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Art Credits

Cover Moon over San Francisco by Lucy Huntzinger
By Jean Martin  
*Editor-in-Chief*

My fandom activities got an early start this year with Gallifrey One, Nova Albion and Wondercon plus various other balls and events under my belt. But it has really kicked into high gear in May with the Big Wow! comic book convention (my first time at this one) and then the weekend after at BayCon and Fanime on Memorial Day weekend. Chris covered Big Wow! in SF/SF 118 and I promise to write about BayCon (my first time not going to BayCon the entire long weekend since 2004) and Fanime (my first time ever).

Then in June there was the PEERS Pirates Ball on June 4th. The ball was hugely successful and a lot of fun. Chris and I portrayed a pirate and vampire minion, respectively, in the “Vampires of the Caribbean” half-time show written by PEERS Artistic Director Cathleen Myers. The main cast included charismatic Charles as the vampire Sir Christopher Lee, Quinn as the drunk but swashbuckling Captain Jack Sparrow, Kathy as the plucky Elizabeth Swann and Christophe as her suitor Will Sparrow. The dancing and music were great.
and the costumes worn by participants and patrons were quite amazing.

It seems like the popularity of pirates is still quite high. As a couple of weekends later, there was another pirate event. This time the Pirate Festival in Vallejo. We went on June 18th and the weather was fine for costuming and walking outdoors. There were a lot of people and there was a lot to see. But since I’ve gone to this festival a few times in the past, it was more about seeing friends and, of course, buying costume bits and taking pictures. Chris wore his 11th Doctor outfit complete the “black spot” on his palm from the recent Doctor Who episode “Curse of the Black Spot.” I was going to wear a Pirate Amy Pond costume but couldn’t get it together in time so I went as a regular pirate. Well, I became a legitimate buccaneer after I took the oath in front of the Governor to mend my piratical ways.

July was a crazy busy month for me at work due to quarter-end projects. But I managed to get to Westercon for one day. España has a couple of articles in this issue that cover the hoax bid and some panels and parties, but I will have other things about this con in the next issue.

On July 15, my friend Thad organized a group of us to go see the last Harry Potter movie, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows 2. We went in costume, of course. It was a satisfying conclusion to the series of eight movies. I like all the movies to varying degrees but I do like the movies a lot more than the books. What I like most really is the world the characters inhabit and the opportunity to have some Cosplay fun with friends. This time, Thad wore a Hagrid costume, Chris and I were Ravenclaw students (as was Louise), Catherine was in a Quidditch costume, Pat and Matt were Slytherin, and Dale was Gryffindor. Does anyone ever do Hufflepuff? I wonder how the franchise will do now that the books and movies are all done. Time will tell if this is an enduring classic or a product of our increasingly trend-based society.

A couple of days later, we were off to see the “One Man Star Wars” show in San Jose. Yes, we went in costume for this one. One fantasy costume and one scifi costume in one weekend. It seems like every weekend there is a costumed event that we go to! I chose to go in my generic Jedi costume for the show. It’s a lot more comfortable than my Princess Leia costume, which I rarely wear too because it’s white and I don’t want it to get damaged. The show was funny and Charles Ross is an incredibly talented performer. However, I was even more impressed when he did a sample of his impersonation of Gollum/Smeagol from Lord of the Rings during his informal
discussion after his main performance of the *Star Wars* trilogy reduced to 20 minutes each. I hope he brings his “One Man Lord of the Rings” show to the Bay Area too.

On the small screen, I was enthralled by the recently concluded HBO series *Game of Thrones*. Titled after the first book of the *Song of Ice and Fire* novels by George R.R. Martin, it followed the novel quite closely but breathed so much more life into the world and characters. The book left me flat but the series captivated my attention and imagination. I can’t wait for the second season to come out. I hear the 9th Doctor, Christopher Eccleston, will be in it. As I said, I can’t wait. I wish I had a time travel machine so I can see this now!

*Camelot* on Starz seems interesting. I saw the first episode and I liked it. It’s now on Netflix Watch Instantly so I can see the rest of it. In the meantime, to crave my long-standing interest in all things Arthurian, I’ve been watching the less-impressive *Merlin*. I watched most of the first season hoping I would grow to like it but didn’t. I gave it more of a chance and I’ve actually enjoyed the episodes I’ve seen from the second and third seasons. Arthur and Uther are less annoying and Merlin is less pitiful. The stories have gotten more mature and darker too. So I’ll probably watch more of this.

I also just discovered a relatively new scifi British comedy in the vein of *Red Dwarf* called *Hyperdrive* with Nick Frost. I’ve seen one episode so far and it pushes the envelope on what’s acceptable humor on TV. But there are some fascinating elements in it and it’s hilarious in parts. So I’ll probably watch more of it.

Which leads me to the Americanized *Torchwood* on Starz. Yes, it’s awesome. Captain Jack, Gwen and Rhys from the British *Torchwood* are in it so it’s not much of a departure from the original. And did I say Captain Jack is in it? He is just such an entertaining character. The premise of the show is similar to a *Xena* episode called “Death in Chains” and it has the feel of *24* and *MI-5*. But the plot is believable and the pacing moves along well. The American characters are quite good too. Can’t wait to see more of it. I hope they wrap up the story by the end of the season though.

So, next time we’ll see all of you here is after Worldcon. I’m looking forward to it as I just got my panel schedule today. I’m in a fanzine panel, a couple of costuming panels and a panel on books. It’s going to be busy with that, all the dances sponsored by PEERS and other dance groups, and I’ll be participating in the masquerade too. Oh, and yes, the parties. I don’t know what to expect as it’s my first Worldcon but it would be great to meet new people and hang out with old friends.
By España Sheriff

Editor

This year I was expecting a decent Westercon, nothing massive certainly, but a step up from the “relaxacon” experience of past years in Pasadena and Las Vegas, where attendance was fairly low, at least partly due to the locations.

As it turned out, the convention was much more exciting than anyone expected. If you follow fannish politics at all, you probably already know the details, so I shan’t go into too much detail but the relatively short version is as follows:

Westercon, like Worldcon, is a convention which takes place in a different city each year. In order to decide which city will host it, different groups will “bid” for the privilege, usually throwing parties, setting up tables and otherwise promoting the virtues of their committee, location and so on at other conventions in the Westercon region. Voting takes place two years out, so this year in San Jose, we were choosing where to have the 2013 Westercon.

A month before the convention, Portland was running unopposed, which seemed fine until people started actually looking at their bid and finding a lack of solid information and disturbing absence from many of the usual promotional activities. In order to motivate Portland into a better showing, and because it would be fun, Kevin Roche and Andy Trembley created a hoax bid for Granzella, a location in Northern California unsuited to actually host a convention but thematically amusing.

Unfortunately, the Portland committee did not step up to the task and made a very poor showing at the so-called Fannish Inquisition, a morning panel in which the upcoming seated conventions and bids answer audience questions.

Although the 2012 Seattle Westercon and 2014 Utah bid, plus the Granzella and Route 66 2013 hoax bids, were at the meeting, the primary reason most people where there was to see Portland, which was expected to finally get the chance to show their mettle and assuage the growing concerns of potential voters.

Despite the warning signs, I honestly went to the morning meeting with every expectation that Portland would be fine, clueless about online marketing and a little tone deaf, but essentially sound. However, within a couple of minutes of them answering, or failing to answer questions, I was quite of another mind. The committee seemed vague at best on most issues and had no answers for questions and concerns that had been explicitly stated in the weeks running up to the convention. Absolute gimme answers that would have taken 15 minutes to hash out. As the meeting progressed, they also became defensive, at one point saying: “Well, if you don’t want to vote for Portland, then don’t.” So, I didn’t.

When the vote closed that evening, the totals were close, but Granzella won by a single vote, 42-41. Due to their status as an ineligible bid, the rules for Westercon meant that the thing would have to be settled in the Business Meeting taking
place the next morning. Once things go to the meeting it doesn’t matter who was bidding previously, anyone can present a bid. Location is also no longer an issue, since the point is to select a committee that is willing and able to run the event.

At this point, the Portland committee was there to try one more time to convince the voters they were competent to run Westercon should they win. Kevin and Andy, having discussed this potential eventuality on and off during the hoax process, had sat down after the vote and considered whether they really, truly could and should try make it happen. The answer was in the affirmative and so they presented themselves as a serious bid with the intention of holding the convention somewhere in “Olive Country” (a reference to the original Granzella hoax location, but probably Sacramento). In addition, the 2014 bid for Utah offered to move their event up by a year should no other bid gain the confidence of the voters. Lastly, a new group of mainly local SMOFs put forth a bid for Hawaii.

The meeting ran for three hours, with a lot of discussion and questions, and a minority but insistent push to declare a deadlock and send the decision to LASFS (who owns the Westercon trademark but is rumored to be disinterested in involving themselves in it, and possibly desirous of simply canceling the thing entirely). Disappointingly, the Portland committee had nothing new to say and stuck to repeating their previous unconvincing arguments and being defensive. Utah said straight up that they would rather have 2014 and Hawaii seemed to lose people when they admitted they had no plan, and little interest, of attempting to grow attendance. Olive Country did well in the first vote, far better than anyone else, but not quite the 3/4 majority necessary to win outright. The discussion continued and Kevin and Andy presented some key committee members, conjured up overnight, and demonstrated their serious intentions despite the origins of the bid. And aside from one rather rude member and some questionable phrasing from some Portland supporters, the proceedings where generally civilized.

The hero of the hour(s) though was indubitably Kevin Standlee who ran the meeting like a champ, making sure the rules were followed, everyone got heard and most importantly that the process was transparent throughout; explaining as each step went along so that those of us not familiar with the rules were clear on what was happening.

At long last a second vote was taken and this time Olive Country won by a solid margin. The room erupted in applause and we emerged squinting into the daylight like Logan 5. Solid plans for 2013 will have to wait until after this year’s Worldcon since Kevin and Andy are busy running the Masquerade there. But there is a website up at www.westercon66.org where you can find information of the current status and links to the Facebook and Twitter accounts.

The plan is for Sacramento as the host city, and all of those who voted and encouraged the bid once things got serious will be stepping up to staff, volunteer and otherwise support the convention, so I hope to see you all there. Because, like the committee for Olive Country, I believe Westercon should be awesome.
By España Sheriff

Editor

Site selection (see the Hoax Bid article in this same issue) was certainly not the only experience I had at Westercon. And as important as that was for the future of the convention, it would be a shame to ignore the solid job this year’s con did. Phil and Kaja Foglio (of Girl Genius fame) were as lovely as ever, and hearing Patricia McKillip read at the SFinSF event held at the convention was a rare treat. Cellist Unwoman played in the daytime Fanzine Lounge, and although I missed that, it was nice to get a chance to chat with her beforehand.

I was on a couple of last-minute panels when another panelist was unable to attend the convention and enjoyed them both. The first one was about female superheroes and involved some interesting input from the audience and at least one baffling comment from a co-panelist. The second, on corsets (and other options) in Steampunk was fun in its own way, although I learned a little too much about the long-term consequences of corset-wearing. I had also been scheduled for an art show docent tour but sadly missed it due to the Business Meeting running for so long.

After the meeting, a small group of us headed down the street to a wonderful little place called Single Barrel, which is a speakeasy-style bar with amazing handcrafted cocktails. I
had a basil gimlet that was unexpectedly perfect for the hot weather, and a cigar and tequila before heading back to the convention refreshed and inspired.

The parties were an improvement over the rather dismal showing at Baycon this year. I got to poke my head into the Worldcon bid parties for Spokane 2015, which was nice enough but thrown for a loop by a simple transit question (how to get there by transit) and London 2014, which was marvelous and got my pre-support on the spot, although we’ll see if I can make it. Although I got lazy with costuming, Leigh Ann finally completed the silver space girl dress she’s been promising me and I enjoyed showing that off.

But the bittersweet memory of the convention for me will undoubtedly be hosting the final Fanzine Lounge PM with Leigh Ann Hildebrand. Although it wasn’t really the same without co-conspirator Jason Schachat, it was still the end of an era and we made the most of it. Leigh Ann brought her ice grinder and made snow-cones (or a reasonable facsimile), which were a blessing as the party floor got busy and the air heated up. We stayed open late every night and saw the dawn come up on Sunday, tired but reluctant to close it down this one last time.
California Extreme

By Christopher J Garcia
Editor Emeritus

It’s been a few years since I made it out to California Extreme, the West Coast’s most awesome Arcade expo. In fact, I hadn’t been since it moved to the Santa Clara Hyatt, quickly replacing the DoubleTree as the epicenter for all things geek in the South Bay. I had a researcher from the University of Montreal coming, so I made sure I went along. Evelyn got herself a wristband too, and she declared that she preferred pinball to video games.

I almost cried!

The place was setup slightly oddly. There were sort of pods by types and kinds of games. There was hall made up of pinball machines of all kinds, a segment of them from the 1950s and 1960s, then a very modern area. These machines featured some of the classics, like Paul Bunyan, Taxi and Whirlwind, and a bunch of others. I spent a fair amount of time in there. Then it opened into an area of classic pins from the 1960s and 1970s. One, Amigo, had a slightly racist image of a sombrero-wearing Mexican fellow. Sadly, the game was pretty weak. In the section of games brought by the Pacific Pinball Museum was one of my all-time faves: Atlantis. I played it a bunch.

The best pin I had found in years passed was there again: Gottlieb’s BigHit baseball pinball machine. It’s such a fun pin and no one ever seems to love it like I do. I played it for more than an hour and managed to beat my personal best by scoring 59 runs. I am WIN!

This year, there were several games missing that are among the reasons I attended CAExtreme in the past. No Streetfighter II, for example, or Mortal Kombat. There were no wrestling games at all! I couldn’t find the Superman pin, a massive colossus of a machine that is one of the fastest playing fields I’ve ever encountered. No KISS pin, but that hasn’t been a fave in years. I did get to play a couple of the rarer machines that I’ve become fond of. World Series, not as cool as Big Hit, but fun. There was Flip-A-Card, a fun little early 1960s pin that felt like a lot more fun than it should have been.

The layout did lead to many small alcoves and that was not great traffic planning. The main section worked, but those cul-de-sacs led to congestion and some confusion along with overcrowding.

The evening for me was reserved for music. There were several bands scheduled to play as an event called 3rockage. The first was a gentleman named Jean Baudin who played a Chapman Stick. It’s a 12-stringed instrument that plays...
something like a guitar. It’s not a simple thing to play, and he did a few songs that sounded as if they were from video games, though I didn’t recognize them.

Next up was an act called Survival Guide. The lead singer, Emily Whitehurst, may or may not have been the former lead singer of Tsunami Bomb. The music sounded a bit like the soundtrack for a Sofia Coppola film, but I found it very pleasing and I bought the 7-inch and digital download. She was a doll and a half as far as lead singers go.

That was followed by Gnarboots. I think Gnarboots is best described as Dadaist Hip-Hop for the Masses. It’s pretty amazing to watch them, and you might get knocked around by all the antics. Some of them are tough tunes, some are really fun. They have a gimmick, though I keep seeing them change their tactics and that’s awesome. One part seems to be the traditional self-promotion raps of the 1980s, but it’s also rooted in Ska. It’s hard to call them a band, though they do play their instruments, but most of the time it’s pre-recorded music with them singing. And thrashing around. Lots of thrashing.

The next band was the best surprise. A_Rival is a rapper based out of San Francisco. He’s very 1989. He came out in a teal Member’s Only jacket. That’s right, it was obviously 1989 because when I was a freshman I totally remember that they introduced the teal and it was the hottest of all the Members Only jackets at the time. He had his DJ and his hype man was a woman, who was also his dancer. The music was fun, nice flow and rhyme, but the really cool part was when his dancer did her break-down and then he joined her in an awesome synchronized dance segment. I was so happy! That was the win as far as I was concerned. I bought the A_Rival CD and am digging it. Their 8-bit musical stylings are awesome and it doesn’t feel quite like Nerdcore, even though I know it is.

The final act that I saw was The Phenomenauts. They are the science fiction supergroup and some awesome stageshow along with hot rockin’ psychobilly! The guys opened the how with a blast of their smoke machine. The room was tiny and the smoke machine sent a massive amount of smoke, completely obscuring the band for about 20 seconds. They kept playing the entire time and rocked hard! I had to stand up from my traditional back of the room segment and had to move a little. That’s how amazing it was.

I missed the rest of the bands, which included 8-Bit Weapon and Computeher and The Megas. I wish I could have stayed but what can I say… I turn into a pumpkin come 11pm!

All in all, it was well-worth it and the concert was a great add-on. I hope that next year I’ll get a chance and have all the time in the world to play my fave pins and video games, and maybe even Birkball, the rolling game that is sweeping the nation… but more on that in the next issue!
By Christopher Erickson

Staff Writer

I have had the good fortune of seeing the “One-Man Star Wars Trilogy” performed by Charlie Ross twice before. Both times the performance was at the Post Street Theater at the Kensington Park Hotel in San Francisco. The venue was a nice small off-Broadway-style theater of about 700 seats that helped give it an intimate feel.

This time around, the show was being staged at the San Jose Repertory Theater in downtown San Jose. The theater capacity is a little smaller (around 500), but the performance was no less wonderful. This added to the atmosphere of camaraderie among the group of fans that were at the performance that we attended last July 17. The theater was a better setup actually having a balcony section and was more of a rotunda style than the Post Street Theater. The setting eliminated any obscured views that Post Street had.

A group of friends and I went to see the show on the last day of his limited-run performance. We all decided to dress in costume complete with props. There were several other people in the audience wearing costumes including a few children and others wearing Star Wars t-shirts. The bar inside the theater building was even renamed Mos Eisley Cantina for the run of the show. Psycho Donuts nearby also got into the spirit of the show by advertising their Wookie donuts, which decided to partake of. The verdict on the Chewie Dough and Wookie Balls: delicious).
Charlie Ross’s show consists of just himself doing all of the characters and sound effects with only simple stage lighting to enhance the performance. He condenses each movie down to the basic classic moments with some commentary on the moments to add even more comic effect. The show is both a mocking tribute and fanboy love letter to the films. His humor only derives from his delivery and the typical fan comments that you might have without crossing into putdowns or snarky criticisms. There was even some nice ad-libs thrown in about Dionne Warwick and her hit “Do You Know The Way To San Jose?,” a reference to *The Phantom Menace* being released on Blu-Ray, 4 years of mime school and mention of Spock.

The reaction to his show was spirited. The entire audience laughed and he got a standing ovation from the crowd. He was even light-saber saluted by our group, which he acknowledged with a bow of his head.

For an encore, Charlie Ross explained how his show was created. It started out as a 20-minute comedy sketch and how he expanded upon it after the positive reaction he got the first time he performed it. The skit started touring for a while and then he even managed to get an interview with National Public Radio. This led to him being contacted by LucasFilm to create the show as an official project, where he performed at Comic-Con in front of a crowd of 4,000 people. He then also explained that he has been working on a similar version of this show for a “One-Man Lord of the Rings” and performed the scene of Smeagol/Gollum arguing with himself.

The “One-Man Star Wars Trilogy” has been highly successful, touring around the world to diverse locations such as the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia and Ireland. The skit shows no signs of slowing down anytime soon and should be enjoyed by audiences for years to come.
By España Sheriff

Some authors make a place inside your brain so that you feel you’ve always known them. This is an illusion of course, they’re real people with an existence outside of their fiction, but the idea is oddly persuasive, so much so that when I first considered buying my ticket for one of the American Gods 10th Anniversary book tour events I had to stop and think hard whether I had ever seen or met Neil Gaiman. Surely I must have?

But no, I’ve read his books and comics (although Sandman only very recently) and I follow him on Twitter. I’ve seen the movies based on his work, Stardust in particular charming me immensely. I’ve heard him on podcasts and reading his own work, the CDs for Fragile Things sit on my shelf, and “Forbidden Brides of the Faceless Slaves in the Secret House of the Night of Dread Desire” never, ever gets old. And he’s a presence in the circles I pay attention to and sometimes travel in, a fellow traveler if you will. But I have not, in fact, ever seen him in person. How odd.

So I got the ticket and headed to Berkeley last June 27, crossing a tunnel for an event! If you’re a San Franciscan, you know how momentous this is. Not just that, it was on a Monday. I had planned to go to Death Guild with some friends, so I had to plan my outfit accordingly. Fortunately, casual Goth looks pretty much like Gaiman cosplay so that worked out fine in a creepy fan sort of way.
The line was long and the lack of organization from the folks running the event a bit surprising, but eventually we were all seated in the lovely, brightly decorated First Congregational Church, which had flame-colored banners hanging from the ceiling and a brilliant stained glass window in the nave. Being a rock star of the genre, he of course had an opening act. In this particular case a local singer by the name of Zoe Boebinder who played guitar and did some live looping.

Another surprise, which I only found out via Twitter while already seated was that Adam Savage, of Mythbusters fame, would be conducting the interview. He did a great job of it and besides clearly having a good rapport with Gaiman, knows Gaiman’s work and often referenced specific scenes in *American Gods* with phrases like “my favorite bit was.”

Gaiman then took audience questions, each of which he answered thoughtfully regardless of their content or whether he must have heard them before. He is clearly one of those authors who interacts well with an audience primarily because he is honestly interested in the conversation. He comes across as warm and funny but more than that as a fellow geek, and nowhere was this more clear than when the conversation turned to *Doctor Who*. Interesting as was he was talking about his own work and the process of writing *American Gods*, he truly lit up when talking about being on set and writing for the show, and his own memories and history with it prior to that. He also mentioned working on a novelization of “The Doctor’s Wife”, which would include backstory that did not make it into the episode.

He stood at the pulpit and read from *American Gods*, one of the scenes that I most vividly remembered, probably because it is set in San Francisco. Specifically, my old stomping grounds of Upper Haight, and deals with the sort of vague fashionable pagans I knew quite a few of around the time I first read the book.

He also talked a little about a John Cameron Mitchell’s working on a filmed version of “How to Talk to Girls at Parties”, his planned sequel to *Anansi Boys* and unplanned but living in his head prequels and/or sequels to various other works including *Stardust* and *Sandman*. He said he had no new information on the HBO adaptation of *American Gods* other than that it is in good hands.

Due to time constraints, he pre-signed books rather than staying after to do so. Normally, I don’t bother getting signed books unless they are personalized to me, and seeing his tweets (and later, photos) of the giant piles he had to sign, I felt a little guilty having signed up for the ticket+book, but I almost immediately reread it cover to cover taking precious time from my Hugo Voters Packet reading schedule and ruining any collectible-mintness of the hardcover, but it was utterly worth it to visit that world again.
Lloyd Penney writes:

It is three weeks or so until the Reno Worldcon, and we will be there, and we’ll finally meet. Jean, I think you’re on a panel with Yvonne on transporting costumes. Looks like we are all going to be very busy. So, I will be spending some time getting letters off to busy faneds before we all take the trip to Reno. With that in mind, here are comments on SF/SF 118.

Jean Martin responds:

Yes, I was excited to see that Yvonne and I will be in the same panel! I just recently moved my costumes to storage to make room for my fiancé and so I have a lot to share about organizing and storing. I literally took photos of all my costumes (so far), which previously took up 10 written pages. But with them off-site, I needed to know what I had in pictures instead of in words because I can’t just look into boxes as easily anymore. Anyway, it’ll be busy leading up to the con for me as well because I will be in a masquerade group that my friend is organizing.

Summer sure is here… we’ve had record temperatures here, up to 100°F, and heat index up to about 125°F. We do have warm summers, but we’re not used to it being that warm! Hurray for air conditioning and cooling centres scattered here and there. Our latest convention was Polaris 25, and there, we were dealers. We worked hard to create Harry Potter and Steampunk handicrafts, and some other goods for both interests, and we had amazing sales, over $700. We are really looking forward to Reno, especially with some of the programming. When I was working at the Ontario Association of Architects, I obtained Lev Grossman’s “The Magicians”, and I really enjoyed it. The events around the book and its sequel should be great fun. And, I hope you will enjoy this year’s Loscon, for soon I will be able to make an announcement about next year’s Loscon!

It’s been actually a cool summer for us in the Bay Area so far. But since I’ve been working a lot of overtime lately, I don’t feel like I’m missing out too much on summer fun in the outdoors. We do have late summers around here so I can’t wait till August and September when I can go to the beach!

It’s good to see that small comic shows can still make it, even with the San Diego behemoth, which starts today, if I recall. We’ve got Fan eXpo, which is next month, which gets about 50,000 people each year. Too big and busy for me. Worldcon’s more my speed. The Steampunk track at Dragoncon is attractive, but the con is too big.

Comic-Con isn’t even on my radar, and I was surprised to find out that Comic-Con was already coming up. I have a lot of friends who go and their posts are all over Facebook. I always feel like I’m missing out on something but then I remember how being in lines takes up more time than anything else, and that there are so many people, then I always come up with the conclusion that I don’t regret not going. Besides, seeing celebrities and previews don’t really excite me as much. They kind of do if I do get around to...
seeing these, but I wouldn’t necessarily go out of my way for the experience.

When we had our mini-Maker Faire in Toronto, it was a great time. I am hopeful it will return, but it was in a rather expensive area. We’re on the mailing list, and it’s also on Facebook, so we should get to the next one. (My favorite tech table was where a group of guys had connected an old teletype machine to Twitter, and was printing out their Twitter feed on the teletype. They could also send messages on Twitter via the teletype keyboard. Old and new tech can definitely work together.

There are so many creative people all over the world and it’s great to see the “maker”movement is everywhere.

My letter… it looks like, unfortunately, that in spite of good attendance, the Canadian National Steampunk Exhibition will be a one-shot. The job hunt is still on, and the resumes keep flowing out. And, we voted on the Hugos just last night.

Well, at least there will have been one national Steampunk convention. Canada is pretty big and it’s probably hard to organize one for the whole country.

Stay cool, everyone, and see you soon! Literally!

I can’t wait to meet you and Yvonne soon!
Meeting 1090

June 20, 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 pm - with a nod towards fascists & Chris Garcia officiating
We established a party jar
24 people attended
The minutes for meeting 1089 were accepted as “florally enhanced”

The Treasurer reported that at meeting 1089 we took in $28.71 in the regular jar & $41.75 in the party jar - and that Aatheus forgot the magazine he bought at BASFA auction last week
The VP almost had nothing fannish to report as there was no new Drink Tank out - but he is still looking for reviews of the Hugo nominated novels - send them to him at garcia@computerhistory.org
The President was not present

The Sports Committee reported that Star Wars at at the Giants will be Sept 4
It is possible that there will be a BASFA meeting at Coco’s on July 4

Announcements
Bob announced that there is a new e2PMI out on efanzines.com with a gorgeous Mo cover
Adrienne announced that there’s a “Chicago Ghost Conference III” Sept 30-Oct 1 at the Portage theatre, membership $35.00 & an $83.00 room rate at the Comfort Inn.

Dave C announced that Neil Gaiman is coming out to talk in California - but the event is already sold out.

[evil] Kevin announced that he has the jam with Alex up on his LJ from the IBM centennial & that he’ll be the Master of Ceremonies for the Westercon Masquerade - plus the Tiki Dalek was in the “Dr Who Insider”

Dann announced that starting July 6 and for the next 6 weeks there will be free concerts at the Santa Clara Central Park off Kiely Ave.

Ken announced that there will be a Legion of Rassilon meeting at the Carl’s Jr this Friday, 7:30 at 1st & Trimble.

Ed announced that Scalzi’s Fuzzy Nation was a good read.

Andy announced that an important olive-based fact will be published this Friday sometime on Twitter & Facebook.

Lisa announced that Westercon is in 2 weeks & there will likely be a BASFA meeting at the bar at 6pm - then [tall] Kevin follow-on’d that there will be 2 Match Games at Westercon.

Mo announced that they are moving and need boxes desperately.

Reviews

Jo reviewed Kung Fu Panda 2 as an excellent direct-to-DVD follow-on but that it wasn’t exactly a movie.

Adrienne reviewed Feed by Mira Grant [Seanan McGuire] as hard for her to struggle through and that there was too much exposition; Chris follow-on’d that he couldn’t finish it, I follow-on’d that I found it a quick read and enjoyed it & especially enjoyed that the author lied to the readers because the protagonists were being lied to.

[tall] Kevin - AKA Cuddles reviewed that as he drove back from Oregon he passed from winter to spring to summer - and that it rained mightily upon him when he was in Oregon & he heartily recommends Camp 18 in Oregon as an excellent restaurant.

Ed [see announcements] also reviewed Super 8 as the best train crash ever - Chris followed that The Case was an excellent little film & then Ed reviewed Green Lantern as a well-done comic book.

Dave C reviewed the syfy Moby Dick as he could only take 2 minutes of it before fleeing the house to go see Troll Hunter - a “documentary” & in comparison he gives it his full out recommendation & that it was worth full price [Bill’s comment was “so this was Mutual of Oslo’s Wild Kingdom?”]

Harold reviewed Falling Skies as worth whatever the hell is shown Sundays [“Not Iron Chef! - last night was Battle lemon!”] - while Andy followed that it wasn’t a complete crapfest & [evil] Kevin wanted his 4 hours back; then Harold reviewed Countdown on Current TV as he plans to keep watching it & reviewed Cave of Forgotten Dreams as highly recommended in 3D and had pretentious narration.

[evil] Kevin reviewed a Vex of Velociraptors as excellent.

Mo - AKA “Fluffy” - reviewed King of Kong as really worth watching.

Carole reviewed Whoopi Goldberg giving a talk ash she is a very enjoyable speaker who uses the “f” word a lot, but it was still worth full price.

Chris reviewed Super 8 & 5 Guys Burgers as both are highly recommended & reviewed Xmen 1st Class as the fx were very good & worth $3.85.

We adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Rumor of the Week: “Chris wishes he had issues”
And then there were auctions: birthday auctioned off Carole for $9.00 to Bill & then other things were sold

Meeting 1091
June 27, 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 promptly at 8:00 p.m., with a lot of braying
President and secretary absent
Vice president presiding
Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker
23 people attended
The reading of minutes for meeting 1090 were postponed until next week.
  Treasurer reported that at the last meeting we took $10.01 in the regular jar and and $24.25 in the party, respectively giving us totals of $11, 481.11 and $126.42 after meeting 1090.
  The VP reported there is no new Drink Tank out and there were many shudders and gasps
  We assumed the President had nothing fannish to report, since he wasn’t there
  The sports committee reminded us that Sept. 4 is Star Wars night at AT&T Park. The Giants will be playing against the Phillies and there will be a lot of little perks for those sitting in the Star Wars section.

Announcements
I announced that my Meetup.com group, Bay Area Ghost Hunters, now has over 600 members. BAGH’s next meetup will be a book signing with Parapsychologist Loyd Auerbach and Psychic Medium Annette Martin, who collaborated on their new book, The Ghost Detectives’ Guide to San Francisco. It will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 23, at Tommy’s Joynt in San Francisco. For more details, please go to: www.meetup.com/Bay-Area-Ghost-Hunters/events/22127341/.
  Glenn reminded everyone that Westercon 64 is this weekend at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. They still have rooms available. For more details, please go to: www.westercon64.org.
  Andy had a scare when he thought his computer might have crashed with all of his files for his Granzella Westercon bid, but everything was recovered and everything looks good. He and Kevin R. will spring into action this weekend.
  Ken said he will be doing a special Dark Shadows show from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. tomorrow on KFJC to mark its 40th anniversary. (It will be available in the KFJC archives for anyone who misses it.)
  Kevin R. announced the May issue of Yipe! is now on their website and the June installment will be up soon.
  Tiki Dalek will also put in an appearance at Westercon 64.
  Kevin S. said The Match Game will have two shows at Westercon 64, with the Foglios appearing in one of them. He can also use some new questions.
  He also announced that there is another bid for Westercon this year, Needles in 2013, the Route 66 bid.
Fred announced that Martin H. Greenberg died June 25. In addition to all of his editing work, he helped found the SciFi Channel.

Reviews
I have been collecting the 2003 editions of the soundtracks from James Bond movies, but have been kind of frustrated trying to determine which have added bonus tracks. The bonus tracks aren’t just limited to the soundtracks composed by John Barry. *Live & Let Die*, which was primarily done by George Martin, has them too. However, I found no additions to *From Russia with Love* and didn’t think it was worth returning to Amazon, so I put it up for auction.

Howeird reviewed the 456 Chinese restaurant on Pruneridge (by Saratoga) as agreeing with Chris’s assessment of the pork dumplings: they’re delicious. He gives the establishment 6 or 7 stars. It looks tacky on the outside, but it’s very nice on the inside.

Debbie really liked the Scalzi’s latest novel, *Fuzzy Nation*, which is a rewrite of H. Beam Piper’s work, and recommends it.

Glenn said he, Dave C., Sandra, and Kevin S. appeared on KFJC earlier today to promote Westercon 64. Glenn likes doing radio.

Chris went to a games night and played Dixit. He said it’s like Apples to Apples on PCP. It’s fun to play with people who have imagination.

He bought a Blue Ray copy of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows, Part 1, and thought the extras were the most boring he’s ever seen. Not worth the extras.

He also went to Williams to visit Granzella’s and suggests everyone stay at the Motel 6 to share his pain. Williams has 500 hotel rooms (which should cover the needs of a Westercon). Granzella’s has biscuits he highly recommends. He ate olives and said the garlic ones were the second best he’s ever had. He was unable to check out the bar because it had a private party. He was thrilled to see a Straw Hat Pizza in the town.

Bob added on that his brother reviewed the blueberry pie at Granzella’s as too sweet.

We did auctions.

Rumor of the Week: We passed all of the nominations, including:
- Knives being magnetized are a sign of polar shift.
- Is it true what they say about Dixit?
- Glenn thinks he’s in Japan because he believes the sun rises from the Pacific.
- Glenn will light the Westercon torch and run it to Santa Clara.
- Sadly, Glenn and the torch will not make it, having been arrested for an illegal fireworks display.
- The Westercon procrastinators panel will be held Monday night at 10 p.m. in the fountain of Plaza de Cesar Chavez.
- Did anyone see the show on Dragoncon on KTEH last night?
- Martian law fails for lack of a second.
- Glenn remembered.
- Being rumored makes me very angry.
- The death of my rumors have been greatly exaggerated.
- Mitt Romney
- This will be the last rumor of the night.

We adjourned at 9:40 p.m.
Meeting 1092

July 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 pm - still talking about the Westercon business meeting
15 people attended
The minutes for meeting 1090 were postponed until next week & minutes for meeting 1091 were accepted as “very inclusive”
There was no Treasurer’s report
The VP was still at Westercon
The President had been at Westercon, but had nothing fannish to report - although we all did say “hi” to Westercon’s fan GoH, Mike Willmoth, & his wife, Jean Goddin - both visiting us for the 1st time
Star Wars night at the Giants is still Sept 4
“The bar, 6pm, Monday” was a pre-BASFA get-together organized by Glenn Glazer - that began at 6pm & succeeded in attracting 31 fans & Kuma Bear

Announcements
Lisa announced that [evil] Kevin & Andy “got a lovely parting gift from the Match Game” in the form of Westercon 66, to be held in 2013

Reviews
Westercon was reviewed - Glenn said it started for him on Wednesday - his shower ran hot & cold without human interference - that it was a convention full of incidents & the Business meeting [“was full of SMOF-porn” = Mike Willmoth] - was managed exceptionally well by [tall] Kevin - it was an awful lot of work, but worth it; Mike follow-on’d that he had a great time; Adrienne opined that it was a great adventure; Fred helped out at-con and was impressed by how much work goes into events like Match Game & the GG Radio Show; Lisa commented “I’m not done {with the con} yet” - she made it to a few panels & the Masquerade was small but gorgeous
We adjourned at 8:37 pm
Rumor of the Week: “Chris wishes he had issues”
And then there were auctions: The Westercon business meeting had cake!
Meeting 1093

July 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 approximately 8:05 p.m. as we played around on Coco’s new free wifi
Secretary and Vice President absent
Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker
23 people attended
We established a party jar.
The reading of the minutes for meeting 1090 were given up on by a consensus.
Minutes for meeting 1092 were accepted as “Olive your Westercons are belong to us.”
Treasurer reported that at the last meeting we took $29.71 in the regular jar and $21.75 in the party. At the special edition meeting held at 6 p.m. at Westercon 64, BASFA collected $21.00 to be donated to Japanese earthquake relief.
No one offered a proxy VP report.
President had nothing fannish to report.
The Sports Committee did not remind us again that September 4 is Star Wars night at AT&T Park.

Announcements
Kevin R. announced that Renovation is coming up and it still has a few rooms in its block at the Peppermill available. He already has 10 entries preregistered for the masquerade. Kevin S. added on that the Atlantis is offering some bargain rates post-con.
Kevin & Andy ask everyone to join them for Westercon 66, which they will be chairing. They have been spending the last week setting up their internet presence. The convention’s main URL is www.westercon66.org, but it also has accounts on Facebook, Twitter, and I think Andy said something about Yahoo and Google.
MO does not currently have any internet access, so anyone trying to contact her should do it by phone.
Jo announced he will be redesigning an official SMOF website.
Ed said Art Crum just did “Genesis” at the San Jose Museum of Modern Art and has announced a graphic story competition.
Spring said Vintacon will be held in Lodi this October. More details will be announced later.

Reviews
After a recent visit to Reno, Kevin S.—always with SMOFfing on the mind—scoped the hotels and believes it would be an excellent location for a Westercon. However, he believes a recent redecorating at the Silver Legacy does not fit in with the hotel’s theme.
He added that chairing the business meeting at Westercon 64 was a remarkable experience. He prepared for it the night before with Ben Yalow. Kevin S. plans on posting the video record of the meeting soon.
I reviewed one of the Hugo-nominated novels, *The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms*, as absorbing. N.K. Jemison has a strong main character with plenty of interesting conflict. If I had to choose between the two I’ve read so far, this would be the one. I still have three more nominations to read.

I also saw the season opener of *Torchwood*. When I called to add Starz to my U-verse package, the sales rep said I should have access within a half hour. I told him that was fine, as long as I had it in time to see *Torchwood*. He said, “Is that what it is? I’ve already had three other calls to start Starz this afternoon. That show is making them money.” I enjoyed the episode, but it’s still a little too early to say whether it was worth ordering Starz.

Valerie followed on that she believes it will definitely attract fans.

Andy had a lot of fun watching it and looks forward to seeing how it turns out.

Jo had to deal with some unappreciated politics in his racing circles [I presumed he’s talking about motorcycles] and is temporarily gaffiating from that activity for a year to avoid dealing with the current event organizers.

He also added that his ereader, eePad, has a fantastic battery life and is incredibly happy with it.

We did auctions.

Rumor of the Week: “Two years of olive puns to go.”

We adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

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**Meeting 1094**

July 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 pm - with zombies  
29 people attended  
The minutes for meeting 1093 were accepted as “in memory of my $300 of Borders gift certificates”

There was no Treasurer’s report  
The VP reported that there are 2 new *Drink Tanks* out & he’s looking for content for an issue about *Dangerous Visions* by Harlan & the wifi is working  
The President had nothing fannish to report - although we welcomed visitors & said “hi” to Julie & Karen  
Star Wars night at the Giants is still Sept 4  

**Announcements**

Trey announced that Mo & Dann had their van broken into & subsequent investigation reveals that there have been a rash of auto break-ins along Lawrence.

Ken announced that there will be 2 Legion of Rassilon meetings - both this and next Friday at the Carls Jr on 1st & Trimble; & announced that on Aug 4th he will do a radio show
from 10am till 2pm on KFJC & on Aug 6th will be a Psychotronic film festival at Foothill college

Mo announced that they had items stolen - electronic that can be replaced and artwork that cannot & Dann follow-on’d that Best Buy offers a lo-jack system for computers that costs $35 and is so -very- worth it

Andy announced that Worldcon is coming up - the 3rd weekend in August, that the Hugo deadline for ballot is July 31 & that John Scalzi has arranged for the Hugo voters’ reading packet - then Andy announced that there is now a volunteers page for Westercon 66, to be held in 2013 - volunteersforwestercon.org - so email them if you’d like to help out with areas that you are interested in

Adrienne announced that Bay Area Ghost Hunters will have a book signing this Saturday at 1pm at Tommy’s Joynt in SF & there’ll be a ghost walk special event for Renovation - check their website

Carole announced rumors about future worldcons

Dave C announced that Borders will be liquidated & announced that Going Postal the Pratchett movie will be released on DVD & bluray on Dex 20 and NOT the Aug 12 release of the splatter flick of the same name

Howeird announced that today is John Glenn’s birthday

Diana announced that she will be going to Disneyland & pick up any kitsch requested

Reviews

Fred reviewed James Randi’s Amazing Meeting as great

Dave C reviewed the NA Discworld con as a good time was had by all - reviewed books = Beautiful Chaos by Gary Russell as a YA-ish Dr Who book & Fighting for Air by Eric Klinenberg as recommended whole=heartedly

Chris reviewed the California Extreme Video & Pinball Expo as full of win & the concert was excellent - worth full price + 7% & reviewed seeing Deadly Hallows 2 as he thought it was very good; Aatheus follow-on’d that he also enjoyed HP7.2 & enjoyed seeing the fans as much as the movie - Howeird saw it and thought the last 30 seconds of Helena Bonham Carter’s performance was worth the price of admission & Ken commented that he was disappointed to have room to breathe when he saw it but thought it was still worth full price

Adrienne reviewed Torchwood ep 2 as it’s worth having Starz for, Andy follow-on’d that it looked good & the writing team looks good & it’s getting interesting, but Harold finds the evil government agency trope to be overused and boring

Harold reviewed Alphas as not worth missing a BASFA meeting to see - he hated it - & reviewed The Franchise as someone is going to have to tranquilize Brian Wilson

Ed reviewed Ralph Peters as not really writing science fiction [which is why that genre is called “techno-thriller”] & his book Red Army is really good & widely available

Mo reviewed Sukiyaki Western Jango as a very interesting Western samurai mash-up & recommends it for rental

We did auctions = sold a squirt gun for $0.75; a book for $0.25, magazines for $1.00 & $0.10, a printer for $0.25, a binder for $0.25, & a dvd/rw burner for $3.00

We adjourned at 9:42 pm

Rumor of the Week: “Chris”
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.

Wednesday, August 3

Ken Denmead: Geek Dad
Cubberley Theatre
4000 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto
www.commonwealthclub.org
Get your geek on with GeekDad’s Ken Denmead. Learn more about fun DIY projects, experiments and weekend adventures that the whole family can do together.
7 p.m. $20

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

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 pass the existing limits and brought in many elements outside the Black experience: science fiction, elements of rock and world music, art movements, technology.
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 (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. Free

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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)

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**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

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**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

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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)

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**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.sfest2011.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
Monday, August 22

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.

Wednesday, August 24

Author: Lev Grossman
Keplers Books
1010 El Camino Real Menlo Park, CA 94025
www.keplers.com
Return to Fillory in the riveting sequel to The New York Times bestseller and literary phenomenon of 2009 – *The Magicians*

7 p.m. See website for details

Wednesday, August 24

Meet and Greet With Ellen Datlow
Borderlands Cafe
870 Valencia Street, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Chat with one of the most awarded, famous, and distinguished editors in the business at this informal meet and greet in the Cafe!

7 p.m.

Saturday, August 27-28

J-pop Summit Festival
Japantown
San Francisco
www.newpeopleworld.com/festival-2011/about
A pop culture-themed street fair that covers the grounds of Post Street from Webster to Laguna and the Peace Plaza of Japantown, San Francisco.

Free

Friday, September 2-5

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

Friday, 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 17-October 16

**Northern California Renaissance Faire**
Casa de Fruta
10031 Pacheco Pass Hwy, Hollister
www.norcalrenfaire.org
Check the website for themed weekends, including Two-for-One, Pirates and Fantasy.
10 a.m. $25

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.

Sunday, September 25

**The Great West End and Railroad Square Handcar Regatta and Exposition of Mechanical and Artistic Wonders**
Historic Railroad Square, Santa Rosa
handcar-regatta.com
The Handcar Regatta represents a public celebration of Mechanical Railcar Races, Visual, Culinary, and Costumed Performing Arts combined with an inclusive concept of Community Participation and Human Ingenuity embracing sustainability, alternative transportation, and good old fashioned fun.
$8 (till September 24)

Saturday, October 1

**Anime Destiny**
MLK Student Union
Berkeley
www.calanime destiny.com
Details TBA

**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)
Thursday, October 6

Neal Stephenson
Book Passage
51 Tamal Vista Blvd, Corte Madera
www.bookpassage.com
The bestselling author of *Snow Crash* and *Crypotnomicon* returns with a thick & chunky new thriller, *Reamde: A Novel*, involving an online fantasy war game.
7 p.m.  Free

Friday, 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, October 15

An Evening With the Munsters
The Historic Bal Theatre
14808 East 14th Street, San Leandro
www.baltheatre.com
Join Bay Area Film Events, your host Mr. Lobo and special guest Butch Patrick (Eddie Munster) for a special screening of the full-length motion picture, *Munster, Go Home!*
Then join Eddie Munster himself and Mr. Lobo for three of your favorite Munsters episodes.
7 p.m.  $12

Thursday-Sunday, October 20-23

Sacramento Horror Film Festival
Historical Colonial Theatre
3522 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento
www.sachorrorfilmfest.com
The SHFF screens more films over fewer days than any other horror film festival. The festival screens all things horror including features, shorts, documentaries, music videos, trailers, and animations.
Check website for tickets and showtimes

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 Undead* (1957) & *The Unearthly* (1957)
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
Saturday-Sunday, November 12-13

*They Might Be Giants (Jonathan Coulton opening)*
The Fillmore
1805 Fillmore Street, San Francisco
www.theymightbegiants.com
9 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

Thursday-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 Supynowicz.
Details TBA

Thursday-Monday, January 12-16, 2012

*Further Confusion*
San Jose Marriott
301 South Market Street, San Jose
www.furtherconfusion.org
Anthropomorphic convention. GOH: E.E. Knight
7:30 p.m.  $45 (till December 30)

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.
$60

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
### Ongoing

#### Daily

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cartoon Art Museum</strong></td>
<td>655 Mission Street, San Francisco</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cartoonart.org">www.cartoonart.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour</strong></td>
<td>Begins: Queen Anne Hotel 1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sfghosthunt.com">www.sfghosthunt.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VIZ Cinema</strong></td>
<td>1746 Post Street, San Francisco</td>
<td><a href="http://www.newpeopleworld.com/films">www.newpeopleworld.com/films</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sundays

#### Bad Movie Night

**The Dark Room Theater**  
2263 Mission Street, San Francisco  
www.darkroomsf.com  
Featuring bad movies old and new. August is Caged Ham, September it’s Mockbusters.  
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. $5

#### 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 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

#### 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 of the facility will be closed that day. 408-534-1169. 7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Free

#### Bay Area Science Fiction Association

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

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**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

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**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

**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

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**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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Science Fiction &amp; Fantasy Writers’ Group</strong></th>
<th><strong>Silicon Gulch Browncoats</strong></th>
<th><strong>East Bay Star Wars Club</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Borderlands Books</td>
<td>Various locations (see website for details)</td>
<td>Central Perk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>866 Valencia Street, San Francisco</td>
<td><a href="http://www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org">www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org</a></td>
<td>10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm.</td>
<td>Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month. Noon - 2 p.m.</td>
<td>510-558-7375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Jude Livingston at <a href="mailto:sfsctrl@yahoo.com">sfsctrl@yahoo.com</a> for more information.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ebstarwars.com">www.ebstarwars.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monthly**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Dorkbot-SF</strong></th>
<th><strong>Rocky Horror Picture Show</strong></th>
<th><strong>QSF&amp;F Book Club</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/">www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/</a></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>
<td>Borderlands Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity. Free, donations welcome</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>866 Valencia, San Francisco</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Foothill Anime</strong></th>
<th><strong>Spec Fiction Book Club</strong></th>
<th><strong>SF Browncoats</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Building 5015, Foothill College</td>
<td>Keplers Books</td>
<td>Cafe Murano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Altos Hills</td>
<td>1010 El Camino Real Menlo Park, CA 94025</td>
<td>1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foothill.anime.net</td>
<td><a href="http://www.keplers.com">www.keplers.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.sfbrowncoats.com">www.sfbrowncoats.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon. 12 p.m. Free</td>
<td>Meets the second Sunday of every month. 4 p.m. Free</td>
<td>SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month. Noon Free</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Geeks Vs. Geeks</strong></th>
<th><strong>Fantastic Frontiers</strong></th>
<th><strong>No-Name Anime</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco / San Mateo</td>
<td><a href="http://www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/">www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/</a></td>
<td>Saratoga Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/geeksvsgeeks">www.facebook.com/geeksvsgeeks</a></td>
<td>Social club for Sacramento County sci fi/ fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations. Free</td>
<td>13650 Saratoga Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.geeksvsgeeks.com">www.geeksvsgeeks.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>Saratoga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month. Free</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nnanime.com">www.nnanime.com</a></td>
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<td>1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco</td>
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<td>Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month. Noon - 2 p.m. Free</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.sfbrowncoats.com">www.sfbrowncoats.com</a></td>
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</tbody>
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**Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club**
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Meets the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.
6 p.m. Free

**USS Defiance**
5026 Don Julio Blvd, Sacramento
1566 Howe Ave, Sacramento
www.myspace.com/d2121978
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.
7 p.m. Free

**Micro Gods, Inc.**
Berkeley Public Library, West Branch
1125 University Ave, Berkeley
mgisciaf.angelfire.com
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/
Family Club for fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Movie, Anime & Manga. Meets every 3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for updates.
2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free

**USS Northern Lights**
Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for specifics.
sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights
'Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International and a swell group of science fiction fans. We do more than Trek. Usually meets the third Saturday of the month, with social event TBD.
7 p.m. Free

**Religion & SF Book Club**
First United Methodist Church
1183 “B” Street, Hayward
Meets the 4th Sunday of the month. Please contact Rev. Randy Smith at RSmith2678@aol.com for more information.
7 p.m. Free

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

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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
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<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
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<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bad Movie Night</td>
<td>BASFA</td>
<td>MGI Boffers</td>
<td>BA Role-Playing Soc</td>
<td>CAS: NightLife</td>
<td>SF Games</td>
<td>Vampire Walking</td>
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<td>Sakuramento Anime</td>
<td>SV Boardgamers</td>
<td>Fighter Practice</td>
<td>E.Bay Strategy Games</td>
<td>Haunted Haight</td>
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<td>Ken Denmead: Geek Dad</td>
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<td>Grant Morrison</td>
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<td>Kin-Yoobi Con (thru Sat)</td>
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<td>Suffragists’ Picnic Dance</td>
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<td>QSF&amp;F Book Club</td>
<td>Geeks Vs. Geeks (SF)</td>
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<td>Evil Dead: The Musical (thru Sep 10)</td>
<td>USS Defiance</td>
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<td>Can’t Stop the Serenity</td>
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<td>Micro Gods, Inc</td>
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<td>SF/F Book Club</td>
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<td>Forbidden Thrills</td>
<td>Author: Lev Grossman</td>
<td>SF&amp;F Writers’ Group</td>
<td>Legion of Rassilon</td>
<td>J-pop Summit Festival</td>
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<td>Movie Night</td>
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<td>Meet and Greet With</td>
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<td>Ellen Datlow</td>
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<td>Religion &amp; SF</td>
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<td>Sac-Anime (thru Sun)</td>
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