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By España Sheriff

Editor

By the time you read these words, the shortlist for the Hugo and Campbell awards will have been released. And along with many of you, I will be busy hunting down copies of the various nominees in order to start on my ballot. But what we already know is that participation in the nomination process this year was at an all-time high, with just over 1,000 forms submitted, more than a 10% increase over last year and a quarter more than in 2009. So despite all the back and forth about the etiquette of promotion and self-promotion, the supposed evils of turning the voting process into a “popularity contest” (I haven’t quite figured out the logic of that one, myself), and general wangst that gets tossed around every year, and which will no doubt continue until voting is done and then experience its annual resurgence right after the winners are announced and not everyone gets exactly what they wanted for Christmas, I’d say the system is sorta working. Whether or not you approve of the final results (and who every really does 100%?), if you nominated, thank you for participating in this aspect of fandom and please make sure to vote as well and nominate next year if you can. And if you didn’t nominate but have a vote, don’t let that stop you from voting in the categories you have familiarity with even if that is one or two.

I am very much looking forward to Worldcon this year, so far what I’ve seen of the Renovation preparations seems pretty promising, including their apparent willingness to reach out a little further than some previous Worldcons have and to create visually interesting promotional materials, which are comprehensible to people who would enjoy attending but are perhaps not familiar with convention fandom. Much like fanzines, convention fandom is prone to simply assuming that anyone who wants to know about it already does and anyone else doesn’t care. I am repeatedly surprised by the enthusiasm expressed by people who have found some aspects of fandom but for whatever reason have missed the rest of the iceberg entirely or are at best dimly aware of it, and it’s not just kids either.

This has been going through my mind recently in part because of the good work done by the folks over at the Science Fiction Outreach Initiative, who have been giving away books at events like WonderCon while at the same time talking up the upcoming Worldcons. Plenty of people who stopped by the booth were unfamiliar with “our” type of convention but quite interested. Later that weekend, I met a friend of a friend who was at his first convention of any type and planning to go to Reno in August, and a few days later I had two separate conversations with friends around my same age who essentially stumbled into the convention scene by accident and relatively recently, having previously only been aware of Creation con-style events. These are now very active fans and would doubtless have gone directly to their local con as soon as possible had they but known it existed, as I was
lucky enough to be able to do with ConFrancisco landing in my backyard during my first year in the States.

Likewise, with Yipe!, I have found myself talking about fanzines with cosplayers and with fans that are active in one particular area of fandom activity but not necessarily aware of all the other areas of fannish activity available to them. And I suppose that is one of the things that attracts me to working on the zines that I do, rather than on more general interest ones. The process of creating the thing is certainly fun, but I think what I enjoy the most is the idea of bringing new people into the tent to play along with us.
By Christopher J Garcia

There is something that all people, whether they are comic fans, literary fans or others, like. That thing is free. If you put free in front of almost any other word, the result is positive. Such a thing was learned at the Bay Area’s biggest comics event, WonderCon, with the Science Fiction Outreach Project.

James Bacon is a genius. He came up with the idea of bringing novels to comic cons in England. It’s a smart move because comic fans are also SF fans, though many comic fans have never been big literature fans. The idea worked beautifully and James had a great idea: “Let’s gather books, give them out at WonderCon.” He tagged up with the folks from Renovation, from ChiCon 7, and various other cons to use it as a way to promote fandom.

James, Helen, Spike and I started looking around to find folks who were interested in supporting the project financially. The seated WorldCons came on-board, as did several other fan groups, and an individual who donated in the name of one of the LASFS. It was a good thing. Folks helped us to be able to pay for the booth, which wasn’t cheap, and the contributing groups, whose names we put on some of the materials we gave out at the booth, were excellent people!

I came on board pretty early.

Since I was a guy who lived pretty close to San Francisco, I was chosen to house the books for the few months before the convention. We put the call out and people around the country started sending books. LASFS, with help from Christian

photo by Kevin Standlee
McGuire, got us a ton of the *Space Cadets* anthology from LACon 4. We got books from Chicago, many which we got from folks at cons like LosCon, CorFlu, Potlatch, FOGCon and more. We were lucky enough to get stuff from individuals, from Half-Price Books, and a bunch of great stuff from *Locus*. They were especially kind to us and we were so happy they helped us out. It also gave me a chance to ogle all the Hugos for Best Fanzine and Best Semi-Prozine that they’ve got hanging around. It’s an interesting place.

We moved in on Thursday and opened the minute the con began. Within a few minutes, things were all going. People started to come by, we were located right by the registration area, and that meant that we got early rushes of people. We started to give out books and realized something very early: We needed to call out to people. The initial run of folks—myself, James, Helen Montgomery, Leann Lastnamewithheld, Johanna Mead and others—got together and started to call out on Friday. The most universal call was “Free Books!,” though each of us had our own things. James would call out “Books are Free!” and I would, every hour or so yell out, “When I say Free, You Say Books!” and that would get a response. It was a blast. We must have been quite an annoyance, but the one thing it did was bring in people.

And, oh so many people!

There were times when it was three or four people deep at the booth, grabbing free books. We’d take time out to chat them up about the various cons and so on, we’d take photos, and I’d make sure I got video on my Flip of all the Zatannas who walked by. It was a compulsion. We had a blast on Friday, and then Saturday arrived, and it was an even bigger blast! We were joined by The Lovely & Talented Linda, JohnO and ChrisO, Mike Ward, Spike, Tom Becker, Dave Clark, Dave Gallaher and others for various periods of time. We were a loud and gregarious bunch, and after a while, it got to be really good. We had about 5,000 books to get rid of, and we did it!

Folks took one book, or made a donation and got a couple. The *Space Cadets* anthologies were hugely popular, and every time we put new ones out, people gobbled them up. We got really wonderful visits from teachers, librarians and readers who were happy to get new books. We made recommendations and introduced folks to new writers and we got a few folks who had been looking for special books, a few special books. It was awesome when a kid who was eight or nine would show up and we’d give them a book that they might like. The looks on their faces were awesome.

Since I was at the booth, I didn’t get a chance to see too much of the con. I saw the Main Floor, and that was cool. I got to visiting with Kaja and Phil Foglio as well as commiserate with the lovely Jane Wiedlin over both having bombed at Writers With Drinks. She even gave me a hug! Elvira was there as was Honky Tonk Man. There were hundreds of comics pros. The only one I got to sat down with was Tweedlebop Studios founder and artist Michael Flemming. I didn’t even get to meet Seth, whose stuff I’ve been enjoying lately.

So, it was a good thing, and while the group that put on SF Outreach will be doing the official follow-on at C2E2 next year, I’m hoping we can do another at WonderCon next year. We’ve got plenty of time to find people to work and groups to help sponsor… and time to figure out how to hold another 5,000 books in my apartment!
Stan Lee appeared at Comic Collector Shop in Sunnyvale on Saturday, April 9. At the invite of owner Phil Shafer, I dropped by to say hi to Stan, and get a couple of items signed. While I was there, I met several readers of my newsletter who thanked me for mentioning the event, and told me that they found out about it in the newsletter.

There was a heck of a turnout for this event, as you might imagine. $35 was being charged for each signature, and I heard that they sold out of all 500 slots available.

Stan’s long black limo pulled up in front of the store around 1:00 pm. He emerged, beaming with a huge Hollywood smile, and waving to the cheering throngs.

I picked up a low-grade copy of *Amazing Fantasy #15*, the first appearance of Spider-man, for Stan to sign. I also brought along an 8” x 12” photo of Stan and me from his 2007 L.A. cartoon arts professionals awards dinner. The photo is now on display at our Mountain View location.

Phil brought me in to see Stan during his lunch break. Stan asked for a McDonalds Big Mac. Stan really loves those
things, and was waxing eloquent about them. He said that no other hamburger tastes as good as the Big Mac. When he goes to a restaurant and orders a hamburger, it never tastes as good as the Big Mac. If he opened up a restaurant, he would try to make a hamburger that tasted as good as the Big Mac.

If anyone with connections high up at McDonalds is reading this, you need to get in touch with Stan right away and make him your spokesman. He sincerely loves the things beyond all reason, and I was compelled to order one that very evening. Truth be told, I’ve never had one before. Unfortunately I didn’t really like it much, but if anyone can get people to try one for the first time, it’s Stan!

Thanks again to Phil for the very thoughtful invite, and congratulations on producing one of the greatest comic store events in the Bay Area!
By Bounder Balderdash!

Ye Gads! The get up and garb of these yonder colonials is a feast to mine eyes!

Nova Albion, A New Shiny England, well it’s not all that bad, really, but this seemed an appropriate title given that Drake once considered some part of Northern California, maybe even Drake’s Bay to be New England, in 1590 and so here I found its namesake the wonderful clash of cultures that is Victoriana, Science Fiction, inventing and Costuming here at Nova Albion.

San Francisco is a different speed setting than the rest of the America that I have seen, although that is not an awful lot. Essentially the city is on a peninsula, and it’s not large at all, you can get across it in about 25 minutes and around the peninsula in the same, but it is the focus for a massive conurbation which wraps around the San Francisco Bay, south towards ‘cities’ like Palo Alto, Mountain View, round to San Jose, up then past a city called Dublin and to Oakland. It’s a nice part of the world for sure.

So at the southern end of this bay is Santa Clara and here, in the Hyatt hotel, was Nova Albion, a steampunk convention. I was unsure exactly what to expect, and the convention continually exceeded my expectations.

Before I arrived, I made a visit to the holiest of the holies, the nearby Computer History Museum, to see their Babbage engine, and it was indeed an impressive beast and intricate in a Victorian fashion, and without doubt worth the visit.

I arrived in good time at the convention hotel, but even so, I was amazed to see that the staff were applying Cling Wrap protection to the carpet on the party floor. Now this is what I call preparedness. After unpacking and donning a nice beige soft tailoring suit with a bright swirly red waist coat, I was soon downstairs, perusing one of the three dealers rooms. These were spread across the convention hotel space, with a dealers room on the ground floor, next to the registration, games and what I think was a chill out area. This room had some incredible clothing on display.

I was continually impressed with the fashions of the weekend. There is no doubt that these west coast Americans take the Punk part of steam seriously, and there are no costume Nazis or rigour regarding what one should or should not wear, and this is brilliant, it means with some ribbons, some smart trimming or some basic seamstress work, one can change formal or normal wear into what fits in. I was pleased with this, as I often worry that the fashion aspect is taken too seriously, and that the freedom that is applied to inventions is not always as free with costuming, but here, there was every level of making an effort, and no matter how simple that was, it was good to see.
I met the wonderful Cherie Priest in the dealers room. A pugnacious young woman of much strength of character and an indomitable humorous cynicism that was delightful. She matches her books for high calibre. She has lost her blue hair, and I daren’t say that she was much more attractive with dark auburn. The guns, goggles, books, jewellery, accoutrements pour la guerre, and the ‘industrial ornaments’ were nearly too much.

Soon, adjourned with a fine drink, which I quaffed down in the Lobby, I was speaking briefly with Gail Carriger, who was finely dressed although more of an early 20th century girl, I wondered how well she might look in a flapper dress, and with her parasol, she spoke in such a relaxed and natural way, she is indeed quite good fun.

Too soon it was time for panels, before I had even a proper chance to peruse the mezzanine and first floor dealers rooms, with five rooms for panels and workshops and at times five concurrent items, there was no shortage of choice, and I immediately went to the Fanzine Panel, chaired by the eloquent Christoff Garcia, and was impressed. From hence it was to a panel on costuming, which was indeed also another excellent item, it was at this early stage that I recognised what would be a true strength of the weekend. The ability for panels to adapt to the flow of the conversation, and entertain, deviate and focus, involving audience and not ruining the panel at all.

I was tempted by the idea of Body art, but concerned that the delightful Roget Ratchford might apply a blow whole to my upper vertebrae, and decided instead to pop out and indulge in some local Mexican food. Glorious stuff you know, all refried beans and jalapeños, great stuff for the digestive system, and soon I was returned to the convention, where I took a constitutional stroll around the mezzanine and first floor dealers rooms. The mezzanine had a wide variety of wares for sale, with also tables for fan groups, conventions, Locus, and an art exhibition all vying for one’s attention. The art was especially nice.

The first floor dealers room, adjacent to this area, was also packed, again a variety of wares, including some wonderful parasols and artistic creations. I met Dan who had a wonderful corsetry business, and a conversation continued about what is a correct and incorrect corset, and where he attempts to guide women towards what suits them best as opposed to what they think suits them. A troublesome endeavour for a salesman, but it was interesting that we agreed so much on corsetry, and put in mind that bad corsetry is just like bad music, if your taste is atrocious, so it is. Fine corsetry though, was on display, and I was pleased to see that there was much of it to be seen, corsets that fit and work with the body, which enhance, rather than shove out, that shape rather than bulge, that complement an overall look and that look right. Its an aesthetic I expect, but its a fine line, and here at Nova Albion, it was obvious everyone was paying some sort of attention to not only fashion but common sense.

I started the evening well, entertaining coterie of young women, Sue and Jennifer, Kerstin and Victoria who were two groups of mothers and daughters, with some fine scotch. Thence, it was to the bar for some relaxed chat and then to the dance. Given my ignoble failure at the ability of mastering any type of footwork, I stylishly missed the training session, and just blundered in.

Soon I was embracing a fine young lady, and dancing gaily around the floor, only occasionally stamping on her foot, or kneeling her in the groin. Of course these erroneous moves were dismissed with aplomb and kindness, and as we sashayed
around the floor rather like the wounded battleship Bismark, we only occasionally bashed into other parties, doing their damnedest to swerve out of the way.

The set dances were well called out, the music was excellent, and there were no shortage of partners to gently and firmly hold. The frockage was incredible, I was most impressed. All too soon though, I made my exit for some air, as I noted others too had adjourned, and the evening was indeed pleasant, in sweet company, a warm air matching the whispers of hushed couples.

Later in the early hours of the morning, as I made my way back to my room, I heard some chuffle up on floor 3. I had ensconced a bottle of whiskey in my room, and so, after acquiring it, I soon met what were to be the ‘Chico State Girls’, virtuous women (and men) of studies from that good aforementioned university and seat of learning.

I was soon introduced: Megan, elegantly tall in a fine dress and fishnet hosiery, Berkley with the feisty smile and tiger hair, Bianca with a forceful patter and a pleasant oriental top, Lynette – who had four bottles of wine, and wanted more, Megan who wore the most beautiful frock, but lest there be any doubt wore leggings as a 2nd layer of modesty, Cathy a mom you’d like, apparently, with skull and cross bone tights, Melissa stylish in her frock, with Alex, fine with trimmed whiskers, Dylan looking well in his cap and Chris, who liked all the girls.

Was this the return to youth, that so many seek? Indeed, soon the whiskey was being imbibed and there was much uproarious laughter and indeed ribaldry and bellowing.

I staggered back to my room, next door, a much inebriated and cheered man. For this was Nova Albion, by God.

The next morning, somewhat leery for my excesses, I indulged in the buffet breakfast, which was not only fantastic value, very satisfying but also as well as soaking up the alcohol, indeed was of high calibre.

Saturday morning brought forth all and sundry in the way of costumes, 19th, 20th, dare I say 22nd century garb was on display, the punk element, people doing what they want, wearing their interpretations and imaginations and showing both style and flair, and in many cases incredible ingenuity, was brilliance, I say Brilliance.

There was much in the way of forward thinking amongst the peoples here at this convention, I was incredibly impressed that they had acquired some interesting foreign types to assist with discussions, and so loud Celtic brogue was heard from some McGurrier or O’Hooligan type fellow, a Fenian no doubt.

I adjourned to survey the ‘Museum’ and was indeed intrigued to find so many incredible inventions, my favourite being a perambulator, but the intricate work that is involved must be appreciated in all the oddities that were on display, from a Monkey’s head to a table that was straight out of the fantastic, it was all very neat.

A number of people left impressions upon me as I watched them participate. Ay-leen the Peacemaker from New York, who was very well read and also quite knowledgeable when it comes to issues of diversity within the hobby that is steampunk, is it a hobby? Chris Garcia was indeed everything he is set out to be. I was impressed with Kathleen Powell, a modern day veteran although she looked wonderfully youthful, and was bright eyed and thoughtful. Anina Bennett, originator of Boiler Plate was an excellent speaker.
I loved all the opportunities to engage in conversation, or to have a look and make something, this being rather an important – if you feel like it – aspect of steampunk.

Soon after a day of wondering whether my fingers would forever be glued together, I joined a group for dinner, again in the hotel, and it was evening. I was lucky to see Unwoman, who was superlative, but I was drawn away to a number of more private, although not exclusive, conversations and gatherings, in hotel rooms and corners. This was a frequent occurrence for the nights, being up late chatting with people and drinking, well into the early hours of the morning. The costumer masters Andrew and Kevin held a party, and I was amused by their Dalek, in its wonderful wooden style.

And as if my journey had a predestined end, it of course did, at the ‘Chico State Girls’ party, which again as the music downstairs came to an end, became swamped with the famous and frivolous, and there was much revelry and debauchery, well mild debauchery perhaps.

The drink intake went to new heights, and my poor liver was assailed by the lowest and commonest of spirits, but my heart was warmed by the hospitality and my head was swimming with joy amongst newly found friends who enjoyed my whiskey as I enjoyed their vodka, spirits mixing, juices flowing, a momentary taste to be savoured on the tongue. I fell into bed and true comfort and company.

Suddenly with the afternoon, it was now over. I was indulged with some local colonial food, and enjoyed an In’n’Out Burger, something that has a totally inappropriate meaning in the United Kingdom, but all the same, was sumptuous in its fierce brutality on the palate.

I have rarely met a friendlier, nor a more diverse and interesting bunch, as I did at Nova Albion, I was indeed impressed by the knowledge experiences and skills of many of the regular con goers, let alone the excellent steam types that they had amassed to entertain and converse with us.

I should say that the whole team did an excellent job, those I saw especially, Flitterkitten and Dan and Jo, and I did indeed meet the hostess with the mostess, Ariane Wolfe who deigned to kiss me, which was terribly pleasant.

The hotel was excellent.

Interestingly I was at a Science Fiction meeting and a couple of people made comments about how there was a younger or more broad audience at Nova Albion than other conventions, and in the same breath many went on to point out ‘issues’, as I said then and will say now, that is why people are not as interested in some cons, not everyone loves proliferation of bureaucracy and the politics of perfection, I would prefer to wait 30 minutes for my registration to get into a fun convention experience than get it immediately and be bored to death.

And so my weekend was over, although in fairness, a fine lady deigned to have coffee with me on Monday morning and so, my weekend continued into the week.
By Jean Martin
Editor-in-Chief

I love PEERS, the Period and Events Re-creation Society. On the first Saturday of every month (except for July and December), I get to dress up in some sort of costume and get to inhabit a different world with several hundred of my friends and kindred spirits. Most of the time we do historical-themed balls; but once in a while, we do fantasy and/or scifi events. These prove to be very popular and are also more fun for me because these are the ones that combine my dance friends with my convention friends.

In February and March of this year, at the usual location of the San Mateo Masonic Lodge, we got two back-to-back fantasy/scifi events that were based on colors. On February 5th, heroes and villains donned their more elegant attire to show up at Bruce Wayne’s (a.k.a. Batman) stately Wayne Manor for the society event of the season. Dubbed as the “Gotham City Black and White Ball,” characters from different comic book universes were in attendance, albeit inhabiting their secret identities. It was fun to figure out who was who. There were even some in Steampunk superhero costumes.

The official cast was huge for this event, and with several rehearsals hashing out our characters and the basic plotline, the improv and skits interspersed throughout the evening were quite successful and enjoyed by the patrons. This seemed to me, and to some others who were vocal about it, the best roleplaying PEERS has done.

Zatanna and Hush Incognito by Nedy McCann
The evening officially started with Bill as Alfred the Butler announcing the official cast. Christopher and I were introduced first as our characters and roles for the evening were relatively minor, but definitely interesting. Christopher portrayed Dr. Thomas Elliot, a.k.a. Hush, a childhood friend of Bruce’s who turned into a villain. I was Zatanna Zatara, a Justice League heroine and former paramour of Batman, who was Dr. Elliot’s date for the evening to keep him in line.

Others introduced after us included Emily as Hollywood star Norma Shearer and her husband David as Irving Thalberg, the Boy Wonder of Hollywood. Then came James Myers as Oswald Cobblepot (the Penguin) followed by Cathleen Myers as Judge Catherine Dent, Gregory as Harvey Dent (Two-Face) and his fiancée Shannon as Harvey’s fiancée Gilda. Then it was Beth and her daughter as two versions of the Black Canary. Chris as Clark Kent made an appearance (with Amy L. as Lois Lane following later) as well as Hollywood gossip columnist Hilary to cover the event. Teen Titans Raven played by Dana and Beast Boy played by Jeffrey as well as Buck as Bruce’s Ward, Dick Grayson, were next. And then last but not
the least were Bruce himself (Charles McKeithan) with his lovely date for the evening, Ariyana, as Selina Kyle (a.k.a. Catwoman) wearing the famous Eye of Bast (an Egyptian cat goddess) brooch. With Selina sporting the Eye of Bast and Catherine with the Eye of Horus, the occasion was ripe for the picking for any self-respecting villain. So, guess who shows up after Bruce and Selina? The Joker and Dr. Harley Quinzel (Harley Quinn), of course! Lee Presson was amazingly manic and evil as the Joker and Amy B. was bewitchingly naughty as Harley Quinn.

Of course, what would a ball be without music? Sara and Swingtime were the band for the evening. And swing was the prominent dance for the night. But it wouldn’t be PEERS without some vintage dances like the waltz. There was even a special birthday dance for Bruce when he took several ladies (and some gents) for a spin around the dance floor while Dick did the same. Bruce and Selina started introducing the dances during the first half of the evening but the villains took over mid-way. The Joker, Harley and Two-Face introduced the dances for the rest of the evening.

It was fun trying to stop Chris as Hush from harassing Charles and Bruce. Hush kept threatening to expose Bruce’s big secret. Chris was in his element as he’s a huge comic book fan and he’s really good at improv and inhabiting a character. The only subtle sign that he was Hush was that he had a wad of cloth bandage in his coat pocket instead of handkerchief.

The climax of the plot involved the Joker asking for money from the guests or he would blow up the Gotham Children’s Hospital, the beneficiary of the evening’s charity event, by remote control. At that point, Clark made a none-too-discreet exit to take care of the bombs and Dick and the Teen Titans were held as hostages. The villains and teens went off-stage as the Batman theme song from the 1960s went on and funny and clever signs saying “zap,” “whap,” pow” and “zowie” were moved to the music by the Black Canaries and other lovely ladies. The teens obviously put up a good fight.
Charles handled the interruption well and went along with it, but Lee wasn’t able to do his dramatic falling down scene. But another unplanned improv had Hush falling down afterwards instead. Hush made off with the loot while everyone was focused on the Joker and I cast a spell to catch him. Well, Chris tripped and fell on his back. Oh, the perils of acting!

It was a fun ball full of music, dancing and acting in a world that was different from the usual PEERS fare and vastly different from real life.

We were back at PEERS the next month, on March 5th, for another roleplaying ball, but this time in red and more colorful Mardi Gras-inspired costumes. The theme was Edgar Allan Poe’s *Masque of the Red Death*. Lee Presson, who plays Poe at Dickens Fair, was Poe for the evening and Amy B. was Mrs. Poe. They were more restrained and elegant this time as opposed to their previous turn as the Joker and Harley Quinn. Charles was again the “host” for the evening as the handsome but hedonistically selfish Prince Prospero.

The plot for the skits was simpler than the one for the Gotham Ball and it followed Poe’s short story, up to a point. As Lee as Poe recounted the events throughout the evening, Amy as Mrs. Poe kept suggesting her own ideas, which usually ran along the lines of making it happier and more romantic. The cast dramatized the original story and then switched to Mrs. Poe’s version after she expressed her preference. I have to say that the PEERS version of the story was funnier and more entertaining than Poe’s original, which is great as well. One thing we kept to the plot was that every

The Joker returned and took Harley hostage instead. Bruce, and Clark who came back successful, tried to disarm the Joker. However, an unplanned upstaging by a patron in a Green Hornet costume prevented a rehearsed fight with the Joker.
hour, on the hour, a bell would chime to announce the time and cast members would stop and freeze and look at the clock above the buffet table.

Dana portrayed the Prince’s wife, Princess Miranda, while Jeffrey played the Princess’s lover, Captain Ferdinand. Dana was beautiful in a white gown and Jeffrey was dashing in his officer’s uniform. The two young lovers were amorous toward each other the entire night. Which, of course, drew the ire of the Prince. But Mrs. Poe let them get off scot free and the two were the only survivors of the Red Death at the end of the evening.

Victims other than the Prince were the Prince’s sister, Princess Antonia, portrayed by Cathleen and Archbishop Lawrence, played by James. There was also the Lord Chamberlain (David B.) and the Wine Steward (Steve). The latter actually ran the bar for the evening. Other PEERS actors were cast as courtiers, officers and even ballet dancers. I didn’t get to do much at the ball due to various personal reasons so I...
played a generic courtier. I wore my Madame De Pompadour costume that’s based on one of the David Tennant *Doctor Who* episodes. Deborah, the president of the Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild (GBACG), wore a real Madame De Pompadour costume based on one of the lady’s portraits.

Members of the GBACG had a special table up at the front below the band on the stage. Wendy Pini, one of the creators of *Elfquest*, was also at the special table. I met Wendy at Gallifrey One (a *Doctor Who* convention) in L.A. two weeks before and she was promoting her latest project, a graphic novel based on the *Masque of the Red Death*. When I told her about the ball, she absolutely just had to come. She wore a spectacular Lady Death costume and she had a great time interacting with the cast and meeting new people.

The band for the evening was the Baguette Quartet, who played lovely French-inspired music. They did the Bohemian National Polka, which I missed because I was busy freshening up. I was disappointed because I love that dance and it’s rarely done at PEERS.

Costumes for the evening ranged from sumptuous Renaissance outfits to gorgeous 18\textsuperscript{th} century attire. Poe wasn’t really very specific about the time period for his story. He wasn’t clear about the actual disease depicted by the Red Death either.

The Red Death was portrayed by Phil Gust and his wife, Kathe, helped him with his long red train. The two of them are amazingly incredible costumers. Phil made a dramatic and eerie Red Death.

For the finale, the Red Death walked across the length of the dance floor to stalk the Prince. Everyone in the cast who Phil passed fell down to act dead. The Prince succumbed at the
end and the Red Death did an ominous laugh. After a few quiet seconds, with pure comedic timing genius, Charles got up from playing dead and said something unplanned like, “well, that sucks.” Everyone laughed and it made for a better ending especially after the young lovers were seen to run away unscathed.

It, unexpectedly, turned out to be a fun and lighthearted ball. Much less serious and scary than I expected. It would have been great either way but it was more entertaining the way it turned out. I’m already looking forward to the next PEERS ball to see what’s in store for me then.
We are sad to report, although I’m sure most of you already know, that the Doctor Who universe has recently lost two of its most beloved actors, Elisabeth Sladen (Sarah Jane Smith) and Nicholas Courtney (Brigadier Alistair Gordon Lethbridge-Stewart).

Sarah Jane was a companion to the Third and Fourth Doctors (Jon Pertwee and Tom Baker, respectively). She garnered new fans through her reappearance in the Second Series of the current incarnation of Doctor Who, opposite the Tenth Doctor (David Tennant) as well as The Sarah Jane Adventures spinoff. Sladen passed away on April 19th. For more information on her life and body of work, visit the BBC web site at:

www.bbc.co.uk/doctorwho/dw/news/bulletin_110419_01/Elisabeth_Sladen

The Brigadier, head of the UNIT task force, was a mainstay for several classic Doctors spanning several years. He also more recently showed up in a couple of episodes of The Sarah Jane Adventures. Courtney died last February 23rd. More information can be found on:

www.bbc.co.uk/doctorwho/dw/news/bulletin_110223_01
Lloyd Penney writes:
I’ve got a print-out of SF/SF 115 here with me, plus scraps of time through the day. I will do what I can to respond to the issue, and with luck, get you a full loc by the end of the day. Well, that’s the game plan, anyway. Reality usually bears little resemblance to our plans.

Haiti, New Zealand, Japan… we’ve had more than our share of natural disasters lately, so many people have died in these horrible events, and countless people have had their lives changed forever, or at least disrupted. It’s good to think of these people, hope for them, and where you can, donate to help each of these places recover from their disasters that much quicker. I don’t think anyone expects that you also disrupt your life in sympathy. I don’t know if you were still living in the Philippines when Mt. Pinatubo erupted the last time… people needed help and got it, but otherwise for the rest of the country, life went on. Same thing has happened in Tokyo after the earthquake/tsunami in the northern prefectures. You obviously have your own concerns in your life with your mother’s continuing health problems, but you must live life, too. No one would begrudge you going to a convention or a ball. Support from your friends would also help you, so hugs to you, and hopes that your family gets through this worrisome time. A family birthday party will go a long way to bringing you all together again and making you closer. Your close friends and boyfriend will help a lot, too.

Jean Martin writes:
Thanks for your understanding and good wishes. It’s much appreciated. No, I was already here when Mt. Pinatubo erupted. I remember my grandmother telling me that her entire swimming pool was covered in ash and lots of people in Manila had breathing problems even though the volcano was far away. We saw on the news here that the U.S. Air Force base, which was close to the volcano, was pretty much decimated. Including a huge building that my Dad was the general contractor for. It was sad to see one of his greatest life’s works ruined.

Gallifrey One… I haven’t seen Frazer Hines since he was a guest at one of the occasional Doctor Who party conventions in Toronto, probably more than 20 years ago. He’s a lot greyer than he was back then, but at least he’s still around, and looks like he’s just as gregarious as ever.

He’s very friendly and energetic. I wouldn’t have recognized him as Jamie as he looks so different now. Well, maybe if he wore a kilt I would have recognized him right away.

Steampunk’s getting into everything these days. Hurrah for the SF conventions and anime conventions that welcome it, and a cheer for those who haven’t invited it, but let it in anyway to other events.

Steampunk is quite ubiquitous at this point. It’s quite an easy thing to costume in Steampunk attire. I literally just put
things together the night before from my costume closet for all three days of Nova Albion. And for my sweetie’s birthday party, I wore Steampunk as it was the quickest and most comfortable to do as well.

I know that Rene Auberjonois has had a long active career, and Nana Visitor has branched out to catering (?) to make a living, although the Star Trek convention circuit can be lucrative. I’ve read they are nice folks, very friendly, and are good guest stars. Just spotted online, coming out soon… Spock and Uhura Potato Head figurines. I’ve got a good imagination, but I can’t make this stuff up…

It must be lucrative to show up as a guest star. So many actors are doing it! It’s a win-win as far as I’m concerned as they make money (and have fun) and we fans enjoy meeting them. Chris and I got Barbie and Ken Star Trek dolls of Uhura, Kirk and Spock for our recent birthday parties. It seems really wrong but so awesome at the same time. They are quite gorgeous dolls and of high quality. Well, if Darth Vader has a Potato Head, all bets are off.

I very much like the Convention Anti-Harassment Project. I do wonder how many of the harassers are just immature boys who have yet to learn how to handle the presence of young ladies. I have Jeff VanderMeer’s Steampunk Bible on order, and hope to pick it up soon.

I would like to take Yvonne to Florida so she can explore the Harry Potter theme park there, but the usual reasons apply. Maybe one of these days. It looks like we’re going to Reno come hell or high water, but our next Worldcon after that (I presume our last one) will be London in 2014, if they get it. That means some years of saving to afford it, and skipping the next couple of Worldcons in Chicago and San Antonio, but so be it.

There are so many cons and places to visit and only so much time, money and energy. Sounds like you have a good plan and priorities. I’m hoping to go to Worldcon in London in 2014 too if it’ll be there. Or I just want to go to the UK anyway for any reason. It’s been four years since I’ve gone and I like to go every 3-5 years if I can.

My letter… got the contract I was looking for, through Aquent, and I am now working that short-term contract with the Ontario Association of Architects. Good place to work, great people, work I know well. There is the possibility that I might be working their annual conference in May.

Congratulations! That’s great news.

You are so right… we can’t do the things we want to as so-called grown-ups because there’s so much pressure on us to be grown-up and leave the fun things behind, because others call them childish. The intelligent mind needs play, and that’s what fandom does for us, allows us to play and have some fun. If we can’t do what we want when we’re adults, when can we?

I agree, I find people in fandom to be the most creative and intelligent people I know. What’s life without fun anyway? It’s not all about survival and responsibilities. And I’m not talking about hedonistic fun but fun that means something to ourselves and others as a way of having a more meaningful life.

Any reports on Nova Albion? In less than two weeks, it’ll be the Canadian National Steampunk Exhibition in Markham, northeast of Toronto, and it should be the proverbial blast. I will try to provide some commentary about it, and maybe
some pictures. Also, an old friend of mine will be on the Fanboy Planet podcast… Derek McCulloch. We’ve been in APAs together, is originally from Alberta and now lives in Berkeley as an award-winning graphic novelist.

Your wish is our command… we have a Nova Albion report in this issue!

Fold it up, get it off to you, and say my thanks. That’s the usual order, anyway. Thanks for all your work on this issue, and see you in Reno. (There, I think I can finally say that now.)

Yeay, see you in Reno!

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 1078

March 28, 2011

Meeting called to order @ 8:00p by acting president, Chris Garcia.

Party jar was established.

C Garcia: There is a new issue of Drink Tank out, Issue #277 is a memorial to Mike Glicksohn.

No business or committee news

Announcements

1. Dave C: Robot Wars / ComBots: 8th International RoboGames 04.15 - 04.17.11 @ San Mateo Fairgrounds.
2. [Evil] Kevin: WonderCon this weekend, 04.01 - 04.03.11. Don’t miss out on Saturday evening’s entertainment, RoboGames’ BarBot2011 pariSoma, 169 11th St @ Natoma, $10 in advance, $15 at the door robogames.net/barbot.php

Visitors: James Bacon, famous fannish personage known for his Chris Garcia impersonation @ Corflu

BASFA approved motion to appoint James Bacon as the alternate Chris Garcia

Reviews

Nova Albion

Andy: Worth full price. Had a blast. Continues to be a better con than it deserves to be. Parking improved. Registration, acoustics, etc. need more improvement. Lots of fun. Highly recommend booking conference at the same time as the Lego convention again.

[Evil] Kevin: Problems with communication between entertainment and technical people, needs work. Tiki Dalek made an appearance, fit through doors of venue with ease, very popular with Lego roboticists, including Grant Imohara.

C Garcia: Impromptu acoustic cello concert at registration helped ease the wait in long lines.

Dave C: Dealers Room and Mezzanine arrangements needed work, wouldn’t pass muster with fire marshals.

Ed Stokke: Fun conference. Incredible Lego display. Steampunk also brought depth, new fans to con.

Mike: Was there an art show? A: Art display of GOH Artist James Eng’s work.

Fred: Overhead comments about Tiki Dalek, lots of excitement and energy.

Kevin S: Loved the energy. Badges need work. Kaja Foglio pitched WesterCon.

Lisa: Good to see dealers make money. Programming was more costuming than science.

C Garcia: Lots of interesting new folk. Enjoyed giving the key note, being on panel about under-appreciated cultures and steampunk. Food at Tosca excellent, much better than last year.

James B: 90% of con was having too much fun to notice any problems. Fun stuff. The people made the panels great.

General reviews
Tom: Surf Sunday @ Hotel Utah, SFO, 03.27.11. Great lineup: The Deadlies, Android Vasja [Surf duo from Estonia] and Pollo del Mar. Worth full price.

David G: Big Bag Voodoo Daddy @ Uptown Theater, Napa, 03.25.11. Good show. Cab Calloway tribute. Charles Schultz Museum @ Santa Rosa, 03.26.11. Wine @ Castelo. All events much fun, worth full price.

Diane: Computer History Museum @ Mountain View, 03.23.11. Fascinating, fun, worth full price. Book review: The Darker Mask - Heroes from the Shadows. Excellent anthology, atypical heroes. Worth full price. Psyclone Rave @ Lupin, 03.26.11. Great group, fun line up of DJs, dancers, performers, etc. Worth full price.

Howard: Carousel @ Montgomery Theater opened 03.26.11, runs through this weekend. Excellent chorus, orchestra. Buy tickets now, will sell out. Worth full price. Audio book review: Stranger in a Strange Land. Wordy but good.

Mo: Psycotronic. All new stuff, great fun. Collections of old TV commercials, clips, etc. Sci Fi Bob on Facebook shows tidbits from show. $5 donation. Really grand evening. Worth full price.

David C: Movie time. Saw The Extraordinary Adventures of Adele Blanc Sec and Steamboy at SFinSF. Main plot: Adele struggles to revive her sister from a coma after an unfortunate incident. Fun. Thrilling. Exciting without blowing things up. Worth full price if you can find it.

Paul: Grand Lake Theater @ Oakland starring Nick Frost. Fun chase. Worth full price.

Dann: Book review: Farewell to the Master by Harry Bates. Fascinating story, worth reading. The 1951 movie The Day the Earth Stood Still was based on this book. Worth full price.

Kevin R: Yipe! will be publishing a special copy of Rag fanzine on 04.01.11. Get it will while you can. Regular issue will come out shorting after.

Treasurer’s report, David G.

Regular Jar took in $4.79
Party Jar 6.25
Salon Futura 3.50

Sports update, David G: We have tickets to SF Giants game. Those who have not paid for their tickets, please do so. Per SF Giants, BASFA can have name up in lights. Vote to have name as Bay Area Sci Fi Assoc.

New member: James Bacon, $5.

Approx. 15 - 25 people in attendance including a couple from Saratoga with license plate “TYMLORD”.

Auction: Books, Blue Ray movie, Michael Jackson puffy stickers and James Bacon were auctioned off for money.

Rumor of the week: It’s better with Bacon.

Meeting adjourned 9:30p.
Meeting 1079

April 4, 2011

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

Began at 8:01 p.m.
President, vice president, and secretary absent
Kevin Standlee, presiding
Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker

23 people attended
We established a party jar.
The minutes for meeting 1077 were accepted as “1077? That was my pen number from back when I used to work for Penucci’s Pizza.”
The minutes for meeting 1078 were accepted as “Chris failed his audition again.”
Treasurer reported that that the Sharks were ahead in their play-off game 1-0. He also added that at the last meeting we collected $7.25 in the pun jar, $13.15 in the party, and 0 for Salon Futura (there was no jar for the latter). He also gave the grand totals for all three, but I totally missed them.
There was neither a VP nor president report
The sports committee proxy reported that tix for our baseball outing are slowly being distributed. We will be going to the Giants’ game on Friday, May 6, at AT&T Park. It is an evening game to celebrate Willie Mays’ 80th b-day and BASFA’s full name will go on the scoreboard. Ride sharing will have to be organized independently.

Announcements
Valerie announced her next book, Buffy and the Heroine’s Journey, is going to be published by McFarland & Co.
Ken says he’s still officially unemployed.
Dann says Silicon 11 is definitely happening this year. For anyone interested in volunteering for staff, please go to the meeting at Denny’s on First & Brokaw this Sunday at 2:00 p.m.
Kevin R. says Karen is moving out of state and has old tools and radios to dispose of, if anyone is interested, but they must be picked up tomorrow (Tuesday, April 6).

Reviews
Lisa said that Wondercon was far less crowded on Friday than Saturday and really enjoyed the preview of Cowboys & Aliens.
Dave C. spent most of his time in the dealers’ room and helped give out free books at the Science Fiction Outreach table. He missed Neil Gaiman’s appearance.
Dave G. also spent time at the SF Outreach table. He thought it was overall a worthwhile event and saw quite a bit of goodwill. On Friday, it was more crowded at noon than it was at 5 p.m.
Andy was frustrated about the drive into San Francisco. He said Wondercon was like being at Costco with fewer carts and more people.
Kevin R. was disappointed with the way the masquerade was organized and declined participating.

MO said there was a costuming group that looked like they stepped out of the pages of Elfquest and Wendy & Richard were thrilled. MO was given some beta art tools to try out. She didn’t think the crowds were as bad as San Diego Comic Con.

Kevin S. displayed a 2002 Hugo at the SF Outreach table and promoted Worldcon and the Hugos. He had fun. He thought it was worth full price.

Dave C. saw Battle: Los Angeles, read an online review by “Spencer” and evaded giving his own opinion.

MO said she had a friend who couldn’t handle working on that movie because a lot of those scenes were actually filmed in Katrina-damaged Louisiana.

Andy reviewed Barbot 2011, where robots served booze to the punters in different ways. Totally worth full price. Great for admiring some imaginative engineering.

Kevin R. followed on that they were talked into taking the Tiki Dalek and were well received.

Jo saw Sucker Punch and enjoyed the homages. It’s worth full price as a simple, fun movie.

Dave G. interrupted to announce that the Sharks just clinched the division race.

Jo visited the Thomas George Winery and loved it. The wine is fantastic.

I said the latest season of the UK version of Being Human is concluding next Saturday on BBC America and is worth getting cable for.

Lisa saw some of the new Nintendo games at Wondercon and saw no reason to rush out for them.

Valerie saw Rocky Horror with the Bawdy Cast at the Guild in Menlo Park and enjoyed it, despite it being overrun by teenagers.

Diane highly recommends the Ojah Retreat in Ojah for a weekend of zen.

We did auctions.

Rumor of the Week: “Meeting not found.”

We adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

Meeting 1080

April 11, 2011

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

Began at 8:03 pm - with wailing children
25 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes for meeting 1079 were accepted as “does anyone have a St. Joseph’s chewable quaalude?”

There was no Treasurer or Treasurer’s report

The VP reported, “Oh hello!” and there is no new Drink Tank as he was looking for a new place to live - and has now moved to a place in Santa Clara - that there IS a new issue of
Exhibition Hall at efanzines.com, that he has had random good news [heh heh heh] and is doing “script frenzy”

The President had nothing fannish to report
The sports committee proxy reported that Star Wars Night at the Giants will be Sept 4th

Announcements

Chris announced that his mind went blank

Dave C announced that KFJC is broadcasting a remembrance of “Louie, Louie” & announced that he has a magazine issue of Top Gear for BASFA auction & announced that he has several copies of Space Cadets with him to give away for free

Joni announced that Garth said “hi”

Adrienne announced that Jamba Juice at Valley Fair refused her payment to them of a dollar coin and she is quite miffed at them

[evil] Kevin announced that his father is returning from the rehab hospital this Wednesday
[tall] Kevin announced that he will be off to the UK for Eastercon & to visit railroads with Cheryl

and THEN Chris announced that film maker Sidney Lumet had died & announced that there will be a new Drink Tank out in a few weeks that centers around Gojira & he wants content - send it to him = garcia@computerhistory.org

Howeird announced that this Sunday was the Thai Song Kron Water Festival and there will be lots of fun things happening at Quarry Lakes Park in Fremont; he advises folks to get there early to get parking

Reviews:

Andy reviewed Christopher and his Kind as Matt Smith was cast against type in this BBS produced adaptation

Adrienne reviewed the season finale of Being Human on BBC America as awesome

Fred reviewed the 1st Friday in downtown SJ where places stay open late as the museum exhibits and demonstrations were great

Chris reviewed Your Highness as it finally defines fantasy - everything was there - and the best film he saw that weekend and he left transformed [but into what, he wouldn’t say] & he reviewed the latest issue of Challenger - issue “forty-something” as very worth reading

Carole reviewed having a house brownie as she “loves having a brownie”

Ed reviewed the Merchant Princes series by Charlie Stross as definitely worth reading in paperback

[evil] Kevin reviewed a serger-use class as absolutely worth full price - that Sue Greenbaker did a 4-hour and then a 6-hour advanced class as he recommends it highly

Dave C reviewed the “funny or die” site as “you must go see it” & reviewed Casey Daniels’ book The Chick and the Dead as fun

We did auctions: a calender for $0.25; CDs for $1.00, $0.25, $3.51, $0.25; a book for $7.50, a cassette for $0.50; a fiction newspaper for $2.50 & a magazine for $0.75

We adjourned at 9:23 pm

Rumor of the Week: “I dreamed I fought an evil wizard in my maiden form bra.”
Meeting 1081

April 18, 2011

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

Began at 8:04 pm - because time passes
24 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes for meeting 1080 were accepted as “how he got in my bra I’ll never know”

The Treasurer reported that at meeting 1079 we took in $4.28 in the regular jar & $11.84 in the party jar; while at meeting 1080 we took in $5.01 in the regular jar & $15.50 in the party jar

The VP reported, “Hello!” and there is a new AND a newer Drink Tank out - numbers 273 and 278

The President had nothing fannish to report - and we said “hi” to Bruce Amberden - who works in tech and is not into the sf con scene - yet

The Sports Committee reported that Star Wars Night at the Giants will be Sept 4th - and that there is still a waiting list for the current outing

Announcements

Adrienne announced that the Hugos received 1006 nomination ballots - the most EVAR - and the nominees will be announced on Easter

John O announced that he’s made reservations for a combined 50th birthday celebration at Quarry Lake in Fremont

Ken announced that the Legion of Rassilon meeting will be postponed to the 5th Friday in April this month

Mike announced that there’s a Magical Mystery Tour - a tribute to the Beatles - on Saturday April 23, 8-10pm for $10 at the Mission City Coffee Roasting Company in Santa Clara [2221 the Alameda] - and recommends “be there early”

[evil] Kevin announced that there’s a new issue of Yipe! out

Reviews

[evil] Kevin reviewed going home to help his mom out with his dad as there was a lot of problem solving done and his dad’s prognosis looks good - worth full price

Adrienne reviewed Magic in the Blood by Devon Monk as pretty good & recommended

Howeird reviewed the 9th Annual World Affairs Challenge - themed for “feeding the world” as it was the best one so far - with lots of smart & clever kids - contact him if you’d like to volunteer & he reviewed making pickles as a learning experience

Ed reviewed Macarthur’s War by Michael Dobson as a well-written alternate history, worth paperback

Chris reviewed JarJar Binks must Die by Kimmel as the 2nd best book of film essays he’s ever read & highly recommends it; reviewed the people at Orbit as weird; reviewed Almost Final Curtain by Tate Halloway as a
supernatural romance - that was absolutely horrible but not completely terrible; he reviewed his new apartment as “pretty”, reviewed the soundtrack CD to CQ as rocking & really good - plus he got stickers - & reviewed hot oil dumplings at 456 as he was transformed again - into someone who has eaten the best dumplings EVAR! - he recommends the sauce then be poured over the beef chow fun; [evil] Kevin follow-on’d with dumpling love

I reviewed seeing the movie Hanna as pretty good but not unalloyed gold - good acting but a bit light on stated plot - and worth matinee

Mo reviewed the Disney Family Museum [visited while suffering from allergies] as the displays were beautiful and it was worth full price

We did auctions: cat toys & a bag for $2.50; fannish stuff for $3.50; books for $0.25, $1.00, $1.50; fonts for $0.25, magazines for $2.50; Halo stuff for $3.00 & a food processor for $1.50

We adjourned at 9:18 pm

Rumor of the Week: “Chris Garcia will get his next Hugo for Godzilla porn”
Bay Area Fannish Calendar

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.

Friday, May 6

Cinematic Titanic
The Castro Theater
429 Castro Street, San Francisco
www.cinematictitanic.com
Samson and the Seven Miracles at 7pm, and Rattlers at 9:30pm. Separate admission to each show required, or purchase the special limited availability “Double Feature” ticket for $60

Saturday, May 7

SFfinSF: Andrea Hairston & Howard Hendrix
Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org
Reading, followed by Q&A from the audience moderated by author Terry Bisson. 7 p.m.

Abney Park in a Pirate Ball
The Oakland Metro Opera House
630 3rd St., Oakland
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/153522
Rescheduled show from the original April 2nd Ball of Justice dates.
8 p.m. $25

Diversity in YA Tour
Main Library, Latino-Hispanic Room
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco
www.diversityinya.com/tour
Malinda Lo (Huntress), Cindy Pon (Silver Phoenix), Gene Luen Yang (Level Up), and J.A. Yang (Exclusively Chloe)
3 p.m. Free

Ball of the Gods
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 North Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo
Celebrate May Day with us at a rollicking Victorian costume ball with a Greek mythological theme inspired by Jacque Offenbach’s hysterically funny masterpiece “Orpheus in the Underworld,” famous for making the Cancan an international hit. Live music by Avalon Rising.
Suggested attire is Victorian evening dress, costumes inspired by Greek and Roman mythology, or a creative combination of the two!. Visitors from other pantheons are more than welcome. There will be a no-host (cash) bar, and a light snack buffet. Potluck contributions to the buffet will be greatly appreciated
6:45 p.m. $20

Sunday, May 8

Author: Andrea Hairston
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Meet Andrea Hairston, author of the critically-acclaimed Mindscape.
3 p.m. Free
Tuesday, May 10
Leonardo Art Science Evening Rendezvous (LASER)
University of San Francisco
2130 Fulton Street San Francisco
LASER is a monthly series of lectures and presentations organized by Piero Scaruffi on behalf of Leonardo/ISAST. This month; Elizabeth Jameson on “Re-Imaging the MRI”, Kal Spelletich on “Machines Fires Golems Wines Aeronautics Telepresences” and Randal Koene on “Why and how to transition from wet-ware to substrate-independent minds”. Admission is free but limited. Please RSVP to p@scaruffi.com
6 p.m.

May 12-September 15
The Black Futurists: Black Progress Thought to Science Fiction
African-American Art and Culture Center, Sargent Johnson Gallery
762 Fulton, San Francisco
www.aaacc.org
Black Futurism combines elements of science fiction, fantasy and Afrocentricity. The East Bay collective, Black Diamond Shining (BDS), brings to our attention the artist who took their art form pass the existing limits and brought in many elements outside the Black experience: science fiction, elements of rock and world music, art movements, technology.

Friday, May 13
Midnites for Maniacs: Music Matters!
The Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street San Francisco
www.midnitesformaniacs.com
Rock N Roll High School (1979), Out of the Blue (1980) and a third TBA movie.
7:30 p.m. $12

Thursdays-Sundays, May 13-29
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court
The Pear Avenue Theatre
1220 Pear Avenue, Unit K, Mountain View
www.thepear.org
Twain’s wisecracking hero finds himself zapped from 1880 to the Middle Ages, from industrial America to medieval England. Yankee can-do spirit enables this crafty time-traveler to drag a backward culture kicking and screaming into the modern era--but only for a while. Breathtaking, hilarious-- and shockingly relevant to 21st century America. Check website for tickets and showtimes.

Saturday-Sunday, May 14-15
Queen Bess and the Pyrates
Roeding Park,
890 W. Belmont, Fresno
www.queenbessandthepyrates.com
Renaissance Faire and Pirate Festival
Check website for details

Sunday, May 15
SacAnime: Fans Giving Back
Sacramento Radisson Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento
www.sacanime.com/fansgivingback
One day charity event benefiting the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. 100% of admission costs will be donated to relief efforts. This will be a mini-convention, with Guest of Honor Vic Mignogna on site, gaming, cosplay, charity auction, and more. Check website for details

Saturday-Sunday, May 21-22
Big Wow ComicFest
San Jose Convention Center Hall 3
150 West San Carlos St. San Jose
www.bigwowcomicfest.com
Previously ‘Supercon’.
$25

Saturday-Sunday, May 21-22
Maker Faire
San Mateo County Event Center
San Mateo
www.makerfaire.com
Come celebrate MAKE magazine’s 10th Maker Faire and sixth anniversary in the Bay Area, showcasing creative and resourceful people in the areas of science and technology, engineering, food, and arts and crafts.
$30.00 (till May 12)
Monday, May 23

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. May is Shatfest! William Shatner stars in Impulse and Incubus
7:30 p.m.

Friday-Monday, May 27-30

Fanime
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos St., San Jose, CA 95113
www.fanime.com
Anime convention
Check website for pricing

Friday-Monday, May 27-30

KublaCon
Hyatt Regency
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
www.kublacon.info
Gaming convention $45 (till May 10)

Friday-Monday, May 27-30

Baycon
The Hyatt Regency Santa Clara
5101 Great American Parkway, Santa Clara
www.baycon.org
GOHs: John Picacio, Bobbie DuFault.
Toastmaster: Martin Young $75 (till May 15)

Saturday, June 4

The Pirates Ball
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 North Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo
Bangers and Mash will play a full evening of waltzes, polkas, and dashing country dances from the 17th through the 19th century (All country dances will be briefly taught or called). Pirate costume - both period and Hollywood style - is admired, but not required. Come either in your finest 17th, 18th or early 19th century attire or in fantasy pirate costume from any literary universe. There will be piratical musical entertainment, a no-host bar and a light snack buffet. (As usual, potluck contributions to the buffet will be greatly appreciated.)
6:45 p.m. $15 (till May 28)

Saturday, June 5

SACCON
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sac-con.com
Sacramento’s Toys, Comics and Anime show
10 a.m. $6

Saturday, June 11

SFInsF: Lisa Goldstein and Nick Mamatas
Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org
Reading, followed by Q&A from the audience moderated by author Terry Bisson.
7 p.m. Free

Saturday-Sunday, June 18-19

Kintoki-Con
The Hyatt Regency Sacramento
1209 L Street, Sacramento
kintoki-con.com
GOHs: Mary Elizabeth McGlynn, Ryusuke Hamamoto
$30 (till June 1)

Thursday-Sunday, July 1-4

Westcon 64
The Fairmont
170 South Market Street, San Jose
www.westercon64.org
GOHs: Patricia A. McKillip, Kaja and Phil Foglio, Mike Willmoth
$65

Saturday, July 9

SFInsF: John Shirley & Karen Haber
Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org
Reading, followed by Q&A from the audience moderated by author Terry Bisson.
7 p.m. Free
Friday-Saturday, July 15-16

**Inferno: A Fire Circus**
The Crucible
1260 7th Street, Oakland
www.thecrucible.org
Explore a world of flames with an amazing cast of enticing characters and creatures where seductive sirens, fallen angels, fire breathing acrobats and irresistible creatures from the underworld beckon you to join their luminous conflagration and return with them to the fiery depths.
7 p.m. $45-55

Friday-Saturday, August 5-6

**Kin-Yoobi Con**
Chabot College
25555 Hesperian Boulevard, Hayward
www.gzronline.com/kinyoobicon2011.htm
Japanese animation convention, featuring cosplay contests, panels, games, live music and more.
$25

Saturday, August 6

**Suffragists’ Picnic Dance**
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Lincoln Park
1450 High Street, Alameda
Our guests are invited to bring their own period-style picnic lunch and to make their picnic site look as period as possible (Please note that the event is not a potluck) Suggested costume for the event is summer afternoon dress (1990 - 1910), but, as usual, costumes are admired, not required. Ladies who support the Women’s Suffrage and Women’s Right Movement are welcome to wear Rational dress and are more than welcome to wear their cycling bloomer costumes. Live music by Bangers & Mash.
10 a.m. Free

Saturday-Sunday, August 6-7

**Hypercon**
San Mateo Fairgrounds
1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo
www.wix.com/hyperbooster/hypercon
Japanese pop-culture and anime.
$20 (till June 30)

Saturday, August 13

**SFinSF: Tad Williams & Deborah Beale**
Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org
Reading, followed by Q&A from the audience moderated by author Terry Bisson.
7 p.m. Free

Saturday, August 13

**San Jose Super Toy and Comic Book Show**
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
344 Tully Rd. San Jose
www.timetunnelnews.blogspot.com
Featuring more than 250 toy, comic book & collectible vendors selling new and vintage items.
11 a.m. $5

Wednesday-Sunday, August 17-21

**Worldcon: Renovation**
Reno Sparks Convention Center
4590 South Virginia Avenue, Reno, NV
Reno, Nevada
www.renovationsf.org
The 69th World Science Fiction Convention.
$195 (till July 17)

August 18 through September 10

**Evil Dead: The Musical**
The Campbell Theatre
Martinez
www.evildeadthemusical.com
This hilarious live stage show takes all the elements of the cult classic horror films, *Evil Dead 1*, *Evil Dead 2*, and *Army of Darkness* then combines them to make one of the craziest theatrical experiences of all time.
Check website for tickets and showtimes.

Saturday, August 20

**Can’t Stop the Serenity 2011**
The Victoria Theater
2961 16th Street. San Francisco
www.sfcsts2011.com
Sixth anniversary charity screening of *Serenity* to benefit Equality Now. Also showing; *Dr. Horrible’s Sing-Along Blog*. Live music, costume contest, and more.
7 p.m. $13
Friday-Monday, September 2-5

CelestiCon
Hotel Sofitel
223 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood City
www.celesticon.com
Gaming convention
$50

Saturday, September 3

The Space Cowboys Ball
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 North Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo
Western, 19th century or neo-19th century, Civil War or Post-Civil War costume or science fiction/fantasy costume from any universe if admired, but not required, and creative blending of past and future fashions is also encouraged. Just now, Old West, Chinese, and Indian motifs are fashionable and, of course, Browncoats are extremely welcome. There will be a no-host bar and a complimentary light buffet, your potluck contributions to the buffet are appreciated. Live music by Bangers & Mash.
6:45 p.m. $15 (till August 25)

Sunday, September 4

SF Giants Star Wars Day
AT&T Park
24 Willie Mays Plaza, San Francisco
sanfrancisco.giants.mlb.com
“The Force” was strong with our Giants in 2010 and now, you can participate in a special day bringing together Giants and Star Wars fans alike! Your ticket package will include a ticket in our Star Wars section, access to our pre-game festivities and a very special Star Wars themed Giants giveaway item! Buy your tickets early as this event will sell out; enjoy a fun-filled day of Star Wars themed activity through the ballpark, while rooting on your Giants! Stay tuned for further details!
Check website for details

Saturday-Sunday, September 24-25

From the Land Beyond
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sacanime.com/fromthelandbeyond
Sacramento’s Sci-Fi/Horror show
Check website for updates.

Saturday, October 1

Anime Destiny
MLK Student Union
Berkeley
www.calanimedestiny.com
Details TBA

Saturday, October 1

Steampunktoberfest Ball
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 North Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo
Suggested costume is formal 19th century, traditional Oktoberfest, or Victorian Steampunk attire. Bangers & Mash plays an evening of popular 19th century waltzes, mazurka waltzes, schottisches, polkas, and set dances (all set dances will be briefly taught and called). There will be a pre-ball workshop in Survival Polka, whirling rotary waltz, and mazurka waltz. There will be a no-host (cash) bar offering the finest in both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and a German-style light snack buffet (your potluck contributions to the buffet will be most welcome!).
6:45 p.m. $15 (till September 24)

Saturday, October 14

SF in SF Litquake; Urban Fantasy Panel & Discussion
Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org
Reading, followed by Q&A from the audience moderated by author Terry Bisson.
7 p.m. Free
Saturday, November 5

*Le Bal des Vampires*
PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda
Suggested costume is evening dress of the century and country of your “rebirth.” This may include dress uniform, period costume (authentic or fantasy), vintage attire, or modern evening dress. There is no dress code for the ball. Our band in the elegant upstairs ballroom is the chamber ensemble Bangers & Mash. As usual, haunting waltzes dominate the program, but the evening will feature a variety of dance music from across the centuries. For modern music and free-style dancing, join us downstairs in the Nightfall Club from 6:30 p.m. to Midnight. Hosted by Dark Moon, the club also features a no-host (cash) bar, and light refreshments for our mortal guests.
6:45 p.m. $15 (till September 24)

Wednesday-Saturday, January 12-15 and 19-22, 2012

*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

Friday-Monday, February 17-20, 2012

*Pantheacon*
Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose
www.pantheacon.com
Pagan convention.
Registration opens July 2011

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

*Bad Movie Night*
The Dark Room Theater
2263 Mission Street, San Francisco
www.darkroomsf.com
Featuring bad movies old and new. May is Bruuuuce (Willis) movies, June is Superzeroes.
8 p.m. $5

*Sakuramento Anime Society*
Rancho Cordova Library
9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova
www.saclibrary.org
Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.
3-6 p.m.
**SF Games**
Zephyr Cafe  
3643 Balboa 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.  
2 p.m.  
**Mondays**

**Coco’s**  
1206 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale  
www.basfa.org  
8 p.m.  
**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.  

**Tuesdays**

**MGI Boffers & Outdoor Games**  
Codornices Park  
1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley  
mgisciaf.angelfire.com  
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**

**Principality of Mists Fighter Practice**  
Twin Creeks Sports Complex  
969 Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale  
www.westkingdom.org/node/343  
SCA event. Non-members must remember to fill out a waiver form. In case of rain, call from 3pm on to determine if the facility will be closed that day. 408-534-1169.  
7 p.m. - 10:30 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**

**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+)**

**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**
**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.
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 pm. Contact Jude 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
foothillanime.net
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

*Geeks Vs. Geeks*
San Francisco / San Mateo
www.facebook.com/geeksvsgeeks
www.geeksvsgeeks.com
Monthly pub trivia quiz. Usually takes place the first Sunday (San Mateo) and second Monday (San Francisco) of the month, please check Facebook or website for details.
7:30 p.m. Free

*Silicon Gulch Browncoats*
Various locations (see website for details)
www.silicon gulchbrowncoats.org
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.
Noon - 2 p.m. Free
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location Details</th>
<th>Meeting Times</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Horror Picture Show</td>
<td>The Clay, 2261 Fillmore Street San Francisco/The Guild, 949 El Camino Real</td>
<td>Midnight</td>
<td>The Bawdy Caste presents the classic midnight movie the first Saturday</td>
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<td>Menlo Park <a href="http://www.bawdycaste.org">www.bawdycaste.org</a></td>
<td>of the month, alternating between the Clay in San</td>
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<td>Francisco and the Guild in Menlo Park.</td>
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<td>East Bay Star Wars Club</td>
<td>Central Perk 10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito 510-558-7375 <a href="http://www.ebstarwars.com">www.ebstarwars.com</a></td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Meets the second Friday of every month.</td>
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<td>Fantastic Frontiers</td>
<td><a href="http://www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/">www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/</a></td>
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<td>Social club for Sacramento County sci fi/fantasy fans usually meets the</td>
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<td>second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and</td>
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<td>locations.</td>
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<td>No-Name Anime</td>
<td>Saratoga Library 13650 Saratoga Avenue Saratoga <a href="http://www.nnanime.com">www.nnanime.com</a></td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.</td>
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<td>SF Browncoats</td>
<td>Cafe Murano 1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco <a href="http://www.sfbrowncoats.com">www.sfbrowncoats.com</a></td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the</td>
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<td>Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club</td>
<td>Borderlands Books 866 Valencia, San Francisco <a href="http://www.borderlands-books.com">www.borderlands-books.com</a></td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Meets the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@</td>
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<td>borderlands-books.com for more information.</td>
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<td>USS Defiance</td>
<td>5026 Don Julio Blvd, Sacramento 1566 Howe Ave, Sacramento <a href="http://www.myspace.com/d2121978">www.myspace.com/d2121978</a></td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.</td>
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<td>Micro Gods, Inc.</td>
<td>Berkeley Public Library, West Branch 1125 University Ave, Berkeley</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<td>mgisciaf.angelfire.com groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/</td>
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<td><em>Lights</em> is a chapter of Starfleet International and a swell group of</td>
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<td>Family Club for fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Movie, Anime &amp; Manga. Meets</td>
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<td>science fiction fans. We do more than Trek. Usually meets the third</td>
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<td>every 3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for updates.</td>
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<td>Saturday of the month, with social event TBD.</td>
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<td>USS Northern Lights</td>
<td>Contact <a href="mailto:firstjedi2000@yahoo.com">firstjedi2000@yahoo.com</a> for specifics. sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights</td>
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<td>Free</td>
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<td>Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club</td>
<td>First United Methodist Church 1183 “B” Street, Hayward</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Meets the 4th Sunday of the month. Please contact Rev. Randy Smith at</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:RSmith2678@aol.com">RSmith2678@aol.com</a> for more information.</td>
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<td>Other Realms Book Club</td>
<td>Books, Inc. 1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame <a href="http://www.booksinc.net/localinterest/291027">www.booksinc.net/localinterest/291027</a></td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month.</td>
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Legion of Rassilon
Carl’s Jr.
2551 N 1st St, San Jose
www.legionofrassilon.org
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle. 7:30 p.m. Free

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

Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE
Round Table Pizza
4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento
916-338-2300
Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours. 6 p.m. Free
Lift up my heart
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<td>Bad Movie Night Sakuramento Anime SF Games</td>
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<td>Foothill Anime</td>
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<td>Geeks Vs. Geeks (SM)</td>
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