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By España Sheriff

Editor

Normally by now I already have at least one con under my belt, but this year the upcoming Doctor Who convention, Gallifrey One, which takes place over President’s Day weekend, will be my first big event. By the time you read this, of course, I will have come and gone and if the con crud doesn’t get me, there might even be a report in this very issue.

Looking past the slow start, 2012 is shaping up to be another big year, with a whole bunch of conventions in the Bay Area, plus the usual Faires and miscellaneous geeky events. In my case that is compounded by Worldcon (which is in Chicago this year), and my first ever overseas convention, Eastercon, (which is in the UK). On a non-fannish note, I’m also planning a second trip over the Atlantic to spend Xmas in Spain with my family. So I may have to drop some of the smaller events, or those that are harder to get to, for the sake of sanity and finances.

However, that still leaves me with plenty of cons. I plan for certain to attend at least four; FOGcon, Clockwork Alchemy and Convolution, plus Loscon down in LA.

Of the old hands, Loscon was slow last year but is showing signs of trying to revitalize itself. FOGcon is only in its second year, but I’m excited about the Author GOH, Nalo Hopkinson, although less so about its change of venue from the city to Walnut Creek.

Clockwork Alchemy is an steampunk offshoot of Fanime, and will be held over Memorial Day weekend at the Doubletree. Yes, that weekend is jam-packed, what with Baycon, DunDraCon and Fanime, but each of these conventions does have a fairly distinct audience, and I for one plan to be trying out the new kid on the block, if only so I can re-visit the good old Doubletree again, home of so many great memories from bygone conventions.

The other new arrival, Convolution, attempts to fill the currently barren holiday season up here, and is off to a great start, with a lot of enthusiasm and some good ideas. Julie Dillon was their first announced GOH and they also seem to have reasonable expectations for their first year, so I’m really hoping things go well.

As for Eastercon and Chicon 7, I’m anticipating a great deal of fun at both and will doubtless spill quite a few words in future reports and editorials, so I won’t go into detail now. But some of you may know that I have a bit of a flying phobia, so although you can get to Chicago by train (and I have, it was awesome!) that was obviously not an option for getting to the UK. On the advice of a friend I’m trying hypnosis to resolve the problem, so wish me luck!
Walking The Dogs, The Cats…
A Review of FurCon

By Christopher Erickson
Staff Writer

A parade of cats, dogs, dragons, foxes, bunnies and other beasts took place in downtown San Jose once again last January 12-16. FurCon is the one convention in the Bay Area that is dedicated to anthropomorphic characters. The convention is a collection of costumers, artists, writers, vendors and fans of humanoid creatures, aliens, funny animals and mythical beasts.

The convention was held at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center for the first time right in downtown San Jose. The convention became too big for the Fairmont Hotel and had to move. The convention center was a bit disjointed, making the convention lose some of the energy and intimacy that it had previously at both the Doubletree Hotel and the Fairmont Hotel. The drawback to holding it at the convention center was having different functions on different levels, including having the dealer’s room in one of the adjacent hotels. The fact that there was a volleyball tournament being held in the convention center at the same time affected the atmosphere as well.

The convention was fun once I spent some time getting acclimated to the surroundings and layout. Most of the panels and the dealer’s room were held in the upstairs portion while the fursuit parade meandered through the upper portion and the lower portion of the convention. The fursuit parade was a smaller procession this year, but still featured well over 300 furries. It gave a great chance for people to watch the costumers and for the costumers to interact with the crowd. A furry dressed as the Ninth Doctor came up to me and addressed me by character name (the Second Doctor).

The theme for this year’s FurCon was “The Infurmary.” The costumes ranged from family practitioners, nurses and field medics to the Ninth and Tenth Doctors. There were plenty of other costumes, ranging from military, traditional
folk wear, sports uniforms, video game characters and fantasy-inspired costumes.

The fan enthusiasm for the convention was not diminished by the new location. There were lots of people greeting each other, making new friends and taking pictures. The dealer’s room was well attended even though it was held away from the major convention center functions.

There were plenty of people in “human” costumes as well. Besides myself as the Second Doctor, there were people in raver outfits, goth-inspired costumes, Stargate soldiers, and a ringleader for all of the animals.

The party rooms were not lacking this year. Two of the mainstays from last year’s convention were the Black Hole and the Communist Party. Both parties went all out with the decorations and the themes. The Black Hole was the expected rollicking good time that we have come to expect from IVK Bloodlust, with plenty of Star Trek-themed drinks, insults to anyone foolish to be a Redshirt and lots of shouting and carousing. The Communist Party was also in full swing,
featuring lots of flags from Communist countries and political parties, Slavic-themed posters for Borat and musical groups, a instructional placard for the AK-47 rifle, and lots of Soviet military garb. The drinks were all Russian in origin and the food ran heavily toward Russian-style snack food and hors d’oeuvres. The other party that I frequented was a promotional party for Convolutions. The décor was themed as monster movies to play off the werewolf connection and featured drinks such as the “Silver Bullet.” There was even a party on the night that I did not attend where the theme was the Island of Dr. Moreau.

FurCon is a wonderful time with great costuming and wonderful people. The costumes were amazing again this year despite the growing pains of moving to the convention center. The gathering of the animals should be even better next year with some more experience in using the location.
I get strange looks and weird glances. People look at me like I am a deviant, subversive or just plain strange.

This usual reaction is what happens when I tell people that I will be attending Further Confusion, aka, FurCon. The reaction that I get is something that I have never really understood. People seem to get freaked out or weird about the idea of grown people dressing up in costumes, but only involving animals. It seems strange because the same person who may be uncomfortable around furries will probably be enthusiastic about having their picture taken with Mickey and Donald at Disneyland. I guess the only real difference is in the presentation. Disney characters and the like are meant to entertain us and make children happy whereas a group of people getting together dressed up as animals is considered weird.

It is understandable that some people just aren’t into furries or the costumes, but the range of negative reactions from judgment to downright revulsion is interesting coming from people in fandom who are also judged for their activities. This is especially interesting when furry fandom has started from that same group that embraces the different and the strange.

Furry fandom grew out of a discussion from a painting called Erma Felna featuring an animal character in a militaristic setting. The painting was entered into the art show at the NorEasCon II World Science Fiction Convention in
Boston (the 1980 WorldCon). The painting led to a series of like-minded individuals discussing anthropomorphic animals in science fiction and fantasy, creating fanzines, and eventually furry-themed parties at the conventions. The interest eventually built up to BBS groups and the first convention by 1990. The movement has grown to create fan groups, dedicated websites, conventions worldwide, and artists and writers who work almost exclusively on anthropomorphic literature.

It is not surprising that the interest in furries and anthropomorphic culture would intersect and grow from science fiction and fantasy. There is a long history of anthropomorphism in human mythology, religion and literature. Several of the Egyptian and Greco-Roman gods and deities were animal like: Bast, Anubis, Pan, the centaurs, etc. Even Jupiter/Zeus took the form of a bull. Asian folk tales also have their talking animals such as the Chinese Zodiac and the Tengu demons from Japan. Native American spirits such as the wolf and the coyote are further examples of the mixing of animals and human characteristics.
Folk tales give further examples of “furry” characters such as the Beast from *Beauty and the Beast* and Big Bad Wolf from *Little Red Riding Hood* and the Three Pigs. Victorian children’s literature is filled with anthropomorphic characters such as *Alice In Wonderland/Through The Looking Glass*, *The Jungle Book* and Jiminy Cricket from *Pinocchio*. The advent of the comic strip led to several including human-like animals such as Krazy Kat. Eventually the motion picture was created and it gave us a slew of funny animal characters such as Bugs Bunny, Mickey Mouse, Woody Woodpecker, Tom and Jerry, and the like.

Fantasy and science fiction books are also a source of anthropomorphic characters. The cowardly lion from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, the experiments in *The Island of Dr. Moreau* by H. G. Wells, all of the talking animals in *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and the animal rebellion in *Animal Farm* are prime examples. Several television shows and movies have used animal-like aliens or earthlings. The Gorn from *Star Trek*, Chewbacca and the Ewoks, the Silurians and Sea-Devils from *Doctor Who*, Gordon from Melmac as featured on *ALF*, and the *ThunderCats* provide great examples.

Comic books also have a long history of anthropomorphic characters. Comic books would publish original stories featuring funny animals. Animal-human superhero characters such as the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Usagi Yojimbo, Tigra and Howard the Duck from Marvel Comics and Green Lanterns Ch’p and G’nort of DC Comics are further examples of this trend.

Anime also has several examples of anthropomorphic characters. *Fruits Basket* (featuring human characters who turn into animals when touched by people of the opposite sex), *Wolf’s Rain*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Hamtaro*, *Samurai Pizza Cats* and *Kimba the White Lion* all feature human-acting animal characters.

Video games have also been a source of popular anthropomorphic characters such as Sonic the Hedgehog, the characters of Star Fox and Crash Bandicoot.

Even mainstream entertainment for adults has featured anthropomorphic characters. *The Muppet Show*, Brian from *Family Guy* and *Dinosaurs* have provided entertainment even as they were targeted to a more mature audience. Even the Geico commercials have the Gecko selling insurance.

With this long history of popular characters that are animals and act like people, especially in things that most of fantasy and science fiction fans are interested in, it should be no surprise that people would want to dress up as humanoid animals.

Most of my friends who dress up as furries also dress up as other characters who are human. Most of the people who dress up as furries do it as a way to express themselves, connect with other people, have an interest in costuming or want to connect with people with similar interests and passions. Furry fandom is no different from gamers, comic book diehards, literary fans or any other subgroup of dedicated people who like a particular subject. Furries just want to gather with other people who share a common interest and make friends and even find companionship. The people who choose to dress as furries, or have a deep interest, should not be judged based on the negative stereotypes of fetishes or sexual deviancies. They should be judged on their personalities and treated as fellow costumers and fans.
By Tom Noe  
Contribution Writer

When was the last time you had the chance to play classic 1980s arcade games in an arcade-style environment while listening to a slew of local indie rock bands? Well, Rockage gave video game enthusiasts and indie-rock fans alike a chance to do just that. The two-day event (February 11th and 12th) took over the San Jose Woman's Club in downtown San Jose and featured several vintage video games and several local indie bands.

The event was conceived by Eric Fanali of Grand Fanali Presents as a way to combine two of his great passions: local bands and video games. His desire was to introduce video game fans to local indie bands and vice versa. Fanali, who has been putting on various shows for 15 years, said that the idea for Rockage began in 2009.

“The one thing holding me back from putting this on was finding a venue,” Fanali said. “I looked at about 50 different venues, from churches to hotels, and nothing was working.” He added that most hotels wanted a guaranteed number of rooms sold for the night, food sales, and various other stipulations.

Fanali learned about the SJ Woman’s Club from another venue when searching for a location. “They were very welcoming to the idea,” he said. The club itself had a great hall area that housed the vintage video games, and had a stage so that gamers and music fans alike could co-mingle throughout the weekend in a large, open area.

In addition to the rows of vintage cabinet video games (which included such old-timers as Ms. Pac Man, Galaga, Space Invaders and table-top versions of Frogger and Centipede), several of the tables had various game systems ranging from Atari 2600 to Sega Saturn and beyond. Many tables hosted competitions throughout the weekend where attendees competed for status in games such as Bomberman, Street Fighter II, Mario Kart, Guitar Hero and many more. All

The sign welcoming attendees to Rockage

by Tom Noe
Games were free to play with purchase of attendance ($20 per day or $30 for the weekend), which found many people latching on to these old time classics or wandering around waiting for a game to be open so they could take one of many trips down the 80s arcade memory lane. The old school games were brought in by two companies: California Extreme (itself a classic arcade games show) and T-Minus 1 (a video game rental/repair shop).

As for the bands, local groups such as Shark City, a Stunt Monkey reunion, and an all-star performance including members of The Phenomenauts with Kepi Ghoulie, Dan Potthast, and Vic Ruggiero of The Slackers. Additionally, several DJs were on hand to keep the event going in between bands and panels, including DJ Coco and DJ Jimmy Hits.

Saturday night also saw a live performance of the Time Warp by Rocky Horror Picture Show shadow cast Barely Legal.

About 400 people attended Rockage, according to Fanali. He added that the overall success of the event was the fact that it happened, and he is already preparing Rockage 2.0 for next year. As with any convention or event, he’s also looking to see what he can do to improve things for next year, including having a specific area for video game tournaments and having more family-oriented events during the day.

Overall, Rockage was a great time, and a wonderful trip down memory lane to those games of yesterday. (I found out I am no longer as good at Q-Bert as I once was). It’s not often you get to play retro video games and listen to great music at the same time (they also had beer).
Houdini: Art and Magic

By John Coxon
British Correspondent

[This is the 2nd in John’s series of museum reviews – ed.]

Now we move onto the Contemporary Jewish Museum and their exhibition on Ehrich Weiss. Weiss is better known to millions of people as Harry Houdini, and the collection was entitled Houdini: Art and Magic. The pieces on display describe the magic he performed and his life through a number of artefacts from his life. There were several such things, including props he used and diaries he kept, but the twist of the exhibition was the other pieces being displayed; namely, a series of pieces of artwork inspired by the man. This lent the exhibition a real sense of context (and almost interactivity) which really served to illustrate the impact he had – not only on his fellow magicians, but on the rest of the world.

I find magic fascinating as a form of entertainment. I loved the Magic Castle in Los Angeles and have flirted with performing magic myself, on occasion (not always entirely successfully!). As a result, I found the exhibition an illuminating look at a man who basically set the stage for many of the contemporary magicians working today. The sense of context was reinforced by a series of videos around the installation – there were clips from films based on Houdini’s life playing on a large screen, and then later in the exhibition another screen showing interviews with and tricks by magicians inspired by Houdini (amongst which were David Blaine and Penn and Teller, both of whom have been heavily affected by the man).

Another string to Houdini’s bow, alongside his magic and public performances, was his scepticism. He loved to debunk supernaturalism and spiritualism (another area in which Penn and Teller have clearly followed his lead, with programmes such as Bullshit!). One very interesting anecdote told of his clashes with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s wife, who attempted to hold a séance for him.

The Contemporary Jewish Museum is open 11am – 5pm, except for Thursdays, on which it opens 1pm – 8pm. It is closed on Wednesdays, however, and can also shut depending on Jewish holidays. Admission is $12 (free on the first Tuesday of each month) and the website is www.thecjm.org if you want to find out more. Houdini: Art & Magic ran until January 16th, 2012; if you want to see it you can head to the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (in Wisconsin) between February 11th and May 13th. Alternatively, if that’s a bit too far away for your tastes, you could visit...
www.thejewishmuseum.org/exhibitions/houdini and follow the link to download the iOS app for $0.99 (no Android/WP7 app at the time of writing).

Varnish is an art gallery in San Francisco that we visited on the same day. España mentioned that our visit occurred in conjunction with the Houdini exhibition in SF/SF #124, and there’s not much to add that she didn’t say much better than I could, although it’s likely that a photograph of her next to a DOOR MADE OF LIGHT will appear here, since it’s a great photograph and there aren’t any images from the exhibition at the CJM. Check her article out, it’s good!
By España Sheriff

Editor

My roommate Palle and I headed down to Gallifrey One even earlier than last year, arriving on Wednesday evening. With so many overseas attendees, Gally has a tradition of pre- and post-convention socializing known as Lobbycon, which makes Thursday night a great time for mingling without the overwhelming whirl of convention activity surrounding you yet. But rolling in on Thursday and instantly stepping into Lobbycon after a six hour drive turns into staying up terribly late and waking up hungover for the first day of the con. Instead we managed a couple of drinks, a good night’s sleep, and a hearty breakfast buffet on Thursday morning. As it turns out this would be just about the last thing to go smoothly for the weekend!

Thursday is also the day a lot of the out-of-town crowd goes sightseeing, and there was a group planning to visit a store called Baron Hats, as well as one of the famous cemeteries. I had planned to go, but begged off due to a costume crisis I really wanted to get fixed before things got busy. I mostly achieved this, though I wasted most of the day on a repair that was not quite right before getting brutal with the scissors and wrestling the thing into shape. Done with all that I was able to relax and enjoy hanging in the lobby with all the early arrivals, including Bay Area first timers Chris Garcia and Linda Wenzelburger, plus Jade Falcon and Erik Anderson, who had arrived a bit late due to car trouble just outside of Magic Mountain.

After Mette returned from her adventures at the Hat Store, which I hope she will write about at some point for us or Yipe or something, we repeated our Halloween group costume of The Young Ones, with myself as Neal, Bryan as Rick, Radar as Mike and Mette herself as Vyvyan. This time we also had Palle as Alexei Sayle. The group was well received, and unlike Halloween we actually managed some photos. Radar eventually changed into her incredible Astronaut Suit from Young Ones by Bryan Little
Day of the Moon, which I admired and then used as an excuse to get out of my Neal wig for the rest of the night.

Friday morning I woke bright and early to the blaring of the fire alarm. Of course. Although this made me doubly glad at being reasonably well rested it was not the way to start the con. Despite the fact that two years ago there was an actual fire (Issue #103) I was not in a particular rush out the door, it being 7:30 a.m., so when the alarm was inevitably revealed to be false, Palle and I decided to get breakfast instead. On the plus side, this meant being in time for fresh breakfast buffet. Around lunchtime I received a text message from the Anthony and Deb Kopec, who were returning for their second year at Gally, telling me they had started the drive down from the Bay Area.

Somehow I didn’t make any panels on Friday, even though there were several I was interested in. I wandered the dealer’s room, which was packed, I poked at the Aztec Barbara costume and decided it was just barely wearable, and that really wasn’t good enough, so I put it away to start over for next year. I managed a brief podcast with Jade for Geek Girl Crafts, and a nice nap to make up for the lack of sleep the previous night. Somehow the day flew by all the same.

Friday is the first night of proper night-time programing, and in my mind the big event night of the con, since the official-unofficial party happens, plus the dance, and usually some sort of stage show. This year the party was themed for Max Headroom, labeled as the Network 66 Green Room (66 being Network 23’s rival). The décor was strictly 80s with many costumes following suit. Palle and I chose to bring back our Blake’s 7 outfits, with him as Avon sporting a new and improved gun and myself in the black feather Servalan number from the episode Traitor. The party was jumping, and the excess crowds I had feared never actually materialized. The highlight of the evening was discovering a crowd of San Francisco fans who had independently made some fun Servalan t-shirts to give away, we chatted for several hours before I called it a night sometime around one a.m. but not before receiving a forlorn text from the Kopecs telling me they were stuck in Kettleman City for another night.

Saturday was the day on which you could truly see the extent of the convention’s growth, the main hall was packed with people, including a few groups attempting to film in the main area, not terribly wisely. The usual knots of photographers around bigger costumes like the Daleks went from vague obstacles to massive blockages, and the dealer’s room was wall-to-wall. However everyone was still in a good
mood and there was still space in most of the programming rooms, as well the upstairs and outdoors to escape to.

I spent the majority of Saturday in panels, starting with a Louise Jameson (Leela) and Richard Franklin (Capt. Yates) Q&A, which was quite interesting. Then the Doctor Who in the Sixties panel, which had the director of the very first episode of the show ever made, Waris Hussein, plus two companions: William Russell who played Ian Chesterton, also from the first episode (and subsequent entire first and most of the second series) and Maureen O’Brien, who played Vicki, the first character to willingly join the Doctor in his travels, establishing the tradition of picking up strays which continues to this day. Hussein was uncannily youthful looking and full of interesting detail from his and Verity Lambert’s struggles to get the show off the ground. Russell was a legend, and spry and hale despite his 87 years, O’Brien was clearly the least emotionally connected with the show describing it as ‘just a job’ and expressing surprise at a lot of the stories Russell and Hussein shared, but she was also refreshingly candid with her opinions, perhaps for this very reason. With the 50th anniversary coming up, it was a joy to see such early players in the Who universe.

After that there was as good a break in the schedule as I could find, so I popped back up to the lobby to put in ten more minutes of podcasting time with Jade, when we were done Charlie Jane Anders who had been sitting nearby suggested a Persian restaurant up the street for lunch. I had been tempted by the Mark Sheppard panel, but after several days of hotel food the prospect of some kebabs was enough to get me salivating and off we went into the daylight, blinking all the way. It was a nice little interlude, with much geekery, and when we got back it was time for the TV Movie Reunion panel, with Paul McGann (The Eighth Doctor), Yee Jee Tso (Chang Lee), Daphne Ashbrook (Grace Holloway), and Philip Segal, the director, plus the empty chair where Eric Roberts (The Master) was supposed to be, except he didn’t make it. The Q&A portion of this was pretty entertaining and wrapped up the day of panels quite nicely for me.

At around ten o’clock I received an update text from the Kopecs; their car had broken down at Kettleman City and they were waiting for AAA. An hour later a follow up text informed me the car was being towed and they were checking into the Best Western there overnight. I resisted texting them about all the wonderful stuff going on around me, and simply sent my sympathies.

Gally is one of the few conventions at which I normally am eager to attend the Masquerade, since it is usually top-notch. However a peek downstairs showed an enormous line and I just wasn’t up for it. I returned to the room to change instead. I had originally planned to costume Barbara Wright from the episode The Aztecs, however after repeated failures — most notably being unable to find any more matching fabric to finish the costume, I had given up and went with a casual jeans and a t-shirt. In order not to completely lose my costumer cred I did at least wear something I had modified; a classic 70s Doctor Who shirt that John sent me, and which I had modified from an XL to a fitted tee in my size. I am particularly happy with it because figuring out how to mod a tee shirt means I can now buy all those awful boxy men’s sizes that conventions like to sell and end up with something I am actually willing to wear.

When I came back downstairs the Masquerade had started and was obviously quite full, with folks congregating at the door. I peeked in just in time to see what appeared to be the
monster from The Brain of Morbius reciting something with Seussian rhythms and felt a brief but sincere pang of regret at not having tried to get a seat. Instead I joined Palle and some other folks and we ensconced ourselves in the downstairs patio area, since quite a few of the group were smokers. Mette appeared at some point in her new costume for the year, which had been a last minute project put together in a week after months of back trouble. It was a Ganger from the recent two-parter The Rebel Flesh and The Almost People, and was mind-blowingly awesome, natch. Bryan complemented her with one of the suits from the same episode. They were not competing or judging for once, and yet as is Gally tradition, I barely saw them for more than a minute at a time.

The patio was a nice vantage point to see some of the costumes once the show let out, and there were some doozies. I popped up to Champions regularly for refills and the highlight of my personal convention experience happened during one such jaunt when I ran into Paul McGann exiting the bar as I entered. I did a double-take as my brain told me it recognized someone it knew and then immediately realized who it actually was. Having seen me notice him he also turned and I couldn’t not say something, despite my general reluctance to bother guests on their off-hours, so I declared myself a huge fan (original, yes?) while trying not to appear threatening, and bless his heart he said “Let’s have a hug” or something to that effect, which I did. Achievement unlocked! I of course instantly texted everyone I knew and may have squeed to everybody I ran into for the next hour or so. Riding on that high, plus the excellent company of friends I stayed up till about 5 a.m.

I dragged myself out of bed Sunday morning in time for some breakfast followed by a difficult choice between live commentary on the TV Movie with the main cast (including Eric Roberts this time), and a smaller Inspector Spacetime panel, the 15 second Who-spoof that appeared on Community last season and instantly took on a life of its own. I popped into the commentary first, but the cast was relatively quiet during the little while I observed, so off I went. The Inspector Spacetime panel was incredible, a full room, active imaginations and a whole lot of fun. The writers, directors, and Inspector Spacetime himself (Travis Richey) played it straight, as did the audience, asking questions and telling stories of the show and its 50-year history. The big reveal was that they’re planning a for-realsies 6-episode web series funded through Kickstarter. So if you’re a fan please consider tossing a few bucks their way; 

www.kickstarter.com/projects/1878253293/inspector-spacetime-the-webseries

I was tempted by the Big Finish panel, but lunch was necessary so I headed upstairs, and that turned out to be good timing, since the Kopecs finally rode into town right about then, exhausted from their exile in not-so-scenic Kettleman City. I met up with them and we did a wander of the dealer’s room, everyone buying at least one tee-shirt, it seems. I had worn my beaded version of the red Tom Baker scarf, and got some nice complements, which made up for the previous evening’s costume fail. I had also brought the original version for Mette, and someone told me they had seen a beaded scarf in the Art Show, although I never actually made it over to see.

After shopping we headed to the Day of the Moon commentary, luckily it was more boisterous than the movie one, Toby Haynes and Mark Sheppard both being voluble fellows. Afterwards we took the opportunity to see the Eighth Doctor’s TARDIS console which had been preserved and
restored by fans and was available for photo ops in one of the cosplay rooms. It was a thing of beauty, as nice up close as it was on the screen.

Finally it was time for the last two panels; The Year in Review, followed by Closing Ceremonies which I find a nice way to wrap the convention up. Even in the age of the Internet there are still some good surprises in the review and I had not caught up with the Who teasers from Xmas so I was glad to see those. Shaun Lyon and Robbie Bourget came out to do the wrap up and announce that $6000 had been raised for this year’s charity; Students Run LA, and that the new record for attendance had been reached at 3183 members, over a 50% increase over the previous year’s record, which is a bit insane to contemplate.

Sunday’s lobbycon was pretty jumping, although the absence of many regulars, including Paul Cornell and Tony Lee, was noticeable. Deb and Ant made up for lost time, and there were still a few costumes running around including an enormous adipose from season 4 of the new series. Drinks were drunk, Jason Schachat and his lovely girlfriend Melissa, who seemed amused by the fannish experience, such as it was, dropped by for a couple of hours, Bryan and Mette distributed their extra Ood tentacles wrapped in hot dog buns, and at some point Jade and I managed another ten minutes of podcasting. At around 4am I gave up the ghost and called it a night.

So in conclusion; another amazing year. I failed pretty badly in my costuming but still managed one new costume, my very first t-shirt mod, and showing off my beaded scarf necklaces. I saw tons of panels and still managed to miss everything (or that’s the way it feels), I am forever torn between kind of wanting to get signatures or photos of such luminaries as William Russell and not having the patience to stand in line, much less the willingness to miss two hours of programming in exchange for said opportunity. But I got a hug from the Eighth Doctor, so all is right with the world.
Save Our Seeker Contest — with Prizes from Author Terry Goodkind

By Jean Martin
Editor-in-Chief

Save Our Seeker (SOS) is a fan campaign to revive the Legend of the Seeker TV show. The fan campaign doesn’t appear to be stopping anytime soon. The official Legend of the Seeker fan page on Facebook has more than 404,000 fans wanting a third season, and the number of SOS followers on Twitter (@saveourseeker) and visitors to www.SaveOurSeeker.com has had a big spike since this contest has been announced and Craig Horner joined Twitter.

An industry insider has told SOS that Legend of the Seeker Executive Producer Ken Biller, more than anyone else, is the one who needs to be encouraged to bring back the series. Mr. Biller’s contact information is as follows:

Ken Biller
c/o Creative Artists Agency
2000 Avenue Of The Stars
Los Angeles, CA 90067 USA

To stress just how important Mr. Biller could be to the future of Legend of the Seeker, SOS launched a contest with amazing prizes as an incentive for all fans to participate. The grand prize will be a hand-crafted sterling silver Sword of Truth pendant graciously donated by author Terry Goodkind in support of this contest. The contest ends on March 2, 2012.

For a full list of prizes and contest instructions and rules, go to: legendofseeker.livejournal.com/993899.html
Lloyd Penney writes:

Greetings from Toronto!, and I’ve got here a quick printout of SF/SF 125, and while Randy Bachman is on the radio in the background, here come some comments off the cuff.

Your good work for the Examiner is good PR for BArea fandom. I hope your readers are discovering the fun fandom’s been having for some years. I simply haven’t had the time to watch Downton Abbey on PBS, but there are repeats of the first season on a local station, Vision TV. Never enough time to watch all you want to watch. I am so looking forward to the Hobbit movies…

Jean Martin responds:

España and I both write for Examiner.com now, and it is good exposure for fannish activities. It’s a lot of work doing both SF/SF and Examiner.com, but the writing for each of them are so different and I like doing both.

I just finished watching Season 2 of Downton Abbey, and I must say that I enjoyed this season a lot more than the first. There was more plot and character development, and things that really mattered such as how they fared during World War I, the Spanish flu and societal changes as a whole. And yes, I can’t wait for the Hobbit movies!

Jean, I’m going to be picky here, and I probably won’t be the first. It was Frank Herbert who wrote the original six Dune novels, and his son Brian who’s been writing the assorted sequels.

Yes, you’re right. Thanks for pointing that out. I thought I’d checked to make sure that I referenced the right author with the right set of Dune novels. I’ve been reading the original, the prequels and sequels all at the same time so that’s probably why I got them confused. And unlike some people, I enjoy both Frank’s and Brian’s Dune stories. I just love that world and all the different factions and characters.

The play adaptation of Cory Doctorow’s Little Brother should come up here. A new government bill will probably prove to be quite invasive … our government wants to know what we’re all doing online. As the right wing likes to say, if you’ve done nothing wrong, you have nothing to fear. Not good enough, says a big chunk of the population, and I expect a big court case will be coming shortly.

So many movie posters were works of art … local fans here used to have contacts with the distribution services for movie posters and lobby cards, and with local collectors. I wish we still had those contacts, but movie posters these days are usually the actors posed for a photograph.

The more I see the Edwardian and Victorian Faires, the more I want to come and join you. Fortunately for us, we finally do have a Steampunk event coming up for Toronto. Adam Smith, who staged the Canadian National Steampunk Exhibition last April has returned with Steam on Queen, a street faire being held in downtown Toronto, at historic Campbell House, right at the corner of University and Queen Streets. I can see some Goth influences here to join us … I have found a Goth fanzine in Toronto called The Raven’s Call.
Beautiful little publication, binding the local Goths together. Steam on Queen takes place near the end of June.

I’m amazed how Goth seems to keep thriving. The older Goths from the 80s seem to be aging gracefully, and younger ones have come on board with similar but updated fashion, aesthetic and interests. Steampunk seems to be somewhat of an offshoot of Goth but it does have its own unique sensibility that has attracted a completely different group of people. They blend together quite well, though. There is a joke that you’ve probably heard of by now that says that “Steampunk is what happens when Goths discover brown.”

However, something else is happening near the end of April. Yvonne and I are staging the First Grand Great Lakes Victorian Tea at The Victorian Garden Tea Room in Etobicoke, with enough seating for 35. The local Toronto Steampunk Society has tried to stage a tea without luck, but we have more resources and contacts, plus a lovely little tea room a three-minute drive away from home. It should be a great event, the best way to start the spring.

That sounds like a lovely way to great the start of spring. Teas are fun and Steampunk teas even more so! Costuming and tea at the same time, what could be better.

My loc ... please do see Hugo at sometime, perhaps a second-run theatre may be showing it. It started off as a bit of an adventure, and because such a wonderful tribute to Georges Méliès, perhaps the first well-known filmmaker. It may not be a science fiction or fantasy movie, but it is about fantasy movies, and about a great auteur I hope people would not forget. Thanks to Martin Scorsese, Méliès is not only remembered in this modern age, but celebrated, and I am thankful.

Hugo is in my Netflix queue, and it will be available at the end of the month. I do want to see Georges Méliès work. I’ve seen bits of it included in documentaries but I have yet to watch a whole piece.

Adding pieces to costumes … I recently added a small lantern to my conductor costume. I can find an electric tealight to put in it, and make it authentic but safe. John Purcell is right, a shame about Ren Faires going away here, but I do like the idea of perhaps filling the gap with a Dickens Faire. Make it a cross between a Ren Faire and a Steampunk event, and we could have some real fun here.

I’m not sure how a Ren Faire and a Steampunk event would work together since they’re different eras. But I’ve seen people in Steampunk costumes attend Ren Faires so perhaps it’s not too much of a stretch.

It’s a long weekend here, the Family Day weekend, and so much is getting done at home. I think I can reveal that if things work out the way I hope they will, I will be working full-time shortly. If I get the word, I will be working at a long-term assignment at an advertising agency in neighbouring Mississauga, not far from home. I am praying; I am so tired of the job hunt.

Hope you get that full-time job!

Off it goes to you, and many thanks for another fun issue. Hugs to both of you, and more with upcoming issues.

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 1122

January 30, 2012

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 “close enough” to 8:00 pm
30 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1121 were accepted as “eats shoots and leaves”
The Treasurer reported that at meeting 1121 we took in $8.20 in the regular jar & $9.87 in the party jar; while at meeting 1120 we took in $13.31 in the regular jar & $34.95 in the party jar
The VP reported that there is a new Drink Tank out - issue “305-ish” - and a brand spanking new “Drink Tank Stupendous annual” out, as of this meeting, right now
The President had nothing fannish to report

Hugo nomination night #1 will be tonight, with #s 2 & 3 on Feb 6 & Feb 13 - so please do not bring in auction items - and
The president thanked the members for not bringing in auction items tonight
The Sports Committee is starting to look for commitment & collect monies for the Giants outing on Friday, May 4th - Giants vs the Brewers - cost being $28.50.

The Computer Website Committee reported that the site password has been changed & that Michael Wallis should be fixing this soon.

Adrienne reminded members to pay for their dinner bills before leaving.

**Announcements**

Gerry Nordley announced that Contact will be held this year - March 30, April 1, 2 & is looking for hospitality staff.

Ken announced that the Retrodome will be debuting an original “game show show” sometime this spring.

[evil] Kevin announced that Gallifrey is coming up and that they’ll host a Friday night party there & announced that the 1st weekend in March will have a Barbot party - check robogames.net for more details.

Chris announced that there is good poutine in SJ now at the little chef counter in the San Pedro market on San Pedro Square - amazingly good food for good prices [and things devolved into talk of lutefisk].

Lisa announced that FogCon will be held March 30, April 1, 2 in Walnut Creek at the Marriott - check www.fogcon.org

Jo announced that he is part of the 9% and looking for work again & announced that he will host 2 parties soon - one likely on Feb 16 and another party March 10 with free pizza and beer.

[tall] Kevin announced that he is looking for a new place to live and will likely need help moving in April & announced that SFFT [the science fiction & fantasy translations board] is doing a fundraiser - check sfftawards.org

**Reviews**

Skyrim #1 [Ken] reviewed the 30th anniversary party for the Legion of Rassilon at Carrows as they had a large turnout and it was a very successful party & reviewed that he & Geri had a pleasant semi-traditional anniversary visit to La Fondue & that 2 sing-a-longs at the Retrodome on Friday & Sunday were enjoyable & reviewed watching some You-tubage as fun = “I built a tardis”.

Skyrim #2 [Andy] says the new season of Eurovision is beginning and the recruiting processes is underway.

Skyrim #3 [Lisa] reviewed the Legion of Rassilon party as very enjoyable & reviewed Wootstock on Sunday as a lot of fun.

Skyrim #4 [Chris] reviewed the art project funded by google as it has completely shot his work productivity & is a lot of fun & reviewed *Transformers - Dark Side of the Moon* as the worst film he has ever seen - or made - and reminded folks of the depth of horrible he has seen & reviewed the restored *Metropolis* as it ... “lifted his spirits” [sexy robots!] = well worth full price & reviewed *The Thorn and the Blossom* by Theodora Goss as a good story from 2 POVs.

Skyrim #5 [Jo] reviewed having a life again as good, reviewed the remake of *Girl with the Dragon tattoo* as good but not as good as the original but still worth full price & reviewed supercross as very entertaining & reviewed *Game of Shadows* as he hated it a lot less than he expected to and it was pretty good as long as he forgot it was about Sherlock Holmes.
Skyrim #6 [Dave C] reviewed the nerdist live as interesting standup humor - worth full price for a slightly peculiar evening

Skyrim #7! [Ric] reviewed YouTube’s ability to provide free entertainment as highly recommended - that Star Wars Uncut is worth every second spent on it & reviewed My Drunk Kitchen as “go see it” & then there were follow ons that included the words “bull penis”

Skyrim #8 [Fred] reviewed Bradford Lyau’s book The Anticipation - novelists of the 1950’s French science fiction - Stepchildren of Voltaire as a very good book with an interesting approach to the field and recommends it for the Hugo for “best related work”; Chris followed and agreed

Skyrim #9 [Dann] reviewed the latest Thing as very thoughtfully done and well written

Skyrim #10 [Trey] reviewed Zamora’s Omelet House - which is doing 1-shot limited seating guest chef dinner experiments

We adjourned at 9:30 pm
And the rumor of the week was: “Peaches have no intrinsic value and there is no god”

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**Meeting 1123**

February 6, 2012

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began at 8:00 pm with bouncy unicorn puppies
32 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1122 were accepted as “lutefisk”
The Treasurer reported that at meeting 1122 we took in less than a dollar in both the regular jar & party jar
The VP was not present
The President had nothing fannish to report
Hugo nomination night #2 will be tonight, with #3 on Feb 13 - so please do not bring in auction items - and the president thanked the members for not bringing in auction items tonight
The Sports Committee has bought the tickets for the Giants outing on Friday, May 4th - Giants vs the Brewers - at a cost of $28.50/each - and there are 5 ... no - 3 - tickets unspoken for at present
The Computer Website Committee reported that there is access to the site again
A vote failed and the Hugo nominations will be held after the meeting proper
Announcements

Bradford announced that he will need help to get his book nominated for a Hugo - so remember Bradford Lyau’s book *The Anticipation* - novelists of the 1950’s French science fiction *Stepchildren of Voltaire* for “best related work”

Carole announced that Clockwork Alchemy will be held over the Memorial Day weekend at the Doubletree & she is on the ConComm - check clockworkalchemy.com for details

Stephen announced that JackalCast - a fannish podcast - will have an interview with Tim Powers - check jackalcast.com

Adrienne announced that there will be a meetup for Ghost Hunters at the Rosicrucian Museum on Feb 11, noon - meeting in the lobby [front doors]

Jo announced ... stuff ... just stuff [Legolas reference]

Dave C announced that his house finally has a roof

Reviews

Carole reviewed taking a Sunday drive with Bill as it had pleasant views & was worth the price of gas [in a 1989 Acura]

Howeird reviewed Conflikt as quite wonderful [except for their audio folk] with lots of excellent GoHs & fun experiences [others also commented] & then he reviewed free stuff on Kindle as *Small World* by Dominic Green was quite entertaining, he got more than he paid for & enjoyed it

Bradford reviewed the 3rd *Underworld* movie as each of them were getting shorter and he didn’t really see a reason for #3 to have been made - then he reviewed *Moon* as surprisingly good

Dave C reviewed *Celebrity Autobiography* as worth full price - and he used the word “cacophonous” in the review; then reviewed the Max’s in SF as he gave them another chance and they failed: everything he once enjoyed is now gone

Jo reviewed *Red Tails* as much better than he expected - worth full redbox price, or see it in the theatre if you like seeing big zoomy things

Andy reviewed Eurovision as the contests continue & some of it requires “Chris Garcia modes of delivery” - and is still worth stealing; then Ken followed, saying his show [KFJC, 89.7, Thursdays from 10am till 2pm also has a segment between noon & 1pm that focuses on Eurovision culling - tune in and be scared

We adjourned at 8:54 pm
And the rumor of the week was: “Seen the 1st banana - there is no appeal”

Meeting 1124

February 13, 2012

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began at 8:00 pm with Valentines
27 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1123 were accepted as “Oh my god, we had to hear that again!!”

The Treasurer reported that at meeting 1123 we took in $3.30 in the regular jar & $5.50 in the party jar
The VP reported "Oh hey, that’s me!" & that there’s a new ‘Drink Tank’ out - dedicated to ... stuff
The President ducked the issue
Hugo nomination night #3 will be tonight
The Sports Committee has 1 outstanding ticket for the Giants outing on Friday, may 4th
The Party Committee is looking for a room

Announcements

Chris announced that there’s a con coming up - Gallifrey - & announced that he has printed copies of the Dune issue of Journey Planet with him & handed them out
[evil] Kevin announced that PantheaCon & DungraCon are also this weekend & announced that they’ll be hosting a Friday night Network 66 party at Gallifrey with a live podcast & announced that the barbot celebration will be March 2-3, check www.robogames.net

Spike announced that there’ll be a London in 2014 tea party at Gallifrey, Saturday, 1pm in room 110
Jo announced there’ll be a party this week sometime - keep watching Live Journal & it will be “bring your own chair”

Reviews

Jo reviewed that buying from banks is not worth full price
Ed reviewed Bulworth as a great movie with a great cast - worth full price & Dann followed, saying that it had either “loved it or hated it” responses when first released

Chris reviewed The Woman in Black movie as “Harry Potter is in a Hammer film” - & Bradford recommended the movie - then Chris reviewed Lynda as worth full price & says he bought a director’s set of the films of Spike Jones & they are worth full price
Mo reviewed Nightmare Alley as Tyrone Powers took a chance & it was wonderful
Dann reviewed the Jeff Wayne musical version of War of the Worlds as it’s incredibly great - check stagevu.com
Ken reviewed the Retrodome’s Becoming Brittany as heavy on the snark and that local talent created it
Andy reviewed Eurovision slection “so you don’t have to” & that watching the Norway contests wasn’t all that bad & it’s still worth stealing - even if the download took 4 hours
Goodies were auctioned off quickly
We adjourned at 9:00 pm
And the rumor of the week was: “needs less cowbell”
Meeting 1125

February 20, 2012

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

Began at 8:02 pm with Valentines
16 people attended
We birthday auctioned off Joni for $6.00 to Jo
We established a SFF Translation awards jar
The minutes of meeting 1124 were accepted as “almost commentary free”
The Treasurer proxy report was that at meeting 1124 we took in $6.00 in the regular jar & $18.00 in the party jar
The VP ... scarpered
The President had nothing fannish to report
[tall] Kevin displayed the 16 page collated Hugo nomination report

Reviews
Jo reviewed a big pistol-gripped LED 1000 lumen flashlight from the Stanley 2M series that cost $23.00 - as very bright & directional and worth more than full price
Diane reviewed Wasteland of Flint by Thomas Harlan as a good, interesting read
Fred reviewed Fire on the Mountain by Terry Bisson as interesting alternate world SF
Howeird reviewed subscribing to Amazon’s prime 2nd day shipping [$70/year] as it has some interesting perks to go along with it & is maybe worth full price
I reviewed a Youtube filk of Howeird singing a Frank Hayes song = “When I was a Boy” a pretty darned good
Joni reviewed the Vampire Diary series as “she recommends flee”
We did auctions
We adjourned at 8:40 pm
And the rumor of the week was: “Newt Gingrich now regrets he did not try to buy a Hugo voting block”

Announcements
Fred announced that there’s a con coming up - Potlatch 21 in Seattle at the Best Western this weekend, Feb 24-26
Bradford announced that he had a positive review of his book on Amazon.com [from Chuck]
Life is complicated; putting on an event is even more so. Please check before attending, as events are sometimes canceled or times and locations changed.

Follow the calendar on Twitter: @sfsfcalendar

New listings are highlighted in red.
Ongoing events are toward the back.

Friday-Sunday, March 2-4
Consonance
Hilton Newark/Fremont
39900 Balentine Drive, Newark
www.consonance.org
$45 (till December 31)

Friday-Sunday, March 9-11
Sonora Celtic Faire
Mother Lode Fairgrounds
220 Southgate Drive, Sonora
sonoracelticfaire.com
A Celtic Music Gala with bands, fencing, jugglers, fire eaters, story tellers and dancers.
$50

Saturday, March 17
Psychotronix Film Festival
Foothill College
Room 5015, Foothill Campus, Los Altos Hills
www.kfjc.org/promotions/psychotronix
Antiquated commercials, neglected cartoons, previews from old movies, various short subjects which may have been intentionally educational then that are now just unintentionally funny.
7 p.m.
$5

Saturday, March 17
SFinSF: Claude LaLumiere
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.
$5-$10 suggested donation

Monday, March 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. March 19: Subversive Sub-cinema! The Atomic Submarine (1960) Plus! Destination Inner Space (1966)
7:30 p.m.
Free

Friday-Sunday, March 30-April 1,
FOGCon
Walnut Creet Marriott,
2355 North Main Street, Walnut Creek
fogcon.org
Honored guests; Nalo Hopkinson, Shelley Jackson. Honored Ghost; Mary Shelley.
$75 (till February 15)

Saturday-Sunday, April 14-15
San Jose Fantasy Festival
Guadalupe River Park
494 West Santa Clara Street, San Jose
www.sfjfantasy.com
A family-friendly festival, a blending of historic fact, myth and popular fantasy.
$10
Saturday, April 21

*SFinsF: Urban Fantasy Panel*

Hobart Building  
582 Market Street, San Francisco  
www.sfinsf.org  
Bruce McAllister, Steven Boyett, others TBD.  
7 p.m. $5-$10 suggested donation

Monday, April 23

*Forbidden Thrills Movie Night*

Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge  
1304 Lincoln, Alameda  
www.thrillville.net  
Cult Movies & Cocktails, hosted by Will the Thrill. All shows free, first feature starts @ 7:30 PM, second feature @ 9:15. Free Popcorn and Trivia Prizes. April 23: Thrillville’s Endless 15th Anniversary Show! *The Day the World Ended* (1955) Plus! *World Without End* (1955)  
7:30 p.m. Free

Saturday, May 19

*SFinsF: Ysabeau Wilce, Marie Brennan*

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. $5-$10 suggested donation

Saturday-Sunday, May 19-20

*Big Wow Comicfest*

San Jose Convention Center, Hall 2  
150 San Carlos, San Jose  
www.bigwowcomicfest.com  
Comics convention.  
$30

Saturday-Sunday, May 25-28

*Baycon*

Hyatt Regency Santa Clara  
5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara  
www.baycon.org  
$70 (till April 15)

Saturday-Sunday, May 25-28

*Clockwork Alchemy*

Doubletree Hotel  
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose  
www.clockworkalchemy.com  
Steampunk convention.  
$55 (till February 29)

Saturday-Sunday, May 25-28

*Fanime*

San Jose Convention Center  
150 W. San Carlos St., San Jose  
www.fanime.com  
Anime convention.  
$60 (till March 31)

Saturday, May 5

*Creatures Con One*

Historic Bal Theatre  
14808 E 14th St, San Leandro  
www.baltheatre.com  
The worlds first creature features convention. Hosted by Lord Blood Rah.  
3 p.m. $10

Monday, May 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. May 21: Shatfest! *Kingdom of the Spiders* (1977) Plus! *The Devil’s Rain* (1975)  
7:30 p.m. Free
Monday, June 18

**Forbidden Thrills Movie Night**

Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge
1304 Lincoln, Alameda
www.thrillville.net

Cult Movies & Cocktails, hosted by Will the Thrill. All shows free, first feature starts @ 7:30 PM, second feature @ 9:15. Free Popcorn and Trivia Prizes. June 18: Tiki Drive-In Beach Party! In Forbidden Island’s parking lot, from the archives of Sci-Fi Bob Ekman: catch a 16mm wave of trailers, cartoons, shorts and the classic creature feature *The Horror of Party Beach* (1964) 7:30 p.m. Free

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Friday-Sunday, August 3-6

**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. $85

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**Ongoing**

**Daily**

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**Cartoon Art Museum**

655 Mission Street, San Francisco
www.cartoonart.org

Current exhibitions: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (through April 15, 2012). Small Press Spotlight on Karen Luk (through December 5). 11-5 p.m. $6 (Closed Mondays)

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**San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour**

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

Closed Tuesdays. 7-10 p.m. $20

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**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.

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**Sundays**

**Bad Movie Night**

The Dark Room Theater
2263 Mission Street, San Francisco
www.darkroomsf.com

Featuring bad movies old and new. 8 p.m. $5

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**Sakuramento Anime Society**

Rancho Cordova Library
9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova
www.saclibrary.org

Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs. 3-6 p.m.
**SF Games**
Zephyr Cafe
3643 Balboa Street, San Francisco
vax.hanford.org/dk/games
SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week.
2 p.m. Free

**Mondays**

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

**Silicon Valley Boardgamers**
Mountain View Community Center
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View
www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb
Group meets regularly to play mostly German-style strategy boardgames such as Settlers of Catan; also multi-player Avalon Hill-style, historical war games, and others.
6:30 p.m. $2

**Tuesdays**

**MGI Boffers & Outdoor Games**
Codornices Park
1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley
mgisciaf.angelfire.com
Bad weather: we meet the same time at 33 Revolutions Record Shop & Cafe, El Cerrito for boardgames.
3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free

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

**East Bay Strategy Games Club**
EndGame
921 Washington, Oakland
www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html
7:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. Free

**Fanboy Planet Podcast**
Illusive Comics and Games
2725 El Camino Real, Suite 105, Santa Clara
www.fanboyplanet.com
Live from Illusive Comics and Games, it’s the Fanboy Planet Podcast with your host, Derek McCaw.
6 p.m. Free

**Wednesdays**

**Bay Area Role-Playing Society**
Go-Getter’s Pizza
1489 Beach Park Boulevard, Foster City
www.BayRPS.com
Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email GM@BayRPS.com
6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Free

**Thursdays**

**CAS: NightLife**
The California Academy of Sciences
55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
www.calacademy.org
Every Thursday night, the Academy opens its doors for NightLife, a chance for adults to explore the museum in a whole new light. Dance to some of San Francisco’s most popular DJs, enjoy food and cocktails, and mingle while you delve into the Academy’s world-class exhibits and get up close and personal with aquarium critters.
6 p.m. - 10 p.m. $12 (21+)
**Fridays**

**SF Games**
Muddy’s Coffeehouse  
1304 Valencia Street, San Francisco  
vax.hanford.org/dk/games
SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week.  
7 p.m. to midnight  
Free

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

**Vampire Walking Tour**
Meets corner of California and Taylor, San Francisco  
www.sfvampiredtour.com
Led by Mina Harker. Tour is canceled if there is heavy rain.  
8 p.m.  
$20

**PenSFA Party**
The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions. Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending. PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host $2. Don’t smoke in the house without checking with the host first. Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

**Biweekly**

**Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers’ Group**
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco  
www.sfscifi@yahoo.com
Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jude Livingston at sfscifi@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.

**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.

**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.

**Silicon Gulch Browncoats**
Various locations (see website for details)  
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.

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
sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights
Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for specifics.
The 'Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International and a swell group of science fiction fans. We do more than Trek. Usually meets the third Friday of the month, with social event TBD.
7 p.m. Free
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Religion &amp; SF Book Club</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sci-Fi Book Group with Kym</strong></th>
<th><strong>USS Augusta Ada</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First United Methodist Church</td>
<td>Barnes &amp; Noble</td>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
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<tr>
<td>1183 “B” Street, Hayward</td>
<td>El Cerrito Plaza, 6050 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito</td>
<td>3567 Geary Blvd, San Francisco</td>
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<td>Meets the 4th Sunday of the month. Please contact Rev. Randy Smith at <a href="mailto:RSmith2678@aol.com">RSmith2678@aol.com</a> for more information.</td>
<td>store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/event/3110722-7</td>
<td>trek.starshine.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 p.m. Free</td>
<td>Meets the fourth Friday of the month. 7 p.m. Free</td>
<td>Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and *BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month. 1 p.m. Free</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Other Realms Book Club</strong></th>
<th><strong>Legion of Rassilon</strong></th>
<th><strong>Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Books, Inc.</td>
<td>Carl’s Jr.</td>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
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<td>1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame</td>
<td>2551 N 1st St, San Jose</td>
<td>4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.booksinc.net/localinterest/291027">www.booksinc.net/localinterest/291027</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.legionofrassilon.org">www.legionofrassilon.org</a></td>
<td>916-338-2300</td>
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<td>Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month. 6:30 p.m. Free</td>
<td>Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle. 7:30 p.m. Free</td>
<td>Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours. 6 p.m. Free</td>
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Ice poppies

by Lucy Huntzinger
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<td>Bad Movie Night</td>
<td>BASFA</td>
<td>MGI Boffers</td>
<td>BA Role-Playing Soc</td>
<td>CAS: NightLife</td>
<td>SF Games</td>
<td>Vampire Walking</td>
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<td>Sakuramento Anime</td>
<td>SV Boardgamers</td>
<td>Fighter Practice</td>
<td>E.Bay Strategy Games Fanboy Planet Podcast</td>
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*Science Fiction/San Francisco* is the monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area – www.efanzines.com.