

Science Fiction/San Francisco

Issue 37

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

Sadly, Fandom lost another long-time fan. Richard Eney passed away at the age of 74. He was a FanEd and writer for more than fifty years and published some of the most impressive works of the 1960s, including *A Sense of FAPA* and *Fancylopedia II*. He suffered a series of small strokes and finally one large stroke that took his life.

A busy week ended the year around eFanzines.com, even after I'd released the last *Drink Tank* for the year, #110 which came with a year-end index of all my zines. Issues of *In A Prior Lifetime* and *Pixel* had just dropped on the site as well.

That was followed up with Steven Silver's *Argentus* #6. There's a lot of BArea in the issue. There's a long and very good article by Kevin Standlee on badges at cons, a piece from Frank Wu (who also did the cover) and a couple of pieces from Christopher J. Garcia. There's a lot to like about this issue and I highly recommend going to eFanzines.com to check it out.

After that were three issues of Bruce Gillespie's *Scratch Pad* (issues 63, 64 and 65) and they're all short and wonderfully put together zines. I spent a lot of time

thinking about issue 65 and his discussion of the recent Australian Broadcasting Top 100 Albums list. I sent a very long LoC about my thoughts on the list.

After that, John Purcell, our friendly neighborhood LetterHack and FanEd, released another issue of *And Furthermore* that continued his talk of his musical years. It's another in a long line of good issues that should continue into the next year.

Arnie Katz's *Vegas Fandom Weekly* put out issue 90. It's a long issue with all the things that we love about *VFW*. There was a long article discussing the potential Science Fiction Grove that is under thought. I'm a big supporter of the idea. There was also a huge letter column that deserves a solid mention.

One of my nominators for TAFF, John Neilsen Hall, put out another issue of *Motorway Dreamer*. He includes news of a UK-BArea techno hook-up that featured BAreaans like Allen Baum, Rich Coad, and Bob Lichtman. There's a poem, a Ted White music article and one from John himself. A LetterCol follows.

Along with those were *File 770* (#148) and *Visions of Paradise* (#110).

Voting for the Fanzine Activity

Achievement Awards (FAAn Awards) has begun. You can find out more details by going to <http://efanzines.com/FAAn/FAAnAwards2007Ballot.pdf>.

There's a correction from the last issue. There's no 2011 Westercon bid. Craige Howlett said there was just too much goin' on to pull it off. Here's another note from Craige: "I read the article and noted one mistake, the Harry Potter event will be in San Jose, not Berkeley. Other than that, I appreciate the effort and the fairness of the material." Thanks much for the correction and kind words, Craige!

Dreams of the City

- a column

By España Sheriff

The 12th of January 2007 will be the 131st anniversary of the birth of one of San Francisco's favorite sons, Jack London.

A plaque marks the location at 615 Third Street near Brannan where he was born, although it notes that the original building burned down in the aftermath of the 1906 earthquake. Over the next few years his family lived in half a dozen different houses all across the city, South of Market, in Bernal Heights, on Natoma Street and Folsom among others, before finally moving out of the city first to Alameda, then San Mateo, and finally to Oakland when Jack, then still called John London, was still a boy.

Oakland was where he would spend his formative years. He discovered the Oakland Public Library as well as the rough life of the Oakland streets, saloons and docks. The combination of these two elements would form the legendary figure of the author-adventurer his name conjures up today.

He was an oyster pirate on the Bay and later an unpaid deputy in the Fish Patrol. He marched with Kelly's Army during the 1893 labor unrest and spent time riding the rails as a tramp, and still eventually found time to become a published author. He studied at UC

Berkeley, although he did not graduate due to financial woes. Instead he plunged into the Socialist movement in Oakland, even running for Mayor twice. Later, at the height of his fame, he covered the 1906 earthquake and the subsequent fires, writing vivid articles for *Colliers* and taking incredible photographs that were exhibited to the public for the first time during last year's Earthquake Centennial by the California Historical Society.

It was after his adventures in the Klondike and his return to the Bay Area in 1898 that his writing career took off and he produced books that are required reading today such as *White Fang* and *The Call of the Wild*, as well as many essays and articles on politics and social issues.

But his first ever paid sale was actually a science fiction story titled *A Thousand Deaths*, and a great many of his other stories are SF or fantasy as well, covering genre subjects such as scientific experimentation, dystopia, germ warfare, aliens and invisibility as well as astral projection, ghosts, lost races and prehistoric civilizations. My tastes running toward the post-apocalyptic, however, my favorite is *The Scarlet Plague*, a novella set in a Bay Area whose population has been decimated by a mystery disease. It's reminiscent in tone and subject matter of George Stewart's 1953 classic *Earth*

Abides, and it's hard not to wonder whether Stewart read it and drew inspiration for his own tale from it.

Eventually, after making his fortune, Jack London settled in Glen Ellen in Sonoma Valley. Beauty Ranch was to be his masterwork and he taught himself to become a farmer, attempting to implement sustainable farming techniques, raising pigs and growing wine. He had mixed success in this adventure, but continued to work at it until his death in 1916. Now the land is the Jack London State Historic Park, and well worth a visit for the gorgeous landscape that attracted him in the first place: wild vistas of hills and valleys all covered in oak, redwoods and fir as far as the eye can see. There's a London museum built by his wife after his death, but Wolf House, which she and Jack spent the last years of his life dreaming and building, was destroyed by fire even as they planned the move in. Although he planned to rebuild, he never got a chance and its ruins still stand not far from where London himself was buried at the age of just 40.

The collected science fiction of Jack London is available in a three volume set from Leonaur Press, and *The Scarlet Plague* can be found at <http://london.sonoma.edu/Writings/Scarlet/>.

Letters Of Comment

Let's start with our buddy (and my QuireFlu roommate!) John Purcell!

Oh, no... Another hoax bid? What you folks could do is make it semi-serious that you're bidding for the 2009 WesterCon, then pull out of the race six months before the site selection happens, then turn your bidding parties into a reason to host an annual relaxacon a couple months before/after WesterCon weekend. Minn-stf is still holding Minneapolis in '73 Parties at worldcons, and they are usually a ton of fun. It's up to you folks, though. Do what you will.

Chris Garcia replies: You know, I didn't see the Minn in '73 Party at LACon. I was lookin' for it and I didn't come across it. I was kinda bummed! I know the reason I don't bid even semi-seriously: because if I won I'd be the worst con-runner in history!

The "fanzines published" section should be much fuller next time around. Lots of good stuff has been posted to efanazines in the last week, which explains why I'm a bit behind in my locking. Oh, well. This is, to me, a happy situation; I'd rather have something fun to read to get away from the heavy reading I do for my

school work than nothing at all.

You'll notice that there were a lot, and there's probably been a few more since the time I wrote this and the day it hits the bitstream.

Yes, Bob Tucker was a seminal figure in fandom. According to his own stories, Bob discovered fandom somewhere around 1934 (I think, but don't quote me on this; it may have been as early as 1932), which would make his length in fandom something like 72 years! Phenomenal. He will be sorely missed. Already next year's NaSFic has been dedicated in his honor.

And I believe that there was no significant period of GAFIA for Bob either. He was always involved to some degree and he even read a few of the eZines from what I understand.

Jean Martin, I wouldn't go so far as saying that I'm "well-respected in the fanzine world." Yeah, I've been involved with fanzine fandom off and on for 30 years now, but I am in no way, shape, or form an *expert* on things fannish. I keep forgetting things that I used to know very well 20-some years ago. My current incarnation in fanac has been a re-learning experience, and I have had to re-read books and old zines to

refresh my memory banks.

Oh, you sell yourself short! Your positronic brain holds all the secrets. Don't deny it! We all know that you're a cyborg from the Fannish Future sent back with the full details of history.

However, Jean, you are so right about something that does not need to be researched: there is, indeed, "something special going on here" in fanzine fandom. It is called Community. This is very unique in a hobby group, and it makes being a science fiction and fantasy fan so much fun. Over the years I was involved in Minn-stf and in fanzine fandom the first time around (1973-1992), I made a lot of great friends. This is one reason why I can't wait for Corflu Quire; people I haven't seen in person since the early and mid-80s will be there, and some I have never met at all, yet I've corresponded with them since the mid-70s. It will be fun, and a very special time, too.

You know, Jean, John's totally right! You should try and join us!

Hmm. Lloyd Penney wonders if we're in the midst of another fanzine resurgence. Personally, I think we're riding

a wave of fanzine activity that hasn't crested yet. Eventually it will break on the shore and recede, but that may not happen for awhile. In the meantime, I'm enjoying it. Like Lloyd, I seem to be writing more and more locs each month, and may have to curtail my loccing a bit to accommodate my other present needs. Until then, it's fun.

I tend to think that we're in an interesting wave period that really started in early 2005 with VFW taking off. In that time, we've seen zines start (The Drink Tank, In A Prior Lifetime, SF/SF, Prolapse and various others), and we've seen ones that were already around grow and flourish (Peregrine Nations, Catchpenny/Pixel, eI) and in general a getting better of everything. And that's just around eFanzines.com. There's also great things happening in print zines too. It's a very cool time. And when you do slow your LoCing, just make sure that The Drink Tank and SF/SF stay on your RADAR.

Tilly the Wonderdog?!? Okay; provide a picture, please.

Yeah, me too!

Well, well. Page 7 has the SF/SF rogues gallery. Now I can put more faces to names. Thank you for including this. Why does Andy look like he's about to hit the photographer, and Kevin Standlee resembles Captain Steubing from *The Love Boat*?

Quite the motley crew you've got here.

We're a good bunch of folks. Yeah, Andy does look pretty surly. I look less like a homeless guy who wandered into the picture than usual.

I am really enjoying España Sherriff's column. Already, her writing has improved a great deal since she's begun writing this column. Last week she locced my zine, and if she ever decides to write a fan arkle and submit it to me, I would be honored to read and pub said fan arkle. Keep it up, España; this is good stuph, and I'm gaining insights into what makes you fannishly tick.

I was making a list of New Fanzine Fans for the FAAn Awards and the list is kinda BArea-heavy. There's John Coxon in the UK, but out here you've got Jason Schachat, David Moyce, Eva Kent, I think Jean and Dr. Noe would qualify, Howeird, and Leigh Ann. I think Dave Burton's nephew who does his covers would count too. España's right at the top of that list too.

Nice con reports and all to round this issue out. It certainly sounds like the Bay Area is a hotbed of fannish activity, and I'm getting a bit jealous.

And it always will be, if we have anything to say about it!

And with that, I'll wrap this up. I need to get into the toolbox in the garage to find

a socket wrench to fix my son's skateboard wheels. Two don't spin properly, so it's time to play "dad the mechanic," a limited role that I play once in a while. Maybe it's more like a cameo or a walk-on. I dunno. Either way, my abilities as a mechanic are quite limited.

All the best,

John Purcell

Make sure you don't over tighten; it makes turning much wider. I can't believe I remember that after 20 years of not skateboarding! Thanks John!

And now...another John Purcell LoC (on Issue 36):

Yoo-hoo! Oh, editorial team!

I just want to take the time to not only write a short loc to you on your latest effort, but also to wish you and yours'n a happy holiday season and a happy new year.

And right back at ya, big guy!

There really isn't too much I want to comment on in this, but a couple things merit consideration. F'rinstance, Chris' editorial touches on the passing of some of fandom's finest personalities. Even though I was expecting the news of Bob Tucker's death, it still hurt. If any one person could be described as the father of science fiction fandom, it is Bob. Ackerman comes close,

but Tucker modeled the type of fannish mentality we should all aspire to: his humor, sensitivity, and sensibility all shall be missed. I was really shocked at rich brown's death; that one really caught us all off-guard.

It really depends where you come from. I grew up with Ackerman as the model of what a fan was supposed to be. I've heard a lot of folks who grew up in the Midwest say that it's Bob Tucker and West Coast folks point to Forry. I was hit by rich's death as well, and Dick Eney's too.

As far as good stuff to come out of 2006, there are definitely a lot of new faces, and I have to hand it to you BAREans in this regard: you folks are doing a crackerjack job of bringing new folks into the fold. Keep up the good work, and you'll get a lollipop as you leave the office. Flavor of your own choosing, too!

We're always trying!

The publication of *Science-Fiction Five-Yearly #12* was a major fannish event of 2006, and a great way to close out the year. A wonderful zine.

I gotta agree. It was a combination of new and old and it worked incredibly well.

And I can't stop there: I congratulate you folks on a full year's worth of *SF/SF*; it's a solid clubzine that offers a lot of fun reading for those of us who are well outside

your realm. You folks have a lot of energy, and obviously have a lot of fun pubbing this zine. Thank you all, and I for one am looking forward to reading it throughout 2007.

We try and this year we did a wonderful job. We had a change in layout person and a lot of new folks and we keep getting wider and wider in our coverage and I'm so proud of us for doin' all of that.

Well, well, well. Jack Avery's article about WorldCon bids is very eye-opening, especially the potential bids for 2013. San Jose sounds very plausible, but if that Minneapolis bid becomes a serious one, I for one would say that they'd win. Jack says that "Minneapolis has never hosted a Worldcon", and while that is technically true, the fact is that Minicons have achieved a small-Worldcon status in both attendance and structure. When I was active up there, for many years running, Minicon attendance ran in the 2000-3500 range; programming has been multi-track since the late 1980s, and the people who have been running Minicons have decades of experience; in fact, many of them have worked on WorldCons. Plus, Minneapolis has hosted the World Fantasy Convention in the past.

Then again, if that Texas group brings the 2013 WorldCon to Texas, guess who is

most likely going to be there? I'll give you three guesses, and the first two don't count. Houston has a mess of convention facilities, and San Antonio is world class, too. Fort Worth is likewise a fine site. All are very accessible for attendees from the around the globe.

Yeah, it's gonna be a shoot-out for 2013. I'm putting my weight behind San Jose because...well, I wanna be able to walk to WorldCon, but I'm a fan of a potential Texas Con, and Minneapolis is a good choice too. It will be fun, that's for sure.

Great article, Jack. This gives me hope that I would be able to attend a WorldCon again. If Minneapolis gets it (if the bozos on that bus are serious), I am there; if it comes to Texas, I am there, too. San Jose? We shall see.

Don't make us start a Fund to get you to San Jose for WorldCon, man. We'll do it! I was very pleased to see Jack sending us an article after a few months off the map. I hope he'll drop us another in a while.

As always, wonderful photos herein. I really love the clarity of your reproduction and layout - of course, being PDF and all makes this easier - and there's a definite spirit that shines through.

I'm always so impressed with the photos we get and the job Eva does laying it out.

Hey! I actually had more locs pubbed

in your zine than Lloyd Penney?!? Whow! So what do I win? Lemme guess: a free one-year's subscription to *SF/SF*. Right?

And our undying gratitude! Plus, we might buy you a cup of coffee...

Thanks again for a great year's worth of pubbing. Keep it up, gang, and I'll get back to you next year.

All the best,

John Purcell

Can't get enough John Purcell!

And, back from eye surgery...Lloyd Penney!

Dear Chris and Jean and David and Eva (from Eva Rd., no less):

Chris will like this...I'm two issues behind again. Guess what I'm going to do? Here's comments on issues 35 and 36 of *SF/SF*. Sweet Foolishnesses by Silly Fans...

Yes! Score one for us!

Chris might run for DUFF, too? What did Australia ever do to you? Given the responsibilities that comes with each fan fund, it's probably best to do it one at a time.

That is true, and besides, I'm not sure I could make a flight across to the UK and an even longer flight across the Pacific.

John Purcell mentions a fanzine convention called RevelCon in the Houston area...John, I think this fanzine

convention is not like Corflu or Ditto, but is a convention devoted to media SF fanfic and its own brand of zines. Kim Kofmel is an old friend of mine who used to live here, and now lives in Houston, helping to stage lots of cons, so I suspect she's probably connected with this one, too.

I'd actually be interested in a con like RevelCon. While I'm not a writer of fanfic, I've read a bunch and I love zines of all flavors.

Toronto Bay? Nope, I live close to Humber Bay, and the great parks close by. Oh, yes, there are Canadian astronauts, like Chris Hadfield, who is also the head of Space Station operations at NASA as well. There's Julie Payette, Bjarni Tryggvason, Bob Thirsk, Steve Maclean, and the first Canadian astronaut, Marc Garneau, who became the head of the Canadian Space Agency. Google up "Canadian astronauts," and you'll get tons of data.

No one ever tells me anything! I had no idea.

When is Canadian New Year's? Sigh... Well, there's Ukrainian Christmas, and I'm sure Ukrainian Boxing Day comes right after...

Well, there's Canadian Thanksgiving and that's two months before Canadian Christmas which must be a week before Canadian New Years! Isn't Ukrainian Christmas also Orthodox Christmas on the

old calendar?

Hi, Jean...a happy new year to you, too. I'm sure you're finding that your friends in fandom can help you through your trying times with an ear for you to bend, a shoulder to cry on, or even just a hug to remind you that you're appreciated. If you're willing to accept, your friends are willing to give.

There is nothing better than Fandom to help you keep your sanity through tough times.

I haven't seen any indication of *Torchwood* on Canadian TV...but then, I have yet to see any episodes of the new *Doctor Who*. It does get to the point that you're so far behind, it's not worth trying to catch up.

I saw two episodes of Torchwood that were both a lot of fun. I've heard that Torchwood will be on SciFi in about a year or so. I've only seen about ten episodes of the new Who and I really like David Tennant.

Loscon is a con I've always wanted to get to...that Chrisfortaff guy is everywhere, and these days, the Montreal folks are everywhere, and good for them. Perhaps they have a decent chance to win the 2009 Worldcon after all. The instant fanzine panel seems to do well at some conventions, but when I mention fanzines up here, people glaze over. Zines aren't much of a tradition

in Canadian fandom, as you can see from the numbers of Canadian fanzines you might find.

I'm hoping that Montreal takes it. There's a lot of buzz after Kansas City blew their shot at SMOFCon this year. I've been a big fan of the Montreal bid since the 2003 Westercon where I met Renee Walling and he introduced me to Spruce Beer.

36...The eye is improving, but I won't know the final prognosis until my ophthalmologist's appointment at the end of January. Then, I might have to have some laser surgery on my left eye. My world of sight may never be the same again, but as long as I can get glasses that will allow me to see clearly, that's fine. Thanks to Chris, Jean and John Purcell! Yvonne sure did a good job in letting everyone know what was happening. I'm catching up as fast as I can...even with two weeks off, I've still got a lot of locs written. Chris, this very loc I'm writing is #265 of the year, and there's still a few days left...

Well done, Lloyd! I figured out my total word count for the year and I'm at 1,804,024 (plus eMails). 265 LoCs, that's madness! I hope you get everything back in focus, Lloyd. Eyesight is a terrible thing to lose.

Years ago, the Klingons in Montreal (and there used to be lots of them there) co-opted me into KAG Kanada, and yea verily,

there was party-making in the land. I was told I had to have a Klingon name in order to be a member of the group. So, I came up with K'Mon T'Pel-tu, as a Klingon-Vulcan mix. (It sounds very much like Comment t'appelle-tu?, which is French for What is your name?. There were a few folks in Montreal who were angry for not thinking that one up themselves...)

French Klingons? I'm très interested in hearing more about them!

Sounds like BArea fandom is going to be very busy for the next few years. What with a Westercon bid and Worldcon bid, there's going to be a lot of inventorying of people and associated skills. Bidding can be fun, and you have to keep the fun in it. I was a member of the Toronto in 2003 bid, but was ditched not long after we staged some very successful final parties in Chicago in 2000. I urge BArea fans, please keep the politics out of the bidding. I think I can guarantee to Minneapolis fandom that Toronto will not be staging a bid for the 2013 Worldcon.

It's always hard to keep the politics to a minimum, and I'm sure folks will try our best. We had a tough time with the last WorldCon, but we pulled through and it was a great time.

The index...I checked my own records, and they say that over 36 issues

of *SF/SF*, I have sent to you 18 letters, including this one. Too many multi-issue locs, and I can make no promises for next year.

But I love the multi-issue volumes! They keep me on my toes!

It's just past midnight here, so I will fold it up, fire it off and hit the sack. We hope your Christmas/Solstice/Kwanzaa/Diwali/Saturnalia was lots and lots of fun, and we wish you all a happy 2007, Year of the Boar! Take care, all, and see you next issue.

MMMMMMMMmmmmmm...boar! The best to you and Yvonne, big guy!

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

We also heard from John Thiel, Carolyn Staehle and John Barrows.

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor

Welcome all to a new year! I hope 2007 will be a better one for each and every one of our readers and the whole world in general. I know it's not just me that had a challenging time in 2006. A lot of friends and associates faced difficulties last year. And local, national and global news didn't look good either. Just the opposite of the *Star Trek* movies, I seem to have a better time during odd-numbered years. So I'm keeping my fingers crossed that that theory holds up this year.

So, here we are with a new year, a clean slate and probably lots of resolutions. Mine is to do more dancing and probably take lessons. I get by with just winging it but I'd like to be good at something... and something new that I haven't really done much of such as Latin or maybe even Scottish dancing. I'm thinking of maybe even taking voice lessons again.

Fortunately, I'm moving to Mountain View (yes, another new thing to start the year afresh!), and I'm told that the South

Bay is the ballroom dancing capital of the West Coast. There's even a trance dance class I want to check out. And there's an arts and music school in Mountain View where I've been meaning to take lessons on auditioning, ear training and sight reading. I have to be careful, though, about overloading myself again. 2005 was about expansion, 2006 was about learning to cut down and not burn out, and so 2007 I think will be about balance: balancing my inner life with my outer life. In that vein, I think I would like to do another meditation retreat. I didn't get to do the one I like to do (Zen Catholic meditation) last year as I was ill. But since that time in February 2006, I've been in good health. Yes, I'm taking care of myself better. I've realized that if I don't, I get sick and don't get to do all these wonderful activities and events that I want to do. So I have to pace myself, be more discriminating in how I spend my time, and get enough rest.

So far, this year has been off to a good start. The first of the year I got to see the last two episodes of *Torchwood's* first season (and I'm looking forward to

the second season). I also got to see the first episode of the *Sarah Jane Adventures* (another *Doctor Who* spinoff with a former *Doctor Who* companion). The *Doctor Who* Christmas episode, "The Runaway Bride," was awesome! *Doctor Who* is still the best of the lot. Although I saw that episode a week before the New Year, I've been watching it over and over recently. These shows are really exciting, funny and moving, and have given me back my faith that good Sci Fi programs still exist.

The first Saturday of January was the PEERS Twelfth Night Ball, or what's fondly called the Dickens Fair Reunion Ball, and I got to see a lot of my costuming, dance and Sci Fi friends at that event. We were already talking about BayCon in May and the Browncoat Cruise in December. It was so great dancing again (my knee is better, although still not back to normal), and—this hasn't happened to me in a long time—it felt like I was in a movie or even transported back in time with all the ladies and gentlemen twirling around the ballroom in Victorian attire. It was quite magical! I also got to perform with the Peerless Music

Hall as part of the Peerless Beauties during the intermission. I love singing and dancing on stage.

Talking about conventions and vacations at the ball reminded me that I need to figure out and plan any trips I want to do this year. Nothing really seems to be drawing me. I don't think I want to go to Comic-Con this year, unless something interesting crops up like being part of a masquerade group, or some special guest who's going to be there. Even ORC (One Ring Convention) in L.A. isn't luring me. That's happening on my birthday weekend and my feeling is that I would like to throw a big party with all of my friends here rather than be in a convention with mostly strangers. I know some people I toured New Zealand with last year might be there, but that's only a few people. Seeing Elijah Wood there would be great, though.

Sometime during this year, I would really like to go to Wales and see where they film *Doctor Who* and *Torchwood*. I'm thinking of Egypt, Peru or India as well: something exotic that I've never done before, and places that have a mythical element and colorful history too. I can only do one big trip this year, so we'll see what eventually calls to me. And, hopefully, I can tie my trip in with something fantasy or Sci Fi related, so I can report it for *SF/SF*.

Best wishes to you all and let's all make 2007 a great one!

The Legion of Rassilon

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

As part of my attempt to conquer all of BArea fandom, I made my way to the two December Legion of Rassilon meetings at the Carl's Jr. on First Street in San Jose. I'd never been, but I knew several of the members, including Wendy-Ann Francis, who works at the museum with me, and her husband John.

I got there and chatted and perused the raffle items. I bought ten tickets.

The two episodes at the first meeting were *Torchwoods*. I was most impressed with it, especially since both were episodes I'd heard about. The first was "Ghost Machine," a dark story that reminded me of the film *Mimic* in visual style. I'd heard someone pitch *Torchwood* as "*X-Files* from the people that brought you *Red Shoe Diaries*," but I'm not sure that's a good call. Yeah, it's far more adult, but it's a thinking man's series.

The second episode that night followed the raffle (where I won a DVD

of *Ghost Machine*) and it was the one I'd been most interested in: "Cyberwoman." It was all about a surviving human who had been in the middle of the transformation to becoming a Cyberman when The Doctor managed to send all the rest to their dimension. It was a good episode, though very different than I had expected.

The second meeting I attended was immediately after my return from my LASFS visit. It was to watch "The Runaway Bride," the *Doctor Who* Christmas episode. I really enjoyed the episode, and I was glad to see so many familiar faces at the meeting, including Ken Patterson, Mike Miyake and others from BASFA, as well as folks that I see all the time. It was a darn fun episode and it reminded me why I'm such a big fan of David Tennant's.

All in all, two great meetings that provided more reason for me to come back again!

Lights All Year Round

By Stacy Meyn

Contributing Writer

The name “Northern Lights” exists in many forms, from the unique light phenomenon known as Aurora Borealis, to several honored sea vessels. The SS *Northern Lights* is a *Ponce* Class steamship chartered by Military Sealift Command to aid in Operation Enduring Freedom. Military cargo was loaded in San Diego and delivered to Southwest Asia. During the charter period, the SS *Northern Lights* made 25 voyages and 49 port calls, and carried 12,200 pieces of military gear.

The USS *Northern Lights* also exists in more than one form. It is a *Sovereign* Class vessel (NCC-27001) serving Starfleet International, captained by Fleet Captain Tracy Newby. Since 1992, the *Northern Lights* has been a “Region 4” (CA, NV, AZ, HI) Silicon Valley Star Trek fan club, based out of San Jose. And it continues to be a group of friends who enjoy “meeting and eating” at least once per month, watching and discussing a variety of science fiction and fact, and performing charitable work such as kitten rescue and collecting donations to



Northern Lights

Graphic by Brad Adamson

help the 9/11 search dogs.

To celebrate the holidays, the *Northern Lights* crew gathered for gazing at the massive home theater screen, provided by Guy and Kathy Hoover at the affectionately-dubbed “Hooverarium,” and for the traditional holiday potluck, provided

by everyone. Brad “Shmoo” Adamson (who also snapped the accompanying photos) made his famous and well-loved “Shmoo Taters,” of which even this lactose-intolerant officer partook. It is worth the suffering every time. Guy was the glorious bartender and the resultant conversations were quite



From left to right: Mike Miyake, Andy Chelman, Guy Hoover, Tracy Newby and Stacy Meyn circle for mirth and munchies

Photo by Brad Adamson

lively. The *Lights* had visitors from fellow ships USS *Eagle* and USS *Augusta Ada*. Hails were received from the USS *Decatur*, the USS *Tikopai*, and the Black Fleet Star Pirates Guild, who could not attend but would be sending out invites to their respective upcoming gatherings.

Donations to Toys for Tots and the Heart of the City Charities Campaign were made by the USS *Northern Lights* in recognition of the name and its generous

history. The crew is always welcoming new members—“the more, the merrier” is a true statement, especially when it comes to watching *Dr. Who*, *Torchwood*, and *Battlestar Galactica*, plus indulging in the infamous and epic Munchkin battles. “NLers” typically participate in multiple fan groups, such as the BF: SPG, the 501st Legion, the Legion of Rassilon, the Browncoats, and more. Several *Northern Lights* members are also stargazers in their own right, and they

intend to ogle celestial delights this season. Now to plan the ultimate “away mission”: the *Northern Lights* heading to Alaska to view the Northern Lights!

Captain Stacy Meyn
Executive Officer, USS *Northern Lights*

Region 4, Starfleet International
For more information about the *Lights*, contact: co@ussnorthernlights.org

My Visit to LASFS

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

As part of a quest to conquer the entire fannish universe, I made my way down to Los Angeles to attend the weekly meeting of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, the longest continuously meeting science fiction club in the world.

I had a day full of Universal Studios, which I hadn't been to since 1984 or so. It had changed a good deal, but I had a great time. I then headed off to Burbank and went to Bob's Big Boy for the first time in about a decade. I had the Ice Cream Cake. It was a delight. I followed it up with a nice long walk to the LASFS Clubhouse. I didn't realize it would be an hour and a half walk, but it was a good way to work off some calories.

The LASFS Clubhouse is a pair of lovely buildings that look somewhat aged but very much loved. As soon as I walked in, I met up with Ed Green who gave me the tour, and introduced me to the library and its keeper, Elayne Pelz. They've done a great job getting it together. There was the shipping container in the courtyard between the two buildings that Ed insisted was moved into place by Fan Power. He then showed me

to the Meeting Room, where the meetings take place. There, I ran into Marty Cantor, whom I had met a few times, most recently at WorldCon. He was working on completing the weekly LASFS Amateur Press Association distribution, APA-L. There was another visitor, Ken Ozma from Australia. We chatted and Len and June Moffatt joined in as well. I had gotten there almost an hour early, which gave me lots of time to get fannish mojo flowin'.

More folks I knew came by, including WorldCon chair Christian McGuire, my friends George and Vanessa Van Wagner, Jerry Pournelle, fannish massage legend Scratch, Liz Mortensen and various others.

I sat through the meeting, which was much different from a BASFA meeting. They spent a good deal of time honoring the Patron Saints, which included Elayne Pelz and Forry Ackerman. It was a nice thing to see because they were honoring fannish history, which is something you just don't see enough of. They did fast reviews and announcements, and after the meeting I went on to speak.

My topic: What's Goin' On In Fanzines.

I always travel with a ton of fanzines, in this case *Banana Wings* #25, the two most

recent *Plokta*, a couple of *Some Fantastics*, *Meta* and *Thought Experiments* from Geneva Melzack, *Parsec*, *Littlebrook*, *Picofarad*, and *Prolapse* from Peter Weston. It was a good selection and I brought up a whole bunch of eZines that I love. Of course, I also used the opportunity to recruit people for the pages of *The Drink Tank*. I had expected only a couple of folks to stick around, but a bunch of folks stayed, including Dr. Pournelle, which was unexpected. I was glad to talk, as anyone who knows me is already aware, and after I was done people actually had good questions.

After the meeting was a trip to the Coral Café, a nice little family place, but since I had had the huge Big Boy meal, I only had sourdough toast. A few folks who hadn't come to the meeting itself showed up, including Chaz Boston-Baden. I'd been told that the meeting really takes place after the meeting, and judging by the conversations going on around me, I'd certainly believe that.

It was a good visit, with the next day being my day to hang around Hollywood and almost get hit by Iggy Pop. (You'll have to read *The Drink Tank* to hear about that one.)

A Browncoat Christmas Shindig

By Jean Martin
Editor

What better way to celebrate the Christmas season than with the SF Browncoats, who sure know how to throw a proper shindig. The group's 2006 Holiday Shindig was held last December 16 at Café Murano in San Francisco.

Café Murano, the location for the Browncoats' monthly meetups, is such a great place for an evening party as we have the place all to ourselves. SF Browncoats founder Renee and her husband George

own the café, which has a warm, cozy, European feel to it. The sandwiches and desserts are delicious and they have really good hot and cold drinks. My favorite is their hot chocolate



Francis with Star Wars Pez Dispensers Photo by Francis Yun



Arielle, Adam and Corey

Photo by Francis Yun

with soy milk, topped with powdered cocoa in the shape of a bell just for the occasion. They also serve exotic drinks such as mango juice from the Philippines and tea from the U.K. and Ireland.

Sometimes I forget that I like to hang out with the Browncoats because of our

common love for the TV series *Firefly*. As Arielle, emcee for the evening, has said in the past, "I love the Browncoats more than I love the show!" This is saying a lot as she adores *Firefly* and other Joss Whedon creations. The Browncoats are fun, lively, intelligent and just plain nice. I can just relax, be myself, and have a good time, comfortable with the knowledge that I'm

with people who are like me and to whom I can relate on several different levels.

Well, if I do forget what the group is about as I enjoy the individual members' company, someone inevitably brings up *Firefly*, or shares a book or some souvenir related to the show. At this party, talk revolved around Flanvention that never was and plans for the Browncoat Cruise.

The second Flanvention, or Firefly convention, was supposed to be held in Burbank from December 8-11. Unfortunately, the organizers canceled it on December 7. Rather than give up, the Browncoats, in their usual proactive fashion, resurrected the event as the Browncoats' Backup Bash. Instead of being angry and

upset, which they understandably should have been, all I heard during the party was how the Backup Bash was a success and they all had a good time. This is what the Browncoats did when *Firefly* was canceled. They rallied around the cause until the movie *Serenity* was produced. Although I'm not very active with the Browncoats (with all the groups I belong to, it's impossible to

dedicate myself to just one), I'm so privileged to be a part of this group, who have just been around for a few years but are already so organized and together!

There were around two dozen people in attendance, most of whom I already knew, and some whom I got to know a little better. I got to talk to Thad a little more, and he was nice enough to



Gail, Johnny and Jean

Photo by Francis Yun

have presents for all the ladies, in the form of various, cute Beanie Babies. Speaking of presents, the highlight of the evening was the white elephant gift exchange. Gifts were all wrapped and we picked ours in the order of the numbers we picked out of a hat. Or we could grab someone else's already opened present (a gift could only be stolen three times and then it was safe). It was a lot of fun and presents ranged from useful, to strange, to decorative, to collectibles that had something to do with *Firefly*. The item that everyone coveted most was a box of *Star Wars* Pez dispensers, which changed hands several times until reaching its final owner. I usually wind up with something I like at these things, and I got a cinnamon



Christina and Melissa

Photo by Francis Yun

candle that smells like Christmas—which is something I really wanted.

Although every Browncoat is special, and that evening some were dressed to the nines, a special guest showed up. Multiverse Network cofounder and executive producer Corey Bridges, who apparently supplied buses for the Backup Bash when they were needed, partied with us for a little bit. Several people crowded around to talk with him and I didn't get the chance to speak with him at all. But from what I gathered (and researched more later on), Corey's company has attained the rights to develop a massively multiplayer online (MMO) game based on *Firefly*. Something else for the Browncoats to look forward to and to keep the flame of *Firefly* fandom alive—which I think is a foregone conclusion with such a loyal following who love to hang out and do things together! I'm sure we'll be seeing more of the Browncoats in the future.



James and Elizabeth

Photo by Francis Yun



Louise and Duck

Photo by Francis Yun



George and Renee

Photo by Francis Yun



Richard and Joan

Photo by Francis Yun

Bay Area Fannish Calendar

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

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

January 10-20

Romeo & Juliet: A Fire Ballet

The Crucible

1270 7th Street

Oakland

\$30-\$120

www.thecrucible.org

The first-ever Crucible Fire Ballet mixes traditional ballet, classical music, and compelling storytelling with exotic dance traditions, aerial performance, molten metal, fire eating, and flame throwers.

Thursday, January 11

Author: David Weber

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Thursday, January 11

Electronic Frontier Foundation's Sweet 16

Party

111 Minna Gallery

111 Minna Street

San Francisco

7-10 p.m.

\$20 donation

A birthday party and fundraiser for the people who've got your back, digitally speaking. DJ and cash bar; 21+ only.

Thursday, January 11

Thrillville:

Earth vs. The Flying Saucers (1957)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

Featuring an 80th birthday tribute to Ray Harryhausen, theremin lounge band Project Pimento, and a new animated short, *The Pit and the Pendulum*.

Friday, January 12

Author: David Weber

Dark Carnival Books

3086 Claremont Ave.

Berkeley

4 p.m.

Free

www.darkcarnival.com

Friday, January 12

Author: Howard Hendrix

Dark Carnival Books

3086 Claremont Ave.

Berkeley

5:30 p.m.

Free

www.darkcarnival.com

Saturday, January 13

BeefBowl Anime

Albany Library

1247 Marin Avenue

Albany

12:15-4:15 p.m.

Free

See the screening list at beefbowl.org

Saturday-Sunday, January 13-14

Sac-Anime

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

\$15, one-day pass \$10

www.sacanime.com

Anime convention featuring viewing room, art contest, vendor's room, costume ball, J-pop concert, more.

Tuesday, January 16

Author: Christopher Moore
Books Inc.
601 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco
415-776-1111
7 p.m.
Free

Wednesday, January 17

San Francisco Noir Literary Night
Mechanics' Institute
57 Post Street
San Francisco
6 p.m.
\$10
www.milibrary.org
With *San Francisco Noir* editor Peter Maravelis and authors Peter Plate, David Corbett, Michelle Tea and Eddie Muller.

Wednesday, January 17

Author: Christopher Moore
Kepler's Books
1010 El Camino Real
Menlo Park
650-324-4321
7:30 p.m.
Free

Thursday, January 18

Author: Christopher Moore
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
1 p.m.
Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Thursday, January 18

Author: Ellen Klages
Books Inc.
601 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco
415-776-1111
6 p.m.
Free

January 18-22

Further Confusion 2007
DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
\$45
www.furtherconfusion.org
The Bay Area's major Furry con. Art show, dealer's room, costume contest, party floor, more.

Friday, January 19

Science Salon: The Brain: Biology, Consciousness, Memory and Language
Mechanics' Institute
57 Post Street
San Francisco
12 noon
\$10
The molecular biology of the brain and the state of brain research. Presented by Dr. Alan Goldstein; relevant articles will be posted at alanguardstein.com with a blog for ongoing dialogue and discussion with Salon participants.
www.milibrary.org

Saturday, January 20

Bay Area Games Day
Los Altos Public Library
13 S. San Antonio Road
Los Altos
10 a.m.
\$1
Regular event featuring German-style strategy board games like Settlers of Catan, Avalon Hill-type multiplayer games, card games, and historical board wargames.

Saturday, January 20

Other Magazine Presents Writers with Drinks
The Rickshaw Stop
155 Fell Street
San Francisco
7:30 p.m.
\$5-\$7 sliding scale
www.writerswithdrinks.com
"Writers in Drag": Kim Stanley Robinson, Michelle Tea, Andrew Sean Greer, Michael Blumlein, Justin Chin, and Ed Champion read works outside their usual genres.

Sunday, January 21

Author: Howard Hendrix
The Other Change of Hobbit
2020 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley
2 p.m.
Free
www.otherchangeofhobbit.com

Sunday, January 21

Ask a Scientist: Gene Regulation and You

The Canvas Gallery
1200 9th Avenue
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free
www.askascientistsf.com
With UC Berkeley Molecular Biology Prof.
Michael Eisen.

Friday, January 26

Lunar Lounge Express
Chabot Space Science Center
10000 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland
8-11 p.m.
\$15
510-336-7373
Party under the stars with live music, Sonic
Vision planetarium show, and telescope viewing
(weather permitting).

January 26-February 4

Noir City:
The San Francisco Film Noir Festival
Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
5th annual celebration of film noir, with special
guests and 20 films. Opening night reception
on January 26 (\$35) includes hosted bar,
appetizers, live appearance by actress Marsha
Hunt, and screenings of *Raw Deal* (1948) and
The Kid Glove Killer (1942).
www.noircity.com

Saturday, January 27

Author: Bill Willingham

Isotope Comics Lounge
326 Fell Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free
415-621-6543

Friday, February 2

Lost Horizon (1937)
Mechanics' Institute
57 Post Street
San Francisco
6:30 p.m.
\$10 donation
www.milibrary.org
Part of the Institute's "Stranger than Fiction"
film series.

Saturday, February 3

Gotham City Black and White Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
\$15 in advance (by January 27), \$20 at the door
www.peers.org
Bruce Wayne requests the pleasure of your
company. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing
begins at 8.

Thursday, February 8

Thrillville: King Kong vs. Godzilla (1962)
Cerrito Speakeasy Theater
10070 San Pablo Ave.
El Cerrito
9 p.m.
\$8

Thrillville makes its first appearance at the new
Cerrito, featuring the Atomic Lounge Show and
Gorilla X.

Friday, February 9

The Day of the Triffids (1963)
Mechanics' Institute
57 Post Street
San Francisco
6:30 p.m.
\$10 donation
www.milibrary.org
Part of the Institute's "Stranger than Fiction"
film series.

Friday-Saturday, February 9-10

ComBots Cup
The Crucible
1260 7th Street
Oakland
Noon-11 p.m.
\$20, discounts for kids and active-duty military
Fighting robots duke it out at the Crucible.
www.combots.net

Friday-Sunday, February 9-11

Renaissance Symposium
Sheraton San Jose
1801 Barber Lane
Milpitas
\$35 at the door (\$20 by January 20)
www.rensymposium.com
Workshops and discussions for all Ren Faire
fans.

Friday-Sunday, February 9-11

The Shield Conference

Oakland Airport Hilton

1 Hegenberger Road

Oakland

\$20

www.shieldconference.com

Historical gaming con; this year's theme is "Colonial Warfare 1830-1930."

Saturday, February 10

Author: Rudy Rucker

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Saturday, February 10

Other Magazine Presents

Writers with Drinks

The Make-Out Room

3225 22nd Street

San Francisco

7:30 p.m.

\$3-\$5 sliding scale

www.writerswithdrinks.com

With writers Frank Portman, Eric Spitznagel, Marta Acosta, Ahn-Hoa Thi Nguyen, Angie Krass and Joan Price.

Thursday, February 15

Seminars About Long-term Thinking: Vernor

Vinge

Cowell Theater

Fort Mason Center

1 Marina Blvd.

San Francisco

7 p.m.

\$10 donation

Presented by the Long Now Foundation.

www.longnow.org

Friday, February 16

Jason and the Argonauts (1963)

Mechanics' Institute

57 Post Street

San Francisco

6:30 p.m.

\$10 donation

www.milibrary.org

Part of the Institute's "Stranger than Fiction" film series.

February 16-19

Pantheacon

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

\$75 at the door (\$65 until January 15)

www.ancientways.com/pantheacon

Annual Pagan gathering with workshops, lectures, performances, rituals, drumming, dancing, costume contests, and crafts.

February 16-19

DunDraCon

San Ramon Marriott

2600 Bishop Drive

San Ramon

\$50 at the door (\$40 until February 1)

www.dundracon.com

Annual gaming con, with RPGs, board and card

games, miniatures and more.

Saturday, February 17

Author: Guy Gavriel Kay

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Sunday, February 18

Ask a Scientist: String Theory Demystified

The Canvas Gallery

1200 9th Avenue

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

www.askascientistsf.com

With Shamit Kachru, Stanford University physics professor.

Friday, February 23

The Adventures of Baron Munchausen (1989)

Mechanics' Institute

57 Post Street

San Francisco

6:30 p.m.

\$10 donation

www.milibrary.org

Part of the Institute's "Stranger than Fiction" film series.

Friday, February 23

Lunar Lounge Express

Chabot Space Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd.

Oakland
8-11 p.m.
\$15
510-336-7373
Party under the stars with live music, Sonic Vision planetarium show, and telescope viewing (weather permitting).

Tuesday, February 27

Author: China Mieville
Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
415-863-8688
7 p.m.
Free

Friday, March 2

Author: Elizabeth Moon
The Other Change of Hobbit
2020 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley
6 p.m.
Free
www.otherchangeofhobbit.com

Friday-Sunday, March 2-4

WonderCon
Moscone Center South
747 Howard Street
San Francisco
www.comic-con.org/wc/
Comic book/media convention with panels, dealers, summer movie previews, anime, costume contest, more.

Friday-Sunday, March 2-4

Consonance
Crowne Plaza Silicon Valley
777 Bellew Drive
Milpitas
\$40 in advance (by February 17), \$45 at the door
www.consonance.org
The annual Bay Area filk convention.

Saturday, March 3

Author: Elizabeth Moon
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
3 p.m.
Free
www.borderlands-books.com

Saturday, March 3

Merry Widow Waltz Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
\$15 in advance (by February 24), \$20 at the door
www.peers.org
Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Sunday, March 4

Author: Nalo Hopkinson
Dark Carnival Books
3086 Claremont Ave.
Berkeley
Time TBD
Free
www.darkcarnival.com

Sunday, March 11

Sac-Con
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
\$6
Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest.

Friday-Sunday, March 16-18

Rakkasah West
Richmond Auditorium
403 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond
Fri. 7-11 p.m. \$12
Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. \$15
Sun. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. \$15
www.rakkasah.com
Bills itself as the largest bellydance festival and fantasy bazaar in the world.

Saturday, March 24

Bay Area Games Day
Los Altos Public Library
13 S. San Antonio Road
Los Altos
10 a.m.
\$1
Regular event featuring German-style strategy board games like Settlers of Catan, Avalon Hill-type multiplayer games, card games, and historical board wargames.

Friday-Sunday, April 6-8

Tales of Anime

Marriott San Mateo
1770 South Amphlett Blvd.
San Mateo
\$30 in advance (by March 6), \$40 at the door
www.talesofanime.com
Second edition of the con for fans of shoujo
("girl") anime and manga.

Saturday, April 7

Red Carpet Ball
(1930s Hollywood Academy Award Ball)
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
\$15 in advance (by March 31), \$20 at the door
www.peers.org
Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.
(There's a glamorous calendar available at
www.cafepress.com/peers.75762076)

Thursday, April 12

Thrillville's 10th Anniversary Show:
Creature From The Black Lagoon (1954)
and It Came From Outer Space (1953)
Cerrito Speakeasy Theater
10070 San Pablo Ave.
El Cerrito
8 p.m.
\$10
www.speakeasytheaters.com
Thrillville celebrates its 10th birthday with a 3-D double feature, your hosts Will the Thrill and Monica-Tiki Goddess, *Cinema Insomnia's* Mr. Lobo and the Queen of Trash, and Kitten on the Keys.

Saturday-Sunday, April 21-22

APE (Alternative Press Expo)
Concourse Exhibition Center
620 7th Street
San Francisco
www.comic-con.org/ape/
Billed as the nation's largest show devoted to alternative and self-published comics; announced guests include Art Spiegelman (*Maus*).

Saturday, May 5

Sleeping Beauty's Christening Fantasy Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
\$15 in advance (by April 28), \$20 at the door
www.peers.org
Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Friday-Monday, May 25-28

BayCon
Marriott San Mateo
1770 South Amphlett Blvd.
San Mateo
www.baycon.org
\$75 at the door (\$60 until February 28)
25th Anniversary Edition of the largest annual general SF convention in Northern California, featuring a new location and Guests of Honor Alan Dean Foster, Diana Paxson, and Linda Von Braskat-Crowe and Toastmaster Seanan McGuire. Diverse panels, dealer's room, art show, masquerade, anime room, hall costumes, gaming, much more.

Friday-Monday, May 25-28

FanimeCon
San Jose Convention Center
San Jose
www.fanime.com
The Bay Area's largest annual anime convention returns. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, J-pop concert, more.

Friday-Monday, May 25-28

KublaCon
Burlingame Hyatt Regency
1333 Bayshore Highway
Burlingame
www.kublacon.com
\$35 until February 28
Gaming convention: Dealer's room, game demos, panels, flea market.

Friday-Sunday, June 1-3

Dollectable
Clarion Hotel SFO
401 E. Millbrae Ave.
Millbrae
www.bjdcon.com
\$65 at the door (\$50 until May 1)
A convention for enthusiasts and collectors of Asian-style ball-jointed dolls.

Saturday, June 2

Space Cowboys' Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
\$15 in advance (by May 26), \$20 at the door
www.peers.org

Browncoats, take note. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday-Sunday, June 2-3

Supercon

Oakland Convention Center
Oakland

www.super-con.com

The East Bay's comic book convention is set to return in June. Details to follow.

Saturday-Tuesday, June 30-July 3

Westercon 60: Gnomeward Bound

Marriott San Mateo

1770 South Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo

spfii.org/westercon60/

Guests of Honor: Tad Williams, Theresa

Mather, Christian McGuire

Toastmaster: Jay Lake

Friday-Sunday, July 27-29

Con-X-Treme

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.con-x-treme.com

\$50 at the door (\$35 until March 30)

Anime viewing, cosplay, Taiko drumming, martial arts demos, art show, and The Black Hole Bar.

Friday-Monday, August 3-6

MythCon 38

Clark Kerr Center

2601 Warring Street

Berkeley

www.mythsoc.org

\$60, \$50 for Mythopoeic Society members

The annual Mythopoeic Conference returns to Berkeley with Guests of Honor Ellen Kushner and Delia Sherman.

Saturday, August 4

Pride & Prejudice Picnic

PEERS Event

Location TBA

Noon-5 p.m.

www.peers.org

An afternoon picnic and dance set in Jane Austen's England during the late 1790s.

Saturday, September 1

Mikado Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by August 25), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

A Gilbert and Sullivan cast party. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Friday-Sunday, September 28-30

Creation's Salute to Star Trek

DoubleTree Hotel

2001 Point West Way

Sacramento

A Creation con to celebrate the 20th

Anniversary of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

Details to follow.

Saturday, October 6

Edwardian Gothic Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by September 29), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

Edwardian as in macabre illustrator Edward

Gorey. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday, November 3

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event

The annual hematophagic gala. Details to follow.

www.peers.org

April 25-28, 2008

CostumeCon 26

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.cc26.info

\$75 (through April 30, 2007)

CostumeCon will be coming to Silicon Valley in 2008. Details to follow.

Ongoing:

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt

Walking Tour

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia

San Francisco

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

\$20
www.sfgghosthunt.com

Mondays

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

Mondays

Dukefish
Jake's of Sunnyvale
174 E. Fremont Avenue
Sunnyvale
Gather: 8 p.m, games: 8:30 p.m.
Dukefish is a bunch of people who get together to play board games and, sometimes, bridge every week.

Mondays and Wednesdays

Silicon Valley Boardgamers
Match Play
San Antonio Shopping Center
Mountain View
7 p.m.
\$2
Group meets regularly to play mostly German-style strategy boardgames such as Settlers of Catan; also multiplayer Avalon Hill-style, historical wargames, and others.

Wednesdays

Bay Area Role-Playing Society
Go-Getter's Pizza

1489 Beach Park Boulevard
Foster City
6 p.m-10 p.m.
www.BayRPS.com
Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email GM@BayRPS.com.

Wednesdays

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

Fridays

SF Games
Muddy's Coffeehouse
1304 Valencia Street near 24th
San Francisco
7 p.m. to midnight
Free
vax.hanford.org/dk/games
SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week. Also has a cards night on Tuesdays at Café Macondo, 3159 16th Street between Guerrero and Valencia.

Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour
Meets at PlanetWeavers/Genesis Store
1573 Haight Street (at Clayton)
San Francisco
7 p.m.-9 p.m.

\$20
www.hauntedhaight.com
Reservations required.

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour
Meets corner of California and Taylor
San Francisco
8 p.m.
\$20
www.sfvampiretour.com
Led by Mina Harker. Tour is cancelled if there is heavy rain.

Saturdays

Rocky Horror Picture Show
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
Midnight
\$6
www.picturepubpizza.com
Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Biweekly

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

but may vary depending on the host.

Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Group

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco

Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jade Livingston at sfscifi@yahoo.com for more information.

Monthly

Dorkbot-SF

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

Fantastic Frontiers

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

Foothill Anime

Building 5015, Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
Free

Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.

Legion of Rassilon

Carl's Junior
2551 N. First Street

San Jose
7:30 p.m.

Free
www.legionofrassilon.org
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.

No-Name Anime

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

SF Browncoats

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

Silicon Gulch Browncoats

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

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza

Howe Ave. (Near Howe and Arden Ave.)
7 p.m.-10 p.m.

Free
Sacramento's oldest science fiction group meets the third Friday of the month. Info at www.usdefiance.org.

Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE

Round Table Pizza
4403 Elkhorn Blvd
Sacramento
916-338-2300
Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.