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**Art Credits**

- Cover: I would take it back if I could by Lucy Huntzinger
- Page 5: Zeloryx Spring by Leah Jay
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By Jean Martin

Editor

When I found out that Disney was doing a movie based on Edgar Rice Burrough’s (ERB’s) John Carter novels, I was very excited. The first scifi novel I ever read, when I was nine years old, was ERB’s Moon Maid. That got me hooked on scifi ever since. So I’ve always had a soft spot for ERB. When it was announced that the release date was going to be on my birthday, I thought it was some sign that I needed to plan something around the movie. So I invited friends to go see the movie with me during my birthday weekend.

However, before I got to see John Carter (www.imdb.com/title/tt0401729), I read several critics’ reviews that said that it was boring and confusing. And that it copied a lot of previous scifi movies that did things better than John Carter did. Regular movie-goers who have posted their thoughts on movie web sites seemed to generally echo what the critics said.

So I was a little worried about being disappointed. I decided I still wanted to see the movie and do the movie get-together with friends for my birthday. I’m so glad I saw this on the big screen. It was an epic-scale movie, and I absolutely loved it. It exceeded my expectations. Everyone in my group liked it too.

I was very perplexed as to why there was such a bad buzz about the movie, which I found out later on started even before the movie was released. People were already predicting it to be a flop for Disney, which spent $250 million making it (and more marketing it).

After I saw the movie, I read even more reviews from more people who have seen it and, post-release, most of the reviews online have been actually very positive. Everyone who I know who has seen the movie has liked it as well.

Most articles I’d read attribute the disappointing box office results of John Carter to bad marketing on Disney’s part. I heartily agree. While the trailer gave me goose bumps and made me excited about seeing the movie, I don’t think it explained anything to people who haven’t read or even heard of the books. And, despite what the Disney marketing people may have assumed, there are a lot of people who don’t know who John Carter is. Especially in their target young male audience. Most of the favorable reviews I’ve read are from older people who love the books. And it is very unusual for fans of a book or books to be happy about a movie adaptation.

Thus, in my opinion, the movie itself was a success despite its poor box-office showing. Apparently, it’s one of the worst box office disasters of all time, in the magnitude of Heaven’s Gate and Ishtar. It makes me so angry that John Carter failed because it is a great movie and nowhere near as bad as those two terrible movies. It didn’t need to be a failure, it just didn’t find its audience, and that’s what makes me mad… such wasted potential, not to mention money.

The first mistake Disney did is the title. When I saw the movie billboards showing John Carter fighting the White Apes, I was worried that it made it look like a Tarzan movie. It
also didn’t say anything about who John Carter is, what the movie is about and that it’s even a scifi movie. Someone on Netflix said that he thought the movie was a Western and was disappointed after a few minutes and realized that it was a scifi movie.

Second mistake is that they didn’t capitalize on the fact that Edgar Rice Burroughs wrote the books. I think if they mentioned Tarzan, it would have at least piqued the interest of people.

Third, they didn’t build it up as an exciting scifi, action movie with battles, special effects, technology, etc. This would have attracted the young male audience that Disney has been trying to court for a while now. Not content with resting on their laurels and core strength of delivering “princess” movies to young girls (and young-at-heart romantics), they wanted to branch out into the teenage male market. I can see where they’re coming from when Harry Potter has been the biggest thing in recent movie history. But the John Carter books are not a “hot” property anymore. Also, while I thought Prince of Persia and The Sorcerer’s Apprentice were entertaining, and should have done better at the box office than they did, realistically speaking, young audiences nowadays go for darker fare. Post-apocalyptic and dystopian themes seem to be what’s popular right now. The Disney offerings seem old-fashioned and wholesome in comparison. While I sometimes like darker movies, I don’t like them bleak and depressing. I do still enjoy pure escapist fun and the nostalgia of the Disney that I grew up with. But I’m an exception, and also not the demographic they are targeting.

As I mentioned earlier, some people found the movie confusing. I didn’t think so but I’ve read the books. So I asked Chris and others in our group who haven’t, and they said they followed the movie’s plotlines quite well. So I think audiences nowadays like things that are simpler. I agree that John Carter did throw in way too many characters, factions and plotlines into the mix, but I just thought that made the movie more substantial, complex and interesting. They didn’t dumb it down to the lowest common denominator. They kept it true to the spirit of the books. The characters were also all interesting and had their own personalities, motivations and plot arcs. I like that they threw in mystical elements and kept all of the different locations and the original post-Civil War time period. And I’m so glad they kept the character of Edgar Rice Burroughs in it. I won’t say more than that other than the fact that I think that they wove everything well together. And what they added in or changed made sense and even enhanced the movie.

Some people found the movie long. I personally think so even though it clocked in at more than two hours. I thought it went pretty fast and I wanted more. Unfortunately, I don’t think a sequel will be made due to how spectacularly it bombed domestically. Disney reported that it will be taking a huge operating loss this quarter due to John Carter. However, it has done a bit better internationally, especially in Russia. I wonder why. Perhaps it’s because the rest of the world still enjoys anything that comes out of Hollywood. In any case, there’s a movement on Facebook that’s requesting that a sequel be made. If you want to join it, it’s at: www.facebook.com/groups/288143804588289.

Fourth, there was no one big name actor or actress in the cast… at least no one recognizable to mainstream America. One of the main draws for me about the movie was that several actors I admire or at least am very familiar with are in it. Well, they are mostly British actors so, of course, I know
who they are. Two of them I’d like to mention are Ciaran Hinds and James Purefoy, who pretty much reprised their roles as Julius Caesar and Marc Anthony in HBO’s *Rome*. American Lynn Collins was the best performer in the movie, she was perfectly cast as the heroine, Dejah Thoris, and was beautiful and smart. She had great chemistry with John Carter, played by Canadian Taylor Kitsch. I haven’t seen him in anything else, and he’s not what I would have envisioned John Carter to look like, but I thought he did a pretty good job. So again, I don’t understand why a lot of reviews said the acting in the movie was bad. I thought everyone was well cast and believable in their roles. In any case, while it doesn’t matter to me, it does seem like in this day and age it pays to have a big name star or director, and this movie didn’t have any.

Fifth, Disney did not market the fact that there was a romance in the story and that there is a strong, sexy and intelligent female character in it. This would have drawn in a female audience. Granted, most women in fandom would not necessarily need a romantic storyline and would be happy with lots of action scenes, but even women in fandom like to see strong female characters. And when we’re talking about women in the mainstream, romance is a plus. I thought the romance in this movie was subtle but it was a driving force of the story. And as I said earlier, the Lynn Collins and Taylor Kitsch had great chemistry.

Sixth, I’m not sure if *John Carter* was explained to have been an inspiration and influence toward the making of *Star Wars* and *Avatar*. Both George Lucas and James Cameron have admitted as much. Several reviews mentioned that they didn’t like the fact that *John Carter* seemed like copies of these movies. Yes, some scenes in *John Carter* are reminiscent of *Star Wars* and *Avatar*. It may have made moviegoers more forgiving about the comparisons. But so what? I got the same thrill from those similar scenes. If I like a particular dish at one restaurant and another one makes the same dish just as good, why would I put down one or the other? I’m just happy there’s more for me to enjoy. And while things may be similar, everything has its own unique feature. I found the action scenes in *John Carter* exciting, and the visuals and costumes were gorgeous. Yet, they didn’t overpower the story and characters.

All in all, *John Carter*, at least to me, had everything in it that makes a great scifi movie. I will definitely be purchasing it when it comes out on DVD. Perhaps it will gain some more life in DVD sales and rentals. For now, though, if you like scifi and fantasy, I highly recommend you go see it in the movie theaters!
A State of Independence – A Look at Independent Comic Book Publishers

By Christopher Erickson
Staff Writer

Independent comic book publishers have proliferated in recent years, with many small time press companies vying with the “Big Two” (Marvel and DC) for the market of comic book readers. The Internet has also helped push independent writers and artists into the spotlight with a dedicated readership to online comics that can eventually be published as real graphic novels such as xkcd and Girl Genius.

There are several reasons why independent publishers have thrived. The companies allow rather big-name writers to create stories and characters that may not be normally carried by the Big Two. Frank Miller wrote 300 and the Sin City series was published by Dark Horse and was something that DC or Marvel would not publish. The companies also allow creators to retain the rights for their creations and only take money for distribution costs and marketing. Image Comics does not even allow editorial control over the content that is published by each imprint from a corporate perspective. Other companies such as IDW mix original creations with licensed properties such as Doctor Who, Star Trek and Transformers with editorial control more in the traditional sense. These factors tend to draw in new talent that can break into comics as well as established talent to let them work on material and genres such as horror and science fiction that may not be regularly published by the House of Ideas and Warner Brothers Stable of Heroes.

The online presence of comics is also the other major independent contributor. Online comics provide a way for artists to publish with low costs and have an archive that can be reviewed by readers at any point without having to acquire back issues or trade paperbacks. It can also allow writers and artists to showcase their work while seeking other work. The big draw for creators is that they have complete control of their work and can keep all of the profits.

To recruit and keep big-name talent, Marvel and DC Comics both launched their own imprints for non-superhero genres. Vertigo Comics grew out of publication of more mature stories such as Neil Gaiman’s Sandman and Alan Moore’s run on the Saga of the Swamp Thing. Vertigo grew into a haven for talented storytelling, which helped bring literary respect to the comic book industry. Vertigo Comics has shifted to being a creator-controlled imprint where the artists and writers retain ownership of their characters and publications, but DC Comics will handle marketing and distribution. Marvel Comics also established a creator-controlled imprint called Icon Comics to allow their top talent to create comics that they might not be able to normally work on. Two of their more prominent titles have been Kick-Ass and Powers.

The biggest story of success for independent and creator-owned works is Image Comics. Image was founded by seven major talents at Marvel who left to form their own company in
1992. The company was established so that each imprint would be responsible for their own publishing schedule and editorial control as well as merchandising. The company grew to have several successful titles such as Spawn, Witchblade, Savage Dragon and The Walking Dead. The company has survived the implosion of the comic book market in the late 1990s and was at one point in the early part of their existence had the second largest market share with only seven titles. The company has lost market share over the years but continues to thrive and publish titles. Along with Dark Horse, Image Comics has become a major company in the comic book publishing industry with its portfolio of titles and writers.

With all of the options that are now available to the writers and artists, there is the possibility to work on almost any character or property or create an entirely new series. With conglomerate-owned companies having their own imprints for writers and artists to showcase new work that creators control, the talent does not have to keep a character or idea from being published and can have their work receive major support. But there is also the option for creators to work for other companies at the same time as working on the more mainstream publications. Independent comics do not have to be obscure or underground as they once were.
By Christopher Erickson

Staff Writer

On February 24-26, the ground shook, the sky opened up and the seas rose. Actually, nothing so dramatic happened, but the Image Comic Expo did take place at the Oakland Convention Center in downtown Oakland.

The location of the Oakland Convention Center was a good choice for the first-time convention. Located in the old section of downtown Oakland and near Chinatown, the convention center was in the perfect place. There was plenty of cheap parking, access to public transit and a number of eateries in the area. On Saturday, I took BART and it was a mere three blocks from the convention center.

The convention itself was a bit underwhelming. There was plenty of programming, but most of it was on Sunday. I did not go on Sunday, so I cannot say what the panels were like in comparison to the offerings on Saturday. The convention floor itself lacked any real buzz other than the lines for people looking to get autographs from the creators of many of the titles published by Image Comics. There was a small press area and artist alley that had a good number of people selling art and promoting their books, but there was no celebrity autograph area. There were a number of tables with big-name
talent such as Matt Wagner, Brian K. Vaughn and Ed Brubaker on hand, as well as Peter S. Beagle.

The other major portion that was missing from the exposition was the costuming. There were almost no cosplayers in attendance. The ones that I did see were dressed as characters from other properties such as *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, *Resident Evil* and *Death* from Vertigo Comics. There was also no costume contest or masquerade. There were also no booths with people in character other than the main booth.

The other drawback was the main panel room was too small for some of the bigger events like the panel with the founders of Image Comics and the promotional panel for the cable series *The Walking Dead*. Tickets were needed to go to every panel including the smaller ones. While this was a good idea for crowd control and making sure that people did not stake out the room for the entire day, it caused a bit of confusion for people who may not have gotten the announcements for tickets who lined up thinking they could get in.

The panels that I did attend were rather exciting and informative. The first panel I attended was called “Womanthology: What Zeitgeist?” The panel featured longtime comic writer/artist Trina Robbins (co-creator of *Vampirella*), Bonnie Burton, Mariah Huehner, Nicole Sixx and Fiona Staples. All of the panel participants were contributors to a book called *Womanthology* (from IDW Publishing), which spotlights works from female writers and artists in the medium
of comics. The book also features interviews and guidance for female comic artists and writers. The first half of the panel focused on the book itself. Womanthology features stories from all different genres and was funded by contributions through Kickstarter.com. The promotion for the book was picked up by Neil Gaiman, Wil Wheaton and Felicia Day. The second half of the panel focused on the idea that women have different perspectives and ideas to writing comic books. The panelists all stated that women loved comics in all forms (zombies, superheroes, etc.) and do not only want to write about relationships. The panelists also talked about how superhero comics are essentially idealized male fantasy images for both male and female characters.

The other panel was the “20 Years of Independence: The Image Comics 20th Anniversary Panel.” The panel featured original founders Rob Liefeld, Jim Valentino, Marc Silvestri, Todd McFarlane, Whilce Portacio, Eric Larsen and current partner Robert Kirkman. The panelists related in their own words the founding of the company. The idea for a creator-owned studio co-operative company started with a dinner between Rob Leifeld, Jim Valentino, Eric Larsen, Whilce Portacio and the owner of Malibu Comics back in 1992. The future founders of Image were tired of working for Marvel and not having as much creative control over the characters that they may have liked to create. The idea was struck up that the artists would quit and form their own company where everyone could work on their own titles without any input from other people and that each artist would retain the rights and creative control over their publications. Todd McFarlane was recruited after the dinner via a phone call and came up with the idea of approaching the Marvel braintrust and telling them that they were going to quit. Todd also recruited Marc
Silvestri and Jim Lee before the meeting. After telling Marvel that they were quitting, the group crossed the street to DC Comics headquarters and gave them the courtesy of telling them that they were not going to be working for them either.

The seven founders went on to create Image Comics to allow artists to retain the intellectual property rights to their characters instead of the company that published the characters. Malibu was brought on board as a business partner to help establish the promotional and distribution infrastructure needed for a publishing company to succeed. The venture was an immediate success, eventually becoming the second largest comic-book company with only seven titles (Marvel and DC usually carry around 40 or more) before the market crashed in the late 1990s. The company has continued to have success with subsequent titles such as Robert Kirkman’s *The Walking Dead*.

The panelists also explained how their company structure works. Unlike other comic book publishers, Image Comics does not pay artists a page rate nor gives writers a contract. Image instead will publish any book that is brought to them and will delineate the success and expected compensation from sales after a 90-day period. The structure is such that it allows any artist or writer to break into the industry with their own ideas.

The panels were the best part of my experience at the Image Comic Expo. The convention did seem well attended by fans despite the lack of name recognition. The show was certainly a success, but it did not have any real draw to general convention attendees who might not be into the properties published by Image Comics or who might not be independent artists and writers looking to establish themselves in the business.
Dimensions in Time: A Review of Gallifrey One

By Christopher Erickson
Staff Writer

The convergence of time, space and alternate dimensions came again at the LAX Marriott in Los Angeles during President’s Day weekend. Daleks, Gangers, Weeping Angels and the Eye-Patch Lady were seen moving about causing all kinds of disturbance and destruction; but thankfully, The Doctor was there to set everything right with his trusty TARDIS (or “Sexy” when she actually walks about). It was once again time for Gallifrey One.

The convention was even bigger this time as there was almost a thousand more people attending than the previous year. The official attendance was a record 3,183 people, up from the last year’s attendance of around 2,200. Because of that, there were many first-time attendees including a few of my friends. That also meant that there were going to be several new people Cosplaying for the first time. As it was, the convention was packed more than ever, but the one thing that was missing was the TARDIS that we have come to know and love. The TARDIS that is brought by a husband-and-wife fan couple from Austin, Texas, did not make the landing at its usual spot due to illness. It was dearly missed as it was always a welcome sight and many people including myself have enjoyed the comforting presence of the old blue box. The other staple that was missing was the legend of writer Tony Lee. He was there in spirit as there was a person actually Cosplaying Tony Lee and his electronic self through Skype.
Fortunately, there was still plenty to see and do at the convention. There were several projects, a wonderful masquerade, a large number of costumes, and wonderful panels. There was also, of course, the celebrities and the many other guests that were in attendance. The central console even made an appearance from the 1996 TV movie.

One of the projects that was being made at the convention was a recreation of the tribute video done by the cast and crew of *Doctor Who* with David Tennant for Russell T. Davies. The video montage that was being filmed was called “The 500 Miles of Rassilon.” The project aimed to create a fan-made version of the video using the same song by the Proclaimers.

There were several people videotaping themselves and others in costume for the video. It was hard to get around without becoming snagged in the fun of the project.

There were also a few other video projects filmed by fans. One was Chris Garcia’s video interviews of random questions and one by Athena Stamos for craveonline.com. The other
A major project that was being created on the Sunday was a Doctor Who competition for the upcoming YouTube channel for the Nerdist. The game featured three elimination rounds of Doctor Cosplayers facing off against each other in a trivia game, dance-off and sonic screwdriver quick draw. The final contest was a fish fingers and custard eating segment. The filming was watched by many passersby and had a good number of competitors. The segments were hosted by a couple of fans including one dressed as Rose from “The Idiot Lantern” episode. The recording will eventually be posted on the Nerdist web site.

As part of the Nerdist channel’s filming, Chris Hardwick was in attendance as well. I got a chance to interact with him this year, getting a few photos with him and a gentleman dressed as Captain Picard from Star Trek: The Next Generation. He even remembered me from last year when they were filming for the Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson.

There was also another Cosplayer in attendance dressed as Ensign Ro Laren from Star Trek: The Next Generation to commemorate the news that IDW Comics would be publishing the first Doctor Who/Star Trek crossover. There was a panel to help promote the previously announced event comic. The panel covered the current series of Doctor Who comics before moving on to the hotly anticipated subject. The crossover features hand-painted artwork with the story by long-time Doctor Who comic writer Tony Lee and Star Trek comic writers Dave and Scott Tipton. The panelists talked about how they had built up the relationship with the property holders for Star Trek (CBS) and Doctor Who (BBC) before attempting a story of this magnitude. They previewed a few sample pages and talked about how the meeting between the two biggest
science fiction properties was an easy thing to make happen since there was a natural fit with the Borg and the Cybermen.

The other big panel that I attended was the 1996 TV movie reunion featuring Paul McGann, Daphne Ashbrook, Yee Jee Tso and producer Philip Segal. The panel was the first reunion of the cast since making the telemovie. Segal talked about trying to get the movie off the ground and having to have essentially four different bosses as Universal, BBC, BBC Worldwide and Fox were all involved in the creation of the movie. The muddled control lead to certain choices being made such as the controversial “half-human” tidbit as well as setting the movie in San Francisco. McGann and Segal talked about casting McGann in the movie, how McGann felt that he had a lot to live up to, and the circumstances that lead to him wearing a wig for the role since he had his head shaved for a military movie that was shot after he was cast in the role of the Doctor but before filming for Doctor Who started. All of the people involved professed that they loved doing the film and would want to be involved in future projects, if possible.

There were also a lot of wonderful costumes as usual at this convention as well. The femme cosplay was even more prevalent this year as there was a full spectrum of all the Doctors represented as femme versions as well K-9 and Captain Jack Harkness. There were also a number of younger people costuming as Doctors from the original run of the show including a cute little girl who had a number of costumes of all the Doctors. Also in fashion this year was a number of younger people doing classic series companions. There were also plenty of enemies and supporting characters on display with several versions of the Master, more than a few Daleks, a Judoon, one of the Nurse cats, and even a visit from Winston Churchill. The other noticeable trend was the number of Idris
dresses that were in attendance. It was also nice to see a number of Ninth Doctors, including a few femme versions. My favorite costume of the weekend was the Aztec Barbara from the First Doctor episode "The Aztecs." There were also several people costuming from other sci-fi franchises such as *Blake’s 7*, *Back to the Future*, *Firefly* and *Star Trek*.

The masquerade had amazing costumes and skits as usual this year. We were treated to a bedtime story featuring Morbius, a promotion for the upcoming family sitcom with the Cybermen, an extra large Adipose, and the Dating Game featuring Second Doctor companion Dodo asking questions of the Ninth Doctor, the Second Doctor and Scaroth from the Fourth Doctor story “City of Death.”

There was also no shortage of celebrities as the entire cast of the 1996 TV movie was in attendance. Classic series companions Louise Jameson (Leela) and William Russell (Ian Chesterton) were on hand as well as Marc Sheppard (Canton from “The Impossible Astronaut/Day of the Moon” episodes), John De Lancie (*Torchwood: Miracle Day*) and Tony Curran (Vincent Van Gogh). With the convention bigger this year, the autograph lines for the major celebrities and production folk were moved to a room upstairs off the lobby, but the logistics of getting autographs was handled well by both the staff and the patrons.

Gallifrey One has grown in the last two years and has managed the increase with aplomb that most conventions would have trouble with. The convention was a huge success and was amazing. With the 50th anniversary of Doctor Who coming in 2013, they should be ready for the madness that will ensue next year.
By Diane B. Rooney

Steampunk enthusiasts turned out in numbers for this get-together at the Variety Theater in the Hobart Building on Market Street on a wet Wednesday night, overflowing the 60-seat theatre and getting the organizers to bring out the folding chairs. I got there close to the start of the films and was lucky to get a folding chair up front. Fortunately, the bar stayed open throughout, serving beer, wine, soft drinks, the always-free popcorn and a special cocktail created for the event — the Steampunk Sling. Essentials of the recipe: a shot of Bourbon, shaken with a spoonful of ginger syrup over ice, and then poured into sparkling apple cider. The flavor? In my opinion, a little bit tart, a little bit sweet and very smoky.

It was great to see Unwoman (Erica Mulkey) playing her cello before the films started since I hadn’t seen her in a few months. She sounded — and looked — great as usual and was selling CDs after the film festival. (More about Unwoman at: unwoman.com)

Before the start of the films, event organizer and President of Variety – The Children’s Charity Rina Weisman raffled off some great Steampunk-themed prizes, including a copy of the anthology Steampunk II: Reloaded edited by Ann and Jeff VanderMeer, an Unwoman CD, an octopus cup, and a costume mustache (among others!) She also shared the news that Steampunk III: Revolution, edited by Ann VanderMeer, will be coming out in December from Tachyon Publications (www.tachyonpublications.com). Proceeds from the
Steampunk raffle and the evening’s sales benefited Variety’s pediatric wheelchair mobility program, so patrons could feel extra good about spending that money at the bar provided they were not driving. You can learn more at www.varietync.org.

I also had a chance to talk with Gene Forrer of the Steam Federation, one of the producers of Clockwork Alchemy, a Steampunk convention taking place over Memorial Day weekend in San Jose. Clockwork Alchemy is presented by FanimeCon. Gene is very excited about the programming and events taking place. The music program includes Unwoman, Lee Presson and the Nails, Unextraordinary Gentlemen, Vernian Process and Swing Goth, with more to be announced. The Emperor Norton Ball will feature an epic seven hours of music and dancing. Special events include Airship Races (using radio-controlled models as a frame) and a Fox Hunt using a radio-controlled car. Find out more at: www.clockworkalchemy.com.

The film program, organized by local film historian Andy Melomet, began with a short documentary, The Special Effects of Karel Zeman, followed by the feature film The Fabulous World of Jules Verne.

Karel Zeman was a well known and beloved Czech writer of 22 films, director of 29 films and innovative animator and special effects master. Zeman, who began his career just after World War II, died in Prague in 1989 at the age of 78.

The 20-minute documentary from 1980 included clips from Zeman films and lots of on-set or in-the-studio footage showing Zeman at work—how he created the giant props of various creatures, how he used forced perspective, and stop motion and camera angles to create effects. In one scene an actor seems to be climbing a building but is later revealed to be crawling across a set placed flat on the ground. There’s
even a blooper scene about the challenges of working with horses on set. The film has a very gentle, long ago feel to it, especially in the scenes of Zeman showing children his props and what goes on in the film studio.

The 83-minute black and white feature from 1958, *The Fabulous World of Jules Verne* was made in Czechoslovakia with a Czech crew and actors. It’s largely based on Verne’s *Facing the Flag* (1896) about a semi-mad but naïve scientist who’s developed a super-weapon and is taken captive by pirate adventurers who want to exploit him and the weapon for financial and political advantage. Roch and his friend/sidekick Hart are taken captive and further adventures ensue. There’s even a love interest for Hart in the form of a plucky woman rescued from one of the ships sunk by the pirates. When we next see her, she is trying to iron her Victorian dress using a cannon as an ironing board! Later in the film, when Hart manages to climb up the castle wall at night on the remote island to her window, having escaped from the pirates in a raging storm, she asks him to step outside again since she is not dressed — and being a Victorian gentleman, he retreats to the window ledge.

The special effects, done by Karel Zeman, are beautiful and varied. Some have a paper and cut-out look reminiscent of Terry Gilliam and Monty Python. Others are inspired by the illustrations in Verne’s novels. Zeman used an amazing array of special effects ranging from stop motion and forced perspective to models and puppets. The American version of the film was nominated for the Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation in 1962.

Above all, the film had plenty of Steampunk elements, including airships, hot air balloons, submarines, steam locomotives, steamships, and even a steam car. There were
plenty of pumps, gears, giant wheels, smoking laboratory equipment and steam-powered machines throughout. In one memorable scene, divers exit a submarine and ride underwater in diving helmets on motorized bikes to get loot from a ship they’ve sunk. The loot is then ferried back, underwater, on a sort of motorized clothesline.

All in all, it was a fun evening of film and socializing that helped support a very good cause. To read more details about their upcoming film programs, panel discussions and author programs, go to www.sfinsf.org.
Conflict at Conflikt

By Carole Parker

Conflikt had several conflicts this year. No, the concom, the guests, nor attendees had any problems. The problems came in the programming. In several instances, two similar items were scheduled opposite each other.

Conflikt decided to try and do two tracks of programming rather than just one this year, and the person responsible for the scheduling did not appear to have done it before. So, Conflikt suffered some growing pains. With helpful people providing lots of advice, I expect programming at Conflikt to have no conflicts next year.

Filkers are a generous lot, and this was proven two ways this year. The first way, the charity auction raised something like $1,200. The second way, one performer who had just finished playing her cello to accompany a GoH was leaving the stage, when the wooden box that was used as a step sent her tumbling to the floor, and the cello head got broken. Almost immediately, a collection was taken up, so she could get her cello repaired. In less than an hour or two, $500 was collected.

Conflikt has a songwriting contest. On Friday night, the contest topic is announced, and contestants have until Sunday to finish the song and perform it in public. The entries are judged,

Seanan McGuire, Vixy, GoH Brenda Sutton, Brooke Lunderville and Becca Leathers for an all-hat chorus as Chas Somdahl sings “Popsicle Girl” by Howeird
and the winner is announced. This year, the contest subject was “red,” and Bay Area fan, Bill Laubenheimer, entered the contest. Out of three of contestants this year, Laubenheimer tied for first with Seattle area fan Creede Lambard. This was the first time that Laubenheimer placed in a songwriting competition, and Lambard is an experienced songwriter of note. The judges took the two winners aside and gave them a private critique, so they could become even better songwriters. Laubenheimer is especially pleased that he got praise from well-known filker Bill Sutton. Laubenheimer says that Sutton said “I wish I’d written that,” when referring to a pun in Laubenheimer’s song.

When Conflikt was over, no conflict was in evidence, and everyone who can is anticipating on returning next year.
Interfilk guest Talis Kimberley (center) with Betsy Tinney on cello and Dave Clement sing as Judy Miller signs

by Howeird
DunDraCon got Crazy!

By Will La Cross

A gorgeous weekend in San Ramon saw over 1,700 gamers at DunDraCon this year. A source told me it was the second best attendance they have ever had. It was the convention’s 36th year.

The Warhammer 40,000 tournament was the largest I had ever seen. There were actually people waiting on the sides so they could just participate in the first round. Spectators wanting to observe the demonstrations of medieval weapons were so many that they had to ask people to return for another demonstration at a slightly later time.

The children’s room was delightful. Unfortunately, it was also used to keep the board game library, but I saw no advertisement posted anywhere. I feel a lot of people missed that and had that been planned better, it would have added to the enjoyment of the con even more. Otherwise, the board game room was seriously jumping till Monday.
In the past, I have used the attendance of conventions as a measuring stick for the local economy, with a bad economy keeping attendance low. Not this time bucko! There were a large numbers of families in attendance… it was a sight to see. The board game room was so full, people used the open role playing game (RPG) room to play.

The live action role playing (LARP) folks almost seemed to have gotten an injection of new ideas this time. If you know these genres, cool. If not ask a friend: Harry Potter investigating a Call of Cthulu cult. So cool it hurt!

The amount of differing games has been steady at the last couple of cons. There was a huge increase in Pathfinder as people are slowly migrating away from fourth-edition Dungeons & Dragons. There were a huge number of people walking in to try Pathfinder for the first time.

KublaCon is the next gaming con in the Bay Area. It will be held in Burlingame on Memorial Day weekend. Check out Warhorn (warhorn.net/) and KublaCon (www.kublacon.com/).

Game on people!
By John Coxon
British Correspondent

[This is the 3rd in John’s series of museum reviews – ed.]

Last, but certainly not least, is the Computer History Museum. This is a museum that charts developments in computing from the very earliest computers (including a working Difference Engine) right through to the Internet age. It’s a fascinating place, full of history and shiny gadgets, but the real fannish link is the curator who was at the centre of our trip - the one and only Christopher J. Garcia!

We arrived at the Caltrain station and caught the bus from there to the museum, taking us along roads winding between Google buildings until we reached our stop. We jumped off the bus and I started to ask where the museum was when I saw it, right next to where we had gotten off. It’s an impressive building from the outside and the walk to the entrance is similarly striking, culminating in entry to a rather grand entrance hall (with a bar, which is the best way to enhance any such space). The first thing one sees is the ticket desk; the second, Christopher J. Garcia sitting cross legged behind the ticket desk typing quickly on his MacBook.

We exclaimed as we saw him, and he exclaimed in return, jumping up and getting us complimentary entry, which was really lovely. The first challenge was putting on my little metal entrance badge - it was one of those with a tag that wraps around a draw string or the hem of a shirt, and I’d never seen one before. With that challenge surmounted, we entered the main exhibition, which is entitled Revolution: The First 2000
Years of Computing.

One of things I like about this main exhibition is the narrative it presents of the evolution of computing, presented chronologically. As a result, it starts from the very first computers, also known as abaci. I had never actually used an abacus before being shown how to by Chris; they are very elegant, and I can see how they could have been used to achieve great things. Eventually, the exhibition moves beyond the abacus and to machines that required slightly more complexity to create. One example of early machines is IBM’s entry into computing with the tabulating machines it sold prior to World War 2, eventually leading (through things such as missile guidance systems and an Enigma machine) to the 1950s.

The computers of the 50s are interesting because they look like things right out of science fiction — indeed, España was incited to squee over the Univac, a computer made in 1951 which was, for a time, a name synonymous with computer. As one reaches the 1960s, the IBM System/360 is a beautiful powder blue creation, and looks just like the computers from Thunderbirds (which makes sense given they were first introduced a mere year apart). The 1970s bring the Cray supercomputer, which still looks futuristic and evokes SF imagery over thirty years later.

As the exhibition leaves the 1970s behind, the narrative becomes a little less chronological and starts to expand into different technologies grouped together. So, from a strict progression of time to collections dedicated to such things as the minicomputer (or, as we call it today, ‘the computer’). This area of the museum featured what must be a contender for ‘most misogynistic computer ever designed’ — the Honeywell Kitchen Computer, advertised with the tagline “if she can only
cook as well as Honeywell can compute”. This was followed by robots, which were amazing, and the AARON Paint System, a computer that produces artwork designed by Harold Cohen. The issue of whether the artist is the machine or the designer of the machine is an interesting one, and is explored in a video playing nearby.

The segment featuring the Apple I (signed by Steve ‘Woz’ Wozniak) came after that. This was a fascinating look at the rise of the home computer, and was positioned close to the exhibits on computer games and videogames — the Macintosh was released the year before the Nintendo Entertainment System — and so I fawned over the ancient Apple products before playing Chris at a videogame (he thrashed me soundly and completely). I was also happy that there was a copy of The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy on display with original packaging (of course, if you just want to play it, you can do so on the BBC website).

Chris had to leave at that point so he rushed us through to the Difference Engine, which is presented separately from other exhibits (for obvious reasons). It is very shiny and exactly what I expected; you really do feel that you’re in the presence of something special. It’s next to a separate exhibition about computing in chess, which was similarly very interesting. We rounded out our trip by sneaking back into Revolution and looking at the last parts, focusing on networking and the Internet: the Monopoly board with websites instead of streets (the .com Edition, as the Internet handily informs me) was particularly hilarious. Google didn’t get a mention, with Yahoo! getting the honour of Mayfair — oh, how times change!

There was only one more thing to do after we had seen everything we wanted to see — go to the gift shop. It was a rather good gift shop, but I deliberately restrained myself to only buying a postcard. Well, okay, a postcard and a tin of Super Mario Bros. plasters. The Computer History Museum opens from 10am to 5pm and is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays; entry is $15. They also have the best website of any museum in the world (if you disagree, feel free to write a letter of comment), with lots of information and also many fascinating online exhibits, at www.computerhistory.org — I highly recommend a visit.
Lloyd Penney writes:

Thank you for issue 126 of SF/SF, and there’s always something new to see, read and comment on. I hope there will be proof of that below, starting with the next paragraph.

I know of some people who cannot understand why we enjoy the conventions we attend, and why we might build our schedules around them. Perhaps we’re just a little more social, and will take the opportunities we can get to mingle with friends. I wish we could go to more conventions, but we are staying with home-based conventions this year. The only exception to that is LosCon at Thanksgiving time, and we are starting to discuss what we’ll be doing there. By the way, you will love Nalo Hopkinson; she used to live in Toronto, and she is a sweet lady.

With all the conventions I went to last year, due to several of them landing in the Bay Area and nearby environs in 2011, I’m not going to as many this year. I need a little bit of a breather as each one requires a lot of prep work and, while definitely fun, completely wipes me out. It was a little bit of a relief that WonderCon was in Anaheim this year, although I do hope it comes back to San Francisco, and stays there, next year. España is going to Worldcon in Chicago so we’ll be sure to have coverage of that in SF/SF. And yes, people who go to conventions are more social and we love meeting up with friends who love the same things we do. I do notice that bigger, more commercial, media-oriented cons aren’t as much about hanging out. For instance, the vast majority of attendees at WonderCon and Comic-Con generally keep to themselves and are there to get autographs, go to panels and buy stuff. So that’s why I generally prefer fan-run cons, which generally have more of a community feel.

I think we all know furry fans, and like all of us, they are busy having fun, too busy to care a lot about whether people approve of their interests. Unfortunately, so many people we know have a perverse need to look down upon others, and once everyone has looked down on someone else, everyone seems to look down on the furries. (And, I think some furries look down on the plushies.) I believe there are now four furry cons in Ontario and Québec, including the Feral! Camp in Algonquin Park. I think most of us like anthropomorphics to one degree or another… one of my favorite webcomics is Namir Deiter.

I had no idea they have furry cons in Canada! I guess furries are more popular than I would have ever guessed. Chris likes to go to Furcon every year. I’ve never been. More due to my work schedule always being busy in January and I usually like taking it easy after the holidays and hibernate somewhat in winter.

My loc… I think we can agree that Steampunk has some Goth influence to it, but now that we’ve all met one another, we can also agree that I am about as un-Goth as they come. I don’t know of anyone who is predominantly Goth or Gothlike in the Toronto Steampunk Society, so there might be less crossover than I thought. There are many couples who are in
the group, just enjoying the atmosphere, the clothes, the general ambiance.

What’s great about Steampunk is that it seems to be an off-shoot of many different other genres and communities, and so people come into it from different avenues. But we all seem to get along and the synergy of having diverse people in Steampunk is one of its major attractions, and why it has become so popular.

I got the job at the ad agency, this one in Mississauga, and I am now coming up on three full weeks there. Congratulations on getting the job!

Hey, BASFans! Pass along our greetings to Mike Wallis! Before moving to SoCal, he’s the one to credit (or blame) for introducing me to APAs and fanzines. Do fans there say: “It’s all Wallis’ fault!”? Well, that’s what we always said, and a few of us still say it. Always will be your fault, Mike!

We’re getting temperatures in the high 60s here, which is way above normal for this time of year, so we are enjoying an early spring. It’s going to make it tough to be inside and write when it’s as warm as it is outside. We hope you’re enjoying some warm weather, and getting an early ticket onto the outdoor bars and patios. On Sunday, if the weather stays warm, we’re off for a walk on the boardwalk by the lake, unheard of in March before.

We had beautiful spring-like weather for a week or so, which coincided with my birthday. My birthday this year was on a Friday night, and it was wonderful to be able to celebrate the entire weekend! I didn’t have a birthday party this year. I wanted something more low-key. So on my actual birthday, Chris and I went to go see Cirque du Soleil’s Totem, which I absolutely loved. I had a smile on my face the entire evening just from the pure joy that I got looking at all the beautiful costumes, listening to the wonderful music and watching the amazing acrobats and performers.

On Saturday, I had lunch with my family and afterwards went with friends to go see John Carter (more about this in my Editorial). It wasn’t a big group, and afterwards, we went to a café and just chatted. It was so nice to actually be able to talk to people for a while and not have too many distractions, albeit pleasant ones, that are the norm at conventions and other events. I haven’t gotten a movie group together in a while and it’s so entertaining to hear everyone’s thoughts afterwards. I’ve always wanted to record our conversations and post them somewhere. Anyway, I’m hoping to do more movie outings in the future. I don’t usually like going to the movies unless it’s for something big that I’m very interested seeing, or if the main purpose is to hang out afterwards.

Sunday, Chris and I went for afternoon tea at a popular tea place in Menlo Park. It was a great birthday weekend and I’m looking forward to my birthday being on Saturday next year.

Thanks for another great zine, and see you with the next one.

You’re very welcome! Thanks for reading our issues and for writing to us.

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 1126

February 27, 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 7:55 p.m., under unusual circumstances
President and Secretary absent
Vice President presiding
Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker
31 people attended
We established a SFF Translation Awards donation jar.

As BASFA members arrived this evening, we were told the manager at Coco’s had double booked the room that evening, but not like they have done in the past. The times for the two groups were staggered and Marina asked if we could finish our meeting before the next group arrived at 9:30 p.m. We said we’d do our best to comply, so the VP rearranged the usual agenda.

The reading of minutes for meeting 1125 was put off until next meeting.
With so many items donated this week, we did auctions first.

The VP said that everyone who had something say—whether it be business, announcement or review—would be
allowed to talk about one subject of their choosing and just one subject, starting at one side of the room. This went rapidly, so my apologies if I missed any topics or got them wrong. Corrections would be appreciated.

Brad saw the old movie Assignment: Outer Space and noticed it had some of the same soundtrack for Destination Moon.

Tom helped raise a totem pole and found the experience exhilarating.

Dave C. read Super Constitution, by Charles Kim. It was lame and goofy, but amusing to read. He says it’s worth the 99¢ on Amazon.

Fred went to Potlatch and said it was worth full price.

Kevin S. thanks BASFA for its donations last week to the SFF Translation Awards. Andy said it should be used to translate Super Constitution.

Jeff likes cheese.

Dave G. said The Bat is a decent movie.

Carole said Consonance is this weekend and is looking for badge clips and lanyards to reuse. If anyone has some donate, please see her.

Bill saw Full Metal Jousting on the History Channel and says it’s worth watching. (Nathan Lane had sneak peeks of his appearance on the show on David Letterman last Tuesday.)

Howard said it was Chelsea Clinton’s birthday, among many others.

I said that in addition to being the first day of Eastern Orthodox Lent, it is also International Polar Bear Day, according to one of the calendars I saw at work.

Ed needs help to have a BASFA party at Clockwork Alchemy. He missed getting a room to hold one.

Chuck is brushing up on his knowledge of the Ukraine language for a trip he’ll soon be taking.

Lisa is also looking forward to going to Consonance.

MO introduced Michael Magee, author of String of Pearls. Michael followed on offering copies to BASFAns who are interested.

Bob says Angelina’s right leg has a Twitter account.

Kevin R. says Barbot 2012 is this weekend.

Howard said it was Chelsea Clinton’s birthday, among many others.

I said that in addition to being the first day of Eastern Orthodox Lent, it is also International Polar Bear Day, according to one of the calendars I saw at work.

Ed needs help to have a BASFA party at Clockwork Alchemy. He missed getting a room to hold one.
Meeting 1127

March 5, 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 pm - in stereo
25 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1125 were accepted as “none of the below” & the minutes of meeting 1126 were accepted as “It’s a trap! It’s a trap!”
The Treasurer reported that we have money
The VP was not present [is likely at Cinequest]
The President reported hearing dissatisfaction over the double-booking and asked if we should look elsewhere [no, not really] - and expressed hope at the thought of new rules instituted by the VP last week ... but apparently those “rules” were only temporary guidelines
The Party Committee is looking for Cheese
The Sports Committee reports the May 4th Giants tickets are in & being distributed - with 1 ticket left
[tall] Kevin thanked BASFA for donations to the SFF Translation fund & they made their fund-raising goal - [we donated more than all of Great Britain, but not as much as Finland] - and the club moved and passed a motion to respond “you’re welcome”

Announcements
Dave G announced that Hugo nominations close this Sunday at 11:59 pm & announced that Spring will be teaching English in China for 3 weeks this summer
Fred announced that there’s a Phillip K Dick festival Sept 22-23 in SF
Dave C announced that Comic Con Intl’s online sales sold out in 90 minutes - that 300,000 want to get in, that 125,000 memberships were sold and that any tickets sold on Ebay are likely to be fake
Adrienne announced that Kathryn Dougherty died last week
Valerie announced that her 2nd book is out: Katniss the Cat Tail ... an unauthoriZed Guide to the Hunger Games [by Vallerie Estelle Frankel, Lit Crit Press, with very nice interior art] - available in all the usual places & also announced that her book Buffy & the Heroine’s Journey is out 2 months early [this one published by McFarland]

Reviews
Dann reviewed a sneak showing of John Carter of Mars as “see it on its own merits”
Andy reviewed the 2nd chance round of Melody Festivalen as “and that’s enough said about that” - then reviewed BarBot as a disastrously fun event that ran on both Friday & Saturday nights, was well attended & was worth full price; [evil] Kevin followed, saying that it went well, with the only problems being with ingredients and the glasses that they were given to use - and that they were “vehemently encouraged” to enter the
April competition; Dave G commented that the Thinbot was fast - recommended the experience; Howeird said the hall was impressively filled with robots & that the Thinbot could be seen as a shiny/lit presence anywhere in the hall

I reviewed *Secret World of Arriety* as a lovely little film, well worth seeing at full price & also reviewed going to a Sharks game [vs the Buffalo Sabres] as it was lots of fun - would have been more fun if the Sharks had won - but was still worth full price

Adrienne reviewed *Woman in Black* as involving and she enjoyed it - until the unsatisfying ending & worth full price if you like Gothic romance

Ed reviewed *West Wing* as still topical and worth watching - reviewed Fry’s as they match internet prices, reviewed *Tour of Duty* as survival war porn & reviewed *War Horse* as a damn good movie & a damn good war movie - worth seeing on the big screen; Adrienne followed and agreed

Ken reviewed the Cinequest premieire of *The Ghastly Love of Johnny X* as fun and a contemporary film, despite being black and white & recommended [it has 2 more showings on tuesday & Saturday]

Dave C reviewed Nick Lowe’s CD *The Old Magic* as tuneful but “not so much flirting with death as taking death home with you”

Lisa reviewed Consonance as Seanan MacGuire had a huge concert, there was lots of good singing everywhere & she had great fun all weekend

And the rumor of the week was: “Ed is why we can’t have nice things”

**Meeting 1128**

March 12, 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 too many zaps
32 people attended

We established a party jar

The minutes of meeting 1127 were accepted as “forward into the past”

The Treasurer reported that at meeting 1127 we took in $6.85 in the regular jar and $26.33 in the party jar

The VP reported “so I’m your Vice President ... for the time being” & there is a new *Drink Tank* out on “teh intrawebs” mainly about the city of Chicago [filet of *Drink Tank* was mentioned] & Jo asked if he could appeal to the VP

The President had nothing fannish to report & warned that he & the Secretary might not make it back in time for next week’s meeting
Announcements

Ken announced that there will be a Psychotronic film festival this Saturday, 7pm in room 5015; $5 donation, $3 parking & wear green

[tall] Kevin announced that there is a meeting on high speed rail in Mountain View at the Performing Arts Center at 7pm Tuesday & he also announced that he is looking for help to move things into a moving truck on April 2

Dave C announced that the Other Change of Hobbit is open again [yay!] & on March 18 will have a special fundraiser on site - which includes cake & also announced that Ebay is changing its definitions of what a “top seller” is

Bill announced that FogCon is coming up and will be in Walnut Creek

Carole announced that Clockwork Alchemy will not have an “official” party floor or con suite - and Dave C followed that it will also not have a dealer’s room

Jo announced that he’s still moving and would like help on March 24th

Josh announced that the Impact Theatre in Berkeley is doing Titus Andronicus & is a very good production - it’s in the basement of Lavals Pizzeria

Chris announced that he will be Fan GoH in Minicon - another con that is in the offing

Howieird announced birthdays

Lisa announced that the Sharks won

Reviews

I reviewed John Carter of Mars as a lot of fun, that I enjoyed it & the 3D did not give me a headache, worth full price; Ric followed that the 3D was very optional & the adaptation was good & recommended; Adrienne really enjoyed it, urges folks to go see it and liked the “doggy” [“doggy” FTW!], worth full price, Andy agreed that the movie’s promotion was just plain stupid; Dave C also recommended going to see the movie; Howieird thought there was too much stuff set on Earth & Trey opined that the 3D was unnecessary & there were enough good bits to enjoy the movie

Andy reviewed the SJ Coronation as a minor train derailment [evil Kevin amended “derangement”] & it ran on “drag time” - fun but not worth full price & reviewed the finals for Melody Festivalen as as well-paced & full of snark - all performances but one were better than the semi-finals & Mo follow-on’d that to look for the old Russian women next year, she loves them

Adrienne reviewed the 4th UK season of Being Human as there are cast changes, it’s still interesting & fun, she recommends it

Jo reviewed a vanity press as the book he looked at had 29 errors in 5 pages - a bad effort as it’s the author/editor’s 7th book - not worth full price; he also reviewed Babylon 5 that he is re-watching as the CGI does not hold up but that the storyline still holds up & he commented that his minivan is full of trophies

Chris reviewed Cinequest films as very good overall and worth full price

Ric reviewed a Sabrecats game [that was much interrupted] as you can’t get better than a 70-71 score in a 5-hour game - lots of fun & highly recommended
Bradford reviewed Condor in San Diego as a very pleasant, small, local con 300-400 attendees, very friendly and he’d go again, recommended
Bill reviewed Consonance again - and they still had a good time
Fred reviewed *Tour of Duty* as the 1st 2 seasons get better and better & he found the 3rd season at Fry’s and it looks good, too
Mo reviewed the Games Developer Conference in SF as it felt small but was just more dispersed & there are a lot of new people in the industry - it was the most positive conference in the last 4 years - recommended
We did auctions [including a very shiny glittery gold ball; thank you Howeird!]
We adjourned at 9:53 pm
And the rumor of the week was: “Everything is better when you add ‘of Mars’ at the end of it”

**Meeting 1129**

March 19, 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 p.m., with some debate over what time it actually was

President and Secretary absent
Vice President presiding
Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker
29 people attended
We established a party jar.
The minutes for meeting 1128 were accepted as “blah, blah, blah.”
The VP reported there’s a new *Drink Tank* out and in his rush to include a review for a new book to coincide with its release, he found the book was due to go out to the public in July.
Dave C. formally asked the VP about checking whether Minicon still requires any parties held on its Sunday to have folksinging.
The treasurer reported that Anaheim was winning 3 to 2.
He added that we collected $12.93 in the general jar and exactly $10 in the party at meeting 1128, giving us totals of $12,134.73 and $300.63, respectively.

**Announcements**

Mike Mc. said a couple of local musicians, Scott T. Miller and Lori Ludy, give really good shows and will be appearing at the Mission City Coffee Roast Co. on Friday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. There is a $10 cover fee.
Andy said Robogames will take place at the San Mateo County Fairgrounds April 20-22 and their Thinbot will be making an appearance there. Go to robogames.net/index.php for more info.
JC is looking for a 3D artist for help with a project he is working on.
Korey, the Vice Chair at Clockwork Alchemy, clarified they are having a dealers room and party rooms. They’re calling their hucksters’ room the Artists’ Bazaar and the process for reserving a room for a party is a little different. Please go to www.clockworkalchemy.com/ for more details.

Kevin S. said he’ll be taking possession of a smaller apartment April 21 and needs help moving some things into a truck around that time. Please contact him if you’re available.

He also added that SFF Translation Awards is handing out prizes. If you’re one of the winners, please reply to its emails to claim your prize, otherwise they will be given to alternate winners.

Ken said the Legion of Rassilon meeting will be March 23 at Carl’s Junior on First Street at 7:30 p.m. There will be NO fifth Friday meeting this month.

He added there will also be a Creature Feature convention, Creaturescon 1, in San Leandro on May 5. For more info, go to: events.sfgate.com/san_leandro_ca/events/show/250193224-creaturescon-one-creature-features-convention.

Josh said Thought for Food is having a meeting. See him for details, since I missed them.

Ed said Contact will be the last weekend in March.

MO said her computer is down, so anyone needing to contact her should do it by phone.

I followed on that I lost my cell phone and my home phone is giving me problems, so anyone needing to contact me would do better by email.

Reviews

Ed loves David Webber’s work, but was taken back that his latest novel, Out of the Dark, had vampires.

Andy said Eurovision posted a song by Engelbert Humperdink on YouTube. He believes all of the contestants were very good except Latvia, which was really, really bad. He said another song, “Chow Down a Chic-fil-let” is hilarious and is going viral on YouTube.

I reviewed the 2011 Hugo-nominated Dervish House, by Ian McDonald, as a well-plotted novel with interesting characters and an exotic setting, but his writing style just didn’t appeal to me and took months to read. Despite that, it was a stronger novel than a couple of others that were nominated last year and deserved better than fifth place.

Diane saw a video of Steampower Giraffe and loved it.

Ken said Syfy Bob Eckman brought stuff to the Psychotronic Film Festival last weekend he only just acquired within the past couple of months. Most of the people attending had never been there before and he and Jerry had lots of fun. If you’ve never been, go!

Dave C. followed on there was a lot of interesting stuff to see. Not only did it have live dancing, but there were also film clips with Clark Gable and Joan Crawford dancing.

Ken and Jerry also went to the Retrodome’s singalong with the Sound of Music. Sound of Music and Mama Mia are two movies that really pack the house.

They also recommend a restaurant, The Melt, at the Stanford Shopping Center. It specializes in grilled cheese sandwiches.

Ric says the first five minutes of Iron Sky are available on YouTube and look awesome.

MO read a book called Kabunko [?] of Oz, by Ruth Plumley Thompson (?), and wonders about the wackiness of Oz books.
Dave C. saw *Godzilla vs. Megaguirus*. He seemed disturbed that every Godzilla movie has a whole new timeline and takes place in 1954. In this one, the Japanese build a machine that shoots black and worm holes.

Dann said viewers need to suspend their disbelief to fully appreciate this one.

MO loved it and because of its better special effects. Despite its campiness, it had a few scary moments and she recommends it.

Dave C. also saw Comic Book Men, another cable reality show seen on AMC. It shows guys working in a comic book shop in New Jersey. He says it is not a keeper.

Ric thought the Antique Roadshow aspect is believable and enjoys it.

JC contacted the store about *Star Wars* props it had when he recognized one as bogus. He’ll be called on as an expert in the future.

Having worked in a comic shop, MO thought it hit close to home.

Dave C. said the fundraiser at the Other Change of Hobbit was poorly turned out, but successful with the turnout it had.

Chuck said he enjoyed it.

Dave C. also brought up *Shatner’s World*, the one-man show William Shatner was doing. He said it was poorly reviewed and some performances were cancelled due to poor sales.

Kevin S. attended the High Speed Rail meeting five days ago to say his piece on the proposed train for California. He praised State Senator Joe Simitian for his patience to let everyone who wanted to talk have their say.

Ric saw the *Walking Dead* second season finale and thought it was astonishing and highly recommends it.

Lisa said Will Wheaton posted that the next season the story will be on the holodeck and written by Wesley Crusher.

Blackfeather saw *Boy* and thought it was fun and it’s worth full price. He also saw *Chronicle* and thought it was interesting and worth matinee.

We did auctions.

Rumor of the Week: “There should be no taxes and we should all live in the Valley of the Shmoon.”

We adjourned around 10 p.m.

**Meeting 1130**

March 26, 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 pm - “it’s time”  
33 people attended  
We failed to establish a party jar  
The minutes of meeting 1129 were accepted as “2 corrections enter, no corrections leave”  
The Treasurer reported that at meeting 1129 we took in $6.18 in the regular jar and $6.35 in the party jar
The VP was not there
The President greeted a new face to BASFA - Gary Feierbach [aka Kalifer Deil] & we welcomed him

**Announcements**

Ken announced that the Retrodome is 2 days away from the end of their Kickstarter funding effort and they still need help - lots of help
Lisa announced that Fogcon is this weekend at the Marriott in Walnut Creek, starting Friday with free parking
Mo announced that Contact is also this weekend at the Domain hotel in Sunnyvale - and she is in charge of the art show
Ric announced that he’s helped fund the Retrodome Kickstarter as it looks worthwhile & also announced that there’ll be a PechaKucha night, April 17, 7pm at the Sonoma Chicken Coop in Campbell & is free
Adrienne announced that her phone problems have been fixed
Carole announced that Clockwork Alchemy is coming up over the memorial Day weekend & there’s an organization meeting this Sunday, 3pm at the Almaden room in the downtown Hilton
Jo announced that he has moved, thanked folks & said he has a futon to give away
Dave C announced that the Saint Stupid Day Parade is in SF this Sunday, gathering near the TransAmerica building & also announced that Norwescon is coming up, over the Easter weekend in Seattle & announced that there is information about Creature Con on www.bobwilkins.net

Howeird announced that the Mission City Coffee Roasting Company is folding & also announced that both Shatner & Nimoy are now 81 years old
Geri announced that her Goodwill store [at San Thomas Aquino Road & Campbell] has been remodelled into pure awesome & announced that her bad boss was fired
Josh announced that Food for Thought has a board meeting this Friday at this Coco’s at 7pm & announced that the Impact Theatre in Berkeley - in the basement of Lavals Pizzeria - is still doing *Titus Andronicus* & it’s brilliant
[evil] Kevin announced that this Saturday afternoon is a Trans Day of Visibility at the Billy deFrank center [check www.defrankcenter.org]

**Reviews**

Bradford reviewed the ICFA [International Conference of Fantastic Arts] in Florida as very casual and he had a good time there & got to visit the Space Center which was nice & that next year’s topic is science fiction & fantasy as adapted in other media - get your papers in now; he recommends the conference
Howeird reviewed the Irvington HS conservatory theatre [in Fremont] for their *Beauty and the Beast* as beautiful and fantastic, really good, though the orchestra was too loud and the sound board was done poorly; there will be shows there Thursday, Friday & Saturday - highly recommended
Gary Feierbach [aka Kalifer Deil] offered a copy of his book for review = *Tilliam 5, A New Beginning* [sold on Amazon & ebooks]
Fred reviewed *Battle Royale* as a really interesting & extensively long mange - and is cited as suspiciously akin to *Hunger Games* - only 10 years older than the current fan flick.

Mike reviewed *John Carter of Mars* as he was really blown away by it, it was very worth matinee - and there was prolonged discussion of its merits, lacks and the simply awful advertizing campaign.

Adrienne reviewed *Hunger Games* as she loved it - worth full price - & Ric reviewed it as violent YA and way over-hyped but that it didn’t really work for him but would rather see it a dozen times than see another *Twilight* movie, worth matinee; there were various other comments, snarks & a recommendation to get Valerie’s book = *Katniss the Cat Tail ... an unauthoriZed Guide to the Hunger Games* [by Valerie Estelle Frankel]

... and THEN Adrienne also reviewed *Magic in the Shadows* by Devon Monk as she enjoyed it and recommends it & also reviewed the lastest UK episode of *Being Human* as a good episode with a distracting guest star

Josh reviewed Moo Cards as their card stock is fantastic [www.moo.com]

Ric reviewed the 2nd season of *Sherlock* as he is enjoying the episodes like they are a fine wine

We did auctions

We adjourned at 9:57 pm

And the rumor of the week was: “BASFA’s next party will feature a spray tan unit”
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.

**Saturday-Sunday, April 14-15**

**San Jose Fantasy Festival**
Guadalupe River Park
494 West Santa Clara Street, San Jose
www.sjfantasy.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.

**Saturday, May 5**

**Creatures Con One**
Historic Bal Theatre
14808 E 14th St, San Leandro
www.baltheatre.com
The world’s first creature features convention. Hosted by Lord Blood Rah.
3 p.m.  $10

**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

**Satruday-Sunday, May 19-20**

**Maker Faire**
San Mateo Event Center
150 San Carlos, San Jose
makerfaire.com
A two-day, family-friendly festival of invention, creativity and resourcefulness, and a celebration of the Maker movement.
Check website for tickets

**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
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.
$60 (till March 31)

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)

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

Monday, July 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. July 23: Shazam Summer Jam! All 12 chapters of the greatest serial of all time! The Adventures of Captain Marvel (1941)
7:30 p.m. Free

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

Ongoing

Daily

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)

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

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

**Bad Movie Night**
The Dark Room Theater
2263 Mission Street, San Francisco
www.darkroomsf.com
Featuring bad movies old and new.
8 p.m. $5

**Sakuramento Anime Society**
Rancho Cordova Library
9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova
www.saclibrary.org
Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.
3-6 p.m.

**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.
8 p.m. $5

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

Wednesdays

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

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

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

_CA$: 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

Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour

Meets at Coffee To The People
1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco
www.hauntedhaight.com

Reservations required.
7 p.m. - 9 p.m. $20

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

Meets corner of California and Taylor, San Francisco
www.sfvampiretour.com

Led by Mina Harker. Tour is canceled if there is heavy rain.
8 p.m. $20

Biweekly

PenSFA Party

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

Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers’ Group

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco

Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jude Livingston at sfscifi@yahoo.com for more information.

Monthly

Dorkbot-SF

www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf

Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity.

Free, donations welcome

Foothill Anime

Building 5015, Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
foothill.anime.net

Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.
12 p.m. Free

Geeks Vs. Geeks

San Francisco / San Mateo
www.facebook.com/geeksvsgeeks
www.geeksvsgeeks.com

Monthly pub trivia quiz. Usually takes place the first Sunday (San Mateo) and second Monday (San Francisco) of the month, please check Facebook or website for details.
7:30 p.m. Free
**Silicon Gulch Browncoats**  
Various locations (see website for details)  
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org  
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.  
Noon - 2 p.m. Free

**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

**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/3110722-9
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
I would take it back if I could

by Lucy Huntzinger
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