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Art Credits
Cover A spill of silence by Lucy Huntzinger

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By Jean Martin  
*Editor-in-Chief*

I’m writing this the day after Thanksgiving and today I am reminded of the good things that have happened to me so far this year that I am thankful for. There have been all the wonderful events and conventions, hanging out with friends, costuming and performing… and getting engaged!

More recently, I applied for and was accepted as a freelance contributor for the Examiner.com as their SF Costume Design Examiner. SF stands for San Francisco, which I’m taking to mean as the entire SF Bay Area. Of course, I’ll be covering science fiction costuming, but so far, most of the articles I’ve already written and those in the pipeline are historical and Steampunk. I guess I’ll have to wait until the convention starts again in the New Year to write about scifi and fantasy costuming.

The Examiner.com, according to their web site, is the nation’s leading media network powered by the world’s largest community of trusted local insiders. It is a news web site and not a blog and I am happy to be establishing myself as a subject-matter expert in the field of costuming. Thus, my articles for the Examiner.com will largely be different from what I write for *SF/SF*. As an Examiner, I will be writing shorter news articles focused on costuming that are in the third person and strictly follow AP style. So I’m re-learning how to write in a more journalistic style and also how to write for and market on the Internet. It is quite challenging but interesting and fulfilling.

Although I may re-print some of my Examiner.com articles in *SF/SF* when appropriate (such as in this issue where I am re-printing one about the recent Victorian Halloween Haunted House), my articles for *SF/SF* will be as they have always been: longer, covering a variety of things and in the first person. I am hoping that my work with Examiner.com will lead to more exposure for *SF/SF* and vice versa. It’s a win-win situation for both, in my opinion. You can find (and subscribe, like and share) my link at: www.examiner.com/costume-design-1-in-san-francisco/jean-martin

Looking forward to the end of 2011, I’m looking forward to Dickens Fair, Christmas and New Year’s Eve. This is my last editorial of the year and so I wish everyone all the joys of the holiday season and a spectacular 2012. I know things haven’t been easy for a lot of people in 2011, and there continues to be uncertainty and challenges ahead, but I hope for the best for all of us and I wish you all peace and happiness in the New Year.
By España Sheriff

One Con Glory by Sarah Kuhn is a breezy 103 pages of nerd girl hijinks. Printed in an eye-catching edition by Alert Nerd press, it’s a novella that could easily have been expanded into novel length. But then again I rather admire the choice not to overstay one’s welcome in this age of 1,000 page sagas full of unnecessary plot devices.

I discovered the book through io9 and I read it on the train up to Geek Girl Con last month, figuring it was appropriate given the subject matter. Unbeknownst to me, Kuhn was a guest at the convention, so I happily got it signed as well after seeing her on a panel, which I enjoyed immensely.

At its core the book’s story is a romantic comedy for nerds; girl meets boy in the very heart of nerd-dom. It’s a fairly straightforward romance story at that, but well written and very fun, with an original setting and a well thought out world supporting it. Our protagonist, Julie, is a San Francisco blogger and fangirl who is covering a SoCal San Diego Comic-Con-style convention, Ginormocon, for pop culture magazine Mammoth Media. Specifically, she is interviewing James Camden, one of the stars of the hit television show The Periodic Seven.

The show in question is based off of an obscure eighties Marvel comic book, a mostly forgotten cult title of the same name. It contained Julie’s favorite heroine, psychoempath Glory Gilmore, whose action figure has played a central role in several chapters of Julie’s life. A complicated heroine, with
some anger issues of her own and unconventional abilities, Glory Gilmore is the original fandom of Julie’s nerd heart, and between chapters we get to see her blog posts exploring her connection to the character.

Julie is a prickly protagonist, initially almost too much so, but Kuhn chooses a first person narration, which, in addition to the blog posts, gives us a glimpse into the motivations behind her rather combative exterior and closed-off ways. Additionally, she moves the action fast enough that we are able to see the rest of her personality before her harsh exterior gets old, and by the end of the book she and her friends are all fully fleshed out characters, each with their own thing going on. Even the peripheral players get a little bit of backstory, which I rather liked.

I rather love works of fiction that exist within other works of fiction. The *Necronomicon*, *Fillory*, *Tales of the Black Freighter*, *Galaxy Quest*, and *Catty and the Major*. For whatever reason, they fascinate me, and within *One Con Glory*, Kuhn creates *The Periodic Seven*, which I would love to see become a reality, rather like Chabon’s *Escapist* did.

Even more than a full-length novel, this is a story that I can easily visualize being adapted into a movie, series or even comic book. And in fact, it looks like indie movie company Hall Squared is looking to do just that, with Kuhn writing the screenplay. I’m looking forward to see what they do with it.

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**Trans-Atlantic Fan Fun(d)**

The 2012 TAFF race from North America to the UK is underway. 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:
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**Join our crew!**

We are looking for writers to cover local events, conventions, fan groups and the fannish scene in general. Contact Jean Martin at SFinSF@gmail.com
Firefly fandom continues to flourish and this was evident at the Period Events and Entertainments Recreation Society (PEERS) Space Cowboys Ball that was held last September 3rd at the San Mateo Masonic Hall. This is the third time PEERS has put on a Space Cowboys Ball and it has been a big hit each time. At this most recent one, the ballroom was packed with revelers in colorful and varied costumes from the elegant, high society types of the 'Verse as well as the more rugged renegades just like the crew of the Serenity. Fashions were a mixture of East and West and past and future. There were, of course, several patrons cosplaying Captain Mal, Kaylee, Inara, Jayne, Simon and Wash.

Four years ago, I missed the first Space Cowboys Ball as I was out of town. A couple of years ago, I was part of the official cast as Nandi (the madam of the whorehouse in the episode “Heart of Gold” and I actually wore an authentic costume from that episode). But this time, I was excited to be part of the official crew as River. I usually cosplay Inara at sci-fi conventions and our Firefly masquerade group even won a Best Presentation Award at the 2006 Wondercon masquerade. However, PEERS already has an Inara and so I volunteered to play River.

It was actually fun to portray River as I got to dress down in more comfortable clothes and got to act crazy for
once. I danced around and through the lines of the Grand March at the beginning of the ball and was part of a few skits in between the dances. One of them involved being chased by the kitchen staff as I ran off with the labels of cans. In another, I stabbed Ariyana Kylstram after her beautiful and amazing fan dance as she was supposed to be Saffron who was going to incapacitate Mal with the paralyzing lipstick on her lips.

The cast that evening was great and did a lot of clever and entertaining improve skits that we discussed in rehearsal prior to the ball. Charles McKeithan was a charming Captain Mal, Emily Cole was a lovely Inara, Chris Knight was a brotherly Simon and Arielle Kesweder was a cheerful Kaylee. And as I mentioned earlier, Ari was a sexy and devious Saffron. Hosting the ball was Sir Warrick and Lady Harrow who were portrayed by the dashing James Myers and his gracious wife Cathleen.

Other than citizens of the ‘Verse, some other recognizable space renegades showed up such as Avon from *Blakes 7* and Spike from *Cowboy Bebop*. And, of course, there were several people in Steampunk attire.

Wash playing with Dinosaurs by Jean Martin

Ari at the beginning of her fan dance by Jean Martin
Dances that evening included 19th century as well as Neo-19th century social dances. The dance music was provided by the lively and talented Bangers and Mash. The buffet was quite plentiful and delicious, and the no-host bar was quite popular.

A highlight of the evening was a performance by singer Marian Call, who did a special appearance at the ball. Marian is known for her geek-themed songs (some of which are about Firefly characters) and she was excellent.

It was an incredible night of music, dance, costuming and socializing, and I was glad to be back in the 'Verse again even if it was just for one night.

For more information, visit:
www.peers.org
mariancall.com
Can't We All Just Get Along?  
A fan responds to the Star Trek/Star Wars Debate

By Christopher Erickson  
Staff Writer

If you are a fan of Star Wars, Star Trek or science fiction in general, no doubt you have heard or even watched the videos posted recently by William Shatner and Carrie Fisher.

Shatner started this by commenting that Star Trek was better than Star Wars due to the relationships, the conflict between the characters and the stories involving humanity before veering off into tangents about special effects (including remarks about the costumes being somehow painted on in 1976) and other unrelated topics.

“Star Trek v Star Wars”  
youtube.com/watch?v=5BYNdTHjstI

Fisher decided to do a response that was mostly filled with snarky comments and personal attacks in a rather rambling and somewhat incoherent monologue.

“Star Wars is SOOO Much Better than Star Trek”  
youtube.com/watch?v=nU2jqIRjJVI&feature=watch_response

Unfortunately, this seems to be an over-the-top argument between two massive egos. It does reflect the decades-old and seemingly endless argument about which is better. It is one of those friendly rivalry conversations that can escalate into people getting into heated arguments with phasers and blasters drawn at each other. The preferences for one over the other can lead to a bit of elitism between the groups or within the fandom community.

From my perspective, there is no reason to like one over the other. I have more knowledge about Star Trek due to the show being in endless syndication and Star Wars just being a series of movies. I prefer Star Trek as far as what I like, but Star Wars is also one of my favorites. There is no reason that I can’t prefer both while also being a huge fan of Doctor Who, The X-Files, superhero comics, hardboiled detective fiction and other things that I like. It is part of being a fan and having individual tastes.

We should all be able to agree that some things are cool, others not so cool. Above all, we should be able to let other fans enjoy what they want and not judge them for their choices, especially if we do not have much knowledge of their choices.

If I were to try to have a civilized and intelligent conversation about this topic, I would probably break it down to a few simple ideas.

Star Trek was originally conceived to as a “Wagon Train to the stars” as Gene Roddenberry had described it. It was essentially a Western-style show set against a space opera backdrop. It was also sold as a weekly television show with reusable special effects that would help keep the costs down. This helped evolve the concept of the Star Trek “universe” to center on a cast of characters who were explorers, diplomats...
and military personnel at the same time. The drama was meant to be built around the dilemmas that the characters would face each week. Some of the stories dealt with social commentary such as racism, democracy, political structures, and the human experience. The ultimate message was that people (and aliens) can put aside their differences and work together to achieve a common goal. *Star Trek* and the subsequent spin-off shows worked well in a television format because it condensed the stories down to 45 minutes. *Star Trek* had difficulties translating to two-hour movies where the stories had to be padded out and the concepts were hard to translate when using established characters from the show that were known to fans but more average movie viewers may not be familiar with. Character development was less than what you would get in a movie where all the viewers are discovering the characters.

*Star Wars* was conceived as a movie where all of the original viewers were discovering the characters as well as the universe packaged in only two hours. The influences for *Star Wars* were old serial and matinee adventure movies, samurai culture, Westerns and the classic samurai film *The Hidden Fortress*. George Lucas also put in the basic premise of good versus evil and the inner turmoil in making choices. Because Lucas was a filmmaker, he had to boil down these concepts to conversations and present some other scenes that further developed the characters while showing action in a two-hour time span. The magic of the big screen wasn’t translated as well when the movies were made into the spin-off cartoons (*Star Wars: Droids* and *Star Wars: Ewoks*) as well as the Ewok TV movies.

Both franchises featured strong female characters: Uhura, Janeway, Crusher, Troi and Torres in *Star Trek* and Leia and Amidala in *Star Wars*. Both also featured a refined sexiness to the characters despite Shatner’s and Fisher’s sniping. There was also plenty of sex appeal in both shows: Uhura rocking the miniskirt as well as the midriff baring outfit from “Mirror, Mirror” and the Orion slave girls belly dancing in *Star Trek*, Leia’s outfits even before the slave metal bikini and the Twi’lek dancer from *Return of the Jedi*.

Both franchises have also suffered from bloated excessive story telling. The *Star Trek* franchise suffered from the last few years of *Voyager* as well as from *Enterprise* trying to tell the prequel stories before the voyages of Captain Kirk and his crew. *Star Wars* similarly suffered from the prequels, especially *The Phantom Menace*.

Ultimately, *Star Wars* was meant to be a finite story-telling moment (defeat the Empire, redeem Darth Vader) and *Star Trek* was an ongoing voyage (“It’s five year mission/ongoing mission...”). The story telling focus is different for each one and ultimately *Star Wars* is considered a science fiction fantasy akin to space opera whereas *Star Trek* is science fiction aimed at showing how humans interact with aliens and advanced technology. The story telling for each is different and can appeal to many different fans and fans can like both without having to choose a “side.” The ultimate endorsement in my mind is when George Lucas was accepting the Comic-Con Icon award and praised *Star Trek* for bringing “like-minded aliens and freaks into one place.”

“George Lucas Comic Con Award”
youtube.com/watch?v=_Es0JmxvvPM

“William Shatner sings to George Lucas — My Way”
youtube.com/watch?v=MDIBchVxSmE&feature=related
By Christopher Erickson

The 2011 season of the Northern California Renaissance Faire came this year and it is always something that I look forward to every year. The season did not disappoint this year as there were a lot of favorites to see, lots of familiar faces and friends, and lots of new things as well. Thankfully, the weather was cooperative when I managed to venture out during this season. There was never any major heat wave (nothing in the 90-degree range, but warm) and never a major cold spell (the one day that it was overcast and slightly chilly cleared up within an hour or so). The weather being warm for October was a blessing that helped bring people out.

On the favorites side, there were the wonderful shows that I always enjoy. I took in the Silk Road Caravan and their belly dancing several times throughout the run of the faire. The Merry Wives of Windsor were also singing their bawdy songs as well. The Queen’s Court was also a marvelous sight with their varied and courtly pursuits being on display for the public as always.

The familiar faces and friends were all there as well. Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, was holding court over the proceedings with her fair hand and love of her subjects. The parades were in full force including Dance Macabre, the Queen’s Procession and the parade for the themed weekends. Lots of people I have come to know throughout the faire were also on hand manning booths, plying their wares and generally carousing. I also saw a good number of people I was not Jean, and Christopher in his new kilt 
courtesy of Christopher Erickson
expecting at the faire put in an appearance as well.

The new things were rather impressive. There was a new “Queen’s show” where the court put on a political intrigue show where representatives from Sweden, Spain and France were vying to get a marriage proposal from the Queen for their respective kings. The Silk Road Caravan featured several new performers to take the stage and brought several different styles of dancing into the show. Another new show was The Magnificent Humble Boys, which featured two performers doing acrobatics and comedy under the premise that they were filling in for the Muscovite Circus, which did not show up. There was also a new area for children that featured crafts and art, a petting zoo and games. The other new item that will hopefully come to stay was the Tea with the Queen ceremony. The ceremony was held under a roof where you got to have tea and snacks with the Queen.

Of course, there were plenty of opportunities to costume throughout the different weekends with the continuation of the different themes. Pirates, fey and Time Lords could be found wandering about the faire on the different weekends. The various themes were Bacchanal, Pirates and Fantasy. They also had a special two-for-one admission price on Opening Weekend. I went during Opening Weekend, Bacchanal and during Closing Weekend. Taking advantage of the different weekends, I was able to wear different costumes. The one I was most excited to wear was my Scotsman outfit. I had bought a simple shirt on one of the previous faires and had never had the right outfit to wear it with. I was requested to wear a kilt and had wanted to get one but most of the kilts that were available were official clan colors. I finally found a nice pattern from Simplicity and actually sewed together my kilt, drape and spats.

Jean and I both went on opening weekend. The focus was on the food and shopping. One of the first things we did was

Faun and Fairy  by Christopher Erickson

The Conquistador by Christopher Erickson
get meat pies and iced tea. We also took in the revelry of the Morris dancers and the Queen as she made her way around the faire. We watched the parades as they went by. We both took advantage of the shopping opportunities that presented themselves as she bought an astrolabe necklace and I purchased a new ceramic mug. And we visited with friends working the fair.

On Bacchanal-Masquerade weekend, I continued my own personal tradition that I started a few years ago by wearing a Doctor Who outfit. This weekend I wore my Ninth Doctor costume. Unfortunately, most people did not recognize me at first and thought I was dressed casual (as if a leather jacket can be casual in 80-degree heat). Fortunately, most people did get it after I pulled out my sonic screwdriver. That weekend was also colorful as people wear wearing masks and garlands to get into the celebration of Michaelmas. There was a plague doctor mask, a Tenth Doctor, fey, wizards, Belle from Disney’s Beauty and the Beast, and a Marvel supervillain. I was also able to catch part of the Molly’s Revenge concert that was held after the faire had closed. The concert was part of the Celtic Rock concert series that was continued from the previous year. The concert was well attended and the music was excellent.

The last time I went was Closing Weekend. The weather was a bit overcast but eventually cleared up. I was excited especially for this weekend to get to see old friends for the last time and make some new memories as well as catch some of the shows that I wanted to see. I even saw some of my friends whom I see at some of the other events that I normally attend.
The opening to the faire was reflective of the feel of the day as I had to stop for a peacock crossing the road and one of the parking attendants was sitting in a chair and using a pirate flag to signal people where to park.

I went as the Eleventh Doctor that weekend and was more recognized that time. The weekend had an anything-goes feel and the patrons that were there did not disappoint. One patron came as the dreaded enemy of Queen Elizabeth, the Conquistador. Another patron came as Tumnus, the fawn from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. I also saw someone from the Steampunk aesthetic, a traveling monk and a hangman.

The performers also got into the act by performing for each other as much as for the guests. The fencing instructors were dueling on a railing, the Puritans had recruited a demon and even the Queen was generally carousing. I also caught the concert at the end of the day put on by Wicked Tinkers. The concert was packed and everyone was having a wonderful time.

The last thing I did to close out the season was to go and eat at the Casa de Fruta restaurant near the faire grounds. It was a last chance to see people from the faire and say goodbye to them. I also fed a craving that I had had for the kobe beef burger that one of the roadside signs was advertising as you drive out. The restaurant was packed with both patrons and performers after the concert had let out and you could see people in various stated of dis-costuming. The feel of the restaurant was one of people taking the time to enjoy each other’s company and prolong the parting of ways that inevitably has to come to pass.
By Thad Gann
Staff Writer

Jules Verne.

No single name inspires more awe and reverence. Regarded by many as the father of science fiction, 150 years after he penned his first story, his name is still spoken with hushed reverence. You might consider it a bit unusual to have it invoked at the Great Dickens Christmas Fair, an event dedicated to a writer of an entirely different type of literature. After all, Charles Dickens wrote stories of contemporary England, many autobiographical. Jules Verne wrote of fantastic journeys and wondrous machines of which the world had never dreamed.
Yet here I was, a few short years ago, walking along a bustling Victorian London street when I espied a life-sized ray gun outside what appeared to be a modest store. Stepping closer, I saw a magic lantern show of a trip to the center of the Earth. I would have looked closer but it was too popular to get in the door. So I kept going back. I brought friends the length of the hall to see the exhibits. One young friend even joined their young adventurers club.

Who are these intrepid adventurers? They are members of Legion Fantastique. Founded in 2007, the group promotes the works of Jules Verne. I asked Peter Overstreet, about the Legion the other day. He told me “We are a Jules Verne show. As a matter of fact, as far as we know we are the first and only Jules Verne specific-themed theatrical company in the world.”

Expanding on my interest in Steampunk, he also stated: “Although I enjoy the Steampunk aesthetic, I would consider myself more of a Neo-Victorian. I long for the days when the line between art and technology was thinner. I don’t really consider myself a “Steampunk” but I enjoy Victorian science fiction, and enjoy the art and inventions that are coming about now during this modern push of Victorian ideals in art and literature.”

When Legion Fantastique first appeared at the Dickens Fair five years ago there were only six members. The crew expanded rapidly and today numbers nearly 30. The exhibits and performances have also increased. One of the adventures being run by the Legion this year is The Jungle Adventure Carousel.

Who all will you meet there? Phileas Fogg, of course. I’m sure he can be persuaded into speaking about his trip around the world in just 80 days. Captain Nemo and the crew of the Nautilus are often in attendance. Robur the Conqueror has been seen quite often as well.

The actors behind these characters, Peter Overstreet, Greg Medley and Rich Medley are founding members of Legion Fantastique. Among the people who joined them last year was my friend Louise Du Cray. Her character, Miss Mary Grant, is the daughter of Captain Grant. This year she will be assisting Captain Harding’s firearm demonstrations, and something she describes as squid wrangling. Given the size of the squids Captain Nemo deals with, I can hardly wait to see that.

Peter, along with his wife Cat Taylor, is also co-owner of Aeronaut Productions. You probably know of that company from the traveling exhibit “Steampunk: History Beyond Imagination.” That exhibit is currently at Muzeo in Orange.
County, California, through February 12, 2011. Cat Taylor is the Dickens Fair’s entertainment director. Many members of Legion Fantastique, including Rich Medley, worked on the exhibit. In fact, everyone in Legion Fantastique lead busy and exciting lives outside of all his or her hard work outside of the Dickens Fair. Artists, designers and inventors (I’m not allowed to say what they invent), this talented band of adventurers is sure to delight you at your next visit to the Dickens Fair.

For more information, visit: www.legionfantastique.com
Haunted house in SF Bay Area celebrates Halloween Victorian-style

By Jean Martin
Editor-in-Chief

Halloween didn’t end on October 31st for the Rengstorff House, a beautiful Victorian House in Mountain View. Last November 4th and 5th, the Friends of 'R' House held a two-day fundraising event entitled “Halloween Never Ends.” The event was co-sponsored by Debbie Lyn’s Costumes and involved several local costuming groups including the Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild (GBACG).
Combining history with Halloween, guests were treated to several rooms of Victorian parlor amusements of the spiritualist and macabre bent. Each room was elaborately decorated and had re-enactors in costumes doing skits.

There were six “tours” each night that lasted about 30 minutes each. The first room that patrons visited was the salon for a mummy unwrapping by mummy expert Jennifer Roger who was dressed as a male Egyptologist complete with a beard and a fez. She was assisted by Chuck Graf who portrayed a German doctor who talked about the mummy’s anatomical features.

The second stop was in the parlor for a séance led by the inimitable T.E. MacArthur (author of the Steampunk romance adventure The Volcano Lady, Vol. 1) who played an over-dramatic medium to the hilt. She wore a gorgeous all-black late Victorian bustle bodice and skirt. She put a black veil over her head when she “summoned” the spirits, which resulted in banging doors, a ringing bell and footsteps on the stairs.

The music room was third with Bud Ayers playing the 1920s actor Perry Askam, grandson of the house’s original owner Henry Rengstorff. Ayers was dressed as the Red Shadow from the 1927 film Desert Song and he showed a clip from the movie with Askam singing. Fourth was docent Charlie Grant talking about a haunted painting that hung in the office.

Fifth and last was the wake, which was held in the dining room. Two “fire victims,” a mother and a daughter, were lying in full view of “mourners” who talked about the deceased and their grief. The participants in the scene, including Deborah Borlase (the president of the GBACG), wore authentic-
looking black Victorian gowns. Then Raymond Andre, in dashing Victorian attire, did a touching eulogy, which ended in chaos and the guests being swiftly led out of the house as something “paranormal” occurred.

“Halloween Never Ends” was an elaborate production and a lot went into the planning and organizing of the two-day event. It was not your run-of-the-mill Halloween haunted house as it was not only entertaining but educational as well.

As published on Examiner.com:
Lloyd Penney writes:

Yeah, it’s him again, with more opinionated opinions, and makin’ all those comments. When is he gonna learn to mind his own business? Hm, not any time soon... here’s some words on issue 122 of SF/SF.

Halloween was quiet for us… we did attend a Halloween party, but we knew few people there. Another party we didn’t find out about until a few nights before might have been the blowout of the decade. And, we live in a building where they don’t let the kids in for Halloween, so it was pretty much a non-event for us.

Jean Martin responds:

Halloween was non-event for me as well as it was on a week night this year. But I did manage to go to two Halloween parties during the weekend before. One was a Harry Potter-themed party and the other a general-themed one. I also went to a friend’s Sleepy Hollow-themed wedding, which was a lot of fun.

We’re still talking about Reno… we all had tons of fun, we participated in our share of panels, and of course, we didn’t get to all the events we wanted to see. I think the long walk between the Atlantis and the convention centre meant that we took a lot of time going back and forth, and we may have been simply too tired to get to everything. Good think the con suite was an oasis halfway between.

Yes, the time it took to get back and forth between the different venues took a lot of time and logistical planning. But, I guess, as it happens with all cons I go to, I don’t go to everything I want just because of there are so many things going on and I only have so much time and energy.

Some post-Worldcon reports say the Hugos were dull and bland, because of the patter of the co-hosts, but it was the people who won who made it an exciting time for us. We all got a pure look at Chris, and it is a wonder to see such a dream come true. May it come true for more of us. (Jeez, Jason looks almost respectable on page 9. Almost…)

I thought the Hugos were exciting for the same reason. Seeing Chris and other people I knew win was quite thrilling and the time just went by really fast. Maybe that ws because I was taking pictures as well and not just sitting down watching.

Hope you and Yvonne had an enjoyable panel. We found years ago when we were participating in Worldcon masquerades in the 1980s that we simply couldn’t compete with costumers who could transport props to the Worldcon for their presentations. Something like that was beyond our means, and beyond what we could do in the U.S. as foreign nationals. I can only imagine how the TSA would react to us bringing in theatrical props. That’s how we looked at the large presentations at a masquerade, as small theatre and not masquerade.

You can always tell the TSA that you’re with Cirque du Soleil! Joking aside, that is why I rarely go out of town for conventions. And when I do, I generally don’t have elaborate costumes and props. Well, I don’t usually have elaborate

Letters of Comment
costumes and props in general. But I can imagine what it would be like to transport so much gear around. It does give locals (and those who live within driving distance) a home field advantage. But I guess that’s the way it is.

The only Hugo ceremony we participated in was the one in Montréal, and it was a lot of fun. Of course, the rehearsal beforehand is a bit of a crapshoot, but you try to do your best, and see where you are expected to stand on the stage, and when to back away gracefully. The Green Room was great, and it was exactly the way we thought it should be run. Our last year of conrunning was spent trying to run two green rooms, and each time, what we tried to do was declared unacceptable. If the U.S., UK and Australia are the three countries connected with TAFF, DUFF and GUFF, can Canadians play too? (Just for the record, John, Marks and Spencer used to have stores in Canada… not any more. We even had a Harrod’s at the airport. That’s gone, too. Chris, you have legitimately won a Hugo, and that’s that. Unless you want to give it back… naaah, didn’t think so.)

When Steve Jobs died, so many tributes came out, and so did many other kinds of stories. After all of it, and there’s been a lot, all I can say is what a visionary, what an entrepreneur, what a prick. As you might be able to tell, I’ve never bought anything from Apple, but being an entrepreneur/visionary/prick might go with being a successful person. I’m not sure. Maybe his Buddhism didn’t prevent him from rising to heaven, and as the cartoons have said, he’s probably trying to upgrade Moses’ tablets.

Jobs is undoubtedly a visionary and one of the most successful entrepreneurs ever but he was also a human being. It does seem like he had some blind spots in his personal life but it seems to come with the territory. People who are consumed with achieving big things in the material world tend to not put as much effort into their personal lives. It’s a matter of, again, allocating time and energy. And just because he was a Buddhist doesn’t mean he’s a perfect practitioner of the religion. There are degrees of how well people practice their faith.

My loc… I have read online that the CD/DVD disk format may officially go away as soon as the end of next year, where the direct download may be the only way to buy your favorite movies. I don’t want to sound negative, but I’d prefer this not to happen. I am from the material generation, I guess, and downloads may not feel like I’m getting my money’s worth. I have finished reading The Magician King, and Lev’s going to have to try hard to wind this series up. I’m sure it will be a great finish.

I would also prefer that CDs and DVDs don’t go away. Electronic downloads are so easily corrupted or lost. I lost a lot of music when my previous laptop got infected and died. Electronic files permanently burned into CDs and DVDs are just more safe. And what will I do with all my CDs and DVDs? I also like having the whole package with artwork, liner notes, etc.

All done, and I am nearly ready to go… to the evening job. We all need this weekend, so I hope you’ve all got plenty of plans for fun. Take care, and see you some time in the future.

Take care and have fun too!
Meeting 1107

October 17, 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 8:00 p.m.

President and Secretary mysteriously absent
Vice President presiding
Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker
23 people attended
We established a party jar.

The minutes of meeting 1106 were accepted as “rental crockpots”

Treasurer said he missed the last meeting because his mother had an urgent care issue, but she is doing better now. As of the start of meeting 1105, BASFA’s general fund balance was $11,678.77; the party jar had $370.52.

The President’s wasn’t there to report.

The VP reported there’s a new Drink Tank out, available at efanzines.com and the next issue will be about the Rocky Horror Picture Show. He said he’s lost track of which issues these are since the last few covers haven’t included the numbers. He said Drink Tank #300 is a work in progress and currently has over 200 pages. He also handed out copies of the TAFF ballot.

The Sports Committee said that the San Jose Sharks were trailing in their game that evening. I added that the NY Jets
were winning, but not scoring enough for me to win this week’s picks.

Announcements

Kevin R. announced that the Retro Dome (formerly the Century 25 Theater) will be showing *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Rocky Horror Picture Show* with singalongs this weekend. Next weekend, they’ll be showing *Star Treks II, III, and IV* and doing “Trek or Treat.” For more info, go to www.theretrodome.com.

Howeird said that Dennis Ritchey died on October 12. I followed on that it was also the 22nd anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake.

Howeird added that Robin Shelby (née Navlyt) will be a *Ghostbusters* reunion at Hell Hound Weekend, November 11–13 in Cincinnati, Ohio. For more info, go to www.horrorthound.com/news/newsview.aspx?g=11&f=18&t=7866&p=87884.

Dave C. said that the new version of *Charlie’s Angels* was canceled after ABC showed only three episodes.

Brad asked Dave G. to send him that list.

I announced that Bay Area Ghost Hunters has a couple of meetups arranged for the near future. This Saturday, October 22, we’ll be meeting for lunch at the haunted Wyndham (formerly LeBaron) Hotel, where I have also reserved the haunted room. On Sunday, November 13, BAGH will be celebrating its 5th anniversary at the haunted Old Spaghetti Factory in San Jose. For more details, please go to http://www.meetup.com/bay-area-ghost-hunters. ‘Tis the season.

Reviews

Jo said a friend wanted to be in the right room at the haunted Santa Cruz jail.

Harold said Dawson was declared winner by TKO, which created some banter that went over my head.

Harold added he spent his summer vacation in Paris and loved it. The best way to get around is by foot. He saw Monet art at a museum. Cokes cost €9. He now thinks of it as home and it was worth full price.

Diane, Brad and Kevin S. all followed on with positive comments.

I took the Haunted Haight tour in San Francisco since the last BASFA meeting. It’s a deliciously creepy way to spend some time during this holiday season. For more info, please go to www.hauntedhaight.com/html/hauntedhaight_guide.html.

Andy said the Quilt Fair was worth full price. He also saw *The Fades* and says it’s worth stealing.

Kevin S. had a frustrating experience at the Nevada DMV. Josh read *Dragons in the Stars* by Jeffrey A. Carver and said it was worth full price. He also said *Catch 22*, by Joseph Heller is very, very good.

We did auctions.

Rumor of the Week: “Two bucks and Chris can have it.”

We adjourned at 9:40 p.m.
Meeting 1108

October 24, 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 8-ish
30 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes for meeting 1107 were accepted as “the 300th item for Drink Tank issue 300”
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $31.65 in the regular jar & 21.00 in the party jar
The VP reported that there is a new Drink Tank out – with a Mo Starkey cover & that issue #300 is more than 200 pages now
The President commented it is difficult to eat and preside at the same time & we said “hi” to Trevor - visiting us for the 1st time

Announcements
Ken announced that this Friday there will be a Legion of Rassilon meeting - at 7:30 at “the usual place” = 1st & Trimble & he also announced that there’s a Psychotronic Film Festival planned for Dec 3, 7-11pm at Foothill college – check www.kfjc.org for details

Lisa announced that there are a lot of Asimov’s for sale and she wanted a sense of the meeting as to whether they were sold as a lot or in bunches by years
Mo announced that she needs to find homes for her 3 older kitties & she needs help moving before Oct 26 - please contact her if you have a strong back or a truck
[evil] Kevin announced that he is doing a “Making Costumes out of Cr@p” workshop on Tuesday at the Tech Shop at 6:30pm - 300 S 2nd St
[tall] Kevin announced that he has pancakes to give away
Adrienne announced that Jonathan Lipnickie was having a birthday
Josh announced that he’s trying to do restaurant reviews for the Drink Tank now
Chris announced that John McCarthy died yesterday
Chris announced that we should vote for TAFF - check www.taff.org.uk

Reviews
I reviewed The Thing - a prequel of the Carpenter version & set in the Norwegian camp - as fun to watch, that it dovetails well with the Carpenter version & was worth full price
[newly evil] Harold reviewed riding a hang glider in Hollister as he had a good [albeit expensive] time with Bay Area Glider Ride
Andy reviewed episodes of The Fades as kind of an annoying, creepy teen drama - worth stealing
Jo reviewed The Big Short by Lewis as a non-fiction book on stock derivatives as an incredibly good book
Adrienne reviewed Bank of America as their credit payment system makes loan sharks look good in comparison
& suggests getting a credit card from -anyone- but them & [newly evil] Harold agreed
  [evil] Kevin reviewed a costume party as fun & he had his classical music education refreshed; Ken followed that it was indeed a fun party
  A comment was made - noting the absense of Chris Garcia - that he needed time alone with his new bacon syrup and his Hugo
  Josh reviewed Catching Fire by Collins as really enjoyable & almost as good as Hunger Games & also reviewed the Westover Winery as being a friendly, very geeky fun fan experience & he tasted some very enjoyable wines
  Bradford reviewed MileHighcon as a very friendly group & a fun con - well organized - & highly recommended
  Ken reviewed the KFJC open house as a lively event & reviewed getting “barely used” carpeting as worth the price - call Remnant World and ask for George

We then did auctions – bunches of Asimov’s, other magazines, books & a poster

We adjourned at 9:30pm
Rumor of the Week: “occupado”

Meeting 1109

October 31, 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 8-ish

22 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes for meeting 1107 were accepted as “happy birthday, Barbara”
There was no Treasurer or proxy treasurer’s report
The VP reported that there is a new Drink Tank out – centered on Rollerball & that another Drink Tank will be out soon
The President had nothing fannish to report
We then did auctions – & I was birthday auctioned off for $11.00 to Trey

Announcements

Adrienne announced that Bay Area Ghost Hunters is having its 5th anniversary on Nov 13 at the Old Spaghetti Factory in SJ at 1pm - there will be speakers & a raffle
Mo announced that she has studio space at the Art Citadel & they now host gallery showings - and Mo will be having a gallery showing either Nov 4 or 5
Chris announced that there will be a Computer Animation lecture at the Computer History museum on Nov 8, 7pm & it’s free
Dann announced that he is now a Kirby vacuum sales rep [so wish him luck]
Dave C announced that this weekend will have BasCon at the Embassy Suites in South San Francisco [& it may be the last one] & he announced that Rare Exports, a Christmas Tale is coming out in time for Christmas
Diane announced that she has free stuff to give away

Reviews

Bradford reviewed World Fantasy Con as he survived - had a good time & really enjoyed himself

Dave C reviewed World Fantasy Con as ... a convention - that Connie Willis really likes the TV show Primeval & the con was worth full price; he also reviewed Ghost of a Chance by Simon Green - as the book is possessed by the spirit of the 3rd person narrator

Howeird reviewed a production of Snoopy at the Sunnyvale Community Theatre as it had an amazing cast - well worth seeing at full price; reviewed Puss-in-Boots seen in 2D as not worth matinee & it didn’t really work for him & reviewed his nephew’s wedding in Baltimore as well worth full price - he reconnected with a lot of people

Diane reviewed [evil] Kevin’s costume workshop as educational & that the tour of Tech Shop SJ was good fun for all; [evil] Kevin followed that he helped people make stuff and had a good time

Dann reviewed Batman Year One as done in an anime style and definitely worth full price - & there were several delayed comments agreeing with this; then Dann reviewed the Robert Downey Sherlock Holmes as well written, with a good story - worth full price - & then discussion broke out for a bit

John reviewed Paranormal Activity 3 as enjoyably scary with an exhibitionistic ghost; Mo followed with the opinion that “less is more” for making horror & Chris also reviewed it as he was the only one in the theatre to see it at that showing & he found himself viewing it as a “how to” movie construction project

[newly evil] Harold reviewed Once Upon a Time and Grimm as he rather liked the 1st more than the 2nd & they were worth not having to pay for either of them

Adrienne reviewed Bedlam on the BBC as she is rather enjoying the series so far

Andy reviewed Captain America as worth the on-Demand pay rental & reviewed Thor as also worth the on-Demand pay rental & had beautiful costumes & he reviewed the last 2 episodes of The Fades as “Oh my god that’s fucked up!” & is still worth stealing & will be worth buying on DVD when available - & Mo agreed

Chris reviewed Sondheim’s Sweeney Todd as it still held up & was fantastic & reviewed the soundtrack to the Book of Mormon as it creeped him out & was hilarious

We adjourned at 9:49pm

Rumor of the Week: “Trick or Treat. There is no try”

Meeting 1110

November 6, 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 8:01
30 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes for meeting 1109 were accepted as “accepted”

The Treasurer reported that at meeting 1109 we took in $34.50 in the regular jar & $27.50 in the party jar & that at meeting 1106 we took in $32.41 in the regular jar & $31.25 in the party jar

The VP was missing - but there were rumors that he got trimmed and that the next Drink Tank will have a Mo Starkey cover

The President had nothing fannish to report but we said “hi” to Sheldon Linker - a LASFAAn visiting us for the 1st time & also to JC - a graphic designer that Josh encouraged to visit [he is a fan - so google “kryptonean wedding” for nifty pics]

Announcements

Glenn announced that SMOFcon will be in Amsterdam Dec 2-4

Fred announced that Nov 9 will have a country-wide emergency systems test

Dave C announced that Terry Pratchett’s book Snuff has the same cover in Britain & the US & agrees = “Herb Caen for president”

Adrienne announced that Bay Area Ghost Hunters is having its 5th anniversary on Nov 13 at the Old Spaghetti Factory in SJ at 1pm - there will be speakers & a raffle

Howeird announced that Leslie Fish is going to get married Nov 13 & announced that this Thursday will be the Thai festival of the full moon

Lisa announced that her Oklahoma friends are getting tired of earthquakes, tornadoes and weather in general

Dann announced that Kirby lied to him & he is again looking for employment

[tall] Kevin announced that he is now a homeowner

Reviews

Glenn reviewed Funny Times as a comedy clipping service, enjoyable & recommended & reviewed Dragon Age as having an OK combat system & really likes the writing and characterizations - really likes the game

Dave C reviewed Detective Dee & the Mystery of the Phantom Flame as a fun film, worth matinee and only tangentially related to Judge Dee; he also reviewed Territory by Emma Bull as a fun read and worth full price

Howeird noted that on Facebook some new authors are offering their works for free ... for a reason & reviewed Money Ball as he rather enjoyed it as worth full price

Dave G reviewed World Fantasy Con as a good con & that the facilities had accessibility issues - in a bad way

I reviewed Devil in the White City by Erik Larson as a good read that seems well-researched and gives a good picture of the 1890’s Chicago - and the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair - with an overachieving mass murderer working in the background & I also reviewed a Syfy movie - War of the Worlds 2 as mind-numbingly awful - burn it with fire!

[evil] Kevin reviewed several wine release day parties as there was some craziness with crowds and annoying people - and advises if you want to try this, go early - so they are worth full price, if you go early

Andy reviewed the Swedish production, Så Mycket Bättre as musical reality TV - a charming and fun little show

We then did auctions

We adjourned at 9:36 pm

Rumor of the Week: “Prawns in Perilous Pots”
Meeting 1111

November 14, 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 8:00 - with me not playing Skyrim
25 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes for meeting 1110 were accepted as “all for ones and ones for all”

The Treasurer reported that at meeting 1110 we took in $17.25 in the regular jar & $6.50 in the party jar

The VP reported that there is a new Drink Tank with a Mo Starkey cover & a new Journey Planet will be out soon, its deadline is Dec 5 [themed on Sherlock Holmes]

The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements
Ken announced that the Retrodome will show Time Bandits and Baron Münchhausen on Friday, Saturday & Sunday
John announced that British fan, Chris Coughlin [Keris] died
Chris announced that there’s a new Argentis on efanzines.com with an article by him in it & that this Friday

will see the opening of Breaking Dawn, part 1 & announced that Claire Briarly won the Nova this year

Bradford announced that the Science Fiction Museum will do a new exhibit, “Icons in Science Fiction” that he may be helping with

Lisa announced that her niece had twin girls and was part of a Good Morning America segment on babies born on Nov 11 = “Baby oh Baby”

Reviews
I reviewed Elder Scrolls V = Skyrim as a truly lovely game and that everything = except the elves - is gorgeous
Ken mentions a rumor of a Dr Who and the Deathly Hallows-ish-themed movie & reviewed Tardus Eruditorum - a psycho-chronological timeline of the Dr Who series - as pretty darned good - check www.tarduseruditorum.blogspot.com

[recently evil] Harold reviewed “Tower Heist” as a comedy caper flick with some laughs, a good film and worth matinee - & reviewed Melancholia as a surprisingly good, depressing film, worth the $7.00 he paid for it

John reviewed the 1st show for Primeval this season as wooden, poorly done & disappointing & reviewed the Mighty Giants concert as it rocked & he met lots of people he knows there; Josh followed, saying it was a good show with a high percentage of “woot” shirts in evidence
Valerie reviewed the summary of her forthcoming book Buffy and the Heroine’s Journey as great & the book is due out May or June ... ish
Chuck reviewed a French film, Love Crime as enjoyable and recommended

Chris reviewed the Bal des Vampires as having vampires and stuff - with elk all over the place - and awesome fun & reviewed Reamde by Neal Stephenson as really entertaining
and worth reading & reviewed *Childrens Hospital* on Adult Swim as “genius stuff” - worth TV being created

Howeird reviewed a free book on Facebook - *Endeavor in Time* by Chris Hambleton as worth $.025 with some time travel stuff as good but the proselytizing as bad with a too-abrupt non-ending

Diane reviewed *Wizards* by Willis as worth full price
Josh reviewed *Immortals* as a “turn-your-brain-off-and-it’s-fun” kind of movie, done in 3D and it’s pretty, worth full price - but not 3D full price

We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:24 pm

Rumor of the Week: “He makes you watch sports”

**Meeting 1112**

November 21, 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 8pm - with FEELING!
28 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes for meeting 1111 were accepted as “15”

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $29.35 in the regular jar & 13.25 in the party jar

The VP did a late drop in & reported that issue *Drink Tank #300* is out – with commentary for it to be included in issue #299 ^ he’ll be the fan GoH for Contario

The President reported that a BASFAn is interviewed in this month’s *Playboy* - Craig Ferguson [whom Adrienne bought a membership for]

**Announcements**

Ken announced that this Friday there will be a Legion of Rassilon meeting - at 7:30 at “the usual place” = 1st & Trimble & he also announced that he’s hosting 4 hours or terrible, horrible songs on KFJC on Thursday from 10am till 2pm

[evil] Kevin announced that the October issue of *Yipe* is now available on efanzines.com

Dave C announced that there’s a LosCon coming up this weekend in LA

Lisa announced that Sturgeon’s Law is now in the OED

JC announced that there’ll be a Time Tunnel toy show, Sat Dec 3rd & he’ll have a booth there himself & announced that he has a display in the Steampunk exhibit in Museo in Anaheim

Adrienne announced that Bay Area Ghost Hunters has meet-n-greets coming up on Dec 1 at the San Mateo County Recorder’s office at 2:30pm & on Dec 8 at 5pm at Trials Pub - plus there’s a charity event called “Zorro by Night” on Dec 1 for the Peralta Historical park in Oakland

Bill announced SMOFcon will be in Amsterdam

Fred announced that *Drink Tank #300* is out, 272 pages long

Marshall announced that FurCon is coming up, Jan 12-15 & he needs help personally in Conops - and others also need
staff - the next staff meeting is Dec 17, Saturday, 1pm in the SJ conv center

Reviews
Dave C reviewed *Phoenix Rising* - by Pip Ballantine & Tea Morris as steampunk and fun to read
JC reviewed *Immortals* as highly entertaining & awesome
I continued to review *Skryim* as even more tons of fun & way worth full price
Jo reviewed being on a small island as the fish was good, the people were friendly & that even though the guilder was the official currency, everyone used dollars & he reviewed the latest *Twilight* flick as “not the worst thing he’s ever been dragged to see”; Chris followed - saying that “THE FILM” was like a Hungarian drug film - the *Citizen Kane* of werewolves imprinting on babies movies and possibly the best part of that night

<<then I didn’t miss much, I was told>>
Andy reviewed *The Fabulous Divas of Hollywood* revue at the Retrodome as very, very good - worth full price
Chris reviewed the city of Alameda as very science-fictional
Dave C reviewed OryCon as that he spent most of his time at the Dealer’s Room - did Okay - and did get to see some programming
We then did auctions
We adjourned at 9:32 pm
Rumor of the Week: “I’m a little steampunk, short and stout...”
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.

Through December 18

The Great Dicken’s Christmas Fair
Cow Palace Exhibition Halls
2600 Geneva Avenue, San Francisco
www.dickensfair.com
A Bay Area tradition since 1970, the Great Dickens Christmas Fair returns for four weekends in 2011, including the Friday after Thanksgiving, from Friday, November 25 through Sunday, December 18, from 11am 'til 7pm.

Saturday, December 10
Spend the Day at Pixar Studios
Pixar Animation Studios
Emeryville
www.cartoonart.org
The Cartoon Art Museum is delighted to host its eighth annual benefit at Pixar Animation Studios. This year, there are two new ways to experience the magic of Pixar up close and personal at the studio’s Emeryville home: The Fan Tier ($250 11am-4pm) and the VIP tier (11am-5:30pm)
7:30 p.m. $250-$500

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Machine: A Fire Opera</strong></td>
<td>Thursday-Saturday, January 11-14 and 18-21, 2012</td>
<td>The Crucible 1260 7th Street, Oakland</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thecrucible.org/events/fire-operas-ballets/366">www.thecrucible.org/events/fire-operas-ballets/366</a></td>
<td>Conceived and staged by Mark Streshinsky specifically for The Crucible’s performance space and capabilities, this original fire opera is based on a sci-fi short story by Derek J. Goodman, with original score by Clark Suprynnowicz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Further Confusion</strong></td>
<td>Thursday-Monday, January 12-16, 2012</td>
<td>San Jose Marriott 301 South Market Street, San Jose</td>
<td><a href="http://www.furtherconfusion.org">www.furtherconfusion.org</a></td>
<td>Anthopomorphic convention. GOH: E.E. Knight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pantheacon</strong></td>
<td>Friday-Monday, February 17-20, 2012</td>
<td>Doubletree Hotel 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pantheacon.com">www.pantheacon.com</a></td>
<td>Pagan convention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Animation on Display</strong></td>
<td>Saturday-Sunday, February 18-19, 2012</td>
<td>Kabuki Hotel 1625 Post Street, San Francisco</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aodsf.org">www.aodsf.org</a></td>
<td>Celebration of Japanese animation, video games, recent American cartoons, and related interests. $25 til January 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Potlatch 21</strong></td>
<td>Friday-Sunday, February 24-26, 2012</td>
<td>Best Western Executive Inn Seattle</td>
<td>potlatch-sf.org</td>
<td>Literary SF convention. Alternates between SF Bay Area and Seattle. $60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOGCon</strong></td>
<td>Friday-Sunday, March 30-April 1, 2012</td>
<td>Walnut Creel Marriott, 2355 North Main Street, Walnut Creek</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fogcon.org">www.fogcon.org</a></td>
<td>Honored guests; Nalo Hopkinson, Shelley Jackson. Honored Ghost; Mary Shelley. $75 (till February 15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mythcon 43</strong></td>
<td>Friday-Sunday, August 3-6, 2012</td>
<td>Clark Kerr Conference Center 2601 Warring St, Berkeley</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mythsoc.org">www.mythsoc.org</a></td>
<td>The annual conference of the Mythopoeic Society. GOH: Grace Lin, G. Ronald Murphy. $85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cartoon Art Museum</strong></td>
<td>Ongoing Daily</td>
<td>Cartoon Art Museum 655 Mission Street, San Francisco</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cartoonart.org">www.cartoonart.org</a></td>
<td>Current exhibitions: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (through April 15). Small Press Spotlight on Karen Luk (through December 5). 11-5 p.m. $6 (Closed Mondays)</td>
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### San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Begins: Queen Anne Hotel</th>
<th>1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco</th>
<th>7-10 p.m.</th>
<th>$20</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.sfghosthunt.com">www.sfghosthunt.com</a></td>
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Closed Tuesdays.

### VIZ Cinema

| 1746 Post Street, San Francisco | www.newpeopleworld.com/films | VIZ Cinema is a 143-seat underground cinema inside New People in San Francisco. Its programming focuses on the latest and hottest films from Japan, as well as classics, favorites, documentaries and anime.

Please check theater for showtimes and tickets.

### Sundays

**Bad Movie Night**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Dark Room Theater</th>
<th>2263 Mission Street, San Francisco</th>
<th>Featuring bad movies old and new. September is Mockbusters! October is Zombies!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.darkroomsfsf.com">www.darkroomsfsf.com</a></td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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**Sakuramento Anime Society**

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<tr>
<th>Rancho Cordova Library</th>
<th>9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova</th>
<th>Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.</th>
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<td>3-6 p.m.</td>
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### Mondays

**Bay Area Science Fiction Association**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Coco’s</th>
<th>1206 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale</th>
<th>8 p.m.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.basfa.org">www.basfa.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>Free</td>
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</table>

### Mondays and Wednesdays

**Silicon Valley Boardgamers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mountain View Community Center</th>
<th>201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View</th>
<th>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.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb">www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb</a></td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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### Tuesdays

**MGI Boffers & Outdoor Games**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Codornices Park</th>
<th>1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley</th>
<th>Bad weather: we meet the same time at 33 Revolutions Record Shop &amp; Cafe, El Cerrito for boardgames.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mgisciaf.angelfire.com</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
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</table>

**Principality of Mists Fighter Practice**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Twin Creeks Sports Complex</th>
<th>969 Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale</th>
<th>SCA event. Non-members must remember to fill out a waiver form. In case of rain, call from 3pm on to determine if the facility will be closed that day. 408-534-1169.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.westkingdom.org/node/343">www.westkingdom.org/node/343</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Wednesdays

**Bay Area Role-Playing Society**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Go-Getter’s Pizza</th>
<th>1489 Beach Park Boulevard, Foster City</th>
<th>Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email <a href="mailto:GM@BayRPS.com">GM@BayRPS.com</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.BayRPS.com">www.BayRPS.com</a></td>
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<td>6 p.m. - 10 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>East Bay Strategy Games Club</strong></td>
<td>EndGame</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fanboy Planet Podcast</strong></td>
<td>Illusive Comics and Games</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CAS: NightLife</strong></td>
<td>The California Academy of Sciences</td>
<td>Every Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SF Games</strong></td>
<td>Muddy’s Coffeehouse</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. - midnight Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Haunted Haight Walking Tour</strong></td>
<td>Meets at Coffee To The People</td>
<td>7 p.m. - 9 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vampire Walking Tour</strong></td>
<td>Meets corner of California and Taylor, San Francisco</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dorkbot-SF</strong></td>
<td>Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity. Free, donations welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PenSFA Party</strong></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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</table>
Foothill Anime
Building 5015, Foothill College
Los Altos Hills, foothill.anime.net
Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.
12 p.m. Free

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

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

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

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

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.

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
store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/event/3110722-5
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
A spill of silence

by Lucy Huntzinger
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Bad Movie Night</td>
<td>BASFA SV Boardgamers</td>
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<td>BA Role-Playing Soc</td>
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<td>SF Games</td>
<td>Vampire Walking</td>
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