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Art Credits
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Editorial

By Jean Martin
Editor-in-Chief

This issue is a pretty big one with several reviews of out-of-town conventions that have happened over the summer, which is the time when a lot of people travel anyway. I suppose it would make a nice vacation to go to a convention outside of the Bay Area. I’d only done this once to go to Comic-Con in 2005. But I haven’t done this since then because Comic-Con is too huge and chaotic for me and July has always been a busy time for me at work. And in my current job, I can’t even take days off in July. I’d mentioned in past Editorials that I was hoping to go to WorldCon in Melbourne, Australia, but that didn’t pan out.

Since I wasn’t able to go anywhere this summer and I can’t be everywhere, it’s great that we have such willing and talented contributors that have stepped up to the fore. Since we don’t have a proofreader anymore, my role in SF/SF so far this year has been mostly editing as well as obtaining articles. Which, I guess, goes with my title as Editor-in-Chief anyway. Besides, my writing has been featured heavily in most of our 100+ issues over the past five years. It’s good to take a break. And I do enjoy editing and getting people to write for us as well. As I’ve said before, it adds to the variety to our zine with different perspectives and experiences from other people. I don’t want the zine to be just all about me.

Still, I want to keep writing for SF/SF and I have a backlog of events that I would like to write about. They may be old news but I think they’d still be interesting. And I’d promised the organizers of some of these events that I would do so. But with so much writing at my day job (i.e., tired brain and eyes), and these events starting to fade from my memory, it’ll be quite a challenge. Thank goodness for photos. That’s why I take lots of photos, which serve as a visual journal of things I’ve done and been to. And it makes it easier to write about events after the fact. And well, I just love photos. One non-fandom event I’m going to soon is an all-day scrapbooking tea party at a tea place in San Mateo called Sweeteas (owned by a lovely lady named Julita whom I know from my old Oracle days).

I did go to a lot of fannish events with my boyfriend this summer. He’s actually been excited about writing about some of these, though, so that takes some of the writing off of my plate. I knew he liked taking photos but I didn’t know he liked to write too. And he’s quite good at both.

So we have his Comic-Con (San Diego) report in this issue, which is a more comprehensive review than the more specific coverage from Cordelia Willis and Thad Gann that we had in our last issue. There’s also Chris Garcia’s analysis of the Hugo Awards given out at WorldCon (Australia), Tom Becker’s coverage of Au Contraire! (New Zealand), photos of incredible costumes at Dragon*Con (Atlanta) by Noelle Paduan (I really should go to Dragon*Con one of these days), and Pat
Yulo’s fun adventure as an extra on the set of the TV show *Castle* (L.A.).

We’ve got local coverage too with William La Cross’s writeup on Pacificon (Santa Clara), a gaming convention; España Sheriff’s review of w00tstock (San Francisco), a nerd-dom variety show; and a news flash and photos by JohnnyAbsinthe on the unveiling of the Raygun Gothic Rocketship art installation (San Francisco).

So yes, this issue is more packed than usual. When it rains it pours! Well, it only rained a little in the Bay Area this summer but we haven’t really had much sunny weather either. I can only remember two weekends when it was warm enough to use the pool at my apartment complex. I hope we do get a bit of an Indian Summer in October. Then I’m off to Florida for my somewhat fannish vacation to the Kennedy Space Center for the second to the last space shuttle launch (fingers crossed that it doesn’t get postponed again), Disneyworld and Universal Orlando. I can’t wait for a real vacation!

I haven’t gone outside the Bay Area since Gallifrey One, a *Doctor Who* convention, in February of last year. And that was only in nearby L.A.

Hope everyone’s summer has been a blast. It’s the first day of autumn as I write this, and now our thoughts are all probably shifting toward Halloween and Thanksgiving. I can’t wait for these two holidays as well.
By España Sheriff
Editor

Seanan McGuire is a local author and fan, she chaired Baycon in 2003 and returned as Toastmistress in 2007. She’s also well known in filk circles and was the Filk guest of honor at the combined Westercon/ConChord earlier this year. She also just won the Campbell Award for best new writer last month.

For all these reasons, and since there has been considerable buzz around it, I was looking forward to reading her debut novel, *Rosemary and Rue*, but honestly it didn’t really do much for me. Part of it is simply the genre, I’m not the biggest Urban Fantasy series fan. I enjoy some variations on it, like the Inspector Chen books or even Justina Robson’s *Keeping it Real*. But specifically, the tough as nails female detective (or cop, or bounty hunter) who is also a fairy (or vampire, werewolf, etc.) and awesome (but damaged) mostly leaves me cold.

The other reason I was looking forward to *Rosemary and Rue* is the same reason I am writing it up for this column… it’s set in San Francisco. The Bay Area has a long tradition of both noir and fantasy fiction, so the combination would seem to have quite a bit of potential. *Nine Tail Fox*, reviewed in this column in *SF/SF* #123, made me very happy; and I was looking forward to what an author who actually lives here could do with the place.

As it turns out, the world and history of the Fairy seem to have a lot of thought put into it; and I suspect the mythology will become richer and deeper as the series continues. But the actual physical location seems to get short shrift. The cold and fog get their obligatory nod, of course, but except for Golden Gate Park, there are hardly any streets, neighborhoods or landmarks mentioned. Likewise our protagonist, October “Toby” Daye gets on a generic San Francisco cab, rides a generic San Francisco bus and some of the action takes place at the San Francisco Museum of Art. She drives from the Bay Bridge down a unnamed one way street, boards the bus and ends up at Golden Gate Park. So of course I try to calculate which park entrance and what bus, but it’s all so vague that it’s hard to maintain a sense of place. Which is a shame really, since even when I am reading about cities I am unfamiliar with, the unique nomenclature and geography of places often helps ground stories, and large parts of modern SF worldbuilding is based on faking up the sort of background that a real world setting provides for free.

The main exception, as mentioned is Golden Gate Park, or more specifically the Japanese Tea Garden. Several major plot developments happen within or near the Tea Gardens. It’s a good choice, a naturally otherworldly spot anyway. And I liked the description of the Park as a series of fiefdoms. Hopefully to be described in greater detail in later books of the continuing series. However, I was a little surprised that the Rose Garden didn’t get a mention, given how roses feature elsewhere in the book and that Toby passes right by them at least once, if I am reading the action correctly.
Still, the world McGuire creates in the book is probably worth exploring further, and I may eventually pick up the rest of the series, although that might involve some heavy lifting if she continues putting them out at the incredible pace she has maintained so far. *Rosemary & Rue* came out just last year and already there are two follow-ups: *A Local Habitation* and *An Artificial Light*, with two more to be published next year: *Late Eclipses* in March and *The Brightest Fell* in September.

Incredibly she has also managed to start a whole other series at the same time, under the pen name Mira Grant, and the first book in that series, *Feed*, has been getting a lot of good press and word of mouth as well. A peek at the synopsis tells me that the protagonists are a brother and sister team of bloggers living in Berkeley. Even better, the setting is near future post-zombie apocalypse, and you know I love me some zombies, so I think the fairies may have to wait a bit. You can look forward to a writeup of *Feed* in the next few months instead.
A Comic-Con Vacation

By Christopher Erickson
Staff Writer

Comic-Con is always a fun time of year for me because it lets me travel a bit, though it is always more of a road trip. Comic-Con has also been a great for me because I have had major bonding time with my best friend thrown in with the road trip. Elena and I both had to leave late in the evening around 8:00 p.m. since we both had work circumstances where we could not get Wednesday as a travel day. It worked out in my favor since I could spend some time with Jean before I left. When Elena met me at my place, I gave her a quick tour around my studio apartment (the two minute grand tour as I call it) and we packed my things in her car and drove off. I drove down from San Jose to give here some rest as she had just gotten off of work about an hour before. We spent the first three hours or so reminiscing and catching up, as well as dishing on our respective love lives and how we were both happy that we found very special people. The rest of the drive was our road trip tradition of playing The Mamas and the Papas and various...
other tunes. Elena also shared with me the soundtrack to *Repo! The Genetic Opera* and the *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* musical episode “Once More With Feeling” to get me into a geektastic mood.

The trip was somewhat uneventful until somewhere in Southern California after Anaheim but before San Diego. Interstate 5 was closed in the southbound direction for all lanes due to construction. This significantly slowed us down as it was around 11:00 p.m. or so and we had to detour onto city streets. The detour took us to another highway that connected back up to I-5 but the exit was poorly marked and we continued on for a few minutes before we decided to follow the other drivers back to the exit that everyone else was taking.

We arrived at the hotel about 1:30 a.m. and tried to check in. We were both part of a co-op rooming situation that a friend of ours runs to keep costs down and the person that organizes the co-op usually arranges to make things smooth for those arriving late. This was the second year in a row that we had late check-in problems as there were no keys left for us at the lobby. I was lucky enough that my roommates were still up at the time that they could let me in. I was grateful for small favors as I drove the entire way and had been up since about 5:00 a.m. the previous day. We both managed to get into our rooms without further delay and I promptly introduced myself to my roommates and then went to bed.

I promptly woke up the next day (Thursday, Day 1), got up and got all nice and dressed. The big things on my agenda were the *Doctor Who* cosplay gathering for the showing of the finale of Series 5 of *Doctor Who* and the Charlaine Harris panel since I read the Sookie Stackhouse mysteries that *True Blood* is based on. After finally getting dressed as the Third Doctor and testing my new camera, I made the now familiar walk to the Fashion Valley Island light rail station with Elena. She was dressed as a serving waitress/werewolf at Merlotte’s Bar from *True Blood*. The train ride was the usual surrealistic trip I have come to expect with people wearing T-shirts I normally only see in my own wardrobe on a day-to-day basis and other recognizable characters. This year was no exception as Marla Singer from *Fight Club* and Juno were sitting side-by-side on the car. The day started off grand as I got my ticket without any hassles and managed to get recognized by several people before even stepping into the Sails Pavilion.

Most of the time spent before the Charlaine Harris panel was taking photos and scoping out the dealer’s room since I was not able to go to preview night and get the lay of the land. The dealer’s room was packed even on the first day and I had a hard time
navigating to anything other than some of the back aisles to get around.

The Charlaine Harris panel was well attended and drew lots of fans. Charlaine Harris was presented with the Inkpot Award at the panel for her contributions to fantasy fiction. She mostly answered questions at the panel about her books and her thoughts on the adaptation of the TV show. She presented the argument that they are completely different works since the TV show emphasizes certain characters that are rather minor in her books and that she had no problems with the adaptation. I even got one of my questions answered.

After the panel, I ventured into the Gaslamp District to grab a meal from Ralph’s Grocery since they have a wonderful deli section. The amount of effort put into providing flavor outside of Comic-Con was incredible. Beyond the usual viral campaigns for upcoming movies, there were several events staged in the Gaslamp District including an outside bar for *True Blood*, an ice-cream truck handing out free Rocket popsicles, Adult Swim giving out free pizza, a series of storefronts hosting comic book art on their windows, the return of Café Diem from SyFy, a blood drive giving away *True Blood* merchandise, and a parade of geek-inspired cars including a recreation of KITT from *Knight Rider* that I didn’t even realize what it was until it turned the corner. The amount of events and city flavor was amazing to see, but may have been just a shameless ploy to keep Comic-Con in San Diego in the coming years.

The second day, Friday, was a get-up-somewhat-late day for me. It was also the debut of my Hush costume that I actually constructed with some assistance from Cordelia Willis. I did the red trim hand sewing on the shirt and pretty much scrounged up other things to complete the costume. My plan for
the day was to get photos with the DC Universe characters, especially the Batman characters.

I hopped on the train again and sat across from a woman who did a great version of Sally from *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Since we were taking the regular train instead of the special events one, we had some time on our hands to chat and take some photos as well. She was also trying to make it to a panel that she was running late for and hoped to get into it since she had a volunteer badge. We eventually got to the convention and I headed out trying to get photos with every Batman villain and hero I could find. I managed to get a few photos early with Batman just by hanging out at the DC booth as well as a couple of Green Lanterns.

I then coordinated with Elena to meet up and hang out for a bit. It was interesting since I couldn’t find her for a while as we were texting back and forth. I then found a really cool female version of Whiplash based on the Iron Man 2 movie. I was thinking that Elena would enjoy it immensely if I could take a photo. The female Whiplash then said “Hi Chris” and I was shocked to figure out that it was Elena. I didn’t recognize her standing about 10 feet away from me and I was expecting her to be in her Merlotte’s waitress outfit. We hung around the bathroom area near Ballroom 20 for a bit to relax and spent a good portion of the time there. I was also able to grab a bunch of pictures of people walking by in costume. Elena and I even struck up a conversation with another person there as well. I eventually made my way back down to the dealer’s room to wander through some of the booths as well as take photos.

By this time I was eventually noticing that there was a resurgence of Batman characters due to the popularity of the “Batman: Arkham Asylum” video game as well as several Green Lanterns with the coming release of the new movie. *G.I. Joe* was also popular again this year with more characters in...
attendance besides the usual of Scarlett, Snake Eyes, Cobra Commander and the Baroness. The Tim Burton version Alice in Wonderland characters were very popular as well.

We went back down and journeyed the floor and I got to geek out over some really cool costumes including Sgt. Slaughter from G.I. Joe and a George Reeves Superman done in black and white. I then decided to go home early to get some rest and grabbed a few extra photos on the way back to the hotel.

Saturday was a bit of a solo day for me as I got up a bit early and dressed in my Seventh Doctor costume. The train ride was exciting as always since I was able to geek out over a Justice League group that included the Blue Beetle and Booster Gold. We conversed on the train and I was able to take pictures with the group. I wandered the dealer room floor and continued to take pictures until I drifted over to the Just Dance 2 booth. I joined a group that included a fairy, a little girl and a zombie. Since I was player 1, I got to choose the song and I chose “The Power” by Snap. It must have been interesting to see the combination of a fey, a zombie and a Time Lord with an umbrella dancing to an early 90s hit song. I placed second in the game and can proudly say that I beat out the little girl and the zombie.

After the dancing game, I wandered around taking photos and taking advantage of the crossover possibilities throughout the convention center. Some of the more interesting costumes including Gizmo from Gremlins, Aquaman coming from the BP oil spill, Lady Gaga, Jack from Jack In The Box and a Mario carrying around a sign reading “Thank you Mario, but our Princess is in another castle!” I also ran into a mother and daughter who were doing the Lynda Carter and Debra Winger versions of Wonder Woman and Wonder Girl from the 1970s show. I sat down and had lunch with them and had a nice relaxing conversation about Wonder Woman and where we were from originally.

I then went to the fan club level that I discovered when I went to pick up my VIP ticket for the Masquerade. I was to film the Viva Las Villains skit that Cordelia Willis put together. I picked up the video camera and watched them practice for a bit. I then wandered around the fan club tables.

I then tried to make my way to the Hilton Hotel across from the convention center for the Sanctuary panel. The convention has gotten so large that they have expanded to the hotels across the street to hold other panels as well as host the anime screenings, film festivals, game tournaments and fan group meetings. I got stopped to take pictures with a fem Fifth Doctor and a Dalek and ended up getting into the panel line late. I didn’t make it to the panel, but I ran into a woman dressed as a TARDIS that

![Prince Zuko and Toph from Avatar-The Last Airbender by Christopher Erickson](image)
she constructed out of cardboard. I stood in line with her while she was waiting for *The Guild* panel. During that time, we had our picture taken by a Storm Trooper biker from Endor, Captain Kirk and several passersby.

I then made my way back to the convention center and got together with Elena to hang out and just enjoy the costumes. We ended up over by Ballroom 20 and just stood there for a while. We even both geeked out when a woman dressed as vampire Willow from *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* walked by. We were both stunned because we had talked about the lack of Buffy cosplayers a bit earlier. Elena and I then went to grab some food at the fan booth level that I discovered that day as it was a nice quiet area to sit and relax in. We were able to see some cool costumes including Spiral from *X-Men* and a plushie version of Luke Skywalker and Yoda from the *Empire Strikes Back* training scene. We then explored all of the tables at that level.

We then made our way back down to the dealer room to explore it some more and get more photos. We were standing around when a large group was approaching and none other than Stan Lee was walking by with several characters and a few TV crews surrounding him. The group paused right in front of us and we tried to get a photo of Stan Lee in the crowd. Elena positioned herself to get the shot and I had a clear path to a good picture when a woman shot her arms up after Elena said “I have the shot.” Neither of us got a photo when that happened.

We made our way out to get something to drink from Starbucks and relax after our disappointment at missing our photo op of Stan Lee. I went to get the drinks and ended up playing around with a Kirk and McCoy from the new *Star Trek* movie. Elena and I than relaxed in one of the hallway nooks when we got news from a text message about a stabbing at the convention. The details were somewhat sketchy at that point but an argument ensued in Ballroom 20 over a saved seat. One person had been sitting in the hall all day for a specific panel and got into an argument with a person who was upset that other people were not able to get into the panel they wanted to attend. One person pulled out a pen and stabbed the other one in the temple near the eye. The victim started to bleed and people nearby detained the perpetrator. The perpetrator was taken out and arrested by the San Diego Police. Elena and I talked about possible consequences that the convention would have to implement such as not allowing any props in because of the stabbing since we were under the impression that the stabbing was due to a pocket knife, the bad press for the convention since there was already a question about it remaining in San Diego, and the hassle of trying to get into the panels because of people...
doing the exact same thing that caused the argument. We compared it to paying to window shop. We speculated that the cause of this is the fact that there are several panels that are really only tangentially connected to the geek crowd like Sons of Anarchy and the Showtime shows (Weeds, Californication, etc.) since they feature actors that have been in shows popular with the Comic-Con crowd.

We then grabbed something to eat and went our separate ways since she was waiting in line to see the Masquerade simulcast in the Sails Pavilion and I had to get in line for the VIP area in Ballroom 20. I got a good view of the entire masquerade due to my VIP pass. The entries were rather inventive including a Mass Effect 2 entry, a clever BioShock 2 entry, a time travelers mixup with Doctor Who, Bill and Ted’s Excellent Adventure, Back to the Future and Quantum Leap characters, a number of Batman entries and the Viva Las Villains entry. I wasn’t exactly sure when Cordelia’s group was going to be on, so I was running low on battery power by the time the awards came around. I had to do some conservation but managed to capture them getting the Best in Show trophy award. After the show, I caught the group during their photo session and grabbed a few pictures myself. I then joined Elena for the dance that was happening in the Sail Pavilion. There was a snack stand and a couple of bars with a few beers and a some hard liquor for sale, a DJ and several people dancing in costume including a Spider-Man and Venom, a Tron character, Lady Gaga, The Flash, Batman, a Merlotte’s waitress and The Doctor. Elena and I left early to get back to the hotel so we didn’t miss the tram. The tram was operating late to take people back to their hotels during the later events past midnight such as the masquerade and the other panels.

Day 4 on Sunday was a lazy and short day. I got up and packed, showered and then went back to bed. I eventually
got up and dressed again as the Seventh Doctor. Elena and I then packed up the car and headed on down to the tram. We stopped and talked to a couple dressed as Prince Zuko and Toph from Avatar: The Last Airbender. They told us about a papier-mâché rock that they had lost that was signed by some of the people who worked on the show. We rode the train over and started to walk to the convention hall when Elena and I noticed a fake rock. We picked it up and examined it. The rock had writing on it and then we realized that it was the rock that the couple had lost. We caught up to them and gave it back to them and they were very excited.

Elena and I went into the hall and walked around the dealer’s room for a while and stopped at a couple of booths. We then made our way up to the Sails Pavilion where another Doctor Who cosplay meetup was scheduled. There were several more people that showed up after I mentioned it to people I ran into and we were even joined by John Levene (Sgt. Benton) who was signing autographs in the area. Elena and I split up as I was making my way down to the IDW booth to get my Doctor Who comics signed by Tony Lee. On the way I took a few more photographs and ran into a fully functioning Kermit the Frog as the on the spot news reporter. I started the music alert and said “we now go to Kermit the Frog with another fast breaking news story.” Kermit responded by saying “Hi ho, Kermit the Frog here. Comic-Con had to be canceled due to low attendance and the only people here (Kermit looking me up and down) are weirdos.” This is the second straight year I have been dissed by a puppet.

I got my comics signed at the IDW booth by Tony Lee and then made my way up to join Elena for the line for the last event, the Buffy musical sing-along. We joined in the singing with Chris, whom Elena met in the line while waiting. After the sing-along, we hung out and grabbed a few more pictures and saw people cosplaying the stabbing incident the previous day. On the way out, I was able to grab those last few photos of really cool costumes and the Black Beauty from The Green Hornet movie near the tram stop.

There was also a demonstration/protest of sorts with a Captain America doll to try to raise awareness about Comic-Con’s contract with the San Diego Convention Center expiring in a few years. The speculation is that the convention may move to Las Vegas, Los Angeles or Anaheim. San Diego has been the home of the convention since its inception, but comments I have seen online by San Diego columnists say that the convention should move on since there are other businesses and conventions that bring in more money. Given that the convention center will be expanding, the local hotels were allowing use of their space for events,
and that the tram system was running late trains specifically for the convention, the city leaders are trying to make every effort to keep Comic-Con in San Diego. My thinking is that San Diego is the perfect place to host it as the summer weather is warm but not extreme, there are plenty of public transit options for those who stay at hotels farther away from the convention center, and most of the eating establishments are conveniently located near the convention center including a 24-hour grocery store. Las Vegas would have the same conditions as San Diego, except for the summer weather being extreme and being a drawback for all of the costumers, and also being farther away for the Hollywood studios than San Diego. Anaheim has a decent convention center, but I am not familiar with their public transit system and the hotels would have competition with Disneyland for the summer tourist dollars. Los Angeles would be a terrible choice as traffic is terrible even on the weekends, all the hotels are spread out, there is no central location for an event of this size and diversity for hotels and eateries, the public transit system is unreliable and almost non-existent, and the city weather is both hot and muggy during the summer.

We then made our way back to the hotel to get Elena’s car. We finally hit the road after saying goodbye to our friends and then started our drive to the Bay Area. Elena drove while I was riding shotgun and we continued our road trip traditions by playing ABBA on the way back and getting lost trying to get back on the freeway after missing the switchback in the L.A. freeway system for I-5. As we passed through Anaheim, we caught the fireworks going off at Disneyland, which was a rather poignant ending to Comic-Con.
Well, the good ship is back and has landed at the Port of San Francisco, and will remain at Pier 14 Tidal Plaza at the Embarcadero for 14 months as a temporary exhibit. This time, though, we will not be able to look inside—the doors are sealed shut to the general public. In August, the Mayor of San Francisco, Gavin Newsom, welcomed the 40-foot ship along with the artists who created this project, Sean Orlando (who also created the Steam Punk Tree House), Nathaniel Taylor and David...
Shulman. Apparently, the ship has been grounded by its captain due to some faulty wiring and will not be space-worthy until October 2011. Actually, it’s the latest in a series of temporary public art exhibitions sponsored by the Black Rock Arts Foundation to enliven and activate public spaces. In the meantime, please come by and marvel at the beauty of this retro-futuristic rocket ship while it’s here. I think the Embarcadero is the best place for displaying an idea of futuristic space travel, along the waterfront and piers, tying it with the ships that we used to and still travel our world.

For more information, go to: www.raygungothicrocket.com
By Patricia M. Yulo

What would you do if someone posted this on Facebook: “Castle is looking for Steampunk extras. Mail a picture of you in costume to this email address…?”

Of course I sent a picture! There was over a week of waiting for a reply, with the general feeling that it was all for naught. Then one day, I’m fiddling with my iPhone, and there it was—an email saying that I’m in and that I need to be in L.A. for the shoot in a week’s time!

What’s there to think about? Pack my bags, gas up the car and off I go. The drive down to L.A. was uneventful. The beauty of long car rides by yourself is that no one cares how badly or loudly you sing along to “A Brand New Day.”

Now I’ve never been an extra before, so the process was new and exciting to me. Until I realized that on August 23rd, I had to be up at 4:00 a.m. so I could be fully costumed and on the lot by 6:00 a.m. Thank god for craft services (which the industry calls “crafty”) and their burning hot coffee and warm egg goodies. The set was located in an industrial warehouse often rented by studios for its versatility. Contrary to popular belief, it was not filmed at the Edison, a local L.A. haunt.

Next step: wardrobe approval. My costume was approved with a cursory glance and a two thumbs up. I wore two skirts that I had made—one from red tag fabric from Joanns and the other from an old bedsheet from Goodwill. I wore a basic brown corset from Fredericks of Hollywood that I had embellished with paint and embroidered with beads and tiny watch gears. Nestled in my upholstery holster, specially ordered from Blue Moon Designs, were my “ekin” guns, two squirt guns I had painted with husband’s Warhammer paints. The goggles were from eBay, bought before I knew any better. Other details, like the bustle and hat piece, were made from other projects’ leftovers.

With the costume approved, the real meat of the day was to begin. We headed to the holding cell, where hair and makeup were housed. This was to be our new home for the next 15 hours. For every five minutes on set, you get to be in the holding cell for an hour. Being there afforded a lot of the regular
Steampunkers time to compare and admire their costumes and wares.

Needless to say all the extras who were in their own Steampunk costumes shared a lot of cross-cultural history. Everyone had either participated in Ren Faire, Dickens Fair or SCA at one point in time or another. Some of them were vendors, who sell their wares at conventions or online. Others were professional SAG extras, who also so happen to be heavily into Steampunk. The League of S.T.E.A.M., an L.A. based organization of inventors and scientists, had cast members on set.

Some of the characters really stood out from the crowd. Shawn Crosby, known for his H-Wing Carfighter, was dressed as a Steampunk Ghostbuster outfit, complete with a light-up proton pack. Someone else was dressed as Doc Emmett Brown’s great, great grandfather, with a flux capacitor nicely stored in a cabinet-cum-backpack. Tadao Tomomatsu, our most recent BayCon toastmaster, was dressed in traditional Japanese robes, brandishing about four very large weapons, the most famous of which was named “Bertha.”

Wardrobe also did a magnificent job putting outfits together from past films. Bryan Forrest was lucky enough to wear a peach pinstriped suit from the 1951 film Showboat. One woman wore a beige, red-striped canvas dress from the 1890s. You could see where the wear and tear on the dress was, with careful hand-stitching keeping it up in places. Her necklace was a piece from the House of Wormwood.

A lot of vendors of Steampunk wares were also represented. Brayton and Amy Carpenter of Light Speed Imports (formerly Corellian imports) provided an array of leather accessories, ranging from belts, arm armor and gun holsters. Pieces from Pendragon Costumes was scattered amongst all the different costumes.

There was a palatable disparity between the real Steampunk extras and the skinny, young, good-looking counterparts who were intrigued to find out what the genre was called. The Steampunk extras ran the gamut of humanity and an instant camaraderie was born out of a common love of corsets, bustles and gadgets.

For those of you who don’t watch Castle, it is a crime procedural drama starring our favorite Captain Hammer from Dr. Horrible, Nathan Fillion. He stars as Rick Castle, a crime writer who partners up with New York cop Kate Beckett (actress Stana Katic) to solve heinous murders. Castle also uses Beckett as inspiration for a new line of novels (which creepily enough are available on Amazon).

The show usually features a large collection of people in parties, events or fashion shows. This time around, it hosted an imaginary Steampunk club called The Gaslamp. The set crew did an
amazing job of creating three rooms filled with Victoriana and moving machinery, including a time machine and a skeleton piloting a bicycle/helicopter contraption. Extras were given cocktails full of fake Absinthe and Scotch. One of the guest stars had the luck of riding a decked out penny farthing.

As extras, our job was not hard at all—pretend you’re having fun in the environment. The very first time they called “Action,” we all tried to crane our necks and catch a glimpse of the real Malcolm Reynolds from Firefly. To our initial disappointment, his stand-in walked through for the first three tests. When Nathan finally walked on set, we could not stop grinning. The excitement was palpable and obviously captured on screen.

We were not given any opportunities to take pictures with any of the actors. However, we did take a lot of photos of the set. Later on in the day, we were warned that “officially” we were not allowed to take photos but that “unofficially” they acknowledged that it was great for publicity.

On set, Nathan did not interact with a lot of the extras (at least he didn’t interact with me). I did catch him playing video games on his phone in between takes. Stana, on the other hard, was really friendly and seemed to make a point of commenting on all the props and goodies that people were wearing. She even complimented me on my guns! I got to tell her how much I loved the red jackets that she wore in all the episodes. I was dying to ask wardrobe what the symbolism of it meant!

My one run in with Nathan happened in the late afternoon. Extras were allowed to go backstage and pick up some sodas. Nathan was leaning on the cooler and we very calmly asked him to move. He smiled, said something to my compatriot and stepped away. We very, very slowly searched for just the right sodas.

I cannot remember exactly how many times I was chosen to be in the scene, but I felt like I was on there a lot. I know for certain that at the end, when they ran after the culprit, they ran right by me and I needed to protect my absinthe. So I know I’ll be in at least one scene!

We did not end filming until 9:30 p.m., at which point in time some women had been in corsets for over 15 hours. That did not stop us from wanting to spend more time on set. If it was possible for us to hug it, miniaturize it and keep it in our pockets, we would have done so.

Season 3, Episode 4: “Punked” of Castle airs on October 11 at 10:00 pm on ABC.
Vendors and Other Cool Things Mentioned in the Article

Blue Moon Designs – handy-dandy pocket belts to keep all your stuff on you
Katherine Becvar
www.blue-moon-designs.com

H-Wing Carfighter – decked out Honda Del Rio
Shawn Crosby
www.h-wing.com

House of Wormwood – precious millinery pieces
Wilamina Wormwood
www.houseofwormwood.com

League of S.T.E.A.M. – L.A.-based Steampunk organization
www.leagueofsteam.com

Light Speed Imports – purveyors of intergalactic finery
Brayton and Amy Carpenter
www.corellianimports.com

Pendragon Costumes
www.pendragoncostumes.com

Behind the Scenes on Set
by Pat M. Yulo
w00tstock can best be described as a variety show for nerds. The official tagline is “3 hours of geeks+music,” which is fair enough, but it doesn’t begin to cover what you actually get to see on stage.

It is the brain child of Wil Wheaton, Adam Savage and the musical duo Paul & Storm. Wheaton is probably still best known as Wesley Crusher from Star Trek: The Next Generation, but has since become better known as a gamer and general geek about town. Adam Savage is a local guy, of course, and best known to fans for blowing shit up as the more verbose half of the Mythbusters team. Paul & Storm have been entertaining nerds since they were part of Da Vinci’s Notebook and continue the tradition of music that makes you laugh and groan simultaneously.

Not so very long ago, these lovely folks presumably got drunk and spent an evening horsing around and one of them said; “hey, I wonder if people would pay us to do this?” And as it turns out, the answer was “oh, hell yes!” (Note: This story is not true)

Well, in some circles “let’s put on a show!” is a punchline, but in nerd-dom that is how Worldcon bids, and apparently massively successful touring variety acts, are born. I was at show 1.0.1 in San Francisco at the Swedish American Hall in November of 2009 and had a fantastic time. Aside from the fact that everyone involved is very funny, the loose and cheerful vibe and audience participation created a wonderful energy.

So, when they announced the new list of cities for 201.0 and San Francisco was on the list, I knew I’d be going back. This time, the show was at the Great American Music Hall, which seats at least a hundred more people than the previous venue and has table service. Beyond that, The Hall is a beautiful old building, and from the balcony we had a pretty nice view of the stage—although the speakers unfortunately blocked a decent chunk of the monitor. I had forgotten how many videos and visual aids the show uses.

The founding members were all there, of course. Paul & Storm opened, mostly playing songs I already knew, but that simply meant that this time I was able to sing along where appropriate. Wil Wheaton read from his books, “The Happiest Years of My Life,” a charming story of his first Rocky Horror Picture Show midnight screening. Adam Savage likewise had a coming of age story, in his case about “Dungeons and Dragons”
and teen lust, but more importantly he came on stage with the Blade Runner blaster replica that he made strapped on. The audience went nuts.

Aside from the main team, every w00tstock has special guests. Some announced in advance and others surprises. Last year we had Molly Lewis, who plays a mean ukelele and does both original songs and some amazing covers, and Kid Beyond, a beatboxer you have to see to believe.

This time Molly was back, and it was great to see the amount of confidence she has gained onstage since last year. The rest of the lineup included Bonnie Burton, who did a Star Wars crafts presentation and told some very troubling glitter and googly eyes anecdotes. Mike Phirman, of Hard N Phirm, who did a couple of very fast-paced songs including one that had a delightful Dr. Demento vibe to it. The more sciencey guest was futurist Jamais Cascio who spoke about how the Singularity isn’t the “End of the World,” and while it was interesting enough it seemed more tailored for a mainstream audience. On the other hand, Grant Imahara’s BeerBot was just about perfect in tone and execution. Beer plus robot, plus hot guy—what’s not to love?

Mixed in with all this were vids such as the “A Moment with Wil” series, funny clips and music bits to feed the ADHD-enhanced audience, my absolute favorite of which was the truly inspired Generic Movie Trailer from Britanick.

The neatest thing about the evening, though, wasn’t even on the stage. It was seeing the participants who were not currently onstage mingle by the backstage door chatting, drinking and watching whoever was performing at the time. It was clear that they could just as easily have been off in the green room eating delicious hummus, but wanted to hang with their friends and be part what was going on.
All good things must come to an end, though, and as is traditional, the evening wrapped up with the crew back on stage for The “Captain’s Wife’s Lament,” which is a simple pirate ditty that requires audience participation and ends up being a 20+ minute long audience participation saga.

I recognized a number of my fellow nerds in the audience, including John O’Halloran, who was kind enough to provide the photos for this writeup, and it was fun to see the tweets the following night as people got ready to head out to the Friday night show. Each night is unique, but I knew they’d be in for a good time.
Au Contraire!, the 31st New Zealand National Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention, was held in Wellington on August 27-29, 2010, the weekend before the WorldCon in Melbourne. The convention committee was very savvy in setting the date so few from overseas could attend both conventions. It worked out so well, there now is a WorldCon bid for New Zealand in 2020.

After a long flight from San Francisco via Los Angeles and Auckland, Spike and I spent the night at Booklover’s B&B. It is run by Jane Tolerton, a journalist and biographer. As one would expect, her home is full of interesting books. I bought a copy of her biography *Ettie*, about Ettie Rout, a remarkable New Zealand woman who was a friend of H.G. Wells and ran a very controversial, unorthodox, and successful campaign to prevent venereal disease among the troops in The Great War.

The B&B is right next to Mt. Victoria Park, where some of the scenes in *Lord of the Rings* were filmed. We walked up the Great East Road, and somehow we missed Bree and the Prancing Pony Inn. But there were great views of downtown Wellington and the harbor.

Saying *au revoir* to Wellington, we took a ferry to South Island. Fortunately, the weather was sunny and the seas were calm. Cook Strait can get very rough,
but this time was smoother than many ferry rides I’ve had on San Francisco Bay. About a third of the trip was spent slowly going through long narrow passages between islands in Queen Charlotte Sound. It was incredibly beautiful as each turn lead to a new vista. My idea had been to spend a couple of days before the con relaxing in the less scenic but conveniently close north end of the South Island. I could see already that the “less scenic” part was only relative. At the ferry port in Picton, I picked up a rental car, and we drove to Nelson, along Queen Charlotte Drive, with more incredible views of the Sound at every turn.

The most amazing thing we saw in Nelson was the Museum of Wearable Art and Classic Cars. In 1987 a rural art gallery near Nelson held a small costume contest as a promotion. It now is a professional costume art contest with corporate sponsors and an audience of 35,000 over ten days. The contest is now held in Wellington where there is more room for it, but the museum remains in Nelson, in an old car factory (hence the classic cars). Many of the costumes in the museum were amazing and it was worth going to New Zealand just to see them.

The next day we drove to Blenheim (pronounced “Blen’em”), first going past vineyards with sheep grazing on the bright green grass between the vines, then up into the steep forested hills with giant tree farms and clearcuts, stopping near the top at Lake Rotoiti in Nelson Lakes National Park. Next to the lake is a forest where the government and local citizens are removing invasive species and restoring the native bird habitat. We walked through the woods listening to the splendid bird calls and gawking at
the strange objects that had been placed there as part of the habitat restoration effort.

Blenheim is the main town in the Marlborough region, home of the famous New Zealand Sauvignon Blancs, which I’m not actually that fond of. But it was very pretty (in a low-key, not as scenic as the south end of South Island way).

Then it was back on the boat to Wellington, where we made it in time for the Au Contraire! kaffeeklatsch with Elizabeth Knox. When we were planning to go, Spike realized she had one of Elizabeth’s books. We brought along her copy of *Vintner’s Luck* and I read it on the way. It was stunning: beautiful prose, vivid imagery, characters that are smart, passionate and mysterious, and amazing but very rational extrapolation from a simple fantastic premise. Elizabeth Knox is a very strong writer and in terms of ability and style (but not length) I would compare her to George R.R. Martin. At Booklover’s I found that Jane had a series of book discussions at the B&B, including one with Elizabeth. Of course she had. I tried to explain to Jane how *Vintner’s Luck* seemed to work as fantasy and mainstream fiction and science fiction at the same time, and how cool it is when writers master multiple literary toolkits. And that was when I’d read only the first third of the book. I finished it on the ferry, and I wondered what could possibly come next.

At the kaffeeklatsch Elizabeth was quite excited to see that we had an American edition of *Vintner’s Luck*. She told us there was going to be a third (!) book, which will resolve the theological problems introduced in the first two. She talked about some of her other books, and a really interesting novel her sister Sarah wrote about a woman who passes as a man in order to join a bomber crew in WW II. We found out the best used bookstore in town was very close to the con hotel, and started making plans.

Sean Williams, the International Guest of Honor from far away Australia,
was also at the kaffeeklatsch, basically as a fan, and participated in the discussion. It was pleasant and relaxing, except when we thought about how much our bags were going to weigh after we hit the bookstore. In the picture you see Sean is wearing a daffodil pin. The 27th was Daffodil Day in New Zealand, when volunteers from the Cancer Society sell flowers to raise money for cancer research.

To complete my trifecta, I ran into Paul Mannering, the Fan Guest of Honor.

For dinner, a whole bunch of us walked down Cuba Street to Istanbul, a Turkish restaurant that was recommended as good for large groups. Indeed it was, and no sooner had they pulled a couple of tables together and got us seated than another group of fans came in the door. Our table had representation from California, Texas, Norway, England and Ireland. The other table had a strong contingent from BASFA, plus some fans from New Zealand and the amazing Jay Lake. The food was good too.

The convention formally opened with a spirited fannish manifesto by Daphne. (All the concom members are women and they all went by their first names.) Guests of honor Sean Williams, Elizabeth Knox and Paul Mannering were introduced.
Opening Ceremonies by Tom Becker

Fan Funds Panel by Tom Becker

Dance Party by Tom Becker

Science Discussion by Tom Becker
The Fan Funds Panel featured Maree Pavletich (FFANZ), John Hertz (DUFF 2010), Norman Cates (DUFF 2004) and James Shields (GUFF), and was moderated by Flick (League of Fan Funds). They explained how fan funds build connections between fans in far-off places, and how they work.

That evening the con had a dance party with DJ Sean Williams, spinning ’80s new wave hits on an excellent sound system. It was brutal, realizing that indeed these were the songs of my youth, and worse yet, that they had a great beat and I could not stop dancing to them.

The next morning I got up early (which wasn’t hard, being jet-lagged) and tottered on my creaky knees to a 9:00 a.m. science discussion. At opening ceremonies, Daphne had gone on about how Au Contraire! was all about fannish participation. Well, they really meant it, and it showed in the program. The science discussion had a circle of chairs and we were all the panelists. It worked out fine, and we had an interesting time with people talking about biotechnology, climate change and the space program.

There was a temporary dealer’s room called the Floating Market that happened on Saturday morning. I had a nice chat with Dee and Peter Sowter, who had a table selling all sorts of collectables and cosplay wearables. They go to Armageddon Expo, the big media oriented SF convention with an attendance of 40,000, as well as the much smaller fannish conventions like Au Contraire!.

The debate featured dueling DUFF winners Norman Cates and John Hertz arguing the question, “The evil overlord is more interesting than the sword-

Treasures at the Floating Market  by Tom Becker

The Debate  by Tom Becker
wielding hero.” If I recall correctly, Mr. Hertz advocated for the evil overlord. It was an interesting debate and both Mr. Hertz and Mr. Cates spoke courteously and well.

Elizabeth read from an essay “The Charm of Fantasy”, published in her book *The Love School: Personal Essays*. A quote: “The fantasy that I’ve loved – fantasy, science-fiction, horror – has, it seems to me, often been inspired by dread or longing.” It was a short essay, but a fantastic one, but I could also feel the horror as my luggage went “thunk” again with one more book.

I was on my way to lunch and there’s Jay Lake auctioning stuff off for charity. He wasn’t listed on the program and I wasn’t expecting him to be on any panels, considering that he was still recovering from chemotherapy, but he’s a darn good auctioneer and there he was, helping out.

The quiz had a big room packed with teams of contestants. The questions were fantastic, science-fictional and horrifically difficult. It moved along fast too.

In his Guest of Honor speech, Sean told us all about himself. I mean, like everything, all the personal stuff. I guess I am one of his closest personal friends now, along with many others. I’m not sure I’m ready for that, because of course, as a personal friend, I should have read most of what he’s written, if not all of it. Maybe not all 41 (?) books that he’s published. 20 or 30 should be okay. Ulp. But he’s a really nice guy, and I’d better do it. Fortunately, most of his books are available in the States.

The masquerade was small but had some excellent costumes. The halftime entertainment was also good, featuring a
theremin concert and bellydancing (sadly not together).

Jonathan Cowie, from the UK, gave a talk on what might be possible in exobiology given what we understand about evolution and biology here on Earth. It was a good mix of hard science information, speculation and humor. Apparently having a good understanding of the biological principles behind beer is very helpful.

The SF poetry panel featured Tim Jones, co-editor of Voyagers: Science Fiction Poetry from New Zealand, and poets Janis Freegard and Harvey Molloy. There was some discussion of the long history of SF poetry in New Zealand, where people can find SF poetry today, and the panelists each read one of their poems. I was bemused when Harvey Molloy asked if it would be okay if he read a sonnet, and explained rather sadly that he had a poem that would never get published because it was in such an archaic form, and it was science fiction about an obscure book by George R. Stewart called Earth Abides. At that point I freaked out. I’m doing the program for Potlatch 20 next year in Sunnyvale, and our Book of Honor is Earth Abides. I pulled out my camera and got it powered on and into movie mode as fast as possible. I just made it and got a video of Harvey reading “The next ten thousand years.” When he was done (and it was a good, thoughtful poem), I raised my hand and explained about Potlatch and asked if I might be able to get permission to publish his poem in the program book. Harvey was happy to say yes. Come to Potlatch and you should be able to see the video of him reading it too.

Paul Mannering creates audio plays for fun, collaborating with other fans all
around the world, and making them available on the Internet. His Guest of Honor speech was enthusiastic, energetic, and, needless to say, well enunciated with a fine radio voice.

Sir Julius Vogel was a 19th century social reformer, science fiction novelist, and Prime Minister of New Zealand, so it obviously was very appropriate to name the New Zealand fannish science fiction awards after him. SFFANZ, who administer the awards, came up with a really wonderful design for the trophies too.
There should have been award for Best Bartending. The hotel set up a bar outside the awards ceremony. As you may have seen at other conventions, there was a cocktails menu with clever science-fictional names for the drinks. This one was especially creative, with interesting ingredients, not just unusual names. For example, their non-alcoholic Raktajino recipe included “cardomom and palm sugar syrup infused with chili shaken with chocolate soya milk and served in a tall glass.” True Klingons might be appalled, but there was a long line, and the staff worked like crazy making the drinks. I can say the “Adrenalin and Soma” was tasty.

The award ceremony was run by Norman Cates, of whom we had been seeing a lot, in a fine white jacket. At the beginning there was some chanting of “Norman, Norman” from the audience, which seemed to be some sort of in-joke that Norman didn’t mind much at all. The ceremony ran smoothly. One nice touch was to give the pro awards first, starting with Best Novel, and get them out of the way before moving on to the more interesting and highly contested awards such as Best Fan Writing and Simon Litten – Sir Julius Vogel Award winner for Best Fan Writing.
Best Fan Publication.

After the closing ceremony was over and the catatonic cat party was getting underway, Dave Gallaher got up and called a BASFA meeting. (According to Wikipedia, Dave Gallaher was a great New Zealand rugby player who played on the All Blacks from 1903 to 1906. But I mean our Dave Gallaher.) Norman Cates was inducted into BASFA and appointed the Ministerial Ambassador to The Colossal Squid.

Then it was determined that it was Norman’s birthday, plus or minus six months, so it was time to auction him off for charity. Bidding was fast and furious, and it ended up being between me and Sean Williams. Sean ran out of money but strangely seemed unperturbed. Then I saw fans running from all over the room to give him more money. The fix was in. My dreams of getting Norman to write for SF/SF were crashing like a piano falling down a flight of 200 steps. Meanwhile, Sean failed to notice that I had stopped bidding, and in a frenzy, overbid himself twice. Then it was done. I was disappointed, but not bitter, and I resolved not to let it affect my friendship with Sean.

The winner of a BASFA birthday auction may require the birthday person to do whatever he is asked to do, that he is willing to do. Sean asked Norman to bid for a New Zealand Worldcon. Norman allowed that he was willing, and that is how the New Zealand in 2020 bid got started.
By William La Cross  
Contributing Writer

On Labor Day weekend, there was a plethora of gamers at the Santa Clara Marriott for Pacificon 2010. In the shadow of Great America (literally across the street from the hotel's main entrance), players of multiple types of games invaded the hotel for four days of what I say at work as “getting my geek on!”

Just like Kubla Con in May, you see a wide array of gamers representing all types of games. The only difference here is the amount of specific types of games. While Kubla Con is known for role playing games (RPGs), Pacificon is known for the type of games called Historical Miniatures or minis. It was sad to see the economy affecting attendance of this convention, as a lot of people did come, but many did not bring their whole families nor did as many stay for the whole convention as they had in previous years, a sad reminder of the external forces that can affect the playtime of any adult.

In contrast to Kubla, for those of you who read my article concerning that convention, Pacificon is slightly smaller, but the gamers are just as serious (or not) and it is still a family-oriented event. They were not able to have a children’s room this year because of room constraints, but there was a BBQ
fund raiser at the pool/patio for another event we were sharing the hotel with, Great America right across the street, beautiful warm weather and loads of gaming.

Attendees did get to see the “Alien Maze,” a small event in one of the larger rooms for children. A small maze was erected with poles and sheets and the children got to “hunt down” an Alien. Any parental concerns were easily abated, as the maze was built for children, but full-grown adults had no problem keeping their child in constant view.

One of the big draws this year was the Board Game Library. A large amount of board games were brought in, volunteers staffed it, and people were allowed to check out and play them. I witnessed a lot of families playing together. I felt so warm and fuzzy inside, I thought I swallowed a Tribble.

Something new this year was an extension of the yearly flea market, called the Traders Square. Each night, late, attendees were able to put out gaming things they were willing to part with, and could sell or swap them.

You also saw the return of many convention favorites, including Board Game Tournaments, dealers’ room and the PSA/RPGA room. The PSA is the Pathfinder Society and the RPGA is the Role Players Gaming Association. The RPGA is an organized campaign utilizing the fourth Edition Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) rules, while the PSA utilizes the Pathfinder rules printed by Paizo Press. Pathfinder is much closer to the 3.5 D&D rules. If you enjoy fourth ed., RPGA is the way to go, if 3.5 is the style you like, Pathfinder is the game for you. We saw the traditional 10 slots in
this room, with over 100 games going off during the whole weekend.

If you play other types of RPGs, this convention probably had it being played sometime over the weekend, if you could not make it this year, hopefully next year.

The next convention in the Bay Area is DunDraCon 2011, in San Ramon. It takes place on Presidents’ Weekend in February, is quite a lot of fun, and if you have the time and resources I hope you can come and check it out for at least one day.

Game on people.
Dragon*Con is the largest multimedia and popular culture convention focusing on science fiction and fantasy, gaming, comics, literature, art, music and film.

www.dragoncon.org

By Noelle Paduan

September 3-6, 2010
Atlanta, GA
By Chris Garcia
Editor Emeritus

There was good, there was bad. I was happy with a lot of the winners, and there were a couple of serious problems; but ultimately, it’s a year that I think will be widely remembered.

Let’s start with the Campbell Award which is not, I repeat NOT, a Hugo. A local favorite, Seanan McGuire, won! Sadly, I’ve not read *Rosemary & Rue*, but Seanan is a talented, talented person. My pick, Gail Carriger, ran third. I really thought she had it wrapped up.

First off with the actual Hugos, there’s Best Fan Artist. Brad W. Foster won. He’s one of the greatest fan artists of all-time, now a seven-time Hugo winner, and a good dude. Dave Howell came second, and my pick, Taral Wayne, came in third, in front of Steve Stiles and Sue Mason. Dave Howell was nominated on the strength of his Hugo design, and it was amazing. It’s weird that Taral’s never won. Or Stiles.

On the nomination side, there were BArea-ites all over. Brianna SpaceKate-Wu was two votes away from the ballot, and Frank Wu followed in seventh place. Ditmar, while not from the BArea is one of the most original fan artists in the world, followed the Wus. Mo Starkey, a regular in *The Drink Tank*, came in 10th, with one more vote than Spring Shoenhuth, who had one more than our own España Sheriff, who tied with legends D. West, Kurt Erichsen, Marc Shirmeister and Randall Munroe. It’s a great turnout for us San Francisco types.

*Banana Wings* was named the Best Fanzine of 2010, while *StarShipSofa* won the Best Fanzine Hugo. This was a shame, a downright crying shame. Yes, España, I hear you. Seriously, name another award where two things of completely different forms compete in the same category? As Steven H Silver said at NASFiC, *60 Minutes* does not compete with *The New York Times* for Best Newspaper. The forms are so different they can’t really be compared. *Banana Wings* came second, with exactly half the votes of SSS. This was a good finish for the Fishlifters, a strong finish. *Drink Tank* came in third, actually running ahead of *File 770, Argentus* and *Challenger*, which is a huge shame as it was the best fanzine page for page of 2009. Go and read it at Challzine.net!

The nominations were really interesting as *Challenger* was the one with the most nominations, followed by SSS, who heavily campaigned for those noms, and then Argentus, Banana Wings and *File 770* and *The Drink Tank*. *Steam Engine Time* was in seventh, and *Journey Planet*, my other zine with James Bacon and Claire Brialey, was one vote behind that. This fine publication came in 15th, which is a good showing as it tied with another BArea zine *Trap Door*. I think SF/SF got two more votes than last year, and then *Exhibition Hall* went in at 19th. That means I had four zines in the top 20. That’s weird.

OK, the Best Fan Writer was always going to be Fred Pohl, and he blasted everyone, with Claire Brialey earning not even half the votes of Fred Pohl, and he only needed one set of redistributions to settle the win. I went third in both
first place votes and in the redistributes, which is weird. James Nicoll went fourth, then Lloyd Penney came in fifth. It’s a nice distribution, and anytime Claire gets close to the top, I’ll be happy.

The nominations? There’s some fun. Fred Pohl got 44, I got 41, then Lloyd had 31, Nicoll behind that by 1, and Claire one behind that. Steven H Silver missed the ballot by one vote, and Dave Langford and Guy Lillian both had 26. Australian legend Bruce Gillespie tied with Taral Wayne and John Hertz with 24 nominations each. Cheryl Morgan and Niall Harrison both had 22. It’s an interesting distribution.

Best Semi-Pro went to Clarkesworld, which is a fine zine and I’m glad to see that it won. Interzone came second, followed by the BArea’s own Locus. Weird Tales and then Ansible pulled up the rear. The distribution of nominations was almost the same as the voting, save for Locus and Interzone were swapped. This was something of a surprise, as Charles Brown passed away last year and I figured that’d get them some extra votes. This year was not the year for sentimentality. The New York Review of Science Fiction came in a distant sixth. I’m somewhat surprised that Tor.com didn’t pull more than 13 votes.

Best Professional Artist was Shaun Tan, which was no shock as he was the Artist Guest of Honor. John Picacio came in a strong second, and I’m betting next year is his year. Stephan Martiniere was third, the legendary Bob Eggleton came in fourth, and Danny Two Saints, Daniel Dos Santos, ran last. Phil Foglio was off the ballot by a lot. That’s a shame because he’s my favorite. Donato Giancola, last year’s winner, declined his nomination. He’s awesome, but he’s a guy who believes in spreading the wealth, possibly because there were so many years where he was bumped by folks who wouldn’t step aside.

Best Editor Short Form was a shocker. Ellen Datlow won, and that shouldn’t be a surprise, but Jonathan Strahan was the favorite, had 31 more first place votes than Datlow, but after redistributions he lost by 15. Somehow, Sheila Williams came in third, beating Gordon Van Gelder, whose F&SF is the best of the three promagazines out there. Stanley Schmidt, the longest-running continuous nominee without a win, came in fifth.

Nominations? Strahan had the most, followed by Sheila Williams. How does that happen? I mean, have people actually been reading Asimov’s lately? It’s a mess! Ann VanderMeer was sixth, Gardner Dozois seventh. Neither Alisa Krasnostein (15 nominations, tied with Shawna McCarthy) nor Cat Rambo (13 tied with David Hartwell and George R. R. Martin) made the ballot. They’re both fantastic editors and both Australians, and both are going to be doing stuff that’ll change the genre over the next few years.

Best Editor–Long Form was Patrick Nielsen Hayden, winning a pretty close contest with Lou Anders. Ginjer Buchanan ran third, and then it was Liz Gorinsky and then Juliet Ulman. I really wish that Juliet had done better.

Nominations? Dave Hartwell declined his nomination, which he said he’d do. Beth Meacham missed the ballot by one nomination. Jacob Weisman got 9 nominations. I’d love to see him climb the nominations ladder.

Best Dramatic Presentation–Short Form was always going to be Doctor Who, and “Water of Mars” was the winner, though I still say “The Next Doctor” was way more entertaining. In a weird twist, Dollhouse got more first place votes for “Epitaph 1.” What the hell, man! Despite that, it only managed
fourth behind the three Doctor Who episodes. FlashForward beat “No Award.” Good to hear.

Nominations were what you’d expect, but mostly it followed the final voting. One of my favorite things was that Pixar’s Partly Cloudy, which I assume was a knock at the then soon-to-be-released Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, was 10th.

OK, Best DramLong was a huge shock. First off, Moon won. Well-deserved, best film on the list, easily, and District 9 came second, Up third, Star Trek fourth, and Avatar last. This is almost as big a shock as 2000 when GalaxyQuest beat The Matrix and Star Wars. A shocker.

The nominations were very good. Star Trek was second in noms, and Avatar was last. Torchwood: Children of Earth was sixth, Coraline seventh and Watchmen eighth. Harry Potter was ninth, but had almost 60 fewer nominations. Sherlock Holmes was also way down.

OK, let me start something of a rant. Go to eFanzines.com and look at issue 247 [of The Drink Tank – ed.]. That’s the Comics issue where James Bacon, Liz Batty and Nick Honeywell look at what the Best Graphic Story is, what it means and what’s wrong with it. It’s an interesting look at things. The winner was Girl Genius. No doubt, the best thing won, though I totally thought that Batman: Whatever Happened to the Caped Crusader was going to take it, but alas, it ran second, Fables third, fourth went to Captain Britain, which was a damn shame, and Schlock Mercenary was last. Schlock Mercenary managed the ballot by just one vote over Grandville, Bryan Talbot’s masterpiece, which was the biggest miss for the ballot in my eyes. Scott Pilgrim vs. The Universe was also close.

Best Related Work went to Jack Vance’s This is Me, Jack Vance! (Or More Properly, this is “I”), whom I believe is the oldest winner ever. He’s the only nominee who is allowed to call Fred Pohl ‘kid.’ The Inter-Galactic Playground came in second. Farah’s a perennial nominee. Hope-In-The-Mist by Michael Swanwick was in third place, followed by The Secret Feminist Cabal, and On Joanna Russ, and lastly Canary Fever by John Clute. I was hoping for a better showing by Clute, but alas, no.

The best book of any kind last year, Powers: Secret Histories, was seventh, five votes off the ballot. That’s a shame because it’s awesome and I’m so glad I got a copy at World Horror. I love it. I’m so hoping that Brighton Shock! gets a nom for next year.

Best Short Story. “Bridesicle” won. Not my fave, but it happens. “The Bride of Frankenstein” by Mike Resnick came in second, followed by “Non-Zero Probabilities” by N. K. Jemisin. “Spar”, by Kij Johnson, was far-and-away my favorite, came in fourth, followed by Lawrence Schoen’s “The Moment.” I was very disappointed that “Spar” didn’t win. The only surprise in the nominations was “Useless Things” by Maureen McHugh, which came in 10th. She’s great and I loved that story, though I didn’t read it until after the nomination period.

Best Novelette would not have gone to “The Island” if Peter Watts had just stayed in his car. It’s not a bad story, but it’s not a great story either, and there were other great stories in the anthology, and on the ballot. Charlie Stross’s “Overtime” was the one that got the most first place votes and then it went back and forth with “The Island” in the lead. It ended up with “The Island” taking the win. “Overtime” took second. “Eros, Philia, Agape” came in third. I really liked that one. “It Takes Two” by
Nicola Griffith, my least favorite, took fourth, ahead of my two faves: “One of Our Bastards is Missing” and “Sinner, Baker, Fabulist, Priest; Red Mask, Black Mask, Gentleman, Beast”. It’s a shame.

Nominations were pretty interesting. “Overtime” had one more nomination that “The Island” and all the others on the ballot were tied with 38 nominations. “Zeppelin City” by Eileen Gunn and Michael Swanwick was 12 nominations off the ballot, which is a shame as I really enjoyed that one. “A Journal of Certain Events of Scientific Interest from the First Survey Voyage of the Southern Waters by HMS Ocelot, As Observed by Professor Thaddeus Boswell, DPhil, MSc; or, A Lullaby” by Helen Keeble was in the top 20, and I didn’t read it until well after the nomination period, but if I had, it would have had another vote.

Again, no sentimentality as Charles Stross won Best Novella for “Palimpsest” over The Women of Nell Gwynne’s by the late Kage Baker, which came third behind The God Engines by John Scalzi. The God Engines actually had the most first place votes until the third redistribution, when Baker’s story took over for the next two redists, and in the end it was “Palimpsest” by 11 votes. Nancy Kress’ “Act One” brought the bile to the back of my throat by placing fourth, followed by my two favorites: “Vishnu at the Cat Circus” and Shambling Towards Hiroshima.

Nominations saw a few stories in interesting places. “Wives” by Paul Haines was five votes off the ballot. “Hot Rock” by Australian Greg Egan was 13th, two votes ahead of “Earth II” by Stephen Baxter.

The Main Event: Best Novel. It was good stuff as my two top picks: The Windup Girl and The City & The City tied to both take home the award. That’s great as they both had the same number of first place votes and also had the same final number after redistribution. Just fantastic. Boneshaker made a very good showing with a third place finish. The awful Wake by Robert J. Sawyer held on for fourth over Julian Comstock and then Palimpsest by Catherynne M. Valente in last. I would have loved to have seen Palimpsest finish higher, and I’m sure in the future there will be significant confusion between Valente’s Palimpsest and Stross’. I’m just glad the two best novels of the year won.

Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld was nine off the ballot, which would have made for two solid Steampunk novels on the ballot. Galileo’s Dream by Kim Stanley Robinson was 17 votes off the ballot, which is a shame as it’s an amazing book. The Quiet War and Yellow Blue Tibia were both far too low on the nomination list.

A good set of winners, though as always, it’s not perfect. Next year is Reno and who knows what’ll happen!
Lloyd Penney writes:
Dear Jean and España:
Thank you for another Science Fiction/San Francisco, issue 108 this time around. As you might imagine, this is been a crazy day… I found out this morning about the Hugo winners through the Web, and though I was a nominee, I found myself a one-time Hugo loser within minutes. I have some hopes for Reno next year.

Jean Martin responds:
Congratulations on the nomination! Too bad you didn’t win. But that’s great that you were nominated. Best of luck next year!

I don’t know if you’ve received the list of winners, but just in case…

Best Novel (tie):
The City and The City by China Miéville (Del Rey; Macmillan UK)
The Windup Girl by Paolo Bacigalupi (Night Shade)

Best Novella
“Palimpsest” by Charles Stross (Wireless; Ace; Orbit)

Best Novelette
“The Island” by Peter Watts (The New Space Opera 2; Eos) (Canadian!)

Best Short Story
“Bridesicle” by Will McIntosh (Asimov’s 1/09)

Best Graphic Novel
Girl Genius, Volume 9: “Agatha Heterodyne and the Heirs of the Storm”, written by Kaja and Phil Foglio; art by Phil Foglio, colours by Cheyenne Wright (Airship Entertainment)

Best Related Work
This is Me, Jack Vance! (Or More Properly, This is “I”) by Jack Vance (Subterranean)

Best Dramatic Presentation – Long Form
Moon, screenplay by Nathan Parker; story by Duncan Jones, directed by Duncan Jones (Liberty Films)

Best Dramatic Presentation – Short Form

Best Professional Editor – Long Form
Patrick Nielsen Hayden

Best Professional Editor – Short Form
Ellen Datlow

Best Professional Artist
Shaun Tan

Best SemiProzine
Clarkesworld, edited by Neil Clarke, Sean Wallace & Cheryl Morgan

Best Fanzine
StarShipSofa, edited by Tony C. Smith

Best Fan Writer
Frederik Pohl

Best Fan Artist
Brad W. Foster

John W. Campbell Best New Writer Award
Seanan McGuire
Thanks for the list. Chris Garcia does a full analysis in this issue. But it’s good to have a list of the winners in an easy-to-read format.

There were surprises, some shock, and one of the few ties the Hugos have ever had to deal with, and of course, the Best Fanzine category is causing the expect grumping and groaning, over a podcast winning the category. Maybe someday, a fanzine will win the Best Fanzine category, but not today.

Well, SF/SF came in 15th. Not a bad showing as Chris Garcia says in his Hugo article in this issue. I’m still amazed that people know about us, much less actually write down our name and submit us as a nominee!

I have not heard any SF podcasts, and I don’t have an iPod to listen to them. I think they should have their own category, but this may simply be a symptom of a fannish generation gap, and the feeling that the older folks who’d still like to win a rocket are now being pushed out of the way by the newer and bigger boys who have loyal followers in sufficient numbers as to overcome the rest of the voting masses.

Yes, that is unfortunate that a podcast won Best Fanzine. There should be a separate category for it. But that’s understandable that awards in general are slow to recognize new media and trends. It’s just like when Jethro Tull won the first ever Heavy Metal Grammy Award, beating out the more appropriate and more well-deserving Metallica. I myself have not listened to any podcasts. I have an iPod but am not really into radio shows and talk shows, which podcasts seem to be more like.

I wasn’t sure that Warren Buff wasn’t going to burn himself out by chairing the NASFiC by himself, but looks like he did a fine job, and already, he’s back on his regular zine publishing schedule. Toronto Evelyn? That wouldn’t be Evelyn Baker, would it? An old, old friend. I think she knows Kim Kofmel from when she lived up here. One of the chairs of the new Kansas City bid is Diane Lacey, another Toronto resident.

Toronto has its own version of Comicon, called the Fan eXpo. It had been 10 years since I’d been to one, since there’s almost nothing there for me. This year, there would be another Steampunk fashion show, so we were there. If we are there next year, it will be for whatever we’ll be doing, and then we’ll be gone again. If there’s nothing for us to do, it will probably be another 10 years before we return. Fan eXpo’s big problem this year was its surge of attendance, the fire marshal locking down the building at one point while the show continued to sell tickets, and the north half of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre was just too small for the event. They either need to cap attendance, or get more space. The Crotchety Old Fan website had quite a good article about this fiasco. The biggest thing visible was a display with the new to-be-released movie Tron: Legacy being promoted. I remember the original in the theatres, so I’d like to see the 27-years-late sequel.

Bigger cons are just too big for me. With too much to do and winding up with nothing much to do at all. Too many people make it difficult to get around to do things and get into panels. Tron was promoted heavily at both WonderCon and Comic-Con. The trailer looks good. I hope the actual movie lives up to the hype and my fond memories of the original.

My loc… I did sign up with the Yipe! Fair Warning There’s An Issue Coming Service, so I won’t fall behind any more.
And, I’d like to do a Match Game some time, too. I think we’d soil ourselves laughing. We’ll meet in Reno, money willing, and a big hug for you. Better explain to the new boyfriend…

*I can’t wait for Reno! Hope to meet you there.*

My eyes are shutting, so I’d better wrap this up and get it to you. Reno’s just a year away, so see you there.

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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
Meeting 1046

August 23, 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 -> HOWEVER please be aware that Coco’s is doing a remodel! The blinds are back on the window, but they are closing at 9pm and we are starting meetings early.

Began at 7:50 pm – commenting about the remodeling.

22 people attended.

Secretary’s report: the minutes from meeting 1045 were accepted as “thanks to the secretary”.

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 $2.53 in the regular jar & $3.25 in the party jar.

The Vice President reported that “there are things happening that you would not – could not – understand”.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

Speaking of BASFA meetings at Worldcon & beyond – [tall] Kevin moved to direct the Treasurer to convene BASFA meeting #1047 in Wellington as the Oriental Bay meeting – and that the Melbourne meeting will be annexed as the Port Phillip Bay meeting #xxxx – and this motion passed.

Dave C reported that there will soon be more BASFA members in Melbourne than there has been in the past 11 years and that plans are going well.

Mo requested that if anyone visiting Australia can bring back a “Starkey” beer label or can she would like to have one & Chris requested an official Aussie rules snow-globe.

Announcements

Ken announced that this Friday is the Legion of Rassilon meeting, same time and place; then on Saturday is a Psychotronic Film Festival at Foothill college at 7pm, bring $2 for parking & that Hairspray the singalong will be at the Retro-dome this Saturday and Sunday.

Adrienne announced that the program schedule has been posted for Aussiecon & that she’ll be gone for the next 3 weeks.

Dave C announced that there is a new Cargo Cult catalog out.

[evil] Kevin announced that he doesn’t have site selection ballots with him.

Josh announced that Facebook has the dates wrong for Gastronomicon & he will be having informal meetings for this [aka “Glutton-con”] in the next few weeks; check for details at www.thought4food.org.

Glenn announced that SMOFcon will be the 1st weekend of December & Armadillo-con is this weekend and he’ll be there.

Chris announced that Corflu is the 2nd weekend in February [11-13] and will be the debut for a 60-year old slide show.
Kevin announced that the cost for Melbourne’s Worldcon wifi will be $30 for 8 hours and because of this there may be live Hugo coverage online.

Then we did auctions – a magazine for $0.25.

The rumor of the week was: “You don’t need to spend money to get hold of Mo’s can”.

Reviews

Andy reviewed a Danish film, *Adam’s Apples* as completely and utterly deranged – easily worth Netflix & reviewed *The Adventures of Picasso* as bizarre madness, see it when drunk and also worth Netflix; then Chris follow-on’d for *Adam’s Apples* that it’s dark and he laughed at it.

Glenn reviewed *Fuck Me Ray Bradbury* as school girl fantasy stuff, funny & he recommends it & reviewed a Chinese food place on Castro in MV as the food was awful and the service was worse; reviewed a McKillip book – *The Throme of the Erril of Sherrill* as YA, a fast read with an interesting ending; reviewed 4 days spent in Yosemite as beautiful and he had a great time.

Chris reviewed *Clementine* by Cherie Priest as good but it suffered from evil white guy syndrome.

Dave C reviewed *Don of the Dead* by Casey Daniels as the main plot actually finished and it’s worth full price & recommends the live action Youtube trailer for Dora the Explorer.

Adrienne reviewed getting a pedicure as wonderful and she even got her toes done.

Josh reviewed *Star Wars Revisited* as this is what the special edition should have been.

Lisa reviewed visiting Disneyland as they stayed at the Disney hotel – and recommends avoiding the Wonder tower since they are remodeling & that World of Color is wonderful.

We adjourned at = 9:07 pm – in memory of DisneyCon, the happiest con on Earth.

BASFA Meeting 1047

Hi Everyone,
Norman Cates was birthday auctioned for $NZD109.90, which inverts to $78.07.

Dave

Also
- Sean Williams was appointed Ambassador to Adelaide
- Norman Cates was appointed Ambassadorial Minister to the Nation of Colossal Squid
- Russell Kirkpatrick was appointed Ambassador to the Wall of Night

Reviews were received for Au Contraire, the con hotel and Air New Zealand, all positive.

Sean Williams asked Norm Cates to run a Worldcon bid for New Zealand in 2020. People threw money.

Love ‘n’ hugs,
Cheryl

Total revenue for the meeting was NZD$124.90, or about USD$88.75.

Dave

Meeting 1048 [in the sequence]

August 30, 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 -> HOWEVER please
be aware that Coco’s is doing a remodel! The windows are covered and the tables are done, but they plan to re-carpet and we were told they are likely to close at 9pm next Monday [as well as tonight].

Began at 7:55 pm.

18 people attended.

Secretary’s report: the minutes from meeting 1046 were accepted as “better than jury duty”.

No Treasurer [and he will be away for the next few weeks, too] or treasurer’s report.

The Vice President reported that he made a documentary and it’s pure crap – a new Drink Tank will be out, soonish, printed in Australia on paper – and he plans to make a movie.

The President said that there are things happening out there that he will not – cannot - understand.

Remember that the next BASFA meeting is at Melbourne = the Port Phillip Bay meeting and its number is #xxxx.

The Party Committee reported that he has been abused, scape-goated and fired from FurCon and thus will not personally hold a BASFA party there – so does anyone -else- want to hold a BASFA party at FC?

The Ad-Hoc Committee for the Baby Present reported that baby Richard came by and Marina may well be back working here next Monday.

Then we did auctions – a snowglobe for $2.25 and a book for $0.75.

**Announcements**

Mike announced that this weekend is Pacificon at the SC Marriott.

Andy announced that he and [evil] Kevin will be at fenCon in Dallas as fan GoHs in the near future and he’s looking for artwork and articles for a fanzine – the *ikinook Reader*.

Ken announced that this weekend is the Retro-dome’s anniversary and they will be showing *Raiders* and *Temple of Doom* for fan appreciation weekend – and KFJC will have a 1pm to 6pm penny pitch at Streetlight Records on Bascom this Saturday.

Glenn announced that SMOFcon will be the 1st weekend of December.

Sarah announced that will be a meeting for Gastronomicon here at Coco’s on Sept 18, 4pm; check for details at www.thought4food.org.

Chris announced that there was a snookering and thus there is a new Worldcon bid for 2020.

Diane announced that there will be a Ren Faire next weekend in Hayward.

The rumor of the week was: “They went thru the desert for a zine with no theme”

**Reviews**

Andy reviewed a drinking game, “Wizard Sticks” as an actual game with drinking and not bad; there were follow-ons.

Lisa reviewed going to a Steampunk picnic as fun; Chris follow’d on that he was there, filming the steam-punkers as they oogled the Babbage engine.

Ed reviewed *The Return* by Barnes and Aldrin as well done sf plus a detective story and he gives it high marks and enjoyed it & reviewed *Kick Ass* and *The Losers* as well worth renting from Red Box; Chris opined that he liked *Losers* and Josh felt *Kick Ass* was a good adaptation.

Glenn reviewed ArmadilloCon in Austin, TX as it was hot outside, about 400 people attended, he made some friends and had a good time.

Chris reviewed the first half of the Psychotronic Film Festival as well worth full price [Ken & Geri agreed] and reviewed a book by SM Peters, *White Chapel God* as bad – but not terrible –
and he’d read it again for the cover; reviewed *Rules of Engagement* as 22 minutes you’ll never get back again and you’ll lose extra time besides.

Ken also reviewed *Hairspray* the singalong at the Retro-dome as great fun and the next one will be in October for *Willy Wonka* the Gene Wilder version.

Carole reviewed Liang Village in Cupertino = Taiwanese/Chenese as good food.

We adjourned at = 9:07 pm

**Meeting 1049 [in the sequence]**

September 6, 2010 - with applause for Marina

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 --> HOWEVER please be aware that Coco’s is doing a remodel! The windows are covered and the tables are done, but they plan to re-carpet and we were told they are likely to close at 9pm next Monday [as well as tonight].

Began at 8-ish.
13 people attended.

Secretary’s report: the minutes from meeting 1048 were accepted as “better than Jerry Springer”.

No Treasurer& the faux treasurer’s report was that last week we took in $8.00 in the regular jar and $2.50 in the party jar.

The Vice President reported that there’s a new *Drink Tank* out - the comics issue - a new *Exhibition Hall* out and he placed 3rd in the Hugos.

The President said that he has nothing fannish to report - and that the construction here is allegedly done.

**Announcements**

Chris announced that his predictions for the Hugo award for best novel came true as there was a tie for the award - plus *Clarkesworld* got the win and Mo placed 10th for best fan artist and Spring placed 11th.

[evil] Kevin announced that the anime issue of *Yipe* comes out this month - possibly next week.

Ken announced that KFJC will have a 1pm to 6pm penny pitch fund raiser at Rasputin Records this Saturday in Mountain View - and that Creature Features night at PacBell Park is in 2 weeks - and the Giants play the Brewers that night.

Josh announced that the date for Gastronomicon is now right on Facebook [check for details at www.thought4food.org].

**Reviews**

Chris reviewed *Blameless* by Gail Carriger as the best of the 3 she’s written so far and he recommends it & he reviewed a short story from *Strange Horizons* June 2009 issue, “Lullaby” by Helen Keeble as excellent and worth seeking out.

I reviewed the new content in *Avatar* [aka “attack of the cute blue kitty people”] as pretty good.

We did auctions – a book for $5.00.

The rumor of the week was: “Lies! Lies! These are mostly lies!”

We adjourned at = 8:37 pm
Meeting 1050

September 13, 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 -> HOWEVER please be aware that Coco’s is doing a remodel! The windows are covered and the tables are done, but they plan to re-carpet and we were told they are likely to close at 9pm next Monday [as well as tonight].

Began at 8 pm.
18 people attended.

Secretary’s report: the minutes from meeting 1049 were accepted as “wait – Avatar has content?” & the minutes from meeting xxxx were accepted as “waylaid by Greg Benford”.

No Treasurer – but the faux treasurer’s report was that last week we took in $5.25.

The Vice President reported that he made a shirred egg in a pyrex bowl & a new Drink Tank is out.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

The Sports Committee reported that both Bay area football teams lost – tho Chris pointed out that the Giants had beat the Padres – then Ken pointed out that this Saturday night is the Giants Creature Feature night.

Andy moved to establish a committee to secretly take over the 2020 World Exhibition, with himself as its chair & the “sense of the meeting” was unanimous in its support.

The Ad-Hoc Committee for the Baby Present reported that baby Richard came by and Marina may well be back working here next Monday.

Announcements:
Dave C announced that Starcrash is being released on BlueRay tomorrow.
Glenn announced that Kevin McCarthy died from body-snatching.
[evil] Kevin announced that o/~ there is FenCon in Texas – a con of burning gold o/~ where he and Andy will be Fan GoHs & announced that Renovation’s rates go up at the end of September.
Andy announced that the first issue of his fanzine – the ikinook Reader – will be released at FenCon.
Ken announced that KFJC will have a 1pm to 6pm penny pitch in SF at Aquarius Records this Saturday.

Josh announced that will be a 1st meeting for Gastronomicon here at Coco’s on Sept 19, 4pm; check for details at www.thought4food.org.
Mo announced that she has an article in Bob Hole’s new fanzine.

Reviews
I reviewed a book by Eric Flint & Ryk Spoor: Threshold as well written, fun science fiction with a dash of space opera thrown in.
Andy reviewed the weekend as hurry up or wait & reviewed St. George Spirits new Agua Libre as worth the $30-odd dollars a bottle & amazing.
Glenn reviewed his surgery as the drugs were effective; reviewed McKillip’s book Moonflash as interesting sf; & reviewed his new Borg appliance [“Jawbone”] as the earpiece is flimsy & the charger is tiny.
[evil] Kevin reviewed Mandrake – a Skiffy movie seen so “you don’t have to” as it stole the plot from Tobanga – so watch Tobanga, not this.
Ed reviewed The Expendables on the big screen as welfare for over-the-hill action stars & not worth even a dollar; by reviewed a book by Ralph Peters, War after Armageddon as he really liked and enjoyed it.
Dave C reviewed Aussiecon 4 as an OK convention but smallish; Chris follow-on’d that the program book was the “best evar” & reviewed Dracula’s – a night club he went to with Adrienne as the food was OK & there was vaudeville & it was worth full price; then Dave C reviewed a wine tasting trip where he decided that Aussies “like their tannins” and it was worth the visit.

Chris reviewed being a member of the Arbitron family as he now has a leash & he’s been watching terrible TV because of this [he needs a reason?!?] & reviewed The Kids are all Right as okay & reviewed the Piedmont theatre as nice and the floors aren’t sticky – worth full price & reviewed For all Mankind as he enjoyed the hell out of it, highly recommended & reviewed China Meiville’s Kraken as well-produced and “so pretty”.

Then we did auctions – videotapes for $0.40; PS2 games for $0.60; PSP games for $0.25; computer games for $2.00 & $1.00 & $0.25 and a book & games for $0.25.

The rumor of the week was: “I miss Stellan”.

We adjourned at = 9:27 pm

**BASFA Meeting # 1051**

20 September 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 freeway), Sunnyvale. (The management tells us the remodeling is complete; someone pointed out that they failed to remodel the bathrooms, which defeats the purpose of improving the customer experience that the remodel should provide.)

Called to order at 8:02 PM, Vice President Chris Garcia presiding.
26 people attended.
President and Secretary were absent.
We established a party jar.
No Secretary, no Secretary’s Report.
The Treasurer reported that we have money.

The Vice-President reported that he had snorted hollandaise sauce and that there is a new issue of _The Drink Tank_ out.

New guy George Harrison introduced himself.

**Announcements**

Dave Clark announced that _Starcrash_ is available in regular DVD, in addition to Blu-Ray.

Mo announced that she has SorcererCon flyers (including the obligatory typo) and that she and Corrine Howlett spent last week passing them out at various likely sites.

Howeird announced that he will be playing with the Ye Olde Towne Band at Shoup Park in Los Altos at 1:30 PM on Saturday. Best of all, it’s free.

Ken announced that the Legion of Rassilon will be meeting this Friday at the usual spot.

Glenn announced that this would be his last meeting for a while, and said something about him and Allie once a month.

Josh announced that planning for Gastronomicon is moving right along and that the staff meeting went very well.

Sarah announced that she had no announcement.

Bill announced that the Secret Combat Manual of the Warrior Class is available at BookBuyers in Mountain View.
Reviews

Mo reviewed seeing flying pigs after drinking wine in Santa Clara.

Addrienne reviewed Aussiecon 4 as pretty low key, though with lots of stuff happening. There were many A4 follow-ons. She also reviewed Melbourne as very interesting, and that she had an intense experience with Vegemite.

Andy reviewed Fencon as Fan Guests of Honor as lots of fun and it is a nice little con; they almost drink as much as Iowa cons.

[Evil] Kevin reviewed the Yard Dog Press books *Four Redheads of the Apocalypse* as goofy, fun, wonderful books.

Glenn reviewed “Moon in the Face” by Patricia McKillip as very enjoyable. This was SF, not fantasy. He also positively reviewed Bruno’s Barbecue in Scott Valley and Palace Barbecue Buffet in Sunnyvale.

Dave G reviewed Au Contraire, the New Zealand NatCon as very enjoyable and highly recommended.

*Sweeney Todd* at the Sunnyvale Players was positively reviewed.

Gordon reviewed Bubonicon in Albuquerque as very good.

Sarah reviewed the Peppermill in Reno as a good place to stay during Worldcon.

Chris reviewed showing his documentary in an awesome, craptastic location.

We auctioned various items and people.

The rumor of the week was “None walks into a bar.”

We adjourned at 9:51 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.

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. $20

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. $23

Friday, October 15
Midnites for Maniacs
The Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street, San Francisco
7:30 p.m. $12

Saturday, October 16
Anime Destiny
UC Berkeley Campus, Berkeley
amedestiny.silential.com
Anime Destiny was originally created by Berkeley’s very own anime club, Cal Animage Alpha, as a way to bring together anime fans from the UC campus and the bay area.
7 p.m. $10

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.

Sunday, October 17
Author: Ken Scholes
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Ken Scholes reads and signs the third volume in the projected five-book ‘Psalms of Isaak’ series; Antiphon.
3 pm Free
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. October’s films are *Werewolf in a Girls Dormitory* and *Manster* (1954) 7:30 p.m. Free

Tuesday, October 19

The Complete Metropolis
Pacific Film Archive
2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley
www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/film/FN18770
Judith Rosenberg on Piano. Co-presented with the Goethe-Institut San Francisco 7 p.m. $9.50

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 $65

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. $25 (until October 30)

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 p.m. Free
Monday, November 15

**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. November’s films are *Glen or Glenda* and *Bride of the Monster* 7:30 p.m.

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Friday-Sunday, November 26-28

**SorcererCon**
Sainte Claire Hotel
302 South Market Street, San Jose
www.sorcerercon.com
Fantasy Convention
Free

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Friday-Sunday, November 26-28

**Loscon 37**
LAX Marriott
5855 West Century Boulevard, Los Angeles
www.oscon37.org
GOH: Emma Bull, Phil Foglio, Kim Brown, Jordan Brown
$40 (until September 30)

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Friday-Sunday, December 3-5

**SMOFcon 28**
Sainte Claire Hotel
302 South Market Street, San Jose
www.smoefcon28.org
SMOFcon is an annual convention for people who run science fiction conventions.
$55 (through Oct 1st)

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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.

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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.

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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.

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Saturday, January 1, 2011

**Victorian Twelfth Night Ball**
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo
A 12th Night Ball hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig from Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. Bangers and Mash will play a variety of Viennese and rotary waltzes, polkas, mazurka waltzes, schottisches, the Lancers, reels, and other set dances popular in the early and mid-19th century
Suggested costume is evening or day dress from 1837 through 1870. Modern evening dress is, as always, a completely acceptable substitute for period costume, and there is no dress code for the evening.
7 p.m.
$15 (till December 24)
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 Suprynowicz.
Details TBA

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**January 22-February 5**

**Shadowlands**
Lucie Stern Theatre,
1305 Middlefield Rd # 1, Palo Alto
www.paplayers.org
In the 1950’s, C.S. Lewis, the Oxford professor and creator of Narnia, met American poet Joy Gresham. He was reserved – a content bachelor in his fifties. She was outspoken – a divorcee 17 year his junior. Their friendship developed into an unlikely but deep and abiding love – one which upended Lewis’ convictions about God and His plan for the world and revealed a vital truth: a heart awakened to great love is also a heart made vulnerable. By William Nicholson, Directed by Marilyn Langbehn. Preview on January 21st. Check website for tickets and showtimes.

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**Saturday, February 5, 2011**

**Gotham City Black and White Ball**
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo
Vintage or modern evening dress is admired, not required; black and white attire is optional. Guests may also come as their favorite superhero or heroine in disguise or incognito. Sara and Swingtime plays an evening of elegant vintage ballroom dance music and hot Swing of the 1920’s, 30’s and 40’s in keeping with the Film Noir ambience of the city! Pre-ball dance lesson from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. There will be a no-host (cash) bar, and a light snack buffet, and potluck contributions to the butler’s pantry would be greatly appreciated. 7 p.m. $15 (till January 29)

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**Saturday, February 19, 2011**

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

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**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)

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**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)

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**Friday-Sunday, March 4-6, 2011**

**Potlatch 20**
The Domain Hotel
1085 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale
www.potlatch-sf.org
Literary science fiction convention. Book of Honor: *Earth Abides.* $55

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**Saturday, March 5, 2011**

**Masque of the Red Death Carnivale Ball**
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Ellsworth Ave, San Mateo
Celebrate both Carnival and Mardi Gras at the Masque of the Red Death Carnivale Ball. The band for the evening is Avalon Rising, who will play a variety of dance music from elegant waltzes and tangos to wild polkas and reels, from elegant Renaissance dances to Renaissance rock. Suggested attire is period costume, fantasy Mardi Gras or Carnival costume, or a fanciful version of period costume (Renaissance, 17th, 18th and 19th
century costume is especially fashionable for Carnival but any earlier historical period costume works well, too. Modern evening dress is perfectly acceptable and there is no dress code for the ball. To protect your reputation, masks are strongly recommended. There will be a no-host (cash) bar, and a light snack buffet. Potluck contributions to the buffet will be greatly appreciated.

7 p.m. $15 (till February 26)

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, 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)

Friday-Monday, March 18-21, 2011

Pantheacon
The Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose
www.pantheacon.com
Pagan convention.
$65 (through January 15)

Friday-Sunday, April 1-3, 2011

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

Saturday, April 2, 2011

Jane Austen Ball
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Details TBA

Saturday, May 7, 2011

Ball of the Gods
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Details TBA

Saturday, June 4, 2011

Pirates Ball
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Details TBA

Saturday, 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 & Phil Foglio, Mike Willmoth
$65 (through Oct 15)

Saturday, August 6, 2011

Suffragists’ Picnic Dance
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Details TBA
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)

Saturday, September 3, 2011
The Space Cowboys Ball
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Details TBA

Saturday, October 1, 2011
Victorian Octoberfest Ball
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Details TBA

Saturday, November 5, 2011
Le Bal des Vampires
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Details TBA

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

$160 (till September 30)

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
 Begins: 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

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

Mondays

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.

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

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

Thursdays

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+)

Fridays

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.

### Monthly

**Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers’ Group**  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco  
Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 p.m. 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  
Regular 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.silicongulchbrowncoats.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/  
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** | **Micro Gods, Inc.** | **Other Realms Book Club** |
| Saratoga Library | Berkeley Public Library, West Branch | Books, Inc. |
| 13650 Saratoga Avenue | 1125 University Ave, Berkeley | 1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame |
| Saratoga | mgisciaf.angelfire.com | www.booksinc.net/localinterest/291027 |
| www.nnanime.com | groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/ | Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month. |
| Anime screenings usually take place on the | Family Club for fans of Science Fiction, | Free |
| second Saturday of the month. | Fantasy, Movie, Anime & Manga. Meets every | |
| | 3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for | Free |
| | updates. | |
| **SF Browncoats** | **USS Northern Lights** | **Legion of Rassilon** |
| Cafe Murano | Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for | Carl’s Jr. |
| 1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco | specifics. | 2551 N 1st St, San Jose |
| www.sfbrowncoats.com | sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights | www.legionofrassilon.org |
| SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the | ‘Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International | Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth |
| second Saturday of the month. | and a swell group of science fiction fans. We | Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, |
| Noon | do more than Trek. Usually meets the third | news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle. |
| | Saturday of the month, with social event TBD. | 7:30 p.m. | Free |
| | 7 p.m. | **USS Augusta Ada** |
| **Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club** | **Religion & SF Book Club** | Round Table Pizza |
| Borderlands Books | First United Methodist Church | 3567 Geary Blvd, San Francisco |
| 866 Valencia, San Francisco | 1183 “B” Street, Hayward | trek.starshine.org |
| www.borderlands-books.com | Meets the 4th Sunday of the month. Please | Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet |
| Meets the third Sunday of the month. Please | contact Rev. Randy Smith at | International and a Linux and *BSD user |
| contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands- | RSmith2678@aol.com for more information. | group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of |
| books.com for more information. | 7 p.m. | every month. |
| 6 p.m. | Free | 1 p.m. | Free |
| **USS Defiance** | **Legion of Rassilon** | **Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE** |
| 5026 Don Julio Blvd, Sacramento | **USS Augusta Ada** | Round Table Pizza |
| 1566 Howe Ave, Sacramento | **USS Defiance** | 4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento |
| www.myspace.com/d2121978 | **No-Name Anime** | 916-338-2300 |
| Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of | Animate screenings usually take place on the | Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last |
| the month. | second Saturday of the month. | Saturday of the month at 1800 hours. |
| 7 p.m. | 7 p.m. | Free |
| Free | Free | Free |
Alamo Square's Painted Ladies

by Lucy Hunzinger
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