Contents

Editorial ......................................................................................................................... 2
The Edwardian World’s Faire ................................................................. España Sheriff ......................... Photos by Christopher Erickson and Jean Martin .......... 3
BIG BArea Hugo Ballot Presence .......................................................... Christopher J Garcia ................................................................. 8
Anaheim’s Wonder-Con ................................................................. Louise Du Cray Photos by Louise Du Cray and Shawn Tutt .......... 10
A Faerie, A Pirate and A Talking Cat ................................................................. Christopher Erickson Photos by Christopher Erickson .......... 16
Why are princesses and wizards so popular?.......................................................... Christopher Erickson .......... 21
Ordinary or Unordinary Consonance? ................................................................. Carole Parker Photos by Beckett Gladney .......... 22
Potlatch 21 .......................................................................................................... Tom Becker Photo by Tom Becker .......... 24
Letters of Comment ................................................................................................. Jean Martin .......... 28
BASFA Minutes: Meetings 1131-3 ................................................................. BASFA .......... 30
Bay Area Fannish Calendar ................................................................................ España Sheriff Photo by Lucy Huntzinger .......... 36

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Cover Neon mermaid by Lucy Huntzinger
By España Sheriff

Editor

This editorial is being written in Leicester, in John Coxon’s apartment to be specific, mid-way through my trip to the UK. The first part of my trip has been quite fannish, with a wonderful Eastercon bookended by two pub meetups, but I have also managed to see the sights and eat a whole bunch of good food, so I feel I am getting my full England cultural experience. My complete convention report will be in the next issue, but the highlights include being given beer as payment for my panels, eating my first fish and chips, and seeing a fascinating talk on women in science. And that was just the convention, London was just as amazing as I expected, Peterborough was chock full of quaint, and the Leicester curries are just as delicious as I was promised they would be.

Tomorrow afternoon I fly out to Spain for a few days to visit with my brother and sister in Malaga, after which I return with John to the UK for a few days before heading back home to the slightly fairer climes of San Francisco. To be honest, although it has been a bit cold here, the rain and chill have not been nearly as bad as I was led to expect, and it has not snowed at all—which makes me happy (I dislike the cold) and sad (it would have been pretty cool) at the same time. Mostly I’m just glad to have missed the massive storms that apparently slammed the Bay Area during my absence, although I did get to see the amazing photographs on various social networks as the lightning blasted the bridges and caused power outages all over the place.

In general, having the Internet available on my iPhone has been a godsend. I expected as much, since that is the case when traveling domestically, but I wasn’t sure it would be the same. However being able to tweet, email, and post to Facebook while out and about has not just allowed me to remain in the loop but has been quite handy. I’ve had local guides, obviously, so things like directions and recommendations have been less critical, but all the same I’ve found a local alternative to Foursquare/Yelp, called Qype, which seems promising so far. It’ll be interesting to see if any of the three are of use in Spain.

I have nothing particularly fannish or sfnal planned for the rest of the trip, but if you feel you haven’t gotten the complete picture after reading the report, just fill in the rest with “wine, chorizo, paella, beach” and I’m sure you’ll get the general idea.
By Jean Martin

Editor-in-Chief

I’ve been to the Edwardian Ball a few times in the past several years but I’ve always gone to the Saturday night ball. I’ve always gone to the ball because I love ballroom dancing and seeing the fantastic and elegant costumes that attendees wear to this more formal night of the weekend. Saturday night also features the main show by the band Rosin Coven (the founders of the Edwardian Ball) and performance artists Vau de Vire Society (co-hosts of the Edwardian Ball). Each year, they bring one story by Edward Gorey into surreal life with wonderful music and incredible feats of acrobatics, dancing and miming.

However, this year, I decided to check out the Friday night Edwardian World’s Faire on January 20th instead of going to the ball. I was intrigued by the concept of the faire having games, rides and exhibits. It seemed like something straight out of the Victorian era when the World’s Fair was in London in 1851… with a dash of Steampunk and Burning Man thrown in for good measure.

It’s much more difficult for me to make the trek to San Francisco on a Friday night after work, and that evening was even more of a challenge as it was raining. But as soon as I went inside the neo-classical Regency Center building, the friendly and festive atmosphere put me in a good mood and I was excited to discover what the faire had to offer.

It helped that Karin Conn, the publicist for the Edwardian Ball, greeted me so warmly at the Press entrance. Then when I
walked into the coat check room, I ran into my friends Nedy and Mary who wore beautiful costumes. I couldn’t stop looking at them. Nedy, who was celebrating her birthday, wore red and black complete with a sassy red wig. The colors suited her vibrant personality. Mary was in a Steampunk ensemble in copper and she just shone. I also then bumped into my friend, and long-time SF/SF contributor, Diane Rooney, and I chatted with her for a bit. I ran into several people I knew throughout the evening and it was easier to actually talk to them as the place wasn’t as jam-packed as the Saturday night ball I attended last year. I was even able to meet new people!

As expected, the faire was less formal but no less impressive. Everyone was in costume in eclectic and avant-garde styles that seems to me quintessential San Francisco. There was a bit of Steampunk, Goth, Victorian, Burlesque, Cabaret and Burning Man combined together. One of my
favorites for the evening was actually a lady in a red Japanese kimono that she modernized.

The entertainment was also very good. I wasn’t able to catch all the shows (such as circus acts, dancers and musicians) in the grand ballroom on the first floor as there were so many things going on at all times. I saved the vendor rooms for last as I wanted to see everything else that was new to me first, and I also didn’t want to have to lug around anything I bought for the entire night.

Christopher Erickson, who was my photographer for the evening, wanted to see Professor Elemental. I reluctantly agreed to go with him to watch the Professor’s act because I am not too fond of rap music. However, I wound up enjoying his show the most that evening. The Professor has a sarcastic English explorer persona and he was hilarious, clever and very entertaining. His songs were catchy and he engaged the audience very well. He reminded me of Rowan Atkinson of Blackadder fame. As an added treat, Can-Can dancers joined him in the background during one of his numbers, and they seemed to be enjoying the song as much as the audience did.

After the Professor, I watched a trapeze artist on stage while Christopher rode the carousel by Cyclecide that was in the middle of the ballroom. I get motion sickness just watching carousels go around but I did manage to snap a few photos of him on one of the bikes and then I quickly switched my attention to the amazing trapeze lady.

Other attractions in the ballroom were the Gorey-inspired games and some steam machinery by Kinetic Steamworks. There were other exhibits in the lobby as well as in the side bar area. In the bar area, there was a booth where you could get a flipbook made of a few seconds of filmed action. Chris and I did a little vignette and the flipbook came out really cute.
The place we spent the most time at that night, though, was the upper floor area that was aptly named the Museum of Wonders. The corridor that led to the theatre had exhibits and roleplayers in costume. I felt like I was Alice in Wonderland going through one experience after another that got curiouser and curiouser. Once I got into the theatre, it felt like I stepped into another world. There was a palpable sense of magic and mystery with the wood panels, stained glass windows, red carpet, pipe organ and gold chandeliers as well as the Victorian naturalist exhibit in the back of the room. At the front there was an empty stage that looked like a fairy garden. Members of the Vau de Vire Society came on stage later and they did a tableau wearing period-inspired fantasy costumes. They looked like marble statues illuminated by the moon.

The Museum of Wonders was so unique and magnificent. It was the highlight of my evening and a definite draw for me to go back to next year.

Another major incentive for me to go to either the faire or the ball again is the vendor area. The lower level, composed of two huge rooms, housed a staggering number of marvelous items for sale. The goods offered by the vendors at the Edwardian Ball are of the highest quality, made by the best artists and artisans. I liked a lot of items for costuming purposes, but I already have enough hats, bustles, arm warmers and the like. So I mostly just window shopped. I did enjoy watching the Dark Garden corset models who were onstage a couple at a time. I also liked having our photo taken by a photographer from Paper Moon Vintage who used a classic camera with a crescent moon for a backdrop. Christopher and I both like having our photos taken in costume. We were both wearing Steampunk attire that night.

As I mentioned earlier, the vendor room was our last stop for the evening.
It was a great way to conclude a night full of a wide array of entertainment. I can understand why the Edwardian World’s Faire and Ball have become so popular and are among the must-attend events of the year.

To find out more about the Edwardian Ball, visit their website at: edwardianball.com

To read my preview article about the Edwardian Ball, which includes answers by Justin Katz of Rosin Coven to my interview questions, go to: www.examiner.com/article/the-week-ahead-san-francisco-the-edwardian-ball-and-world-s-faire (as published on Examiner.com)
BIG BArea Hugo Ballot Presence

By Christopher J Garcia
Editor Emeritus

This year’s Hugo ballot features a ton of BArea people and favorites, perhaps more than any year in recent memory. The ballot, announced the 8th of April, features some great stuff.

Starting with the Best Fancast, there’s a fivesome of excellence. Coode Street, featuring Johnathan Strahan and Gary K. Wolfe, and former Best Fanzine usurpers StarShip Sofa, are probably the favorites, with SF Squeecast, featuring Lynne M. Thomas, Seanan McGuire, Paul Cornell, Elizabeth Bear, and Catherynne M. Valente. It’s a good list of folks. There’s also the other awesome Australian podcast Galactic Suburbia featuring the awesome Alisa Krasnostein, Alex Pierce and Tansy Rayner Roberts and Andrew Finch is up, along with the SF Signal podcast. An interesting, and not at all surprising list.

Best Fan Artist has Randall Munroe as the favorite, coming within a couple of votes of the winner Brad Foster, who is absent from the ballot this year. Two locals are up for the award, Spring Shoenhuth, making her first appearance, and Mo Starkey, who ran third last year. Steve Stiles and Taral Wayne round out the category.

Best Fan Writer features yours truly, Christopher J Garcia, and James Bacon are up, with Steven H Silver and last year’s winner Claire Brialey. It’s doubtful that any of us will win as pro fantasy writer Jim C Hines is on the ballot as well.

Best Fanzine has two Bacon-Garcia joints as both The Drink Tank, which won in Reno, and Journey Planet are nominated. It’s the first time two zines by the same editors have been up in the same year since Andy Porter had two up in 1981. File 770 and Banana Wings are the other two zines, with SF Signal rounding out the category. It’s a decent ballot as I’d rather see Signal up (and it will almost certainly win) than a podcast like StarShip Sofa.

Best Semi-Pro features many-time winner Locus, along with the New York Review of Science Fiction returning to the ballot. Apex Magazine, edited by Catherynne M. Valente, Lynne M. Thomas, and Jason Sizemore, makes its first appearance on the ballot. Lightspeed and Interzone both appear again.

Dan dos Santos, Bob Eggleton, and Michael Komarck are up for Best Professional Artist, along with the two favorites, 2012 BayCon’s Artist GoH Stephan Martiniere, and 2011 BayCon’s GoH John Picacio.

2011 Best Editor Short Form Winner Sheila Williams is on the ballot again, along with John Joseph Adams, Jonathan Strahan, the most nominated non-winner in history Stanley Schmidt, and Clarkesworld’s Neil Clarke are also up for the award.

Best Editor Long form is an interesting list. Lou Anders, winner in 2011, is up there, as is Liz Gorinsky. Anne Lesley Groell, Patrick Nielsen Hayden and Betsy Wollheim round out the list.
In a dramatic turn of events, Best Dramatic Presentation Short Form features The Drink Tank’s Hugo Acceptance speech! It’s up against three Doctor Who episodes (“The Doctor’s Wife,” written by Neil Gaiman, “The Girl Who Waited” and “A Good Man Goes to War”) and a favorite of many BArea types, Community’s “Remedial Chaos Theory.” It’s an interesting set of nominees, though I fully expect to lose to Mr. Gaiman.

The Dramatic Presentation Long Form is another set that I wouldn’t have guessed. There’s the entire first season of Game of Thrones, the first time a full season has been nominated since the first season of Heroes. There’s Captain America and Hugo, Source Code and Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part Two.

Without Girl Genius, the Best Graphic Story is not without a few familiar nominees, Fables by Bill Willingham, The Unwritten by Mike Carey, and Schlock Mercenary by Howard Tayler. Locke & Key Volume 4: Keys To The Kingdom by Joe Hill and Gabriel Rodriguez, and Digger by Ursula Vernon are also up.

Dan Kimmel, a wonderful Boston Film critic and fan who joined us for Westercon last year and made a wonderful Rosemary Chicken and Potatoes while he was staying with me, is up for Best Related Work for his book Jar Jar Binks Must Die. Also up is the latest version of The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction, Wicked Girls by Seanan McGuire, The Steampunk Bible, and Writing Excuses Season 6 with Brandon Sanderson, Dan Wells, Howard Tayler, Mary Robinette Kowal, and Jordan Sanderson

A fascinating Best Short Story short list! The Cartographer Wasps and the Anarchist Bees by E. Lily Yu from Clarkesworld; The Homecoming by Mike Resnick and Movement by Nancy Fulda, both from Asimov’s; The Paper Menagerie by Ken Liu from The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction; and Shadow War of the Night Dragons: Book One: The Dead City: Prologue by John Scalzi on Tor.com. It will be hard to beat Scalzi, but these are some strong stories.

Best Novelette has a BArea tie in the story Six Months, Three Days by Charlie Jane Anders from Tor.com, and Rachel Swirsky (not in the BArea, but has family here!) and her story Fields of Gold. The Copenhagen Interpretation by Paul Cornell, Ray of Light by Brad R. Torgersen (Analog) and What We Found by Geoff Ryman from The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction are also on the ballot. I’m putting Charlie Jane up at the top of favorites to take it.

Best Novella has Countdown by Mira Grant, The Ice Owl by Carolyn Ives Gilman in The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction, Kiss Me Twice by Mary Robinette Kowal in Asimov’s, The Man Who Bridged The Mist by Kij Johnson in Asimov’s, The Man Who Ended History: A Documentary by Ken Liu from the Panverse 3 Anthology, and Silently and Very Fast by Catherynne M. Valente in something called WSFA.

The Main Event: Best Novel. George RR Martin’s A Dance With Dragons has to be the favorite right now, with China Mieville’s Embassytown, and Mira Grant’s Deadline. Jo Walton, who will be SFCotario’s Writer GoH when I’m Fan GoH, has Among Others on the ballot, and there’s Leviathan Wakes by James S.A Corey. It’s a strong ballot.

A few notes, three nominees have four nominations. Christopher J Garcia, James Bacon and Mira Grant/Seanan McGuire. The only others to have four nominations in the past are Mike Resnick and Michael Swanwick. Catherynne M. Valente has three this year. It’s gonna be a hot time in Chicago!
Anaheim's Wonder-Con: Fun, But Nothing To Write Home About

By Louise Du Cray
Contributing Writer

Over Saint Patrick’s Day weekend, Northern California’s local edition of Comic-Con International took place at the Anaheim Convention Center, due to WonderCon’s usual home at the Moscone Center undergoing renovations.

Like many Bay Area con-goers, I initially figured that this temporary move south meant I wouldn’t be attending. However, Rich Medley and I have spent a good chunk of time in Anaheim lately working on “Steampunk: History Beyond Imagination” with Aeronaut Productions; we’ve made friends in the area, and if the con was a bust, we could always hit Disneyland—so I changed my mind, booked a motel and bought memberships.

We drove down Thursday, rolling into town early enough to check into the Super 8 and run by the Anaheim Convention Center to pick up our badges before we headed out for the evening. The signage along Katella Avenue was a bit lacking—as in, nonexistent—but we managed to find our way to registration.

After a quick stop for dinner at The Habit burger joint (where the food was delicious and cheap, and the cashier was notably friendly—I’m pleased to say we’ll be getting one in Sunnyvale soon!) we hit a WonderCon mixer hosted by the LA Times/Hero Complex at the Discovery Science Center, where the exhibit “Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination” is currently housed.

The Hero Complex party was a lot of fun, and probably my favorite event of the weekend, although it was not an official part of the convention but rather an unofficial opening mixer put on by Geoff Boucher and the LA Times. Members of the local Rebel Legion group, Sunrider Base, were out in force; delicious hors d’oeuvres were being circulated by the staff; and there were several open bars with free Sapporo, wine and soda.

The Discovery Science Center is a fun place, a little bit Exploratorium, a little Tech Museum, with activities for children of all ages and learning levels. The Star Wars exhibit was impressive and well-laid-out, and featured miniatures,
creatures, costumes and props spanning all of the films. My personal favorites were the Yoda and the Wampa ice creature (bigger and smaller in real life, respectively!) and Luke’s landspeeder. Alongside the film memorabilia were hands-on stations where one could assemble a droid, build a mag-lev train out of Legos and magnets, or take a ride on a hoverchair.

The exhibit was a unique opportunity to compare the designs of the original trilogy with the shinier, less tactile look of the prequels. Seeing the massive and wonderfully intricate bigature of Leia’s blockade runner, displayed alongside a model of the featureless royal Naboo transport, makes the humanity and level of detail that went into the original films very apparent.

We made some new friends, and stayed long enough to see some raffle prizes called out by Geoff—then we spent the rest of the evening in Disneyland.

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Friday morning when we got to the con, we hunted down the California Browncoats booth, where we were scheduled to volunteer for a couple of hours each day, then proceeded to take a quick turn of the Exhibit Hall before heading upstairs to the panel rooms.

The convention floor was smaller than a typical WonderCon, which wasn’t a bad thing—I find a smaller con floor to be more manageable and less anxiety inducing. However, it seemed like the major publishers and distributors had a drastically reduced presence. There were signings going on here and there, but nothing to cause much of a stir. For instance, two months before the premiere of The Avengers, all Marvel had was a large banner for photo-ops, where you could pose with Captain America’s shield or Thor’s hammer. I got the feeling that many companies, who already have so much SoCal exposure, just didn’t bother too much with this one.

We also discovered that we did not have the space entirely to ourselves as there was both a volleyball tournament and a cheer competition going on at the Convention Center that same weekend. Aside from accidentally almost wandering into their sporting events thinking it was our own Exhibit Hall more than once, their presence didn’t really affect me. I did hear others complain that it was difficult to get seated at nearby eateries due to the large groups of teenage athletes ahead of them.
While I would rather have had the place to ourselves—part of the joy of the convention experience is the ‘convening’ part, where we all get to run around with like-minded individuals in a space just for us—I did catch a tiny cheerleader getting her photo taken with Wonder Woman, and a group of volleyballers posing with some Stormtroopers, and that kind of thing made me smile.

Anyway, to the panels! One area where this con excelled was in hardly having to wait in line at all. We walked right into the Quick Draw, which are always great fun. This one featured Floyd Norman, Scott Shaw!, and Mike Kazaleh, all sketching like mad at the command of moderator Mark Evanier.

There was similarly no line when I set off on my own to attend the panel on *The Last Unicorn* featuring Peter S. Beagle, his manager Connor Cochran, and producers Terri Kempton and Suren M. Suron. There are a lot of exciting new things coming up for *The Last Unicorn*, including a deluxe edition of the beautiful Renae De Liz graphic novel, new official merchandise in the works, and a frame-renovation of the 1982 animated film, followed by an ambitious national film tour partnered with AMC Theatres. Keep an ear out for news on that!

We had a short shift at the California Browncoats booth before heading out for the evening. A note: one nice thing about volunteering with the Browncoats (selling merchandise or raising funds for charity, depending on which side of the table you land) is that the longer you work there, the more likely it is that every single person at the convention will come to you.

Friday evening saw us make a stop at the historical Anaheim Brewery to catch up with some friends. After dinner,
Rich and I decided to check out the bar at the Hilton. This was the official hotel of the con, so its bar was the place to be after-hours. Imagine our surprise upon walking through the doors to see a display on the lobby wall featuring recent exhibits at the Muzeo—including ours! Amusingly, immediately afterwards, we ran into several artists who had participated in the exhibit, including Paul Guinan, Anina Bennett, and some of our friends in The League of S.T.E.A.M.

We circulated, had a drink, hung out with some of the SoCal Browncoats for a bit, then called it a night.

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I spent the better part of Saturday in the Anaheim Convention Center’s Third Level Ballroom. This is their large panel room, analogous to Ballroom 20 or the Esplanade Ballroom.

While regretting the absence of many highly-anticipated films—The Hunger Games, The Avengers, Brave, The Dark Knight Rises, and The Hobbit all went unrepresented—there were several films I was excited about, so I settled in for the long haul. (No, but honestly—no previews of Brave or The Avengers, a half-mile from Disneyland?)

Movie panels I caught and some brief impressions:

Prometheus – the new Alien prequel that is not an Alien prequel, but actually is. In attendance were Charlize Theron and Michael Fassbender, who are now my new dream birthday party guests, and the legendary Sir Ridley Scott, which was kind of a big emotional deal for me, actually. (Prometheus looks incredible.)

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter looks out of control and like a hell of a time. This panel did exactly what a film panel should do. This was a title I didn’t care about one way or the other, but by the end of the presentation I was super-excited to
see it on the big screen. Quotes like the following from writer Seth Grahame-Smith helped their cause: “I just get drunk by myself and then throw darts at a wall until I hit two words that make no sense together.”

Snow White & The Huntsman – Charlize Theron returned to the stage for this panel, accompanied by Kristen Stewart. Kristen is very awkward in person, and people around me were being snarky about her, which I didn’t like. I sort of get it, but come on, she is not responsible for the entire Twilight franchise. One of my favorite moments was during the Q&A session for this film. A little boy came up to ask a question of Kristen, and Charlize was whispering to her and giggling. Kristen explained to the kid, “She thinks you’re adorable.” “Are you single?” Charlize asked the kid, in her wonderfully deadpan style. And the kid replied: “No.” Ha!

Battleship – I couldn’t understand why the crowd seemed to be going wild for this one, until I deduced that True Blood’s Alexander Skaarsgard plays one of the main characters, which explained all the screaming. Other than that, this movie appears to have no redeeming qualities whatsoever, and in fact has succeeded at something that only Michael Bay has previously excelled. That is, to make a scene of giant alien robots battling seem excruciatingly dull.

Lockout looked kind of silly, which is a shame, as I am a fan of Luc Besson-related flicks in general, but I will be skipping this one.

Sony Pictures presented a trio of fantastic panels, starting with Resident Evil: Retribution, the fifth film in the franchise. Star Milla Jovovich and her husband, writer/director Paul W.S. Anderson showed clips, traded anecdotes and were delightful in general. Joseph Gordon-Levitt and director Rian Johnson were on hand to introduce their new time-travel thriller Looper.
to the world. Johnson directed JGL in the indie noir film *Brick*, so even if this film didn’t involve JGL playing a younger version of Bruce Willis that he has to hunt down and kill, I would almost certainly be seeing this film anyway. We closed out our day of panels with *The Amazing Spider-Man*, which looks, if I may be redundant, amazing.

That evening we went to a casual meetup hosted by the League of Extraordinary Ladies at Trader Sam’s, the Tiki bar at the Disneyland Hotel. It was a blast but very crowded, so we never made it inside to see the allegedly fantastic décor, but instead joined our friends for some tasty fruity rum drinks on the patio.

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On Sunday, the only panel we attended was the Steampunk panel, featuring Donna Ricci of Clockwork Couture, members of the League of S.T.E.A.M., and others. This was an overview for newcomers to the aesthetic. We were there mainly to see our friends, but it was an entertaining and fast-moving discussion that seemed like a good starting point for anybody just getting into the world of brass, gears and Neo-Victoriana.

We spent the rest of the day wandering around the booths and Artist’s Alley before our final shift with the California Browncoats. I found Hodor (Kristian Nairn from *Game of Thrones*) sitting at a table signing autographs and announced “Hodor” at him before having a nice chat. I rounded out my weekend’s purchases of indie comics and X-Men tee shirts by treating myself to Paul Guinan and Anina Bennett’s new book, *Frank Reade: Adventures In The Age Of Invention*. And then, as the sun sank slowly into the West, it was time to get in the truck and head back North.

All in all, Anaheim’s WonderCon was a good time, but nothing that will go down in the history books. Although I did appreciate the event’s manageable size, lack of line horrors, and proximity to Disneyland, I will certainly be looking forward to WonderCon’s return home in 2013!
By Christopher Erickson
Staff Writer

Faeries flew, pirates pillaged, steampunkers experimented and princesses frolicked for a fun-filled weekend during April 14th and 15th in San Jose at the first annual San Jose Fantasy Festival. The event was designed to create an immersive environment where both patrons and participants could enjoy interacting in a fantasy environment.

The event took place in the shadows of the HP Pavilion at Guadalupe River Park. There was ample parking at the Shark Tank with a short walk to the venue. The park provided a nice backdrop with lovely views of the city and lots of space for the festival. There was plenty of entertainment and shopping on hand as well as a good selection of food and revelers.

The festival had two stages of entertainment providing a variety of acts for all ages. There was traditional belly dancing, English and Irish folk dancing, a puppetry show, storytelling and singing. I specifically caught the traditional belly dancing performed by the Ottoman Turks and the stories told by the gleeman (similar to a bard, but would travel from town to town in Ireland) Michael Gallowglas. Other performers included Captain Jack Spareribs with his pirate-themed comedy and ventriloquist act, Seraphina Singsalot, and the Motion Makers Puppeteers.

There were also numerous encampments that provided interactions with the adults as well as the children. There was a pirate ship, the court of the faerie queen Titania, an outdoor scientific lab of faerie hunters, the tent home of the Frog...
Mother, a traditional Renaissance encampment and the tent home of the princesses. The encampments allowed the patrons to interact with the characters, providing a chance for pirates to teach and entertain potential recruits, the faerie queen to greet her subjects and the Steampunk hunters to show their captured creatures. There was even a wishing well set up.

There were also a variety of booths selling wares. There was a booth selling pottery, another showcasing belly dance and tribal artwork, one for costumes, a booth for costuming patterns and notions (buttons, clasps, etc.) and several jewelry booths. The booth featuring the bone pins with comical phrases and candlelights was also on hand. One of the jewelry booths featured a mermaid in a pool. Another selling ironwork such as keys and pegs was even producing ironwork onsite. There was even a booth featuring fantasy writers A. E. Marling, Kevin Andrew Murphy, M. R. Murphy, Christopher Kellen, M. Todd Gallowglas, Davison L. Haworth and Valerie Frankel. These authors were selling their books and signing them as well.

There was a small number of food sellers, but they provided a nice variety of foods for those who wanted to eat onsite. One vendor was selling gyros with an endless variety

Troll King and Titania  by Christopher Erickson
Lady Amalthea from the Last Unicorn  by Christopher Erickson
River Song as the Impossible Astronaut  by Christopher Erickson
of items to place in them. Another had the more “traditional” turkey legs as well as other typical faire food. One vendor featured salads and meals. There was also a seller with more vegetarian food such as pitas, dolma and hummus. I chose the dolma plate and ate it with zeal.

There were also plenty of revelers in costume to be seen around. There were several pirates, princesses, faeries, knights and Steampunkers. One man was dressed as an Ent from Lord of the Rings. Another woman was dressed as Lady Amalthea (the human form of the Last Unicorn). An elf was spotted and two Links from Legend of Zelda were even in attendance. There was even an appearance by several different Doctors, River Song when she was the Impossible Astronaut, and an officer from the starship Enterprise. There were also two Captain Jack Sparrows.

The people running the festival even participated by dressing up in costume as queens and courtly gentlemen. The participants were amazing as there was several pirates, a Steampunk brigade, goblins, an armored knight, the faerie court of Titania with a variety of fey based on birds and bugs, and characters from folklore like Red Riding Hood, Puss in Boots and Jasmine from Aladdin. The entities at the faire
interacted with the public and helped bring out the fun for both children and adults.

Renaissance Productions created the faire for both the actors and the paid public to interact in a way the normal Renaissance Faires sometimes cannot achieve due to the historical nature of the production. The usual Renaissance festivals stick to historical accuracy to varying degrees and may not be able to focus on the imaginary world. According to Marti Miernik, CEO of Renaissance Productions, she “wanted to create an atmosphere that would promote imagination, refresh the faire scene and bring in a younger crowd.” She also “wanted to allow the actors to bring out their characters in unique ways and foster imagination with the patrons.”

Additionally, Marti stated that she “wanted everyone to have fun and to see people play with each other.”

Her inspiration for the show was her love of arts and culture, especially the stories of Hans Christian Andersen and the collected works of the Grimm Brothers. She has been a San Jose and South Bay resident for more than 20 years and wanted to bring her love of folk stories to the South Bay as the area tends to be overlooked as a place to hold shows of this nature. With the resurgence of fantasy with TV shows like *Game of Thrones*, *Once Upon A Time* and *Grimm* as well as the upcoming *Hobbit* movies and the two new Snow White movies, she could not have picked a better time to launch a festival such as this.
The faire had some difficulty on Saturday with attendance because of several competing events, but Sunday was well attended, especially by families. The location was ideal with the HP Pavilion parking lot only two blocks away, several other parking ramps nearby, and lots of options for food and drink closeby, including the Hi-Life bar and the Britannia Arms within easy walking distance.

The San Jose Fantasy Festival was wonderful, with lots of things to see and do for people with active imaginations who wanted to come out to play in a world where the veils of different worlds broke down and where they could interact with all of the different characters coming together to create a wonderful paradise.
Why are princesses and wizards so popular?:
A look at the forces behind the resurgence of fantasy fiction

By Christopher Erickson
Staff Writer

Fantasy seems to be the hot commodity in Hollywood at the moment. There are several popular television series such as Game of Thrones, Once Upon A Time and Grimm. Several movies are coming out this year: the first of two Hobbit movies and two different Snow White movies (Mirror Mirror and Snow White and the Huntsman) as well as the recent Clash of the Titans and Wrath of the Titans movies and the Conan remake. Even animated movies have cashed in the trend with How to Train Your Dragon, Tangled and the forthcoming Brave. Comics have even been in the trend with a modern take on classic fairy tales published by Zenescope Comics.

The Harry Potter series, the Chronicles of Narnia movies and The Lord of the Rings trilogy have propelled the popularity of the genre. This is part of the larger trend of creating, adapting or remaking stories based on genres that appeal to a more literate and devoted fans. The films have a large and often rabid fan base that will spend money to see the films and shows. Most of the fans are either willing to spend money or have disposable income to support their passions.

Because of this, entertainment production companies are trying to find properties, either established or newly created, that they can create franchises around. This allows them to create merchandising opportunities including action figures, books, party items (plates, cups, balloons and such), clothes and many more collectible items.

Due to the high cost of making movies that require a lot of special effects, elaborate costumes, immersive worlds, detailed sets that may not be done through location shooting, and props that may not be found normally in the backlot of the studios, movie studios and television production companies usually did not risk making a show or movie unless it was done with either a known star attached or made on a lower budget for syndication such as the Hercules and Xena TV shows.

With the rise of fan culture, movies and shows that may have been marginally successful financially can be a moneymaker with all of the merchandising that can be sold and the discovery of the productions through viewing on DVD and online streaming. This helps lengthen the popularity of the shows and movies. Since the source material has a rich tradition of strong characters and great storytelling, it draws a lot of talented actors that may have otherwise not wanted to participate in the creation of fantasy.
Ordinary or Unordinary Consonance?

By Carole Parker  
*Contributing Writer*

Everything ran smoothly. People were friendly and happy to see each other. Concerts had performers that sounded great, and no one had any mishaps. No broken instruments. No one tripping. Just beautiful music that had everyone feeling good.

Some just sat and listened. Others did quiet handwork while listening. Others were out in the hallway chatting while having the music in the background.

The charity auctions had people actively bidding and raising a considerable amount of money for Interfilk (bringing people to locations they otherwise wouldn't be able to go to), and the International fund for Consonance, so they can bring future international guests to work their magic locally.

Things ran so smoothly, and nothing out of the ordinary happened, making this an unordinary Consonance.
Friday: Seanan McGuire, Dr. James Robinson, John O'Halloran, 'Vixy' Michelle Dockrey

by Beckett Gladney
Potlatch 21

By Tom Becker
SF/SF Compositor

Potlatch 21 was held in Seattle on February 24-26, 2012. I took Friday off and caught a morning flight to Seattle so I could visit the Science Fiction Museum. I’d been to Seattle many times and was very familiar with the outside of the building, but I’d never been inside. This year Potlatch was back at the Best Western Executive Inn, only a block and a half from the museum, so I resolved that I really would see it this time.

But first I have to mention where I had lunch. Just on the other side of the street from the Best Western, down the block at the corner, is the Tibet Cafe. You can recognize it from a distance because it has prominent signs saying “Sandwiches” and “Espresso.” I had a cup of lentil soup that was nicely spiced, and a tasty and very substantial plate of momos. Also on the menu are, as you might expect, the sandwiches, and also Mexican dishes, which I thought was an interesting indicator of the local Seattle community and culture. Good place.

The Science Fiction Museum is part of the Experience Music Project, or the EMP|SFM as they now style it. I was told by other fans not to get my hopes up. The Science Fiction Hall of Fame is undergoing renovation, leaving only two exhibits, one about Battlestar Galactica and another about Avatar. And to be honest, I’m not much of a fan of either. But the exhibits were excellent and I could really appreciate the thought and care that went into both productions. The Avatar exhibit was like stepping into that world.

To get to the SFM exhibits, I had to go through the EMP Museum, which was not a hardship. The music exhibits are all enclosed so they can play music and videos. As one would expect there were major exhibits on local legends Jimi Hendrix and Nirvana. They were packed with fascinating memorabilia and ephemera, such as Kurt Cobain’s first demo tape, his first guitar, remnants of his touring guitars, and original album art. In the Hendrix exhibit there are pictures of his parents, pictures of R&B bands he played in on his way up, songs he wrote on London hotel stationery, and more. I sat and watched the videos of him playing live at Woodstock ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IKdQhzx2vM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IKdQhzx2vM)). It was obvious from the beginning that the Experience Music Project Museum was the Jimi Hendrix Experience Music Project, but it’s all good. It was neat to see people young enough to be Jimi’s grandkids amble in and just have to stop and watch until the song was finished.

In the guitars exhibit there was a video screen playing short clips of all sorts of talented guitarists. One of them was Mary Osborne playing electric jazz guitar ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ds0gegDvi1M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ds0gegDvi1M)). Hot stuff. I walked out on the way to Avatar, and one end of the building was a room with a huge video screen, bigger than my house. They started playing the
OK Go “This Too Shall Pass” video with the Rube Goldberg machine (www.youtube.com/watch?v=qybUFnY7Y8w), and I had to stop and watch. It was great to see all the details in the video while hearing it on a concert quality sound system.

Down in the basement there was an exhibit on horror films. It was beautifully designed as a dark forest that divided the space into somber glades, each with a little bench and a video screen showing a scary video from the past. Around the walls were larger screens showcasing the work of great horror directors. In the middle was a long wall of glass cubes, holding gruesome props from Paul Allen’s collection as if some mad scientist had built a laboratory in the forest.

The are two gift shops, a small one for the Science Fiction Museum and a big one for the Experience Music Project. If you want replicas of old sci-fi movie posters, or replicas of classic rock band t-shirts, they have you covered. None of it really spoke to me. I went out into the cold heavy rain and walked the short distance back to the hotel. Overall it was a good experience. Next time I go, I will allow more time. There are some interactive music exhibits that looked interesting.

Back at the con, I joined up with Spike and we went off with friends on an expedition that was anything but expeditious, featuring a rental car that could not parallel park, a wine shop owner selling his surrealist fiction with book design by the ubiquitous John D. Berry, and an epic dinner. But it was entertaining.

We got back after opening ceremonies, where I heard that Jack Bell was mantled in a Doctor Who scarf made from some of Anita Rowland’s yarn stash. It seems fitting, both in memory of Anita and as an appreciation of Jack’s stepping up to chair Potlatch 21.

The Book of Honor for Potlatch 21 was A Canticle for Leibowitz, by Walter M. Miller. I reread the book before the con. I had some arguments with it, but so did the characters in the book. And that is what really made it work for me: the all too human, contradictory characters, filled with a deep sense of irony. I also read an anthology of Miller’s lesser-known stories (The View From the Stars), which was mostly not at the level of Canticle, but one of them, “The Will”, is excellent and worth seeking out. And at the con, the first program on Saturday morning was a Walter Miller reading. Jack Bell read “Way of a Rebel” (www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/32416). It is set at the beginning of a nuclear war. I don’t know if it is the same war that led to Canticle, but it doesn’t matter. The planetary scale fate of civilization, and human scale personal moral decisions were both among Miller’s favorite themes. And in his best work he ties them together. I do have to say that several of Miller’s stories feature hopelessly unrealistic concepts of future computer technology. In the good stories, and “Way of a Rebel” is one of them, it doesn’t matter. It’s about the people. And in “Way of a Rebel” the computer is kind of charming in its 1950s sci-fi way. I’m glad Jack read it to us.

The Book of Honor Deconstruction featured a wide range of views on the book. On balance it was slightly positive, but there were a lot of good criticisms. I wish there had been time for me to ask about the thing that bothered me the most about the book: What happened to the Native Americans? My best guess for the location of the monastery was that it was (or will be) built on reservation land near Gallup, New Mexico, and I would think that Native Americans would be more likely than any others to survive a nuclear war with their society and
culture intact. It seems like a glaring omission and I really wonder. On a more positive note, there were fascinating if inconclusive comments about the final third section of the book, which features a stark and tough ethical controversy between very good and decent people. And then something else happens that is completely unexpected and strange and mystical. I’ve read a lot of science fiction that tells us, implicitly or explicitly, it has the answers. And I’ve read a fair amount that tells us why bother because we will never know. Which is why it is so extraordinary that Canticle could be so sad and still so full of compassion and hope.

I skipped in and out of the next couple of panels while I was working on compositing SF/SF (some excuse) and stocking up on interesting books in the dealers room. And somewhere in there I went to dinner with a Seattle fan I’ve known for a long time and his wonderful new girlfriend. But I can tell you that the Blocking Writer’s Block panel was hilariously funny as well as full of sensible practical advice. At least it seemed sensible to me, not that I’m a writer or anything. But based on Eileen Gunn’s story, I would be very careful having any literary dealings with William Gibson.

The Clarion West Auction went well. I was in pretty good competitive form, running up the bid quite high on some items I wanted before inevitably losing to Amy Thomson. But I managed to ace out Ian Stockdale on a fine book that otherwise would have had to go into his home, possibly causing it to explode. Ian, you can read it at my place; it’s safer that way. And I scored on another item I can’t mention until after somebody’s birthday.

That evening I ran into Marti McKenna. Marti and her mom, Bridget, were the first people to welcome me into fandom. I particularly admired their sophisticated and creative style of snark. It’s been too long, and it was great to see Marti again.

In Seattle, even the Best Western has a bar with excellent local beer, and there was a nice small literary scene. Gerry Nordley, whom I’d last scene in Sunnyvale, kindly bought me a pint. I think I already owed him a few for the big help he’s been to me on Potlatch programs, but so it goes. And I had a nice long chat with Jack Skillingstead, whom I had not met before. Which lead to my finding a collection of his short stories in the dealers room on Sunday, and getting it signed. I just started reading it and the stories are wonderfully vivid and intense.

Sunday afternoon, Marci came to the con suite and announced there was a totem pole raising a couple blocks away and she was heading over. I got my coat and straggled over to Seattle Center where there was a large crowd. The totem pole was going up right next to the Science Fiction Museum. It is in honor of John T. Williams, who was killed by a police officer because he was carrying a tool of his trade, a carving knife. The shooting was ruled unjustified. As part of a healing process, the city contributed space for working on a totem pole. Local tribes contributed their labor and donated the pole to the city (thejtwproject.org). And so the first totem pole went up in Seattle in over 100 years. And I’m proud to say I helped to raise it. That was me on one of the ropes, right behind Jerry Kaufman.
Lloyd Penney writes:

As BArea fandom goes crazy over the Hugo nominations (that Garcia guy is unstoppable!), I will quietly and calmly write a letter of comment on issue 127 of SF/SF. Hah, didn’t see THAT one coming!

Jean Martin responds:

Interesting list of nominations to be sure! And it’s great to have so many BArea folks included. Chris Garcia has an article about the nominations in this issue.

I have read little ERB, and what little I read, I found dated, so I didn’t continue with it. I know the history of John Carter, and didn’t care to go and see the movie. I am looking forward to seeing The Pirates!, a very silly Aardman Animation movie. I know a number of people who are pirate fans and they should enjoy themselves with this. The rest of us will simply laugh our heads off, if the trailers are as good as they look.

I guess I like old-fashioned novels as I do still enjoy Edgar Rice Burrough’s works. John Carter is updated as far as the storyline, sensibilities and effects goes but it still has that innocent charm that I love from old scifi. The trailer for The Pirates! Does look good and I’ve loved that studio’s animation before so I’m definitely going to see that too.

I’ve never been to a Gallifrey One, but I do know Robbie Bourget, the founder of the convention. Even with the popularity of the current seasons, it’s good to see that someone remembers William Hartnell, and produced costumes based on some of the very first episodes.

That would be my fiancé and SF/SF staff writer Christopher Erickson as the First Doctor. He did a great job with that costume and got a lot of compliments for it.

I must catch up with the Vandermeer Steampunk anthologies. I have The Steampunk Bible here, and I am pleased to see that it was nominated for a Hugo. Harry Potter and the Miskatonic University? Reminds me of the Magical University Challenge in Reno!

I have the first Steampunk anthology as well as the Steampunk Bible but I haven’t had time to read lately and my eyesight is getting worse and worse. So I don’t know when I’ll ever catch up with these books. I still hope to do so though.

Your comment to my letter… you said the commercial cons aren’t as much about hanging out, and you are right. This coming weekend is Ad Astra, the first real con of the season, and the con we worked on for three decades, and right on the same weekend is the Toronto Wizard World con. Ick! WW is easily taking away at least 200 or more attendees who would regularly be at Ad Astra. The Ad Astra committee doesn’t number the con any more, but if they did, this would be Ad Astra 31. Yvonne has been to every one of them, and I missed the very first one in 1980, but have been to the rest. And now, that we’re not on the committee, we’re only going for the Saturday. On Sunday, we have a big vintage clothing and textile show to go to.
That’s too bad that a big commercial con is scheduled against a fan-run con. I guess there’s only so many weekends in a year and there are bound to be conflicts. This year, there will be several conventions in the Bay Area during Memorial Day weekend and there’s been a lot of discussion as to who’s going to what. Chris and I are hoping to split our time to go to a few. We shall see how attendance will be at each one.

Wonder what the BASFAn reaction to all the Bay Area Hugo noms was? “Chris got how many???”

Chris Garcia got four nominations! There’s more information about all of that in his article.

I’m done, it’s getting late. I’m doing some more paid voicework tomorrow, so I have to be on the north edge of the city by 9:30 a.m. Gotta hit the sack. Many thanks for another interesting issue, keep ‘em coming.

Thanks for writing to us again and hope to hear from you again after you read this issue.

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 1131

April 2, 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-ish - during a cut-scene
27 people attended
The minutes of meeting 1130 were accepted as “missing”
The Treasurer was missing as well
The VP reported that there’s a new Drink Tank out - and a new Journey Planet will be out “soon” & he won’t be here next week
The President greeted a new face to BASFA - Bob Crum & we welcomed him. Bob is the publisher of a book just out - The Marcella Fragment by Anne LaForge [dystopian feminist sf] and offered a copy of it to any BASFAAn who would review it - and Spike volunteered

Announcements

[tall] Kevin announced that this Saturday, 1pm, April 7 will have the announcement of the Hugo nominees, simulcast at 5 places at once [Marcon, Minicon, Norwescon, Eastercon & Leprecon] - with more than 1100 ballots cast, it is a new record; Chris followed, saying that he will be making one of
the announcements at Minicon & that George RR Martin will also do an announcement [Andy - he will finish, but some nominees will die in the process]

Mike announced that the Mission City Coffee Roasting Company is closing April 15 - and they are doing performances there this Thursday, Friday & Saturday - and next week Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Adrienne announced that Brian Wilson gnome day got her to buy a “say hey” Giants ticket package - and is looking to sell a pair of tickets from it for the May 15 game vs the Rockies for $44; Ken followed that Virgin America has a “fear the beard” plane that has a beard

[evil] Kevin announced that Westercon 66 has signed a hotel contract - July 4-7, 2013 at the Hilton Ardam West [$109 per day, including parking] in Sacramento

Andy announced that the “promotional scam” for Westercon 66 is “secret agents - who is agent 66?”

Reviews

I reviewed Hunger Games as I enjoyed it, thought it was worth full price and then also seeing as matinee; there was a Godzilla roar; Josh followed, saying that he’s read the book & the movie was well done & worth full price and then also seeing as matinee & wished there had been some protagonist voice-over additions; Chris reviewed it as the movie was the best part of his movie experience at the Almaden - which had a wretched magician before the film; Dave C followed, in praise of voice-overs; Blackfeather followed, pointing out that the movie included focus on current social issues; Trey reviewed it as he enjoyed the movie, especially the actors in smaller roles & he thought it was a good adaptation

[evil] Kevin reviewed last Saturday’s Trans Day of Visibility as their participation felt good & they did useful things there - plus he got dancing boys - it was worth full price - free - & he was very glad he could help

Joni reviewed Fire trucks for Hire in Livermore as it has FIRE TRUCKS! for HIRE! Plus a replica of a firehouse that is enough to keep a mob of kids happy - and worth not only full price but also full price when watching with a screaming mob of children

Dann reviewed a preview seen of the remake of Total Recall saying that it looks like it will be better than the original movie & he has lots of hope for it; Chris followed, disagreeing in every way possible [Ken commented “Chris, you are always looking out for the lowest common denominator”]

Mo reviewed loving the library as she saw the 1st 2 seasons of Veronica Mars and really enjoyed the dialogue & interactions - it’s a very nice series & reviewed the art show at Contact as it was full of beautiful stuff

Chris reviewed Napoleon as 5 1/2 hours of awesome cinema & he got to meet awesome people - worth full price - $50 in his case & he also reviewed Luca Libre as “exactly like on my father’s family reunions” - started with foie grass poutine - also “ah so good” and it was all amazing, highly recommended and worth full price - $72 for 3rd row & mentioned that both cons he will be fan GoH for have sent him directions to places that serve poutine

Adrienne reviewed Mirror Mirror as fun, actually, with costumes reminiscent of Hunger Games - a cute movie, well it was cute, worth $8.65 & she reviewed trailers and says she is looking forward to the remake of Dark Shadows
Josh reviewed a trailer for *Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Slayer* as the audience reacted with total confusion; Chris followed that he loved the book and was in creative writing class with the author.

Blackfeather reviewed FogCon as worth full price - awesome - he enjoyed it.

Bob reviewed Symphony Silicon Valley as the music was awesome & reviewed the Redwood Symphony as he performed this time & enjoyed it; both worth full price.

We did auctions

We adjourned at 9:40 pm

And the rumor of the week was: “Alan Dean Foster made us the way we are”

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**Meeting 1132**

*April 9, 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-ish - eventually

24 people attended

The minutes of meeting 1131 were accepted as “Godzilla tested - mother approved”

The Treasurer was missing

The VP had also fled the state

The President had nothing fannish to report

**Announcements**

Adrienne announced that she is looking to sell a pair of tickets for the May 15 game vs the Rockies for $44 - see her - & then later she announced that some people had died.

[tall] Kevin announced that he will need help moving Saturday, April 21 from around 9am till noon in Fremont & announced that the Hugo nominations are out and that some BASFAns are on the ballot.

Jo announced that he plans to have a Cinco de Mayo party, May 5th, 7-ish
Ric without a ‘k’ announced that taxes are due on April 17 this year & that there will be a PechaKucha night, April 17, 7pm at the Sonoma Chicken Coop in Campbell & that Mo will do a presentation there.

Mo mentioned that she was nominated for a Hugo [and we cheered]

Dann announced that he & Mo will be running the art show for Fanime - expecting 18,000 attendees the same weekend as Clockwork Alchemy.

[evil] Kevin announced that there’s a kickstarter event this next week to fund a documentary about the Robogames - check www.kickstarter.com.

Andy announced that Robogames will be April 20-22 & that the bar-bot will be judged on Friday & exhibited all weekend at the San Mateo fairgrounds.

Ken announced that it’s Tom Lehrer’s birthday.

Joni announced that they have started a website for Garth’s sister Blythe = blythe-smiles.com, where pictures or short videos can be posted to help cheer up Blythe’s spirits.

Reviews

I reviewed a website = satwcomic.com/ “Scandinavia and the World” as a delightful site & so very worthwhile, I read all the archives the day I discovered it; Andy followed with the words “beer ghost” [LOL]; Aatheus summed it up as “Europe, the animated series”; Trey also enjoys the site and recommends reading the commentaries.

Ric reviewed eating brunch at San Pedro’s Little Chef counter as heartily recommended - brunch for 2 under $20.00 & he also reviewed the 1st 2 episodes of Game of Thrones season 2 as very well done & reviewed the NEST learning thermostat as it is teaching them to be more energy conscious - a tad expensive but worth it.

[tall] Kevin reviewed the 5x Hugo-cast as ambitious & “isn’t the internet wonderful?” He lauds ChiCon for getting it done.

Aatheus reviewed Patrick Stewart reading Christmas Carol as Stewart’s voice is highly entertaining and that it was worth far more than he paid for it at BASFA auction.

Diane reviewed Muir Woods as beautiful & worth full price & the cost of a yearly pass.

Jo reviewed Facebook as “friends” apparently means everybody anyone else knows; Josh followed with the problem that Facebook can list day & month but cannot list year properly; then Jo reviewed the Sharks playing their last regular season game as they snatched victory at the end of the game and inspired him to buy season tickets for next year.

We did auctions.

We adjourned at 9:27 pm.

And the rumor of the week was: “Short story Hugo discussions to be held in John Scalzi’s outhouse”
Meeting 1133

April 16, 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 8pm with wonderful strawberries
26 people attended
The minutes of meeting 1132 were accepted as “no”
The Treasurer is ill - however last week we took in $10.30 in the regular jar
The VP reported that there is a new Drink Tank out so “your long national nightmare is over” - and the issue has a Mo cover - plus she’s a Hugo nominee
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Sports Committee is looking into another Giants outing on Friday August 31 - vs the Cubs at Wrigley Field [during ChiCon!]

Announcements
Josh announced that he was accepted by UC Berkeley
I announced that Adrienne is full of awesomeness and is a wonderful person

Chris announced that the score was Sharks 1/Blues 2 in the 2nd period
Ric without a ‘k’ announced that there will be a PechaKucha night April 17, at 7pm at the Sonoma Chicken Coop in Campbell & that Mo will do a presentation there
[tall] Kevin announced that he needs help moving this Saturday, April 21 from around 9am till noon in Fremont
Bradford thanked the members of BASFA for their Hugo nominations of his book but since there was a problem with the publication date it has been disqualified - & he announced that he got a positive academic review for his book - The Anticipation - novelists of the 1950’s French science fiction - Stepchildren of Voltaire
Ken announced that William Finley had died

Reviews
Debbie reviewed the Greater Bay Area Costumer’s Guild dinner held in honor of the Titanic’s sinking as expensive but worth full price
Chris reviewed his trip as turbulence was not his friend, that the Minicon people treated him like a minor king as Fan GoH, that his hotel room at-con was AMAZING and had a hot tub [among other wonders], the con was real fun and he “went to a thing and saw stuff”; he also reviewed seeing his grandparents and seeing turkeys and huge deer and cavorting mountain lions - he had a wonderful time
Adrienne reviewed reading 2 other Devon Monk books - Magic on the Storm & Magic at the Gate as interesting and entertaining with believable characters & then reviewed the 1st 2 seasons of Downton Abbey as a pleasant distraction to watch - 5 stars, a keeper and highly recommended
Mo reviewed 1st Friday in San Jose as the downtown museums are open from 8pm till 11pm with free admission & worth visiting; she also reviewed the 5 Spot as a Mexican cookery open until 3am with authentic cuisine & all delicious - then Josh followed, saying it was actually called “Chivas”, but that everyone -calls- it “5 Spot”, it’s on 1st just south of 280.

Tom reviewed *The Blind Spot*, written in the 1920s by Homer Eon Flint & Austin Hall as a wacky alternate universe book & an interesting read - Bradford followed, saying that he read it years ago and remembers it fondly - a good book for the genre.

Ric reviewed Slave Labor Graphics [SLG] as it does a 3rd Wednesday “Nerd Mart”, selling all things nerdish & it’s a great browsing spot, in SJ near Market and 280; Mo followed that they have live jazz there on 1st Fridays and Josh rated it as a cool place; then Ric reviewed that getting ready for a presentation he will deliver on an iPad inspired him to get an “air stash” - a wireless networked storage device & that it will fit on a bandoleer.

Lisa reviewed the Guadalupe River Parkway Fantasy Fest as they had some writers there, but mostly it was a fun little Ren Faire.

We did auctions.

We adjourned at 9:13 pm.

And the rumor of the week was: “Quick! End the meeting before the secretary gets caught up!”
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, 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, 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 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
GOH: Brandon Sanderson, Stephen Marteniere, Scott and Cathy Beckstead. Toastmasters: Dani Kollin and Eytan Kollin. $70 (till April 15)

**Clockwork Alchemy**
Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose
www.clockworkalchemy.com
Steampunk convention. $60 (till March 31)

**Fanime**
San Jose Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos St., San Jose
www.fanime.com
Anime convention. $65 (through mid-May)
Saturday, June 16
**SFinsF: Lev Grossman & S.G. Browne**
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, 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

Saturday, June 21
**SFinsF: Robert J. Sawyer & Rachel Swirsky**
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

Thursday-Sunday, July 5-8
**Conclusion - Westercon 65**
Doubletree Seattle Airport
18740 International Blvd., Seatac, WA
drupal.westercon65.org
GOH: Robin Hobb/Megan Lindholm, Art Bozlee, Frank Wu & Brianna Spacecat Wu, Chaz Boston Baden, Vixy & Tony

Saturday, July 7
**SFinsF: John Shirley & Richard Kadrey**
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, 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.

Wednesday-Sunday, July 4-7, 2013
**Awesome! - Westercon 66**
Hilton Arden West
2200 Harvard St, Sacramento
www.westercon66.org
GOH TBA.

Thursday-Monday, August 30-September 3
**Chicon 7**
Hyatt Regency Chicago
151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL
chicon.org
The 70th World Science Fiction Convention. GOH: Mike Resnick, Story Musgrave, Rowena Morrill, Jane Frank, Peggy Rae Sapienza. Special Guest: Sy Liebergot. Toastmaster: John Scalzi.

Thursday-Sunday, July 4-7, 2013
**Awesome! - Westercon 66**
Hilton Arden West
2200 Harvard St, Sacramento
www.westercon66.org
GOH TBA.

$65
Thursday-Monday,  
August 29-September 2, 2013

_LoneStarCon 3_

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
San Antonio, TX
lonestarcon3.org

The 71st World Science Fiction Convention.

**$160**

**Ongoing**

**Daily**

_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.

**SFK 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

**Mondays and Wednesdays**

_Silicon Valley Boardgamers_

Mountain View Community Center
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View
www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb

Group meets regularly to play mostly German-style strategy boardgames such as Settlers of Catan; also multi-player Avalon Hill-style, historical war games, and others.
6:30 p.m.  $2
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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

Fridays and Saturdays

Fridays-Mondays

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8 p.m.
### 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.

**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

**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

**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

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Noon - 2 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

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Sci-Fi Book Group with Kym
Barnes & Noble
El Cerrito Plaza, 6050 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito
store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/event/310722-10
Meets the fourth Friday of the month.
7 p.m.

## 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>USS Augusta Ada</strong></th>
<th><strong>Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
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<tr>
<td>3567 Geary Blvd, San Francisco</td>
<td>4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento</td>
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<tr>
<td>trek.starshine.org</td>
<td>916-338-2300</td>
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<tr>
<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.</td>
<td>Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.</td>
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<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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Free

Free
Neon mermaid

by Lucy Huntzinger
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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| *Bad Movie Night*  
*Sakuramento Anime*  
*SF Games* | *BASEA*  
*SV Boardgamers*  
*Fighter Practice* | *MGI Boffers*  
*SF Games*  
*Haunted Haight* | *BA Role-Playing Soc*  
*E.Bay Strategy Games*  
*Fanboy Planet Podcast*  
*SV Boardgamers* | *CAS: NightLife* | *SF Games*  
*Haunted Haight*  
*Vampire Walking* | *Vampire Walking* |
| 29         |                               | 1                              | 2                                      | 3                         | 4                             | 5                           |
| *Foothill Anime*  
*Geeks Vs. Geeks (SM)* |                               |                               | *SF&F Writers’ Group* |                               |                               | *Creatures Con One*  
*Silicon Gulch*  
*Browncoats*  
*Rocky Horror* | 12                           |
| 6          |                               | 7                              | 8                                      | 9                         | 10                            |                               |
| *Spec Fic Book Club*  
*QSF&F Book Club* | *Geeks Vs. Geeks (SF)* |                               | *East Bay Star Wars* |                               | *Fantastic Frontiers*  
*No-Name Anime*  
*SF Browncoats* |                               |
| 13         |                               | 14                             | 15                                     | 16                        | 17                            | *Big Wow Comicfest*  
*Maker Faire*  
*SfinSF: Ysabeau Wilce, Marie Brennan Micro Gods, Inc* |
| *Big Wow Comicfest*  
*Maker Faire*  
*SF/F Book Club* | *Forbidden Thrills*  
*Movie Night* |                               | *Other Realms* |                               |                               |                               |
| 20         |                               | 21                             | 22                                     | 23                        | 24                            | *Baycon*  
*Clockwork Alchemy*  
*Fanime*  
*USS Augusta Ada Veritech Fighter Cmd 13* |
| *Baycon*  
*Clockwork Alchemy*  
*Fanime*  
*Religion & SF* |                               |                               | *SF&F Writers’ Group* |                               |                               |                               |

*Science Fiction/San Francisco* is the monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area – [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com).