluorescent Mohawk) and horn-rimmed glasses. Setting the flavor for the evening, these technically adept gearheads kept up a running commentary on the action in the pit: “Friends, Middlebots, lend me your ears...”

Resembling something from *Beyond Thunderdome* or Steven Spielberg’s *AI*, each match started off with a robot at either end of the fighting pit. The robots often introduced themselves by lunging backwards against the clear plastic sides of the arena, to the delight of the crowd. The resounding noise of two robots bashing the

walls caused spectators to rush back to the pit to catch the action, while the crowd chanted, “Two bots enter, one bot leaves!” in a deafening roar.

The total number of bots battling for the ComBots Cup 2005 was 36. Three classes in all competed for the ComBots cup: Middleweight, Heavyweight and Superheavyweight. The Heavyweight bots were competing for the \$10,000 Heavyweight Championship, with organizer David Calkins making the final decision.

The RFL 2005 National Championship Series gathered nearly 100 of the finest fighting robots from all over the U.S. and Canada in a series of combat elimination rounds ending in a final battle that brought the winners of each event together to fight for the national title. RFL featured fighting classes in order of increasing weight: Fairyweight (5.3 oz), Antweight (1 lb), Beetleweight (3 lbs), Hobbyweight (12 lbs), Featherweight (30 lbs), Lightweight (60 lbs), Middleweight (120 lbs), Heavyweight (220 lbs) and Superheavyweight (340 lbs). There were 88 robots in all, with the majority being in the Antweight class.

I was part of a team that built a 12-pound spiked spinner, so for me the most interesting battles were in the 12-pound Hobbyweight class — big enough to really

battle, but small enough to be affordable to the average builder. At ComBots this year, there were nine Hobbyweight robots. For the RFL championship in the Hobbyweight



The ComBots Cup

Photo by Sasha Nealand



Total Anarchy and Icewave

Photo by Sasha Nealand

flipper.

The final matches on Sunday started with one of the most spectacular rounds of the evening, a grudge match in the Middleweight class between Icewave (IU) and Total Anarchy. Icewave, an electric blue wheeled bot, sporting cool ice flames, had a gas powered horizontal spinning blade (which was one-third the total weight of the bot) as its primary weapon, and a large wedge as a secondary weapon. Total Anarchy is a beefy robot featuring a massive wedge for its primary weapon and another equally massive wedge

for its secondary weapon. Both robots had previously competed at several other popular robot battles around the country.

To the roar of “fight, fight, fight...” the two bots crashed together in a spectacular shower of sparks. They were equally matched until in a terrific confrontation, Icewave’s metal head went flying across the arena, sans body. Leaking from the gas tank that powered its weapon, Icewave made a final comeback flipping Anarchy against the wall of the arena in the final 16 seconds. Since this was a grudge match and

didn’t count for the competition, the crowd picked its winner: Icewave!

The RFL Nationals Finals in the Middleweight class, which was whittled down to two out of the eight total competing robots in this category, was a fierce fight between two wedge robots. One of the most evenly matched bouts of the evening was Angry Asp versus Devil’s Plunger, both built by the same winning team, Team PlumbCrazy. Angry Asp featured four high-powered spiked spinning drums as its primary weapon, with a formidable wedge as a secondary weapon. This massive bot relied heavily on the skilled unpredictable driving of its operators, while its adversary, Devil’s Plunger, used quick and powerful aggressive actions to beat down its opponent. In a tremendously exciting moment of the battle, chunks of red rubber went flying around the arena, bouncing off the walls as Devil’s Plunger had its wheels chewed off by the incredibly powerful whirling action of Angry Asp’s four spiked spinning drums. It looked like it was all up with Devil’s Plunger but then in a twist of fate, riding on one bare wheel drum, Devil’s Plunger was able to wedge Angry Asp against the wall and flip it over in the final seconds, causing the Asp to lose mobility and just barely gaining a 17-16 win.

Intermission and after-competition entertainment was provided by the Beer-Can Can-can girls, the bicycle jousters BruceBot and JoeBot, and Flash the Bartender and his flame-throwing 240cc drink blender. The bicycle jousters BruceBot and JoeBot, billed as “too dumb to die and too smart to live,” faced off in a “totally insane battle of cyborg proportions.” Wearing aluminum foil-covered cardboard armor, they went at it astride their wheeled steeds, waving

flails made of slinkies and wielding padded lances with “dangerous robot action,” in an exciting three-minute round. The crowd went wild, yelling, “Kill the wabbit, kill the wabbit” as the bout ensued with highly humorous, slapstick violence.

After the intermission, the stadium lights were darkened, and with the speakers blaring the *Star Wars* “Rebel attack on the Death Star” symphony, the final round and crown jewel of the competition began.

Featuring two very seasoned fighters facing off in the Heavyweight competition, finalists Karcas 2 (Team: Mutant Robots) versus Sewer Snake (Team: PlumbCrazy) began the final bout. Karcas 2, a green robot resembling an alligator with a spiked tail and a nasty pair of pincers, had all of its weapon power concentrated in its formidable steel alligator jaws. It definitely won on looks and personality, but these winning traits did not help it as it was flipped out of victory by the awesome power of Sewer Snake, who also competed for the RFL National Championship. Sewer Snake is a ferocious bot with three rows of huge red rubber wheels giving it incredible speed and power, and a monstrous Invertible Lifting Wedge. The team explained their strategy: “Ram ‘em into the wall then flip ‘em over it!,” which certainly worked against Karcas 2. The \$10,000 and a specially designed ComBot Cup were presented to the 120-pound Heavyweight Champion, Sewer Snake and Team PlumbCrazy. In addition, the ComBots Cup winner qualified for next year’s RFL Nationals, so in essence next year’s season, 2006, started with the fantastic finale of Sunday night’s competition.

Check out the ComBots web page at <http://combots.net/index.php>.



Sewer Snake and Karcus face off.

Photo by Sasha Nealand

Loscon: The Bay Area Perspective

By Chris Garcia
Editor

For Thanksgiving Weekend, 300 miles is nothing, a mere blip on the roadmap. The rules of distance don't apply for just that one weekend, and just about everyone is willing to travel. That may be why Loscon, LA's Thanksgiving Fannish Tradition, draws so many folks from San Diego, Las Vegas, Arizona and the BArea, as well as a few from elsewhere around North America. I was one of those who made the trip.

I had made my plans to meet up with Frank Wu and Jim Terman and stay with them at the LAX Marriott, the hosting hotel for the second year running. As soon as I got there, I could tell that there was going to be BArea flavor, as I walked in at ten a.m. and found SMOFs Michael Siladi, Mike Higashi, Tony Cratz and various others in the BayCon Cabal standing, waiting to get breakfast. I joined them and quickly found that things were going to be very interesting. Over breakfast, we all discussed the very few BayCon things that would be happening over the weekend (manning the fan tables, setting up the parties, chatting up everyone who would

listen), and just chilled. At least a dozen people that I recognized as my area code's locals were milling about, some of them coming by and chatting for a few seconds before heading off to their own meals.

After eating, I checked in and milled about. I made sure to visit the Fanzine Lounge, run by the great Milt Stevens, since I'll be taking command of BayCon's lounge come next May. It was small, but in the path to many of the major rooms, including the anime room. There were many issues of The Drink Tank lying around...mostly because I brought them with me and left them for people to take. I then did my time at the BayCon/Gnomeward Bound WesterCon 2007 table. It was a nice time and I ran into lots of BArea fans, like Rebecca Ince-Partridge, Dave Gallaher, and a dozen others who stopped by, and since the Burning Fan-Vegas in 2008 table was next to ours, Vegas fen James Stanley Daugherty, Kathryn Daugherty, James Taylor, and Merrick and Lubov Anderson all stopped by. I chatted them up and we had a great time.

The first night featured a dinner outing with Frank, Jim, former WorldCon chair Dave Clark, Kelley Green, her daughter

and her boyfriend, Diana Sherman and her boyfriend Andrew, and a few others who all headed out to Encounter at LAX. It was a fun time and we all had good food and drinks in a BArea fannish dinner that reminded me of some of the great Food Amoeba outings that Frank would lead at BayCon. Friday Night also featured all the parties, including the BayCon party. As always, it was well-attended and everyone had really good conversations while enjoying snackables and drinks. Since BayCon's party was at the end of the party hall, a long way off from the elevators, it maybe didn't get the attendance percentage they were expecting, but it was still a pretty busy party.

Saturday saw me sitting the fan table a bit more, and eating a fine lunch with the Fictionados writing group from LA. I spent a very good time in the fanzine lounge talking with Milt and Don Fitch, both of whom have been around fanzinery a lot longer than I have. I then ended up doing my first panel on Fanzines, where only one BArea fan showed up, Frank Wu, but Tim Kirk, who has 5 Fan Artist Hugos, was there, which was the first time a lot of folks had seen him in person. That night, I dined

with Vegas fandom and then did some time at the Gnomeward Bound WesterCon party. It was better attended than the previous night, and I hear that they did a fair bit of business with memberships. I was glad to attend and have a lot of fun talk with folks like Elisa Sheets and Lauraine Tutahassi.

I then headed up to Writer Guest of Honor Steven Brust's room to enjoy some songs and whiskey with a bunch of great folks, including the BArea-friendly Allison Lonsdale, whose songs I hadn't heard before

and who was most entertaining. That all wrapped up around 3 or so, leaving me tired for the big day.

And why was it the big day? Well, I had a panel with Tony Cratz and a couple of others on the History of Computing, and that was followed with a great panel on Paranormal Sciences. These were both well-attended.

By far, the biggest event when it came to BArea fen had to be the performance of Frank Wu's *The Tragical Historie of Guidolon: The Giant Space Chicken*. I played

Guidolon, The Giant Space Chicken, and the show went on to a smallish audience that included a BAreaan who recently moved down to LA, Mr. Steve Sprinkles, and a few others. The laughs were big and the show went amazingly well. There are plans for doing it at other cons.

So, I headed home. There were a lot of great moments, and the various Blogs will probably cover them much better than I can here. Loscon kinda showed that Bay Area fans are always out in the fannish world.

BASFA Minutes: meeting 800

November 21, 2005

Trey Haddad, President

Nathan Slerm-r & Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sargent at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began at 8:10 p.m. - as folks slid the curtains.

16 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 798 were accepted as 'out of time' &

the minutes of meeting 799 were accepted as 'on time'.

No Treasurer [week 1] & there was no proxy report. We established a party jar.

VP reports: no Nathan [week 4] & VP Chris reported that 'yes dammit' he has a report - that he leaves for Hemmit tomorrow, then head for Loscon & intends to have fun. Then we said 'hi' to Frank Wu.

Andy wanted it mentioned in the minutes that it was makingfiends.com.

The President said he had nothing fannish to report.

The Sports Committee reported that he

saw the Calgary Flames hockey team while passing through Calgary airport.

Announcements:

Chris announced that there's a new Drink Tank out.

Kevin R. announced that many wineries in Livermore are having wine releases.

Cheryl announced that the English rugby team was beaten by New Zealand so she's happy & 'two of our Australians are missing' [Trevor Stafford & Deborah Biancotti].

Mike announced that there's a Legion of Rasselon this Friday at the Carl's Jr at 1st &

Trimble.

Dave C. announced that Loscon is this weekend [go there & buy books].

Reviews:

Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire was multiply reviewed; Andy said they had to skin it, tan it, make it into a stole to make a movie - that the pacing was excellent & don't drink anything during the movie, that the costuming was well done & the set designs were fabulous - worth full price; I reviewed it as fun, pleasant, watchable, bladder-challenging & worth seeing twice at full price; Harold thought Weasley was weasel-y, Dumbledore disappointed him, the teen angst was annoying & the movie was worth matinee; Ed enjoyed it a lot, will see it again & thought the feel of the movie was different and thought movie #3 was better; Craig saw it in Texas & thought the climax between Harry & Valdemort was interesting & Mad-Eye Moody was a well-realized character, the adaptation was excellent & thinks it worth seeing 3 times at full price; Dave C. made a bad joke [about 'When Harry Met Valdemort']; Kevin R. said it was a 'squeeee!' factory for fan-girls when he saw it; Trey thought it well-adapted from the book, thought the new characters were well-cast & that teen angst has never been his thing.

Kevin S. reviewed Calgary as quite nice,

full of friendly fans & he used the hotel hot tub; he recommends Air Canada to fly there.

Cheryl reviewed *Temeraire* by Naomi Novik as 3 parts Hornblower, 1 part Suzannah Clarke, 3 parts McCaffrey, 3 parts Biggles and very fun; and she reviewed the pirate shop 5 shops down from Borderlands as delightful and she recommends it.

Chris reviewed *Kitty of the Midnight Hour* by Vaughn as a book about talk radio, a fun book & worth the \$5 he paid for it at BASFA auction & reviewed *Hell Yeah* by the Horror Pops as rock-a-billy music and worth what he paid for it.

Fred reviewed *Jesus is Magic* as full of humor and irreverence and interesting and worth full price.

Craig reviewed seeing all 3 *Lord of the*

Rings films shown back-to-back as extremely good [during which 7 meals were served] - as one of the most unique experiences of his life.

Dave C. reviewed Asimov's *A Choice of Catastrophes* as a fun book, worth looking for.

Ed reviewed a stage production of *City of Angels* as really nicely done & Chris follow-on'd that it's his favorite stage piece.

Craig reviewed the play *Wicked* as worth seeing twice at full price & the story's great.

Then we auctioned off printed matter for = \$2.50; \$5.00, \$1.00; \$1.00; \$10.00 & \$13.00.

We adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was 'tongue-kissing a lizard is over-rated'.

BlogWatch

BlogWatch, from page 4

little like Robert Jordan by the excerpt.

For you Anthro fans out there, my dear pal Adam Riggs of Alameda completed a novel under the user name NicodemusRat. His novel, *Icon of Greed*, is an Anthro novel that topped 50k on the last day. If it gets

published, it'll make a nice companion piece with his other book, *Critter Costuming: Making Mascots and Fabricating Fursuits*.

There were hundreds of others who finished, and I wish I could list them all. You may want to head over to nanowrimo.org and search Team 2005 to see what folks in your area wrote.

BASFA Minutes: meeting 801

November 28, 2005

Trey Haddad, President

Nathan Slerm-r & Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sargent at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began at about 8:03 p.m.

14 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 800 were accepted as 'octacentaweekial'.

No Treasurer [week 2] & but we took in \$11.50 in the regular jar and \$29.25 in the party jar last week.

We established a party jar.

VP reports: no Nathan [week 5] & VP Chris reported that he just got back from Loscon and has very little fannish to report.

The President reported that the holidays are bearing down on us.

The Sports Committee reported that Doug Berry is trying to organize an outing to the California Museum in Oakland - check out his LJ 'gridlore'.

Announcements:

Cheryl announced that there are new 'Emerald Cities' & the 2 Australians have been found [& that beer or bribery may have been involved in their earlier escape].

Julie announced that the Dickens Fair opened last weekend and will continue for another 3 weeks - and that French post-cards are back and better than ever.

Chris announced there will be an issue of Drink Tank ['100 - though it's more like 200-something'] and he's looking for exactly 100-word long reviews, stories or anything - and get it to him by FurCon.

Kevin R. announced that there's a FurCon coiffure conspiracy going on - and check out his LJ 'kproche' for more details

Reviews:

Chris reviewed the Follies in Palm Springs as possibly the scariest thing he has ever been dragged off to see and worth being dragged off to; he also reviewed Loscon as he had a real good time this time, thought GoH Steven Brust was a lot of fun and a good singer & the highlight of the con was a dramatic reading of Frank Wu's *The Tragical History of Guidolon, the Giant Space Chicken* - and was great fun.

Andy reviewed free Sharks tickets as

definitely worth the price for parking and reviewed the California wine cellar with a 500 capacity as half full & worth the too much he invested in it. Kevin S follow-on'd that the hockey rules changes have made the games higher scoring.

Cheryl reviewed *The 13 1/2 Lives of Captain Bluebear* by Walter Moers as long and funny and about a blue bear ['sounds like a German LSD alternative' = Andy] - and as very, very silly.

Kevin R. reviewed horrible movies seen without any complaints - he found *Sahara* to be a genuine fun romp and *Manticore* seen between channel-flipping back to reruns of *Aeon Flux* as worth the price of admission - so he was happy.

Julie reviewed *Slap Dash* as a pretty good little independent movie and worth her [free] price of admission.

Harold reviewed the latest *Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austen as light and worth bargain matinee.

Then we auctioned off printed matter for \$0.50; \$3.00, \$0.25; \$1.00; \$2.00, \$1.00 and \$6.00.

We adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was '800 more times'.

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.

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.

SiliCon
www.siliconventions.com
October 6-8, 2006
Doubletree Hotel
San Jose
\$35 until August 31

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

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 addition 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 li-

onboogy 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 collectible 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
www.legionofrassilon.org/
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
third Saturday of each month at Café Mu-
rano 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.usdefiance.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.usnothernlights.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_](http://www.rahul.net/pierre/SRP/SRP_home.html)
[home.html](http://www.rahul.net/pierre/SRP/SRP_home.html)

San Francisco Bay Area Gaming Groups
[www.rahul.net/pierre/SRP/SRP_](http://www.rahul.net/pierre/SRP/SRP_local_groups.html)
[local_](http://www.rahul.net/pierre/SRP/SRP_local_groups.html)
[groups.html](http://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-ticklers 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; Batton 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.”

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

Thrillville’s Holiday Tiki Monster Mash featuring the original exotic Japanese monster-piece *Mothra* 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

AnimeFX Meeting

San Francisco State University

HSS 135

San Francisco

4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Free

Showing various anime and amvs.

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.

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

Saturday December 10

Comic Artist Marshall Rogers

Dimensions in Time

4235 Arden Way

Sacramento

www.dimensionsintime.com

Noon - 3 p.m.

Free

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

SF Browncoats

Cafe Murano

San Francisco

Noon

Free

Monthly meeting of the local Firefly fan group.

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.

Plus episodes from several anime series.

Saturday, December 10

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, 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* with trivia, prizes and more freaky festive fun!

Friday, December 16

Potluck Christmas Party
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
6 p.m.
Free

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.

Saturday, December 17

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.

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.

Tuesday, December 20

SF Browncoats Holiday Party

sfbrowncoats.com

Cafe Murano

San Francisco

8 p.m. - 11 p.m.

\$20

Serenity DVD release party. \$10 gift exchange.

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.

Tuesday, January 3

Mighty Joe Young

Castro Theater

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

Wednesday, January 4 -

Wednesday January 11

King Kong

Castro Theater

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

A restored print of the classic black and white movie.

More Events Next Page

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.

Saturday, January 7

Tim Pratt

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia

San Francisco
6 p.m.

Free

Borderlands welcomes Tim Pratt who is promoting his book *The Strange Adventures of Rangergirl*.

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* plus the sword-swirling sorcery of the Bay Area's bodacious belly-dancing troupe Clandestine 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.

Saturday, January 14

No Name Anime

www.nnanime.com

Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga

12:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. or so
Free

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.

Friday, January 20

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza

Howe Avenue

Sacramento

7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Free

Saturday, January 21

Bay Area Games Day

Los Altos Library

13 South San Antonio Road

Los Altos

10 a.m.. – 11p.m.

Free

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 science fiction 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*. With a live burlesque act.

February 10-12 2006

Wondercon

The Moscone Center

San Francisco

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

Saturday, February 11

No Name Anime

www.nnanime.com

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga

12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. or so

Free

Friday, February 17

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza

Howe Avenue

Sacramento

7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Free

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 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

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).

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 Frankie Avalon in a torrid tale of post-nuked LA survival, *Panic in the Year Zero*. With explosive cocktail swingers Johnny and Gin of *The Atomic Lounge Show* live on stage!

Saturday, March 11

No Name Anime

www.nnanime.com

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga

12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. or so

Free

March 17–April 16, 2006

Zorro

Berkeley Repertory Theater

written and performed by Culture Clash

The Roda Theatre

2025 Addison Street

Berkeley

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.

More Events Next Page

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 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 science fiction favorite *Forbidden Planet* and spaced out theremin lounge band Project Pimento live on stage.

More Events Next Page

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*, with masked female wrestlers vs a rampaging rapist apeman and his evil mad scientist creator. Live opening ac.

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

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

More Events Next Page

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.

October 6-8, 2006

SiliCon
www.siliconventions.com
Doubletree Hotel
San Jose
\$35 until August 31

November 4, 2006

Le Bal des Vampires
PEERS
Venue: TBD

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

July 6-9, 2007

Westercon 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
www.legionofrassilon.org/
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.

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.