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Cover Looking south from Pacifica Pier by Lucy Huntzinger
Page 3 by Kate Kelton
Thanks to the handy online voters package I got my Hugo ballot in as complete as any I have ever submitted, including in the usually difficult Best Related and Not A Hugo categories.

One of categories causing talk and a little controversy (and what would the Hugos be without an annual controversy?) is Best Fanzine, usually hardly a blip on the radar for most voters. This year, the inclusion of a podcast caused grumbles from a lot of people. I’ve made no secret of my support for StartShipSofa in general but specifically for its inclusion on the ballot, but now that voting is done for this year I think it is time to take a serious look at getting a Best Podcast category.

For starters while the Sofa does fit in the fanzine category in spirit, containing pretty much everything I love about a solid fanzine and differing solely in the delivery method, there are many other worthy podcasts out there that do not. Many are fiction only, others contain a mix of content that is harder to shoehorn into an existing slot on the ballot, and I think it’s vital that we start to recognize their contributions to the field.

Categorization issues aside, the fact is that the podcast field is easily the most exciting area in Fandom right now, and not just in fandom but in SF. Podcasts are proliferating and communicating back and forth in the way fanzines once did—spurring conversations forward and showcasing some amazing stories, some of which are reprinted from magazines and anthologies. But a lot of original fiction too as well as art and illustrations (check out the Sofa covers on their website), interviews, historical documents (Robert Silverberg’s 1970 Worldcon GOH speech on the Time Traveler Show) and analysis (Amy H. Sturgis on the Sofa). Not to mention enthusiastic encouragement of participation in the Hugo voting process by showcasing all of the short fiction nominees as well as discussing and explaining how to vote, the cost, deadlines, etc. And for the cynical, this is not a result of the ballot. Over the past few years, podcasts have done tremendous work promoting Worldcon and the Hugos, with onsite coverage of the convention, discussion of the nominees (including some great analysis of the Semiprozine scuffle), and live coverage of the nominee announcement at Eastercon.

The Escape Artist family (Escape Pod, PodCastle and SteamPod), StarShipSofa and The Sofanauts, Clarkesworld, Beware the Hairy Mango… I listen to all of these with the excitement and anticipation I feel I should get from the print magazines but never quite found there on a consistent basis. SFSignal just threw its hat in the ring as well and doubtless will go on my list soon. And that isn’t even counting ones I listen to sporadically, such as the Odyssey Writer’s Workshop, Spider on the Web, Jon Armstrong’s eclectic If You’re Just Joining Us or the half dozen or so Doctor Who and Comics ones.
While I’m sure adding a category will cause some grumbling as well, I truly think that podcasting is currently more important to the genre’s vitality that several of the already-listed categories. I wouldn’t want to drop any of the ones already on there but there is really no excuse for ignoring this huge part of modern Fandom and the genre.

Whether the Sofa takes the rocket in Melbourne or not, the fact is that with the advances in mp3 players and mobile phone apps, podcasts are here to stay and likely to become more popular rather than less. We have to decide now whether to give them their rightful place on the ballot or force interested fans to struggle with where to fit their favorites every year, and then deal with the subsequent fallout when noses are understandably bent out of shape by other folks working in whatever category they sneak in under.
This could have been Nolacon. It was totally possible that ReConstruction and TorCon could have been synonymous. It was totally possible. Instead, what we got was a small con with a few hiccoughs and a lot of great fun. It was, in some ways, like the Vegas Westercon, which was miniscule but highly entertaining.

Getting into Raleigh was sad; before I even got into my transfer at Vegas, I lost my cell phone. Now, this has far-reaching implications because I can’t replace it anytime soon and I’ve not got a house phone. This could get messy. Luckily, I’ve had some Internet back at the old homestead, so I’m not completely out of touch. The flight was good, my boss was on the same flight, which was unexpected. He was going to the Outer Banks, so there was no chance of sharing one of the expensive rides into town. It’s something for cons to start thinking about: getting coupons or discount codes for SuperShuttles or the like. It would be really helpful.

The flight had gone on the south side of a lightning storm for about an hour. It was really cool looking, it was at least 25 miles away, but at the same time, it meant that the air wasn’t entirely smooth. I was white knuckling a bit on the trip, but we made it. I took the car into town, it was around 12:45 a.m., and checked into the Sheraton, where I was sharing a room with Boston film critic, prof and all-around good guy Dan Kimmel. I somehow managed to get my stuff in, brush my teeth, change and set-up my CPAP without waking him up! It was a miracle. After about an hour and a half of kicking about, I got up, got re-dressed and headed out into the night for a bit of a walk.

Now, you’ll remember that there was a lightning storm as we were flying in, no? Yeah, well, they don’t just stay in one place, so as I walked, I discovered that there was a lightning storm surrounding me and that I could be killed at any moment by 1.21 jigawatts of death from above. I did watch a bit of the fun, then ducked into the Marriott.

The Raleigh Marriott might have the nicest, most understanding staff for any hotel I’ve ever been to. I walked in and decided I’d check out where the Fanzine Lounge was going to be set-up. It was huge. I turned on the lowest level of light and the space seemed to be shrouded in fog. I couldn’t see the back wall. I looked around and a Hotel Security Guard showed up.

“You here for the convention?” he asked.

“Yeah, I’m just checking the set-up.” I answered.

“Aw-right. You just hollar if you need anything.” He said and wandered off.

That’s a good thing.

I finally headed back, managed to not get struck by lightning and finally managed to fall asleep.

I set-up the Lounge with the zines and such early on Thursday, after a stop at the Chick-fil-a. I love Chick-fil-a and we lost the only one we had anywhere near me about a decade ago. It was great. I then headed off to the Marriott.
and saw the cavernous room again. We were sharing with the Southern Fan Confederation Southern Fan History Archives, which was nice. They brought tons of zines. I wish I could have spent more time reading them, but I did get a look at a lot of the stuff that was new to me. I’d only done a couple of Southern-ish cons and this was great to see.

The Lounge wasn’t quite as busy as the BayCon or Westercon Lounges, and since I was helping with the London in 2014 Bid Party, I couldn’t do a night lounge. There was a steady flow of folks, there were few periods where the place was empty, but we were never packed. I don’t think we could have been packed if every attendee of the con showed up to hang out.

And maybe that’s what this NASFiC will be remembered for. The idea was, for a good while leading up to the con, was that there’d be at least 1,000 or so folks, and they ended up with somewhere in the range of 700. That’s a very small number for a NASFiC, but on the other hand, it was a great crowd, many of the bigger names in Fandom, and we had a great time. Folks who hung out in the Lounge were some of the usuals, like Joe Major, John Hertz, Steven H Silver, and the like, and a bunch of folks I rarely see, like George Wells, The Lynches, Warren Buff and more. It was a fun place and it was low-impact. We had hours of good conversation, and a bunch of new folks dropped in to chat. I love chatting!

The party scene was dead on Thursday, but Friday and Saturday were pretty amazing. The London party was fantastic, a busy party both nights and they got a ton of pre-supports, something like 1-in-5 attendees joined up. Chicago had an amazing smoothie bar, and I love smoothies! There was a Baen Party, which was OK, and there was a really fun little party for New Orleans, which had Sazeracs. All in all, good parties.

The food, as expected, was amazing. Warren took me to a place called Coopers, just down the way from the hotel. It was a small store and it was full of the best BBQ I’ve ever had. It was vinegary and delicious and amazing. I loved it, and Warren and Steven Silver and I started off with the Chopped Pork, but James Bacon and I went back twice more over the weekend. Warren and I noticed that they had a challenge. It was a pound of chopper pork, ribs, a whole friend chicken, a pint each of slaw, banana pudding and Brunswick Stew, and 2 dozen Hush Puppies. Warren and I said that we’d be trying it on Monday. Sadly, I wasn’t fully packed, so I didn’t have the time, plus I started thinking that perhaps a change of air pressure would cause a guy with so much in him to ‘plode, but Warren gave it a shot. It was a LOT of food! James and I ended up there three times over the weekend. It was that good.

On Thursday, James, Lynda Rucker, Kim Kofmel, Toronto Evelyn and I went to Zydeco, a Cajun place a few blocks from the hotel. It was really good, especially the delightful Jambalaya I had. It was lovely spicy. We finished it and it turned out when we were walking out that a downpour had started. Not just a downpour, a heavy rain that we may have seen in Biblical times. It was amazing. We were standing under the overhang, waiting to go and get dessert at an Italian place called Vic’s. We sent Kim ahead to scout the way, so she was running in the rain. About ten seconds after she left into the deluge, a guy from Zydeco came out.

“Y’all wanna umbrella?” he said.

“Sure.” We said.

About a minute later, he arrived with an umbrella of the kind that you see at restaurants with outside seating during
the summer. It was about seven feet across. We grabbed it and started running through the streets. The sidewalks were too narrow for the umbrella. We ran and got a little lost, the water lapping over our ankles. We finally made it, all of us laughing heavily and Kim looking like she was dying at the restaurant from laughter. It was great. We then had amazing desserts, especially the cannoli I got.

The programming was good, though there were many panels where there were very few folks in the audience. I was on a panel called “Worst Panel Ever,” which was all about telling horror stories from panels we’ve done. I was late. About 15 minutes. I entered and as soon as I sat down I said “Worst panelist ever!”

The panel was really funny, horror stories (I got to tell my Harlan and Jerry Pournelle stories) and there was a ton of laughter. It was one of the better panels I’ve ever done. I managed to do a few good lines, which is always a good thing.

I was lucky to get to meet some folks I’ve known through the Internet. Emmett Davenport of the Clockwork Cabaret was one I’d most wanted to meet. I’ve been listening to her show for at least three years and she was really cool. I got to meet the legendary Arthur Hlavaty, whom a friend of mine claimed must be me from a future timeline. There were tons of Southern fans I’d never met. NASFiCs aren’t quite WorldCons for drawing folks from all over, but it helps. I got to chat briefly with Juanita Coulson, whom John Hertz kindly introduced to me. I also had a lovely time hanging around with Lynda Rucker, who was also helping James and co. with the UK bid party. So many good people. I met a couple of folks like Danielle who was at her first con and is also a BArea local.

On the SMoFish front, there were three new WorldCon bids, and a potential NASFiC bid. The Kansas City bid for 2016 looks good, and I like Kansas City, and there were the dual 2015 bids for L.A. and Boston. Both have the people and the facilities, and are great places. I hear that neither actually gave a presentation at the Fannish Inquisition, though their obvious announcements were present in the subtext of the proceedings. I think you can find all sorts of info on the bids on John Hertz’s Facebook page.

There was so much more going on. The fact is that most of the folks there were long-timers, very few newbies, which means that there wasn’t much of a new vibe, but it was still a good time. John Hertz said that we were a group who already all spoke the same language. It was a good point, and it makes it easier to have a good time, but for the future of Fandom, we need those new folks. The few I met were good people, had a good time and I’ll be happy to see them in the future.

Good con. Strong con. Small con. I’m all for another Southern convention, this one showed the kind of good time you could have. Sadly, the lead-up to the convention was weak, with lots of balls dropped left and right and some serious pains, but it came off brilliantly. It’s a good thing to have happen, and it only would have been better if there had been a bunch more folks to share the good time with.
It Takes a Village Villain: A Comic-Con Masquerade Story

By Cordelia Willis
Contributing Writer

How many people does it take to nurture a masquerade entry from the idea’s birth to its final presentation onstage? The answer can certainly vary, but when it came to this year’s Comic-Con Best in Show entry “Viva Las Villains,” it took an entire “village!”

An Idea is Born

Some routines are born fully realized. Others take a lot of brainstorming to work out. “Viva Las Villains” was the latter type, and its origins go back over 20 years! When I was a teenager, my mother helped me put together an outfit so I could be an alien showgirl from Las “Vega” in a small con masquerade. Singing “Gleeblorfs are a Girl’s Best Friend” a capella to an audience of fewer than 50 people wasn’t very Vegas-y, but it was great fun.

Years later, I was brainstorming with some friends for the BayCon masquerade, trying to come up with a routine to do with Disney Villains. One of the ideas tossed around was to do the costumes Vegas-style using the Elvis song “Viva Las Vegas Villains.” While none of the ideas from that brainstorming ended up being used for BayCon, two of them eventually became award-winning Comic Con routines.

Later, I began thinking about all the
amazing BIG costumes that people make, including giant Transformers, exaggerated anime characters, and even humongous video game creations. While these gigantic costumes are awe-inspiring, I realized that I had no desire to wear something giant and uncomfortable on top of my head... unless it was a showgirl headdress! Drawing on the earlier ideas, and knowing we had a large group of amazing costumers to work with, I realized we’d be able to do a Vegas-worthy spectacular -- and “Viva Las Villains” was born.

Recruitment
Through the years I’ve been extremely lucky in meeting so many talented costumer friends. Caitlin Shindler and I met in the masquerade green room at our first Comic-Con back in 2003, and, despite us living 400 miles apart, we’ve been performing together, along with her husband Rogue, for the past five years. Because all three of us have musical theatre backgrounds, we have the same goals for our routines -- foremost in our minds is the desire to entertain the audience and have fun doing it. If people are going to wait in line for hours to see us, we want to give them a show that’s worth waiting for!

The Shindlers aren’t the only backstage friendships that have developed into “working” relationships. For several years our biggest “competition” at Comic Con was a group of costumers from L.A. who did fun and creative presentations such as the 2006 Best in Show entry “Dancing with the Celebrities from the Stars!” In early 2009, we were approached by a few of these costumers -- they knew us from many hours spent backstage together and wanted to know if there was room for them in our routine that year. At the time we were recruiting as many people as possible for two rival cheerleading teams for a Disney-Bring It On crossover, so they were able to join forces with us, bringing additional talent and fun to our group while helping us win Best Presentation.

The rest of our “Viva Las Villains” 14-member cast/3-member crew was filled out by friends, family members and fellow costumers that we’d met over the years. All six members of our 2008 Hairspray routine and ten of our 15 Disney cheerleaders ended up being in “Viva Las Villains.” In fact, this year we only had one person who had never been in a Comic-Con masquerade before, and as a long-time friend of our L.A. contingent, she fit right in and was a natural addition to our team.

The Costumes
The choice of characters was mostly left up to the performers, but we tried to cover as many different areas as possible. We had numerous movie villains: Bellatrix from Harry Potter, the White Witch from Narnia, the Balrog from The Lord of the Rings, Boba Fett from Star Wars, and a Skeksis from Jim Henson’s Dark Crystal, not to mention Disney villains Ursula from The Little Mermaid and the Queen of Hearts. Television villains were represented by a Dalek from Doctor Who and video game villains by Lady Vashj from World of Warcraft. To top it off, we included several comic book villains, including a trio from Batman, Lobo from Superman, and Dark Phoenix from X-Men. We knew that not everyone would recognize every character, but we wanted to represent a wide range of villains so there’d be a little something for everyone.

Unlike most other re-creation costumes, ours required us to creatively combine elements from the original costumes to achieve a Vegas-y look.
This was easy for the Chippendale dancers -- just add a collar and cuffs -- but for the showgirls and Elvis, this required imagination and inspiration gathered from LOTS of photos of showgirls! Each performer was responsible for designing and making his/her own costume, but the whole group was there to give feedback on the designs and suggestions where needed; this was facilitated by everyone participating in a Vegas Villains Yahoo! Group, which allowed us to post sketches, photos and links that everyone could share and comment on. Sadly, several performers had to drop out along the way, but they still offered their ideas and support to the group. And for many, making the costumes became a family affair, with husbands, wives, and even parents helping out! All told, 21 people helped create the 14 fabulous costumes!

A lot of work and creativity went into each costume, not to mention fishnets, high heels, and fake eyelashes! The Batman villain trio of the Joker, Harley Quinn and Poison Ivy used feather and ivy boas, loads of sequins, and of course an Elvis-style green pompadour to give them a Vegas-y look. Bellatrix’s headdress included a glittery version of the Dark Mark whereas the White Witch’s had icicles and variegated feathers of white to pale blue. The Queen of Hearts’ high collar was made of feathers whilst Ursula’s tentacles were made of dozens of yards of organza. Both the fiery wings of Dark Phoenix and the fiery feathers of the Balrog were hand-dyed. Lady Vashj’s snake tail was achieved by modifying a historical “shrimp tail” bustle pattern while the Dalek’s costume was comprised of a laundry basket, wiffle balls and a plunger. Boba Fett’s helmet, cinch belt and codpiece were all hand-made, as were Lobo’s airbrushed muscles. Even the head of the Skeksis sparkled in the spotlight! And not only the glam of Vegas was represented; the gambling side of Vegas was incorporated into numerous costumes, including a sequined Joker card on the Elvis cape, sparkly diamonds on Harley Quinn, hand-painted hearts on the Queen of Hearts, not to mention poker chips, playing cards, and a pair of dice in Lady Vashj’s numerous hands. While looking good on-stage, the costumes were also amazingly detailed up-close with hand-beading, rhinestones, and glitter incorporated into most of the costumes.
The Routine

The routine itself went through several different incarnations as the group shared their ideas. We knew we were going to end with Elvis’s “Viva Las Villains,” but there was much discussion as to what other songs would fit. “She’s a Lady” was an early suggestion, due to Tom Jones’s connection with Vegas, and “Macho Man” seemed a natural choice for the Chippendale dancers. Another idea during the preliminary stages had been to have a drumming “Blue Man Group,” comprised of three blue villains such as Mystique and Cobra Commander; unfortunately, we couldn’t find enough people who were willing to “go blue” so that idea was tabled. Once the 2.5-minute routine was written and finalized, the music was edited, intertwining original and karaoke versions of the three songs to showcase Rogue’s amazingly cheesy voiceover and great Joker/Elvis impersonation.

Next came the choreography. We wanted to introduce each pair of costumes slowly so that the audience would have a chance to identify them, but we didn’t want it to become boring, so we made sure the entrances came quickly and smoothly. Because we were
going for humor with the boys, the Chippendale choreography came straight from the famous Patrick Swayze/Chris Farley SNL routine. And for the finale, we wanted to give the impression of a Vegas extravaganza while still being able to maneuver with all the giant headdresses. Angie Clough and I watched numerous showgirl routines, not to mention Elvis’s original “Viva Las Vegas” and some Bollywood numbers, in order to put together choreography that would look flashy without involving a lot of fancy footwork. In the end, after posing the costumes scenically around the stage, Elvis made his entrance and we incorporated lines of showgirls crossing past each other as well as breaking off into small circles to give the effect of constant movement, just like a real Vegas show.

Once the choreography was completed, the important question became how to teach it to a group of 14 people living hundreds (and, in some cases, thousands) of miles apart. Choreography videos were distributed through the Yahoo! Group, including step-by-step instructions and a stop-motion video where each person was represented by a colorful square of paper. Each performer had the responsibility of learning his/her own movements because the full group didn’t get to rehearse together until the night before the masquerade. Luckily, everyone had done their homework and knew their parts, so we were able to work out the timing and final placement easily. We had a second rehearsal the day of with everyone wearing the chaos-worthy portions of their costumes -- we needed to ensure that the choreography still worked with the giant headdresses, hands and heels!

**Behind the Scenes**

We knew that we wanted to have a giant “Welcome to Fabulous Las Villains” sign as part of our production, but how to pull it off was something that required a full year of planning. In order for the iconic sign to look good on-stage, it needed to be approximately 8’ wide, which would make it about 5’ high. However, in order for it to be seen behind the showgirls (and their headdresses), that meant it needed to be elevated about 7’ off the stage! Not only that, but the sign needed to be built on the East Coast and then shipped to the West Coast for the performance. Luckily, we happened to have an aerospace engineer as a part of our group: Sean Quinn Marlow designed a frame 9’-wide by 12’-high out of PVC pipe, which John Marlow proceeded to build! The 12’ height looked amazing but ended up causing much stress backstage when it was discovered that the side curtain openings were only 9’
high; luckily, John and our other amazing stagehands coordinated with the Comic-Con masquerade staff to make the entry of the giant sign come off perfectly for the performance!

After the frame was built, we realized that it would be more dramatic to reveal the “Welcome...” sign upon Elvis’s entry; I then coordinated with John to see if we could add a second sign in front which could drop on cue. John worked out the mechanics while I began designing the second sign. Originally I was excited because I thought that we could now fulfill our Blue Man Group idea by painting giant Vegas-style billboards, but after looking at photos of the Vegas skyline, we realized that we could represent many more villains by redesigning the famous Vegas casino logos. There were lots of suggestions from the group, and my artistic friends gave feedback for the layout. This 12'-high casinos sign, which was a late addition to our routine, turned out to be a huge hit with the audience, giving them something to look at during the intro and adding more depth to our presentation.

Putting It All Together, a.k.a. Herding Cats

The preparation took over a year and tons of people, but that didn’t mean the work was done when we arrived in San Diego. In fact, most people don’t realize the administrative work that goes into performing in a large scale masquerade such as Comic-Con. Luckily, the show’s coordinator, Martin Jaquish, has been producing the masquerade for the past 19 Comic-Cons, and he does a brilliant job of making it run smoothly for the participants. Once at the con, forms had to be filled out for the emcee as well as the lighting and sound technicians -- there’s no dress rehearsal, so you have to make sure your instructions are clear and concise so the technical parts of your presentation run smoothly.

We also presented the judges with a documentation book, which allowed them to see what characters we were recreating and helped demonstrate all the hard work that went into the costumes and designs. In addition to showing reference photos of every character side-by-side with its Vegas-y costume counterpart, several group members showed additional photos of their progress from initial sketch to final design. Belle Benson put together several pages showing all the World of Warcraft details she’d put into her Lady Vashj costume, including the Horde and Alliance poker chips that she carried in one of her six hands, and Miss Mindy O’Brien painstakingly documented the process she went through to sculpt, mold, and cast the Chamberlain’s head and claws for her Dark Crystal Skeksis costume. Backstage we also met with the Workmanship judge, giving her a chance to see all the rhinestones and hand beading up close!

Once in the dressing room, everyone was assigned a den mother. This year we had Stephanie, who was of great assistance to us, helping get straws for people who needed water and fastening shoe buckles for those in corsets. With 18 of us backstage for our group alone, the green room can be a chaotic place, but it’s also a great place to catch up with fellow costumers and make new friends. And while we waited backstage, getting ready to perform, we had friends and family in the audience supporting us and taking videos.

The performance went well, and the
audience enjoyed it, which always means “success” as far as we’re concerned. To find out a short time later that we’d won Best in Show was like the icing on the cake! We received a lot of positive feedback from people that night as well as the next day, when many of us wore our costumes around the floor and were treated like celebrities by the likes of Richard Taylor and the cast of *Glee*!

So many people helped make “Viva Las Villains” a success, and we couldn’t have done it without the entire “village” working together!

Check out our web page, which includes video links of our performance, at vegasvillains.livejournal.com
Comic-Con International was held at San Diego Convention Center last July 22-25. Attendance was capped at 125,000 attendees, plus exhibitors, press and professionals. Billing itself as a comic book and pop culture event, it is the largest event of its kind in the world, according to the people at Guinness World Records. Covering more than 600,000 sq ft. of exhibit space, seating for thousands in meeting rooms and overflowing into surrounding hotels and venues in the Gaslamp district, it’s easy to understand how one person could not possibly see everything that goes on.

But that’s only part of the story. Comic-Con metamorphs depending on the participant. To give an idea of the different experiences we’ll see the stories of four typical con goers, Betty, Veronica, Archie and Jughead. These aren’t real people but an amalgam of myself and friends I’ve met over the last few years.

Betty loves movies. And TV shows. And TV stars. But she especially loves movie stars. Betty works with a team of people to scope out which star is at which panel and how she is going to spend all day in Hall H or Room 20. She reads *EW* and *TV Guide* just to see who is going to be on what show or in which movie. Betty spent all day Friday and all
day Saturday in Hall 20. Of course anything Joss Whedon gets priority but Tim Minear and John Favreau are also faves. After the last panel is over she changes and works on invites or crashing whatever cool party is happening. The E party is always a hit as is the SyFy party on Saturday night.

As a special treat w00tstock 2.4 was in San Diego this year. Produced by Paul & Storm and Wil Wheaton, w00tstock is a variety show for geeks by geeks. It was my first time going and one of the best con events ever.

Archie loves swag. Autographed swag is the best but all swag is good swag. His philosophy is “If they are passing out, take it. And if you don’t want it, trade it for something or give it to someone you like.” Comic-Con is a holy temple of swag. For those of you unfamiliar with this particular adventure, swag stands for “stuff we all get.” These collectable giveaways started as far as I can tell in the computer shows of the ’70s when the typical pen or calendar became passé. Swag at Comic-Con has become a whole new adventure. The lines for autographs start as soon as Comic-Con opens. For the very popular stars, you must stand in line for just a chance to pull a winning ticket that would allow you to get an autograph. Major comic book dealers have their own signings. Archie thinks the time spent planning and in lines is well worth it. I’ve seen the signed posters hanging on the walls of his apartment and must say he has quite a collection.

Veronica is a cosplayer. She makes her own costumes that she and her friends typically work on all year long. It is not unusual for her to do two or three costume changes a year. And Comic-Con is a Mecca for costuming. Not only are there sessions devoted just to costuming, there are meet-ups and flash mobs for just about every genre.

Naturally, this is a photographer’s paradise. Everywhere you turn there is a costumer going past. Costumes range from the simple to very elaborate. Virtually every genre you can imagine is represented. Steampunk made a big showing this year, including a Guinness World Record attempt on Saturday for the most Steampunk costumers ever assembled. Much to my dismay, I knew 10 costumers personally that were at
Comic-Con this year that I didn’t even get to see.

Jughead is a reporter and blogger. For all reasons mentioned above, Comic-Con is an amazing gathering. Planning to cover press events starts weeks in advance. Interview requests, press releases, daily planners, party coverage and panels are all coordinated to fit in as much as possible. No one person can cover the entire con. You get as much as possible in as you can and hope you get lucky. Several big events and announcements were made this year. The Tron press panel brought old and new players together on one stage for a question and answer session. In addition to the news that Joss Whedon is directing The Avengers movie, Captain America’s shield was unveiled. Mar Winston, Stan Winston’s son, spent most of the weekend at a huge booth filled with his father’s movie props. And of course, SyFy had the big party of the weekend (I didn’t get in).

Of course, even with all the planning, our four intrepid adventurers didn’t see or experience a fraction of what actually went on in San Diego that week. Many of the events and happenings were outside the convention center. On the other side of Petco Park, the people from the new Green Hornet movie created Britt Reid’s Garage, complete with four Black Beauty cars from the movie. I rode around downtown in one of them. Then I went over to Flynn’s arcade and stepped into the Tron universe. Dexter had a crime scene set up several blocks from the convention. Every evening there were parties and showings and events all over downtown and beyond.

When you go to Comic-Con any one of these adventures will give you hours of enjoyment. You can try doing one different thing every day and be thrilled and amazed. Or you can skip everything I just mentioned and still have a great time. Comic-Con, due mainly to its vast size and number of participants, has something going on all the time that you will find interesting. Maybe I saw you there; maybe I will see you next year. Maybe we’ll go to the same town, get the same four-day pass and still not see each other. I hope the later doesn’t happen... it is so nice to share the experience with friends.

So that was my con. What Comic-Con did you go to?
John Purcell writes:
And a fine good morning to you folks! Thank you for posting the latest issue, which I found a few comment hooks within. So saying, here they come.

Jean, I am glad you are feeling better and life in general seems to moving in a positive direction for you. Having a good friend to spend time with makes a huge difference in a person’s attitude. I wish the best for you and your new beau; enjoy each other’s company because that is what friendship truly is all about.

Jean Martin responds: 
Thanks John!
Once again, I really like Lucy Huntzinger’s photographs, especially the hawk on page 3. It reminds me of the song “The Eagle and the Hawk” by John Denver:
Oh, I am the eagle I live in high country,
in rocky cathedrals that reach to the sky;
I am the hawk and there’s blood on my feathers,
but time is still turning, they soon will be dry.
And all those who see me, and all who believe in me, share in the freedom I feel when I fly.

Come dance on the west wind, touch on the mountaintops,
Sail o’er canyons and up to the stars.
And reach for the heavens and hope for the future,
and all that we can be and not what we are.

It’s a great song with marvelous imagery. And it even links to what I said earlier about your new-found relationship. Heck of a deal, eh?

John Denver was an inspiring lyricist who wrote beautiful music and had a wonderful voice. I love his music. Thanks for brightening my day with these words. And yes, Lucy’s photos have given SF/SF a unique look for a while now and Tom picks good ones to complement the mood of the issue.

The Pirate Festival sounds like a good time, as does Westercon. Great photos of the costumes from the Westercon Masquerade! The Best in Show winner (page 13) is exquisite. Andrew Trembley’s photos are so sharp and clear that they really help reveal the detail work. Fantastic workmanship on the costumes.

I missed both events and so I’m glad that they were covered by other people so that I could read about them and share them in this zine as well. Andy’s photos are always excellent.

We’ve got a bit of a convention buzz going on here in our household: the Navasota Blues Festival is next weekend, Armadillocon 42 is two weeks after that, and Fencon VII is mid-September, and Andrew Trembley is one of the guests of honor at that last one. I am looking forward to finally meeting him. All are close by and Val and I hope to be at them all.

That’s great that you have a lot of cons coming up in your area. Have a great time! As I mentioned in my Editorial in our last issue, there really aren’t any more in the Bay Area the rest of the year, which is so unusual.
Lloyd Penney writes:

Many thanks for issue 107 of Science Fiction/San Francisco. Always interesting to see what’s happening in the Bay Area, and I’ll tell you what’s happening here, too. In the meantime, some comments on the issue.

Hmmmm, not a lot of conventions going on? I can’t see BayCon in May being the last one of the year, that’s when things get started around here. Coming up at the end of August is our annual Fan eXpo, the big gateshow-style pro-run SF event, which we’d never usually go to except for the fact we’ll be taking part in yet another Steampunk fashion show, late the Saturday night of the convention. Then comes a new con, SFCOntario in November, and then yet another new one, a combination New Year’s Eve party and convention called Futurecon.

Sounds like a lot of fun cons coming up in your area! Nope, nothing else coming up the rest of the year around here. There are a lot of random events put on by independent folks who are not affiliated with regular convention organizations. Which, I think, is a good thing because it keeps things fresh with new people running them who have new ideas. Also, there’s a lot more variety.

A new job, and a new beau? Good for you. Looks like life is looking up. I am still job hunting, but there’s some really good new jobs I have applied to, and I think I will be working full-time soon. Also, we bought a new car, given that our 12-year-old Suzuki was close to giving it up. Well, we don’t quite own it yet, but we now have a 2010 Hyundai Elantra Touring wagon, and we hope it lasts as long as the Suzuki, if not longer.

Good to hear that you might get a full-time job soon. And having a new car is always exciting.

Pirate festivals seem popular…there was one recently in the Toronto area, a three-day-long party. This one, though, seemed very similar to a Ren Faire. It is possible friends of mine who run the British Columbia Renaissance Faire (done with a true pirate feel to it) may have attended.

Pirates do seem to still keep being popular. With the next Pirates of the Caribbean movie in the works, it might keep going for a long time. I’m excited about the next one because they’re using Tim Powers’s novel On Stranger Tides to write the story. I moderated the panel that Tim was on as a special guest at WonderCon last April. Which is around the time my work hit full throttle and I started dating my boyfriend. So I haven’t had time to transcribe the interview. Which was very entertaining. It’ll show up on the pages of this zine eventually.

I see con reports with no Chris Garcia in them; now, he’s not getting responsible, is he? Naw, didn’t think so. I think he’s just a busy guy at the office. If there’s ever the chance, I’d love to join you folks in a Match Game. Think the whole thing might be transported to the Worldcon in Reno next year? That’s where we plan to be. It could be a blast. I’d like to be in on a Match Game too. I’ve seen it once and Kevin Standlee was an excellent host. It was also hilarious because of the people involved, most of whom I know and are convention regulars.

My loc… I did eventually catch up with back issues of Yipe!, and they have been responded to. However, one never
knows when Kevin and Andy will slip another issue onto their website, so I should check again. Polaris 24 was a great time. We had a dealer’s table there, and sales were good enough for us to take two tables for next year. Friday night was a big Doctor Who/Steampunk party, and not only was there a very good time to be had, but there were prizes for our costumes, and Yvonne won the big Steampunk door prize. Much fun.

Yipe! now has an email alert that you can sign up for on their website. I asked Kevin about this because I never knew when to go find a new issue. Much easier this way! A Doctor Who/Steampunk party! How awesome! I’ve thrown a Doctor Who birthday party and a Steampunk party but have never combined the two. What a great idea.

Time to go… thank you for your efforts once again. Who’s going to Reno? I’d like to see you all there, if it’s possible.

I’ll be in Reno! I hope to meet folks like you who I’ve corresponded with but have never met in real life.

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
Minutes of BASFA Meeting #1042 (we think)

Convened at 2006, with 24 people present.

Eric Larson, Emergency Holographic President
Glenn Glazer, Emergency Holographic Secretary

Treasurers report, via Dave Clark:
Treasurer Dave Gallaher’s father is in the hospital. Treasury report postponed.
Evil Kevin added that we got $5.05 in the regular jar at the last meeting.
Secretary’s report read off the net by Dave Clark. Minutes accepted as: Error Prone
VP & Pres reports: None.

Announcements
Lisa: Has W64 reg kit, last BASFA meeting to get presupport discount. Glenn added that it ends at the end of the month.
Ken: Legion of Rassilon on Friday

Reviews

Adrienne: James P. Hogan died last week. // Has 1/2 price pie coupons, they expire Saturday.

Evil Kevin: July issue (2.7) of Yipe! is out. A mirror may be handy.

Dave Clark: Glenn Beck’s The Overton Window is available for 40% off at Costco.

Erik: Garage sale of his mom’s stuff 1835 Harris Avenue, San Jose this Saturday and Sunday.
Kate: Hugo voting final deadline at the end of the month

Stellen: His last BASFA for a long time, may be back in 8-9 months. Will see us at cons. // Has a missing piece to the flat puzzle auctioned off last week.

Adrienne: Father was diagnosed with pneumonia and drove him into urgent care. When asked if anything was keeping him up at night, he said “Baseball” and “My mattress is kinda lumpy”.


Andy: Dinner at Morimoto (Iron Chef) in Napa. Did the omakaze tasting menu, expensive but ZOMG! Dinner was around three hours and $325 for eight courses for two. // Follow-on by Lisa: Kevin’s tweets were drool-worthy. // Saturday dinner at Ubuntu in Napa, vegetarian restaurant with a Michelin star. 1/3 cheaper than Morimoto. Vanilla goat ice milk over sweet corn pudding with popcorn streussel. // Spent the weekend with Dave & Spring. Went to Roche winery, much better than 10 years ago. // Took the backstage tour at Castello di Amoroso and enjoyed the pretty, but silly architecture. Built mostly out of architectural salvage from Europe.

Glenn: The EHS gave the most totally awesome trip report ever and if you missed it, you lose. Highlights
included Lassen, hiking Mt. Shasta to the glacier line, boating on Crater Lake with picnicking and hiking on Wizard Island, going totally cowboy when whitewater rafting, getting to read Viola’s part during the Twelfth Night prologue (“I’m a man pretending to be a woman pretending to be a man…”) and then going to see the play itself under the stars at the Oregon Shakesphere Festival’s Elizabethan Stage.

Julie: Red Mars by Kim Stanley Robinson. A bit weak. Science fairly good, but very cliche and characters stereotyped. Did raise some thought provoking issues. // Dr. Who collection with missing episodes, including “Evil of the Daleks”. She really liked the one bit of it that was left. Very steampunk.

Fred: Agora film in limited release. About the destruction of the Library of Alexandria and the murder of Hypatia. Very depressing, but gripping despite knowing the ending.


Rumor of the week: Come for the wine, stay for the dungeon

Adjourned at 2125.

Meeting 1043
August 2, 2010

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

Began at 8-ish
23 people attended

Secretary’s report: the minutes from meeting 1042 were accepted as “refused by the Hugo administration”

The Treasurer reported that at meeting 1040 we took in $10.40 in the regular jar

The Vice President reported that there is a new Drink Tank out - maybe 2 of them - and that there is a new Exhibition Hall out this very day & a whole bunch of other stuff and he’s running the Fanzine lounge at Raleigh this weekend

The President had nothing fannish to report

The Party Committee reported that the party fund needs more funding and he’ll be doing parties at Furcon and Westercon this next year, but not at Baycon

Announcements
Mo announced that she will be Programming Director for SorcererCon and that Silicon will have a presence there & that SorcererCon has been selecting guests & the St Clair has free parking for the con

Glenn announced that Mitch Miller died [and some other people died too] and that Linden Labs is closing the Mountain View office, so he will likely be commuting more to SF in the future and missing meetings here

Carole announced that she & Bill will be in Raleigh this weekend and she will be a Masquerade presenter there

Andy announced that Aug 13-15 is the Golden State Gay Rodeo Assoc Bay Area Chapter Rodeo & that he & [evil] Kevin are sponsoring award buckles for events - and that this year there is camping

Chris announced that he will also be in Raleigh, but a day later - and this Friday night the Santa Cruz beach boardwalk will have Flock of Seagulls playing there
Josh announced that Gastronomicon 2011, Sept 3-5 is moving forward and looking for GoH suggestions.

**Reviews**
<<were handled differently this week, but the secretary did not record them in that manner>>

Dave C reviewed the season finale of Dr Who as good and reviewed Despicable Me as lightweight but fun.

Chris reviewed Linda’s birthday [observed] as full of chick art & reviewed Dinner for Schmucks as it somehow had an even keel & parts were hilarious, almost worth $3.50 & reviewed Jane Austen’s Fight Club on YouTube as awesome.

Adrienne reviewed Julian Comstock by Charles Wilson as she enjoyed it & reviewed a new Indian restaurant = Andhra Bhavan as good.

Glenn reviewed an interview with Anne Rice on organized religion as interesting; reviewed the new review process as good; reviewed Beethoven’s 5th Breakfast as hilarious & reviewed getting $1 coins back as worth full price.

[evil] Kevin reviewed killing a program bug as worth full price.

Ed reviewed Despicable Me as fun and worth a buck; reviewed the Tooth Fairy as fun and worth a buck; reviewed the Invention of Lying as fun and worth a buck & reviewed the new review process as cumbersome.

Carole reviewed Chez Pave {??} as pricey but worth full price.

Sarah reviewed Salt as brain candy [and this review inspired yipping laughter]; Josh follow-on’d that Angelina appears to be thinking of her younger fans and sadly keeping her clothes on because of this.

Mo reviewed Santa Clara as wonderful for seniors - especially the concerts in the park [2pm, Sundays in Central Park].

Josh reviewed an animated show, Home Movies as full of lots of humor.

Fred reviewed Bridesicle read aloud as it brought the story alive.

We auctioned off stuff - cards for $1.00; tshirt for $2.00; postcard booklet for $2.00; pre-vinegar for $0.50; a CD ebook for $2.00 & a writband thingy for $0.50.

We adjourned at = 9:35.

And the rumor of the week was: “someone beat me to it while I was swallowing” {but shoulda been “one of us!”}.

**Meeting 1044**

August 9, 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 -> HOWEVER please be aware that Coco’s is doing a remodel for the next 3 weeks! There is painting being done, blinds are off the window, the back door needs to remain open and they are closing at 9pm.

Began at 7:50 pm – without blinds.

Andy moved to fine premature objections $0.25 and this passed.

We established a party jar.

22 people attended.

Secretary’s report: the minutes from meeting 1043 were accepted as read.

No Treasurer or Treasurer report.

The Vice President was at NASfic.

The President had nothing fannish to report – but we did say “hi” to Tilden – a
science fiction fan forever who tracked us down via the internet
Then we did auctions – a projector-scope for $3.00; a Tshirt for $0.50 & a book for $1.25

**Announcements**

Dave C announced that Dorchester Publishing will no longer be publishing books – and will now only distribute digitally and produce pay-on-demand & he also announced that Steve Jobs doesn’t like porn

Glenn announced to clarify that when Linden Labs closes the Mountain View office that he won’t attend BASFA meetings since it would mean driving over “the hill” to get here

Andy announced that Aug 13-15 is the Golden State Gay Rodeo Assoc Bay Area Chapter Rodeo & that he & [evil] Kevin are sponsoring award buckles for events - and that this year there is camping

Ken announced that Patricia Neal passed away

Radar announced that on Aug 25 from 6pm+ there will be a Zombie Crawl in San Jase, starting 577 S Market St

The rumor of the week was: “Trey operates under Robert’s Rules of Disorder”

**Reviews**

Diane reviewed *The 5 People you Meet in Heaven* as a neat concept, a quick read and well-written [she -was-asked “was it ghost-written?”]

Ed reviewed *The Last Airbender* as considering what it was, it was okay & he enjoyed it

Glenn reviewed Adamson’s French Dip on El Camino as really, -really-good with fast service – and did he mention it was REALLY good? He also reviewed Patricia McKillip’s *Song for a Basilisk* as interesting and that it had a different ending

Adrienne reviewed the 2nd season of *Being Human* as she enjoys it and thinks it’s worth watching

Fred reviewed *The Great Depression – a Diary* by Roth as fascinating, as the author seeks to teach himself about investing & about how the passage of time affected Youngston, Ohio

Lisa reviewed renting a cabana at Raging Waters as really worth the cost, if you have a group [but there was no “cabana boy” included in the cost]

We adjourned at = 8:45 pm

**Meeting 1045**

August 16, 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 -> HOWEVER please be aware that Coco’s is doing a remodel for the next 3 weeks! The blinds are off the window, they are closing at 9pm and we are starting meetings early

Began at 7:45 pm – with hunkering 26 people attended

Secretary’s report: the minutes from meeting 1044 were accepted as “I have a knife”

No Treasurer [and he will be away for the next few weeks, too] and the faux Treasurer report was that last week we took in $4.50 in the regular jar

The Vice President was quantum – but reported that there is a *Drink Tank* out, that *Scott Pilgrim* is the best movie EVER made and that *Inception* is the best movie EVER made

The President had nothing fannish to report
A question was posed as to whether there will be a BASFA meeting at Worldcon – and whether we will annex Melbourne’s harbor – but these will be decided next week.

[tall] Kevin reported that the website has a notice up about the earlier meeting times here.

**Announcements**

Dave C announced that *Girl Genius* #9 is out and that he has copies of both the soft cover and hardcover available.

Adrienne announced that she is organizing a Ghost Walk in Melbourne for 8:30pm, Thursday Sept 2 for $20 a person at the Haunted bookshop on McKillip Ave – and announced that Bouchercon will be Oct 14-17 in SF for $195 at the Hyatt Regency.

Mo announced that her harddrive died but that heroic efforts saved the data on it.

We established a party jar.

**Reviews**

Andy reviewed the room’s new color scheme as brighter and nice & reviewed the Golden State Gay Rodeo as camping was cold but eliminated the commute, that the actual rodeo was excellent & all absolutely worth full price – there were follow-ons, including one about heifer hair tossing & Jo commenting he needed cold weather gear.

Carole reviewed NASfic as there were problems with the programming = “there were issues there”, that it was not quite worth full price but touring in the area was – and that Rick eating all the bread was worth anger; Bill follow-on’d that NASfic did have poor programming, but that the Kittyhawk memorial was worth the miles and time to drive there; Chris commented that NASfic had “an inner bigness that made it awesome” and they could’ve fit the entire con’s attendees in the space given to him for the fanzine lounge and he had a blast and a half.

Chris O reviewed the Fahrenheit restaurant and lounge as they did the chef’s menu from Josh as “Wow!” and encourages us all to give it a try, but Josh follow-on’d that he has a bone spur and is not at Fahrenheit right now.

Dave C reviewed *The Girl who Played with Fire* as white slavers were the macguffin but there was too much synchronicity for his taste & the ending was abrupt – worth matinee - & reviewed *The Fuller Memorandum* by Charlie Stross as fun and entertaining and worth full price.

Jo reviewed having a valve stem issue as not worth full price & that residents of Half Moon Bay are special snowflakes.

Ken [and Geri] reviewed Mr Lobo’s Cinema Insomniac live in Sacramento as fun and the film shown with it – *The Undertaker and his Pals* – shown in barf-o-vision as also fun and worth the drive and admission – plus that the Holiday Inn Express near there was a good value for the money.

Adrienne reviewed further episodes of *Being Human* as very fun to watch.

Then we did auctions – a book, calendar & program book for $1.25; a CD & kooshes for $0.50 & a magazine & book for $1.00.

The rumor of the week was: “Don’t worry about me, I’ll just take minutes in the dark.”

Then Ed reviewed Seticon as a fun fundraiser and reviewed *Kickass* as worth the buck he paid to rent it on DVD.

We adjourned at = 9 pm.
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 September 5

**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 showtime

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**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)

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**Friday-Sunday, September 3-5**

**SacAnime**
Radisson Hotel Sacramento
500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento
www.sacanime.com

Events include masquerade and fashion show, live concerts, rave/dance, etc. $35

**Thursday, September 9**

**Author: William Gibson**
The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street, San Francisco
www.booksmith.com

Gibson will discuss and sign his new book *Zero History*.
7:30 p.m. Free

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**Saturday, September 11**

**Author: William Gibson**
Moe’s Books
2476 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley
www.moesbooks.com

Gibson will discuss and sign his new book *Zero History*.
1 p.m. Free
**Saturday, September 11**

**SF in SF: Mark L. Van Name and Amelia Beamer**

Variety Preview Room in the Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org

Doors open at 6:00PM. Cash Bar - Proceeds to Variety. Readings begin at 7:00PM, followed by Q & A moderated by Terry Bisson. Signing and schmoozing in the lounge afterwards 6 p.m.

**Saturday-Sunday, September 11-12**

**Ardenwood Faire**

Arden Wood Historic Farms, Fremont
www.ardenwoodfaire.com

Shakespeare festival and Renaissance Faire. 10 a.m. $18

**Thursday, September 16**

**w00tstock**

The Great American Music Hall
859 O’Farrell Street, San Francisco
w00tstock.net

A live celebration of all things nerd and geek. Featuring Adam Savage, Wil Wheaton and Paul & Storm 7:30 p.m. $30

**Friday, September 17**

**w00tstock**

The Great American Music Hall
859 O’Farrell Street, San Francisco
w00tstock.net

A live celebration of all things nerd and geek.

**Saturday, September 19**

**Mad Hatter’s Tea Party**

Red Morton Community Park, Redwood City
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. 11 a.m. $15

**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

**Monday, September 20**

**Forbidden Thrills Movie Night**

Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge
1304 Lincoln, Alameda
www.thrillville.net

Cult Movies & Cocktails, hosted by Will the Thrill. All shows free, first feature starts @ 7:30PM, second feature @ 9:15. Free Popcorn and Trivia Prizes. September’s films are The Incredibly Strange Creatures Who Stopped Living and Became Mixed-Up Zombies and Spider Baby (1965) 7:30 p.m. Free

**Saturday-Sunday, September 25-26**

**From the Land Beyond 3**

Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.fromthelandbeyond.com

Horror & Sci-Fi con.

**Sunday, 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 p.m. Free

**Sunday, 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
Tuesday, September 28
An Evening With Guillermo del Toro
The Kabuki Theatre
1881 Post Street, San Francisco
www.booksmith.com
The Booksmith presents and evening with filmmaker and novelist Guillermo del Toro. In addition to the main event there will also be VIP tickets available for a private pre-talk reception at 6:30 PM, also at the Kabuki, with Mr. Del Toro, including delicious food, a special bar drink, reserved seat, and a copy of The Fall $75.
7:30 p.m. $12

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)

Friday, October 8
The Ball of C’thulhu: A Monster Mash
The DNA Lounge
375 Eleventh Street, San Francisco
www.dnalounge.com
Swing Goth and Clockwork present; Abney Park, Vernian Process and Unextraordinary Gentlemen
8 p.m. $75

Saturday, October 16
SF in SF: Claude Lalumiere and Karen Joy Fowler
Variety Preview Room in the Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org
Doors open at 6:00PM. Cash Bar - Proceeds to Variety. Readings begin at 7:00PM, followed by Q & A moderated by Terry Bisson. Signing and schmoozing in the lounge afterwards
6 p.m. Free

Saturday-Sunday, October 16-17
Alternative Press Expo
The Concourse
620 7th Street, San Francisco
www.comic-con.org/ape
Confirmed special guests as of press time are Lynda Barry, Daniel Clowes, Rich Koslowski, and Tony Millionaire.

Monday, October 18
Forbidden Thrills Movie Night
Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge
1304 Lincoln, Alameda
www.thrillville.net
Cult Movies & Cocktails, hosted by Will the Thrill. All shows free, first feature starts @ 7:30 PM, second feature @ 9:15. Free Popcorn and Trivia Prizes. September’s films are Werewolf in a Girls Dormitory and Manster (1954)
7:30 p.m. Free

Saturday, October 23
Mad Men Vodka Tasting
Hangar One Distillery
2601 Monarch Street, Alameda
www.gbacg.org
As part of landing our latest client and becoming familiar with their products, office staff will be at the Vodka Tasting Tour at Alameda based Hanger One in Alameda. Clean cut office wear from the Kennedy Era/Age of Optimism once again gets to soak up the cocktails. After the Distillery closes, designated drivers (as needed) will ferry staff to the Mahogany Room of the nearby Alameda Elks lodge for drying out. Suggested costume: Early 1960s.
Check website for details.
Friday-Sunday, 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 (till September 26)

Sunday, October 31

**Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde**

Davies Symphony Hall  
San Francisco  
www.sfsymphony.org

A newly restored version of the 1920 silent classic plays with Ruffatti organ accompaniment. The Buster Keaton short “The Haunted House” will also play. Half price for ages 17 and under.  
8 p.m. Check website for prices.

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 (until September 30)

Friday-Sunday, November 26-28

**Loscon 37**

LAX Marriott  
5855 West Century Boulevard, Los Angeles  
www.loscon37.org

GOH: Emma Bull, Phil Foglio, Kim Brown, Jordan Brown  
$40 (until September 30)

Friday-Sunday, November 26-28

**SorcererCon**

Sainte Claire Hotel  
302 South Market Street, San Jose  
www.sorcerercon.com

Fantasy Convention  
$50
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

Monday, December 13

**Forbidden Thrills Movie Night**
Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge
1304 Lincoln, Alameda
www.thrillville.net
Cult Movies & Cocktails, hosted by Will the Thrill. All shows free, first feature starts @ 7:30 PM, second feature @ 9:15. Free Popcorn and Trivia Prizes. December’s films are *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians* and *Santa Claus* 7:30 p.m. Free

**Wednesday-Saturday, January 12-15 and 19-22, 2011**

**Machine: A Fire Opera**
The Crucible
1260 7th Street, Oakland
www.thecrucible.org/events/fire-operas-ballets/366
Conceived and staged by Mark Streshinsky specifically for The Crucible’s performance space and capabilities, this original fire opera is based on a sci-fi short story by Derek J. Goodman, with original score by Clark Suprynnowicz. Details TBA

Saturday, February 19, 2011

**The Gilded Age Glissade**
Palo Alto
www.gbacg.org

**Saturday-Sunday, February 19-20, 2011**

**Anime on Display**
Hotel Kabuki
1625 Post Street, San Francisco
www.aodsf.org
Animation convention. $25 (until February 5)

**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 18-20, 2011**

**Pantheacon**
The Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose
www.pantheacon.com
Pagan convention. $55 (Till September 15)

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
Friday-Sunday, April 1-3, 2011

*Wondercon*
Moscone Center South
San Francisco
www.comic-con.org/wc
Details TBA

**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

**Thursday-Sunday, July 1-4, 2011**

*Westercon 64*
The Fairmont
170 South Market Street, San Jose
www.westercon64.org
GOHs: Patricia A. McKillip, Kaja and Phil Folgizio, Mike Willmoth
$65 (through Oct 15)

**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 (Till September 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
11-5 p.m. $6 (Closed Mondays)

*San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour*
Beginns: Queen Anne Hotel
1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco
www.sfghosthunt.com
Closed Tuesdays.
7-10 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

*MGJ 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, 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**CAS: NightLife**
The California Academy of Sciences
55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
www.calacademy.org
Every Thursday night, the Academy opens its doors for NightLife, a chance for adults to explore the museum in a whole new light. Dance to some of San Francisco’s most popular DJs, enjoy food and cocktails, and mingle while you delve into the Academy’s world-class exhibits and get up close and personal with aquarium critters.
6 p.m. - 10 p.m. $12 (21+)

**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

**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
### 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**

### 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**

### 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.

### 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

### 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

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

### QSF&F Book Club
**Borderlands Books**  
866 Valencia, San Francisco  
www.qsfandf.com  
Meets the second Sunday of the month.
5 p.m.  
Free

### 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/](http://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.
**No-Name Anime**
Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga
www.nnanime.com
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.

**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

**Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club**
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Meets the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.
6 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

**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

**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

**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

**Other Realms Book Club**
Books, Inc.
1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame
www.booksinc.net/localinterest/291027
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month.
6:30 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

**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

**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
Looking south from Pacifica Pier

by Lucy Huntzinger
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