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By España Sheriff

Editor

It is last few days of October as I type this; the days in San Francisco are alternating between sunny and overcast, there are pumpkins on every doorstep and cardboard tombstones are popping up in lawns all over town, and flyers for Halloween-themed clubs and events are littering my desktop. It’s probably my favorite time of year, after the dog days of summer when the scant two weeks of sunshine and heat prove too much for my fog-acclimated sensibilities, but before the holiday season spins completely out of control and every shop starts piping in non-stop Christmas music.

It is also the countdown to Loscon, which is traditionally the last convention of the year for me. Loscon is held at the LAX Marriott, a hotel that now fills the void left in my heart by Bay Area fandom’s move away from the San Jose Doubletree, a familiar venue that we visit multiple times a year and have grown into using to maximum efficiency, and at which much of the staff is familiar and recognizes us from one convention to the next. I am also looking forward to the convention itself, of course, not the least because the Fan Guest of Honor is friend-of-the-zine (and of the Fanzine Lounge) John Hertz, a long-overdue honor.

After Loscon I have nothing until Gallifrey One in February, as far as conventions go, but do I have plenty of costuming work in store to prepare for that, and my post-Reno cup overfloweth with projects, including all the usual suspects like fanzines (Yipe! and SF/SF), podcasts (Geek Girl Crafts, Breakfast of Rassilon) and artwork, not to mention ongoing projects that were stalled by Worldcon, such as finishing revamping my website and archiving all my fan writing, plus a whole bunch of new projects, which hope will see the light in the new year.

Because of all of this, 2012 promises to be an even better year for me personally than 2011 was, which is almost hard to believe since I have had a truly excellent year, which just continues to get better. But the signs are all favorable; a return to Gally with my friends and even more Bay Area folks joining us, an excuse to visit Chicago again, this time for Worldcon, a bunch of exciting projects I am proud to be a part of, my friends and family are all generally doing well in their work and lives, and finally… well, those of you familiar with my writing know I usually don’t go on much about my personal life or feelings, and that is not something that is likely to change, so I’ll just say that I am currently very happy indeed and leave it at that.

I hope everyone’s year so far has been a great one as well and, of course, that the next two months are equally good. See you in November!
By Jean Martin

Editor-in-Chief

Yes, I’d never been to a Worldcon before Renovation in August this year. I don’t usually travel outside the Bay Area for conventions but since I heard that a lot of Bay Area folks were involved in and/or were planning on going, I decided I need to go as well. If only to at least check it out once since it’s going to be relatively close. Also, I thought it would be a good opportunity to meet some fanzine writers who I only know online, such as Lloyd Penney, and to network with people all over the world (which I love doing).

Surprisingly, I got an invitation to be a panelist and moderator, and I always jump at the chance to be in panels. I have found that being the jill-of-all-trades and journalist that I am, I tend to do better and enjoy myself when I’m the moderator. While I can talk about a variety of subjects, I don’t generally don’t have in-depth knowledge about all of them. On the other hand, I love interviewing people and asking them question, and I’m also very good at keeping time and making sure everyone gets a chance to speak. So, yes, I prefer moderating over being a panelist. But being a panelist is great too.

The thing about being in panels is that I have to be there at certain times, which means I have to miss other things and have to schedule my con around my panels. Luckily, I only had three. I know someone who had more than 10 panels. But I wanted to leave enough time to actually see and experience the con since I was going for the first time. I was also going to
be in the masquerade and that involved a tech rehearsal beforehand and preparing and being backstage hours before the show actually started.

So, after I looked at the programming and parties online, I sat down and scheduled in all the things I had to do and all the things I wanted to do. I also had to coordinate with my fiancé, Chris, who was going as well. He was initially unsure about going, but after our friends Mette and Bryan asked him to be in their masquerade group, he became excited and decided to go too. It’s great that they asked me to join them too so I was able to share in the fun and camaraderie, which starts way before a convention with planning and rehearsals. Also, it was nice that I was able to experience being in a masquerade group that Chris has worked with since he joined my usual masquerade group earlier this year for Wonder-Con.

Chris and I headed to Reno on Thursday, August 18. We couldn’t get more vacation days to get to the con earlier but at least we were able to go at all! Chris drove the whole way and we got to Reno later than we had hoped. We checked into the Peppermill, which was where the Hugos and masquerade were going to be, but which was about a mile away from the Atlantis (the party hotel) and the Reno-Sparks Convention Center (RSCC). There was some confusion at the front desk and I was just so tired and frustrated afterwards that after dinner, I just decided to get ready for bed. So I wound up missing the first thing on my agenda, the Girl Genius Ball that was put on by Cathleen and James Myers from the Period Events and Entertainments Re-creation Society (PEERS). I was sad to miss the ball but we didn’t have our badges yet (the registration desks were closed by the time we arrived) and the ball was in the RSCC, which would have entailed taking the shuttle and not knowing if we could get in or not. I pacified myself with the fact that there was a PEERS Steampunk Ball coming up two months later and I’ve already been to a Girl Genius Ball before.

The decision not to go to the RSCC that evening pretty much was repeated several times during the weekend. On paper it didn’t seem like the Peppermill was that far, but practically, it just took too much time to wait for the shuttle and go back and forth. While the shuttle ran pretty often, it was an unpredictable and unknown thing, and I couldn’t count on it to be on time for panels and events. Some people resorted to taking taxis but I didn’t want to spend more than I was already spending when I could use the shuttle for free. So there was one time that I missed doing something at the Peppermill because I didn’t think I’d have enough time to go there and then back again to the RSCC. Then after the 11th Doctor with Cassandra after our Masquerade Win by Jean Martin
masquerade on Friday night, I was just too tired to venture to the Atlantis for parties. The other drawback to having the convention spread out was that I didn’t get to feel a “con” atmosphere. There wasn’t really a central place for people to see each other and hang out. It was also hard to run into people I know because not only was the con spread out over three venues, the RSCC itself was huge. So it wasn’t much fun going around the con.

While the in-between times were not a lot of fun, there were pockets of awesomeness that happened when I did get to do things with people at panels, parties, the masquerade and the Hugos. I also very much enjoyed the dances that were organized by PEERS, but that’s no surprise to me. But without these dances, I don’t know what else I would have done other than the main events.

The first thing Chris and I did on Friday, August 19, was the Regency Tea dance at the RSCC. He and I donned our Regency attire and danced a few sets. But then, we had to rush to the tech rehearsal in the Tuscany Ballroom that was back at the Peppermill. The tech rehearsal was running behind schedule so we waited for a long time and so we didn’t get to eat lunch until the late afternoon so we decided that our meal was going to be dinner as well. Because then it was over to Mette and Bryan’s room to get ready for the Masquerade.

We had to be backstage early and we were surprised that there was an actual buffet table with food and drinks. That’s the first time I’ve ever seen these served to participants before! Kevin Roche and Andy Trembley organized the masquerade and it was run very well. We got to meet other people backstage and everyone was so nice. I was amazed at the talent, creativity and imagination that went into all the costumes. There’s always a lot of waiting backstage, this time especially since we were going to be the last to perform. It was good that there were actually working monitors with sound so we could see all the entries before us. Unfortunately, I didn’t get to see the two right before us and I was looking forward to seeing them (which I did get to see on video the next day).

Our group was introduced by Phil and Kaja Foglio, creators of Girl Genius, and then we were on. Our Doctor Who-Dating Game mashup went by so quickly but it felt like everything went well. Other than Mette, Bryan and Chris, there was also España, Elena and Ant. I was the only first-timer in this particular group so I was nervous about proving myself and not messing up. I’m glad I didn’t trip or run into anyone as I had very limited visibility because I was wearing goggles. The goggles made it impossible for me to see the judges or the audience. So sadly, I didn’t get to feel like I was
performing to the crowd like I usually enjoy doing at masquerades. I did enjoy our actual routine, though, because it did seem like everything went off without a hitch. We won Best Performance-Master Class and Best in Show-Workmanship. All our costuming efforts and rehearsals really paid off. We were all happy and excited that we won such big awards at a WorldCon!

Afterwards, Chris and some of our groupmates went to the parties at the Atlantis. I didn’t feel like changing and going over there so I didn’t go. There was a dance at the Peppermill but I wasn’t that enthusiastic about going since everyone else was going to the Atlantis. So I just enjoyed our suite (we were upgraded for our troubles at the front desk!) and relaxed. There was more of the con still to follow.

My first panel was on Saturday, August 20, at 11:00 a.m. So I really had to rush to get there on time. I’m not a morning person in general and weekends are even harder for me to get up. So I’m glad I didn’t go out the night before and was up when I needed to be so I could eat breakfast, get costumed and out the door to get a shuttle to get to the RSCC. The panel was entitled “Are there new fan editors and fan writers?” whose description seemed to have nothing to do with the title, which talked about mentoring new fan writers. It also probably wasn’t clear enough both title-wise and description-wise.
because we had one lady show up who wanted to talk about fan fiction writing. The panel was in the Fanzine Lounge, which was just a section of the big hall where the dealer and art “rooms” where. There wasn’t an actual area for us to stage ourselves in and so, being the moderator, I settled on the couch, which my copanelists España and TAFF delegate John Coxon sat on. Our “audience” sat in folding chairs in front of us and it became a cozy albeit somewhat rapid-fire discussion of how there are no new fan writers and editors and how we editors have to search very hard to find people to write for us. Mark Plummer and Claire Brialey (who went on to win Best Fan Writer at the Hugos the next day) were part of the discussion and it was great to be able to talk about fanzines with them and other well-known and experienced fan writers and editors. It was sometimes hard to be heard, though, because of the noise from other activities surrounding us and the bad acoustics from being in a cavernous convention hall.

Next on my list was the Toon Town Hop, again organized by PEERS. Chris was dressed as Clark Kent/Superman and I was in a 1950s’ dress and I tried to pass myself off as Lois Lane. Dr. Demento was the guest DJ and he played a lot of fun music. I’m really not familiar with him at all but he lived up to all the enthusiasm of my friends who’ve told me about him. Jane Barnes was costumed as Jessica Rabbit and she was quite voluptuous in it. Hands down the best Jessica Rabbit I’ve ever seen.

I was hoping to go to some panels, one with Chris Garcia and España, another with artist guest of honor (GOH) Boris Vallejo and a third with George R.R. Martin. But I didn’t have time for any of them as I wanted to, first of all, eat lunch and then check out the dealer room and the art exhibit. The dealer room was so-so. Nothing I really wanted to buy except for expensive Steampunk costumes that I already have too many of (one from the same vendor, Damsel in this Dress, too) and unique jewelry from Springtime Creations (I don’t wear jewelry much at all and I already have several of Spring’s pieces). I did purchase a couple of beautiful fascinators from Ravenwing Wearable Art and wound up buying more from the owner through Etsy for the ladies in my wedding party.

The art exhibit was the best I’ve seen at any convention and it was great to see España’s art as well as Mo Starkey’s. I always enjoy John Picacio’s and Lee Moyer’s work and it was good to see both of them at the convention. They are both very talented and nice people. I like to buy a piece of art the first time I go to a particular convention and this time I settled on a mermaid one by Stu Shepherd.

I was also planning on going back to the Peppermill to use the Roman-style spa and/or the outdoor pool but there just
wasn’t enough time to go there and back before my next panel at 5:00 p.m. Time really flies by fast at conventions.

I was just a regular panelist in the second panel I was in, which was entitled “Book Collecting and Reading.” It was also in the Fanzine Lounge. This was a bigger panel panelist-wise as well as audience-wise as the subject matter is, of course, a primary interest in fandom. But it turned into more of a discussion on e-books versus hard copy books. It also veered more toward collecting for appreciating monetary value as opposed to collecting for sentimental value. I personally don’t ever buy books, or anything else for that matter, for investment purposes. I buy things for their sentimental and/or aesthetic value. So I found that I didn’t have as much to contribute in this panel, and even when I did, I couldn’t get a word in edgewise since there were some people who dominated the conversation and some of them were not on the panel. It was interesting, though, listening to people’s perspectives on the subjects they talked about.

After this, Chris and I went back to the Peppermill and I was determined to at least use the pool for a little bit. I guess I was thinking that the weather would still be sunny and warm at 6:30 p.m., but I was wrong. The pools at the Peppermill where gorgeous and inviting but the air was too cold for me. I wound up doing a Goldilocks and trying all the three pools, which were all different temperatures. But unlike Goldilocks, none of them were just right. So I gave up and dragged Chris into the Jacuzzi. Serendipitously, the only four people in the Jacuzzi I picked were friends so it was quite nice. But they all left before us because they wanted to get ready for the Hugos. Around 7:00 p.m., Chris and I went back and did the same, but with a side trip for some dinner.

So we wound up getting to the Hugos late and it had already started. Luckily, they were doing a long segment regarding fandom in Japan after the earthquake and so we didn’t miss any of the awards. But it was so dark in the ballroom that I couldn’t figure out where the Press area was so I could get a seat. I wound up finding one for myself very close to the stage but I spent most of the awards ceremony crouched in front of the stage with photographers Richard Man and Francesca Myman. It’s been a while since I’ve used my DSLR and I couldn’t figure out how to turn the flash off. Francesca had a similar camera and she kindly showed me what setting to use. Still, my photos didn’t come out anywhere as good as Richard’s and I had to do a lot of editing on them. One of these days, if I ever have any spare time, I really need to figure out how to use my expensive camera without a flash!

I think being near the stage, I really got the full effect of the emotions of the winners. I was also surprised to find out that I knew several of the presenters, nominees and even winners!
Growing up in the Philippines, the Hugo awards was just as mystical and far away as the Oscars to me. To be actually at one was a dream come true that I didn’t even know I had. I feel like I’d arrived, somehow. I’m glad Chris and I dressed up for the occasion as a lot of people did too.

For me, Chris Garcia and James Bacon’s Best Fanzine win for *The Drink Tank* was the most exciting of the evening. I literally jumped up for joy myself when *The Drink Tank* was announced as the winner and was brimming with happiness for Chris. So I can just imagine his own happiness was a hundred-fold more than mine, which was pretty much reflected in his now legendary acceptance speech that has been immortalized on the Internet. The other win that I was excited about was Connie Willis’s win for Best Novel. I was very happy for my friend Cordelia’s mom, who’s a super nice person. Yeah, I do say a lot of people are “nice,” but I do mean it! And that’s the highest compliment in my book.

The awards itself was pretty entertaining. The hosts were good and the presenters and acceptance speeches were also interesting. The best presenter of the evening was Robert Silverberg who was, at least to me, surprisingly funny. His entire monologue was one joke after another. Every time I’ve seen him, he’s been very quiet and keeps to himself. So I was surprised to find out that he’s so clever and witty. He even joked about how Cordelia was named after a Shakespearean character. Well, you just had to be there.

After the awards, all the winners were gathered in groups on stage for photos and I was able to get better photos then. The Hugos was an amazing experience and I’m wondering if I’ll go out of my way again to go to another Worldcon in the near future. It depends on when and where and how much. I would like to go again someday.

The evening was not over, though. This time, I wanted to go to the parties as it was the last night of the convention for me. Also, España and Leigh Ann were throwing a *The Magicians*-themed party in honor of author Lev Grossman’s book of the same title. Lev actually won the John W. Campbell award for Best New Writer that evening. I got to meet Lev at his party, and yes, he is a nice guy. Their party room at the Atlantis was decorated like a forest with trees on the walls and other props. I was quite impressed. España was costumed as one of the characters as was Jason. A lot of the people who helped out also wore fantasy costumes. It was a fun party with a lot of friends and acquaintances. Then amazing-looking cupcakes were brought in to celebrate Lev’s award.
Chris and I went to some other parties, which were on two floors. The Klingon one was great, as usual. The other one that I liked was a Western-themed one but I couldn’t remember who sponsored it. I seem to not enjoy con parties as much as I used to and I can’t stay up as late as I used to either. Maybe I’m just getting old or maybe I’m just burned out on it after several years of doing cons. In any case, I was tired and decided to call it a night around 1:00 a.m. and Chris and I headed back to the Peppermill.

On Sunday, August 21, my day started with a ball at 11:00 a.m. This time, PEERS did a Space Western Ball and so I wore one of my Inara costumes from Firefly and Chris wore his 11th Doctor outfit. It was a lot of fun and I got enough dancing in before we went for a quick lunch and I was off to my third and last panel at the convention.

This one was entitled “Storing and Transporting Costumes,” which I moderated. The other panelist was Yvonne Penney, the wife of our most loyal and consistent LOCer Lloyd Penney. They’re from Canada so she had a lot to say about transporting costumes by plane. So did Aurora Celeste who was from, if I remember right, the East Coast. I also had a lot to say on the subject seeing as I just catalogued and stored my costumes in a storage unit to make room for my fiancé in my (now our) apartment. It was a fun and informative panel.

We went through the dealer room one last time and said goodbye to people and got to congratulate Chris Garcia again on his Hugo win. He had his trophy on display in the Fanzine Lounge. Chris and I also got our photos taken again at the “Iron Throne” that was from the TV series Game of Thrones by George R.R. Martin. Chris and I both enjoyed that series a lot and are looking forward to the second season.

It’s always sad saying goodbye at the end of any convention. But at least there are always more to follow. We drove home with great memories from our first Worldcon and I hope that this wouldn’t be the last.
I woke up fairly early on the Saturday of Renovation and blearily phoned Chris Garcia before hitting the rehearsal for the Hugo Awards at nine o’clock that morning. I wanted to get to the Hugo Award rehearsal early, because I had a panel at 11am and I wanted to allow enough time to do the rehearsing, grab something to eat and then haul myself over to the convention centre in time for my panel.

Arriving at the rehearsal was quite funny, since they clearly weren’t expecting fans to be up and about at the beginning of the time slot and the arrival of the two of us caused a little consternation. I bumped into Crystal Huff and said hello, before Chris and I were expertly walked through the presenting-a-Hugo and receiving-a-Hugo procedures. Afterwards, Crystal, Chris and I went to get coffee in the lobby of the Peppermill. Crystal gave me an awesome neck massage, so I totally zoned out. Chris chatted with Rachel Swirsky, who must have thought I was very rude due to how out-of-it I was – she was nominated for a Hugo Award for Best Novella, so I decided to root for her later that evening.

After breakfast Chris and I drove over to the convention (with a stop at Walgreens so I could put more credit on my AT&T SIM card). My day started with a fanzine panel called ‘Are There New Fan Editors and Fan Writers?’. Emails had been flying back and forth between the panellists in the run-up to the panel, which was cool; I like discussing panels before the fact, and the culture shock of the Green Room meant that I was especially grateful for this.

Initially, I had presumed that it was a straight-up panel, but a closer inspection of the grid prior to the Saturday had revealed that it was to be held in the fanzine lounge. I’ve done a couple of more informal panels in my time (we’ve all been in that situation where there are more panellists than audience members, right?) but I’d never done one in a fan lounge before so that was to be a new experience. The idea of putting on a workshop, or some sort of interactivity, was suggested; but
there was dissent in the ranks, so we decided that we would just play it by ear.

Since my programme item was in the lounge, I hung out there beforehand and chatted with people. I’m fairly sure that it was at this point that I got to meet Art Widner, the second of the three fans that I met at Renovation who attended the first Worldcon. It was really interesting to talk with him and Chris Garcia, and I enjoyed it a great deal.

There was A Sofa (not to be confused with Fran Dowd) in the area, so when it came to the fanzine panel, chairs were put around the sofa. That way, the panel could sofa it up and the audience could engage in a round-table discussion, as befitted the location of the item. España was also on the panel, and so I was confident that she, at least, would be as sleep deprived as I. Joining us was SF/SF’s editor-in-chief, Jean Martin – I hadn’t met her before, but she instantly seemed interesting and engaging. Jerry Kaufman was our third member, but he didn’t sit on the couch, instead preferring to join the audience, and Guy H. Lillian III was unfortunately unable to complete the set. (Observant readers will have noticed that this means half the panel was SF/SF staff. At this point in the convention, Jean agreed to give me the honour of having my con report appear in this venerable fanzine, something that I am proud to be able to do.)

The panel got going, and was, broadly speaking, a hoot. I ranted and was ranted at by España, whilst Jean kept things vaguely civilised and Jerry provoked comments and opinions from the floor (where ‘floor’ is a term meaning ‘not couch’). A couple of times I had to tell people that we were actually having a panel, due to various interruptions; this is the peril with having program items in the fan lounge, since they can often just look like huge conversations! But I came out of the panel feeling optimistic and enthusiastic about the future of fanzine fandom, which is a refreshing feeling to have after a fanzines panel (so many I’ve been on seem to focus on doom and gloom).

At this stage, I had a couple of hours before the reception for the fan fund winners. Now, there were two fan fund delegates at the Worldcon: the TAFF delegate (that’s me!) from the UK and the DUFF delegate, Dave Cake, from Australia. For the curious, the Europe/Australasia fan fund is known as GUFF, and it completes the triumvirate. As such, the three countries involved in TAFF and DUFF are the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Australia. Guess when the panel on UK, US and Australian fanzines was on. Go on, guess!
If you guessed “at the same time”, then you were right! This is somewhat annoying, since I was looking forward to seeing that panel. Chris Garcia, España Sheriff, Alan Stuart, Suzle Tompkins and Mark Plummer all sounded like good reasons to go!

That being said, the reception was awesome, and I was sincerely surprised that so many fans attended! Anne and Brian Gray, the previous years TAFF delegates, bought me a drink, which was good (I like drinks). Dave Cake and I actually had crowns of fan fundery, too! I chatted a lot about my trip and the like, which was awesome. It was really great to talk to people about the fund and about the sense of community in fandom, as well as recounting some of the anecdotes I’d picked up along the way.

Eventually it became 3pm, which was the time at which the fan funds auction was supposed to go down. Liz Zitzow and I had gone over to her room in the Atlantis in order to pick up some donated items, which were duly transported to the main stage (opposite the fanzine lounge). Liz also had the donations that had been made in the consuite, which were also brought down and basically used as a float for people paying.

The auction started a little slowly, with a few people buying and bidding but the audience generally seemed a little hesitant to get the ball rolling and the money flowing. Eventually, one of the huge banners featuring some awesome artwork from Boris Vallejo uncorked the bottle (with some cajoling and bullying from Liz and me) and people started getting more comfortable with spending money.

A couple of pieces of artwork sold for big money (I love it when an item goes for more than $500), and we even auctioned a co-editor position on The Drink Tank which was eagerly purchased by Dave Cake. There was also a mysterious lady who I had not met, picking sets of fanzines out of the boxes at the front of the stage (there was too much to sell in two hours so we had to take audience suggestions). Everything she picked out went for at least $20, so if you are reading this you have my most sincere thanks!

Brian, who was taking monies, did a fantastic job of keeping on top of the event, which was moving pretty quickly. Liz was a great auction master, and honourable mention must go to Dave, Anne and Chris Garcia (a previous TAFF delegate!) who all helped sell various items. We raised a significant amount of money for the fan funds, which is always an exciting thing to do, winding down at about 5pm. After letting people have some T-shirts, which hadn’t been selling for much, at $5 each, I ended up getting away at about half past, and got back to my hotel room at around 6pm.
As a fan fund delegate, I was presenting the Hugo Award for Best Fan Writer. I was doing this after another TAFF alumnus, Stu Shiffman, who presented Best Fan Artist; I was incredibly nervous about the whole thing and decided to grab a shower and get my suit on as soon as I got back to my hotel room. When you ask people about transporting a suit across the Atlantic, you may well find that a commonly repeated piece of advice you receive is to hang it up in the shower and get the creases out. I tried that, and it turned out that two weeks of gallivanting around North America had taken its toll, and those creases were not shifting.

At this point, I’m going to reveal something I probably shouldn’t. In Britain, we have a popular chain of clothes shops called Marks & Spencer. You may have heard of them: they’re name checked in The Hitchhiker’s Guide, amongst other slices of British media. The salient point of this is that M&S do suits, including my suit. But, because I am poor, mine is not a terribly expensive one; in fact, it set me back £50. The advantage of having a £50 suit whilst on an epic TAFF trip is that, when push comes to shove, it has instructions for ironing on the label.

So there I am, merrily ironing my suit jacket and shirt. Meanwhile, the text messages from people at the Hugo reception were becoming more and more urgent, which was a sure sign I had started to run late. I eventually got my suit into a state suitable for presenting an award in front of thousands of people, and made it to the reception in the nick of time. Thank God I was in the Peppermill!

Upon arriving at the Capri Ballroom for the reception, Crystal decided to be my date for the evening. I was entirely fine with this, since she looked stunning. I made it known to Susan de Guardiola that I had arrived, which made her very happy, since I believe I was one of the last people to do that. Eventually it became time to head down to the Tuscany Ballroom for the ceremony. We all walked together, which was quite a sight (suits and dresses and snappy clothes were prevalent!).

The ceremony itself was really great. If you didn’t manage to make it on the night, or if you didn’t see the live stream, there’s actually a video on Ustream of the proceedings, linked from Renovation’s website at the time of writing. If you just want to see the part with me in it you can view it on YouTube at youtu.be/fPqACqFy_ok (sorry, I don’t have YouTube links for the rest of the ceremony!). I was presenting just after Stu Shiffman, which was the second award, so I got to see the
Hugo unveiled before going backstage and collecting my thoughts.

Then it was my turn to go out. I was incredibly nervous and excited! I’ve been on some panels that drew large audiences in my time (the largest was a panel with Neil Gaiman at Eastercon one year, that pretty well filled the main function space of the con), but the Hugo Awards are in an entirely different league, and so my nerves were running completely rampant. I got to the lectern, took a deep breath, and said my bit. I did this without a script, or a speech, or any notes. Some people find that it’s useful to have something to work from when speaking in public, but I’ve always found that, doing that, I fumble and stammer and go back on myself, which is never a good look.

It came time to read out the names of the nominees: James Bacon, Claire Brialey, Christopher J. Garcia, James Nicoll and Steven H. Silver were up for the award. If you read *Banana Wings*, you’ll already be aware that I pronounced Claire Brialey’s surname wrong; I was a lot more nervous than I appear on the video from that night, so I will be apologising to her for that until the end of time. Then, I opened the envelope, and I saw the name of the winner. If you watch the footage of me presenting, you’ll notice that when I open the envelope, I grin very widely before schooling my expression into something a little bit more neutral – I was having trouble staying in control during the entire experience, so I’m surprised I didn’t let out a whoop of joy!
The winner was Claire Brialey, as you may already be aware – Claire is the co-editor of *Banana Wings* with Mark Plummer, and they were the first people I met during my very first foray into proper SF fandom events (a one-day convention in London in 2006 which I have talked about in several fanzines already). As such, it was an absolute pleasure to present her with the award, and I couldn’t resist telling her “I told you so” when she took it from me. Her speech was brilliant, conveying very accurately her total sense of shock and also squeezing in a plug for London in 2014 (we are very good at plugging that Worldcon bid, as you may have noticed).

Another highlight of the ceremony included the presentation by Robert Silverberg of Best Novella, which had me laughing uproariously. If you haven’t seen it, go watch it. Now. It’s the penultimate award, and he is amazing. I have no idea how he managed to keep such a straight face through what was a masterful performance! Sadly, however, Rachel Swirsky didn’t win, which was a shame; I was also rooting for Fanzine for their work on *The Drink Tank*, which is entirely deserved (well done, both of you, if you’re reading this!). It almost entirely upstaged anything that had happened before that with how brilliant Chris’ reaction was. If you ever wanted to see a man have a breakdown due to pure joy whilst on a stage, you need to watch Christopher J. Garcia winning his Hugo Award. It was a sight to behold!

The rest of the ceremony was also brilliant. I saw Chris Garcia and James Bacon receive the Hugo Award for Best
*How to Train Your Dragon* to win in Best Dramatic Long Form. Clearly my support was more of a hindrance than a help!

After the Hugos, I found Crystal and we made our way back to the Capri Ballroom for the Hugo Losers party, which was a lot of fun. We had our photograph taken, and mingled – I congratulated Claire again on her win (she lost, in the Best Fanzine category, so she was eligible to be there, naturally) and met a bunch of people, apologised to Susan for being so late for the reception (which must have been about the fifth time I had done so), and generally enjoyed the hell out of myself.

The real highlight of the party, though, came as it was winding down somewhat (or at least, that’s how I remember it). I was chatting to the bartender, as I ordered another couple of drinks for me and Crystal, and I asked for a bottle of a San Francisco beer (Anchor Steam Beer, as I recall). I didn’t quite have enough money for the round, so he let me off a few cents, which I appreciated! As he handed it over, he made some comment about how he didn’t like it all that much. I replied by saying that it wasn’t the best beer in the world, but you can’t get real English ales in the US, and expected that to be the end of the discussion.

However, he responded by agreeing with me (which I wasn’t expecting, given the American accent) and told me that he’d spent a bit of time in Leicester, and he’d had a good beer there called Tiger from a brewery called Everard’s. I
responded, slightly bewildered, saying that I had just graduated from the University of Leicester and that I knew both the brewery and beer well; in fact, it’s one of my favourite examples of a proper bitter. His face lit up, and he said, “We used to drink at a pretty weird pub just near the university. I think it was called the Old Horse?”

The Old Horse is my local.

Now, this may not apply in the States – it might be a British thing, I don’t know. But when you meet a man who shares your local (and by ‘local’ we mean ‘favourite pub’), that practically makes you family. When it’s five thousand miles from home and you can’t find a decent ale to save your life, that makes that bond a little stronger. Finding out that he used to frequent the same fast food place as me after having nights out in the Horse sealed the deal, and pretty soon I was arranging a whip around the inhabitants of the bar to give the bloke a tip that was worth more than the drinks order I’d just placed.

Eventually, we got bored of the afterparty and headed back to the Atlantis to join the parties that were happening there. I had received a telling off from España for missing her party on the Thursday, and since London in 2014 wasn’t having a Saturday party, I made her shindig a top priority. I got talking to her and Jason and a few other people, and we wound up drinking in the bar till about five in the morning, which was rapidly becoming a habit! Jason took some awesome photographs that night (including what I think is my favourite photograph from the whole convention), and I had a great time; especially because the barmaid didn’t know how to mix the Soylent Green, and it was coming in a pint rather than in a martini glass!

Jason and España insisted on walking me back to the Peppermill, since it was dark and dangerous and I couldn’t go on my own (both were scandalised to learn that I had made the trip on the Thursday and the Friday). This worked well, though, since we walked back just as the sun was coming up. It was a beautiful view, and the conversation continued for an extra half-hour, which was great, since I didn’t particularly want it to end.

I then promptly stayed up until some absolutely insane hour, as I realised I needed to pack before checking out and everything was all over the place from preparing for the ceremony. I really should have made sure I’d packed everything properly earlier in the day (since I’m sure I forgot things in that room), but it was too late to worry about that, so I just did it drunk and tired.
Sunday arrived, and I must confess I kind of wished it hadn’t. I promptly checked out of my room, and wheeled my case down to the room in which the Hugo Award-winning editor Christopher J. Garcia was staying with the Lovely and Talented Linda Wenzelburger. We said hi, before going to grab breakfast. At breakfast, Chris had a buffet whilst I had my favourite breakfast (I don’t want to bang on about this but whoever decided burger patties were a breakfast food was a genius). Someone came up and hugged Chris, and several people said congratulations, which was pretty awesome. He looked so excited and happy all day!

I had panels on Sunday. Three panels, in fact. In a row. Now, I don’t mind doing panels, but three in a row was something I was slightly suspicious of; but, what the hell, I was having a great time and I decided to just go ahead and do it. This turned out to be entirely the right reaction, since all three were fun and entertaining. The first, which was called ‘One More Season’, was the most light-hearted of the three. It starred myself and Mary Kay Kare, with two fans I had not previously met; Eytan Kollin and Irene Radford, who moderated. We discussed a wide range of shows, with Firefly coming up, but also talking about Pushing Daises, the remake of Knight Rider, Stargate: Universe and others.

At this point in the narrative I should make one thing clear: I love Stargate: Universe. I love the plot arcs, and the characters, and the sense of futility and doom. I am aware that this is, apparently, an unpopular opinion; it might help to explain that it was my first introduction to the Stargate franchise so I wasn’t coming to it with preconceptions born of SG1 or Atlantis, although I plan to watch both, after SGU’s impact. The best way I can think to describe how good I think it is is to tell you that I watched the entire second season on my iPod Classic (which has a 2.5” screen) during my trip, on various plane journeys and the like, and still loved every second. I apologise most sincerely if you now hate me.

So we argued about SGU, which Eytan wasn’t a fan of. It was at this point that Eytan and I discovered we were going to be on a panel about the show at 2pm (my third panel of the Sunday) and so we decided to purposefully steer clear of further debate on the subject and save it for the panel. We did talk about stuff that should have ended more quickly, too – it turned into quite an interesting discussion, and despite the fact I figured it would be fairly light-hearted we ended up making some serious points.

The next panel saw five people with opinions about manned spaceflight arguing in front of an audience, on a panel called ‘Man vs Robots: Who Gets to Travel Space First”. The answer to the question posed by the title is clearly ‘robots’,
since robots have beaten humans to every single place in the solar system already. However, the panel was very interesting, covering a lot of ground with several very fascinating and very vehement arguments. It was just like being an undergraduate again, and I felt a little bit starstruck by how much more experience in the field every other panellist had.

The third panel was the one on *Stargate: Universe*. This saw me saying *SGU* was great, Eytan saying it was okay but wasn’t a good *Stargate* show and Inge Heyer (the third panellist) declaring it rubbish. It was all good-natured, despite the fact that we all had such hugely different views on what the show’s strengths and weaknesses were, and the audience seemed to have a good time, with several coming up and having a chat with us at the end before I eventually headed off to the Closing Ceremony.

At the Closing Ceremony, we found out that Worldcon hadn’t yet started. This caused some confusion, since we had all been under the assumption that a Worldcon had been going on; we were wrong, however, since Patty Wells had forgotten to officially declare it open. She did so, before declaring it closed again, resulting in what has to be one of the shortest Worldcons ever held. I feel privileged to be a part of such history. The handover to Chicon 7 was conducted with aplomb and videos, and I must confess that since attending my first Worldcon I now imagine I may become a bit addicted to them. I clearly need a job that can sustain a Worldcon habit!

Eventually I went back down to the deli to actually eat, meeting up with Deb and Anthony Kopec and Jason Schachat before being joined by Bryan Little and Mette Hedin. Since España was being lame and actually getting sleep (laame), she caught up with us a bit later, and we had a fantastic meal. We caught some beer in the sports bar next to the deli before we split up and went up to the party floor. I wound up being in the party for chairs of previous Worldcons (still not entirely sure how that happened, beyond a certain British fan being of the opinion that it needed more young people in it). I wound up talking with Russ Hodgkins for a bit, who was the third fan I met who attended the first Worldcon, and actually chaired the second, Chicon 1.
España and Jason came upstairs and also met Russ, and we headed back down to the sports bar we’d been inhabiting earlier, meeting up with the same people as before, too. Warren Buff joined us, and we chatted and talked and generally had a good wind-down. I eventually became too lame to stay up (why I didn’t just drink like five espressos, I’ll never know) and headed to the room in which I had arranged to stay, in the Atlantis. That was the end of my convention; talking bollocks in the bar with a group of people I call friends.

That’s how every convention should be.
A Look at the 2011 Hugo Awards

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor Emeritus

This year, like every year, the Hugo Awards burst onto the scene at WorldCon, and have a lot of folks talking for a lot of different reasons. The voting level this year was higher than ever before, with more than 2,000 votes collected after a nomination period that had far more than any other year prior. The Hugos seem to be attracting more and more attention, which can only be a good thing.

The ceremony itself was hosted by BArea favorite Jay Lake, who lives in the Portland, Oregon, portion of the Bay Area, and Ken Scholes, and they received mixed reviews. I thought some of their shtick seemed a little forced, but some was a lot of fun. They were best when they went off-script and seemed to just react to what was going on.

The pacing of the show was a bit suspect, though. There was a long tribute to Japanese fandom after the earthquake, which very much dampened the spirits. If it was only a couple of minutes, it would have been fine, but at nearly 10 by my count, it was way too long. In fact, had they cut the length of that and used the time to run the “In Memoriam” list (which they showed before the ceremony started) with some music or something, I would have been much happier.

But what are you gonna do?

The Hugo Award for the Best John W. Campbell Award Winner for Best New Writer went first and was won by Lev Grossman. This was the odds-on favorite for the award, though there was a lot of buzz around the awesome Lauren Beukes as well, who ended up coming in second. Saladin Ahmed, who I think has a very bright future in front of him as well, ran third. The awarding of the tiara, a tradition that started with his Lordship John Scalzi, was presided over by last year’s winner, Seanan McGuire. Lev took a knee and allowed the tiara to be placed upon his bald head. It was awesome.

This led to the actual Hugos being awarded, starting with the Hugo for Best Fan Artist, presented by legendary Fan Artist and swell human being, Stu Shiffman. It went to the excellent Brad W. Foster, who beat out Randall Munroe, who polled the most first place votes, in a very close race. Our own Mo Starkey came in third, which was an excellent finish for a first-time nominee! Sadly, Brad wasn’t there to pick it up himself, but I hope he’ll bring it to FenCon so I can see it!

This led into Best Fan Writer, presented by TAFF delegate John “The Rock” Coxon, who would visit the BArea after the con for a few days. This one went to Claire Brialey, which may be some of the best evidence that people are using the Hugo Voters Packets to make up their minds as to their voting. Steven H Silver had the most first place votes, but he and Claire went back and forth until Claire won it. Oddly, I managed to come in second, and Steven third. Claire gave a lovely speech and it was very nice that it was Mr. Coxon
presenting as she’s one of the first people he encountered in fandom. I was so happy to see her win, even if it meant that I didn’t.

OK, I’ve gotta talk a bit about The Drink Tank’s surprise win for Best Fanzine. There’s an entire article about it at efanzines.com/DrinkTank/DrinkTank290.pdf. A few notes: James Bacon appears to be the first winner of a Hugo from the Republic of Ireland. It has been suggested that I might actually be the first Hispanic to win a Hugo. I’m not sure of it, though when it came up in the Fanzine Lounge the next morning, I think it was Mark Plummer who said: “What about Philip Jose Farmer?” It was a magical moment for me, and it’s been talked about a lot on the intarwebs, so there’s not much more to say about it. It’s the first fanzine out of the BArea to win since the 2004 win by Emerald City when Cheryl Morgan still lived out this way. David Cake, the Duff delegate who also visited the BArea after the con, was the presenter. The meltdown I had on-stage has been viewed almost 50,000 times on various
sites. The podcast StarShipSofa had the most first place votes, but after redistributes, The Drink Tank ended up winning. So really, I still haven’t legitimately won a Hugo. So it goes…

Best Semi-Prozine went to Clarkeworld, edited by Neil Clarke, Cheryl Morgan and Sean Wallace. It’s a good on-line zine and I’m glad it won. I’m a bit surprised it had no editors on the Best Editor Short Form list, but that could change. They announced they’ll be bowing out for next year, which may add to the potential for a Best Editor nom. Our local institution Locus came in second.

Best Pro Artist went to Shaun Tan. The guy has an Oscar and now another Hugo. He beat Stephan Martinere who ran second, and John Picacio, who really needs one of these things because he’s doing such great stuff. Tan wasn’t there to get his award, sadly.

This was followed by one of the highlights of the show from where I was sitting. Lou Anders, the driving force behind PYR books, won for Best Editor Long Form (and why is Long Form Editor before Short Form, but Short Form Dramatic Presentation before Long Form?). He pulled himself together but it was so obvious that he was overwhelmed with joy over winning. He is a better man than I! To me, this was the toughest category to choose in. I came to the decision that Lou would be winning, and he’s more than deserving, but I was debating up until the night before when I posted my thoughts on Twitter. A fine winner.

Sheila Williams won the Best Editor Short Form. Sheila chewed me out for being mean in my Handicapping the Hugos because I’m not at all a fan of Asimov’s in recent years, though there are some really good stories. I will try to be nicer. She has been around for years and is a good choice, though for me, it’s not the best magazine out there. She gave a great speech.

The Best Short Form Dramatic Presentation winner was “The Pandorica Opens/The Big Bang.” Second went to “Vincent & The Doctor,” followed by “A Christmas Carol.” After all the Doctor Who episodes, “Fuck Me, Ray Bradbury” was fourth. Rachel Bloom did a fine performance of it the night before.

The Best Dramatic Presentation Long Form was Inception, which fan Steven H Silver accepted for. It ran away with the category, which was pretty much expected. How to Train Your Dragon came second, which I was a little surprised at.

The most interesting category to me outside of the Fan categories had to be Best Graphic Story. Girl Genius won again, with Fables in second. Grandville Mon Amor, which I adored, did not do well. That made me sad. This was presented by the musical group Tricky Pixie and they did an OK job with their banter. Phil and Kaja Foglio announced that they too would be withdrawing next year, which will mean that we’ll get a different winner for the first time in the history of the category. That was a nice touch. The Sunset Clause is up next year on it, and that’ll mean at least some battle over whether or not it’ll be a permanent category. I think it’s a good one, but Girl Genius’ domination might make it difficult!

The Best Related Work category was interesting and it saw my fave, Chicks Dig Time Lords, win! There were a couple of BArea folks, including my good friend Johanna Mead, who were in it and the wonderful Lynne M. Thomas and Tara O’Shea gave an excellent acceptance speech. Tara’s red dress was, far and away, my favorite outfit of all the winners!

That led to the Big Four, and with the first one, Best Short Story, we had four nominees and Mary Robinette Kowal, BayCon 2011’s Writer Guest of Honor, winning with her story ‘For Want of a Nail.” It was a great story, and it beat out
Amaryllis by Carrie Vaughn, which was my fave to take it all. I was lucky enough to be sitting in the row in front of Mary’s so she had to walk by and I gave her a big hug on her way to the stage. She’s one of my favorite people!

The Best Novelette went to Allen Steel for “The Emperor of Mars,” not my fave, but a decent one. He gave a nice talk and I finally got to meet him and he was a really nice guy.

This is where we got our annual Robert Silverberg speech, since Connie Willis was a nominee and not a presenter. He did a hilarious speech and it went brilliantly. SilverBob really is a treasure and a super speaker. The winner of the Novella was my fellow Minicon 2012 Guest of Honor, Ted Chiang, for The Lifecycle of Software Objects. It was my co-fave, along with Troika, which ran second. This was a strong category as far as I am concerned.

The Main Event! Connie Willis won, though Feed by local gal Mira Grant had more firsts. It also ran second. This was a tough year, as I’d have loved to have seen The Dervish House win, but alas, it ran last. The whole thing has caused a blowup among a lot of fans because they see it as a fan favorite winning instead of the Best Novel, where they may have a point, but alas, thinking like that would mean I would still be Hugo-less!
By Thad Gann

Staff Writer

In early September, the Bay Area was blessed with a conjunction of rare occurrences. Marian Call, the Alaska-based singer/songwriter and long-time Firefly fan, was in town for a series of house concerts and events. She was here in part to promote her new album (which I’ve heard—it’s marvelous) and in part to connect with friends and fans. Marian is a Stanford University alum with many friends here. Due to behind the scenes efforts by our local Browncoats, she also attended some special fan events. They were too many to keep track of and several people contributed in ways I never knew.

The Bay Area Browncoat groups had a joint meeting on September 3rd at Little India Restaurant in Redwood City. Northern California has several Browncoat groups. For those not familiar with the Browncoats, they are a collection of people with a mutual admiration for Joss Whedon’s TV series Firefly. It is a testament to Joss, the actors, and crew of Firefly that this short-lived series has fans meeting for almost 10 years on a regular basis. It’s not so much an organized fan club as a group of independent friends with mutual interests. Generally, meetings around here are on the first Saturdays in the South Bay and the second Saturdays in San Francisco. Occasionally, at least once a year, we have a combined meetup. Yes, I said we. I’m a fan, and a Browncoat. Fair disclosure and all that. For this meetup, we were blessed with Marian’s appearance. She has performed at Little India before, but today, about 30 people attended this meetup. It was almost

Marian Call Performs for the Browncoats in the Bay Area
impossible to get an accurate count because most people
moved around. There were not enough tables to have eating
space for everyone at the same time so when one person
finished they let someone else take their seat. Naturally, this
makes for a lively meeting. It is practically impossible for
even someone as shy as me to stay inside their shell.

Later that evening, Marian was one of the performers for
the Space Cowboys Ball. The Space Cowboys Ball was a
Firefly-themed dress ball hosted by the Period Events and
Entertainments Re-Creation Society, commonly known as
PEERS (www.peers.org). PEERS is a wonderful organization
promoting dance, costuming and camaraderie. Marian sang,
among other songs, “Jayne,” about our favorite bandit.

Playing the main sets for the Space Cowboys Ball were
Bangers & Mash, a local band that has performed English
country and vintage dance music since 1994. They are a
delightfully charming band that provided the perfect music for
the evening. I first heard Bangers & Mash at the 2006
Browncoat Ball in San Francisco.

Marian also played several house concerts while in town. I
was lucky enough to attend the concerts in San Francisco and
Oakland. The wonderful thing about house concerts is the
relaxed atmosphere and getting to meet the artist. So,
fortunately, we got to find out how some songs were inspired
or conceived. If you ever get the chance, attend or host a house
concert. Her new album, Something Fierce, started shipping
October 18th. Marian has labored over this two-CD set some
time now. The love and care shows.
By España Sheriff

Editor

With the continuing lack of local conventions during the Fall season this year, I decided a while back to take a lesson from my adventures last year and take a little October trip out of town once again, this time to the Pacific Northwest instead of the East Coast.

My original, and probably overly ambitious, plan had been to travel up to Seattle for Geek Girl Con (GGC), remain in the city for sightseeing during the intervening week, and then attend Steamcon the weekend after. In the end, however, a combination of factors caused me to choose just Geek Girl Con. Partly because I love the idea behind it, partly because it would be a brand new convention, but mainly because although I enjoyed my first visit to Steamcon in 2009, I did feel rather thwarted in my attempts to use their Facebook group and forums to arrange to meet up/coordinate with folks attending both events. Not knowing anyone in the Seattle area, I had really hoped to meet some new folks and potentially maintain some continuity between one convention and the other.

In retrospect it worked out fine, since five days rattling around the city would have been too much on my own, particularly taking into consideration the extra day of travel there and back on the train. The Coast Starlight, which I have mentioned in my Loscon reports as the train I take home, offers some amazing scenery. Ocean view in the south, pure cinematic Southern California, and then rolling sand-colored
hills and wind farms as it veers away from the coast. The route north is lush and green, full of cattle and trees after entering the rural parts of southern Oregon, which the train passes through as the sun comes up. There seem to be rivers and bridges just about everywhere, growing larger and more industrial as you approach the cities in the north, culminating with Portland, which is nicknamed “Bridgetown” for a reason.

The hotel I was staying was the Inn at Queen Anne, located right across from the Northwest Rooms of the Seattle Center, where the convention took place. The Seattle Center is also home to the Space Needle, the monorail and a bunch of other neat things built for the 1962 World’s Fair as well as the more recently added Experience Music Project (EMP) Museum, which houses the SF Hall of Fame. Needless to say this was extremely convenient to my post-convention plans.

I had pre-registered, and was glad of it when I saw the line the first morning. They did in fact sell out of weekend passes pretty quickly, and of Saturday passes shortly thereafter, having wisely capped their membership in anticipation of filling the relatively small space. I’m glad to say that aside from capacity issues (most big events filled up quickly) and a relatively minor glitch, which caused Saturday registration to start a bit late (and frankly, not scheduling enough time between doors opening and programming start), the organization of the convention was really quite impressive. One very nice touch was that the volunteers all wore bright yellow shirts and were virtually everywhere, including in strategic areas where attendees were likely to get lost.

Although in its first year, and from what I gather primarily focused on the San Diego Comic-Con/Dragon*Con demographic, the con did an admirable job of providing programming of interest to as many members as possible,
mainly centered around the topics of women in genre, feminism and anti-oppression. The lit content was not huge, but there were book dealers, signings and several authors in attendance whose work I’m familiar with, including Cherie Priest and Scott Westerfeld. This was in addition to gaming, cosplay, media, comics, music, crafting and just about anything you’d expect from a general interest con.

They also arranged with the EMP Museum to use some of their rooms for those events that needed larger spaces, including the Friday concert (which I missed due to my late arrival in the city), the Saturday Whedonesque Burlesque (which I missed due to it being separately ticketed and selling out) and the Masquerade (which I missed due to being extremely lazy). However, I did manage to get over there to see Jane Espenson be interviewed, and she was quite delightful and funny while also managing to repeatedly plug her new webseries *Husbands* in a charmingly shameless manner.

I had met up with Yvette Keller, a fan I know from things like BASFA, for the Espenson panel and afterwards we stayed at the Museum to check it out. Sadly the SF Hall of Fame and permanent exhibits are currently under renovation, but although that was really the part I would have most liked to see, I did really enjoy the three big exhibits on display. The *Battlestar Galactica* one had costumes and props from the old series and new as well as three full-size ships, a Viper from the old show, another from the new one and a Cylon raider. It almost made me want to finish watching the series already. The *Avatar* exhibit was fancier and sort of made me wish that James Cameron would just quit making movies and focus on theme parks or some other interactive experience. I still have no interest in seeing the movie, but the world-building was top-notch, and the giant AMP suit was pretty impressive, reminiscent of the power loader in *Aliens*.

Finally, in the basement, appropriately, was the Can’t Look Away: Horror Films exhibition, timed for Halloween. It was beautifully designed as a maze of black, jaggedly crosshatched walls with sinister red lighting, dark corners, and disturbing sounds and music. Several aspects of horror were explored, with audiovisual and interactive exhibits dedicated to general concepts of the genre. Particular attention was devoted to music and sound as a way of conveying dread and suspense. A series of small alcoves at the end of twisty little passageways each featured two specific horror movies, which were explored in greater depth. Also on display were some wonderful props including the mask worn in *The Creature from the Black Lagoon*, Jack Torrance’s axe from *The Shining* and, my favorite, “Mr. Pointy,” Buffy the Vampire Slayer’s favorite stake. Along the far wall was a list of their top hundred must-see horror films arranged chronologically, with poster images and annotations/quotes from famous fans of the work in question.

Wanting to get back to the convention, we skipped the offerings at the EMP proper, although those seemed equally impressive for music fans. Once back at GGC, I let Yvette head to a panel and explored the dealer’s room, which was a decent size. I’m glad to say it also had a wide variety of vendors, from artists, jewelers, comics, books, games, clothing and pretty much anything else you would expect. There was also very little overlap, and a handful of artists whose wares I have not seen at any other cons, which I rather like in a dealers room when space is at a premium. The main bookseller was University Bookstore, which was also the location for the signings. While this made sense, it would have been more
convenient had their table been located against one of the walls.

I rarely do signings at cons, but had read One Con Glory by Sarah Kuhn on my way up on the train, and quite enjoyed it. As I perused, the schedule I was delighted to see Kuhn would be doing a signing along with Javier Grillo-Marxuach, the creator of the series Middle Man. I hadn’t realized he would be at the convention, and after missing every programming item he was on at Gallifrey One this year, I decided I would make a determined effort to catch one of his panels AND get something signed. As it turned out, the University Bookstore had copies of the Middle Man comic, so I picked that up. I also got some lovely ceramic earrings from Surlyramics who had a rather unique and geeky selection, which I had not seen before.

I did in fact make several panels, every one of which was excellent. The first was about geek girls as portrayed in media and featured Sarah Kuhn, Javier Grillo-Marxuach and Amy Berg, among others. The discussion was lively, and Berg, who I am almost certain I have seen before, riffed nicely with Grillo-Marxuach. I now doubly regret not having caught up on the now-cancelled Eureka, on which she was a writer. I also attended the Ink-Stained Amazons talk, which was an audiovisual tour of Jennifer Kate Stuller’s book and quite fun. The introductory video was surprisingly moving, featuring heroines old and new. I still disagree with her assessment of Joyce Summers, but I will probably check out the book anyway. Finally, I had intended to see the Womanthology panel, but mistakenly thought it would be in the room I was already in. As it turned out it was actually a panel on gaming, with the women from The Border House gaming blog. I decided to stay and check it out, and am glad I did since the
discussion was extremely interesting even to my not-quite-a-gamer, uninformed perspective.

I considered heading over for closing ceremonies, but rather wanted to get back to my hotel to rest up a bit and eat some dinner. The main disadvantage to the con (something I associate with comic cons, rather than a problem with GGC specifically) was the lack of a central bar, hotel, consuite, lounge or other gathering space. The closest to it was the courtyard of the Northwest Rooms, which among other things hosted an impromptu Molly Lewis concert on Sunday (which I missed due to starvation). But that was a limited use space and not viable in the evenings.

Without a natural meeting place, my roommates and I had been enthusiastic about a flyer announcing an event at the Reading Room on Saturday. The map informed us it was several miles away, however. We briefly considered grabbing a cab but inertia intervened and sleep won out that night. So on Sunday we were all determined to make something happen. We agreed that at minimum we would gather at one of the neighborhood bars. Thus I grabbed a spot at a bar called Floyds while they went to closing ceremonies. Although it was ideally located, right across the street from the convention center, within a few minutes I realized Floyds was a sports bar and there was a game on, so not ideally suited to our needs.

Once my roommates showed up, we gave it a few minutes in case anyone else wandered in and then headed to meet up with a couple at a place called Unicorn, located in Capitol Hill. As it turned out this was an excellent choice. The bar was not so much unicorn-themed as sporting a carnival/bohemian circus sort of vibe, but still highly amusing, with good food and good drinks (and some not-so-good choices, including deep fried Snickers and crispy fried Twinkies). The conversation was lively and nerdy and quite exactly what I wanted for the end of my con.

On Monday morning, my roommates left for their respective homes and I settled in for two days of Seattle sightseeing, which involved wandering around a lot and getting rained on, eating a very tasty donut at a place called
Top Pot, and riding the monorail (truly the future of 1962 is the best of all possible futures!). I also visited the Pacific Science Center, which was clearly aimed at a younger audience, but still entertaining, if only for the giant animatronic praying mantis and the butterfly room. The butterflies were quite spectacular, excepting some enormous, handsan-wide Moth Butterflies, which flew ponderously, alarmingly close to head level. After one landed on my head I called it a day.

To cap it all, during the convention someone had tweeted about a Pratchett signing taking place in the city on Tuesday, so I was able to snag a ticket and finish off my visit with some extra fannishness. I’m not very familiar with Pratchett, but it seemed too serendipitous and a rare chance so I took it, bought a copy of Mort and, after getting lost twice on the way to the reading, had a thoroughly enjoyable time listening to the man be witty and charming and generally making me want to read everything he has written.

Wednesday, at some ridiculously early hour, I took one last monorail trip and headed to the Amtrak station, satisfied at having packed a week’s worth of geekery into four and a half days. I haven’t decided yet if I will be attending Geek Girl Con next year, although some of my friends have expressed interested in heading up together. But they have a good thing going on, and I will be paying close attention to announcements about their 2012 venue. Come to think of it, the SF Hall of Fame will be back open for business by then, too.
By John Coxon
Contributing Writer

Unless you’ve been deliberately ignoring the Internet and mass media recently—or, I suppose, if you rely on SF/SF for all your news and refuse to read anything else (in which case, thanks!)—you will no doubt have heard about the death of Steve Jobs. Confirmed by Apple on October 5, 2011, the news sent ripples through the tech industry and spawned a cavalcade of tributes and anecdotes from a wide range of people—Mac fans and small indie developers, all the way up to the President of the United States.

It would be impossible (and, I think, pointless) to write about anything that has not already been exhaustively covered in the month preceding the release of this issue. If you want to read an obituary, or read about Steve Jobs’ career, there are much better writers who have written about it much more comprehensively than I ever could. (If you’d like me to help you find some of those articles, feel free to contact me, since I bookmarked them all in Pinboard!) Instead, what I’m going to do is describe the first time that Steve Jobs, through Apple, affected my life.

My first portable music device was a Sony Walkman. Not a Discman; a Walkman, with a cassette player and radio. The first music tapes I had are now long gone, and good riddance, since they were awful—I actually still had the Walkman itself up until around a month ago, when I donated a pile of old stuff to the local charity shop. I still have all the spoken-word cassettes, though, in a small pile along with some VHS tapes and some Game Boy games and other examples of now long-obsolete media.

Some of it isn’t worth keeping—from my chair, sitting at my iMac, I can see a recording off the radio of Desert Island Discs, and a cassette containing an obscure Star Wars short...
story read by someone whose name you’ve never heard. But, nevertheless, it was on that Walkman that I first listened to the cassette tapes of the radio series of Douglas Adams’ *Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*, and fell in love.

Fast forward to the end of Christmas in 2005. *The Hitchhiker’s Guide* is rereleased as an MP3 CD by the BBC, a much cheaper option than buying the CD boxset, which is eight CDs and costs about twice as much. Since I want to upgrade my old Walkman anyway, I am thinking about getting an MP3 CD player. My brother suggests that, if I want to play MP3s, it might be a far better idea to buy an MP3 player. “Like an iPod,” he says, off-handedly. I don’t pay much attention to that, but it becomes important later (you’ll see).

I remember my gift, that Christmas, very vividly. I eagerly tore open the wrapping paper to find a music player. However, it wasn’t an iPod, it was a music player manufactured by Philips. A Dutch company, rather well known for their kitchen appliances and washing machines; not so much known for their manufacture of music players. The model I got was, as far as I can tell from a stern test of my Google-fu, the Philips HDD070 2GB Micro Audio Jukebox (I found it on Amazon). It came with a piece of software called Digital Music Manager, which was written by Philips themselves and, consequently, rather naff.

At the time, I had maybe four CDs, so the two gigabytes (GB) of storage space was fine (looking back from the future, in which I own a 32 GB iPhone 4S, this now seems laughable). And the player itself was… okay. It wasn’t terrible, but I wasn’t crazy about it; it did the job. But eventually, after about a couple of months, it stopped working in quite the way I wanted it to. For instance, songs would no longer sort themselves in album order, instead appearing alphabetically. After several arguments with the Digital Music Manager, it became clear that this was not going to be a solvable problem, and so we sent it back to Amazon and got a voucher for our trouble.
I promptly bought an iPod Mini. It was blue, and it was 4 GB (the second-generation one was out, so I could have had the 6 GB model, but I really didn’t need all that space at the time). If, when it came to my appreciation of music, there was a pivotal point in my life, that was it. My CD collection quickly ballooned, and I loved my rugged, durable iPod Mini (and laughed at the people with the first-gen iPod Nanos, which I still maintain is one of the ugliest and most fragile devices Apple ever shipped).

I wrote an article for The Drink Tank #300 about how Apple reinvigorated my love for computing, but the iPod just plain invigorated my love of music. For that, alongside a number of other things, I have a lot to thank Steve Jobs.

Recently, I saw a picture on Twitter, of the Sprint ad on the back of the 1142nd issue of Rolling Stone. It’s a beautiful sentiment, and it is the perfect way to round off this article. Because everyone has their own story—like this one—of how Steve affected their lives.
Lloyd Penney writes:

Dear Jean and España:

Life is getting back to relative normal post-Reno Worldcon, and writing time is at a premium, given the job hunt is still on. But bits of time do present themselves here and there, so here’s some comments on SF/SF 121.

I haven’t subscribed to Netflix here, mostly because of lack of watching time, but also, seeing it started at C$8 a month, the prices have gone up (don’t know how much), and lots of people are leaving the service. I believe the split into Netflix and Qwixster has been cancelled, again due to public dislike of the idea. (Perhaps this is why I’d prefer to be able to buy DVDs of my favorite shows and movies, but this option is slowly going away.)

Jean Martin responds:

Yes, the plans for splitting Netflix was canceled. It’s a good thing and I’m glad they’re keeping the brand intact as it’s more convenient for the customers. I’m surprised they did that though because I’m sure they’ve already spent a lot of money setting up the infrastructure to do the split. Unless maybe it was just at the beginning stages and was still easy to stop. Since they didn’t even have a scheduled date for the change, that’s probably the case. I watch so many TV shows and movies on DVD and I’m sure I can’t afford to buy all of them. There’s also the storage space issue. So now I only buy DVDs that I have seen and loved so I can keep them in my collection. Sometimes I order DVDs from the UK because I can’t find particular shows in the U.S. with the intention of selling them for cheap later on but no one seems to every want to buy them. I’ve tried giving them away and that’s been difficult too! I guess not a lot of people have region-free players and/or don’t really want to watch obscure (here in the U.S.) British shows like I do.

España, what has Lev Grossman thought about all this attention to his writing, the parties, and the fanbase at Reno? He must have wondered where all this adoration was coming from, not that he was complaining, of course. The photo on page 13 shows he really liked that tiara. I hope he feels that your hard work on promoting The Magicians helped him get the tiara. All that walking between the hotel and the RSCC allowed me to lose about 10 pounds or so. We did a grocery order to save money and eat the portions I’m used to, instead of the massive amounts of food served at the hotel restaurants.

I finally finished reading The Magicians and I was completely sucked into the world. The writing is top-notch and I really liked the twist in the end. Lev was such a nice guy and the party that Leigh Ann, España, et al, was amazing. And this is the second time that after I meet an important/famous writer from New York, I see them on TV soon after. I’m sure they’ve been on TV before but I don’t watch much TV and so it’s even more coincidental and noticeable when this happens. So I saw Lev Grossman on a celebrity news show talking about Steve Jobs’. In 2000, I saw then Rolling Stone editor Joe Levy on VH-1 after I met him at a wedding at the World Trade Center. Wow, yes, that was almost a year before 9/11. The wedding was fun with the
Beastie Boys and Moby in attendance. Joe Levy was one of the groomsmen. But so sad for the bride and groom who live in the vicinity and who will probably always remember their wedding location as the site for such a monumental tragedy.

Hello, to John Coxon, hope you’ve recovered sufficiently from all that TAFFish fun. Looks like you had the same five days of crazy that I did. Lots of fun and ribbons. Just for the record, I do listen to a lot of Radio 2, especially that Steve Wright chap, and we are already Friends of the London bid, and we are even now saving to go the London Worldcon. The TAFF candidates are Warren Buff, Kim Kofmel and Jacq Monahan, and this will be an excellent ballot.

Part 1 of John’s report for SF/SF was excellent and I’m glad he had a great time at Renovation. He’s super nice and I was glad I got to be on a panel with him because he’s very smart and spoke well. As of the time I’m writing this, I haven’t read Part 2 of his report yet and I’m looking forward to reading about his experiences in the Bay Area.

I am in charge of a major display coming up at SFContario 2 in Toronto in late November. It’s a display of all kinds of awards handed out by the Canadian SF&F Association, from the various Aurora Awards, the Casper Awards before that, and other awards given out to Canadian writers, artists and fans. I will be taking plenty of pictures. I had wondered if one kind of exhibit that should be at a Worldcon is one of awards, actual awards from around the world, like the Aurora, the Nova, the Ditmar, and so many more.

I am done for now, and have to start thinking about going to the Globe and Mail tonight. Thanks for another fun issue.

You’re welcome and good luck with the job hunting!

Trans-Atlantic Fan Fundery

There are two candidates for the 2012 TAFF race: Warren Buff, Kim G. Kofmel, and Jacqueline Monahan. *Ahem.* There are three candidates for the 2012 TAFF race from North America to the UK. For candidate’s statements a handy PDF ballot form, and a fabulous archive of TAFF history maintained by David Langford, please visit taff.org.uk. Be sure to vote by December 9th.

For the latest, up to the minute TAFF news:
Follow @TAFFnews,
Friend facebook.com/TAFFnews or
Join the TAFFnews.livejournal.com community

Join our crew!

We are looking for writers to cover local events, conventions, fan groups and the fannish scene in general.
Contact Jean Martin at SFinSF@gmail.com
Meeting 1104

September 26, 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-ish - and kinda full
35 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes for meeting 1103 were accepted as “aaaaaaaaarrrrrrrrrrrr”
the Treasurer reported that at meeting 1103 we took in $6.00 in the regular jar & $18.60 in the party jar
The VP is in New Jersey
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Sports Committee reported that it’s hockey season & the Sharks are 4-0 in pre-season play

Announcements
Ken announced that this Friday will be the 2nd of 2 Legion of Rassilon meetings for this month - at 7:30 at “the usual place” at 1st & Trimble

Reviews
Adrienne reviewed *The Ghost Detective’s Guide to SF* by Loyd Auerback & Annette Martin - as a ghost folklore book that is well researched & she really enjoyed the book
[evil] Kevin reviewed the Saint Georges Spirits Bathtub Gin BBQ as they went in costume and were very photogenic, that there was fast gin voting & too many too-sweet drinks with not enough savories - but it was a fun time - then they went to Forbidden Island where he had a tiki dalek & the day
was definitely worth full price; Andy follow-on’d - rating the food trucks at the Bathtub Gin event as all of them were quite good, he also thought there were too many sweet drinks and both thought that “bait and switch” was the best drink there - also worth full price

Matthew reviewed the *Physics of Superheroes* by James Kakalious as an enjoyable book, worth full price

Diane reviewed *In Fury Born* by Weber as a good book but prepare for it to be a “must read in 1 sitting” book and is 900 pages long

Dave C reviewed *Mysteries of the Diogenes Club* by Kim Newman as enjoyable short stories & he may have to re-read it with wikipedia open & also reviewed an <http://amazon.com>amazon.com product page for a do-it-yourself gastric bypass belt kit as the reviews for this must be read

[tall] Kevin reviewed driving to Reno as he may have to rename himself “Mayhem” with the way Reno is shutting down as he visits & reviewed driving on highway 40 [Donner Pass Road] as a long and twisty road & he reviewed Doug Berry’s = Gridlore’s LJ filk lyrics “con com” as excellent

Tom reviewed a band The Flower Furnace as they do classic psychedelic songs as an interesting experience, held in a musician’s collective - the music was tasty & worth full price

We did auctions

We adjourned at 9:11pm

Rumor of the Week: “Garcia in Texas - Perry fails to win Michigan straw poll. Coincidence?”

**Meeting 1105**

October 3, 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 around 8pm - called to order by Dave G  
25 people attended  
We immediately did auctions - birthday auctioned Garth off to Joni for $6.00 - the auctioned off a lot of other stuff in the “Howeird is planning to move” jumble sale  
Dave G had to leave - & then we established a party jar  
The minutes for meeting 1104 were accepted as “TMI”  
The proxy Treasurer report was that at meeting 1104 we took in $9.10 in the regular jar & $3.55 in the party jar  
The VP was mysteriously missing  
The President had nothing fannish to report

**Announcements**

[tall] Kevin announced that he visited Fernley without causing mayhem in Reno & announced that he is looking for smaller harddrives for an upgrade of Lisa’s laptop [a Panasonic CF27 tough book]  
Eric announced that TCM is showing Buster Keaton movies this week  
Mike announced that Book Finders is selling really nice book bags - and you need to bring your own bags there now  
Howeird announced that the Chronicle newsstand outside has the headline showing “Can the Giants Repeat”
Rick announced that on Oct 11 there will be a Pecha Kucha “Tell Your Story” event at the Sonoma Chicken Coop In Campbell

Adrienne announced that Bay Area Ghost Hunters will be doing a tour of haunted Haight Ashbury for $18 at 7pm on Sat Oct 8; they’ll gather at Coffee to the People at 6:45 & her group is having dinner earlier at All You Need & she announced that a friend of hers, Monique Lisa, is playing at Lily Mac’s with Cadillac Jack on Saturday, Oct 15 at 9pm

Reviews

Dann reviewed *Apollo 18* as having a premise akin to *Cloverfield* & highly recommended - a really creepy film - worth full price

Adrienne reviewed the Chicago Ghost Conference 3 as not nearly as well-organized as local sf conventions & the hotel was several miles away from the site [so it was a case of remote viewing] - there were interesting speakers & she had an interesting time

[evil] Kevin reviewed the sing-a-long at the Retrodome for *Lonely Hearts Club Band* as the movie was so bad they pulled the dialogue and had George Burns narrate the movie & the Dome was worth full price but the film was a travesty & still rubbish [Rick “So the movie WAS the spoiler”]; Andy reviewed it as “not the worst movie ever made - but close”, however the Retrodome is highly recommended; Ken follow-on’d that the costumes were fun & everything but the film itself was golden

Andy reviewed the Dr Who season finale as he has mixed feelings about it, bit it’s still worth watching; various other comments were made - sans spoilers

Rick reviewed APE the Alternative Press Expo as there was an amazing number of people there, he made some good purchases, went with his family & it was worth the admission price; Brad follow-on’d that he went Saturday & enjoyed the art & found it a very friendly environment - worth full price

Chuck reviewed several Bob Wilkins-related things as bringing back happy memories of his childhood - check out www.bobwilkins.net & a portion of the DVD revenue goes to Alzheimer’s research

Fred reviewed *Cabaret* at the SF Stage as a really good production - and will be here for several weeks - but the tickets are selling -fast! - he highly recommends it

Dave C reviewed *Mysteries of the Diogenes Club* by Kim Newman - part 2 - as there IS a glossary & section that explains the wheres and what-fors at the end of the book

[tall] Kevin reviewed an article by Cheryl Morgan in SFX - about a movie being made in Finland called *Iron Sky* as it sounds fantastic [so go read Cheryl’s article!]

We adjourned at 9:42pm

Meeting 1106

October 10, 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 around 8:02pm - with visible humidity
26 people attended

The minutes for meeting 1105 were accepted as “weird”

The proxy Treasurer report was that at meeting 1105 we took in $37.24 in the regular jar & $0.00 in the party jar

The VP reported that there is NO new Drink Tank out [shock, horror] - but the layout for issue #300 is up to page 158 & there’ll be a new issue out tomorrow

The President had nothing fannish to report - but we said “hi” to Brad Ackerman, visiting us for the 1st time

We then did auctions - lots of books, some magazines, light sticks & a video

Announcements

Jo announced that Jim Lindeman had died [so did some other guys]

Andy announced that this weekend is the Pacific International Quilt Festival - starting Thursday and running thru Sunday afternoon in the Santa Clara convention center

Rick announced that on Oct 11 there will be a Pecha Kucha “Tell Your Story” event at the Sonoma Chicken Coop In Campbell

Josh announced that he was back & for details, see him personally

Ken announced that Quickstar has been given a mercy killing

Reviews

Josh reviewed Hunger Games by Collins as really enjoyable & reviewed Real Steel as also enjoyable

Jo reviewed Green by Jay Lake as “wow”, but not the best book he ever read & the main character is really well drawn & reviewed Steel Across the Sky by Nancy Kress as engaging, but not compelling

Diane reviewed Vintacon as wonderful but highly recommended - even as just a driver - Lisa follow-on’d that she also enjoyed herself, although she’s not that fond of reds;

Andy followed that it was the best Vintacon in years, Dave C follow-on’d that it was a fun weekend with great fine & he saw dogs and cats in peaceful non-cohabitation; Ken follow-on’d that there was a lovely cheese shop in downtown Lodi and he had a great wine grape soda

Blackfeather reviewed New Orleans as looking better - lots of construction going on and the weather was nice for September & reviewed Silicon Valley Code Camp as completely free & they feed you lunch - there were about 15 tracks going on at once & it was really fun

Brad reviewed the restaurant wireless as disappointing

Rick reviewed the 1st 2 episodes of Pan Am as a nice period piece but too crammed with plot hoods and not worth seeing the 3rd episode

Dann reviewed Secret Origins - the history of DC comics - as being online & really, really informative, concise & he thoroughly enjoyed it

Mo forgot what she was going to review

Dave C reviewed the 1st episode of Bedlam as an attempt to cross Supernatural with The Real World & not well thought out - he has his doubts

Bradford reviewed the book The Rite as a nice intro book to exorcisms

We adjourned at 9:47pm

Rumor of the Week: “when you buy a book you’re buying the illusion that you have time to read it”
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.

Tuesday, November 1
Richard Kadrey
Green Apple Books, San Francisco
www.greenapplebooks.com
Kadrey reads from and signs his new Sandman Slim novel, Aloha From Hell.
7 p.m. Free

Friday, November 4
An Evening with Neil Gaiman and Amanda Palmer
Palace of Fine Arts
3301 Lyon Street, San Francisco
www.amandapalmer.net
Starting halloween night, Amanda Palmer & neil gaiman will be tearing up through the west coast of north america on a mini-tour.
7 p.m. Check website for pricing

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. $25 (till October 30)

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

Sunday, November 13
They Might Be Giants, Jonathan Coulton
The Fillmore
1805 Geary Boulevard, San Francisco
www.jonathancoulton.com
Jonathan Coulton opens for They Might Be Giants
8 p.m. Check website for tickets

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. Sci-Fi Seafood Jamboree! 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. Feliz Navidad Fiesta! *The Braniac* (1962) & *Curse of the Aztec Mummy* (1959)  
7:30 p.m. Free

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**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  
$45 (till December 30)

**Friday-Monday, February 17-20, 2012**

**Pantheacon**

Doubletree Hotel  
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose  
www.pantheacon.com  
Pagan convention.  
$55 til September 15th

**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

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

**Consonance**

Hilton Newark/Fremont  
39900 Balentine Drive, Newark  
www.consonance.org  
Filk convention. GOH: Brenda Sinclair Sutton, Teresa Powell, Mary Crowell and Gwen Knighton. Interfilk Guest; Partners in K’Rhyme, W. Randy Hoffman and Kira Heston  
Toamistress: Seanan McGuire, International Guest: Brook Lunderville  
$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
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<th><strong>Ongoing</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sundays</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Daily</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bad Movie Night</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Dark Room Theater&lt;br&gt;2263 Mission Street, San Francisco&lt;br&gt;www.darkroomsfs.com&lt;br&gt;Featuring bad movies old and new. September is Mockbusters! October is Zombies!&lt;br&gt;8 p.m. $5</td>
<td><strong>Silicon Valley Boardgamers</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mountain View Community Center&lt;br&gt;201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View&lt;br&gt;www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb&lt;br&gt;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.&lt;br&gt;6:30 p.m. $2</td>
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<td><strong>Cartoon Art Museum</strong>&lt;br&gt;655 Mission Street, San Francisco&lt;br&gt;www.cartoonart.org&lt;br&gt;Current exhibitions <em>Green Lantern</em> through Nov 6.&lt;br&gt;11-5 p.m. $6 (Closed Mondays)</td>
<td><strong>Sakuramento Anime Society</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rancho Cordova Library&lt;br&gt;9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova&lt;br&gt;www.sclibrary.org&lt;br&gt;Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.&lt;br&gt;3-6 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Tuesdays</strong></td>
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<td><strong>San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour</strong>&lt;br&gt;Begins: Queen Anne Hotel&lt;br&gt;1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco&lt;br&gt;www.sfghosthunt.com&lt;br&gt;Closed Tuesdays.&lt;br&gt;7-10 p.m. $20</td>
<td><strong>MGI Boffers &amp; Outdoor Games</strong>&lt;br&gt;Codornices Park&lt;br&gt;1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley&lt;br&gt;mgisciaf.angelfire.com&lt;br&gt;Bad weather: we meet the same time at 33 Revolutions Record Shop &amp; Cafe, El Cerrito for boardgames.&lt;br&gt;3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free</td>
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<td><strong>VIZ Cinema</strong>&lt;br&gt;1746 Post Street, San Francisco&lt;br&gt;www.newpeopleworld.com/films&lt;br&gt;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.&lt;br&gt;Please check theater for showtimes and tickets.</td>
<td><strong>SF Games</strong>&lt;br&gt;Zephyr Cafe&lt;br&gt;3643 Balboa Street, San Francisco&lt;br&gt;vax.hanford.org/dk/games&lt;br&gt;SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week.&lt;br&gt;2 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Wednesdays</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Bayside Science Fiction Association</strong>&lt;br&gt;Coco’s&lt;br&gt;1206 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale&lt;br&gt;www.basfa.org&lt;br&gt;8 p.m. Free</td>
<td><strong>Principality of Mists Fighter Practice</strong>&lt;br&gt;Twin Creeks Sports Complex&lt;br&gt;969 Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale&lt;br&gt;www.westkingdom.org/node/343&lt;br&gt;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.&lt;br&gt;7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Free</td>
<td><strong>Mondays</strong></td>
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**Mondays**

**Bay Area Science Fiction Association**
Coco’s<br>1206 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale<br>www.basfa.org<br>8 p.m. Free
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Wednesdays</th>
<th>Thursdays</th>
<th>Fridays-Mondays</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bay Area Role-Playing Society</strong></td>
<td><strong>CAS: NightLife</strong></td>
<td><strong>Haunted Haight Walking Tour</strong></td>
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<td>Go-Getter’s Pizza</td>
<td>The California Academy of Sciences</td>
<td>Meets at Coffee To The People</td>
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<tr>
<td>1489 Beach Park Boulevard, Foster City</td>
<td>55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco</td>
<td>1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email <a href="mailto:GM@BayRPS.com">GM@BayRPS.com</a></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Reservations required. 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.</td>
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<td>6 p.m. - 10 p.m.</td>
<td>6 p.m. - 10 p.m.</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>East Bay Strategy Games Club</strong></td>
<td><strong>SF Games</strong></td>
<td><strong>Vampire Walking Tour</strong></td>
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<td>EndGame</td>
<td>Muddy’s Coffeehouse</td>
<td>Meets corner of California and Taylor, San Francisco</td>
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<tr>
<td>921 Washington, Oakland</td>
<td>1304 Valencia Street, San Francisco</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sfvampiretour.com">www.sfvampiretour.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html">www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html</a></td>
<td>vax.hanford.org/dk/games</td>
<td>Led by Mina Harker. Tour is canceled if there is heavy rain.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.</td>
<td>SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week.</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fanboy Planet Podcast</strong></td>
<td>7 p.m. - midnight</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illusive Comics and Games</td>
<td><strong>PenSFA Party</strong></td>
<td>Biweekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>2725 El Camino Real, Suite 105, Santa Clara</td>
<td>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 <a href="mailto:commander@pensfa.org">commander@pensfa.org</a> 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.fanboyplanet.com">www.fanboyplanet.com</a></td>
<td>Free</td>
<td><strong>Fridays and Saturdays</strong></td>
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<td>Live from Illusive Comics and Games, it’s the Fanboy Planet Podcast with your host, Derek McCaw.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td><strong>Fridays and Saturdays</strong></td>
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### 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 sfsclifi@yahoo.com for more information.

**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

#### Spec Fiction Book Club
Keplers Books  
1010 El Camino Real Menlo Park, CA 94025  
www.keplers.com  
Meets the second Sunday of every month.  
4 p.m. Free

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

#### Rocky Horror Picture Show
The Clay, 2261 Fillmore Street  
San Francisco  
The Clay, 2261 Fillmore Street and The Guild, 949 El Camino Real  
Menlo Park  
www.bawdycaste.org  
The Bawdy Caste presents the classic midnight movie the first Saturday of the month, alternating between the Clay in San Francisco and the Guild in Menlo Park.  
Midnight

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

#### East Bay Star Wars Club
Central Perk  
10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito  
510-558-7375  
www.ebstarwars.com  
Meets the second Friday of every month.  
7:30 p.m. Free

#### Fantastic Frontiers
www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/  
Social club for Sacramento County sci fi/ fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.

#### No-Name Anime
Saratoga Library  
13650 Saratoga Avenue  
Saratoga  
www.nnanime.com  
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.  
Free

#### SF Browncoats
Cafe Murano  
1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco  
www.sfbrowncoats.com  
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.  
Noon Free
**Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club**
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Meets the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.
6 p.m. Free

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

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

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

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

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

**Sci-Fi Book Group with Kym**
Barnes & Noble
El Cerrito Plaza, 6050 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito
http://store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/event/3110722-4
Meets the fourth Friday of the month.
7 p.m. Free

**Legion of Rassilon**
Carl’s Jr.
2551 N 1st St, San Jose
www.legionofrassilon.org
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.
7:30 p.m. Free

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

**Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE**
Round Table Pizza
4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento
916-338-2300
Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.
6 p.m. Free
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<th>Sunday</th>
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