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Cover  Dusk by Lucy Huntzinger
Page 4  John Barrows
Page 8  Pat Muniosguren
Page 11  Aidan Casserly
By Christopher J. Garcia  
*Editor*

Number One Hundred. It’s a milestone. I’m so proud of *SF/SF*, largely because we’ve put together a great group that works hard to put out a fine zine every other week. We’re awesome!

I look back at the 99 issues I’ve been a part of, and I have some highlights, that’s for sure. The biggest is probably the fact that I was first! I was the first LoC and the first Non-Jack Avery article. That was a highlight for me. I saw that it was going to be a great zine and that I wanted to be a part of it. That second issue was the first one where you could tell that this wasn’t just going to be another zine, that there were immense possibilities.

Another highlight had to be the first Anniversary issue. It was a big issue featuring a look back at the first appearance of the team that we’d put together. It featured a great review of Conzilla, the LA Westercon I never made it to, and it was an obvious piece of quality. I’ve gone back to that one more than once. Issue 30, just a few weeks later, was another great issue featuring two wonderful photo essays: one on a PEERS Privateer Ball and the other on Burning Man which I still consult when I do photo things, like the one I did in *Exhibition Hall* Issue 4. It’s a great issue, one of the best we’ve ever done.

While I’m the guy who has written the most articles for the zine, Jean Martin has had the two longest, and arguably best articles we’ve ever run. There’s “My Fantasy/Sci Fi Tour of the U.K.” It’s a great, 11-page article with some nice photos of her trip to the UK and Wales, including her trip to The Village from the original series *The Prisoner*. You can find that in issue 49.

By Jean Martin  
*Editor*

Huzzah! After months of looking forward to it, we have finally reached our 100th issue. It is certainly a cause for celebration. Who knew that we’d last this long and have such a successful run so far? It seems like when we started, we were the only Bay Area zine covering fandom. As I’ve mentioned previously, several zines have just launched recently. I’d like to think that *SF/SF* has contributed to inspiring folks to do the same. A friend of mine, Phil Gust, has told me that our work has inspired his work as Editor of the *Virtual Costumer* online newsletter. Which is great! The more venues there are for people’s creativity and passions, the better.

However, this 100th issue is a bittersweet one as well. David Moyce, a long-time contributor and current copy editor/proofer of our zine, has decided to step down as of this issue. We will miss David and we appreciate his work with us for several years (which included doing the Calendar and layout at some point). He’s done a great job, not just proofreading, but editing and fact-checking as well.

To add to this, Chris Garcia decided to quit on the same day. Well, right before David did actually. Chris will continue on for another issue to round out his involvement with *SF/SF* from Issue 2 to Issue 101. It was not totally unexpected but was a shock nonetheless. Chris has been such a huge presence in *SF/SF* and it will not be the same without him. We took over from our founder, Jack Avery, at the same time in 2005.
Then there’s the classic and giant article on Jean’s trip to New Zealand called “My Middle Earth Adventure With Red Carpet Tours (Or There and Back Again)” which is the single longest article we’ve ever run and a wonderful one at that. It’s 28 pages, and we used it as a wall decoration at our SiliCon party. There were a few people who read the whole thing taped to the wall! That’s in issue 20.

That SiliCon party was a great moment too. It was us throwing a nice little party for a bunch of our favorite people. We also invented a couple of drinks, which was nice.

If there’s one thing I am extra-proud of, it’s the new names. SF/SF has brought out people who hadn’t really been a part of fanzines who became at least semi-regulars. Jean Martin is the best example, but you have to add España Sheriff to that list, as well as David Moyce and Dr. Noe. In fact, we’ve probably debuted half a dozen others to the world of Zines!

And, in an unusual twist, this will probably be my last highlight. As of the issue after next, I’ll no longer be an editor of this fine publication. No, I’m not going away totally, I’ll still be writing pieces, but alas, I haven’t really been as much of an Editor as I have been a Contributing Writer, which is what I’m going to stick around as. Life, as always, has gotten pretty hectic, and it seems like a good place to start would be after being a part of 100 issues, which would be following issue 101. And so, that’s the plan. So, I’ll have 100 issues of involvement with this great zine under my belt, including 90-something as an editor. That’s not too many.

So, there’s a lot of good stuff that Jack started and the rest of us kept going. I’m looking forward to the next 100, and even though I’ll just be writing for the zine, I know it’s going to be good stuff.

Initially, I worried about having to take on SF/SF all by myself in addition to my increasingly complicated, overwhelming, stressful and busy life. For a few days, I went back and forth between being excited about taking charge of SF/SF (and making changes to it) and wanting to quit, too, so that I could rest and pursue other creative opportunities. Big changes have happened and are happening in my life that I need to deal with in the foreseeable future. And so I relished the thought of just being able to go home after work and not have to write, process photos, contact people, and all the minute details that I do while running SF/SF anymore. I would be able to forge a new life path because I’d then have the time to take acting and writing classes, do a more comprehensive blog of all my interests, or join a professional dance troupe.

I guess our 100th issue is a good time to reflect on all these things. After talking to España, Tom and several friends, I realized how important SF/SF still is to me and other people. SF/SF is my contribution to Fandom, my identity in that community, and one of my primary creative outlets. It certainly is the main channel for my writing and photography. I only had to read my World Fantasy Convention review and previous editorials to remind myself that SF/SF is a priority for me and that it’s great that I have an active writing role that I can talk to other people about. Additionally, lots of people I’ve talked to have told me how much they enjoy reading SF/SF and how they’d miss it if it were gone. It would be hard to let go of something already established to start something new from scratch.

So I have recommitted myself to SF/SF. Chris and David’s departures mark a turning point and a change to how things are done here, though. Starting in January, we will publish on a monthly schedule as opposed to semi-monthly. Things are still in flux, but at the moment, we are shooting for the 15th of each
month. There will be staff and content changes as well, and I hope that some of you would consider coming on board in some capacity or another. We always need more regular writers, photographers and artists. In particular, I would like more coverage on conventions and other events that I don’t go to; interviews with local authors, producers, directors, artists, etc.; and I’d even consider book, theatre, art show, TV and movie reviews as long as they have a sci fi/fantasy bent and are not too mainstream.

Change is the only constant and I’m determined to make the most of challenges and even do better in the future. I’m thrilled about continuing SF/SF and taking it into new directions. Stay tuned to see how the destiny of SF/SF unfolds!

Join our crew!

We are looking for writers to cover local events, conventions, fan groups and the fannish scene in general. Contact Jean Martin at SFinSF@gmail.com
Steve Green writes:

Hi Jean,

The U.S. fascination with renaissance fairs remains a matter of complete bewilderment to me, seeing as they aim to recreate a period which never existed on your continent. It’s rather as though British towns organised regular re-enactments of life in the Nile Delta a quarter-million years ago, simply because that’s where our ancestors came from.

Jean Martin responds: I think Ren Faires are popular in the U.S. as an offshoot of our interest in Shakespeare, fantasy and British history in general. The U.S. was a former colony and so has a lot of British cultural influences. And perhaps it’s also a feeling of affinity for the “mother” country (a lot of our citizens have British ancestry). In any case, it’s easier for us to be into English re-enactments (I do a lot of Regency and Victorian as well) because it’s easier for us to read English-language literature and watch shows in our common language. (Well, I’m sure you’d find that debatable.) Also, there’s a plethora of information on that time period, which makes it easier to re-enact. I personally would like to see more Old California re-enactments from the Spanish era. But that doesn’t seem to have the same cachet, perhaps because the Spanish subjugated their territories and the native population.

I heartily urge John Purcell to give serious thought to standing for DUFF. Visiting North America as TAFF delegate was a life-changing experience, my only regret being that I had no one to share it with.

Good luck to all the TAFF and DUFF candidates. It really does sound like a great experience.

I share your dissatisfaction with the remake of The Prisoner. The new version neither added to our understanding of the original nor made any significant advances of its own, and the brief introduction of Number 93 (clearly a role cast with the late Patrick McGoohan in mind, down to his Village blazer) merely serves to remind us how profoundly it pales in comparison.

The remake is very disappointing indeed.

Talking of remakes, whilst I applaud your taste in commending The I.T. Crowd to your readers, they should be aware a U.S. remake lurks in the shadows and should be avoided at all costs.

I did hear about that. U.S. remakes of British shows in general are terrible, with The Office (I hear) and Life on Mars as rare exceptions. I did find the Red Dwarf U.S. pilot interesting (horrors!). The canned laughter was annoying but I guess I had such low expectations of it, it didn’t bother me as much as it has other people.

I may be wrong but it looks like there may be a U.S. remake of Ashes to Ashes in the works. I’m watching Series 2 right now and am enjoying it, but so far not as much as Series 1, which was such gripping drama with some chilling revelations. The U.S. Life on Mars suffered from not having Philip Glenister in it. He plays an even more crucial role in Ashes to Ashes and the chemistry between him and Keely Hawes is charming. These elements are going to be very hard to replicate, I think.

Lloyd Penney writes:

Dear Jean, Chris, David, España and Tom:
Another great looking SF/SF, no. 98. Getting close to that magic 100th issue, folks. Knowing you bunch, and especially Chris, it will be something really special. On to the current issue…

Jean replies: Welcome to our 100th issue! I can't believe we’ve made it this far! And it’s great to end the year on this magic number.

World Fantasy was that great, hm? Gail Carriger is someone I must meet. I do like Scotch eggs, and best of all, I know what they are. A fine Victorian party would do us just fine. A good cuppa tea and all that… you do know you must rinse out your teapot with hot water before you set your tea to steep? Of course… The tea party we had at Ad Astra this past February was great fun, and many people who came to it for tea and biscuits liked what we had done. We even had a steampunk scientist from the Ontario Science Centre come by with some of his own mechanical creations, like a wind-up teabag steeper. Chris, I sincerely hope you grabbed that copy of Spaceways #1…

I love English tea parties. I’ve thrown one every year for my birthday for a few years now. I just love the little savories and sweets. And, of course, the tea. I generally don’t drink caffeine but I make an exception for these special occasions. I’m sure we’ll have more tea, Steampunk and Gail Carriger news in upcoming issues.

The Hallowe’en wedding was a lot of fun. Iain and Paul make a good couple. They both dressed as kings for their wedding, and Paul admitted it was better than dressing as queens… (Hey, he said it, I’m just reporting it!)

A Halloween wedding sounds like fun. Yet another excuse to costume. And dressing as kings instead of queens… that comment is too cute for words.

Jean, I went for that job interview I told you all about, and I did get the job. I am now a Production Assistant, Editorial in the Professional Development & Competency Department for the Law Society of Upper Canada. It’s one of the oldest law societies in the English-speaking world, established in 1797. I am keeping my evening job at the Globe and Mail, so once again, I am a little over-employed, but my bank account will thank me for this later…

Congratulations! That job actually sounds interesting even though you’re overqualified. It still has something to do with editing and production. And that’s amazing that societies like that have been around since the 18th century. So much history and legacy… we don’t have many venerable institutions like that around here.

A new Steampunk convention is coming up in Dearborn, Michigan this coming Memorial Day weekend. It’s drivable! It’s got Abney Park and the Foglios as guests! And we’re already committed for another convention! Why can’t there be more weekends in the year? It’s called The World Steam Expo, and it sure looks good. I get the feeling we will see if there is a second one, and how the reports on the first one go…

Steampunk truly is gaining steam! Pardon the pun. And Abney Park and the Foglios sure get around. They must be loving the fact that their genre is doing so well and they get to go everywhere and do what they love to do. I’d love to hear about these events you’re going to. There are a lot of Steampunk events coming up in the Bay Area next year. Surprisingly, there are more and more events despite the state of the global economy. I think it’s because people need something to feel good about and to focus on that has meaning, creativity and community.

John Purcell, if you need a DUFF nomination, look right my way. You’ve got my vote to send you to Australia. One question…will there be a second vote to bring you back? Better win that one, too…
John might like it there and not want to come back. I’m still raring to go to Australia… someday!

In the past, World Fantasy was always for the pros, the parties were run by the publishers and were often invitation only, and the fans were tolerated and not often admitted. You had to have your serious literary creds with you. Not necessarily so now, by the looks of it. Kevin and Andy know how to party, they have the fan creds and the awards to show for it, so I am not surprised they added the fannish dimension to the WFC. Good for you guys. You’ll have a loc from me for the first issue of Yipe! very soon.

I was surprised at how great World Fantasy was. It was a good balance of pros and fans. The parties were incredible and Kevin and Andy had the best hospitality suite I’ve ever been to.

Once again, we don’t have a ren faire here, unless you count the now three-day event at Casa Loma. I have been reading that some ren faires will now have a steampunk aspect to them for people who enjoy the costuming.

Steampunk and Ren Faire just don’t go together! Dickens Fair and Steampunk, yes. Ren Faires and pirates, yes. But Steampunk is just not even close to the same time period!

The Star Wars concert came to Montréal and Toronto recently. Did I get to see it? Heck, no! I work night and day now. Even if I could go to it, the tickets were pretty expensive. A similar Star Trek concert came through here last year, and the tickets were even more expensive, mostly because there were two hosts, John de Lancie and Robert Picardo. They are both very tall…

Oh! I hope they do a Star Trek concert here too! I’m so there! John de Lancie and Robert Picardo are great.

I am happy that Liz Gorinsky got the chance to show that all ages are enjoying steampunk…both Yvonne and I are in our 50s. This genre also shows that build and body type matter not. You can dress up and take part, no matter what you look like.

There’s a lot of room for different types of characters from all age ranges, social classes, professions, styles and the like in Steampunk. That’s why it’s so popular.

You folks gotta tell us more about Chris taking over Windycon, and Loscon is on RIGHT NOW!, so you must tell us all about that, when you recover, of course.

Chris covered WindyCon in Exhibition Hall. España’s Loscon report was in SF/ SF 99.

Hey, I’m all done! Many thanks to all of you, and to Jean Martin, one deep, long hug. We will meet one day, I hope. Keep working on that 100th issue, and the 99th, too, and see you then.

Thanks for the hug. Hope to meet you soon too! And enjoy our 100th issue!

More 100th Issue wishes from our readers:

Diane Rooney, former (and hopefully future) SF/SF Staff Writer:

Congratulations to you and your incredible staff. This is a terrific accomplishment and a labor of love.

Debbie Esters, first but former C.O.S.T.:

I’m a marginal Sci Fi fan. I don’t know the writers and producers of every TV/movie, I read more biography than fantasy, and even though I’ve gone by the handle C.O.S.T. (Commander of the Orion Slave Traders) for over a decade, I’ve been removed from that position and remain a fairly anonymous individual. Still, my favorite holiday is BayCon, my favorite bar is the Black Hole and my favorite dance club is PEERS. I have four racks and two dressers full of costumes (at least) and my photo albums have more pictures of me in costume than of my son growing up. Having revealed the depths of my depravity, I’d just like to thank Jean and Chris for bringing me SF/ SF. The zine has kept me posted of events, showed me pics of who wore what where and in general has kept a marginal fan such
as I in the loop. THREE CHEERS and CONGRATULATIONS to JEAN, CHRIS and SF/SF. Publish long and prosper.

Philip Gust, editor of The Virtual Costumer (The Costuming Magazine of the Silicon Web Costumers’ Guild) siwcostumers.org/ vc_current-issue.html:

You, Chris, and the others at SF/SF are the inspiration and example I looked to in [editing The Virtual Costumer]. SF/SF is the gold standard for me. Editing an ezine is really hard work, and I’m in awe of you guys for pulling it off every month.

Correction

– Jean Martin, Editor
These Old Fanzines: Vegas Fandom Weekly, The Drink Tank and Science Fiction / San Francisco

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

As we enter a new decade (and no one act up and mention that decades start in years that end in 1!), there are three zines that I can point to that had a major impact on the decade. One was Mimosa, which had been a big deal for good while, and the other was Emerald City, which won a Hugo in 2004 and was one of the first big deal zines that was almost entirely electronic. The third, at least as far as I’m concerned, was Arnie Katz’s Vegas Fandom Weekly — partly because it exposed Vegas fandom to an International fandom in a way that it had never been before, partly because it brought new attention to eZines, and partly because it influenced the founding of at least two zines that’ve gone on to run for 100+ issues!

The first issue of Vegas Fandom Weekly was released on November 23rd, 2004. It covered a few events upcoming in Vegas, it talked about a few happenings in Vegas, including a car crash that Alan White and his wife DeeDee were in, and a few other notices. The layout was clean, somewhat bold, with lots of bordering and the like, and as time went by, it got more and more art, more and more pages, and even by February 2005, it had managed to become one of the most interesting fanzines around.

I had started reading it with Issue 1 at some point in December, 2004. I had been LoCing a few zines by that point, eI, Jan Stinson’s much-missed Peregrine Nations, and I believe that I sent my first LoC to VFW in mid-2005 or so. I had been a fan of Arnie’s zine Flipper which stopped showing up around the same time. I loved it, and Corflu was coming up and I wanted to attend, so I started thinking about what kind of zine I could do. I had noticed that VFW, despite being specifically designed to cover Vegas, had also managed to become the zine of record simply by the fact that it came out once a week. I wanted to do something that would come out frequently, that would have some of the same design elements as the early issues of VFW, and that would be a lot of fun.

That’s what led to The Drink Tank.

The first issue of The Drink Tank came out on January 31st, 2005. It was the only zine I’d ever done using Microsoft Publisher. It had a bit in common with VFW, but the execution was certainly not there. In fact, with a couple of exceptions, I don’t think I’ve ever managed to put out a zine whose design could be favorably compared to any issue of VFW. I changed things and sorta felt my way around in the dark for a few months. I settled down somewhere around mid-2006 and it’s been going on in the same vein for all this time. Sadly, I was hitting stride just as VFW was starting to slow down and was no longer weekly, sometimes going a month or more between issues and eventually folding in 2009. It was a shame. I almost cried.

On July 23rd, 2005, Jack Avery released the first issue of Science Fiction/San Francisco. The first line: “This is all Arnie Katz’s fault. Blame him.”

The original SF/SF started small, with a calendar, an article about a screening of Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill! and another on the Temple at Burning Man. Simple, but to me, reading it in the warehouse of the Computer History Museum, I knew that this was about to become something special.

Mine was the first LoC, and I had an article which was a basic view of BArea
fandom. I had been thinking of doing a similar kind of zine, but alas, Jack beat me to it. I mentioned that in my LoC, which seems somewhat ironic.

By Issue 3, the Calendar was growing to be a large project, and it would prove to be the defining element of *SF/SF*. I had articles in issues 2, 3 and 6, and LoCs in almost all the issues. Jack even said that he had probably set himself an impossible task to keep *SF/SF* up weekly. He announced that he was going to fold up shop, and Jean Martin and myself both stepped up separately saying we’d be willing to take up the editing duties. Jack stayed as layout guy. This started the run that’s continued to today.

Jack left us after issue 20, giving way to Eva Kent, who kept up the good work on layout. She moved on with issue 46, I did a guest layout for issue 47, and that led to David Moyce going on as layout editor for Nos. 48-77. Issue 78 was the first where Tom Becker came on as Compositor.

The funny thing about *SF/SF, The Drink Tank,* and *VFW* is that we’re all out of same soup: Frequent e-publishing zines that take advantage of their frequency. The fact that *SF/SF* comes out twice a month has allowed us to cover events close to their times, and it allows us to promote great events. *VFW* was the start of that. Not the first weekly zine, but it was the one that came to the forefront in the last decade that really launched things.
Christmas in space

by Aidan Casserly
On Saturday November 14th, I went to the San Francisco Browncoats’ monthly meetup at Cafe Murano. I do love going to the SF Browncoats’ meetups, and try to go when I can. It’s a mellow gathering of mostly regulars and a few newbies or even out-of-town visitors. We catch up on our latest interests… it doesn’t have to be about Firefly or any of Joss Whedon’s work, although of course these always come up. We talk about other sci fi and fantasy TV shows, movies, novels, and comic books, and past and upcoming conventions. That Saturday, it was a small group, most of them friends and acquaintances of mine. There was Gail, Elizabeth, Nicole, Christian, Sue, Shawn and Lorelei. I also met a young girl named Sarah who just moved up from Southern California. She was wearing a River-inspired ensemble.

I had my usual vegetarian panini and hot chocolate. I hung around for several hours, which necessitated more food and refreshment later in the afternoon. So I had a brownie bite and orange juice as well.

I was having so much fun with the remaining gals around 4:00 p.m. that I tagged along with them when they decided to check out a cupcake place called Baked in Potrero Hill – way across the city from Pacific Heights where we were. On the way there, we stopped by Elizabeth’s spacious apartment near Golden Gate Park. Elizabeth also picked up Louise from the train station on the way there.

It was fun exploring the city and just winging it with friends. I often don’t get to do spontaneous things anymore with so many of my activities being set on certain dates and at specific times. I do love San Francisco and often think of moving there. But I prefer living in the suburbs were it’s quiet and peaceful. My social life is so hectic that I value being able to go home to a sanctuary that has ample parking and ensuite laundry.

Baked was a small but very cozy and quaint local bakery. Potrero Hill has really gotten gentrified recently and it looked like a nice area to just wander around even at night. The red devil cupcake with cream cheese frosting I had was to die for. I also bought a small bag of their fresh Fall granola. I wish I’d bought more, because it was the best granola I’ve ever had in my entire life. It beats the one at Arizmendi Bakery in the Richmond and that’s saying a lot because I love the one at Arizmendi’s.
But I guess it wouldn’t have made sense to buy more than a bag of the Baked granola because it wasn’t as crunchy by the third day. I wish I lived closer so I could buy it every week!

Some of the gals were headed off to Berkeley to see American Idiot, the musical based on the Green Day album of the same name. They’d seen it before but they found it so good they wanted to see it again. One of my favorite songs, “Boulevard of Broken Dreams,” is from that album, but I didn’t like the other songs so I wasn’t too keen on seeing the musical myself.

So it was time to say goodbye after we indulged our sweet tooth at Baked. I was also in a hurry to get to the next item on my sci fi in San Francisco Saturday agenda: a night at SFinSF. Yes, the other SFinSF that we are often mistaken for, or vice-versa.

SFinSF puts on monthly author readings, movie screenings and other events to benefit the Variety Children’s Charity. Rina Weisman from Tachyon Publications is one of the organizers. I got to know her a little bit more after working at the recent World Fantasy Convention (WFC) where she was the Vice-Chair. She was the one who recruited me to work as part of Media Relations for the con.

Rina sends me an email with upcoming events, which we include in our own Calendar listing at the end of each issue. There have been several readings I’ve wanted to go to in the past, but I have never gotten around to it due to scheduling conflicts. Also, I didn’t know anyone else who goes to these things so I wasn’t too keen on going. But after the WFC — where I thoroughly enjoyed the intellectual stimulation of conversing with writers about a lot of interesting topics — I was craving more of the same.

Luckily, the next SFinSF reading after WFC included Jeff VanderMeer whom I’d met at Steam Powered in 2008 and got to converse with more at WFC. In addition, I found out that España and two new acquaintances I made at WFC were going as well. Both Carrie and Emily, whom I really enjoyed meeting at WFC, told me they were going. That sealed the deal for me and I was excited to go to SFinSF for the first time.

I got to the Variety Preview Room at the Hobart Building right at 7:00 p.m. when the readings were supposed to start. I saw Rina serving drinks at the bar. It was her birthday so I greeted her with natal felicitations. They didn’t start on time so I was able to chat with people including Kevin, Andy, Cheryl, España and my co-worker Dave who’s an aspiring writer and artist. I was surprised to see my new dancer/costumer friend Laurie, who I seem to run into at the oddest places lately. I guess she and I have a lot of common interests, of which we keep discovering more. Another person I run into at various events but have never really talked to is dancer, author and musician Cliff. I got to talk with him more that night when he showed us photos of him and his wife on the Airship Ventures zeppelin. They were both in Victorian costumes. The photos were amazing. I still
want to get a group to go do this in Victorian/Steampunk attire… hopefully sometime in 2010.

I saw someone familiar running around and realized later, after I saw him recording the readings, that it was Rick Kleffel. Rick does author interviews for his web site, the *Agony Column*, as well as for NPR. I got to meet him when I was working at the Press Office at WFC. I also finally got to meet sci-fi and fantasy writer Terry Bisson, who hosts these monthly SFinSF readings.

I didn’t see Carrie or Emily and was worried that they wouldn’t show up after all, but they came in late and sat right in front of me.

The viewing room is probably half the size of a small movie theater, but it was nice and comfortable. A table and chairs were set up in front of the screen. The event began with all of us singing “Happy Birthday” to Rina. Then Terry introduced the two authors for the evening.

For some reason — maybe because my parents never read to me when I was a little girl, or maybe because I’m more of a visual than auditory person — I’m really not too fond of author readings. I get bored and sleepy. Which is odd because I mostly listen to audiobooks instead of reading real books. But the readers that night were entertaining enough and kept my attention.

The first reader was S.G. (Scott) Browne whose debut novel *Breathers* just came out. It’s a dark comedy about sentient zombies trying to fit into society. Zombies are totally not my thing, other than *Shaun of the Dead* and doing a zombie prom routine at this year’s BayCon masquerade. I don’t know why zombies have become so popular of late but I don’t go out of my way to get into that particular sub-culture. So it
was surprising to me that I enjoyed Scott’s reading. His voice was very engaging and I could visualize the chapters he read. There were several original, clever and touching moments interspersed with the humor and social commentary. He had his own spin on the existing zombie mythology and his characters’ plights (mostly discrimination from “normal” folk) made me laugh and cry.

Jeff VanderMeer’s style was completely different. He read from the latest and final novel of his Ambergris series entitled *Finch*. His work has a Film Noir detective feel with a fantasy adventure element in a sci-fi setting. Ambergris is an elaborately-created world inspired by Jeff’s early years in Fiji and travels all over the world. A prolific and award-winning writer, Jeff was one of the Guests of Honor at WFC. He and his wife Ann (who wasn’t there that evening) were the editors of the acclaimed and popular *Steampunk* anthology.

During the intermission, I got to talk with people more. I also got to see the books on sale courtesy of Borderlands Books. Most of the books were by Terry, Jeff and Scott. We also got to indulge in the hors d’oeuvres and drinks. Plus, cupcakes were served in honor of Rina’s birthday.

The second half of the evening was a Q&A moderated by Terry. Terry was funny, warm and intelligent. I enjoyed this part of the night more because I got to learn more about the authors, their novels and the publishing business.

Jeff had a lot of interesting anecdotes and it was exciting to hear about his experiences overseas. He also explained that his character Finch channeled the best of himself. Finch has a simple moral compass but is faced with a complex environment. Jeff said he doesn’t really believe in wizards, vampires and the like, and so he doesn’t write about them. He only writes about what he believes. He added that he couldn’t really put humor into his Ambergris novels because it just wouldn’t go with the stories’ themes.

Scott, on the other hand, included humor in his book. He mentioned how he started out writing horror but didn’t enjoy it after a while. Humor seems to come naturally to him and that’s a special gift to be able to share with others. He was also very inspiring as he described the creative process that led to his writing *Breathers*. Asked about the social commentary woven around this story, he said that it evolved out of the narrative.

Afterwards, the authors did a book signing session. I didn’t bring any books and didn’t buy any, so I didn’t have anything for them to sign, but Jeff was having us all sign his novel as a souvenir of his book tour. I do have Jeff’s latest, *Booklife*, which I had him sign at WFC. *Booklife*, which is about having a sustainable career as a creative writer, is one I’m hoping to read and make use of soon.

I joined several people I know to go to the Marriott Hotel’s View Lounge that was a few blocks away. I love that place, which has an almost 360-degree view of San Francisco from the top floor of the hotel. I hadn’t had dinner yet so I ordered a salad. A few ordered food as well and everyone ordered drinks.

I was able to get to know Jeff as well as Carrie and Emily more. They were all intelligent, creative and a lot of fun. Jeff surprised us at the end of the evening by picking up the tab for everyone. He said he had just received an advance for a novel that was purchased by a publisher. What an incredibly generous man! We all congratulated him on his latest success.

Then we all went our separate ways and I went home after an unexpectedly relaxing day and night of science fiction in San Francisco.

For more information, visit: www.sfbrowncoats.com and www.sfinsf.org.
November 7th offered not only an extension of Halloween, but the 16th installment of Le Bal des Vampires. Tracy and I never miss the affectionately-termed “Vamps Ball,” considering the theme and location. It is the preeminent Period Events & Entertainments Re-Creation Society (PEERS) gala, with some folks attending the one for the year, and the costumes and performances never disappoint. PEERS describes the event as a re-creation of a 19th-century French costume ball adorned with evening dress of the century and country of one’s “rebirth”. It is indeed a must for any dance card.

Approaching the Alameda Elks Lodge by dark of eve, we were greeted by a gorgeous vintage automobile parked at the front entrance, along with a suspicious trail of dirt. Already we had the camera out — it is untrue that one cannot photograph a vampire. The vehicle’s red piping and my scarlet coat got along famously. Making our way to the back and down into the belly of the Lodge, we presented our tickets (missed number 13 by one) and began our orbits.

Tracy prefers the Victorian-era appearance with a touch of Steampunk and his implement of doom, while this year I was motivated toward undead by way of anime with a touch of fetish. I consider it a compliment that several people were shocked to realize it was me under all the hair extensions.
Dracula’s Daughter’s Discotheque beckoned from beyond the ticket desk, with DJ Dark Moon spinning everything from the requisite Dead Can Dance to Information Society. I found the latter to be particularly enjoyable, having met group founder/lead singer Kurt Larson at a Hallow’s gathering the week before. Chat and photo ops called, with attendee dress variety stunning yet again. Nosferatu was ever-present, along with lovely couples in brocade delights, denizens sporting complex tattoos and thigh-high boots, and an amazing quartet of Marie Antoinettes. There were no bounds of space or time at the ball, with a pair of valiant Star Trek “redshirts” taking a stab at vampire hunting, plus a Borg-inspired bloodsucker — or was it the other way around? To us, the standout costumer was Jenn in her astounding black and orange finery and feathers, replete with flickering, grinning jack-o-lantern headdress.

Next was a twirl through the elegant upstairs grand ballroom, where the wonderful chamber ensemble Bangers & Mash took the children of the night from era to era, with waltzes, polkas, tangos, reels, and schottisches. Some century I will actually learn to properly dance, but PEERS events often fill with discussion, costume adoration, and picture-taking. There was plenty of all, and it was fabulous to admire and converse with old friends and newly-made acquaintances. The PEERS dances are always a joy because they are a central gathering place for so many people we would not see otherwise.

While the event was sold out, the ballroom seemed to be not as crowded
as it had been in past years. Still, it was quite warm, and my floor-length coat and excess headgear grew toasty. Back down to the disco we went, in time to be regaled by dances of the veils, provided by Heidi. A refreshing beverage later (no, it wasn’t what you think) and we were back to photos and chittering. Apparently my get-up had some dominant flavor, as I and several other ladies with shiny, in-charge-type apparel were presented with Pro Dommes & Beyond 2010 calendars.

Another run top-side entertained with the “half-time show” deliciously delivered by Le Theatre des Vampires. Then it was off to the Lodge’s regal staircase, where many glorious attendees posed for shots. A further orbit and we were thinking of finding places to perch. Those turned up at the foyer, which becomes a lounge where one can have her tarot read. That’s another one for the list o’ things to do, as it was fascinating watching the seers work their magic. I imagine they have quite a bit to read for the immortals, especially the older ones.

Before long, a few of us had found comfy chairs and gathered for relaxation and comparison of the night’s notes. More cameras materialized as midnight
approached and much proof of the group’s existence was created while the floorboards thumped from above. No one was in a hurry to depart just yet.

Alas, all good things do come to an end, even for the undead, and the Vamps Ball was a most excellent conclusion to a frighteningly fun Halloween season. If you missed (or simply miss) it, come out for Le Mardi Gras des Vampires in February (more information to be found at www.peers.org/mardigras.html). And fear not, number 17 is indeed lurking next November.
A Special Sci Fi Costuming Event

By Philip Gust
Contributing Writer

A group of sci fi/fantasy costumers got together earlier this year to put on a special event at BayCon 2009. The event was called “Costuming by the Book: Visions of Barsoom.” Four teams were asked to pretend that a major studio approached them to audition as costume designers for an upcoming motion picture, John Carter of Mars.

The picture is based on the first three books of the famous Edgar Rice Burroughs series about a Civil War veteran who is teleported to Mars (Barsoom), marries a Princess of the Red Martian civilization, and repeatedly rescues her from danger with the help of a four-armed, 15-foot-tall ally from the war-like Green Martian civilization.

Each team designed costumes for the three principal characters, plus other heroes and villains who come and go during the story. They displayed their work in a special art show exhibit, and pitched their designs to an audience of “studio executives” during a panel session. At the end of the panel, the teams fielded questions from the audience on a range of topics.

I was a member of one of the design teams, and also the guest editor for a special issue of the Silicon Web Costumers’ Guild’s Virtual Costumer that reported on it. You can read about this unique sci fi costuming event and see the designs by downloading the “Barsoom” special issue in PDF format from the Virtual Costumer section of the SiW web site at: www.siwcostumers.org/ vc_contents.html#v7_i3.
Visions of Barsoom

A Special Issue on the
BayCon 2009 “Costuming by the Book”
Art Show Exhibit and Panel
By Tom Becker
SF/SF Compositor

Growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area as a science fiction fan, I have always been interested in stories set in and around “the City.” San Francisco has a great literary history including writers such as Mark Twain, Ambrose Bierce, Dashiell Hammett, Jack Kerouac, and Armistead Maupin. But it is San Francisco as a fantastical and science fictional city that fascinates me the most. What follows is a personal list of some of the San Francisco science fiction that has meant something to me. There is no way it can be complete or authoritative. I can only hope that some will find it interesting (and maybe write a Letter Of Comment).

The gold rush instantly transformed San Francisco from a sleepy village into the most modern city in the world, a high technology outpost thousands of miles away from any other cities. In Science Fiction in Old San Francisco, History of the Movement From 1854 to 1890, Sam Moskowitz describes the science fiction and fantasy that was frequently published in the local newspapers and magazines. There is a second volume, Into the Sun and Other Stories, collecting the science fiction stories of Robert Duncan Milne, published from 1882 to 1891. Both volumes are a lot of fun to read. The stories are intelligent and creative and full of unusual and sometimes very creepy ideas. The literary quality is not bad; it’s popular entertainment but remember this is decades before science fiction became a pulp genre.

The seminal modern science fiction story set in San Francisco is the classic Earth Abides, by George R. Stewart, published in 1949. Stewart was a very popular and beloved professor of English at UC Berkeley. He published only one science fiction novel, but it was not a stretch for him, because of his intense interests in geography, history, and ecology (which was not a well known word at the time). The landscape in Earth Abides feels real. The events that happen feel inevitable. That feeling of inevitability gives a weird, somewhat detached perspective on the people in the story. It isn’t about them. It is about how our civilization fades away and how the ecosystem changes and how people adapt and change with it. It is a very science fictional perspective.

Philip K. Dick lived much of his life in the Bay Area. The Man in the High Castle, which won the Hugo Award, begins in an alternate San Francisco which has been under Japanese occupation since WW II. What I really liked about the book was the portrayal of the Japanese characters and their interest in American pop culture. I think he got it exactly right, which is really something for 1963, but also there is a wistful aspect to it that is a mirror image of our knowledge that in reality, people of Japanese descent were a major part of the Bay Area communities, and they were treated very badly.

The Phil Dick novel that, to me, is really about San Francisco, is The Transmigration of Timothy Archer. The character of Timothy Archer is based on the very real, brilliant and controversial liberal Episcopal Bishop of California, James Pike. The novel is not science fiction, but I don’t care. It is vivid, intense, passionate, and full of many truths and conflicts and deep ironies. I can’t think of anything better to get a feel
for what it was like to be alive and aware in San Francisco in the 1960s.

Fritz Leiber Jr. moved to San Francisco later in his life, but he settled in and developed an extraordinary feel for the City and its character. My favorite of his San Francisco stories is the short, “Midnight by the Morphy Watch.” It’s really my favorite San Francisco story by any author. It distills so much of what I feel about San Francisco into such a small container, like a shot of rye at 300 proof. And then there is the classic fantasy Our Lady of Darkness. Any San Franciscan can instantly get the idea of the Transamerica Pyramid and the Twin Peaks television tower as baleful constructs set upon the city. But what really made the book for me was how personal it was. The way the nexus of dark forces was focused on Fritz’s actual apartment. And the way that books and papers make a fickle and dangerous lover. That one really hits close to home.

Two books that lost me are Roberta Ann MacAvoy’s Tea With the Black Dragon and John Shirley’s City Come a-Walkin’. I wanted to like them. Tea With the Black Dragon is clever and charming. City Come a-Walkin’ is full of raw creativity and punk attitude. But I got hung up on the geography. I remember a passage in Tea With the Black Dragon where the characters drive from Santa Cruz up to San Francisco in something like 45 minutes. No way. And reading City Come a-Walkin’ felt like being driven around San Francisco lying down in the back of a car and looking up through the rear window. While on drugs. It was disorienting. Streets connected that shouldn’t. Buildings loomed in strange places. I know the whole thing is about the city getting up and boogying, so maybe it was supposed to be that way, but I just kept saying, “But…”

Richard Paul Russo lives in Seattle, but somehow he managed to nail the heart of San Francisco. First in Subterranean Gallery, then in Destroying Angel, Carlucci’s Edge, and Carlucci’s Heart. It’s not very many years from now. Things have gotten worse, but it’s been gradual. It seems really bad only if you stop and think about it. But the City is still achingly beautiful, in its own gritty way. There still is a sort of community. There still are people resisting the corruption and trying to hold things together. I don’t know if I could live there, but if I lived there, I don’t know if I could move away either. Not while San Francisco is still alive. Even with those nails hammered into its still-beating heart.

Brisingamen, by Diana Paxson, is a light but terrifically entertaining contemporary fantasy in which a Berkeley grad student discovers the legendary necklace of the goddess Freya and the next thing she knows the Norse gods are here and there is an epic battle to be won. Paxson was involved in creating the Society for Creative Anachronism. She knows her history and ancient religions and how to play a harp and also that medieval warriors are not that different from modern bikers. Which leads to one of the greatest scenes ever in a modern fantasy novel. But I’m not saying. You’re going to have to read it yourself.

Diana Paxson also wrote a fantasy series, the Chronicles of Westria, set in northern California long after things have changed, our industrial civilization has gone away, and magic is in the world. The story is a family saga of conflict and love and loss and perseverance, filled with a deep spiritual reverence for the California landscape. I have to say that the beginning of the Westria Chronicles was Diana’s first published work. Since then she has developed into a very fine writer, as good as anyone in the field. These early books are rougher, but they are full of vitality and power. And it was very moving to have someone write a fantasy for California the way she did. Part of me still lives there.

Pat Murphy wrote a response to Earth Abides in The City, Not Long After. Part of
it was a scientific argument: if a mass epidemic occurred, not so many people would die. The City, Not Long After is a story about how civilization changes, not about how it goes away. It also is strongly influenced by Pat’s experience working at The Exploratorium, San Francisco’s marvelous museum of science and perception. In The City, Not Long After, it is the scientists and the artists who hold the society together. The result is a magical transformation where San Francisco becomes more like itself.

Pat’s friends, Lisa Goldstein and Michaela Roessner wrote their own post-holocaust Bay Area magical-realist science fiction novels. Each one destroys a different part of the Bay Area. Lisa’s A Mask for the General is set in the East Bay, and Michaela’s Vanishing Point is set in the South Bay, with lots of action taking place in the Winchester Mystery House. Michaela is a mask maker; if you ever have a chance to see her work, do so; it is astonishing. So it would make total sense for her to write a novel where masks are a major element, except Lisa wrote it first. I guess that is what friends are for, to help challenge you artistically. Anyway, the three novels form an interesting thematic trilogy, all set in roughly the same time, and nearby places, with similar backgrounds, but by different authors and with different concerns and different outcomes. And all three argue with Earth Abides in different ways.

Always Coming Home is deeply rooted in the San Francisco Bay Area and northern California. The title reflects a homecoming for Ursula K. Le Guin to the places where she grew up as Ursula Kroeber. It also reflects a coming back to writing science fiction. The book is full of circular patterns. It is not an ordinary book. It is easier to describe what it isn’t than what it is. It is not fantasy. It is not a utopia. It is not a post-holocaust story. It is not anti-technological or post-technological. It is not a single story. It is not linear. But what is it? Stories people tell, far in the future, at a time when they are more connected to the land than we are now. Songs they sing. Poems. Drawings. Things that give us an idea of who they are. Or who we would be if we lived then. And oh my goodness the writing is beautiful. I don’t know if it is the best science fiction novel ever, but without a doubt it is the most underrated. There is just so much in it, and every time I come back to it, there’s more.
By Cary W. Tucker

Jedi say only fools rush in,
But I can’t help feeling the Force with you.
Shall I join the Order,
Would I be a Padawan,
If I can’t help feeling the Force with you.

Like the midi-chlorian growing deep in me,
Darling, your beauty lures me
To leave the Dark Side.

Take my hand, take my blaster too,
For I can’t help feeling the Force with you.

Like the midi-chlorian growing deep in me,
Darling, your beauty lures me
To leave the Dark Side.

Take my hand, take my blaster too,
For I can’t help feeling the Force with you.
For I can’t help feeling the Force with you.
Meeting 1010

December 7, 2009

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

Began 8pm - with anticipation.

We established a party jar.

23 people attended.

Secretary’s report: the minutes of meeting 1009 were accepted as “that’s nice, that’s verrah nice.”

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $14.23 in the regular jar and $5.25 in the party jar.

The Vice President reported that there were 2 new Drink Tanks out, that “soon” there will be a new SF/SF, that he will be running the fanzine lounge at Renovation & there’s a new Exhibition Hall out now.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

The Vice President made a motion and it was not seconded.

Announcements

[evil] Kevin announced that the Imperial Snow Ball is Dec 12, 7:30 at the Billy DeFrank center in SF & that he may be performing as Miss Debra & announced that a new issue of Yipe is out now.

Glenn announced that SMOFcon for 2010 will be in San Jose in the Larkspur hotel, December 3-5, $50 until May 1 & Dave C may have flyers for it.

Ken announced that the Psychotronic Film Festival will be this weekend at Foothill JC this Saturday at 7pm.

Adrienne announced that she’ll be one of the participants at Gene Burn’s Dining Around annual Cookie Exchange this Saturday.

Dave C announced that there are new Cargo Cult catalogs out & that he can sell SMOFcon memberships.

Radar announced that there will be a big geek sale at her place this Saturday, from 10 am till 5pm & see her about the Alex fund to help Johanna with funeral expenses.

Dave G announced that there will be a party at the House of Spike on Jan 2 & it will have a Dr Who theme.

Chris announced that there is a forbes.com article on the 12 most influential video games that quotes him.

Carole announced that they will host a Sunday holiday brunch at their place on Dec 13 from 11am till 3pm.

Reviews

Chris reviewed the life day party at LosCon as wonderful & reviewed Transylmania as not a good viewing experience & awful in ways he can almost forgive & reviewed that in his Cinequest viewing he saw the best SF short film EVAR - Night Mayor.

Glenn reviewed Patricia McKillip’s Cygnet Duology as really, really interesting, quite enjoyable, an enjoyable fantasy world & worth full price & reviewed SMOFcon as he got the chance to talk to lots of people & the SFSFC party went thru a lot of wine and cheese.

John reviewed the Photoflex sale as they went there bright & early to get the good stuff & it was packed - but they still got good deals.

Mo reviewed the audio drama Tender Morsels as full of magic, very enjoyable & well done - she recommends it.

Lisa reviewed Blind Side as a wonderful movie & very well done & she reviewed LosCon as worth full price & she had fun.

Fred reviewed the Tcho Chocolate factory on Pier 17 as he got good chocolate there – it’s a fun place to get good chocolate at.
Chris reviewed the ST exhibit at the Tech as very good & worth the price & also reviewed SorcererCon as very small but very good and she hopes it continues.

Andy reviewed a silly topic on Twitter [badmusicals] as funny & they’ve been adding to the silly.

We did auctions: we auctioned off books for $0.25, $0.75, $0.25; then various stuff for $0.25; movie trailers for $0.25; bins for $0.25, magazine & a video for $0.50 & plushies for $0.25.

We adjourned at = 9:43.

And the rumor of the week was: “Zod lives.”

**Meeting 1011**

December 14, 2009

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

Began 8ish - with me finishing a book.
We established a party jar.
20 people attended.
Secretary’s report: the minutes of meeting 1010 were accepted as “the eye of BASFA.”

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $3.86 in the regular jar and $5.04 in the party jar.

The Vice President reported that there was a new Drink Tank out ... and only slightly “ish.”

The President had nothing fannish to report - and we did say “hi” to Steven, a BayCon-er from long time back just visiting us for the 1st time.

The Vice President moved -> ... well, no, he didn’t.

Dave moved that Chris be referred to as “Sir not appearing in these minutes” and that did pass.

**Announcements**

Joe announced that Skype is doing great things and is fun to work for.

Dave G announced that there will be a party at the House of Spike on Jan 2 at 7pm.

Dave C announced that there is a convention coming up: Further Confusion - at the Fairmont in January & that Cargo Cult will be there.

“Sir not appearing in these minutes” announced that TAFF voting will end on Dec 24 and that you can pay on the site with Paypal.

[evil] Kevin announced that there is a convention coming up: Arisia - the week before FurCon in January and that he and Andy will be Fan GoHs there & announced that Yipe 1.3 is now out.

Ken announced that there is NO Legion of Rassilon meeting this month.

**Reviews**

Harold reviewed *Invictus* as an excellent film, totally feel-good, uplifting and recommended.

Adrienne reviewed being at the Gene Burns’ Cookie Exchange as she had a lot of fun, there were great cookies there, her “spirited eggnog cookies” were picked to compete among 25 others from among 400+ entries and that while she was not one of the winners, she got great swag.

Andy reviewed the Syfy *Alice* as it was better than Syfy’s *Flash Gordon* but still ham-handed; NOT 4-hours of his life totally wasted & not worth self-mutilation; [evil] Kevin follow-on’d that at least it managed to have a happy ending.

“Sir not appearing in these minutes” reviewed a Cargo Cult supplied book = *The Corpse wore Pasties* by Johnny Porkpie as it was a lot of fun & entertaining, worth $7.99; reviewed the Psychotronic Film Festival as it showed a lot of great films - and then those others ones, too & was worth the $5 that Linda paid when she took him to see it; & reviewed *Up in the Air* as wrist-slittingly good, wonderfully depressing, well-acted and fantastic and worth full price - plus Linda is getting him *Boilerplate* for Christmas.

[evil] Kevin reviewed the PENSWAG donation show as full of foxes & at the Snow Ball Miss Debra roller-skated and lived to tell about it, then they did wine tasting and had fun.

Dave C reviewed the Fabulous Mr Fox as fun & reviewed *The Terror* by Dan Simmons as grim & detailed, worth full price paperback &
reviewed a Southwest airlines flight as the least stressful flight he’s had in a while.
Glenn reviewed a seafood dish he had as absolutely amazing.

We did auctions: we auctioned off books for $1.00; then videos for $2.50 & $1.25.
We adjourned at = 9:14.
And the rumor of the week was: “Andy and Kevin need a Syfy channel safe-word.”

**Meeting 1012**

December 21, 2009

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

Began 8pm - with me wondering why you all weren’t out watching *Avatar*.
We established a party jar.
22 people attended.
Secretary’s report: the minutes of meeting 1011 were accepted.
There was no Treasurer.
The Vice President reported that there was a new *Drink Tank* out - the “death issue” and there was “stuff and things” that he had forgotten - and he had TAFF ballots with him and the deadline for voting is Dec 22.

The President had nothing fannish to report - and we won’t be here on Dec 28 so Chris will have to do the president job.
The Vice President moved that Dave C be made the secretary for next meeting and it passed.
The Millennium Big committee was reminded that it had already stood down.

**Announcements**

Dave C announced that John Norman has a publisher again and that Gor #28 is now out.
Ken announced that the new *Dr Who* will be released on BBC Dec 25 and Jan 1 - and BBC America will have them on Dec 26 and Jan 2.
Mike announced that *It’s a Wonderful Life* will be at the California Theatre and the Stanford Theatre.
Lisa announced that Alex Baker’s memorial will be on Jan 23, Saturday and details are on britgeekgirl’s LJ (britgeekgrrl.livejournal.com/2303639.html) - and now Lisa has a room on the party floor for FurCon that she would like to see someone take over for her.
Chris announced that people had died ... and we wandered off into obscure trivia.

**Reviews**

Dave C reviewed Stephen Gould’s *Questioning the Millennium* as an interesting read and recommends buying it.
Krys reviewed Robert Jordan’s *Gathering Storm* [written from beyond the grave] - as not a disappointment after all -- and Stellan asked “So it was the *Wheel of Overtime*?”

Then Krys reviewed *Avatar* as “it did not suck” and it was not *Dances with Wolves* - no, it was *Dances with Smurfs* - and she would SO move to Pandora; Howeird follow-on’d that he agreed, but it IS imaginative, so see it; then I follow-on’d that I enjoyed it beyond all expectations, that the 3D did not annoy me or give me a headache and the visuals blew me away, worth seeing 3 times; then Fred follow-on’d that the visuals were indeed stunning (but the script was formulaic and predictable); Chris followed that he hadn’t seen it but heard the story was derivative and that Linda loved it ... and Glenn used the follow-ons to make a lame *Wizards* reference.
Mo reviewed a book on artistic perspective = *Secret Knowledge* by David Hockney as excellent.
Glenn reviewed Patricia McKillip’s *Riddlemaster of Hed* as high fantasy.
Chris reviewed *The Sky* as full of sparkle.

We did auctions: We auctioned off books for $0.25, $0.75, $0.25, $0.55, $0.50. t-shirts for $0.25, $0.25, a magazine for $0.50, a t-shirt and a book for $0.25; then a calendar for $1.25.
We adjourned at = 9:10
And the rumor of the week was: “Does Adolf Hitler sparkle?”
Life is complicated; putting on an event is even more so. Please check before attending, as events are sometimes canceled or times and locations changed.

Follow the calendar on Twitter:  
@sfsfcalendar

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

Through Sunday, January 3
Star Trek: The Exhibition
The Tech Museum
201 South Market Street, San Jose
www.thetech.org/StarTrek
Step inside the Star Trek universe and experience the unmatched imagination, vibrant artistry and groundbreaking technology that have made Star Trek the most enduring science fiction franchise in history.

$25

Through Tuesday, January 19
There’s a Mystery There: Sendak on Sendak
The Contemporary Jewish Museum
736 Mission St., San Francisco
www.thecjm.org
The exhibit features more than 100 watercolors, drawings and sketches by Sendak – including many that have never before been displayed, along with video footage of interviews with the author and includes a space for young visitors to enjoy Sendak’s work. In addition to several Sendak-themed classes and lectures for adults, there will be a number of events for children, including a Wild Things-inspired costume-making day.

$5-10

Friday, January 8
Clockwork SF
Cat Club
1190 Folsom, San Francisco
www.myspace.com/clubclockwork
Clockwork is a monthly steampunk/goth/darkwave night. Two rooms, goth/industrial in the back and steam in the front.
9 p.m.  $5

Friday-Sunday, January 8-10
West Kingdom 12th Night
Hilton Concord Hotel
1970 Diamond Blvd, Concord
www.westcooks.org/12thnight2010
SCA event, we ask that everyone who is attending make an attempt at pre-17th Century clothing. 12th Night serves as the Coronation for the incoming King and Queen, and there are a host of other things to do too.

$25

Saturday, January 2
Victorian 12th Night Ball
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo
12th Night Ball hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig, live performance by Bangers and Mash. Suggested costume is evening or day dress from 1837 through 1870, any class. Modern evening dress is, as always, a completely acceptable substitute for period costume and there is no dress code for the evening.
7 p.m.  $20
**Friday-Sunday, January 8-10**

**SacAnime**
Radisson Hotel
500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento
www.sacanime.com
Guests: Chris Sarandon, Vic Mignogna, Laura Bailey, Travis Willingham, Brandon McKinney, Katie Bair and Jodon Bellofatto.
$35

**Friday-Sunday, January 8-10**

**Anime Los Angeles**
LAX Marriott
5855 West Century Blvd, Los Angeles
www.animelosangeles.org
Anime convention. GOHs: Kyle Hebert, Jessica Gaona, The Spoony Bards and Bekka the Alice. Tostmaster: Tadao Tomomastu
$25

**Friday-Sunday, January 8-10**

**QuatreCon**
Solano County Fairgrounds,
900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo
www.quatrecon.com
Science fiction, horror, supernatural, and paranormal film festival and convention.
$60

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**Saturday, January 9**

**Author: Scott Sigler**

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Scott Sigler, local podcasting sensation, returns with a new novel, *The Rookie*
3 p.m. Free

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**Saturday-Sunday, January 9-10**

**IndyEuphoria**
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sacramentocomics.com/indy/index2.html
Sacramento’s Vinyl, Toy and Indy Comics show.
$10

**Sunday, January 10**

**Author: Deborah Ross**

Dark Carnival Books
3086 Claremont Ave, Berkeley
www.darkcarnival.com
Ross signs her Darkover novel, *Hastur Lord*
2 p.m. Free

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**Monday, January 11**

**CAS Dean Lecture: Comparative Exoplanetary Science**
California Academy of Sciences
55 Music Concourse Dr., Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
www.calacademy.org
Dr. Ben Oppenheimer, American Museum of Natural History will discuss research efforts in exoplanet imaging and spectroscopy, while highlighting two of AMNH’s main projects: an active, ongoing search at Palomar, called Project 1640, and construction of the starlight suppression system for the Gemini Planet Imager.
7:30 p.m. $12

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**Friday, January 15**

**The Phenomenauts**
Shire Road Club
5525 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento
www.myspace.com/shireroadclubsac
With The Secretions, Boats!, Sharp Objects.
7 p.m. $12

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**Saturday, January 16**

**Author: Jeff Carlson**

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Meet local thriller writer Jeff Carlson, and check out the slick and frightening third book in his *Plague* series.
3 p.m. Free
Saturday, January 16

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

Sunday, January 17

Author: Mike Oliveri
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Join us to meet Mike Oliveri and check out his ambitious new prose/graphic novel project with EvilEye Books.
3 p.m. Free

Tuesday, January 19

Ask a Scientist: Your Brain on Computers
Horatius
350 Kansas, San Francisco
www.askascientistsf.com
Brett Wingeier, Principal Biomedical Engineer Neuropace discusses innovations of neuromodulation and brain-computer interface.
7 p.m. Free

Thursday-Monday, January 21-25

Further Confusion
Fairmont San Jose
170 S Market St, San Jose
www.furtherconfusion.org/fc2010
One of the largest international conventions celebrating anthropomorphism in all its guises. GOHs Michael Fry, T. Lewis, Sofawolf Press and Ursula Vernon.
7 p.m. $45

Friday-Saturday, January 22-23

Jonathan Coulton, Paul & Storm
Great American Music Hall
859 OFarrell St, San Francisco
www.gamhtickets.com/events/58344/Jonathan-Coulton--fri-9 p.m. $25

Saturday, January 23

Author: Malinda Lo
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Local author Malinda Lo presents a charming and fascinating twist on the traditional Cinderella story.
3 p.m. Free

Saturday, January 23

The Phenomenauts
The Rickshaw Stop
155 Fell Street, San Francisco
www.rickshawstop.com
With Maldroid, The Cons, Shauna Regan.
8 p.m. $15

Saturday-Sunday, January 23-24

Creation Salute to Star Trek
Westin St. Francis Hotel
335 Powell Street, San Francisco
www.creationent.com/cal/stsan.htm
William Shatner, Patrick Stewart, Armin Shimerman, Jeffrey Coombs, and more.
$159

Saturday, January 30

Crosston Dance Ball
Los Gatos History Club
123 Los Gatos Boulevard, Los Gatos
crosston.westkingdom.org
The Shire of Crosston invites you to celebrate the courtship and wedding of Robin Hood and Clorinda, Queen of the Sheppardesses, in masqueing and dance at the Crosston Dance Ball. The site opens at 11:30am, dance teaching will run from noon until 5pm, and the ball will begin at 6 and run until 10pm. A site donation is requested but not required.
6 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, January 30-31

Animation on Display
Hotel Kabuki
1625 Post St., San Francisco
www.aodsf.org
Animation on Display (AOD) is a convention that features Japanese animation, (relatively recent) cartoons, and their related interests. GOH: Tony Oliver, David Vincent and Tommy Yune.

Saturday, February 6

Le Mardi Gras des Vampires
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo
New Orleans’ most amusing hosts, Lestat de Lioncourt and Louis de Pointe du Lac, and their ward, Mlle. Claudia, invite you to a joyous Mardi Gras Ball in true Nineteenth century ante-bellum New Orleans style. Suggested attire is period costume, fantasy Mardi Gras costume, or a fanciful version of period costume. Modern evening dress is perfectly acceptable and there is no dress code for the ball. To protect your reputation, masks are strongly recommended.

Saturday, March 6

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

Friday-Sunday, February 26-28

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

Friday-Sunday, March 5-7

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

Friday-Sunday, February 12-14

Creation Official Twilight Convention
Hyatt Regency Airport
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
www.creationent.com/cal/twilight.htm
$169

Saturday, February 13

Writers With Drinks
The Make-Out Room
225 22nd. St., San Francisco
www.writerswithdrinks.com
Reading by Vikram Chandra (Sacred Games), Cherie Priest ( Boneshaker) James Rollins (The Doomsday Key) and Andrew Porter (The Theory Of Light And Matter)
7 p.m. $3-$5 Sliding scale.

Saturday, March 6

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

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

**Friday-Sunday, March 12-14**

**Sonora Celtic Faire**
Mother Lode Fairgrounds  
220 Southgate Dr., Sonora  
sonoracelticfaire.com  
Celebrating the cultures of Ireland, Scotland, Cornwall and Wales.  
$50

**Friday-Sunday, March 12-14**

**The Nova Albion Steampunk Exhibition**
Hilton Garden Inn  
1800 Powell Street, Emeryville  
www.steampunkexhibition.com  
$60

**Thursday, March 18**

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

**Friday-Sunday, March 26-28**

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

**Tuesday, April 15**

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

**Friday-Sunday, April 2-4**

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

**Friday-Sunday, April 23-25**

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

**Saturday, April 3**

**La Legion Fantastique: A Victorian Steampunk Ball**
PEERS Event, www.peers.org  
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo  
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo  
Guests are invited to dress in conventional mid-to-late Victorian evening dress (1850s – 1900) or Victorian Steampunk attire. Costumes, as always, are admired, not required and modern evening dress is a perfectly acceptable substitute for period costume. Live music provided by Bangers & Mash. Punch and a light snack buffet will be served. As usual, the Legion appreciates your potluck contributions to the buffet.  
7 p.m. $15 (till March 27th)
The Courts of Faerie Ball
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo
The Unseelie King and Queen of the Fae honour May Day and resign their crowns for six months to the blessed Seelie King and Queen. Fantasy, fairy, or fairy tale costume from any tradition is admired, not required. Period costume (authentic or creatively “mixed”), vintage evening dress, or modern evening dress is also welcome. Masks, either worn or hand-held, are strongly recommended. While wings are very welcome on our Faerie creatures, be sure to wear wings you can dance in. Live music by Avalon Rising. Intermission entertainment includes dance performances and romantic DJ dance music for the insatiable dancers. Complimentary light refreshments will be served throughout the evening and, as usual, your potluck contributions are very welcome.
7 p.m. $15 (till April 24)

Baycon
The Hyatt Regency Santa Clara
5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara
www.baycon.org
GOH Peter Beagle, Colleen and Steve Savitzky, Toastmaster Tadao Tomomatsu. Special Guests: Mercedes Lackey & Larry Dixon
$55 (till December 31st)

Saturday, May 1
Saturday-Monday, May 28-31
Fanime
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos St., San Jose
www.fanime.com
$50 (till December 31st)

Saturday, June 5
Saturday-Monday, May 28-31
The Golden Anniversary Victorian Ball
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo
Please join us in celebrating the 50th birthday of Mr. Fezziwig, the most gracious party host in all of Dickens’ London. Live music by Bangers & Mash. Late Georgian Regency, Victorian, or modern evening dress is admired but not required. Punch, cake and a light Old English buffet will be served (Potluck contributions to Mrs. Fezziwig’s kitchen would be most welcome).
7 p.m. $15 (till May 29)

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

Sunday, June 6

Saturday-Monday, May 28-31
San Diego Comic-Con
San Diego Convention Center
www.comic-con.org
Preview night July 21. Weekend passes sold out, see website for pre-reg.

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

Saturday, July 31-Sunday, August 1
The Great Pan-Kinetic Exposition
Vallejo Waterfront
www.pankineticexpo.com
The Great Pan-Kinetic Exposition is a historical re-creation of the famous World Fairs that once thrilled the nations of the globe, in which science, art, theater and history meet under one roof! Details TBA.

Friday-Monday, August 6-9
Costume College
Warner Center Marriot
21850 Oxnard St, Woodland Hills
www.costumecollege.org
A three-day educational conference on all subjects relating to costuming and clothing. Check website for details and registration.
Saturday, August 7
Jane Austen Picnic Dance
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Lincoln Park
1450 High Street, Alameda (Near the Rose Garden)
Our guests are invited to bring their own period-style picnic lunch and to make their picnic site look as period as possible (Please note that the event is not a potluck. Our hardworking catering staff will be taking a well-deserved holiday!). Suggested costume for the event is late 18th century or Regency summer afternoon dress (1780-1818), but, as usual, costumes are admired, not required. Live music will be provided by Bangers & Mash. This event is a thank you to all of our devoted fans, and we will not be charging a fee for admission. Donations for our brilliant and hardworking musicians will be gratefully accepted, however, both before and during the event.  
11 a.m. Free

Saturday, September 4
The Gilbert and Sullivan Ball
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Gilbert request the honour of your presence at a fancy dress ball honouring the musical achievements of their colleague, the recently knighted Sir Arthur Sullivan. Guests are invited to attend as their favorite Evil character – historical, fictional, or original. Live music by Avalon Rising. Costumes may be historical, science fiction/fantasy, modern evening dress. The event includes musical performances, a no-host (cash) bar, and a light snack buffet. Potluck contributions to the buffet will be greatly appreciated.
7 p.m. $15 (till September 26)

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

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

Friday-Sunday, December 3-5
SMOFcon 28
Sainte Claire Hotel
302 South Market Street, San Jose
www.smofcon28.org
SMOFcon is an annual convention for people who run science fiction conventions. $50 (till May 1st)

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

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

Sunday, June 5, 2011
SACCON
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sacramentocomics.com/html/index2.html
Sacramento’s Toys, Comics and Anime show. 10 a.m. $6
Wednesday-Sunday, August 17-21, 2011

Worldcon: Renovation
Reno Sparks Convention Center
4590 South Virginia Avenue, Reno, NV
Reno, Nevada
www.renovationsf.org
The 69th World Science Fiction Convention.

$140 (till April 30)

Sunday, December 11, 2011

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

Ongoing

Daily

Cartoon Art Museum
655 Mission Street, San Francisco
www.cartoonart.org
Once Upon a Dream, The Art of Sleeping Beauty (through January 10). The Fantastic Mr. Fox (through January 10), Monsters of Webcomics (through January 24)
11-5pm $6 (Closed Mondays)

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

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

Sundays

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesdays

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

**Wednesdays**

**Bay Area Role-Playing Society**
Go-Getter’s Pizza
1489 Beach Park Boulevard, Foster City
www.BayRPS.com
Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email GM@BayRPS.com
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Free

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

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

Wednesdays and Saturdays

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

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

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

### Fridays and Saturdays

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

**Biweekly**

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

**Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers’ Group**  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco  
Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jade Livingston at sfscifi@yahoo.com for more information.  

### Monthly

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

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

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

**Foothill Anime**  
Building 5015, Foothill College  
Los Altos Hills  
Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.  
12 p.m.  
Free
**Legion of Rassilon**
Carl’s Jr.
2551 N 1st St, San Jose
www.legionofrassilon.org
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.
7:30 p.m. Free

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

**No-Name Anime**
Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga
www.nnanime.com
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.
Free

**Other Realms Book Club**
Books, Inc.
1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame
www.booksinc.net/localinterest/291027
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month. The book for January 27th will be *Leviathan* by Scott Westerfield
6:30 p.m. Free

**QSF&F Book Club**
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.qsfandf.com
Meets the second Sunday of the month. The book for January 10th will be *Boneshaker* by Cherie Priest.
5 p.m. Free

**Religion & SF Book Club**
First United Methodist Church
1183 “B” Street, Hayward
Meets the 4th Sunday of the month. Please contact Rev. Randy Smith at RSmith2678@aol.com for more information.
7 p.m. Free

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

**Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book Club**
Clayton Books
5433 D Clayton Road, Clayton
www.claytonbookshop.com
Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The book for January 20th is *Rosemary and Rue* by Seanan McGuire.
7:30 p.m. Free

**Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club**
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Meets the third Sunday of the month. The book for January 17th is *The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.
6 p.m. Free
**SF Browncoats**  
Cafe Murano  
1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco  
www.sfbrowncoats.com  
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.  
Noon  
Free

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

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

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

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

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

by Lucy Huntzinger
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**Bay Area Fannish Calendar – January 2010**

*Science Fiction/San Francisco #100 – December 30, 2009 – SF/SF is the-twice monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area – www.efanzines.com.*