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Okay, I survived my first quarter-end cycle at my new job. It was extremely challenging, complicated and analytical and I had to work a lot of overtime. The workload was four times that of my usual monthly schedule. A lot of things came in late and several things were due on the same days. But I did my best and I think I did well. I checked in with my boss and she agreed. I feel like I know what I’m doing more and have a better handle on what to expect as far as the timing of it all next time.

So… I’m back and able to write for SF/SF again. My brain was so tired after long hours of writing and editing for several weeks that I couldn’t write more when I got home (which was around 9:00pm on most days). I’m behind on my articles but I’m hoping to catch up this issue and the next. I apologize that some of these are from a few months ago but I think they’re still worth reporting on.

There were several interesting events that I went to that I won’t be covering separately so I thought this Editorial would be a good place to discuss them briefly. I was still able to manage SF/SF during the last few months as well as dance, costume, go to parties and see an exhibit.

On February 20th, I went to the premier screening of Trystan Bass and Thomas Dowrie’s latest travel video, Venetian Carnevale. I know Trystan through the costume community and I’m so fascinated by her and her husband’s travel adventures and video business (go to www.ttrealtravels.com). They are such an awesome couple and they have traveled to almost all of the continents. They go to unusual places (such as Antarctica!) and their videos are very personal and highly entertaining. I love traveling and I would love to do what they do too. The party was held at their lovely house in San Jose and I ran into several friends there. Their Venice video was incredible and inspired me to go see it too. Coincidentally, Carnevale next year falls on my birthday weekend and I’m already making plans to go along with Carnevale experts Jade and Erik as well as my sister.

I also went to the GBACG Duchess of Devonshire Tea on February 27th (the first of two as it proved to be a hugely popular event). The tea was at the Webster House, a lovely bed and breakfast in Alameda. All the ladies were dressed in fabulous French and American 18th century attire and I felt a little bit underdressed even though I was wearing a costume from the time period. Especially since I sat at the head table with the Duchess and her friend (and her husband’s mistress) Lady Bess portrayed by Kendra and Cynthia, respectively. The food and tea were excellent and the parlor games and conversation were fun. Unfortunately, I forgot to load the battery into my new camera and so I wasn’t able to take photos.

March 6th was the PEERS Cabaret Ball and the first of my birthday celebrations for this year. I wore a vintage 1930s peach silk gown for the
first part of the evening and changed into a Cabaret-style dance outfit for the music hall intermission performance. I roleplayed Frenchie (who I believe isn’t in the movie version but is in the theatrical version). The show went really well… I love the songs from *Cabaret* so it was fun to sing some of them. The popular dark swing band Lee Presson and the Nails provided the dance music for the evening and Lee portrayed the emcee and sang the opening song. Emily sang the eponymous title song as Sally Bowles and Ari did a burlesque number to the song “Mein Herr.” Then later in the evening, my birthday cake was served and people sang “For She’s a Jolly Good Fellow” for me and my co-celebrant, dancer and model Cindy Lu.

My second birthday celebration was on my actual birthday, March 9th, with my family at Nola’s in Palo Alto. The third one was at the Nova Albion Steampunk Exhibition on Friday, March 12th, with España Sheriff. My article on that is in this issue. The day after the con ended, I was at a 12-hour film shoot at the Star Trek Exhibit in San Jose. I’ll write more about this in the next issue as it was such an incredible experience and I can’t wait to share it!

I got to see the King Tut Exhibit at the De Young Museum in San Francisco with my friends Cordelia and Angie on March 20th before it closed. It was fascinating to see these incredibly beautiful artifacts from thousands of years ago. I could just imagine the people who used these objects (some everyday ones and some ritualistic and royal ones) and how they lived. I would love to go to Egypt someday… I am totally fascinated by Egyptian history, culture, religion, etc.

The annual post-WonderCon joint Browncoat meetup was held last April 10th at Little India in Redwood City. I love their buffet and they even charge vegetarians like me a lower price. We had the whole place to ourselves and it was great to just chat and hang out with my Browncoat friends. My report on WonderCon will be in the next issue, I promise!

The fifth seasons of the new *Doctor Who* started last Easter and so far I like it and the new Doctor and his companion Amy Pond. But I’m not as blown away by it as I have been by the last four seasons. Still, I decided to watch the first two episodes again when they were shown at the Legion of Rassilon meetup at the Jack in the Box in San Jose on April 23rd. It was great to see friends there and the private room was packed with fellow Whovians. That’s one of the reasons I go is because it’s so much more fun to see the show with people who appreciate it as much as I do. And I don’t get to see Merv and Judith that much other than at LOR and at some conventions. Merv and Judith did their usual raffle and I didn’t win anything that time for the first time ever!

It seems like I’ve been doing a lot more scifi-related events so far this year and I haven’t been dancing as much. I missed the annual BACDS Playford Ball again (I’ve never manage to ever go to it), some BAERS dance parties and several Friday Night Waltz dances. I even missed the PEERS Le Legion Fantastique (Steampunk) Ball because I was at WonderCon performing in the Masquerade that same evening. I’m hoping to get back to dancing again from now until the end of the year.

My plate was so full of scifi commitments up until WonderCon. I was hoping to take a break after WonderCon but I just couldn’t leave well enough alone. I inquired as to the possibility of doing some panels at BayCon and I was offered the position of running the Fanzine Lounge instead.
Chris Garcia can’t do it this year and I apparently was on the top of the list to fill in. I’ve asked España to help out and my friend Pat, who runs the monthly Geek Fight pub quiz in San Mateo, will also be assisting me. It should be a fun, new experience to run the Fanzine Lounge!

I did go to my first Geek Fight last May 6th and it was a lot of fun. I’ll write more about it next time too. I forgot my camera, which is so unusual for me to do because I’m never without one!

I also went to a couple of costumed birthday parties this month. One had an *Alice in Wonderland* theme. I missed an *Alice in Wonderland* event that was on the same day at the Alameda Elks Lodge. I guess Alice is popular again because of the recent Johnny Depp movie, which I didn’t like very much. It was beautifully filmed but lacked heart and excitement. I loved the old Disney animated version, which I based my own Mad Hatter birthday tea party a couple of years ago. I don’t relate much to Alice as a character so I dressed up as a female Mad Hatter.

More of my adventures in the wonderland of fandom in future issues. Stay tuned!

I’m sad to report that our proofreader, Rina Weisman, has decided to resign due to too many work and volunteer commitments. Rina is a well-known and valued member of the scifi publishing and fandom communities and we were honored to have her on board for four issues since SF/SF 101 at the beginning of the year. We thank her very much for her contributions to SF/SF and wish her the best of luck in the future.

If anyone is interested in taking on this role, please contact me. We need someone who can proofread articles as they come in and also review PDF drafts before they are published.

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**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
Carter Beats the Devil isn’t strictly a genre title, but it features magicians, pirates and the Genius of Green Street, so I hope you’ll forgive my sneaking it in this column anyway.

The story starts with the 1923 death under suspicious circumstances of president Warren G. Harding at the Palace Hotel in downtown San Francisco, and uses that as the central mystery set during the golden age of stage magic and early 20th century San Francisco.

The protagonist of the novel is based on a Charles Joseph Carter, also known as Carter the Great, whose basic life details form the basis of the story. The real Carter, did indeed live in Oakland and take his show on a series of successful national and world tours and own a tame lion. The rest is heavily embroidered and features a whole bunch of cameo appearances, including Houdini, Thurston and other giants of the world of magic, the Marx Brothers (under their civilian names) and Francis Marion “Borax” Smith.

The story gets a little sidetracked by details once or twice but over all it’s a terribly fun romp with plenty of action and magic geek detail. Magic, mystery, romance, murder... you name it, it’s in there. The Bay Area is lovingly depicted, and used to good effect. We visit the Ferry Building, the Curran Theater and Telegraph Hill as well as Oakland, where Carter himself takes up residence, and which is the home of Borax Smith—a legendary Oakland figure who inspires the young Carter and later becomes a more problematic figure in his life. Carter plays both the Curran and the Orpheum theaters and the glorious spirit of the wild Barbary Coast days during his debut, and the corrupt Prohibition era at the end of the novel are on full display. Glenn David Gold and his wife, author Alice Sebold, live in Oakland and you can see his love for the area reflected in the descriptions of the two cities. The love is reciprocal apparently; Flora restaurant in Oakland serves a cocktail called “Carter Beats the Devil,” which features tequila and chili tincture and is on my must-try list.

The world of magic and magicians is in its heyday but the spectre of modernity hovers over the story. Central to the plot is Philo T. Farnsworth’s invention: Television, and with it the implication of a different kind of entertainment alien to the lavish stage tricks of the vaudeville and stage magicians and escapists. This is mirrored in the depiction of the corrupt Harding presidency and the transition of methods within the secret servicemen who protect him. Youthful unruly America of the era that spawned them are all in their twilight and the story is in part the chronicle of a 19th century man finding his way in the 20th century world and deciding what it means to him.

The characters are all vivid and feel real. In particular, Carter is portrayed as a damaged and obsessive man but easy to like and thoughtful in both senses of the word. The women in his life are complex and well written and I hope the proposed film version of the novel does
them justice. The novel has been optioned by Warner Brothers, and while it’s a long way from an option to a film it would be wonderful to have a San Francisco entry alongside *The Prestige* and *Rough Magic* on my DVD shelf.

The plot is a bit of a magic trick in itself, with a bunch of unlikely and incredible parts coming together in an amazing and neatly wrought conclusion. It skates right on the edge of being too much, but anything less would not quite have fit and been disappointing. It’s a big book with a lot going on and requires a big ending, *Carter Beats the Devil* supplies it, and leaves you happy without cheating or revealing too much.

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**The End of All Wars**  
© Leah Jay [leahjay.deviantart.com](http://leahjay.deviantart.com)

Charcoal, Pastels, Watercolor on hot press Arches (canvas-gallery wrapped). The original is 16 x 20 inches. Artist’s note: Starting with a reference photograph a friend took in Venice (used for the costume and shield), I added a new face and a new alien friend. I envision this scene to take place in the far future. It is a costumed parade where humans and other beings from across the universe come together. The trappings of war (helmet, spear, shield) are decorative and symbolic. The celebration is to honor the end of all wars everywhere — peace forever.
Canceled, Renewed and New TV Shows

It’s been an up-and-down week to be a science fiction television show. It’s the week where schedules are finalized and some are gone and some are back.

ABC has always given dramas more of a chance than science fiction, so it was no surprise that *Flashforward* got the boot. The series based on Robert J. Sawyer’s novel was OK, not my fave, but it’s always good to see John Cho (Harold of *Harold and Kumar* fame) working. I’d have liked to have seen another season so they could give it a real wrap-up. *V*, the series based on the 1980s NBC Miniseries *V*, was renewed, which was a bit of a shock after the return did not generate the numbers it had in its earlier season. It’s a good story with some really good acting. The best bet for a strong *V* in 2010-2011 would be to move it into the slot previously held by *LOST*, which is now finished. I am a huge fan of Elizabeth Mitchell, and she does a great job as an FBI Agent on *V*. Of course, it’s always good to see Morena Baccarin, best known for her role as Inara on *Firefly*, being all hot and stuff on television.

They also pulled the plug on *Defying Gravity*, which I’d heard described as “Grey’s Astronomy,” a while back. It wasn’t anything worth renewing anyhow.

ABC’s sched doesn’t feature a single new science fiction show.

NBC renewed *Chuck*, but *Heroes* has officially been cancelled. It was a ratings powerhouse in its first season, but never recaptured that fire, quite possibly because it started to really suck. *Chuck* is a series that I think could be a really big hit on another network, but NBC is so mired in craptacular decision-making that it doesn’t have much of a chance. They can’t even make shows like *30 Rock* or *Community* into Top 20 shows. There are a couple of SF titles on their pick-up list, so NBC may be trying to hitch their wagon to that instead of the comedies which were what they tried last season.

Cartoon Network cancelled *Ben 10*, though there’s word that it might have been more of a creator’s decision than a network call.

Fox basically pulled the plug on *Past Lives* earlier this year, but will be showing the rest of the episodes this summer, and if they perform, you never know. Still, it’s only an OK show and I wouldn’t miss it.

The *Tudors* is also gone, which makes me sad.

Apparently, this year’s crop of pilots was pretty good for genre-types. There was *The Cape*, about a cop who was thrown off the force and became a Superhero (think a less violent *Kick Ass*, but with family drama). I didn’t hear if it got picked up, but it was the best thing I saw on pilot screeners. *I Witness* is sorta like a serious *Psych* without being *The Mentalist*. It was rolled over from 2009. *A Game of Thrones*, based on the writing of George R.R. Martin, is shooting for HBO, though since it’s already been shot, if HBO falls through, it could end up elsewhere as a mini-series. *Betwixt*, based on the novel of the same name, is
also on the sched for the CW. After the success of the *Vampire Diaries* (the second most successful show on the CW), it’s no wonder they went for *Betwixt*.

*No Ordinary Family* was a fun pilot for ABC that doesn’t seem to have been picked up. It was a story of a family of super heroes. It was also a drama starring Michael Chiklis.

Should be an interesting season.

**Frank Frazetta Passes Away**

Legendary artist Frank Frazetta passed away on Monday at the age of 82. He was probably best know for his association with the *Conan* series, doing the covers for many of the re-issues of the *Conan* series of paperbacks in the 1960s. His visuals were almost as important to the style of every Conan release and film made after his famous covers. Frank also did a series of movie posters, most notably the posters for *What’s New Pussycat* and *Fire and Ice*. He was hugely influential, especially on artists like Boris Vallejo.

Frazetta was a Spectrum Grand Master, won three Hugo Awards, was nominated for many more, and won many other big awards. His artworks, most of which he held onto, are worth millions of dollars and are mostly held in a museum dedicated to his work in Pittsburgh.

**AussieCon Hugo Packet**

If you’re a member of AussieCon, the 2010 WorldCon, you should be looking at the Hugo Voters Package, available at the AussieCon Website. To be honest, if you’re looking to read any of the nominated works, almost all of them are in the packet and that alone justifies becoming a supporting member of the con to receive the packet.

**The Clarkes issue of The Drink Tank**

*The Drink Tank* isn’t known as an area for deep thoughts about the depth of awards, but for the most recent issue, co-edited by James Bacon and myself. It’s a look at the Clarke Awards and the way that it has evolved and the specifics of this year’s short list and the winner, *The City & The City* by China Mieville, the first three-time winner. It’s an issue that has a pretty stunning contributor list—Claire Brialey (Hugo Nominee), Catherynne Valente (Hugo Nominee), James Bacon (Hugo Nominee), Chris Hsiang (of io9.com), musician Tommy Wallace and Cheryl Morgan (Hugo Nominee). It’s one of those issues that I think is among the best I’ve ever been involved with. It was more like an issue of *Journey Planet* than a *Drink Tank*.

**Alexiad 50**

Joe Major’s *Alexiad* might be the best regular fanzine in American at the moment. You can find all the issues at efanzines.com/Alexiad/. The most recent issue, #50, is a good one. I’ve gotta start LoCing him more often!

**Endless Rain Into A Paper Cup**

efanzines.com/EndlessRain/ is the spot to find John Toon’s new zine, *Endless Rain Into A Paper Cup*. Toon, a really good artist, made the move from England to New Zealand and that’s the thrust of this issue. I’m happy to say that he’s done great stuff and I can’t wait to see the next issue.
Vampires continue to be a popular genre and has become even more so with the advent of the *Twilight* universe and other recent “chick” vampire lit and movies. But for the Period Events and Entertainments Re-creation Society (PEERS) Le Bal Des Vampires, we went back a few decades to the seminal works of Anne Rice. Anne Rice’s Vampire Lestat series, I believe, is mostly responsible for turning previously dreaded and villainous vampires (except for George Hamilton in *Love at First Bite*) into figures of romance and mystery. So for the ball at the San Mateo Masonic Hall on February 6th, we re-created Lestat’s world in 18th century New Orleans.

For this ball, I wore an 18th century-inspired lavender ballet gown I bought from the San Francisco Opera sale several years ago. I also donned my custom-made vampire teeth. I got there late as I have a hard time getting anywhere on time lately… well, all the time really. I do go to PEERS early if we have rehearsals beforehand. That evening, though, I wasn’t participating in any of the performances.

I got there and they were already announcing regular patron Rex’s birthday and he was cutting his cake. He had a wonderful mask on and he was wearing late 18th century attire. Then a line of ladies formed and danced his birthday dance with him.

I was testing out a new point-and-shoot camera, a Panasonic, that night for regular shots. So I brought, for the first
My photos using the Panasonic turned out great. I was able to take photos of people in their amazing costumes. A lot of people wore masks… I don’t know how they dance in them! I don’t get good peripheral vision when I have one on and it’s just claustrophobic for me in general to have something over my face. But they sure are wonderful to behold from Gothic to Venetian to Fantasy. Sheri was in a beautiful and elaborate 18th century pink gown and mask. Barbara and husband were in matching turquoise blue 18th century outfits with leather painted masks. A.J. and Judy were dressed in white French Rococo as a couple of Anime vampire characters. And Jeffrey, of course, portrayed the role of Louis from *Interview with the Vampire*. The ball inspired me to finally start reading this novel and I am liking it so far. I saw the movie a long time ago and thought it was alright.

There were also folks in costumes from other centuries. As vampires hail from any time period. Christina and Thea were in gorgeous and striking red Victorian bustle gowns. Mike and Carol were in early Victorian. There were even a couple of outfits that fit one of Anne Rice’s later novels, *Queen of the Damned*. Stephanie was in electric blue belly dance outfit while Kathleen was in a Cleopatra gown.

I had a lot of friends at the ball too including Christina, Louise, Diane, Jim, Mia, Dawn, Deborah and Bud. Dawn took a great photo of me trying to bite Bud’s neck with my vampire teeth showing.

There was a wider than usual variety of dances that evening owing to the...
more varied theme of the ball. Baguette Quartet provided the live music and everyone had fun listening to their tunes if not dancing to them.

Other than the dancing, the other highlight of the evening was the Theatre des Vampires, which was based on a very entertaining script by PEERS Artistic Director Cathleen Myers. The introduction was made by James Myers and started with a Quadrille led by Hilary and included Jessica, Joshua, Cynthia and other cast members. The story first revolved around Jo, the lead character from the novel *Little Women*, as a vampire slayer. Jo was played by Kathy, and she did great, especially considering it was her acting debut on the PEERS stage. David played Laurie. One of the first scenes was a fight with Kathy and David versus vampires played by Buck (who came as Edward Cullen from *Twilight* at the Le Bal Des Vampires last November), Gregory and Ari. Later scenes involved Charles as the Vampire Lestat as an actor. One of the lines was a hilarious crossover into *Star Wars* territory. Oh, and yes, the photos from my DSLR of this performance came out really well.
On Saturday, February 23rd, the Bay Area English Regency Society (BAERS) held its annual Cyprians Ball at the San Mateo Masonic Hall. I co-organized the ball with Yvette and George. George who has run it in previous years helped out a lot. He even had a special setup for the stage décor complete with floral, pink and red drapes and a life-size printout of Venus from Boticelli’s “Birth of Venus painting.” Yvette contributed some paintings of beach scenes to complete the picture. I became mostly in charge of assigning tasks and following up on things. I also came up with the theme for the ball and pulled together all our ideas for what the ambience would be like. I thought of the “Birth of Venus” because our Cyprians Balls are based on actual Cyprians Balls from the Regency era. Then, courtesans would throw these dances so they can find new gentlemen protectors. They were called Cyprians because legend has it that Aphrodite/Venus was born on the island of Cyprus.

George, Yvette and I as well as Laura came in early to help set up the hall. We also had a lot of tablecloths, flowers, vines, candelabras, candles, fruits, hearts, rose petals and other decorative items. It all seemed eclectic but the final effect looked like a courtesan’s boudoir—feminine and inviting—and it was quite gorgeous, exotic and romantic. Our guests were suitably impressed. Yvette...
also set up a table of craft supplies for people to make valentines with.

We all also helped out with preparing the refreshments, which were mostly donated by other BAERS organizers and our regular patrons. We used lovely punch bowls for drinks and silver platters to serve a sumptuous feast of savory items (such as dolmas and pita bread) for the first break and sweet items (like cream puffs and chocolate truffles) for the second. I haven’t organized a ball in a long time, not since the BAERS Thieves’ Kitchen ball in 2006, and I had a great time. I love throwing parties, getting people together and preparing food and décor.

What made this particular ball more exciting, I think, is my adding the Greco-Roman theme. I love this time period, one of my favorites other than the Regency, and so having both together at the same time was a special treat for me. And for other people as well. We very rarely get the chance to wear Greek and Roman costumes at our regular costuming, scifi and dance events. In fact, the theme attracted a big group of Period Events and Entertainments Re-creation Society (PEERS) regulars who wouldn’t have otherwise gone to a BAERS event. This group wore amazing Roman costumes, which they apparently all wore to a turn of the millennium party and have been looking for an excuse to wear them again since then. They were a lot of fun to watch as they love to dance and are a close knit group that liked to enjoy
themselves by doing funny antics such as the re-enactment of the assassination of Julius Caesar... well, it doesn’t sound that funny in writing... you had to be there! They also all posed for group photos and some of them fed each other grapes. I got to meet most of them and make their acquaintance. I’ve seen them at PEERS before but never really got to talk to them until that evening. These included Denise and her husband, David and Sherry, Stephan and his girlfriend, Angela and Dave, etc. There were a total of about 12 of them including three teenagers.

Other PEERS regulars who were there included James, Maggie, Shannon and Gregory, Lincoln and Leighanna, Mike and Desiree. Even PEERS organizers James and Cathleen and David and Leslie also graced our ball with their attendance.

There were, of course, the BAERS regulars such as our previous layout editor Eva and her husband John, Stannie, Mary, Bill and Rebecca, Yvette’s husband Mark, Danine, Comet and Nina, and Richard and Elizabeth. There were some new folks whom we made welcome like Morris dancer Ethan and a young couple from Stanford. I was able to bring in a lot of friends and acquaintances as I promoted the event heavily beforehand. So it somewhat felt like it was my party!

For this event, I was able to re-wear my gold Evelina costume that I wore to Gallifrey One (Doctor Who convention) in L.A. last year. Evelina is the seeress daughter of a Pompeiian business man in the fourth season episode “Fires of Pompeii.” I made the costume to fit the theme of Merv and Judith’s Pompeii-themed party in Kevin and Andy’s hotel room. That party is easily one of the best parties I’ve ever been to. Even former Doctor Who producer Phil Collinson was there and tended bar for an hour.

Back to the Cyprians Ball, James Langdell and the Divertimento Dance Orchestra provided the live music for the evening. Dancing was a lot of fun as usual and called and taught by the head of BAERS, Dance Master Alan Winston. Regency music and dance is very elegant and beautiful but also lively and, as befits a celebration in honor of the Goddess of Love, flirtatious.
Jill Tarter Talks About the Future of SETI

By Jean Martin
Editor-in-Chief

I do not recall when I first heard about Jill Tarter, the Director of the Center for SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Research at the SETI Institute in Mountain View. But I do remember that she inspired the Jodi Foster character in the movie Contact (1997), which was based on Carl Sagan’s novel of the same name. Carl Sagan inspired me and changed my life with his science television series Cosmos (1980). I’ve read several of his non-fiction books and was excited when he published his first and only novel in 1985. Thus, I eagerly anticipated the movie, which unfortunately was released after he passed away. Contact, the movie was amazing, and I loved it even more than the movie. I related to Ellie Arroway’s love of astronomy and awe for the wonders of the Universe.

I have often thought about the possibility of extraterrestrials, I mean, there are universes galore out there. But, I have never really done much about it other than go to a few lectures and for a few months participated in the SETI@home computing project, where you can help process data from Arecibo Observatory’s feeds. Arecibo, in Puerto Rico, was featured in the movie Contact. It would be incredible to discover ET intelligence in our lifetime, but chances are pretty slim. And maybe we really are alone. However, just because you don’t find a fish when you scoop up some water at the beach, doesn’t mean there aren’t any swimming in the vastness of the world’s oceans.

This was an analogy that Jill Tarter used in her lecture at the Silicon Valley Bank auditorium in Santa Clara on February 23rd. The lecture was sponsored by the Silicon Valley Commonwealth Club. It was a rainy evening and I was tired from work and almost did not go. But I was determined to see Jill Tarter that night as I’d already missed several of her previous
presentations over the years. I wanted to know more about SETI from the woman who has been a part of promoting the search for extraterrestrials as a legitimate field of scientific endeavor.

Basically, Jill talked about the future of SETI. Now that NASA has cut off funding to SETI due to their own budget cuts, SETI is on its own. SETI used to be a NASA project in the 1970s but since 1993 has been privately funded. Jill’s mission has thus expanded to include raising public awareness and gaining contributions from individuals, corporations and institutions. And there is no one more suited to this role than her. A little bit more soft spoken than I expected her to be, Jill was nevertheless an inspiring figure and her intelligence and passion shines through when she talks about SETI and her various projects.

The most current and high profile of SETI’s projects is the Allen Telescope Array (ATA), which is a joint venture with the University of Berkeley’s Radio Astronomy Laboratory. Located at the Hat Creek Radio Observatory, 290 miles northeast of San Francisco, the ATA is named after Paul Allen (co-founder of Microsoft) whose donations have made it possible. Jill said there are currently 42 small dish antennas in working condition, with a total of 350 planned. But they are already able to use the 42 that have been constructed. These small dishes, in aggregate, act as a telescope to scan the heavens for radio signals one section at a time. She then cracked a joke about 42 being the answer to everything (from Douglas Adams’s Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy). Jill then went on at length about the technical details of how the ATA works. She had a lot of colorful slides and it was relatively easy to understand for a lay person such as myself. I took copious notes, but a lot of this information is probably posted on the Internet somewhere for anyone who is interested to know more. My main concern is reporting on the experience of hearing a pioneer in her field as Jill Tarter is.

In fact, Jill was awarded the 2009 TED Prize and $100,000 for her “one wish to change the world.” Her wish is as follows: “I wish that you would empower Earthlings everywhere to become active participants in the ultimate search for cosmic company.”

On this note, she announced a new program called SETIQuest. Her goal for this program is to go all over the world
to educate and involve young people as well as adults to become “citizen scientists.” And to hold up a mirror so that all of us Earthlings can see that we are all the same. We are all on “a fragile island in a universe of possibilities.”

Jill also spoke about other projects going on around the world such as JPL’s GAVRT, Europe’s LOFAR, DALI (from the far side of the moon) and OSETI (Harvard University and other universities). Frank Drake, famous for founding SETI and creating the Drake Equation, put together the optical detector for OSETI. So, more and more scientists are getting involved in the search. Jill mentioned that after 50 years of SETI, we finally have sensors commensurate with sampling the cosmic ocean.

Jill then touched on the question of should we broadcast to possible alien life out there? We have been broadcasting radio and TV for decades but who should officially speak for earth? And what should we say? She believes we aren’t ready to reach out yet. Because we, as Earthlings, need to grow up before we can start doing this. This requires global cooperation and coordination and a long-term commitment.

So what would happen if we do find ET? Jill informed us that there is a post-detection protocol. This used to be the purview of NASA, but is now pretty much up for grabs within the scientific community. If one observatory detects a signal, the data is sent to another telescope for independent verification. If it passes muster, it is then published in international astronomy journals and all observatories in the world are notified. Then they would hold a press conference to tell the world, which would include the people and organizations who have funded these efforts.

It would be a dream come true for me, and I’m sure for a lot of people, if we are lucky enough to experience this. It would truly change our view of the world and the Universe. For good or ill as the novel and movie Contact showed. But I, for one, am hopeful that this will create a sense of unity among all of us and a feeling of connectedness with other beings. This will also help us appreciate the miracle of all life and creation. Absent this proof of alien life, I still am hopeful for the future of the human race and am already calling myself an Earthling. Because we are all
citizens of this wondrous planet called Earth.

For more information, visit:
www.seti.org
www.setiquest.org/user
setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu
www.tedprize.org/jill-tarter/
In late 2002 executives at FOX Network canceled a show about cowboys in space. I guess they thought there wasn’t much of an audience for that sort of thing. This is only of historical significance because for a surprising number of people, the mere cancelation of the series was not going to stop them from watching the show. They call themselves the Browncoats. I’m one of them.

I didn’t even know about Firefly when it aired and did not find out until 2005 when a movie called Serenity hit theaters. I loved it. When I found out it was based on a TV show I got all the episodes and watched them too. And loved all of them.

But long before I knew anything about the show or movie, the Browncoats were getting together on a regular basis to discuss the movie, the TV show, other shows, other movies, and a thousand other topics. The gatherings are called meetups and sometime in the near future one is going to take place very near to where you live.

One such meetup took place on April 10th, in Redwood City. It was special because it was the weekend after WonderCon and was a combined meetup
of the San Francisco and Silicon Gulch Browncoats. And of course we were there.

Now the San Francisco Browncoats and the Silicon Gulch Browncoats are pretty much the same people. There is no membership roster and members of one group are generally members of the other. There are normally two meetups a month in the Bay Area. The Silicon Gulch Browncoats meet the first Saturday of the month at various locations in the South Bay and Peninsula, and the San Francisco Browncoats meet on the second Saturday at Cafe Murano in the City. I can generally make one, and sometimes both meetups every month.

The April 10th combined meetup was agreed upon because WonderCon was the first Saturday and it sounded like a wonderful excuse to all get together. The meetup was again held at Little India in Redwood City as it has in recent years. Little India agreed to let us have the restaurant as a private venue for Saturday’s lunch. It had the two prerequisites for hosting a get-together, namely room for 30+ people together and separate checks. The meetups are generally announced as being from 12:00–2:00 p.m. but some people leave early and some arrive late so there is always an atmosphere of continual movement. That, combined with the mutually agreed understanding that the only time you can get up from your chair with any assurance that you get it back is if you have food there, makes for many lively and varied conversations.

It was right after I found the Browncoats in 2006 that I went to my first combined meetup in Palo Alto. That was also the first time I met Jean Martin, along with a whole group of other people that live in the South Bay. The meetup on April 10th was just like that first one. Previously, in my mind, I had this picture of sci-fi fan gatherings where people sit around discussing why in episode 37 the Exec was hiding in the Jerry tube above sick bay when clearly you can’t get there from sick bay. Clearly I was prejudiced and misinformed. Because Browncoat meetups are not like that picture at all. I didn’t get a final count last month but there were over 25 people discussing a wide variety of topics. These were people who, like the Big Damn Heroes in the series, just refuse to call it quits.

If you want to know more:
www.sfbrowncoats.com
movies.groups.yahoo.com/group/sfbrowncoats/
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org
tv.groups.yahoo.com/group/SiliconGulchBrowncoats/
Lloyd Penney writes:

Dear Jean and España,

Happy Star Wars Day! I am so far behind with just about everything, so here goes a loc on SF/SF 103, even if I’m past the deadline.

Jean Martin responds:

Happy Star Wars Day to you too! I’m so behind myself so I can relate. But thanks for taking the time out to correspond with us regularly.

Jean, I’ve noticed that you do fall ill when you’re overly busy or stressed. Normal reaction to all of this? Hope you’re feeling better soon. So much wish I could have been at Nova Albion, although I heard that attendance was low. I want to go to Hawai’i too, just to see the sights, lie on the beach and sit and relax on the lanai.

Thank you! I’m feeling much better now. The winter months along with too much to do around that time just take a toll on me. I actually thought Nova Albion was pretty well attended. All the events were crowded and people actually attended the panels! It is meant to be a smaller convention at a smaller venue so I think they did alright. My report on this is in this issue.

Good to see we can still drag new people into conventions and this whole fandom thing. We still have to deal with the stupid stereotypes, but once you can ignore those, there’s a lot of fun to be had. We just need to lose some self-consciousness, and just go for it and have yourself a time.

I’m glad we get more new people all the time too. Just when I think I know everyone, there’s more great individuals to meet.

Seattle fandom has certainly found the Hotel Deca. Corflu was there, and also Potlatch. I hope that with more fannish events taking place there, the price of a room might go down; the price was the big complaint I read about with Corflu. I saw on Facebook that Stu Shiffman was planning a Steampunk panel, but didn’t know it was for this con.

I would like to make it to Seattle for a con someday. Or just to go there period. My sister was just in Seattle and she also went to Vancouver and Victoria Island. I wish I could have gone with her.

I am still seeking voice work, and I do it any opportunity I can get, so it would have been great to perform with that radio drama. Marta Randall is a name I haven’t seen in some time.

Good luck with finding voiceover work. Let us know when you do get involved in something.

The loco… okay, looks like lots of folks are attending Renovation, and we plan to be among them. We have our memberships, and are saving our change to go. Now I see there will be a big film festival taking place at Renovation, so Chris Garcia might like to get another short film on the go and enter it. If we can get down to Reno a day or two early, we will. Yvonne would also like to spend a few days in Vegas before we go fly to Reno. We also saw the London in 2014 bid start up at Eastercon, so we have pre-registered, and we hope to go to that one, too.

I can’t believe we’re already talking about 2014! I’m definitely going to
Renovation so it would be great to finally meet you and Yvonne there. London 2014 is an option as I would use any excuse to go to the U.K.

Not much of a letter, but there’s a lot to do to get caught up. Look forward to the next issue.

Lloyd Penney writes again:

Dear Jean and España,

Thank you both for SF/SF 104… I guess my loc on 103 got in just a little late, and I am trying to make sure that doesn’t happen here. This might have to be quick, I have to leave for my evening job in an hour…

There aren’t any local conventions in the winter time here, so I understand saying that there’s a set convention season. The size of the convention hiatus is now getting smaller; the first con of the season is now a furry con in March, and the last con this year will be a litcon in November. You seem so busy with various fannish activities, it makes me wonder if I could possibly keep up. I have no hope of catching up with all the Hugo-nominated works, so I will vote only on what I know, which will be the fan categories.

Good to read that you had a good time at WHC, Chris. I am not a horror reader, and when the WHC was in Toronto in 2007, I did not go. However, a friend got me the souvenir book for that year, professionally published and book-bound. It’s a beautiful publication. It was called Travellers in Darkness, edited by Stephen Jones. And I hope you’re at least a little wrong about your Hugo thoughts. It would appear the group that nominated and the group that is currently voting are substantially different.

Jean Martin responds:

I’m not into the horror genre myself. Although I occasionally like less scary vampire, werewolf and ghost stories. The supernatural is a very fascinating subject.

Looks like Nova Albion was a good time… when it comes to conventions, I always worry about numbers of people who attend, for that is an indication of net revenues, and a measure of the con’s health. I had heard a rumour about low attendance, but I hope that wasn’t true.

I don’t know the final attendance total, but as I mentioned above, it seemed pretty crowded to me.

When does the TRON Legacy movie come out again? I admit to really enjoying the original TRON, and I am a little surprised that Disney would return to that property after so many years. Disney knows how to make money, if nothing else, and now with Pixar a Disney property, we’ll see a lot more. Monsters, Inc. 2, bring it on!

TRON Legacy comes out in December. I’m so looking forward to it as I loved the original. I was complaining to everyone at WonderCon that I wasn’t told about the “press conference” that Johnny Absinthe luckily covered for us in the last issue. While I was cleaning out emails the other day, I found an email from a PR rep about the event. I must have missed it as I was getting a lot of emails from PR people right before WonderCon. So now, not only am I disappointed that I wasn’t able to be there in person (and see Bruce Boxleitner), but I’m even more upset because it was actually my fault. Oh well!

I was on ConReporter.com when the Hugo nominees were announced. I knew for two weeks, and couldn’t say a word, and when the word did come out… well, it’s been a very good feeling. I didn’t know Kevin Roche knew the words to O Canada… with a last name like Roche, well, maybe he emigrated years ago? But then, Trembly, Schachat… good
French-Canadian names, all. Must be a conspiracy…

I have no idea if Kevin (or Andy or Jason for that matter) came from outside of the U.S. and why he knows O Canada but it doesn’t surprise me. Us fen seem to have a vast and varied wealth of knowledge about things from all over the world. It is so amazing to me to be able to talk with people in our community about lots of intellectual and creative topics.

Now that I have planted doubts everywhere, I shall wind it up, and say ta for another nifty zine. I’m greedy, so I will be looking for another equally nifty zine real soon now.

Here’s another one for you!

John Purcell writes:

I really do like the appearance of this zine! It is very easy on the eyes, readable, and visually interesting. Does Tom Becker do the layout? If so, he’s got it down beautifully in presenting this zine. I like it a lot. Of course, having those lovely Lucy Huntzinger photographs backgrounding the text on your title page helps oodles. Her photog skills are splendid. By all means, keep up this marvelous work. For what is essentially a “clubzine”, SFinSF is a fine looking publication, print or electronic. I for one truthfully appreciate it.

Jean Martin responds:

Thanks John! Tom Becker indeed does the layout and we’ve been looking amazing since he started being our compositor. We appreciate his work and Lucy’s photographs do add a lot of interest to the background on our title page.

However, even with that kow-towing taken care of, I really have to disagree with España on the inclusion of StarShipSofa on the Best Fanzine Hugo short list. It doesn’t deserve the nomination. Sorry. I may be a bit of a traditionalist in this regard, but it offers some monetary reward and other “semi-professional” accoutrements, which, in my book, take it right out of the criteria loop. I have, in fact, looked at the website and find it interesting and even fun to read, but it’s not a “fanzine” in the traditional sense of the word, and that is where the problem arises. It is bad enough that the editor/publisher encouraged its readership to get it on the final ballot — a tactic I truly despise — but it is not an “amateur publication,” which many fanzines, both paper and electronic, are. I understand that StarShipSofa meets fanzine eligibility requirements, but it is a podcast (it is in the wrong category, if anything) and, as far as I am concerned, it is the principle here that is being insulted. The fan Hugos have reached the point of absurdity. Now, I do know that Askance, my fanzine, has received best fanzine Hugo nominations for three years now, and I am grateful. However, if Askance ever does make it to the short list, I would immediately withdraw it from contention and refuse to accept the Best Fanzine Hugo should it ever, by some miracle, win.

This entire “Hugo Lust” situation is completely out of control, and I quite simply have gotten to the point where I don’t care for it. The Fan Hugos are irrelevant in my view. I am going on the record right now by stating that I never want — ever — a Best Fanzine Hugo. If people decide to call me on this to see if I am bluffing and block vote for Askance to get it on next year’s ballot, I will withdraw the zine from contention. I do not interpret this as a threat. This is my official protest to the Hugo Awards committee to get this mess straightened out once and for all. I don’t want this award. Ever. I am publishing my fanzine because I enjoy producing the zine, to stay in contact with my friends in
fandom, and give other fans a place to express themselves. The reasons for creating the Fan Hugos have been lost over the years, and it is time to simply accept the fact that they are no longer necessary. The fan community has created its own awards — the FAAns, the Rotslers, and others — to show appreciation for fannish achievement in the science fiction genre. This is good. Fanzines are supposed to be done for the hell of it and to enjoin other fans in the activity. This is what I love about fandom and fanzines, and this is what I will continue to do. But the Fan Hugos? No. Don’t care for them, don’t want them. This is the decision I have arrived at, and I am content with my decision.

Thanks for sharing your opinion on the Fan Hugos. I believe several people agree with you. And I agree that we do fanzines because we love to do it. I do it for similar reasons, which include writing, editing, photography and working with people to produce a creative work that fosters community and like interests. I also like promoting writers, photographers and artists as well as the events themselves. But I think there is a place for Fan Hugos as the Hugos are more well-known and it gives fans and fanzines more visibility in the larger community of scifi fandom.

So now it is time to climb down off that soapbox and see if there’s anything else of note in this latest issue of yours.

It is astonishing to me that Chris Garcia made it over to Brighton for the World Horror Convention. That makes me ill with envy. Someday I will get my butt over to jolly old England and enjoy the trip. It would be cool, yes, but also give me a chance to do some genealogical research to see if I am truthfully descended from the English composer Sir Henry Purcell. There are clues in my family’s history that this is so, but nothing definite. That would be a fun bit of research to dig into.

You’d enjoy England, I’m sure! I hope you get to go someday. I was quite envious of Chris going to Brighton as well as that’s one place I have yet to visit. Brighton has a lot of history related to the Regency era, which is my favorite historical time period. And that would be so cool if you do find out for sure if you’re related to Sir Henry Purcell. His Dido and Aeneas is one of my favorite operas.

The Nova Albion report and pictures was fun; I haven’t seen Phil Foglio in nearly 30 years, so it is really kewl to know that he’s still knocking about and doing work in the field. Phil is a talented individual; I assume that Kaja is likewise as fun and talented a person as Phil. All in all, it looks like Nova Albion and WonderCon were a lot of fun — he said, lumping the two con reports together — and I thank you for the pictures.

Nova Albion and WonderCon were both a lot of fun. Phil and Kaja Foglio actually showed up to my and España’s joint birthday party at Nova Albion and I was pleasantly surprised and honored that they showed up.

Not much else to say here, so I guess I shall sign off. Again, thank you for the fine fanzine — my rant notwithstanding — and keep them coming. You are doing a great job here; keep it up.

Thanks for the compliment and encouragement. We certainly will keep them coming!
Meeting 1030

May 3, 2010

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 fwy), Sunnyvale

Began at 8 pm Verizon time
We established a “special” [Marina] jar
30 people attended
Secretary’s report: the minutes of meeting 1029 were accepted as “eaten by a grue”

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $2.25 in the regular jar and $15.60 in the special jar
The Vice President reported that there is a new Drink Tank out & will be a new Exhibition Hall out shortly - that Gentlemen Broncos were mocking and then ran out of the room
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Sports Committee wanted to report that our Bay Area teams are well on their way towards total domination

Announcements
Dave C announced that the soundtrack for the off-Broadway is available now but that Cargo Cult won’t be carrying it
Andy announced that he and [evil] Kevin won’t be at next week’s meeting due to spending relaxing time after Costume Con [and various other people will also be at Costume Con]
Stellan announced that it’s less than 3 weeks until Maker’s Faire = May 21-23 & Howeird follow-on’d that a rocket will be launched there
Glenn announced that there will be conventions in the future; there were follow-ons = Baycon is also at the end of the month, and Silicon is sponsoring Fanime’s art show & that Fanime & Silicon are bringing Wendy Pini out to the con
[tall] Kevin announced that this Saturday is National Train Day

Reviews
Glenn reviewed breakfast at Harris Ranch as the best breakfast he ever had and that Lexus has been treating him very, very well - he also reviewed Patricia McKillip’s book Book of Astrix Wolfe as it seemed to have mild hallucinatory effect & is really very good
Dave C reviewed Nick Pollata’s Bureau 13, Judgment Night as “who needs a plot, we’ve got action!” & it’s fun and worth getting; Trey follow-on’d that the next book in the series, Doomsday Exam is even better & Glenn then recommended Atrocity Archives by Charlie Stross
I reviewed How to Train your Dragon as predictable, but fun and worth matinee
Gordon reviewed Hal Holbrook’s Mark Twain Tonight as excellent
Andy reviewed *Robot Unicorn Attack* as possibly the gayest game ever made. It’s a fun side scroller available at Adult Swim & completely batshit insane.

Bill reviewed *Martian Fluxx* as recommended, fun & worth full price.

[tall] Kevin reviewed fake virus scans as bad and Winax as very, very bad & not worth the price of admission & shows the virtue of having multiple computers.

We did auctions: “landlord curd” for $5.00; books & magazines for $1.00; a Nippon program guide, magazines & con videos for $0.05; books for $3.00, $1.00, $2.00; & a “to victory” poster for $25.00 [aka 20 Euros]

We adjourned at = 9:23

And the rumor of the week was: “I Robot will be sued by Apple”

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**Meeting 1030**

May 10, 2010

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began at 8:01 pm

President and secretary went AWOL
Vice President presided
Adrienne Foster emergency holographic minute taker

We established a “special” [Marina] jar
16 people attended
The reading of the minutes of 1029 were postponed.

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $16.19 in the regular jar and $38.78 in the “special” (Marina’s baby) jar. The latter totals $85.78 as of the end of meeting 1029.

Dave also added that his parents’ garage is being cleaned out and some stuff is trickling into BASFA auctions.

The Vice President reported that there is a new *Drink Tank* out & there’s a convention coming up.

No President’s report.

The party committee reported there will be no Silicon party this year, since there will be no Silicon, but there will be BASFA parties at BayCon, SorcererCon, and SMOFcon.

The Sports Committee said the Sharks advanced in the hockey finals, but KNBR chose to talk about the As’ perfect game instead.

**Announcements**

Ken is working the graveyard shift at KFJC and is doing a special on Eurovision contestants on May 19.

Glenn said today would have been the 53rd birthday of Sid Vicious and he has fab art for Westercon 64 by Phil Folio.

Adrienne said the 2010 Ghost Hunters Conference will be held May 21–23 at the LaQuinta Inn & Suites on Hesperian Boulevard in Hayward. (Go to www.ghost-trackers.org/2010_conference.htm for more details.)

BAGH is also putting together a ghost hunting panel for BayCon 2010, including Loyd Auerbach, Charlotte
Kosa, Shannon McCabe and Paul Dale Roberts.

Eric lost something at the last meeting he is trying locate.

Dave C. said Peter O’Donnell died.

Jo says he’s now living in Sunnyvale.

Chris G. said Lena Horne and Frank Frazetta died. This is also the last week to see Steampunk Hamlet at Butterfield 8.

Reviews

Stellan said a project he was working on was “very educational,” with Chris having to call the room to order. Stellan added he sees a lot of pink plastic dust in his future.

Dave C went to Sacramento to see Conan O’Brien and “the self-pleasuring panda” live. He said it was worth the trip to Sacto.

Glenn needed a new tranny in his car after work was just done on it. The Lexus repair shop was worth 80% of what he paid for it.

Fred reviewed an Altreader, which was on sale at Fry’s for $79.99. Definitely worth discount price.

Kevin S. took a train ride from Sacto to Bakersfield for National Train Day. Admission to a train museum was included with the fare. Since he used up credit he already had, it was worth what he paid to make up the cost. It was not worth the loss of the power source for his computer. He mistakenly left it on the train.

Chris G. saw 9, which was a remake of 8½, and said it was crap and he still couldn’t figure out what was going on despite watching it twice.

Then he watched 24 Hour Party People and said it was about people partying.

He also saw Iron Man 2: Iron Harder and believes Sam Rockwell is one of the greatest science fiction actors ever.

He saw The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo and believes is correlates with the As’ pitching the perfect game.

Stellan followed on saying that the author, Stieg Larsson, wrote three books before he died [this title is presently available at Costco—AJF], and it took Stellan a while to recognize Mickey Rorke in Iron Man 2.

We did auctions.

Rumor of the week: “Only Marina can bring order to this group.”

We adjourned at 9:27.
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 June 6

Wicked
Orpheum Theater
1192 Market Street, San Francisco
www.shnsf.com/shows/wicked
Long before Dorothy drops in, two other girls meet in the land of Oz. One, born with emerald-green skin, is smart, fiery and misunderstood. The other is beautiful, ambitious and very popular. Wicked tells the story of their remarkable odyssey, how these two unlikely friends grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch. Based on the novel by Gregory Maguire
Check website for tickets and showtimes

Through June 19

Giant Bones
The Exit Theater
156 Eddy Street, San Francisco
www.giantbonesplay.com
A new play by Bay Area playwright Stuart Bousel, adapted from the Innkeeper’s Song/Giant Bones stories by Peter S. Beagle.
Check website for tickets and showtimes

Through July 29

Peter Pan
ThreeSixtyTheater
Embarcadero Plaza, San Francisco
peterpantheshow.com
Direct from London, a spectacular new stage production of J.M. Barrie’s classic story performed in a state-of-the-art 1350-seat theatre pavilion
Check website for tickets and showtimes

Saturday, June 5

Can’t Stop the Serenity
The Victoria Theater
2961 16th Street, San Francisco
www.sfcst2010.com
This is the 5th year San Francisco will screen Joss Whedon’s Serenity to raise money and awareness for Equality Now. Raffle, games, costume contest and more! Tickets go on sale May 5th.
Details TBA

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 (through May 29)
Sunday, June 6

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

Saturday, June 12

**Writers With Drinks**
The Make-Out Room
3225 22nd Street, San Francisco
www.writerswithdrinks.com
Tobias Wolff (*Our Story Begins*), Taylor Mali (*Icarus Airlines*), Lev Grossman (*The Magicians*), Corrina Bain (*Ugly Poems For Ugly People*), Bill Carter (*Fools Rush In*). All proceeds benefit the Center for Sex and Culture. Doors open at 7 PM.
7:30 pm $5-10 (Sliding scale)

Saturday, June 12

**Authors: Sue Blalock, C.E. Grayson, and K.T. Sparrow**
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
*Destination: Future*, edited by Z.S. Adani and Eric T. Reynolds, is a collection of fantastic science fiction stories about space travel, first contact, and other traditional science fiction themes. Come meet three of the authors.
3 pm Free

Saturday, June 12

**GBACG Workshop: Metallic Finishes for Steampunk Costumes and Accessories**
Workshop with Tara Maginnis. Workshop participants will see live demonstrations of several finishing techniques. Participants will then be invited to try these techniques on the garments or weapons they bring using the provided supplies, space and equipment.
www.gbacg.org
Email Mia at workshops@gbacg.org for time, location and pricing

Saturday, June 19

**Writing Workshop for Teens**
Book Passage
51 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera
www.bookpassage.com
Three published YA authors; Cheryl Renee Herbsman (*Breathing*), Heidi Kling (*Sea*) and Malinda Lo (*Ash*). Mary Kole, agent with the Andrea Brown Literary Agency will explain what it takes to get your work published. Bring laptop or pen and paper. The authors will sign copies of their books immediately following the workshop at 3:00 pm. For teens only. 48 hours advance registration required.
10 am $150

Saturday, June 19

**Author: Malinda Lo**
Copperfields
2316 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa
copperfieldsbooks.com
Malindo Lo signs her YA fantasy novel, *Ash*. Also signing Cheryl Renee Herbsman (*Breathing*), Heidi Kling (*Sea*)
7 pm Free

Saturday, June 19

**Author: David J. Williams**
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
David Williams reads and signs the thrilling final book in the Autumn Rain trilogy, *The Machinery of Light*
3 pm Free
Saturday, June 19

CSI by Gaslight
San Francisco
www.gbacg.org
Guests will observe a crime scene and clues and pit their wits against cunning criminal perpetrator(s). Light snacks and desserts will be served to fortify crime scene investigators in their efforts. Suggested costume: Late Victorian, Belle Epoque, Edwardian, Sherlock Homes, Steampunk, Goth.
Check website for time, location and pricing

Wednesday, June 30

The Great Gatsby Ball
The Palace Hotel
2 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco
www.varietync.org
Period costume contest, dancing, food, drinks, and silent auction to benefit Variety Children’s Charity of Northern California. Costuming is 100% encouraged!!
For more information, email Rina Weisman at sfinsfevents@gmail.com.
6:30 pm  $95

June 30-July 25

Young Frankenstein
Curran Theater
455 Geary Street, San Francisco
www.shnsf.com/shows/youngfrankenstein
Based on the 1974 Mel Brooks film, Young Frankenstein is a re-imaginig of the Mary Shelley classic. When Frederick Frankenstein, an esteemed New York brain surgeon and professor, inherits a castle and laboratory in Transylvania from his grandfather, deranged genius Victor Von Frankenstein, he faces a dilemma. Does he continue to run from his family’s tortured past or does he stay in Transylvania to carry on his grandfather’s mad experiments?
Check website for tickets and showtimes

Thursday-Sunday, July 1-4

Westercon 63: Confirmation
Pasadena Hilton
168 S. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena 91101
www.westercon.org
This year Westercon is combining with ConChord 23, the Southern California filk convention. Your membership gets you both conventions. Westercon GOH: Rudy Rucker, John D. Berry, Mark Schirmeister, ConChord GOH: Seanan Maguire. Interfilk Guest: Stone Dragon. Toastmaster: Paul Kwinn
$60 (through May 31)

Saturday, July 11

GBACG Costume Salon: Art Deco
Location TBA
www.gbacg.org
Bring your projects and ideas and join us for potluck tea, socializing, and sharing resources. If you’d like to attend, email costumesalons@gbacg.org.
1 pm  Free

Wednesday, July 14

Thrillville
Camera 3 Cinema
288 S. 2nd Street, San Jose
www.thrillville.net
Thrillville’s Tribute to Bob Wilkins! A complete Bob Wilkins “Creature Features” show reassembled by Tom Wyrsch, first broadcast on July 14, 1974, featuring Bob’s interview with Forrest J. Ackerman, original 70s commercials, and the feature film The Creature Walks Among Us (1956). With special guest, “Creature Features” host/author John Stanley.
8 p.m.  $10
Thursday-Friday, July 15-16
San Francisco Symphony: Music from Final Fantasy
Davies Symphony Hall
201 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco
www.sfsymphony.org
Award-winning conductor Arnie Roth returns to the San Francisco Symphony for two concerts of music from the video game Final Fantasy, including the North American premiere of Final Fantasy IX: Prima Vista and music from the upcoming CD Distant Worlds II.
8 p.m. $30-$105

Saturday, July 17
Jack London/Kenwood Wine Tasting
Sonoma
www.gbacg.org
The day begins with docent-led tours of the Park’s many sites and museum and concludes at Kenwood Winery in Sonoma with a box lunch picnic prepared by the winery chef and a private wine tasting of the Jack London Series wines presented by winemaker Pat Henderson. Suggested costume: Costume during Jack London’s lifetime, 1876-1916. Check website for time, location and pricing.

Monday, July 19
Author: Justin Cronin
Books Inc
1760 Fourth Street, Berkeley
www.booksinc.net
Cronin signs his new apocalyptic novel, The Passage.
7 pm Free

Tuesday, July 20
Author: Justin Cronin
Kepler’s Books
1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
www.keplers.com
Cronin signs his new apocalyptic novel, The Passage.
7:30 pm Free

Thursday-Sunday, July 22-25
San Diego Comic-Con
San Diego Convention Center
www.comic-con.org
Preview night July 21. Weekend passes sold out, see website for pre-reg.

Tuesday, August 3
Cinematic Titanic Live: War of the Insects
The Castro Theater
429 Castro Street, San Francisco
www.cinematictitanic.com
Cinematic Titanic is the new feature-length movie riffing show from the creator and original cast of “Mystery Science Theater 3000.” Like MST3K, the show was created by Joel Hodgson and features the same team that first brought the Peabody award winning cult-classic series to life: Trace Beaulieu (Crow, Dr. Forrester), J. Elvis Weinstein (Tom Servo, Dr. Erhardt), Frank Conniff (TV’s Frank), and Mary Jo Pehl (Pearl Forrester).
8 pm $30

Friday-Saturday, August 6-7
Kin-yoobi Con
25555 Hesperian Boulevard
Chabot College, Hayward
www.gzronline.com/convention.htm
Anime and gaming convention.$25

Friday-Monday, August 6-9
Costume College
Warner Center Marriott
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 hard-working musicians will be gratefully accepted, however, both before and during the event. 11 a.m.

Free

Saturday, August 14

San Jose Super Toy, Comic Book & Collectible Show
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds 344 Tully Road, San Jose
www.timetunnelnews.blogspot.com
Early bird admission $15 from 9 a.m.-10:59 a.m., general admission starts at 11 a.m.

$5

August 17-August 29

Disney’s Beauty and The Beast
Golden Gate Theater
1 Taylor Street, San Francisco
www.shnsf.com/shows/beautyandthebeast
Based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature film
Check website for tickets and showtimes

Saturday, September 4

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

7 p.m. $15 (through August 28)

Saturday, September 18

Mad Hatter’s Tea Party
East Bay
www.gbacg.org
The Mad Hatter cordially invites you for a tea party. We will toast to un-Birthdays, and play musical tea cups and more! We hope that Alice, the March Hare, and other friends will join in on the fun! You may bring a story or a riddle to share with all. Location is TBA in the East Bay. Suggested costume: Victorian, Alice in Wonderland Fantasy.
Check website for time, location and pricing

Saturday-Sunday, September 18-19

Hypercon
Boys & Girls Club
450 Guerrero Street, San Francisco
www.hyperbooster.com
Hyper-Con a brand new anime convention presented by Hyperbooster’s Studio. Cosplay contest, gaming, panels, karaoke, dealer and more.

$20

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, September 26

**GBACG Costume Salon: Mad Men**
Location TBA
www.gbacg.org
Bring your projects and ideas and join us for potluck tea, socializing, and sharing resources. If you’d like to attend, email costumesalons@gbacg.org.
1 pm Free

Saturday, September 26

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

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 (through September 26)

Saturday-Monday, October 29-31

**Yaoi-con**
Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
www.yaoicon.com
A Celebration of Male Beauty and Passion in Anime and Manga. 18+ GOH Anayo Yamame $55

Saturday, November 6

**Le Bal des Vampires**
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo
There is no dress code for the ball, suggested costume is evening dress of the century and country of your “rebirth.” Our band upstairs ballroom is chamber ensemble Bangers & Mash and downstairs there will be DJ music in the Dracula’s Daughter Discotheque. Hosted by Dark Moon, the club also features a no-host (cash) bar, and light refreshments. Half-time show in the ballroom is a performance by the celebrated Le Theatre des Vampires.
7 p.m. $20 (through August 31)

Saturday, November 14

**GBACG Costume Salon: Victorian**
Location TBA
www.gbacg.org
Bring your projects and ideas and join us for potluck tea, socializing, and sharing resources. If you’d like to attend, email costumesalons@gbacg.org.
1 pm Free

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. $55 (through Oct 1st)

Saturday, December 4

**GBACG Goes to Dickens**
Dicken's Faire
www.gbacg.org
The GBACG goes to the The Great Dickens Christmas Fair. Visit with friends, view the costume competition, and make merry in Dickens’ London with our annual GBACG meet-up!
Check website for details.
Friday-Sunday, March 4-6, 2011

Consonance
Hilton Newark/Fremont
39900 Balentine Drive, Newark
www.consonance.org
Filk convention, GOHs; Joe Giacoio & Carla Ulbrich, Interfilk Guest: Denise Gendron,
Toastmistress: Lynn Gold, International Guest: Chris Malme
$40 (through October 31)

Friday-Sunday, March 11-13, 2011

FOGCon
Holiday Inn Golden Gateway Hotel
1500 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco
fogcon.org
Guests of Honor are Pat Murphy and Jeff VanderMeer. The theme for 2011 is “The City in SF”.
$55 (through November 1)

Friday-Sunday, March 18-20, 2011

ConQuest Sac VI
Sacramento Marriott Rancho Cordova
11211 Point East Drive, Rancho Cordova
www.conquestsac.com
Gaming convention
$25 (through September 30)

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

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.
$160

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
11-5 pm $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

MGI SF&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, Carcassone and other games, plus an occasional game of bridge breaks out. Meet up at 8:00 p.m., figure out who wants to play what, and typically start playing games no later than 8:30 p.m.
8 p.m.
Free

Mondays and Wednesdays

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

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-Mondays

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

Fridays 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
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location Details</th>
<th>Venue Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foothill Anime</strong></td>
<td>Building 5015, Foothill College, Los Altos Hills</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td><strong>Silicon Gulch Browncoats</strong></td>
<td>Various locations (see website for details), <a href="http://www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org">www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org</a></td>
<td>Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month. Noon - 2 p.m. Free</td>
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<td><strong>QSF&amp;F Book Club</strong></td>
<td>Borderlands Books, 866 Valencia, San Francisco, <a href="http://www.qsfandf.com">www.qsfandf.com</a></td>
<td>Meets the second Sunday of the month. 5 p.m. Free</td>
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<td><strong>Club Clockwork</strong></td>
<td>The Cat Club 1190 Folsom, San Francisco, <a href="http://www.myspace.com/clubclockwork">www.myspace.com/clubclockwork</a></td>
<td>Every second Friday. A Steampunk Parlor: Gothic/Darkwave/Synthpop/Industrial plus steampunk wares and decor w/DJ’s MzSamantha, Fact 50, Melting Girl and Greg. 21+ 9 p.m. $5 after 10 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>East Bay Star Wars Club</strong></td>
<td>Central Perk, 10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-558-7375, <a href="http://www.ebstarwars.com">www.ebstarwars.com</a></td>
<td>Meets the second Friday of every month. 7:30 p.m. Free</td>
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<td><strong>Fantastic Frontiers</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/">www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/</a></td>
<td>Social club for Sacramento County sci fi/fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations. Free</td>
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<td><strong>No-Name Anime</strong></td>
<td>Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, <a href="http://www.nmanime.com">www.nmanime.com</a></td>
<td>Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month. Free</td>
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<td><strong>SF Browncoats</strong></td>
<td>Cafe Murano, 1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco, <a href="http://www.sfbrowncoats.com">www.sfbrowncoats.com</a></td>
<td>SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month. Noon Free</td>
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<td><strong>Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club</strong></td>
<td>Borderlands Books, 866 Valencia, San Francisco, <a href="http://www.borderlands-books.com">www.borderlands-books.com</a></td>
<td>Meets the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Jude at <a href="mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com">jfeldman@borderlands-books.com</a> for more information. 6 p.m. Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sci-fi and Fantasy Book Club</strong></td>
<td>Clayton Books, <a href="http://www.claytonbookshop.com">www.claytonbookshop.com</a></td>
<td>Free</td>
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<td><strong>USS Defiance</strong></td>
<td>5026 Don Julio Blvd, Sacramento, <a href="http://www.myspace.com/d2121978">www.myspace.com/d2121978</a></td>
<td>Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month. 7 p.m. Free</td>
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<td><strong>Religion &amp; SF Book Club</strong></td>
<td>First United Methodist Church</td>
<td>Rev. Randy Smith at <a href="mailto:RSmith2678@aol.com">RSmith2678@aol.com</a> for more information</td>
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<td><strong>Other Realms Book Club</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Legion of Rassilon</strong></td>
<td>Carl’s Jr.</td>
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<td><strong>USS Augusta Ada</strong></td>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
<td>Augustus Ad 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</td>
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<td><strong>Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE</strong></td>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
<td>4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento 916-338-2300</td>
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