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After WonderCon in early April, I got a bit of a break from Fandom for several weeks before the next slew of conventions arrives in late May in the form of Fanime and BayCon. I’ve never been to Fanime and am going to check it out for one day. And I have to go to BayCon, which used to be my favorite convention, for at least one day.

April and May was busy with birthday celebrations and family occasions. I did get to go to a couple of costumed events but neither were scifi related. The GBACG “Dinner in Valentino’s Tent” was set in the era of Rudolph Valentino and held at a wonderful Moroccan restaurant in San Jose. Some people wore Middle Eastern outfits, like I did, and some wore 1920s attire. It was a fun evening of delicious food, exotic ambience, admiring other people’s costumes and belly dancing. Our group surprised the belly dancer and other patrons because most of those who got up to dance with the belly dancer were great. I don’t think they expected us to be dancers as well.

The PEERS “Ball of the Gods” was had at least a fantasy bent with its mythological theme. Other traditions that Greco-Roman were welcomed but most took the opportunity to wear togas and other clothing from those time periods. We did have Indian, Chinese, Persian and other gods… and even a Valkyrie. I was surprised that no one came as Thor seeing as the movie opened that same weekend.

It’s good to see people continuing to live life, be happy and express their creativity. We’ve had a lot of disasters and divisive conflicts in the world news lately as well as a lot of personal tragedies and hardships that I’ve seen friends go through. Life is precious and we have to all value it and make the most of it. And it’s good to see people rallying toward helping others and for a good cause.

Speaking of people rallying together, I got to celebrate the recent Royal Wedding between Prince William and Catherine Middleton at a tea party in San Francisco. It is so wonderful to have a fairy tale wedding come to life. I remember being enchanted with Prince Charles and Princess Diana’s wedding when I was in High School. I hope this one turns out better than that marriage. Things bode well for Prince William and I’m happy that, for someone like him whose parents separated and also lost his mother at a young age, he has found a good partner who seems grounded, fitted to the role and lovely to boot. I know a lot of people don’t care about monarchies and think they’re archaic, useless or even bad. But I won’t get into that here. People are entitled to their own opinions. In any case, the wedding itself united a lot of people in Britain and all over the world for one day to celebrate something good for once. It’s great that people come together to support victims of disasters and the like. But how often are we happy all at the same time because other people are happy? For one day, we celebrated the positive virtues of beauty, love, family, hope,
romance and marital union. The ceremony was elegant and tasteful but simple and restrained. In contrast, the hats and fascinators on the female guests were colorful and spectacular. But the highlight for me was the music, most of which were heavenly and stirring.

Speaking of music, Hugh Jackman (a.k.a. Wolverine) was in town for several weeks of a one-man show. I’d seen him on Broadway in *The Boy from Oz* and he was amazing then. I didn’t expect much from just him by himself but I was completely blown away by him again. He is such a consummate performer. He was funny, he sang well, he danced and he told stories. You can feel his presence and emotions in every line and movement (even from the very last row in the balcony where I was seated). It made it more interesting that he had a full orchestra, a couple of sexy female backup singers (who were so-so), some guest musicians and slideshows. But it was all about his love of life and music. You can just sense how happy and good he is as a person. Anyway, my favorite parts of the evening were his medley of dance-related songs from musicals, some songs by Peter Allen from *The Boy from Oz*, a medley of songs from movies by the decade and a moving tribute to Australia complete with didgeridoos. There was a long line of people waiting for his autographs afterwards. I would have loved to meet this exceptional performer and human being but it was getting late on a work night. And it’s enough for me that I’ve been lucky enough to see him live twice now.

Life is going to be even busier now for me with a couple more shows to see, several conventions coming up (not only in May but in July and August as well), wedding plans (oh, did I forget to say I got engaged?), family occasions, another operation for my Mom and some dance and other classes I want to take. In the meantime, hope everyone is having a great Spring and I can’t wait till Summer when warmer weather comes our way!
It’s been a very big year for BArea writers, artists and others when it comes to the Hugo nominations. This year, there were a few great surprises.

First off, Best Fan Artist has two big surprises. The first: Randall Munroe. This is a very controversial pick and he makes a living off of xkcd. I’m not aware of any non-xkcd stuff that he’s done, so this may be a bigger problem down the line.

The other, and the one that made me so happy when I heard it: Mo Starkey! She’s been a regular in the pages of The Drink Tank, has shown up in a few other zines, including SF/SF, Journey Planet, Argentus and many, many more. It’s a rough year to be on the ballot, and I’m sad to see some great artists, like Sue Mason and our own España Sheriff, not make the ballot. These things happen. The ballot is rounded out by multi-time winner Brad W. Foster, and regular nominees Taral Wayne and Steve Stiles.

In Best Fan Writer, I’ve made it five years in a row with this nomination. It’s a great honor to be on this list, where it is certain that we’ll have a first time winner. There’s another guy with strong BArea ties who goes by the name of James Bacon, with his first individual nomination. Claire Brialey of Banana Wings and Journey Planet among other pieces, Steven H Silver and James Nicoll round out the ballot. This is a good ballot and it’s great to know that someone who has written regularly for fanzines will be getting a Hugo! I’m saying it’s James!

Best Fanzine? Yeah, we got that. The Drink Tank is up for the fifth time, which is a huge honor and I’m so happy! I wanna say thanks to everyone who wrote, drew for, talked about, voted for or anything else for us over the last year. I wanna send a special shout-out to everyone for making it possible. Banana Wings is up again, which is awesome as it had a really good year. So did Challenger, though the most recent issue was a real stand-out and it was in 2011, so we’ll need to remember it for next year. There’s also the legendary multi-time winner File 770, which has to be considered the front-runner for Best Fanzine. Of course, a Fanzine’s not going to win it because of the presence of StarshipSofa on the ballot. It’s a decent Podcast, but it doesn’t belong on the ballot, especially when it’s been determined that Podcasts are eligible in the Related Works Category as well.

Best Semi-Pro has Locus, which will fight it out with first time nominee Lightspeed, 2009’s winner Weird Tales, 2010’s winner Clarkesworld and Interzone. It’s an interesting ballot and I’ve been more surprised at the lack of Locus wins than at the lack of Langford nominations.

In Best Professional Artist, John Picacio will be the Artist GoH at BayCon this year! Can’t go wrong with that! Daniel Dos Santos (or Danny Two Saints as the kids call him!),
Stephen Martiniere, Shaun Tan and Bob Eggleton round out the category. I’m calling this race for Picacio.

Best Editor Long Form is something of a mess as there was a three-way tie for fifth. There’s Lou Anders, Ginjer Buchanan, first time nominee and all-around good guy Moshe Feder, the proven miracle worker Liz Gorinsky (who made my Steampunk Fortnight stuff readable!), the Bay Area’s Own Nick Mamatas!, Beth Meacham, and Juliet Ulman. This is going to be the toughest category for me, but I am noting the absence of David Hartwell and Patrick Nielsen Hayden. Interesting…

Best Editor Short Form features the Cal Ripken of Nominations, Stanley Schmidt of Analog. He’s up against John Joseph Adams, Johnathan Strahan, Gordo VanG (Gordon Van Gelder for the uninitiated) and Sheila Williams. It’s a nice ballot, but the absence of any of the folks from Clarkesworld really brings me down.

We got three Doctor Who episodes on the ballot for Best Dram Presentation Short. “A Christmas Carol,” that Pandorica two-parter and “Vincent & the Doctor,” which was on my ballot. It’s also on it with “The Lost Thing” by Shaun Tan and, much to my glee, Rachel Bloom’s video “Fuck Me, Ray Bradbury.” I’m trying to get her to perform the song in the Fan Lounge at Reno!

Inception leads the category of Best Dramatic Presentation Long Form, along with How to Train Your Dragon, Emeryville’s Pixar get another one for Toy Story 3, there’s that Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows Part One, and there’s Scott Pilgrim vs. the World. It’s an OK ballot, but there are a bunch of other films that I’d have loved to have seen on the ballot.

The Best Graphic Story nominees feature BArea faves, and Artist GoHs at Westercon, The Foglios and another edition of Girl Genius. Fables, by Renovation special guest Bill Willingham, is on the ballot too. Schlock Mercenary and The Unwritten are up there. Most important for me is the appearance of Grandville Mon Amor by Bryan Talbot. I was crushed when Grandville didn’t make the ballot in 2010, but I’m hoping it’ll take home a rocket.

We’ve got a great set of noms in Best Related Work, though it does raise a point. The PodCast Writing Excuses, Season 4, was nominated for Best Related Work, which is a good thing, it’s a good PodCast, but what I can’t figure out is why two very similar PodCasts, StarShipSofa and Writing Excuses, are eligible in different categories. It makes no sense to me. Also nominated, and with a couple of BArea writers included, is Chicks Dig Time Lords: A Celebration of Doctor Who by the Women Who Love It, edited by Lynne M. Thomas and Tara O’Shea. Johanna Mead had a great piece in it and I’m hoping that it takes it home. Sadly, I think that the Heinlein bio, part one, will win it. Bearings, by Gary K. Wolfe, and The Business of Science Fiction: Two Insiders Discuss Writing and Publishing by Mike Resnick and Barry N. Malzberg is also on there. It’s a good ballot, and I’m hoping that we get a win for the good guys… I mean good girls.

Best Short Story has BayCon Writer GoH Mary Robinette Kowal on it! Her story, “For Want of a Nail” is up, as is “Ponies” by Kij Johnson. Peter Watts, who rode his run-in with the Border Cops to a Hugo win last year, is up for a story in Clarkesworld that’s really pretty good. “Amaryllis,” by Carrie Vaughn, who I believe is a first-time nominee, is certainly one of the reasons that Lightspeed was nominated for Best Semi-Pro.
“Eight Miles” by Sean McMullen from Analog is up for Best Novelette. I’m not a big fan of the story, but it’s cool that Sean got something on the ballot as he’s a personal fave. “The Emperor of Mars” by Allen M. Steele, “The Jaguar House, in Shadow” by Aliette de Bodard and “Plus or Minus” by James Patrick Kelly (Asimov’s, December 2010) are all also-rans as far as I’m concerned as “That Leviathan, Whom Thou Hast Made” by Eric James Stone is the big winner to me.

A guy I’m going to be a Guest of Honor with next year at Minicon in Minneapolis over Easter weekend, Ted Chiang, is up for Best Novella with the exceptional “The Lifecycle of Software Objects.” It’s from Subterranean and it’s great. One of my faves, and a Journey Planet contributor, Alastair Reynolds, is up with his story “Troika.” I really liked “The Lady Who Plucked Red Flowers beneath the Queen’s Window” by Rachel Swirsky, almost as much as I loved “The Maiden Flight of McCauley’s Bellerophon.” If you haven’t read it, it’s in Stories: All New Tales and it’s worth seeking out. “The Sultan of the Clouds” is up there too.

Local fave Seanan McGuire is up for Best Novel! She writes as Mira Grant and she’s up for her book Feed. Connie Willis and Lois McMasters-Bujold have novels on the list. Connie’s daughter lives in these parts as I understand it. N.K. Jemisin is nominated for The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms, which is awesome as I think she’s awesome. The favorite this year has to be The Dervish House by Ian McDonald.

All in all, a good list and it’s gonna be a good year to be a voter. You can find out more about voting in the Hugo at thehugoawards.com or at renovationsf.org!
Nova Albion: Steampunk Ahoy!

By Christopher Erickson

Nova Albion relocated to a much more convenient location for their 2011 edition. Convenient in terms of freeway access, parking and layout. The new location is the familiar Fandom haunt of the Santa Clara Hyatt. The hotel was chosen wisely as the previous parking problems were eliminated and having to change freeways and taking circuitous routes was taken down to a single exit off of Highway 101. The layout was also much more advantageous as all of the vendors were in relatively the same area and all of the programming was next to the vendors instead of being 14 floors above.

There were some drawbacks to the new location, though, that were present at the Emeryville Hilton last year. The vendors were not located all in one room this year but spaced out between a small room normally used for meetups and locations on the second floor balcony area. The vendors not being in a large function room gave it a more lively feel, but the areas became cramped quickly with shoppers. The other drawback was that there was no staging area for any large demonstration pieces like the Neverwas Haul. Since there really was not a parking lot where it could be staged, the convention felt like it was missing a large piece of visual appeal that could have advertised it even more.

The theme for this year, “Wild, Wild East,” was actually a very inspired choice because people really did push the boundaries of Steampunk fashion by mixing in the usual...
Ballroom dancing led by PEERS
by Jean Martin

Japanese Steampunk Couple
courtesy of Jean Martin

The St. Clair Aeronauts Post Office
by Jean Martin

Steampunk Clothing Vendor
by Jean Martin
accoutrements with Asian fashion. It provided a nice counterbalance to the normally British or European fashions that are associated with Steampunk. A large number of people incorporated kimonos, obis, fans, veils and even turbans into their look. It evoked a feeling that the advanced technologies in Steampunk fantasy are not just contained to Europe or even America.

The programming was rather varied. The Museum area had the usual items such as the Time Table, but there was artwork and new items on display too. The panels that were scheduled not only included the fantasy elements of Steampunk, but also featured practical science and history from the period as well. One of the panels that I attended was a quick history on the practical use of steam power and how it changed the world from an agrarian society to an urban environment. The scheduled entertainments for both Friday and Saturday nights were amazing with ballroom dancing, belly dancing and live entertainment including Shovelman, Unwoman and Vernian Process. The featured act on Saturday night was Lee Presson and the Nails. There was also a costume contest that was much better organized and advertised this year with several wonderful entries.

The party rooms and Miss Kalender’s Tea Lounge were also wonderful highlights to the event. The best party room at night was hosted by the League of Proper Villians who had their room decorated with several items including a jar on a table that you could put your head into to make it look like it was a preserved head in a jar. The Tea Lounge was also a nice
afternoon gathering spot run by Erin Kalendar again this year. There was a large collection of teas and cookies to be had along with wonderful conversation. It made a great place to relax and get away from everyone if it the convention was too crowded for one’s tastes.

The overall feeling I took away from the convention was that it felt much more organized and diverse this year with several intriguing offerings that should ensure the success of the convention for the next few years.
By Thad Gann

Staff Writer and Photographer

On March 25th, a virtual horde of adventurers descended on the small town of Santa Clara, California. The purpose of this gathering may be shrouded in secrecy* but one intrepid reporter, Fitzhugh Fitzgiven Firth IV, was able to smuggle in a Light Activated Recording Imager and Optical Transmitter, code name LARIOT, to capture the proceedings. Here is his report:

“At first glance the gathering looked like any other society party. Socialites mingled with men in uniform. Gentlemen and ladies dressed in what appeared to be the latest in Victorian fashion. Upon closer examination, their attire seemed quite odd. Instead of the usual sidearm the men boasted a variety of what can only be described as ray guns. Even the women were similarly armed. Clearly these adventurers were both daring and fierce.

Many of the ladies also wore their corsets outside their bustles. While I came to understand this is practical when faced with the prospect of battle, it was quite provocative. What next caught my eye was the great number of Oriental apparel on display. While I have always admired the beautifully embroidered garments, I have never seen so many outside the palace of the Shogun. From what I saw that evening, I predict that every well-attired gentleman and lady will have these as part of their wardrobes in the very near future. The local writer Rudyard Kipling is said to have remarked that ‘East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet.’ I can only respectfully say that had he been to this meeting, his entire outlook would have changed.

I soon came to understand that the main purpose of this gathering was to present a series of inventions and modifications in equipment and apparel for the enlightenment and enjoyment of the participants. It was structured like a contest, with the various inventors and designers getting points for their inventiveness.

Far removed from the secretive nature of military contracts, the people were not only willing but enthusiastic in their display of their skills. Of course since the entire gathering was, to my knowledge, held in secret* perhaps this was the final phase.

Another amazing thing about this gathering...
was the willingness to show off the garments and equipment on the personages assembled. My worry was that the LARIOT device I was testing would be discovered and I found out there were prototypes from several other inventors to capture images.

The meeting culminated with the best designs being shown at a ‘contest’ where the most inventive personages showed their wares.
Winner of the first place prize was Miss Millicent Rogers Woodhaven, Lady Adventuress. Sadly, I was unable to find out more about the young lady or her invention, which was most ingenious. Best contraption prize went to Meilin Wong, wearing a set of wings styled from window blinds, designed and built by her husband. Best makeup was by Sidney Eileen. Sidney is a member of the League of Proper Villains, a costumer and costume maker. Best Eastern went to Autumn Adamme.
Adamme, proprietress of Dark Garden Unique Corsetry. Best group went to RAF ensemble with masks by Tom Banwell who said ‘I conceived of the group only a few days before the con. I make Steampunk and gas masks and top hats and helmets as an art form, and was going to show several of them in the museum as part of the con. When I found out that my son and daughter-in-law would be attending, I suggested we all wear the masks and go as a group. My son, Erin Banwell, was our leader the Sentinel; my wife Jill Banwell wore Dr. Beulenpest, the Steampunk plague doctor; Erin’s wife Kristina Moreno wore the Rhino gas mask; and I wore the Olifant mask. All four of us work together in our leather mask business, and enjoy all things Steampunk.’

As the gathering concluded, I was able to capture several more images with my invention. It is my understanding that this is an annual event. Rest assured I will endeavor to unravel the secrecy of this group and keep you abreast of their movements.”

*Transcribers’ note: As it turns out, this was not secret society after all. It is an annual event and part of the Nova Albion Steampunk Exhibition. I didn’t have the heart to tell Fitz the truth. Poor chap.
Gallifrey One has quickly become one of the few events that I must attend every year unless unforeseen circumstances prevent me from going and not simply because I am pretty much known for cosplaying “The Doctor.” The event always manages to improve upon itself from previous conventions that I have attended or heard about. In addition, the organizers are willing to abandon things that do not seem to work.

In getting prepared for the convention, Jean and I planned to try to take the day off to drive down to not have to check into the hotel at 2:00 a.m., but plans did not work out that way.
We left on the Thursday before the convention at about 7:00 p.m. and had to drive through the rain and possibly snow in the mountains on the way to Los Angeles.

We finally did arrive and were tired and said hello to a few people as we got stuff loaded up onto a baggage cart. Lobbycon was in full force and you could already feel the energy of the fans in attendance. It was something that I had heard about but was never able to experience. Jean and I finally went to bed at around 2:30 a.m. or so.

The first day was pretty amazing even though we slept in for a good bit. When we finally made our way back down, it was amazing to see a very large number of people actually in costume. There were plenty of Eleventh Doctors and Amy Ponds, but there was also a large number of people doing companions, enemies and other Time Lords other than the Doctor. There was even a good number of old school characters being represented, especially by younger people at the convention. There were an Ace, a group of teenaged boys doing the first appearance of the Time Lords in “The War Games,” the same woman doing Peri Brown and Leela and a woman doing the Rani.

Lolita Doctor and Daleks

John Levene and the Eleventh Doctor

by Jean Martin

by Jean Martin
Another big costuming trend this year was the “femme” version of male characters. There were several “femme” Doctors including a wonderful Eight, a brilliant (and garish) Six, and a few Elevens and Tens, and even a Four. The other trend that I noticed was a “cutesy” or “Lolita” style with a group of teens doing Daleks and a TARDIS with a lot of lace and trim. To add to the confusion even more, there were several non-Whoish characters that were spotted, including Avon and Supreme Commander Servalan from Blake’s 7, Marty McFly, Master Chief from Halo, and Hellboy.

The big highlight of the convention besides the celebrity guests was the taping of a segment of The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson. Guest correspondent Chris Hardwick was onsite with an intern and a camera crew to film clips for the show featuring the convention. Jean and I managed to get onscreen during the segment.

The Whovian celebrities were also out in full force this year with not only The Fifth Doctor himself, Peter Davison, but also his most known companions in Matthew Waterhouse (Adric), Nyssa (Sara Sutton) and Tegan Jovanka (Janet Fielding). John Levene (Sgt. Benton from UNIT), John

Chris Hardwick and the Tenth Doctor Comparing Sonic Screwdrivers  
by Jean Martin

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Fifth Doctor Companion Tegan  
by Jean Martin
Leeson (K-9), Ian McNiece (Winston Churchill from “Victory of the Daleks”) and Cush Jumbo (Louis Habiba from “Torchwood: Children of Earth”) were also on hand this year. The fun part about a small convention devoted to a single theme or show is that you get to interact with the celebrities outside of the signing booths and the like. I was able to say “hello” to John Levene and show him the Eleventh Doctor’s sonic screwdriver as well as chat about our interaction from Comic-Con when he politely crashed the Doctor Who gathering there. I also got to talk to Cush Jumbo in the elevator on Sunday morning when I was dressed as the Third Doctor and we talked a bit about her experiences in fan conventions. I even found out that Janet Fielding was staying on the same floor as Jean and I when I was going back to our room and Janet came out of her room and was dashing down the hallway.

One of the new ideas at the convention was photos with the celebrities. For a fee, you could get a photograph professionally taken with the celebrities. It was actually rather nice in that you didn’t have to rely on a random stranger taking your photo and hoping that it would come out nicely. The other new thing was rather than have a mad crush for signings, they had a “flyaway” system where you would get a randomly assigned group number. It seemed to work well, but there were complaints about how the system worked. The convention did at least make it convenient by having multiple signings for each celebrity.

The masquerade was again a not-to-be-missed event. It was hosted by Tadao Tomomatsu and Patrick Beckstead. Our friends Bryan Little and Mette Hedin were two of the judges and they were incredible costumes, Sutekh the Destroyer (from the classic series) and a Silurian (from the new series). There were a lot of wonderful entries this year including the Best in Show winner, Kevin Roche (also from the Bay Area), with his Tiki Dalek creation. The design was appropriate for the theme of the convention this year, “Islands of Mystery.”
The party room hosted by Merv and Judith (from our local Legion of Rassilon group) was again a major highlight. The theme this year was the National Gallery. The suite was done up to look like a museum with plenty of references to the Series/Season 5 including the Pandorica, the River Song message box, and flying fish from the Christmas special. The party even included a “gallery” of the works of Vincent Van Gough including the exploding TARDIS, the sunflower...
painting with Amy’s name, and the cathedral with the Krafayis creature. The party even had drinks themed to the museum setting including the Sunflower and the Blue Box.

The windup for the whole convention was the fabled Lobbycon. It was literally a party after the convention with food and beverages seemingly coming out of the TARDIS pantry. People were in costume and joined by some of the convention guests including Tony Lee (writer of the IDW Doctor Who comics). It was amazing seeing the lobby packed with people still going strong after three solid days of convention-going. The convention being so small compared to the larger ones like Fanime or WonderCon makes it feel all the more like a giant gathering of friends instead of a group of people just getting together for a bunch of panels, signings and the masquerade.
Free Comic Book Day (FCBD) on May 10th was amazing this year! It was one of our busiest days ever at both of my comic book stores. I set up and worked at the Mountain View store handing out the new comics, and chatting with many of the customers. This year we had a signing with the creators of the *Geronimo Stilton* graphic novels. This was our first kid-oriented signing at Lee’s Comics, and it turned out to be an absolute smash!

There were around 50 people lined up before our 10:00 a.m. opening. The store was full to capacity until the early evening. There was a long line of people making purchases for most of the day. The signing started at Noon. Soon, there was an even longer line for the signing than for the register. The artists, Michele Foschini, Leonardo Favia and Ennio Bufi, all direct from their homes in Italy, started a few minutes early, and stayed an hour and a half past their scheduled finishing time of 2:00 p.m.. Even more people still wanted to see them, but we eventually had to cut off the line as the artists were expected at my buddy Joe Ferrara’s excellent store, Atlantis Fantasyworld, later that day. When you are in Santa Cruz, make sure to stop by and see Joe, his lovely and charming wife Dottie, and his super-cool comic book store.

I make a point of giving out the free comics in front of the store. For one thing the event takes place in May, and the weather is usually quite nice. Also, doing things outside creates a buzz. We are in the largest and busiest regional centers within a seven-mile radius, with popular attractions such as Costco, Verizon, Pet Club, Office Max, Krispy Kreme and McDonalds, that generate thousands of visitors per day. In the morning I put up flags and a free comic book day banner. Those things coupled with the big crowds, attracts yet more waves of people that come over to see what all the fuss and hoopla is about. I try to take that opportunity to turn these new
folks on to comics. By giving the comics away outdoors, it also lets people know that there is absolutely no purchase necessary, and no strings attached. You don’t have to buy a thing to get a free comic. You don’t have to sign anything or join a mailing list. You don’t even have to come in to the store if you don’t want to. It was interesting to note that almost everyone did go into the store, even though the comics were being given away outdoors. About half the people were so interested in what was going on in the store that they went inside first, and only when they were done did they come back outside to select their free comics.

Our most popular sale items inside the store was our bargain books. Normally, we price them at 50 cents each, but for the sale, we marked them down to the price we used to charge a few years back, namely 25 cents. We put a lot of new stuff out throughout the day as well. We had plenty of cool books from the 1980s and 1990s from collections that we recently purchased that we kept stashed away in the back room just for the occasion. New stuff going into the bargain bins really whips the bargain hunters into a frenzy! There were a few hours where we had several people waiting on each of our 15 bins of quarter books. Many people also enjoyed our half-price sale on back issues and sets. We had a storewide discount of 10% off, and many people took the opportunity to stock up on new comics, and to expand their personal graphic novel library, and to buy gifts for friends and family.

I appreciate all the support in the way of purchases that people make from me on FCBD. The fact is that comic book dealers such as myself have to pay for the free comics that we give out. They cost around 25 cents each. Since my stores are busy, and well known, and have been around for such a long time, between the two stores we gave out over 6,000 free comics. That’s an expense of over $1,5000 right there. Add to that the printing and mailing of postcards, and the ads in the Metro, the Mercury News and the Daily post, and you have another $1,500. Add to that the staffing, and the discount given on the graphic novels that we have to replace, and you actually have a break-even proposition on one of our busiest days ever! I’m not complaining though. I think the event is wonderful for the future of comics. It really creates a buzz in the media. Free Comic Book day is in its 10th year now, and everybody seems to know about it. It’s all over the media. My
friend Joe Field, owner of Flying Colors in Concord, the creator of the event, was all over the place. I saw him on TV and in the papers. Joe is a real class act, and makes the ideal spokesman for the comic book industry. New comic book movies are opening up all the time. Thor is the #1 movie in the universe. Everyone wants to go to comic conventions, and the big ones are selling out in an instant. Comics have arrived in the mainstream in a big way!

It turns out that Geronimo Stilton is fantastically popular with kids. Word spread all around the Bay Area for the signing. We ran ads (along with other retailers in the Bay Area) in the Metro and the Mercury News. In addition, I ran ads in the Daily Post. I also sent out, and gave away thousands of postcards. All these ads featured news of the signing, and a delightful cartoon of the artists. Well, the news got around. Lots of families with kids stopped by. They brought Geronimo Stilton graphic novels in many different languages. I saw French, Spanish, Chinese, German and other editions. Lots of people asked me if I had any foreign editions for sale. Alas, I did not. The creators, Michele Foschini, Leonardo Favia and Ennio Bufi could not have been nicer. Michele spoke the most English of the three, and he was absolutely delightful. He was one of the friendliest, nicest, most charming guys I’ve ever met. He and the other artists made sure to make each person that came to see them feel special. Each one signed the books, and the artist, Ennio Bufi did wonderful free sketches for each person! Everyone who attended the event left with a huge grin on their face. These guys were like rock stars for the kids!

I wanted to note that several librarians approached me during the event. They had promoted the event to their children. One librarian had even made her own flier about the event to hand out to the kids. She’s a terrific person, and a big comic book fan. She’s helping to get great graphic novels into her library. She told me she could not keep the Geronimo Stilton graphic novels in stock. I hope to collaborate with her more in the future. I also heard from a bunch of people who told me that said they enjoyed the newsletter. Lots of people approached me and wished me a belated 50th birthday, and I really appreciate the good wishes.

As soon as the singing was over, I was approached by Tom Rollinger, a trained animation artist, who is just starting out as a published comic book artist. He asked if he could do a signing on FCBD. I figured, “why wait a year?,” so I
immediately set up a table for him outside, right next to the counter where we were giving out the free comics. Soon he was sketching away for free for anyone who asked, and charming the fans. I saw him doing delightful sketches of Iron Man, Flash and Superman. He was hard at work when I finally had to tear myself away and go home after an exciting, but exhausting 12-hour day. (Setting up the day before had been a 14-hour day.) Next year, we are going to try to make it even better. It’s going to be tough, because the bar has been raised. I’m still buzzing with a head full of ideas on how to make it even better. I’m going to write them down, and put them in a file to consult a few months before next year’s FCBD.

I noticed that a lot of people take the opportunity to make a tour of Bay Area stores during FCBD. Many of the stores host events and sales along with the free comics. This helps to create a very special day for comic book fans. One store, Black Cat comics in Milpitas was giving out a sticker that said “I got my free comics.” The sticker looked like the “I voted” sticker you get when you cast your ballot. Even though Milpitas is quite a distance from Mountain View, I saw people wearing those stickers throughout the day. I thought that was a great idea. Me and my friend and helper for the day, Mark Arnold came up with some ideas for our own sticker for next year.

I hoped that this event would take on that kind of fraternal order among comics retailers, and I believe that this has happened in a big way. Years ago I tried to promote that notion by conceiving and organizing full-page color gang ads in the leading Silicon Valley Newspapers, the Mercury News and the Metro. They are open to any dealer who wanted to participate,
and most of the dealers take advantage of this as a way to get maximum coverage for FCBD for a very modest investment. Generally the newspapers get in on the act and do articles and features on FCBD, and comics in general. I like to think that this annual promotion has helped raise the profile of the event in the area, and even perhaps comics themselves. Everyone is pulling together for a common purpose. It’s a rising tide that lifts all boats. This is a very good thing, especially if your boat is sound.

In addition to the regular free comic books, Dan Vado publisher of *Slave Labor* donated a truck load of graphic novels and comic books. That very generous act allowed us to present an additional huge buffet table of free stuff for the huge crowds. On this table there was no limit whatsoever that people were allowed to take. We had just as many free comic books from *Slave Labor* as all the other free books combined! This brought the excitement level up a notch. Hats off to Dan Vado and *Slave Labor*!
Meeting 1082

April 25, 2011

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

Began at 8:00 pm - with much whooping
24 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes for meeting 1081 were accepted as “go go Godzilla!”
There was no Treasurer or Treasurer’s report
The VP reported that there is a new Drink Tank & the next Drink Tank after that will be about Forbidden Planet & he got nominated for a “couple of Hugos” and MO also got nominated for a Hugo and for next Easter he will be the Fanzine GoH at MiniCon
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Sports Committee ninja reminds that the Giants outing will be real soon - Friday, May 6, at AT&T Park

A motion was made to establish a regular discussion time and the sense of the meeting was positive, so Chris and Bruce then formed the “Discussion Committee”
Ken & Geri present bottles of wine to Chris and Mo to congratulate their Hugo nominations
Chris moved to have the “space clam” named the BASFA club mascot, but this failed
Announcements

Ed announced that he saw Michael Wallis at an ERPs meeting and that Wallis’ mom has a Worldcon membership for sale.

Howeird announced that May 7 is Trains Day & announced that tomorrow he is having a heart test done & positive thoughts will be appreciated & announced that he brought experimental pickles for tasting & auction.

Ken announced that the Legion of Rasselon meeting will be this Friday at the usual place and time [7:30pm, 1st & Trimble].

Mike announced that there’ll be a Doug Young guitar night at the Mission City Coffee Roasting Company in Santa Clara [2221 the Alameda] - on Sunday, May 1, 7-9pm for $5.

Reviews

Valerie reviewed the Pop Culture Association Conference as there were a lot of papers delivered there and it was a friendly gathering.

[evil] Kevin reviewed the 1st new episode of this season’s Dr Who as very dark and he recommends it & Andy follow-on’s that [redacted] and others spoke a bit.

Chris reviewed his own voice as worth full price & reviewed Scream 4 as it had some problems - like the script - but he liked the short skirts in it & reviewed a customer last Sunday as “best customer EVAR” & reviewed re-watching Twi stuff had him try to re-read Twi 3 and -stopped,- wondering “the HELL?!?” and made reading Breaking Dawn the equivalent of Dostoevsky.

Julie was left stunned by this but still managed to review her new toy - a bluray player with a Netflix package as definitely worth the price she paid for it.

Andy reviewed a blog, Adventures with the Wife in time - a couple blogging about watching the full Dr Who run as utterly brilliant, completely cracktacular & recommends following it.

We did auctions: a book for $2.00; yummy pickles for $2.00; candy for $0.25, $0.25, $1.00 & $0.50.

We adjourned at 9:38 pm.

Rumor of the Week: “we will rouse from our coma to give at least 1 more rumor”

Meeting 1083

May 2, 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 8:02 pm - with me still missing Stellan
23 people attended
The minutes for meeting 1082 were accepted as “Donald Trump’s toupee”

The Treasurer reported that he has the tickets - and that at meeting 1081 we took in $9.50 in the regular jar & $15.50 in the party jar, while at meeting 1082 we took in $3.00 in the regular jar & $15.25 in the party jar.

There was no VP or VP report.
The President reported that TNT is showing “movies you like” and a lot of them are SF.

Glenn proposed a motion to alter the Numismatic Responsibility Act and this was voted down.

**Announcements**

Bob announced that today is the 400th anniversary of the printing of the King James bible & the birthday of Roberts [of Robert’s Rule of Order fame]

Ed announced that he saw Walter Willis’ mom has a Worldcon membership for sale.

Lisa announced that there will be a Mythcon in 2012. [The Important part of the Mythcon 2012 announcement was that it would be in Berkeley, at the Clark Kerr Campus. Which means that locals can attend. We start seriously selling memberships at Baycon. $60 for MythSoc Members; $75 for non members. Payment information will eventually be at: www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/]

Dave C announced that - as it is now May 2nd - that the April Cargo Cult is now out.

**Reviews**

Harold reviewed his Death Valley trip as he drove some awful roads there - and when 4-wheel drive vehicles are recommended there - that they are serious, visited Darwin Falls and found it to be a giant wildlife litter box, that it was $208 a day and gas cost $5.67 a gallon and recommended the trip to all; he also reviewed gastric bypass surgery as a work in progress & expensive.

Ed reviewed John Ringo’s book Citadel as very readable & worth hardback & he reviewed highway 9 as another difficult drive.

Diane reviewed Hamilton’s Starwolf trilogy as worth full BASFA auction price & that it’s back on the auction block again.

Glenn reviewed Guy Gavriel Kay’s The Sarantine Mosaic - a 2-book series - as he adores Kay’s writing & reviewed Kay’s Ysabel book as he loves Kay’s writing & reviewed Patricia McKillip’s book The Bards of Bone Plain as very interesting & she does wonderful descriptions - worth full price hardcover & he reviewed flying to Norwescon by private plane as - wonderful! - a 4-hour flight and no TSA.

[tall] Kevin reviewed his trip to England as he met fluff plush Cthulhu; that Cheryl misses us greatly [WE MISS HER!] - that the trip was well worth it & he got upgraded to a lovely room with an outside deck, that he saw Bristol with Cheryl, who showed him trains, visited Trowbridge; went to Eastercon & enjoyed the trip very much, plus got taken out to dinner by Charlie Stross [lucky!] - and his entire trip was worth what he paid for it.

Bruce reviewed Transcendent Man - a documentary on the life & ideas of Ray Kurzweil - as very worth seeing.

Dave C reviewed Norwescon as he spent most of his time in the Dealer’s Room, that parties were hard to find & that the con seems to be on its way back & fans praised his T-shirt of power the day he wore it [hail Invader Zim!] & he saw the Bullwinkles there - but it was closed Monday.

Lisa reviewed the latest episode of Dr Who as it leaves more questions than it answers & is promising.

Ken reviewed Lolcats as currently describing how preferential voting works.

Adrienne reviewed the royal wedding as beautiful.
We did auctions: books for $1.50, $0.25, $0.25 & $0.50; a magazine for $0.25; chips for $0.25 & a video for $1.00
We adjourned at 9:59 pm
Rumor of the Week: “we’re exhausted”

Meeting 1084

May 9, 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

President and secretary were absent
Vice President presiding
Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker
Began with abrupt punctuality at 8:00 p.m.
23 people attended
We established a party jar
Minutes for meeting 1083 were accepted as a maze of twisty little sentences all different
Treasurer reported that last week we took $18.75 in the general fund; 0¢ in the party jar
VP reported a new Drink Tank is out with a cover by our Hugo-nominated MO. He’s currently putting together his “Handicapping the Hugos” ish and the Dune issue of Journey Planet is out.

The president had nothing fannish to report, since he wasn’t there.
Sports committee reported it was a cold night at AT&T Park last Friday and there will be a Star Wars night. There are no plans to arrange a special group for BASFA.

Announcements
Glenn reminded everyone that Westercon 64 is happening on Independence Day weekend. For more details, please go to: www.westercon64.org/
Bruce says that Google Earth is looking at skies now. Go to cache.gawker.com/assets/images/gizmado/2011/05/hkwef.jpg for that.
Lisa announced that Mythcon memberships will be on sale at BayCon. Details can be found at: www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/43. [Mythcon 43 is in Berkeley, August 2012, and we have even just had a soft opening of our website. Join early and often. :)]
Dave C. announced that the National Theatre will be doing Frankenstein at various locations around the Bay Area.
On May 21 the world is going to end and he thanks familyradio.com for scheduling it on the weekend.
Ken announced he’s doing a “Mayhem” show on KFJC this Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Reviews
Valerie thought that the Hunger Games books were an enjoyable post apocalyptic trilogy.
Glenn said that up next on sports.com has some really amusing videos.
Leprecon was a real relaxed convention and pleasant. Nothing bad happened to him enroute when he was being patted down by the TSA. He had a good time in Arizona.

Adrienne reviewed the 1951 movie *Rhubarb* as worth seeing. The animals give amazing performances and it has a very young Leonard Nimoy playing one of the ball players.

Harold said the Mosley fight was really boring.

Carole reviewed CostumeCon in New Jersey as decent, but she had an issue with one of the masquerade judges. The next CostumeCon will be in Phoenix.

Andy was non-committal about his Continental flight. Their Tiki Dalek won an award and has been invited to be an exhibit at Renovation. He said CostumeCon was worth going to Hasbrook Heights, NJ.

Kevin judged the historical masquerade and despite feeling a little out of his element, was aware of details the others weren’t. He doesn’t want to do this every year.

MO reviewed an exhibit at ATAP (All Things Are Possible) as remarkable. Eight students were given the same art assignment and seeing how they interpreted it was put on display. She was impressed and highly recommends it. It’s small and open to the public. Really worth full price.

Dann says a YouTube video called *Swing Girls* is awesome and well worth looking up.

Fred went to a SF in SF gathering and highly recommends it.

Chris saw *Thor* and enjoyed it until he saw J. Michael Straczynski did the story. Worth a little better than matinee.

He thought *A Fistful of Paintballs* on Community is the greatest TV episode ever.

He also said that another YouTube video, *Roll a D6*, is genius and worth having a computer.

We did auctions.

Rumor of the Week:

“It will be picking marine mammal out of its teeth for decades.”

Adjourned 9:41 p.m.

**Meeting 1085**

May 16, 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 8:00 pm - with Trey being wrong
We established a party jar
26 people attended
The minutes for meeting 1084 were accepted as “Contiki 2 - invasion of the daleks”

The Treasurer reported that at meeting 1084 we took in $6.50 in the regular jar & $20.00 in the party jar
The VP reported that the *Drink Tank* handicapping the Hugos is out & on efanzines.com - that the *Dune* issue of *Journey Planet* should be out soon, as should another *Drink Tank*

The President had nothing fannish to report
The Sports Committee reminded us that Sept 4 is Star Wars night for the SF Giants
A motion was proposed and postponed indefinitely
A motion was proposed and voted down

**Announcements**

Andy announced that hotel reservations have opened for FurCon but not yet filled because of new requirements & that they have a room on the party floor & are planning a Dr Moreau themed party

Ken announced that the Gallifrey room block opens this Friday

Chris announced that Linda says “hi” & that June 15, 7:30pm at the Bluelight theatre will show a simulcast of *Company* with an awesome cast

[tall] Kevin made a comment comparing parliamentary procedure and the game “Fluxx” & then regretfully announced that *Salon Futura* is going on hiatus

**Reviews**

Dave C reviewed *Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Hunter* as revelatory & worth reading

Diane reviewed *Dragongirl of Pern* as very well written & she recommended it [Howeird commented that it sounded “Pernographic” and we all groaned]; then she reviewed *Finder* by Terri Lynne DeFino as very nicely written and worth full price

Tom reviewed a surf show as stirring and enjoyable

Adrienne reviewed the remastering of old James Bond movie soundtracks as highly recommended with extra material & well worth repurchasing & she’s going back for more

Fred reviewed *This Movie is not yet Rated* on DVD as highly recommended, if only for the commentary track and suggests everyone buy the DVD

[tall] Kevin reviewed the Carson City [NV] Railway Museum as it’s supposed to be opened on Mondays & if you’re interested in the subject matter you’ll enjoy it a lot & he reviewed staying at the Atlantis in Reno was well-priced and he’s blogging about it on LJ

Chris reviewed *Bridesmaid* as disappointing - except for the porcupine - and worth full porcupine & reviewed the *Hundred Thousand Kingdoms* by NK Jemisin as “meh” & reviewed *Dervish House* by Ian MacDonald as absolutely fantastic and very Scottish & recommended highly & reviewed Eurovision as seen with several Irish drunken businessmen & interesting and he highly recommends it - and there were many follow-on’s

[evil] Kevin reviewed their Eurovision party as they held it down to 12 hours, it was very energetic - Moldova was robbed - and reviewed the latest Dr Who episode as excellent

I reviewed *Thor* as a lot better than I expected and worth full price - see it in 2D & there were follow-on’s

Mo reviewed weekend 2 of Open Artists studios in Cubberly as full of energy and excellent artists, then on Sunday she saw Terri Hill’s watercolors and thought them exquisite; Dann follow-on’d with praise for the watercolors

We did auctions: calendar for $0.75 & $1.25; books for $1.00, $0.50 & $0.10; a fantasy cookbook for $4.00; stuff from LACon 2 for $0.25; a CD for $1.00; dinosaur candles for $0.25; a frame for $0.50; a diorama for $0.10; a box for $0.25; magazines for $0.25, $0.75, $0.75, $1.00, $0.25 & $0.25 & a bag for $1.00

We adjourned at 9:56 pm

Rumor of the Week: “Barbara will be indicted for serial cheesecake slaughter”
Through 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 outside the existing limits and brought in many elements outside the Black experience: science fiction, elements of rock and world music, art movements, technology.

Sunday, 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

Thursday, June 9

Green Lantern Exhibition Preview: The Green Tie Event
Cartoon Art Museum
655 Mission St., San Francisco
cartoonart.org

Just in time for Green Lantern’s theatrical debut, the Cartoon Art Museum is presenting the first museum exhibition celebrating 70 years of DC Comics’ emerald knight! To celebrate the exhibition, the Cartoon Art Museum is hosting a once-in-a-lifetime “Green Tie” gala with original artwork and popular Green Lantern creators. Each purchased ticket includes an optional guest ticket.
10 a.m. $30

New listings are highlighted in red.
Ongoing events are toward the back.
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, June 18
The Tomorrowmen
Hotel Utah
500 4th Street (at Bryant), San Francisco
tmensurf.com
CD release party, with Pollo Del Mar and Motel Drive.
9 p.m. $10

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)

Monday, June 20
Forbidden Thrills Movie Night
Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge
1304 Lincoln, Alameda
www.thrillville.net
Cult Movies & Cocktails, hosted by Will the Thrill. All shows free, first feature starts @ 7:30 PM, second feature @ 9:15. Free Popcorn and Trivia Prizes. June’s films are The Beach Girls And The Monster (1965) & The Monster of Piedras Blancas (1958)
7:30 p.m. Free

Saturday, June 25
The Phenomenauts
Mutiny M.F.B.
422 W. Second St, Antioch
www.phenomenauts.com
21+
9 p.m. $10

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 1-2
Dr. Horrible’s Sing-Along Blog Live!
Sierra 2 Center,
24th Street Sacramento
www.amberssweets.com
Amber’s Sweets live shadowcast performance
Check website for tickets and showtimes

Friday-Monday, July 1-4
Westercon 64
The Fairmont
170 South Market Street, San Jose
www.westercon64.org
GOHs: Patricia A. McKillip, Kaja and Phil Folgio, Mike Willmoth
$65
Monday, July 11

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; Margarita Marinova (NASA) on “Exploring University Valley in Antarctica”, Jack Eric Grossman, Anisha Jain, Laura Martini and James Thompson (Stanford University) on “Boutique for Robots” Randal Koene on “Why and how to transition from wet-ware to substrate-independent minds” and Pamela Z (Multimedia artist) on “Baggage Allowance”. Admission is free but limited. Please RSVP to p@scaruffi.com
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 14

Author: Gail Carriger
Keplers Books
1010 El Camino Real Menlo Park, CA 94025
www.keplers.com
Carriger promotes the latest book in the Parasol Protectorate series, Heartless.
7 p.m.

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

Monday, July 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. June’s films are Hot Rod Girl (1956) & Hot Rods to Hell (1967)
7:30 p.m. Free

Friday-Saturday, July 22-24

AnimeiCon
Monterey County Fairgrounds
2004 Fairgrounds Rd Monterey
animeicon.org
Anime convention.
$45 (till June 10)

Friday, July 29

The Phenomenauts
The Phoenix Theater
201 Washington St, Petaluma
www.phenomenauts.com
With the Tornado Riders
7:30 p.m. $12

Friday, August 5

The Phenomenauts
Carbone’s Bar and Billards
214 Lighthouse Ave, Monterey
www.phenomenauts.com
Tobin’s birthday celebration, 21+
9 p.m. Free

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

The Phenomenauts
The Avalon
777 Lawrence Expy, Santa Clara
www.phenomenauts.com
ciderup and man down productions present The Phenomenauts, Plan 9, Shitkickers, The Sugar Daddys, Culo a Boca and Trashannon
7:30 p.m. $15
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 sites look as period as possible (Please note that the event is not a potluck) Suggested costume for the event is summer afternoon dress (1900 - 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. $5

**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

**Can’t Stop the Serenity 2011**
The Victoria Theater
2961 16th Street. San Francisco
www.sfcests2011.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

**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. June’s films are A Bucket of Blood (1959) & The Rebel Set (1959)
7:30 p.m. Free

**Friday-Sunday, September 2-4**

**Sac-Anime**
Radisson Hotel Sacramento
500 Leisure Lane
Sacramento, CA 95815
www.sacconventions.com
Originally a strictly comic book show, this convention has grown to encompass all forms of pop-culture entertainment, with a large emphasis on anime & manga.
$25 (till June 30)
Friday-Monday, September 2-5

Pacificon Game Expo
Santa Clara Marriott
2700 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara
www.con-quest.com
Gaming convention
$50

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

Monday, September 19

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. June’s films are Reform School Girl (1957) & How To Make a Monster (1958)
7:30 p.m. Free

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

Friday-Sunday, October 21-23

*Yaoi-Con*
San Francisco Airport Marriott
1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
www.yaoicon.com
A celebration of male passion and beauty in anime and manga. The theme for this year is Cowboys. 18+
$55 (till September 21)

Monday, October 24

*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. June’s films are *The Braniac* (1962) & *Curse of the Aztec Mummy* (1959)
7:30 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)

Saturday, November 12

*SFinSF: Kim Stanley Robinson & Cecelia Holland*
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

Monday, November 21

*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. June’s films are *Attack of the Crab Monsters* (1957) & *The Flesh Eaters* (1964)
7:30 p.m. Free

Monday, December 19

*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. June’s films are *The Braniac* (1962) & *Curse of the Aztec Mummy* (1959)
7:30 p.m. Free
**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/

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

**Friday-Sunday, February 24-26, 2012**

*Potlatch 21*

Best Western Executive Inn  
Seattle  
potlatch-sf.org

Literary SF convention. Alternates between SF Bay Area and Seattle.

**Friday-Sunday, March 2-4, 2012**

*Consonance*

Hilton Newark/Fremont  
39900 Balentine Drive, Newark  
www.consonance.org

$45 (till December 31)

**Friday-Sunday, August 3-6, 2012**

*Mythcon 43*

Clark Kerr Conference Center  
2601 Warring St, Berkeley  
www.mythsoc.org

The annual conference of the Mythopoeic Society. GOH: Grace Lin, G. Ronald Murphy

Details TBA

**San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour**

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel  
1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco  
www.sfghosthunt.com

7-10 p.m. (Closed Tuesdays)  
$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. 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.

**Ongoing**

**Daily**

**Cartoon Art Museum**

655 Mission Street, San Francisco  
cartoonart.org

Current exhibitions include: *From Bloom County to Mars* through June 19.  
11-5 p.m. (Closed Mondays)  
$6
**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.  
Free

**Mondays**

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

**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.
7 p.m. to midnight Free

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

**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.

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

**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
foothill.anime.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.silicongulchbrowncoats.org
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.
Noon - 2 p.m. Free
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<th>Event</th>
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<td><em>Rocky Horror Picture Show</em></td>
<td>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</td>
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<td><em>QSF&amp;F Book Club</em></td>
<td>Borderlands Books&lt;br&gt;866 Valencia, San Francisco&lt;br&gt;www.qsfandf.com&lt;br&gt;Meets the second Sunday of the month. 5 p.m. Free</td>
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<td><em>East Bay Star Wars Club</em></td>
<td>Central Perk&lt;br&gt;10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito&lt;br&gt;510-558-7375&lt;br&gt;www.ebstarwars.com&lt;br&gt;Meets the second Friday of every month. 7:30 p.m. Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Fantastic Frontiers</em></td>
<td>Social club for Sacramento County sci-fi/fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.</td>
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<td><em>No-Name Anime</em></td>
<td>Saratoga Library&lt;br&gt;13650 Saratoga Avenue&lt;br&gt;Saratoga&lt;br&gt;www.nnanime.com&lt;br&gt;Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month. Free</td>
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<td><em>SF Browncoats</em></td>
<td>Cafe Murano&lt;br&gt;1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco&lt;br&gt;www.sfbrowncoats.com&lt;br&gt;SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month. Noon Free</td>
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<td><em>Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club</em></td>
<td>Borderlands Books&lt;br&gt;866 Valencia, San Francisco&lt;br&gt;www.borderlands-books.com&lt;br&gt;Meets the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Jude at <a href="mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com">jfeldman@borderlands-books.com</a> for more information. 6 p.m. Free</td>
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<td><em>USS Defiance</em></td>
<td>5026 Don Julio Blvd, Sacramento&lt;br&gt;1566 Howe Ave, Sacramento&lt;br&gt;www.myspace.com/d2121978&lt;br&gt;Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month. 7 p.m. Free</td>
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<td><em>Micro Gods, Inc.</em></td>
<td>Berkeley Public Library, West Branch&lt;br&gt;1125 University Ave, Berkeley&lt;br&gt;mgisciaf.angelfire.com&lt;br&gt;groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/&lt;br&gt;Family Club for fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Movie, Anime &amp; Manga. Meets every 3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for updates. 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free</td>
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<td><em>USS Northern Lights</em></td>
<td>Contact <a href="mailto:firstjedi2000@yahoo.com">firstjedi2000@yahoo.com</a> for specifics.&lt;br&gt;sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights&lt;br&gt;'Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International and a swell group of science fiction fans. We do more than Trek. Usually meets the third Saturday of the month, with social event TBD. 7 p.m. Free</td>
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<td><em>Religion &amp; SF Book Club</em></td>
<td>First United Methodist Church&lt;br&gt;1183 “B” Street, Hayward&lt;br&gt;Meets the 4th Sunday of the month. Please contact Rev. Randy Smith at <a href="mailto:RSmith2678@aol.com">RSmith2678@aol.com</a> for more information. 7 p.m. Free</td>
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<td><em>Other Realms Book Club</em></td>
<td>Books, Inc.&lt;br&gt;1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame&lt;br&gt;www.booksinc.net/localinterest/291027&lt;br&gt;Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month. 6:30 p.m. Free</td>
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<td><strong>Legion of Rassilon</strong></td>
<td><strong>USS Augusta Ada</strong></td>
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<td>Carl’s Jr.</td>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
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<td>2551 N 1st St, San Jose</td>
<td>3567 Geary Blvd, San Francisco</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.legionofrassilon.org">www.legionofrassilon.org</a></td>
<td>trek.starshine.org</td>
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<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<th><strong>Sci-Fi Book Group with Kym</strong></th>
<th><strong>Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE</strong></th>
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<td>Barnes &amp; Noble</td>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
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<tr>
<td>6050 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito</td>
<td>4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento</td>
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<td>store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/event/3098113</td>
<td>916-338-2300</td>
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<td>Meets the fourth Friday of the month. The June book pick is <em>The Looking Glass Wars</em> by Frank Beddon. 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours. 6 p.m.</td>
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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
After the storm

by Lucy Huntzinger
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