Contents

Editorial .........................................................................................................................Jean Martin ..........................................................2
Eastercon Report ............................................................................................España Sheriff, Photos by España Sheriff and Nelson Cunnington ...............5
A Day at the (Maker) Faire .................................................................................Diane B. Rooney, Photos by Diane B. Rooney ........................................10
Year-round SF Bay Area Fandom
  Conventions and Other Events .........................................................................Christopher Erickson ..................................................15
Our House is a Very Fine Rengstorff House .........................................................Christopher Erickson, Photos by Christopher Erickson ........................................17
A Midsummer’s Night Shakespearean Fantasy Ball ................................................Jean Martin, Photos by Jean Martin .................................................20
A Steampunk Tour of the Winchester Mystery House ........................................Jean Martin, Photos by Jean Martin .................................................24
Big Wow! Comic Fest 2012 ..................................................................................Christopher Erickson, Photos by Christopher Erickson .................................28
Letters of Comment ........................................................................................................Jean Martin ..........................................................33
BASFA Minutes: Meetings 1131-3 .........................................................................BASFA ..........................................................36
Bay Area Fannish Calendar .........................................................................................España Sheriff, Photo by Lucy Huntzinger .................................................46

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Cover  Absinthe by Lucy Huntzinger
Page 4  Amazons Against Dragons by John Barrows http://www.barrowsart.com

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By Jean Martin
Editor-in-Chief

At the time I’m writing this, Memorial Day weekend is coming up in a few days. There are several conventions during this holiday weekend, which provides the Bay Area fans a wide array of choices. However, one does have to make a choice. Given the fact that the Steampunk convention Clockwork Alchemy (presented by Fanime) is new, I’m going to be a part of it, and it’s going to be at the San Jose Doubletree Hotel, that is probably where I’m going to be most of the long weekend.

It will be strange to be going to a convention at the Doubletree and it’s not going to be BayCon. I remember the days when BayCon was there and it was always a magical time for me. Four days of complete immersion in a fantasy world of costuming, dancing, partying, going to panels and workshops, buying stuff at the vendor room, getting autographs from authors and actors, and just generally geeking out with kindred spirits. I also met my fiancé, Chris, at the Doubletree, albeit during Silicon (where we’ve also thrown some great SF/SF room parties) and not BayCon. So the Doubletree holds special significance to me.

BayCon used to be my favorite convention, but it just doesn’t hold the same magic for me as it used to. First, the Santa Clara Hyatt is too spread out so I don’t get the same feeling of a “family reunion” or “community” that I used to get at the Doubletree (the San Mateo Marriott in 2007 was actually quite good for this). Second, the party rooms are too small and they get so crowded. Third, a lot of fan groups, such as the Browncoats, no longer show up or throw parties. Fourth, even though I’ve been involved in BayCon in one form or another over the years, and I have a lot of street cred as far as fandom goes, I have never been asked officially to be in a panel. Lastly, the masquerade competition, which my friends and I have always planned for and been excited about a year in advance of each one, has been changed to more like just a costume contest. It used to be that the BayCon masquerade was “the” masquerade to compete in and was a prestigious one to win at. We’ve even been told, and it used to be on the website, that group performances such as ours were no longer welcome for various reasons.

I only went to BayCon for one evening last year, for old times’ sake, and it was still fun. There’s still the Regency dances, which I love; the Klingon Slave Auction, which is always hilarious; and the “masquerade” was entertaining and had great entries. The parties were good too. I’ll probably try to go to BayCon for one evening again this year, just to check it out.

There has been a long thread in the BayCon Facebook group about how BayCon could be revitalized. I don’t discount all the hard work that the organizers and volunteers do to run such a big endeavor as running a convention. However, it seems like less people have been going, and for the con to thrive (and maybe even survive), something may
need to be done. There were a lot of great suggestions on the thread, but it’s up to the organizers to make the final decisions, I think.

There was a call for volunteers to make changes happen. However, I can totally understand that a lot of people are busy, and all they really want to do is enjoy the con, and not work the con. So ultimately, the organizers need to decide whether they want to keep things the way they are or bring the con back to how things were during its heyday.

One suggestion was to make BayCon focus on a more specific topic. I thought about this myself as it seems like the conventions that are very popular currently are those that leverage the interests of specific fan groups. For instance, anime is huge (and growing) right now and Fanime benefits from this fan base. Steampunk is also de rigueur and I expect Clockwork Alchemy will be a big hit.

While it may seem like general scifi and fantasy conventions, especially those with more of a literary bent, are on the wane, I still think there is a place for conventions such as these. I like having a variety of things to do at a con and it’s great to meet different types of people who are into different things. So if BayCon stays the way it is, I believe that is okay as well. It will attract the kinds of people that like this setup, and it will be a good time for them all the same. As one BayCon volunteer mentioned, it’s like throwing a party for thousands of his friends. A long-time attendee also said that it’s a reunion for him and his friends.

Also, trends come and go and what’s popular now might not be popular five years down the road. So it may be best to stick with what’s worked for 30 years for BayCon. Things come in cycles and it may regain its popularity organically in a few years’ time.

As for Clockwork Alchemy, I was asked to be more involved in it in various capacities, but with my day job, two dance groups, two writing gigs, lots of events, and a wedding coming up, there was just no way for me to be more a part of it as I would have liked. I will just enjoy the convention after I do a two-hour interview panel with the Guests of Honor on Saturday at 11:00 a.m. The guests of honor include: Diana Vick of Steamcon (fan guest of honor), Shannon and Kathy O’Hare of Neverwas Haul (maker guests of honor), and Boilerplate’s Anina Bennett and Paul Guinan (artist and author guests of honor). Unwoman is the musical guest of honor but she will not be on the panel but will instead have her own panel.

It seems like Steampunk has been dominating my life lately. I recently wrote an article for a non-fiction Steampunk book; Chris and I went to the Winchester Mystery House in Steampunk costumes for a tour organized by the Steam Federation (covered in this issue); I was an extra in a Steampunk movie entitled Pressure (more information about this in the next issue); we’re going to Clockwork Alchemy; and then our wedding in June will be Steampunk-themed (with a dash of Doctor Who, of course).

Astronomy also seems to be at the forefront lately with three celestial shows occurring within a short time span. I got to see the annular solar eclipse immediately after shooting wrapped for Pressure. It was great timing as we were done filming around 6:15 p.m., and someone brought an eclipse viewer, which she kindly passed around. However, I left soon after I saw the eclipse reach the 50% mark. I didn’t know that it would get to at least 80% in the Bay Area until the next day. I’m still kicking myself for not sticking around. But I was tired and hungry after a full day on the set. If I knew it was
going to get better than 50%, I would have stayed. I didn’t research it enough as I should have. It was my first solar eclipse and I really should have been more prepared. But with my being so busy, I just didn’t have the time.

However, I’m more prepared for the two other astronomical phenomena coming up. I’ve ordered eclipse glasses, and the article below has information on the partial lunar eclipse on June 4 and the Transit of Venus on June 5:

www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/05/17/BA1D1OHQ43.DTL

The lunar eclipse will be about 35% and can be seen in the Bay Area between 2:59 a.m. and 5:06 a.m. Since I’ve already seen several lunar eclipses, and this one is very early in the morning, I may skip this one except maybe just to say (to myself and others) that I’ve seen all three of these heavenly events.

But the one I don’t want to miss is the Transit of Venus. I’ve never seen one and this will probably be my last chance to do so. Venus will be crossing a corner of the sun and will be from 3:06 p.m. to 3:24 p.m. I think this will be quite a thrilling experience and I encourage everyone to try and see it too.

I hope everyone has a great Memorial Day weekend and I’ll see you all on the other side!
By España Sheriff

Editor

When I made the decision to travel to the UK for the first time, to visit John Coxon, I figured it would make sense to time the trip around a convention, so I could also get a taste of British fandom.

Eastercon turned out to be the perfect opportunity, since this year’s venue was near Heathrow, John was planning to attend, and a few fans I already know would also be there, including some fellow Americans such as Warren Buff. When I looked up the website, I was amused to see that of the guests of honor (GOH), two were ones I have seen regularly at conventions: George R.R. Martin, who was GOH at Denvention for starters; and Paul Cornell who regularly attends Gallifrey One in Los Angeles. Tricia Sullivan, who I was not previously familiar with, and Cory Doctorow rounded out the list.

Having previously been frankly terrified of flying, I decided to see a hypnotherapist to deal with the phobia, since the flight from SFO to Heathrow is over 10 hours, a long time to white-knuckle it. To my surprise and delight, it seemed to do the trick, and excepting a few seconds of nerves during some mild turbulence, the flight was really quite pleasant. Even having two teenagers as my seat mates was not nearly as bad as I had feared, the wide range of available media and having a window seat probably both helped.

I had planned to sleep on the plane but never quite managed to, so by the time I arrived I was quite sleep...
deprived, which you would expect would help with the jet lag by getting me to sleep early. However conventions are conventions, and I guess jet lag is jet lag, because it took me a couple of days to get in the swing of things. But it’s normal to be a little out of it at a con, so I don’t think anyone really noticed other than ever-patient John, who was a little out of it himself with all his TAFF administrator duties anyway.

I arrived on Thursday before the convention, which meant we were able to go to the London Circle fandom pub meeting, which has a long and storied history. This gave me my first glimpses of London (red telephone box! double-decker!) and also my first pub experience. I stuck to the basics with some real ale and also some pub fare. The former was quite tasty, but the latter was not as nice as it sounded like it was going to be. I was assured that this pub is not the best for food, so I kept my hopes up.

Unfortunately there is not a lot near the hotel, but we did eventually find a street a 10-minute walk away, which had a good fish and chips shop as well as some other options that might bear exploring. There was also a pub with an attached restaurant called The Pheasant which was not bad at all, if a bit too pricey to eat at more than once.

I can’t speak to the hotel food outside of the breakfast, but that was really quite terrible so I never felt the urge to give lunch or dinner a chance. To be fair, the breakfast was included in the room price, and the hotel appeared to be completely overwhelmed at the number of customers, so perhaps that is an unfair extrapolation. Still, it was not a particularly good experience and given that the rest of the stay was quite pleasant ended up being a terrible PR move from the hotel’s perspective.

The Radisson has an interesting layout, earning it the nickname “Radisson Non-Euclidian “for its number of twisty little passageways, odd shortcuts and hidden elevators. I didn’t find myself too terribly lost too often, since all the areas were very different from each other, but
there were certainly a lot of moments when I found myself heading in completely the wrong direction, and a few where I expected to turn a corner and run into the twins from *The Shining*.

I found the similarities to a US convention greater than the differences, but all the same was glad that John was there to guide me through some of the idiosyncrasies of Eastercon. The main one for me was that the Green Room, which seems to be an afterthought at most conventions I have been to, at Eastercon it was absolutely vital. All the panelists meet up and head over to their panel together, but even more importantly than this... you get paid in drinks. The volunteering system is organized such that you receive convention-cash called “groats” or drink tickets redeemable for a coffee, soda or pint. I arrived happy to be assigned only two panels, this being my first non-US convention, but once I realized what a great scam this was I’ll admit I was a little saddened at my lack of foresight.

Another interesting thing was that only some of the panels appeared to have assigned moderators, which can be tricky depending on the subject and people involved. My first panel was interesting enough, although it may have suffered a little due to this effect. My second one was a ton of fun, moderated by Doug S who I had met a little the previous evening and was therefore reasonably comfortable with as well as Roz Kaveney and Michael Cule. Being able to even briefly go over subjects in the Green Room and agree on a moderator helped considerably, and the discussion was lively. Having gotten over the starting jitters and having a beer, I was also much more comfortable mouthing off. I did my best not to talk too much and confirm the loud American stereotype, but probably failed.

As for the rest of the convention, there were certainly mostly similarities to the cons I’ve been to here. The dealer’s room was nicely varied, with a nice selection of booksellers, plus the usual t-shirts, DVDs and jewelry, but luckily I couldn’t buy much because of luggage concerns.

The Art Show was quite nice, with a good range of artists, although I was...
saddened that it didn’t seem to have the full-throated support of the convention. There was no artist GOH, and it lasted only from Friday afternoon through Sunday morning, with the auction taking place Sunday afternoon. This effectively means that Saturday is the last day to see art since it starts getting taken down Sunday morning what with one thing and another. The art show information was also hard to find on the website, with no direct link, and no list of participating artists. Still, hopefully this was an anomaly, since I see previous years all had artist GOHs, and quite good ones at that.

There was a consuite/fan lounge, but I didn’t spend much time in it, so can’t comment. There was a dance, but when I swung by it was a) playing the “Time Warp” (at like 10:00 p.m., no less) and b) suffering from the usual miscalibrated ear-drum shattering speaker syndrome that affects a lot of convention dances. So, alas, I didn’t stay long enough to comment on its overall quality. There were definitely people on the dance floor, though.

There were also parties, which I had hoped for, but in the end I spent my time socializing in the bar area, so I missed those entirely as well. The bar (or bars, there were two) were located in a big open central atrium, with couches and quite a bit of space for moving around, so my worries about getting stuck in a corner of a bar or guarding a seat in a pub where entirely unfounded. There was also a regular hotel bar, which seemed nice but was indeed lacking in seating the times I peeked in.

The bars all served Real Ale, so I worked my way up and down the selections, promptly forgetting what it was I liked or didn’t like. Mostly John kept track for me, though.

Saturday was the big night, with the Hugo short-list announcements. Everyone dressed up, they had champagne and snacks, and the room was packed to the gills. As with every year, some categories were great, some a little weak, there were a few surprises that made me cheer, and one or two that made me groan, but overall I think it’s a pretty strong ballot. Two of the GOHs were nominated: GRRM and Cornell. Other nominees in attendance included Jo Walton, Claire Brialey, Mark Plummer, James Bacon and David Langford. The Bay Area also had another strong year: Chris Garcia, Seanan Maguire/Mira Grant, Charlie Jane Anders, Mo Starkey and Spring Schoenuth. And there was, of course, the inevitable drunken midnight call to Garcia from the bar. I doubt he was sleeping anyway, I know I wouldn’t have been.
Sunday was comparatively chill, or at least from my perspective. Twitter, however, was on fire with tweets about what was happening at the BSFA ceremony, which was that the presenter was apparently embarrassing himself and everyone else by association. I only caught a glimpse of it so I won’t comment much further, but it’s a shame it marred an otherwise very competent convention.

What I spent Sunday doing was mainly helping John out at the TAFF tombola, which was surprisingly fun, and doggedly not buying books (mostly successfully). There was a TAFF auction, which was highly entertaining and ended with Warren Buff auctioning off some expired beer on the condition that he would drink it. He did, and lived to tell the tale, so that was all good. Then it was the last night, so we drank and chatted and were generally fannish.

Monday had the usual last-day-of-the-convention sort of feel, with lots of goodbyes and see-you-in-Chicagoes. But the difference was that I was excited about the rest of my trip, and so not quite as melancholy as usual. Sad as it was to put Eastercon behind me, it really was just the end of the beginning for me.
A Day at the (Maker) Faire

By Diane B. Rooney
Staff Writer

Well, it seems like I just wrote about Maker Faire but I guess it really was a year ago. Anyway, I was fortunate enough to get the gig to write about this year’s fair for SF/SF. I have always thought of my own talents, such as they are, as writing and photography. So because I’m not really much of a maker, I have a tremendous respect and admiration for people who are. Let me say first that Maker Faire organizers really are that—ORGANIZED!—and a breeze to work with. I’d exchanged emails with Bridgette Vanderlaan, Director of Marketing and PR, regarding my media registration, and there she was at Media Check-In when I arrived. My name was on the list, I got in right at 10:00 a.m. and I was ready to go.

In terms of planning for Maker Faire, my thought has always been that it pays to get there early, like 9:30 a.m., park on ground level of the Franklin Templeton lot for free, walk to the east gate in 10 minutes and get in or at least get in line. That way, you can experience the fair before it gets really crowded, and on a warm day like Saturday, before the crowds and direct sun make it a bit uncomfortable. I asked Bridgette about attendance, and she said the estimates they were quoting were more than 800 makers and 120,000 visitors over the two days of the faire. Attendance has been rising by several thousand each year.

Fiesta Hall

As soon as I entered Fiesta Hall, I encountered on my left the world’s first (and only?) Electric Giraffe. (His name is Russell, after his British programmer Russell Pinnington, who also provided his voice.) He was created by Lindsay Lawlor of San Diego, a lover of electromechanical devices and animals. Lindsay began designing Russell in 2005 and rebuilt him in 2008 and 2009 with an investment of several thousand dollars. Russell has appeared several times at Burning Man and Maker Faire and also at the Ocean Beach Christmas Parade in San Diego. Russell speaks, plays music and has a wide range of movement and colored light. He’s also mobile and can be seen rolling around the faire. The next improvements Lindsay
wants to make are incorporating a seven-segmented neck and a tongue. (Giraffes’ tongues are as long in inches as their height is in feet—about 14 to 18 feet). Lindsay loves animals and sees these creatures as a teaching tool. Read more about this wonderful project at: www.electricgiraffe.com.

Fiesta Hall is a fun and unique environment because it’s DARK! That way, visitors can better appreciate the effects of the giant Tesla Coils, land sharks, electric giraffe and other great exhibits in this hall.

I had a shocking experience at the Jack SparX booth—electricity you can see and feel! Touch the hand of one of the people working there (www.jacksparx.com) and experience half a million volts. By the way, they are based in Sacramento and are available for bookings at your next event.

Next I spoke to Andy Tibbetts of Portland, Oregon, captain of the C.S. Tere (a Steampunk pirate ship: C.S. stands for Clock Ship and Tere is in honor of Andy’s mother). The ship was designed in 2004, produced in 2008, and premiered at Burning Man in 2010. It’s still a work in progress. It has fire sails! Andy and crew would love to bring it down to Maker Faire, if possible, but for now it sails the Playa. Learn more about how the C.S. Tere was built and watch their segment from the Discovery Channel’s “The Daily Planet” at: www.lostmachine.com/projects/pirateship/index.html.

Near the C.S. Tere booth was Light ‘N Wire (www.lightnwire.com). These guys have a San Francisco-based design and production studio for all kinds of projects with Lightwire including costumes, masks, art sculpture, signage, bicycles and theater props. There’s a great Lightwire gallery on their web site and, if you are interested in learning how to do these effects, they teach classes at the Crucible in Oakland.

Speaking of illuminated art, another favorite of mine in Fiesta Hall is Land Sharks! The land sharks, created by designer Todd Williams, are illuminated radio controlled sharks that roam the hall bumping into people. Most of them have jaws that move and seeing them rolling around is pretty spectacular. The sharks are only one of a wide range of creative projects Todd does, including clothing illuminated with EL wire. Todd’s booth had on display both a few of the land sharks and also some of his EL-wired clothing. Learn more about Todd and his work at: www.toddwilliamsdesign.com.

At the far end of Fiesta Hall, out in the lobby area, the R2D2 pen and builders were on one side (www.astromech.net) and on the other were the pen and builders for Wall-E. It’s
great to watch these radio controlled robots greet visitors. Kids especially love both of them.

**On the Green**

Outside Fiesta Hall I saw the Little Green Vardo, a tiny maker-built home that can be pulled by trailer. A vardo is a traditionally horse-drawn wagon used by the Romany. This project won the award for Maker Extraordinaire, Road to Maker Faire Challenge Winner. Building the wooden caravan involved two weeks of intense building, then it became a continuing work in progress. The Vardo was built by George Crawford, who lives near Clovis, New Mexico. Crawford is a paleo-archeologist at Eastern New Mexico University (more at www.paleotool.com). As he explains, the Vardo is “my home-built trailer … based on traveler’s and “gypsy” wagons from Britain and France as well as sheep wagons from the western U.S.”

Traveling around the Faire at points during the day was the Lunapillar, an art-car described as “a mobile kinetic sculpture of light, color, motion and sound.” Kids love it, and for a few dollars the builders will give you a ride around the faire. There was also a large red radio-controlled Dalek interacting with people in the crowd. Missing in action for most of the day were the wonderful electric muffins, a Maker Faire tradition. I did find their parking lot but only saw one rolling around early in the day. Maybe it was too warm for them later on. They were certainly missed!

**Over on the West Green** (better known as the Steampunk lawn)

I had the chance to catch up with a lot of friends, most notably those from Kinetic Steamworks. I didn’t know that some of the group had moved from Oakland to Vacaville and renamed themselves Obtainium Works. Shannon O’Hare had brought a wonderful rolling teapot and the Chairway to Heaven but not the Neverwas Haul. The Steampunk lawn also featured several fabulous vendors, notably Blue Moon Designs and Steampunk Hatter, as well as the Steampunk Academy, the St. Clair Aeronauts and the Aerovelocipede.

**West Lot**

The West Lot is adjacent to the West Green. I always think of the West Lot as Playa on the Pavement because so many of the exhibits, art-cars and kinetic sculptures have connections to Burning Man. There was a lot of fire and even some steam in this area. Some highlights were the heavy-metal, firebreathing dragon art-car Gon KiRin (Light Dragon in Mandarin). Gon KiRin is part rubber, part metal, huge speakers and flame, plays heavy metal music and can be
enjoyed from old comfy sofas that are part of its construction. At night he is also lit by LED lights, which would have been very cool to see. He’s traveled not just to Burning Man but to Maker Faire in New York and Detroit, and Brookyn for the Robot Heart Halloween Party last October. To learn more about Gon KiRin, watch this video by Teddy Lo: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vT0um7TYEM&feature=share

Other fire art in the West Lot included the Flaming Lotus Girls’ Cochlea Fountain (“ambient flames and an interactive poofer”), a big hands-on space occupied by NIMBY from East Oakland (www.nimbyspace.org), and a wonderful mixed-media artwork featuring metal and flame called Unnatural Selection, which included a small firebreathing T-Rex. Kinetic Steam Works were in this area too with Wilhelmina, their 40-foot, steampowered, stern-wheel paddleboat.

**Expo Hall**

Next, I circled back to Expo Hall, adjacent to Fiesta Hall and home to 300+ makers including craftspeople of all types. Two exhibits here, of many I enjoyed seeing, were Steampunk Contraptions hosted by Bill Sherman and the Applied Kinetic Art sculptures. Steampunk Contraptions featured The Elixirator, a Steampunk drink machine and a Steampunk Raygun. Applied Kinetic Art featured sculptures made largely from found metal objects and gauges. They had moving parts but did not move around their area.
I also enjoyed talking with costumer extraordinaire Erin Mahoney. Many of the costumes she had on display had been shown at the Carnevale in Venice and were of amazing quality and workmanship. She was enthusiastic and took time to explain how the costumes were cut and decorated (http://www.erinmahoney.com).

**South Lot**

I even made it over to the South Lot before the end of my day to see the Crucible’s area. They had a huge space and had demonstrations going on in several crafts, drawing quite a good crowd. Among other exhibitors there, I spoke to artist Jenine Bressner who had wonderful pieces and enthusiastically explained her techniques and inspirations. Jenine works “by drawing with glass rods in a torch flame” and also in textiles, metal, clay, digital fabrication, printmaking, illustration, music and other media. She lives in Providence and is a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design. After visiting her web site (http://www.jenine.net), I was even more impressed with Jenine and what she has achieved so far, even being featured on Martha Stewart and on CNN Money.

By the time I made it back from the South Lot to the East Gate entrance it was around 2:45 p.m., and it had already been a full, fun, working day. So I left ahead of the crowds and was home by 4:00 p.m., happy, inspired and ready to edit pictures for my Flickr site and writing up my notes.

Maker Faire has so much to offer—it’s well worth dealing with the crowds for the chance to see friends from various communities and to talk to makers of all kinds about their work. My day started with talking to Lindsay Lawler about the Electric Giraffe and ended with talking to Jenine Bressner about her glasswork. They live across country from one another and work in different media, but both inspired me with their boundless enthusiasm, energy and creativity.

Please visit my Maker Faire album at www.flickr.com/photos/dianesf/sets for all the pictures.
With the loss of WonderCon in San Francisco for 2012, it would seem like the convention scene is dead in Northern California and that our only hope is for the large out-of-state conventions or to try and brave the madness that is San Diego Comic-Con International. While the fate of WonderCon has not been decided, since the renovation of the Moscone Center will be finished by next year as well as the expansion of the San Jose McEnery Convention Center ongoing, there is a very good chance that WonderCon could come back or another convention similar to it could take its place, such as WizardWorld Comic Con.

But for those who want to go to an event with like-minded people, there are plenty of opportunities depending on what your interests are. Besides a number of smaller conventions throughout the region and the state, there are different groups that provide entertainment and costuming opportunities. There are also a number of fairs and festivals that have started in the last few years that can also provide fun and entertainment.

Small conventions targeting specific fandom segments have been successful to different degrees in recent years. Most of these are fan-run conventions and manage to provide established stars and names in the fields while offering chances for attendees to dress in their finery. There are a number of smaller conventions like this that are currently in the Bay Area.

FurCon targets anthropomorphic animal fans but provides chances for anyone to costume. FanimeCon targets manga, anime and video game fans but also offers another chance to wear any costume. Gallifrey One is a short trip to Los Angeles, but it does present a large opportunity for Doctor Who-based cosplay as well as historical costuming and other sci-fi costuming. BayCon is a nice local convention for science-fiction costuming. The Bay Area even has its own Star Trek Convention every year.

Up-and-coming conventions also provide plenty of opportunity for panels, workshops and dressing-up. Both Clockwork Alchemy and Nova Albion recently have helped bring Steampunk to the forefront in the Bay Area. Convolution scheduled for November 2012 also promises to provide lots of opportunities for science-fiction interests to be fulfilled. The Edwardian Ball is where historical, Steampunk and macabre costumers can meet and mingle.

Big Wow Comic Fest is another recent addition to the convention schedule, combining pop culture elements from various conventions with the feel of a bigger show, while still being accessible for the fans.

The traveling conventions that do come to the Bay Area are also another great chance to get out and enjoy the conventions that we love so much. Westercon and Costume-Con are often in an area where they are within easy reach of a plane ride or road trip.
All of the Renaissance Faires also provide the opportunity for historical and non-historical fans alike to mingle. The Northern California Renaissance Faire has a long standing Pirate weekend and patrons can come dressed in anything, so there is plenty of opportunity to wear lots of different types of outfits. There are also a number of smaller faires that happen around the area or within a reasonable drive: Valhalla in South Lake Tahoe, Ardenwood in Fremont, the San Jose Renaissance Faire in Guadalupe Park, San Luis Obispo, and Folsom Faire in the Sacramento area are just a few.

Themed faires have also been a wonderful source of costuming possibilities. Dickens Fair has long been a great place to combine historical and science fiction costuming especially since Steampunk has become popular. May people have also been adapting characters to fit the time period similar to the DC Comics Elseworlds stories of *Batman: Gotham By Gaslight* and *Wonder Woman: Amazonia*. The Northern California Pirate Festival has also embraced the non-pirate and historical costumes as attendees have dressed as Steampunk airship pirates, others have created humorous pirate costumes and even time-traveling costumes have been worn there. The San Jose Fantasy Festival provides a great opportunity to bring in science fiction, Steampunk, fantasy and historical costuming together in one place.

The Bay Area is also home to a number of Celtic/Scottish festivals. There you can dress in kilts and listen to bagpipes, see shepherding dogs, and meet people from different periods of Scottish history. Fairs are held throughout the Bay Area and nearby in Sonora, Ardenwood in Fremont, Woodland in the Sacramento area, Watsonville and Pleasanton.

Several different groups also provide entertainment in the form of dances and gatherings such as PEERS, GBACG, BAERS, Steam Federation (the Bay Area Steampunk Association), the Sacramento Steampunk Society, 501st Legion, California Browncoats and Rebel Legion. These groups provide short get-togethers and gatherings that provide lots of opportunity to dress up and be with friends.

Shadowcasts for popular midnight movies are also available for people to dance, interact with the actors and get dressed up in costume. The Bay Area has three *Rocky Horror Picture Show* groups (Barley Legal, Bawdy Caste and Time Warp Cartel) as well as Slugs in Fishnets in Santa Cruz. There is also *Repo: The Genetic Opera* performed by Amber’s Sweets in Sacramento.

And if all of these events are not enough, there is also just getting together for a cosplay gathering or picnic, especially if there is another event at a park like an antique auto show or open house. With all of the resources in the greater Bay Area and Northern California, there is no end to the opportunity to have fun and get together with people.
Our House is a Very Fine Rengstorff House

By Christopher Erickson
Senior Staff Writer

Mountain View has a lot to offer recreationally. Shoreline Park has great views and wonderful trails, especially for costume-themed picnics such as pirates or the Victorian-era. Another wonderful attraction is the Rengstorff House located within a short walk from the lake at Shoreline Park.

Rengstorff House was built in 1867 by the Rengstroff family (where Rengstorff Avenue derives its name) and is an example of the Italianate style of Victorian-era architecture. The house has a lovely garden with beautiful grounds and colorful flowers.

The Rengstorff House also features several events throughout the year hosted by the Friends of “R” House, a group of volunteers who help to operate the house as a park attraction. I attended the most recent one, called the “Victorian
Play-Day” on Sunday May 20. This event featured several volunteers hosting children’s games from the time. There was kite flying featuring small kites about five inches long, tops that children could color and then spin, a game where you had to drop a wooden clothespin into a milk bottle, and several board games including checkers, dominoes and Chinese checkers. Volunteers were dressed in period garb to help create the feel of being in the 19th Century.

Another game was roping a toy saw-horse with a lariat. This game was very popular with both children and adults as several people including myself took a turn at roping the horse. Another popular game was to roll a wooden hoop using a stick to move it. Norman Rockwell and others popularly depict children playing this game in paintings, but it was not easy to make the hoop move. Potato races and bubble blowing were also activities that children and adults could participate in.

Tours of the house were also given by docents. The tour showed off the unique designs, including ceiling wallpaper, picture rails (to hang pictures on so nails would not destroy the wall paper), chair rails (to preserve the walls from chairs bumping into them) and a combination electric/gas chandelier. The tour depicted uses for the house during the late 1800s including weddings, funerals and everyday life. The house is also currently hosting a small exhibit on transportation history. The tour also detailed the family history including Henry
The house also hosts several other events throughout the year including Victorian Halloween tours, a Christmas holiday event and several private functions such as weddings and business meetings. One of the upcoming events is an antique car show.

For more information about the house, the Rengstorff family and a calendar of upcoming events, visit www.r-house.org.
By Jean Martin
Editor-in-Chief

On Saturday, May 5, the Period Events and Entertainments Re-creation Society (PEERS) held a Shakespearean Fantasy Ball at the San Mateo Masonic Hall. The ball was inspired by Shakespeare’s comedy, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, a story filled with magic, history, mythology and romance.

In keeping with the ball’s theme, the characters portraying the hosts of the ball included Theseus and Hippolyta, played by James and Cathleen Myers, and Oberon and Titania, played by Doug Williams and Sheri Jurnecka. There were also other PEERS actors performing roles from Shakespeare’s other masterpieces including Hamlet and Ophelia from *Hamlet* and Prospera (a female version of Prospero as seen in a recent film adaptation) from *The Tempest*. Christopher Erickson and I portrayed the lovers Lysander and Hermia from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Most guests came in Renaissance Faire and fantasy costumes.
The music for the evening was eclectic and high-energy. It was provided by the popular Renaissance rock band Avalon Rising. They played music from Shakespeare’s time to the present—from elegant Elizabethan set dances, to gorgeous vintage ballroom dances such as the waltz, and to lively Celtic rock.
During the first intermission, the Merrie Pryanksters did a lively demonstration of 17th century dances. Other intermissions saw Hamlet and Ophelia, in punk-inspired outfits, recreating scenes from *Hamlet*. The ball ended with Prospera reciting appropriate lines from the *Tempest*.
Our revels now are ended. These our actors,
As I foretold you, were all spirits, and
Are melted into air, into thin air:
And like the baseless fabric of this vision,
The cloud-capp'd tow'rs, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,
And, like this insubstantial pageant faded,
Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff
As dreams are made on; and our little life
Is rounded with a sleep.
A Steampunk Tour of the
Winchester Mystery House

By Jean Martin
Editor-in-Chief

Last April 29, members of the Steam Federation (the Bay Area Steampunk Association) and the Sacramento Steampunk Society converged at the world famous Winchester Mystery House in San Jose for a tour in our Steampunk finery. There were at least 60 of us, which included me and Chris as well as our friends Pat, Nedy and Mary.

It was a very long and exhausting day as we all opted for the Grand Estate Tour, which included a tour guided tour of the interior of the majestic Victorian mansion and a Behind-the-Scenes tour of the outer buildings, the gardens and the basement of the house. It was also quite hot especially as we were several layers of clothing. By the end of it, we were starving, but we made time for a group photo before we all went our separate ways for a late lunch.

I could have done without the Behind-the-Scenes Tour, but I suppose it was good to do everything since we were there already. And if we didn’t, we wouldn’t have experience our own mystery in the basement. But more on this later as I want to start at the beginning.

We got there before the meetup time of 11:00 a.m. and waited for at least another half hour until everyone got there. We were then split into three groups as there were so many of us. We were in the second group.

Unfortunately, photography is not allowed inside the Mansion. But I have to say, it is something to be experienced in person anyway. Even the lovely photos on the official web site don’t do the house justice.
I remember visiting the Winchester Mystery House on my birthday more than 20 years ago and was underwhelmed then. I was so looking forward to seeing it as I used to watch segments about it on *That’s Incredible* when I was a kid. They must have updated the tour or upgraded the interiors because this time I was quite blown away. Part of the fun is, of course, the eccentric interior design that is quite labyrinthine and doesn’t make any sense. The tour guide postulated some of the reasons why Sarah Winchester, of Winchester rifle fame, could have had for the continuous building she did that lasted until her death. The total number of rooms is 160 and we toured 110 of them.

The ones I remember the most are: the bathroom with numerous windows and a beautiful view, Mrs. Winchester’s beautiful main bedroom, the séance room, the Hall of Fires, the sewing rooms, the tea rooms, the huge kitchens, the airy and sunny conservatory, the Victorian living room, the Venetian dining room and the elaborate Grand Ballroom complete with a pipe organ and dance floor.

Of course, there were some of the “mysterious” aspects to the house such as the stairs that lead to ceilings, doors and windows that reveal walls, and the door that leads to “nowhere” (i.e., the outside from the second floor). Even without these paranormal aspects that are attributed to Mrs. Winchester’s trying to confuse ghosts and appease the spirits of the victims of Winchester rifles, the House is a marvel in and of itself. The décor and furnishings are elegant and expensive. And while the architecture does not seem to have
any rhyme or reason, some of the technology in the house was advanced for a house during that time period such as the recycling of water, the heating systems and the elevator.

There were other aspects that made the House even more real to us—that this was actually a house that people lived in. We were shown the room where the original tower collapsed on during the 1908 earthquake, which trapped Mrs. Winchester in it. Luckily, she was rescued, and the marks on the door from it being pried open are still there. The room and tower have not been restored. It was quite eerie.

By the way, there was a family in our group who brought their own working EMF detector, and it sounded out in several places in the house including Mrs. Winchester’s main bedroom. The unplanned addition of this device to our tour made it even more fun and interesting.

We did look out over the highest balcony and got a beautiful view of the grounds surrounding the house. After the Mansion Tour, we waited for the Behind-the-Scenes Tour to start where we got to see more of the gardens up close.

We also got to see other buildings around the house, which showed the daily life of different members of the household from the stables, the greenhouse, aviary, tool shed, fruit drying machine, water tower, etc.

Then it was on to the basement where we saw the bottom of the elevator and the furnace where a ghost is known to still carry coal back and forth. Just as our guide told us about this,
a door slammed next to us and there was no one there. It could have been a draft or it could have been “Clyde.”

For some reason, even though our group was the second through the Mansion, we wound up third for the Behind-the-Scenes tour. So when we were done, we were told to go up to the front of the house where everyone was waiting for a group photo. Apparently, one of the tour managers volunteered to take our photo... with his own iPhone. I wondered when we would ever get his photos and if they would even turn out good. So I’m glad I brought a tripod, and boldly set it up in front of the group. Well, it was all worth it as the two photos that came from my camera, using the timer, came out great. I wish I could have gotten the full house in the background but I was in a hurry. People were tired and hungry and I was in the way of the manager. Of course, I shared the photos on Facebook, and everyone was happy to get my photos of everyone with most of the house behind us.

My friends and I decided to eat our own picnic lunches in the Central Courtyard. We brought our own food and we were hungry. I’m glad we ate in the premises because that made our experience of the Winchester Mystery House complete. We even got to see the Historic Firearms Museum and browse through the gift shop. The rest of our crew went to nearby restaurants.

I highly recommend visiting the Winchester Mystery House for costuming, historical purposes, a paranormal adventure, a day out with friends and loved ones, or all or some of the above.
Big Wow! Comic Fest 2012

By Christopher Erickson
Senior Staff Writer

Big Wow! Comic Fest is now in its second year after a small hiatus and a name change from the previous convention of Super-Con. Last year was smaller since it did go through the growing pains and name change. This year, the show, which was held last May 19 and 20 at the San Jose Convention Center, seemed to achieve the feel of a big production.

Big Wow! had more of everything this year. There were more attendees, more dealers, more gamers, more panels, more excitement and more costumers. The show felt bigger and fuller as there were a large number of people that were still around even toward the end of the day.

Some of the bigger and fuller part of this year was a larger number of dealers. There were several more comic dealers, booth operators and even a larger number of artists. There were several big names such as Frank Cho (Hulk, Mighty Avengers, Liberty Meadows), Jim Lee (X-Men, Batman), and Tim Sale (Batman: The Long Halloween, artwork for Heroes). There were also a lot of newer artists and for the first time the “Underground Alley,” which featured big names from the underground comics scene such as Mark Bode (Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Heavy Metal magazine) and James O’Barr (The Crow).

There were a lot of new attractions as well. A stage was set up in the hallway for people to play Guitar Hero that helped draw people. A backdrop with the official logo for pictures was also on display. Another platform was set up for different artists to demonstrate drawing and painting, which allowed the artists to interact with people as they passed.

There were also three panel rooms this year instead of only two panel rooms last year. The rooms were put to good use with a variety of panels. The programming featured instructional panels for drawing, writing, publishing,
costuming, and prop making. Other panels focused on horror films with retrospectives on late-night monster movie shows and making independent horror films. There were also panels focusing on comic artists and writers discussing their work.

The panel that I attended was the panel featuring Juanjo Guarnido. He is an artist originally from Spain who has worked for the Disney animation studio in Paris as a background artist and lead animator. He discussed his time with the studio, his work in general and his work on *Blacksad*. *Blacksad* features an anthropomorphic black cat as a Sam Spade-type detective in hard-boiled detective stories. Guarnido also discussed the difference between the American comic book market and the European comic book market. The market in Europe supports many different genres and stories including philosophical tales, Westerns and even more “regular life” stories.

Another great feature this year was an exhibit called Avengers Assemble. The exhibit featured original artwork, memorabilia and merchandise from the almost 50-year history of the *Avengers*. All of the artifacts in the exhibit were on loan from the Cartoon Art Museum in San Francisco, where a special *Avengers* exhibit will be showcased.

Besides costuming for the children, there was a Kids Zone where children could color pictures of artwork featuring superheroes and drawing classes from artists. This area was
well attended by both children and their parents, and everyone seemed to have fun.

Gaming tournaments were also held. There were several different games featured and there was even an introductory tournament for Dungeons and Dragons for new players to become involved. The most eye-catching game was the classic Twister set up for anyone to join.

The attendance for the convention was even more impressive. The convention had a line of people waiting to enter the show even up to around noon. There was a steady stream of people purchasing tickets all day. The floor was well attended. There were also several patrons cosplaying. The costumes featured both Marvel and DC Comics characters as well as science fiction. The new version of Ultimate Spider-Man, The Punisher and Marvel’s version of Death were walking around. Iron Man, Thor and Captain America and the Falcon represented the Avengers. The Justice League had several members including Captain Marvel, Wonder Woman, Supergirl, Black Canary, Blue Beetle and Booster Gold on hand for the festivities. Several villains were also spotted...
around the convention including Emma Frost, Harley Quinn, The Riddler and Loki. The Batman Family was well represented with three different Batmen, a Robin from the movie *Batman and Robin* and a Batgirl.

Several members of the 501st Legion were patrolling the grounds while a Tenth Doctor and a Second Doctor watched over them while Vila Restal from *Blake’s 7* was on hand to add a little sabotage and thievery. A Cobra Viper Trooper from G.I. Joe was also found roving around and video game characters Super Mario and Lara Croft were jumping and running around the convention.

The costume contest was much bigger this year as there were 22 entries. Captain America, Emma Frost, Iron Man, Swamp Thing and the Second Doctor were all big winners. The contest was actually hosted this year by cosplayer extraordinaire Valerie Perez and she encouraged people to get up on stage. The crowd for the contest was also bigger this year as more people turned out to watch the contest.

The evening programming was very special this year as there was a screening of *Repo! The Genetic Opera* featuring a combined shadow cast from different troupes from Sacramento (Amber’s Sweets), Los Angeles (Addicted to the Knife) and Orange County (Zaddicts). The screening was well

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*Repo! writer Terrance Zdunich with Shadow Cast Members*  
*Scene from Repo! The Genetic Opera Shadow Cast*  
*by Christopher Erickson*
attended and had the feel of a “Rocky Horror” show with callbacks and the shadow cast throwing in visual jokes. The show was followed by a question-and-answer session with Terrance Zdunich, the co-writer and actor for the character Graverobber.

Even though I was only able to attend for a day on Saturday, the show had many improvements and felt much livelier and fuller. I look forward to the changes that will be in store for next year.
John Purcell writes:
The cover page of this particular issue is very striking. Am I correct in assuming that Tom Becker is responsible for putting Lucy Huntzinger’s neon mermaid into that layout? If so, it is a splendid combination. Very attractive layout throughout this issue, in fact. This is something I have always expected from SF²: a good-looking fanzine. Keep up the good work, you guys, and know that it’s appreciated.

Jean Martin responds:
Thank you for the compliments! They are very much appreciated. And yes, Tom is responsible for picking our cover photos from Lucy’s wonderful and diverse offerings.

España, your editorial makes me jealous. I have always wanted to go to England, and there you are, attending Eastercon, eating and drinking wonderful English food and ale, generally having a splendid time. And you got to spend time with your honey, too. All around, it sounds like you made the most of your trip across the Pond. *sigh* Some year...

España’s complete trip report is in this issue. It does sound like she had a wonderful time and did a lot of different things. I hope you get to go to England someday, John!

Once again, lots of events in the BArea recounted in this ish with plenty of photos. I am impressed. You people certainly do stay active.

There are so many events here and I wish we could cover more but most people don’t like to write, and if they do, they don’t have the time as they’re doing all the events. We do try to get a good variety of events covered here in SF/SF.

As for Chris Garcia’s ruminations about the Hugo Awards for this year, I really don’t have much to say. I do know for a fact that many old-time fans are rather ticked off at Chris and James for allowing their acceptance speech/meltdown at Renovation onto the ballot, and I have to admit I’m with this group. I am sorry, Chris and James, but even though I love you guys and enjoy your fanzine work, this does not belong on the short-list ballot. In my mind, it is not a short-form fictional dramatic presentation, which is what I believe should be on the ballot. And that is how I feel. As for the fanzine side of things, I feel that Journey Planet is a much better produced fanzine than The Drink Tank, and for that reason, it better represents the talents of Messrs. Bacon and Garcia, so drop Drink Tank off the ballot. If I ran the Hugo Award zoo — which I don’t, but just “if” — this is how I’d administer these particular awards. Other than these quibbles, there are a lot of deserving people up for the Hugos this year, and I wish the best of luck to all of them.

The Hugo nominations always draw divergent points of view, and this year’s ballot is no exception. We’re just happy to have so many Bay Area nominees, and we look forward to finding out the winners come Worldcon.

Finally, a brief comment about Christopher Erickson’s article about the popularity of fantasy fiction, especially on television. My thinking is that fantasy offers a much needed break from the bleakness of reality nowadays, so more people are turning to it as a release valve for their pent-up
frustrations. Plus, the effects — thanks to computer generated animation and other graphics — simply makes for splendid eye-candy for viewers. Of the shows I regularly watch on television, my favorites are Eureka, Lost Girl (Anna Silk is incredibly hot, let me tell ya), Grimm, Merlin, and Once Upon a Time. Good entertaining shows. I agree that merchandizing a sellable product is a big part of modern promotion, but I foresee a market glut that will result in fantasy-related programming and merchandise dropping off to be replaced by the Next Big Thing. It all runs in cycles. To a certain extent, fantasy will always be popular, but the current wave it is riding will hit its inevitable trough. And so it goes.

I agree about trends going in cycles and that fantasy has always been around and will follow the same inevitable path. It’s good to have entertainment that’s a panacea against reality. That’s always been one of the main purposes of entertainment. Fantasy also inspires people to be better and do better to make the world a better place as well. That, I believe, is another purpose for entertainment. I do see this a lot in fandom, which is wonderful. People forming communities around their passions and making use of their talents in the direction of their interests.

So this brings me to the end of this loc. Thank you for posting it to our favorite website, efanzines.com, and I look forward to the next one.

Lloyd Penney writes:

Issue 128 of SF/SF is printed out for me here, and time is at a premium. So, I’d better get with it and write up a page of comments for the next issue.

We’re really looking forward to going to London in 2014. We are looking at cheap fares to the UK via Iceland, and we’d also like to travel a bit either before or after Worldcon. Depends on how much we can save.

Jean Martin responds:

I hope you get to go to London in 2014! It is a good idea to travel around the area since you’ll already be there.

Our Grand Great Lakes Victorian Tea took place this past weekend, and with 19 people in attendance, it was a popular success, and many have asked us to organize another one, so the hunt for other places for a tea continues. Professor Elemental was a guest at the Canadian National Steampunk Exhibition last year, and he was quite the performer, and you’ve now found out. I believe he’s working on a television show now.

That is so amazing that Steampunk is so popular right now all over the world. And that’s amazing that entertainers have become successful by performing in this genre. Yes, I’d love to see photos of your Victorian tea. Aren’t there a lot of tea places in your area? There are a lot in my area. That’s where I go when I’m stressed out at work and want to relax. Unfortunately, the one I have been going to near my work closed down recently. The others are farther away and more expensive. Some friends of mine and I have toyed with the idea of opening up our own (with costuming, of course!). There’s a nice empty Victorian house near me that is zoned for commercial use. But alas, none of us have the time, money or experience to do this. Still, I can dream.

You BAAd folks have got to learn to share the Hugo nominations with the rest of us. Geeeeze! Well done, everyone, and there should be a handful of rockets going down to your location this coming fall. Wish I could go.

We’re all excited to have so many nominations in our area!
Jean, sounds like you might have to go to the optometrist, and see about getting glasses or contacts. I need to do the same thing, but I’d need employer’s benefits first.

*I’ve been wearing glasses since I was 5 and contacts since I was 15. My eyes just get very tired and dry. I did just see my eye doctor for my yearly exam and he said everything was great and stable, and that he’s amazed that I still don’t need reading glasses at my age! Also, I’m off of glaucoma medication, and my glaucoma doctor isn’t sure I even needed them as my eye pressure has been normal for a while now without medication. My eyes just need TLC and rest.*

Ad Astra was good fun the only day we were there, but at the vintage clothing show on the Sunday, I bought myself a smoking jacket (black with red trim) that serves me as a Steampunk suit jacket. This impulse buying will just get me in trouble, but in the meantime … I should send you the pictures from the Victorian Tea mentioned above.

The Fannish Calendar reminds me that I need to check to see if a Maker Faire is returning to Toronto. I think not until next year, but if it’s this year, I’d happily go. We had a great time last year.

*Diane Rooney’s coverage of the Bay Area Maker Faire is in this issue.*

Short time, off it goes, have to get ready for the evening assignment. Many thanks, see you with the next issue.

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**Join our crew!**

We are looking for writers to cover local events, conventions, fan groups and the fannish scene in general.

Contact Jean Martin at SFinSF@gmail.com
Meeting 1134

April 23, 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 8:05 pm with the Giants winning both games in the double-header
28 people attended
The minutes of meeting 1133 were accepted as “Barbara took a tablet”

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $6.50 in the regular jar & 2.25 in the party jar
The VP reported that there is NO new Drink Tank out - but one should soon be posted on efanzines.com & it has Mo artwork - and that Mo will now be called “Meaux” - and next week he will be handicapping the Hugos
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Sports Committee is investigating a Giants outing on Friday August 31 - vs the Cubs at Wrigley Field [during ChiCon!] as - Chicago has an entertainment tax [comment: “The Cubs count as entertainment?”] - and that the ticket total price would be $41.02 after tax/service fee - however if he buys 20 or more there is a discount.

Then we did auctions
Announcements

Ken announced that this Friday is the Legion of Rassilon meeting at 1st/Trimble in the Carl’s Jr & he also announced that Jonathan Frid has died [possibly due to seeing the Dark Shadows remake]

[evil] Kevin announced that Thinbot took the gold at the Robogames drink making contest

Adrienne announced that her father died & if you know of anyone interested in buying a book binding business - or supplies for one - please contact her

Chris announced that he’ll be a GoH at Conquest next year & announced that he is looking for articles about comics for the next issue of Journey Planet

Bill announced that this spring & summer CalTrans is doing massive roadwork [around Buttonwillow] on the 5 freeway and recommends using the 101 for drive travel

Carole announced that Costumecon is in Tempe, AZ & she’ll be on panels there & announced that Clockwork Alchemy is over the memorial Day weekend [check clockworkalchemy.com]

Dave C announced that there is a new Cargo Cult catalogue out & announced that Baycon is also held over the Memorial Day weekend

Mo announced that Fanime is also over the Memorial Day weekend and that she & Dann are in charge of the Art Show there

Valeria announced that Gaslight Gathering will be in San Diego over the May 12 weekend

Reviews

Andy reviewed Robogames as “besides the win” it was lots of fun - with robot fights and experiments, especially if you are a contestant and can see behind the scenes stuff; [evil]

Kevin commented that you can do artistic entries and enter without having to build working robots to be a contestant & Aatheus asked when the area will be allowed to defend itself from violent robots

Mo reviewed getting to hear Jack Black sing “Beautiful Dreamer” as she can die happy now

JC reviewed American Reunion as hysterically funny - and recommends seeing it & reviewed the new jellies exhibit at the Monterey Bay Aquarium as wonderful & also recommended

Kalifer reviewed Hal Clement’s book Half Life as hard sf with an omniscient POV & written as though by a high school science teacher

Dave C reviewed Carter Beats the Devil by Glen David Gold as a fun historical novel, an interesting read & reviewed Cabin in the Woods as violent, bloody, messy & fun; Bradford followed, saying that it was enjoyable but that if you are a Josh Whedon fan you will have seen much of this before

Adrienne reviewed the 4th season of the UK Being Human as “wow” - and it’s a transition with a surprising finale & recommended

We adjourned at 9:28 pm

And the rumor of the week was: “There are no mohels on Mars”
Meeting 1135

April 30, 2012

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

Began at 8:03 p.m., after VP scurried to make a food order

President and Secretary absent
Vice President presiding
Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker

27 people attended
We established a party jar.
The minutes for meeting 1133 were accepted as “making a mountain out of mohelhill.”

VP passed around a rare printed copy of *The Drink Tank*, where he’s handicapping the 2012 Hugo nominations.

Treasurer reports we collected $14.75 in last week’s regular jar giving the treasury a total of $12,186.55 and the party fund has $309.73.

Party committee plans to have a party at Clockwork Alchemy over Memorial Day weekend, but it is not an officially called a party.

Sports committee reminded everyone of our outing at the Giants game on May 4. They are still researching one at Wrigley Park during Chicon 7, where the Giants are playing the Cubs.

**Announcements**

Ed says there’s a robot project that other people can participate in. See him for more details.

Kevin S. has loads of little shampoos to give out.

Dave C. said Dame Edna Everage is doing another farewell tour in the U.S., but no appearances in the Bay Area. If anyone hears otherwise, please let him know.

I announced that Bay Area Ghost Hunters will be doing an investigation of Casa Grande in San Jose on May 19 and it costs $45 to participate. For more information, please go to: www.meetup.com/Bay-Area-Ghost-Hunters/.

Kevin R. said the locally created and produced new live production *Thanks for Playing…the Game Show Show* starts May 19 at the Retrodome.

Howeird says a new Broadway show, *Silence the Musical*, is currently under production. It’s a musical version of *Silence of the Lambs*.

Sarah announced a new show that is being produced, but I missed all of the details because I was catching up on all of the previous announcements.

Dave G. announced that DUFF nominations are now open. For more details, please go to: continuum.org.au/c8/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/DUFF-2012-Announcement.pdf.

Lisa said Mythcon 43, which is being held in Berkeley, membership rates raise May 2. For more details, please go to: www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/43/.

Ken reminded everyone that CreaturesCon 1, the Creatures Features convention, is being held at the Bal Theater in San Leandro on May 5. For more info, go here: www.creaturescon.com/.
Jerry announced that she had free tix for the San Jose Giants for anyone who is interested.

**Reviews**

I reviewed *The Raven*. It was fictional speculation on the mysterious death of Edgar Allen Poe. Poe’s love interest was invented, but the story was enjoyable enough. I liked the acting, costumes, and production values. Definitely worth the time and money spent on it.

Chris liked John Cusak and one of the other actors and the costumes, but I had to agree with him when he said there were not enough red herrings.

Kris likes the new Amazon Touch and loves Amazon’s lending library. She also likes the Titanic exhibition currently showing at the Luxor in Las Vegas. She considered the experience immersive and had to pay for her assessment. For more details, go to: www.luxor.com/entertainment/titanic.aspx.

Kevin thanked the BASFAns who helped him move a couple of weekends ago, then reviewed his Budget truck rental as unreliable. He is currently residing in a small apartment in San Jose while in the Bay Area.

Dave C. read *Midnight Riot*, by Ben Aaronovitch. It’s the first in a series where a London detective ends up in the Wizard’s Unit of the Metropolitan Police. It’s very British and worth full price. He’ll look for further books in the series.

Howeird saw *Black Snake Moon* with Samuel J. Jackson. Howeird said it’s Jackson’s worst performance ever, but it’s worth at least $1.

He also read *Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Hunter*, by Seth Graeme-Smith, and said the dates were all correct, but it took five chapters to get to the blood and gore. Chris followed on that he enjoyed it. Dave C. queried how else can we explain that brother went against brother in the Civil War besides vampires?

Lisa said that the Disney Store relocated in Valley Fair and was disappointed that the grownups’ section of the store was downsized. There’s a lot of stuff for kids, though.

Ken and Jerry went to see the opera *Faust*. Faust was redeemed in this version.

They then went to the Little Chef counter and found they had run out of items they originally wanted to order.

They also went to see the rehearsals for *Thanks for Playing...the Game Show Show*. It will run for several weeks.

Jerry saw some Shakespeare on TV with David Tennant and Catherine Tate and said it was hilarious.

Fundraising for *Thanks for Playing...the Game Show Show* was done through Kickstarter and its ins and outs were discussed by everyone for a while.

Bill and Carole joined California Steam Federation for a tour of the Winchester House in period costume and had curry cookies.

Ed said the movie *Kaena* is delightful. Well worth the $1 he paid for the DVD. He also read *Fair Coin*, by E.C. Myers. It’s a good book. Not great, but a good first novel. Worth reading.

Chris saw *Euro Dreams of Sushi*. He said if you want to see any doccos about sushi, this is the one. Beautifully made.

We did auctions.

Rumor of the Week: “It still has that new diode smell.”

We adjourned approximately 9:39 p.m.
Meeting 1136

May 7, 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 pm with a discussion of numbers
The ruling of the Chair was appealed in regards to the pun tax & the Chair was sustained
We established a party jar
24 people attended
The minutes of meeting 1135 were accepted as “she who controls the minutes, controls the universe”
There was no Treasurer or faux report
The VP reported that there is NO new Drink Tank out this week - but he has a few rare print copies of the Handicapping the Hugos issue to distribute; there will be a new Journey Planet out soon & he would like reviews of the Hugo nominated novels to include in a Drink Tank to that subject - so please write them and send them to him
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Party Committee will host a soiree at Clockwork Alchemy on Friday night & there will be a BASFA party at Baycon on Saturday

Announcements

Eric announced that the Stanford Savoy Knights will be presenting Rudigore at the Dinklespiel Auditorium at Stanford this weekend - and may have cameos in it - & Ken stretched the metaphor to announce that the Dark Shadows movie opens this weekend
JC announced that Josh’s birthday is Wednesday & also announced that the March of Dimes team T-shirt he designed took 1st place this year
Dave C announced that Dame Edna’s plans are TBA, also announced that the DUFF nominations are open for the next 4 days - contact either dave<at>difference<dot>com or martyhoohah<at>sbc<dot>global<dot>net & also announced that the new Prometheus movie has to be a tie-in with Dr. Who
Adrienne announced that Bay Area Ghost Hunters now has more than 700 members & needs 5 more members to beat out the other large paranormal group from New York City (aside: “New York City?! Beat NY!”)
Fred announced that May 13 is How Weird & that May 19-20 is the Maker’s Faire
Josh announced that he is looking for feedback on a play
Chris announced that this Saturday at 10am he will be descending on the Chef’s Table for breakfast at San Pedro Square market

Reviews

[evil] Kevin reviewed the pre-show for Thanks for Playing the Game Show Show as it was great fun and he highly recommends it - worth more than full price; Ken commented that yes, much hilarity ensues there and also recommends it - then [evil] Kevin reviewed 2 mini-courses at the Tech Shop as
“Oh boy, my artwork is in trouble” as he will be improving it - worth full price and highly recommended

Josh reviewed replacing his phone as it’s big, beautiful & gorgeous & worth full price & also reviewed a play, Crevice as he had a great time there - worth full price

JC reviewed The Avengers as every geektastic moment was included, lots of fun, it has 2 cookies at the end

Dave C stated “yes, you must see this movie” & it’s the most satisfying superhero movie ever; lots of other comments, all favorable

Mo reviewed Moneyball as she enjoyed it, it’s well-crafted and worth seeing

Fred reviewed Marley as a documentary showing at the Camera 3 & incredibly good & reviewed a book, Ready Player One about pop culture in the 1980’s by Ernest Cline as good

Yochanan reviewed the Giant Novels by James Hogan as very good & that a friend of his is looking for ushers at the Sunnyvale Community centre

Mo reviewed 1st Friday in Sj as it happened again and was wonderful

Ed reviewed the Botanical gardens in Golden Gate Park as incredibly fantastic

Lisa reviewed the Asian Art museum’s story teller’s recitation - live - usually with music as a wonderful thing

We did auctions

We adjourned at 9:46 pm

And the rumor of the week was: “There are more unscientific Americans than Scientific Americans”

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**Meeting 1137**

May 14, 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 8:09 pm - if you trust clocks

We established a party jar

24 people attended

The minutes of meeting 1136 were accepted as “hoarse de combat”

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $5.80 in the regular jar & $26.55 in the party jar & observed that the VP may be over-extending himself - whereas in rebuttal, Chris stated he liked Dave’s shirt

The VP reported that there will be a new Claims Department out soon & a new Drink Tank out soon too - “yeah ... sure”

The President made a pun but had nothing fannish to report

The Party Committee will host a soiree at Clockwork Alchemy on Friday night & there will be a BASFA party at Baycon on Saturday

The Sports Committee reported that the SJ Giants have their VIP box for parties of 12+ & that for $40 each one gets the box and wonderful BBQ - and he’s still researching
attending the Giants/Cubs game at Wrigley Field during Chicon 7.

**Announcements**

Adrienne announced that she has 2 Giants tickets to give away [and they’re GONE!] - plus is looking for someone to go with her to the Giants game this Sunday - please contact her.

JC announced that a friend is having a baby real soon now and would like good thoughts sent to Gwen.

[tall] Kevin announced that he has a box of food & ingredients to give away that will not be making the move with him.

Ric announced that there’s a new Fanboy Planet podcast out “90 Minutes until the end of Civilization”, issue #265, check fanboyplanet.com.

Ed announced that he wants to help spur a movement to get Keith Laumer a special lifetime achievement award from Worldcon.

Dave C announced that this is KFJC’s Month of Mayhem and to check their schedule.

**Reviews**

I reviewed the Avengers as I enjoyed it a hella amount and thing it’s worth seeing at least twice at full price & both cookies were fun; there were several recommendations for seeing the movie in 3D; everyone agreed with my assessment of the Hulk; Adrienne thought it was tons of fun & really admired Captain America - recommends it at full price; there were more neeps; Bradford said it has earned a billion in 9 days, more neeps - there was no flying car; Ed if of the opinion that it’s the “best of the batch” & he plans to see it again in 3D.

Adrienne reviewed Dark Shadows as very amusing and she enjoyed it, but not as much as she enjoyed the Avengers, she liked the interpretation & thought it worth discounted Costco tickets; Dave C stated that the audience for his showing was very respectful but the film was “meh” and worth matinee, Eric said it followed the story...ish, but he was less impressed & found it uneven, worth matinee; Ric saw it at a press screening and thought it worth that or cable & was disappointed; while Ken & Geri saw it and enjoyed it.

Chris reviewed Cuttlefish by David Freer as a YA steampunk adventure with some serious problems, thought a library DVD from 2008 Company as it validated the existance of libraries & reviewed the DVD commentary of Buckaroo Banzai as brilliant, it made him roll around in mirth & was worth full price.

Ric reviewed dinner at Mountain Winery as $69 is a bit pricey for the dinner, but the view is incredible.

Ed reviewed A Beautiful Friendship by Weber as it made him laugh and cry and like tree cats even more now than before - worth full hardback price.

Ken reviewed Thanks for Playing the Game Show Show as great fun and they plan to go again [runs thru the 1st weekend in June]; Mo followed saying that it is a Kickstarter success and she had a great time.

JC reviewed Chimpanzee as darned fun and worth matinee - and bring tissues.

Mo pointed out that we had a 1st-time visitor - Bert Taylor - a longtime fan.

We did auctions.

We adjourned at 9:40 pm.

And the rumor of the week was: “Next week’s Coco special is shawarma week”
**Meeting 1138**

May 21, 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 8:01 p.m., with me being cheered on as Emergency Holographic Secretary  
President and Secretary absent  
Vice President presiding  
Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker  
28 people attended  

We established a party jar.  
The minutes for meeting 1137 were accepted as “eclipsed.”  
There was neither a treasurer nor proxy report.  
VP said there’s a new Drink Tank out.  

Party committee plans to have a soirée at Clockwork Alchemy on Friday and a party at BayCon on Saturday.

**Announcements**

Kory said there will be a dance at the Doubletree on the eve of Clockwork Alchemy to warm things up.  
Ed said he is starting a new business selling smoking paraphernalia.  
Doug said he received a great new present of John Scalzi books in the mail.  

Carole will be on panels at Clockwork Alchemy.  
Ken said with all of the local conventions this weekend, there will be no Legion of Rassilon meeting this Friday.  
MO is coordinating the art show for Fanime with Dann this year. She said Kublacon is also this weekend in Burlingame. For more details, please go to: [www.kublacon.com/](http://www.kublacon.com/).  
Kevin S. announced that Menlo Worldwide is hiring people with computer skills.  

Howie said there will be live music at Shoop Park in Los Altos on Sundays through the summer.  
Diane followed on that San Jose has ceased its Music in the Park.  

Zack announced he was recruited to work the party at BayCon.  
Yochanan said J. K. Klein died.  
Chris gave out copies of Slabscape: Reset, by S. Spencer Baker, for reviews.  
Diane announced that Marina is going on vacation, so she won’t be here to serve us for three weeks.

**Reviews**

Ed read Dowsing for Love, by Dick Croy, and said it is worth full price.  
Brad went to the Big Wow convention (formerly Supercon) and loved that dealers had lots of older comics to sell. He had a good time.  
Yochanan was happy to see one of his former students, Ryan Sook, there and he now works for Marvel. Yochanan recommends next year’s Big Wow.  

Yochanan read the WWW trilogy by Robert J. Sawyer and highly recommends it. Chris followed on that Sawyer will be in town soon and Chris will be showing him around the Computer History Museum.
Kevin S. saw *Thanks for Playing the Game Show Show* and says it’s well worth the $44 if you can spare it. Howeird followed on that it is a full-scale musical that’s worth $14.

Josh reviewed the Caltrain trip to Brian Wilson gnome day at AT&T Park as insane. Game was worth full price (or at least the Brian Wilson gnome).

The novel Josh is working on was shown to an editor who turned out to be his 7th grade teacher.

Kory read *Wise Man’s Fear*, by Patrick Rothfuss. He thought the first novel was brill, but the second was a disappointment.

Chris disagreed saying Rothfuss is the greatest novelist of all time.

Dave C. saw *Battleship*, based on the Hasbro game. It has aliens and loud music. Worth matinee.

He read *Drift*, by Rachel Maddow. It’s about the current state of war our country is fighting and is worth full value.

Carole went to Costumecon, which was worth full price, but the driving trip home wasn’t. She is going to fly to Phoenix in the future.

Bill said Carole fared well at Costumecon and agreed the drive was uncomfortable.

Lisa saw the eclipse with the San Jose Astronomical Association at Hogue Park and said the sun had 84% coverage in the area and they were a good group to watch it with.

Jeff saw it at the beach and cloud cover allowed them to see a ring of fire.

Ken added he had a great time watching it at a party.

Chris saw *Dark Shadows* and loved it. He thought Eva Greene was HOT. He also reviewed the 4-5-6 restaurant as amazing—again. He particularly likes its drunken chicken dish.

We did auctions.

Rumor of the Week: “*Dark Shadows 2: Electric Boogaloo.*”

We adjourned 9:49 p.m.

**Meeting 1139**

May 28, 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 very 8-ish
We established a party jar
26 people attended
The minutes of meeting 1138 were accepted as “4-con hangover”

The Treasurer reported that “we have money”

The VP was not present

The President had nothing fannish to report

The Party Committee had parties at Clockwork Alchemy on Friday night & at Baycon on Saturday & Sunday - all went quite well - and Aatheus is the new Party Maven
Announcements

Ken announced that his Eurovision special is archived KFJC.com & his next special will be this Thursday, 10am-2pm - “Owl Stretching Time”

Geri volunteered to be the Cinema Committee & announced that the AMC theatres will have a Frankenstein special event on June 6-7

Adrienne announced that there will be a Bay Area Ghost Hunters meet up this Saturday, 1pm at the Moss Beach Distillery, $42 to attend

John O announced that next year BayCon’s writer GoH is Lois McMasters Bujold & that the fan GoHs will be John & Chris O’Halloran

Chris O announced that she is BayCon’s reigning Fluxx champion

Ed suggested that BASFA needs to advertise itself to draw in new blood

Carole announced that Clockwork Alchemy did well this year and that there WILL be another Clockwork Alchemy next year [yay!]

Dave G announced that Borderlands in SF will host Mary Robinette Kowal at 3pm & Mira Grant [Seanan McGuire] at 6pm & John O followed with the news that the Newsflesh series has been optioned

Reviews

Lisa reviewed Clockwork Alchemy as really nice for a 1st-time convention - and that trying to go to 3 cons is insane; all who followed gave opinions about how excellent the con was - except for getting registered - & Ed mentioned that Baycon offered a linked membership discount for those trying to go to all 3 cons

Diane reviewed BayCon as phenomenal - worth her lost sleep, that the BASFA and Westercon parties were wonderful and that she WILL be going back; Dave C said Dealers Room was moved and that was a good change overall; & other comments about the con were positive and that it had a lot of good spirit, cheer & enthusiasm

Mo reviewed Fanime as she & Dann worked the Art Show, that it was excellent and space for it will be quadrupled for next year - that the resin dragon was incredible & the costumes were tremendous; again all following comments were positive - except that registration was a bear, not helped by a power outage at one point

Terri reviewed The Avengers movie as full of eye candy for women, it was funny & extremely loud - very enjoyable; John O said that in loud theatres you might miss the best line “Puny god” - although Ed voted that “Hulk ... smash” was the better line; & Dave G finally saw the shawarma scene

Dave G reviewed the Nebula Awards Banquet as a lot of fun & recommended it

John O reviewed Maker’s Faire as growing bigger every year & amazingly cool to walk thru - you need to go both days to see everything - the parking is a problem & Fred suggested “friending” them on Facebook so you can buy tickets to go at the best possible price

[tall] Kevin reviewed seeing Thanks for Playing the Game Show Show as well worth re-seeing and the $44 ticket price; Lisa also enjoyed it & applauded the set crew

We did auctions

We adjourned at 10:03 pm

And the rumor of the week was: “next year no Jersey Shore LARP”
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, 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

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
$65

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. $85

Saturday-Sunday, August 11-12

Kin-Yoobi Con
The Hilton Newark/Fremont Hotel
39900 Balentine Drive, Newark
www.kinyoobicon.com
Kin-Yoobi Con focuses on featuring a diverse array of events, from game shows to fashion shows, from scavenger hunts to fan dubbing, from karaoke contests to video game tournaments! We want not only to cater to the otaku and hardcore gamer but also the average anime fan and game player. $30 (till July 20)

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: Nicola Griffith, Kelley Eskridge, Eric Shanower, David Maxine, Warren Frey, Steven Schapansky, Chris Burgess. $65

Thursday-Monday, January 17-21, 2013

Further Confusion: Forbidden Planet
San Jose Convention Center
San Jose
furtherconfusion.org
Further Confusion is one of the largest international conventions celebrating anthropomorphics in all its guises. With an attendance of over 3,000 and growing, it is one of the premiere events of its kind. Further Confusion includes charitable benefits, educational seminars, art shows, panels and general social activities. $45 (Till December 30)

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.

$215
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ongoing</th>
<th>Sundays</th>
<th>Mondays and Wednesdays</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daily</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bad Movie Night</strong></td>
<td><strong>Silicon Valley Boardgamers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cartoon Art Museum</strong></td>
<td>The Dark Room Theater</td>
<td>Mountain View Community Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>655 Mission Street, San Francisco</td>
<td>2263 Mission Street, San Francisco</td>
<td>201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.cartoonart.org">www.cartoonart.org</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.darkroomsf.com">www.darkroomsf.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb">www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Current exhibitions: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (through April 15, 2012). Small Press Spotlight on Karen Luk (through December 5). 11-5 p.m.</td>
<td>Featuring bad movies old and new. 8 p.m.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>$6 (Closed Mondays)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2</td>
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<td><strong>San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sakuramento Anime Society</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesdays</strong></td>
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<td>Begins: Queen Anne Hotel</td>
<td>Rancho Cordova Library</td>
<td><strong>MGI Boffers &amp; Outdoor Games</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco</td>
<td>9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova</td>
<td>Codornices Park</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.sfghosthunt.com">www.sfghosthunt.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.saclibrary.org">www.saclibrary.org</a></td>
<td>1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closed Tuesdays. 7-10 p.m.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>mgisciaf.angelfire.com</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>Bad weather: we meet the same time at 33 Revolutions Record Shop &amp; Cafe, El Cerrito for boardgames. 3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VIZ Cinema</strong></td>
<td><strong>SF Games</strong></td>
<td><strong>Free</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1746 Post Street, San Francisco</td>
<td>Zephyr Cafe</td>
<td><strong>Principality of Mists Fighter Practice</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newpeopleworld.com/films">www.newpeopleworld.com/films</a></td>
<td>3643 Balboa Street, San Francisco</td>
<td>Twin Creeks Sports Complex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>vax.hanford.org/dk/games</td>
<td>969 Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week. 2 p.m.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.westkingdom.org/node/343">www.westkingdom.org/node/343</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>SCA event. Non-members must remember to fill out a waiver form. In case of rain, call from 3pm on to determine if the facility will be closed that day. 408-534-1169. 7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.basfa.org">www.basfa.org</a></td>
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<td>mgisciaf.angelfire.com</td>
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**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

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**Thursdays**

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

**Fridays**

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

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**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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

SF Browncoats
Cafe Murano
1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco
www.sfbrowncoats.com
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.
Noon
**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  
misciaf.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/3110722-10  
Meets the fourth Friday of the month.  
7 p.m.  
Free

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

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

**Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE**  
Round Table Pizza  
4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento  
916-338-2300  
Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.  
6 p.m.  
Free
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by Lucy Hunzinger
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*Science Fiction/San Francisco* is the monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area – www.efanzines.com.