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## Art Credits

- **Endeavour’s last flight** by Lucy Huntzinger  
- **Tristan x Isolde** by Peter Mohrbacher

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By Jean Martin
Editor-in-Chief

Well, this summer surely came and went really fast. It started with my wedding and will now be ending with my honeymoon. As I look back through these past three months, I did manage to get a lot of other fannish things done.

I didn’t get to go to Chicon 7, this year’s Worldcon, but España, Tom and Chris Garcia went. We have reports from España and Chris Garcia in this issue … with Chris still glowing from his Hugo win from last year. This year, the Bay Area’s own Maurine Starkey won Best Fan Artist and we at SF/SF congratulate her on her well-deserved win. Charlie Jane Anders of io9.com won for Best Novelette and Seanan McGuire was part of team that won for Best Fancast. Not a bad showing for our home turf.

What I did a lot of this past summer was watch shows, which is something I haven’t had the chance to do much of since I am usually too busy with more participative events, which I often prefer. However, I went to see four great shows, which I review in my Fannish Summer article in this issue. I also went to four historical events, on a castle tour and on a zeppelin ride, which are discussed in the same article.

What is not in my Fannish Summer article is a momentous event on PBS recently when KQED+ (which used to be KTEH, and is still my favorite station despite the name change) aired Wagner’s Ring Cycle that was filmed live at the Metropolitan Opera in New York last year. I’ve always wanted to see the Ring Cycle, but missed it both times it was produced by the San Francisco Opera since I moved to in the Bay Area. I even missed this latest Metropolitan Opera when they were screened live in theaters by Fathom Events. However, seeing it on TV is the next best thing, and actually, I think it’s probably better seeing this four-opera epic in the comfort of one’s living room and with frequent station ID breaks. Each opera is longer than the ones before, with Götterdämmerung clocking in at almost five hours. They are usually shown four days in a row. I can’t imagine having to sit in a crowded theatre for four straight days for so many hours!

As for the production, by Robert Lepage, which was widely criticized, I actually quite liked it even though it was a bit modern and used the latest technology in background projection, lighting, puppetry and special effects. I think modernizing Wagner a bit worked in its favor because I found the acting, music and general style quite entertaining, fresh and fast-paced and not slow, boring and monotonous. Being entertaining really helps if one is watching such long shows. I found myself glued to the screen and mesmerized by the story, singing and music. The costumes, while also slightly modern, still retained the feel of Norse mythology and each character was clearly represented by what they were wearing. I’ve never seen Bryn Terfel perform before, I’ve liked his singing in the past, and he was very charismatic as Wotan. The women were all beautiful and I especially loved the Rhine Maidens “swimming” while singing. Siegmund and Siegfried were both
handsome and heroic. Brünnhilde, played by the amazing Deborah Voigt, was my favorite character. Thus, it is no surprise that the opera I liked the most was *Die Walküre*.

While I was watching all four operas, I was struck with the resemblances between elements of the story with J.R.R. Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings*. I knew about this, of course, and Tolkien has denied being influenced by the *Ring Cycle*, but there are numerous similarities such as the ring of power, dwarves, giants, dragons, etc., that one cannot ignore. But then Tolkien and Wagner were both influenced by the same Norse legends and myths. Also, it is not surprising that most works of fantasy have similar tropes and myths from all over the world have similar stories and characters. In fact, the *Ring Cycle* also included a “sleeping beauty” and a sword that is pulled out a tree (similar to King Arthur pulling a sword from a stone).

For extra credit, I’ve been rewatching the three *Xena* episodes that were inspired by the *Ring Cycle* to see how much these episodes cleave to the original source material.

I don’t have much else to say other than I hope that everyone had a great summer. I’ll be on my honeymoon when this issue comes out and so I’ll see you all on the other side. That’ll be as the autumn starts and with the few remaining months of the year still full of fannish activities before the year comes to a close.

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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

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*Tristan x Isolde*  
by Peter Mohrbacher
By España Sheriff

Editor

This year’s World Science Fiction convention was held in Chicago, at the Hyatt Regency on East Wacker Drive. This was my first proper visit to Chicago, having passed through the city while on a train trip to DC three years ago, but only just long enough to locate and consume some deep dish pizza. Needless to say I was excited to have an excuse to explore a little further, and to find me some more of that cheesy goodness.

Originally I had hoped to take the train again; Amtrak’s California Zephyr goes from Emeryville in the Bay Area to Chicago’s Union Station and is a very scenic route. Unfortunately it takes two and a half days, and my budget would only allow for coach tickets, which means no showers. It was still terribly tempting, because a whole group of fans would be on board, but in the end I couldn’t justify the cost and the time, and settled for flying in at noon on Wednesday, the day before the start of the con.

A lot of other folks were also scheduled to arrive throughout Wednesday, including John Coxon, who I planned to meet at the airport after having checked in and dropped my bags off. Our roommates for the weekend, Jason Schachat and his girlfriend Melissa, were scheduled to arrive a few hours after that.

As it turned out, while my own flight was uneventful and on time, almost everyone else seemed to experience various travel contretemps. I first saw rumblings on Twitter from various UK-based fans and shortly after I received a text from John saying his flight had been canceled and he was on his way to a London hotel along with a whole slew of other British fans who were now scheduled for a Thursday morning flight.

Jason and Melissa were only a little late comparatively, arriving on Wednesday night after being rerouted from Los Angeles. They got in before closing time at the closest pub, so that worked out fine. Leigh Ann Hildebrand joined us for a pint shortly after her own plane landed near midnight.

Thanks to the magic of timezones, the rescheduled United flight carrying the cream of UK fandom landed around noon Chicago time. I, however, was late to meet John, finding myself lost on the way to the CTA light rail station and then again at the airport itself. (I had gotten lost on the way to the hotel upon arrival as well, which I thought would prevent the issue from recurring... in the end I spent quit a lot of time lost over the course of the convention.)

Due to his innate British sense of politeness, good humor, and possibly simple gratitude at finally being on the ground, John took my tardiness gracefuly and only teased me about it constantly forever until I die. Still, eventually we made it to the hotel intact.

We met up with Jason and Melissa and headed to registration so everyone could get their badges, then shuffled a few steps over to the panelist check-in area to get our
schedules. Our timing was fortuitous; the inimitable Warren Buff was manning the desk. We shot the shit and held up the line for a bit before the lure of coffee became overwhelming and we decided to check out the green room.

Chicon combined the green room with staff feed, and provided quite a nice spread over the weekend, keeping me very happy indeed. John discovered that they had Mountain Dew (apparently the US version of this product has extra-delicious poisons that have been outlawed in Europe) and there was enough variety to keep it fresh. There were also adjacent quiet rooms for folks to gather and pre-plan their panels, though neither of the ones I was on did this.

Coffee in hand we examined our packets, which were quite nice, with a slick looking program book and badges that were a nice solid plastic, with useful information like the main events printed on the back. The pocket program was printed as individual sheets, one per day excepting Friday/Sunday which being half a day each shared a sheet, one day to a side. All of this came in a cute Jack-O’-Lantern plastic bag provided by the sponsors, costumes.com.

Caffeinated and informed, I headed to the art show to hang my art. It’s always hard to get the proper time to see the art show, since it ends so much earlier than everything else. Still, John insisted on making the time, and we managed to get there on Sunday afternoon and see a good half of it before being chased out. Some standouts that spring to mind were Todd Johnson’s Lichtenberg figures and some wonderful illustrations by Youchan. As with Renovation, Chicon put together a lovely printed catalog, for purchase at a very reasonable $10. I hope future conventions continue this tradition.

Once I had hung my art I stopped by the Fan Lounge to drop off the WOOF contributions for this here fanzine, and also for the Geek Girl Crafts Podcast Fanzine. WOOF is an APA-style publication that is put together at Worldcon, essentially a compilation of one-shots or excerpts of the work of any fanzine editors who wish to participate, giving faneds a chance to get their zine out to new folks. The whole thing is collated and distributed at the convention. I spent some time chatting with Chris Garcia, and got to hear some of the post-WSFS business meeting chatter. The business meeting being where things like changes to the Hugos or Worldcon are suggested; it is open to any member of the convention and at
Reno I found it quite interesting, but it’s also held unfortunately early in the morning.

I did make it to the Fannish Inquisition, which is where the committees for the upcoming Worldcon bids submit to questions from the audience. Since Worldcon moves cities every year, it is a very useful forum for people to find out about things like accessibility, transportation, and so on, before deciding which city to vote for.

And this year, there was some extra excitement during the Inquisition, having to do with the 2015 Worldcon choices. (2013 was already voted on last year, it will take place in San Antonio. The 2014 site was voted on during Chicon but London was popular and unopposed).

The main focus was going to be on Spokane and Orlando, the two cities bidding for 2015. The two bids are quite different, geographically and in terms of personality. And a lot of people seem truly undecided as to which committee and location they prefer. I personally wasn’t feeling a whole lot of excitement for either bid, and was mostly there because John is with the London committee. The room was small, and full by the time we arrived (a recurring theme for the weekend) so I sat on the floor to read my phone. We both considered leaving after London was done, but there was no polite way to exit a packed room from the rear so we stayed... and then things got interesting; as the Spokane and Orlando committees headed for the podium I heard the word “Helsinki” and John prodded me to pay attention.

Now, there had been a spoof bid for “Wårldcon in Mariehamn 2016” (on Åland in the Baltic Sea). Joke bids are a time-honored tradition and a great excuse to host a party and promote your local fan group. They often attend the meeting and answer questions if asked directly, it livens things up, if nothing else.

But this wasn’t 2016 we were talking about yet, so I stood up to see what was going on; three bids were at the table. Eemeli Aro, an upstanding member of Finnish fandom was announcing a serious bid for Helsinki to host the realio-trulio Worldcon in 2015. The room was amused and delighted, in varying degrees, mostly having to do with how much or little they knew about the man and Finnish fandom. Not knowing much, I started out amused, and ended up delighted.

I turns out Aro has worked closely with British fandom, is a part of the legendary Scandinavians whose parties are famous in UK and Worldcon circles. And more than that, Finnish fandom is in his words “kinda huge”... their annual convention is one of the largest in Europe, with attendance routinely hitting 4000 and having reached a peak of 17000 in recent years when combined with the Finnish Anime convention. I’m a big fan of including more of the world in the Worldcon circuit anyway, so if the follow up is solid this promises to be a great bid that I will certainly vote for.

Once 2015 was done, 2016 was next with just Kansas City. I have no real opinion on this one really, other than really enjoying their parties. Then 2017 surprised us again with two more non-US bids, this time for Montreal and Japan. The later has the curious problem of having its greatest strength also be its greatest liability; Nippon 2007, the first Japanese Worldcon was a mixed success, so people might be wary of a repeat of issues from last time. On the other hand, the new bid can take everything they learned and build a better convention this time. I hope the best for them and would love to attend if they win. Montreal is a more comfortable fit for most Westerners,
culturally and distance-wise, and I haven’t attended any of the Canadian Worldcons so on a personal level that would be fine with me too. Either way, it’s nice to see the trend towards a more global event continue.

The rest of the weekend held no more dramatic surprises, quite the opposite really. Programming seemed a bit lackluster as whole, with a solid space science track and not much else to grab my attention. There had been some crowd sourcing pre-convention, which made me hopeful, but this seemed to result in panel suggestions being taken up with little refinement, sometimes even appearing in the schedule with descriptions pulled straight from the suggestion form, such as “I would be willing to moderate a panel on the Zombie Apocalypse”.

And from the panels I did see or considered attending, it looks like Chicon dropped the ball on gender parity big time, most panels were male dominated, often by a large margin. It was a bit depressing, and added to my general ennui regarding programming. (For those curious, I ended up crunching some numbers on the Friday schedule, to make sure this wasn’t just bad luck on what I happened to notice, and the results I came up with are actually worse than I expected, I’ll probably write more extensively on this elsewhere).
My own panels went well enough. The first was a lively discussion on mobile technology, which was honestly not exactly what I had thought it would be about from the original description. Still, I hope we managed to entertain. The second was a costuming one which also seemed to drift a bit from the original premise, though in this case that meant I was not very useful at all on it. The panels I attended were better though; Jason Schachat was one of five people talking about occasions in which the movie is as good as or better than the movie adaptation, it was boisterous and as usual there were not enough seats. The TAFF at 40 panel was also quite interesting.

I made it to two of the space guest talks; Sy Liebergot spoke about his experiences as a flight controller during Apollo 13, which was fascinating, if a bit technical. And John Scalzi interviewed guest of honor Story Musgrave, which was the highlight of the convention for me. Musgrave is a modern renaissance man, with the resume of ten men and a raconteur spirit that made the interview format almost a formality. He got a standing ovation at the end and a well-deserved one at that.

The large room was packed for Musgrave, but as mentioned, that was true of many of the rooms. Although they varied in sizes fairly dramatically, all but one of the ones I attended ended up at capacity. Aside from obvious big draws, like GOH events and so on, it can be hard to gauge exactly what is going to need a 200 person room and what will do fine in a 50 person one, but judging from the post-convention chatter, this does seem to have been an issue with the space. Another being the rather labyrinthine layout.

While Chicon did have the much-requested advantage of all taking place in one facility (the Hyatt has two towers, but they are connected on several levels) this was not necessarily as superior to a flatter multi-facility layout as one might suppose. I mostly managed to learn my way around and it was nice not to have to leave the hotel in the hot Chicago weather, but it was all a bit confusing and the elevators and escalators were always crowded. It’s never easy to find a facility that makes everyone happy, but better signage and putting some more thought into accessibility would have gone a long way towards improving the experience for a lot of members.

Which brings me to the Hugo Awards. We arrived a little before the doors were supposed to open, and the line was huge. However it started moving almost immediately as in short order we filed into the auditorium, which was full. There appeared to be a handful of single empty seats scattered about, but not more than that, so we headed as a group to the back wall, which was soon lined with people. There were large monitors on either side of the stage, so after the fan categories we sat down on the floor and watched those. It seemed a reasonably large ballroom, but apparently not enough to accommodate the awards, even with an overflow room available. This seems unfortunate, since surely it’s easier to gauge the size necessary for the big events than for one-shot panels?

In any case, the show itself was generally quite good. Our Toastmaster, John Scalzi, presented all the awards himself. This was apparently done in the interests of streamlining and mostly worked quite well. However I’m not sure how desirable it is as a ongoing thing. The length of a show is subjective, a two-hour ceremony with an entertaining host is superior to a ninety minute one with someone you personally find boring or unfunny. Likewise, Chicon had the advantage of
not having a TAFF delegate (who normally presents for Fan Writer) in attendance, and of Scalzi being a previous Campbell winner and therefore an appropriate substitute for Lev Grossman who as the 2011 winner would have been presenting had he been at the con. Still, it worked well for this year.

I was delighted with most of the winners, including several Bay Area folks. Mo Starkey won Best Fan Artist. Charlie Jane Anders took home Best Novelette for her excellent “Six Months, Three Days”, and Locus retook the Semiprozine award, which will keep the internets busy with discussions for the next few months. Several of my favorites won, including Ken Liu’s fantastic “The Paper Menagerie” for Best Short Story, and finally John Picacio for Best Artist. Picacio gave a shout out from the podium to one of my favorite all-time artists, the late great Richard Powers, which made me very happy. Best Novel went to Jo Walton’s Among Others, which was in my top two (even I don’t remember if I put it first or second), and although Community did not win in its category, I didn’t expect it to, and “The Doctor’s Wife” not only heartily deserved the rocket, but meant we got a wonderful Neil Gaiman speech out of it.

Since we were standing already, we left a tiny bit early to beat the crowds to the elevator. This worked out quite nicely, and soon John, Jason, Melissa, and I were methodically working our way through the parties. They were spread vertically over several floors, with mixed results. Clearly the only rooms suitable for parties were the suites, and so each floor generally had two parties, with the top two floors a little busier since they had the big fancy suites. On the other hand, this meant that you had to either wait for the elevators, or travel up the stairs one floor at a time as we did, which was not ideal for a lot of people. On the other hand, having more parties per floor would have overcrowded the hallways very quickly. So I think it worked reasonably well given the architecture. The most obvious issue for those exploring was that the hotel had prohibited any sort of signage attached to walls — even with the traditional blue tape. Wire racks were provided, but this meant that the hallways themselves often showed no visual signs of life until you were right at the party doors. We guided ourselves by sound initially, and then by the knowledge that the suites were at the end of the hallway anyway so that was the place to check.
Even with the decorative constraints mentioned, several parties managed to put on a great shindig. Helsinki, Kansas City, London 2014, Dublin and Nippon all had plenty of atmosphere, good nibbles, and a plentiful variety of drinks. I drank sake, plum tea, a martini mixed by a robot, and a whole selection of local microbrews. The top floor had the most going on, including three great parties in a row; Dublin Eurocon, London 2014, and Convergence — which is a convention I had not heard until this year but seems to be making lots of friends, their 2013 theme is British SF, so it fit right in with the lineup.

We ended up spending the majority of our nights on that floor, with honorable mention going to the floor below and the Kansas Speakeasy. Orlando had a cool Soviet theme going but not much information on the bid, whereas Spokane had a lot of information but not much else. Westercon 66 had Kevin Roche’s latest creation, a martini-mixing robot named Thinbot. Barfleet had a suite of rooms that seemed constantly packed but a little alarming. There were a bunch of other parties ranging from quieter book launch ones to more focused interests. In short, there was something for just about everyone.

Another problem with the Hyatt was the lack of an obvious central gathering space. The Fan Lounge was located near the dealer’s room, and therefore accessible only from a side entrance after business hours. The main bar was tucked away, and didn’t seem very large anyway. There was a nice lower lobby area with couches near the main doors, but most fannish traffic during the convention proper was taking place on the upper lobby so there was no foot traffic or chance encounters here until the last day, when it was perfect by virtue of being near the hotel entrance and taxis stand. The couches were very comfy, though, and it was a good spot for those late night conversations which I associate with a good con.
In the evenings London 2014 felt most like home base, partly because John knows everyone there, partly because it was a truly excellent party, and partly because they blew the doors off in celebration once the votes were counted and they’d officially won the bid. There was much Pimms consumed (a drink I was convinced I detested but is actually not bad) and Union flags on every available surface.

Several other con highlights actually happened offsite, and involved food; a bunch of us went for deep dish pizza at Giordano’s, which was very, very good (even cold, for breakfast the next morning) and on Monday morning there was an excursion to find some famous Chicago-style hot dogs. We had been warned about the Chicagoan attitude towards ketchup (against) and didn’t embarrass ourselves. I personally am in the mayo camp, but I took it “with everything” as advised and liked it just so. We wandered back through Millennium Park to see the Jelly Bean, and stumbled across Crown Fountain on the way, which was perfect for the hot muggy weather and prompted us to take out shoes off and splash around a bit.

After that there was nothing left except sitting in the lobby and saying goodbyes until it was time to head to the airport. We chatted with Kevin Roche for a little while, and with various Brits also wiling away the time till their departures. John was staying another ten days with me, which eliminated the post-con blues and so we waited for our flight (delayed 30 minutes) and watched the tweets of all the folks flying out from Worldcon to the East Coast and overseas... every single one of which seemed to be stuck on some plane or other experiencing delays or airport closures — I felt bad for them, but it did weirdly bookend the chaotic weekend that was Chicon.
By Christopher J Garcia  
*Editor Emeritus*

The Monk lay in his roomette pallet, wise thoughts echoing in his wise head in a wise way.

And, of course, Chris Garcia was on that same train, heading across the Sierras, the Rockies, the plains, the passing days, the fleeing nights. It was three days halfway across the country.

And I couldn’t shower.

You see, the shower on the train didn’t fit me. I managed sponge baths, which meant I didn’t smell to high heaven, but it wasn’t as pleasant as I had hoped. The roomette was small, perfect for that Monk that has already achieved enlightenment, but for this big guy, it was a bit too tiny. Kevin Standlee and Lisa had the larger room, which seemed for more comfortable, but alas, low budgets have not the scratch to take the comfort that comes with traveling like a wealthy merchant. Such is the way of things.

There was lovely scenery, especially the wonderful gorges and valleys of the Sierras. I tried to get out in every state we passed through, but I only managed California, Utah, Iowa and Illinois. I missed Nevada, Nebraska and a couple of others. The food was amazing, considering it is the low-rise version of airplane food. They do a steak that is hella tasty, and the meatloaf was very good. As we pulled out of Denver, there was a llama farm. This forced me to make a Tweet: “OMG LLAMAS!” I ate well, something I did not expect.

But still, as we arrived in Chicago, I was happy to be off of the machine.

Chicago, the Windy City, the home of the Cubs and the Agony of Defeat. We arrived and the various other Bay Area Science Fiction Association (BASFA) folks went their separate ways. We ran into two Kansas City fans who had come in on the Southwest Chief and arrived at the same time. Linda and Jon, good folks. We took a cab to the Hyatt together. It was a crowded cab and I’m rather shocked we managed to fit supplies for three parties, a Fanzine Lounge, ChiKids programming and a Fan Fund Auction all in one cab!

We made it to the Hyatt where the first fan I saw was the wonderful Geri Sullivan. I’m sorry, Hugo Award winner Geri Sullivan. She is one of my favorite people in fandom and it was great to see her. We checked most of our bags, as we weren’t staying at the Hyatt that night. We walked around, ran into people, hung out with James Bacon, James Shields and the wonderful Alissa McKersie while they were setting up the ChiKids area. Linda worked very hard getting the Jedi Robes ready for them, and spent a lot of time helping them. They did an amazing job! We ran into people, and I chatted, and flitted, and chatted some more. It was a lot of fun for a day before the day before the con actually started. We had plans, though.

Now, I’m pals with Dave McCarty and his wife Elizabeth. She’s awesome, one of the best sarcasmists in the history of Mankind. Dave also happened to be the Chair of ChiCon7, so he was a bit busy. They have a daughter who I had only seen
through the multitude of Facebook posts that Liz has made over the last couple of years. She’s adorable! They came and picked us up and I got to sit in back with Miss Mia the Adorable. It was awesome! She had a select set of phrases, just like me! Maybe slightly more limited than me. She liked to say “Oh no!” and clap her hands in front of her. She was good at that one. She learned my name and she is actually better with an iPad than I am. It’s amazing. I missed that age with Evelyn, so it was a lot of fun to see a kid going through that stage. When we got to Dave’s house, she started running around and showing us her tricks. They were fun tricks, of course, and she was very happy to have visitors to show off to.

And there, in the living room, was a wall of boxes with a yellow paper sign taped to it. Liz informed me that they were the boxes containing the Hugo bases. No rockets, no nameplates, just the bases. I didn’t even think of opening one, because on top of the boxes was the “Mallet of Loving Correction” that had been made to present to John Scalzi, the Toastmaster at the con. It was pretty awesome as it was something like five feet long. We had some lovely chatting time, especially with little Mia. Dave came back home and we went out to a lovely dinner. It was a place called Revolution where they had this pretzel with cheese sauce that was A-MAZING! They also had bacon cheese popcorn. Elizabeth got a thing of fries with a chipotle dipping sauce, and as she was chatting with Dave, Mia grabbed a fry and dipped it into the Chipotle sauce, which led to her making perhaps the cutest face of all. She did not like it and it played over her face. She didn’t cry, or spit it out, but she made a face that was twisted and ick-displaying. I had chicken and waffles. They were awesome!

Linda’s sammich was giant and delicious as well. I was more than happy with the place, and even though it had been a fair bit out of Downtown where the con was, Charlie Stross, Feòrag and Cuttendun walked in as we were leaving. It was very nice to get things started like that.

Back at Dave’s, we settled into the downstairs and Dave needed to relax, so he popped in a movie I’d never seen, but he had reviewed it for The Drink Tank 300. It was called Real Men. You may have read my views on Dude, Where’s My Car?, and this was somewhat similar. It’s a science fiction hiding in a buddy cop movie. It’s a terrible script, though it’s competently filmed. There are some hilarious moments, and one that Dave and I greeted each other with several times was “No matter what happens, you’ve got to take out the two on the right.” It was late, I was beat from the train trip, but it was pretty awesome to watch it with Dave.

You see, there’s almost no time in the moments immediately before a con that a chairman can just chill, and here was Dave, obviously relaxed and ready. He’d had a rough day and he was relaxing with a movie he’d seen a million times. It was a nice moment. I like that Dave guy. And Elizabeth is wonderful too. And I’m sure that Mia is a handful, but she was endless entertaining and I am so glad I got to experience her at two, because she’ll obviously be growing up and I’m betting she’s going to be amusing.

Wednesday was the day before the con. We moved our stuff in and got the lay of the land. There were a lot of folks there we knew. Niall Harrison, Liz Batty, Anna Raftery, James, Alissa, Dave, we ran into folks from around the world, like Alan Stewart and Joe Siclari, and Bobbi Armbruster and Paul Cornell and on and on and on. Of course, there was Scalzi.
He’s always good fun.

The day featured Linda and I running over to the Shedd Aquarium. It was a good time. A baby beluga had just been born, so they had them sequestered on their own off display, but at least there were still three of them in a smaller tank swimming around, being all necked and whatnot. They’re awesome! My favorites were the fact that we saw none of the chameleons. They were in there, or so said the docents, but did we see them? No. It’s a good gag, that’s what it is. They also had penguins. I like penguins.

Getting back to the hotel, Linda helped James and Alissa and I ended up helping a little bit setting up the Boston Christmas WorldCon Bid Party. The Christmas decorating was awesome, and there were real presents. I love that. I played a little bit of Hipster Santa.

“I got you a present, but I don’t think you’ve heard of it.”

I would have helped out more, but I ended up helping the amazing Helen Montgomery to set up the Science Fiction Outreach Project to set up to give away books in the Fanzine Lounge. She had gotten a ton of books and it took a while to set up, but even I could tell that they were going to be popular throughout the weekend. After that, we joined our pal and relative BArea fandom newbie Chuck Serface at the Indian place in the basement of the next building: Khyber Pass.

My Ghod, this place ruled! The service was slow, it took forever to get our food despite that it wasn’t at all crowded, but once we got seated, got our food and ate, all was forgiven. The Khyber Pass Biryani, which all three of us got, was AMAZING! It was Extraordinary! It was AWESOME! There was shrimp, there was lamb, there was chicken, there was rice! There was Spice! I loved it, and it needed no Raita at all. We also had the Paneer Pekora, otherwise known as fried farm cheese, and it was even better. In the time since late 2008 when I entered into the territory of Indian food, I’ve discovered about a dozen things I enjoy, and these were two of them. We ate and Chuck kindly picked up the check. It was his first WorldCon, and he’s writing a report on his trip for The Drink Tank! One highlight had to be holding the Hugo, but mo’ on that later…

The party went off well, and I to get off to sleep early. I was beat!

Thursday was the first official day and I setup the Fanzine Lounge. Folks started stopping by, including folks like the Lynchs (of Mimosa fame), Andy Porter (of ALGOL), Adrienne Foster, and then various authors. You see, they had co-located several things in the lounge, like Koffeeklatches and the Outreach Books, but most importantly, they had put on a thing called Writers Under Glass. The concept was you’d have a writer writing in the Lounge while folks watched them. It never quite turned into the show they would have liked. The idea of doing a screen with what they were writing never happened, we didn’t have a big sign, and I don’t think it got covered many places. It did get some big names (like Charlie Stross, Bill Willingham, Nancy Fulda, and the Kollin brothers) and they all typed on my laptop! I’ve still got it on my machine, ready to go at the drop of a hat. We’ll be auctioning it off at San Antonio for the Fan Funds!

So, I was taking care of that and running around. I got to chat with folks, and that’s why I go to WorldCons, but I also started to run into people who knew me who I didn’t know. Mostly it was folks who had seen the video from last year and enjoyed it, but a lot of them were folks who had heard of me
through various things. Plus, there were a lot of WindyCon and MiniCon people whom I had met when I was GoH. It was weird at times, but it was a lot of fun. I am, if nothing else, an attention whore. This will become a theme later on in the con.

The day moved along, folks stopping by the Lounge, me walking all over the place and having a great time. John Coxon, my hero, was caught up in that United Airlines computer delay, and there were folks like Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer hanging around. I pointed out that since Mark had written two articles about me and my writing and editing styles (or lack thereof) that he was officially my Press Agent! He’s the best PR man a guy doesn’t have to buy! I love that! He’s awesome! I had wanted to get an issue of *The Drink Tank* out, but I was having WiFi trouble earlier, and then my computer was tied up writing the novel, so I was screwed.

Thursday night was the night at the Adler Planetarium. We got a bus over, taking with us a bag of Indian food from Khyber Pass. We had the Samosas and a couple of different types of Pekora. THEY WERE AWESOME! The Samosas, something I don’t usually enjoy, were perfect, with the soft buttery potatoes and peas playing perfectly with the fried dough of the exterior. I loved it! I looked at the old instruments, some of which we have in the collection of my museum.

We ran into various folks, including España Sheriff and John Coxon. We had fun. There was a real good party. London in 2014, where there were a lot of Brits. I like them! There were a few other parties, which are always fun, but we got to bed kinda early.

I also found out that our little Boston Bid sold more than $800 dollars in pre-supports on Wednesday! We’re still in the hole I think, it’s an expensive party, but it’s a good start.

Friday was a tough day, and it started with one of those sad moments. I was walking around and I didn’t see Rusty. He’s a guy who I always associate with WorldCons. It wasn’t a WorldCon until I saw Rusty scootering around, but he wasn’t there. He passed away and it was a big, sad deal. I missed talking with him. This would come up again in the Hugo ceremony.

Most of the day was chatting, watching the writers, enjoying more Pekora and Samosas, and then a panel on Iron Chef Flash Fiction writing with Mur Lafferty, one of my favorite writers and podcaster, Dr. Phil (not THAT Dr. Phil) and an author named Nancy. She was funny. On the third round, as I wasn’t going to be winning it and I knew it, my computer died halfway through the writing period, so I had to resort to paper. In less than two minutes, I crapped out this gem on the theme of Puppies:

Baldor the Puppy happily charged his way outside through the flap towards the lawn he was sure was on the other side of the door. After all the air had escaped, doggie doors were no longer listed as required elements of X-Class Generation Ships.

I told you I wasn’t going to win! Mur ended up taking it all home. She’s good like that. No wonder she was up for the Hugo for Best Campbell Award for Best New Writer (most assuredly a Hugo).

After that, it was fun and frolic again. We hung out and the Lounge was jumpin’ and I don’t remember a lot of it, but I know where we went that night … Giordano’s! I had promised the Brits we’d be getting pizza, but sadly, nowhere took reservations on Fridays, so as she usually does, Leigh Ann Hildebrand took charge and we ended up getting seated. There were veterans of the Au Pied de Cochon trip with me, Linda, Abi Nussbaum, Jason Schachat, Niall Harrison and his wife
Nic, and there were new faces like Leigh Ann, Jason’s girlfriend Melissa, John Coxon, España, Liz Batty, Anna, Heather Urbanski and Sean (last name forgotten!) It was great food and there was a lot of laughter. I also got a book, *Red Plenty* from Niall that I set on the table, but that fell in such a way that a corner basically landed directly on my most delicate of delicates. I spent about 10 minutes in coughing pain. The pizza helped though! It was amazing! I loved the amount of cheese and it may have been the best Italian Sausage I’ve ever had. AWESOME!

After that, it was the parties, which were good. We ran into Spring Schoenhuth, sorry I mean the Hugo-nominated Spring Schoenhuth, in the lobby waiting for the elevators (which was a theme of the convention as the lines were very long at night, and even at certain points during the day, the only trouble with using a single facility) and she said that she was going to a party I had heard of many times: Sweets. This was a party that I think is invitation-only but Spring said we should come with her, which we did. I don’t like crashing parties, but there was no way I was going to not be at Sweets if I had even a glimmer of a chance. The pours were good, and as I enjoy sweet wines, these were a mixed bag, but there was one, a legendary wine I’ve been hearing about for years that was a near mystical sweet that Bruce Pelz had bought up and is slowly being consumed after Mr. John Hertz took them after Bruce’s death. I had never tasted it, and here, it was amazing. I’ve not spent much time with Bobbi Armbruster over the years, and she was there, as was Fan GoH Peggy Rae Sapienza. I love Peggy Rae, and she had a little exhibit where you could mock-mow her lawn and they’d give you a ribbon. I mowed, but she wouldn’t give me a ribbon.

“Not until you deliver that Campbell Award exhibit” she told me. I am now working on it for San Antonio. That’s the joy of being a con’s Curator.

It was a great night, capped by a few parties and then back to the room for sleeps.

Saturday was looking like hell. I still had Writers Under Glass to make sure happened, and there were going to be three panels and a business meeting and a lunch. The first panel got canceled, which was nice, and the lunch moved to Sunday. Whew! They canceled the panel on Who Are the New Fan Historians in favor of the business meeting, which all the panelists wanted to be at. I wanted to make sure I got to vote on the matter of Best Fancast, but by the time I got there, it had been quickly passed. That was a good thing. That was followed by voting on the definition of Best Fanzine, which made blogs eligible again. That kinda sucks, but maybe it’ll help get a Best Blog category created! There was the re-ratification of the Best Graphic Story, which was a good and quick pass. And then it was the debate on Best YA Book.

I’m going to say two things that seem to contradict each other. I don’t want a YA Hugo, but I do want the San Antonio WorldCon to use their special Hugo to give it a go next year. You may ask why I would hold these two thoughts at the same time (and I did speak against the motion at ChiCon, rather briefly, but I think effectively), and there’s a simple reason: because I don’t know if it’ll work and if we go the route of putting it in the constitution there’s a permanence, even with a Sunset clause. The Fancast went up for ratification and then ChiCon gave it the chance and it proved that it could work. The doubters seemed to be largely silenced by the success and it went very smoothly. I could see that happening with a YA
category, but I could also see it going the same way as the gaming Hugo they tried at LACon that failed. There is the matter of having a Hugo for a Market Definition, which is something that’s tough, but I think giving it a run on a Ballot via the Single Year route is the right way.

What I really want is an award giving to YA novels through the WorldCon that is voted on by young readers. YA authors don’t seem to like that idea, but I see value in it. My biggest objection to the YA Hugo is that it’s once again a large majority of Adults telling kids what a good book for them is. I just don’t like that. I want the voice of the young to be the one that’s setting the tone. I’m told that will never fly. A couple of authors said that while they are targeted towards young readers, more and more adults are reading them, though that makes me question if we need the category because that’s covered in the Best Novel Hugo!

After that, some time in the Lounge and good chatter. This was the day of the FanEds Feast, which I didn’t go to, but it was also the day that I got to record interviews with John Coxon, Glug and Guy Lillian. I like that Guy! It was crazy, but fun. There were more writers, like Charlie Stross, and there was more Indian food, and a little Chinese. That was more than enough for me. Linda was wonderful, and I really don’t say that enough. She keeps me sane, fed, makes sure stuff happens, and most importantly, makes me happy. I love that. She also helped with ChiKids, and acted as my cover from talking with people. LOVE YOU, LINDA!!!!!

The TAFF at 60 panel was good, with Teresa and Patrick Neilsen-Hayden (Teresa recounted a conversation she had — “Doesn’t Chris have a giant ego?” “Are you kidding me? He’s all id!”) and John Coxon. It was a good time, and it was more a conversation than a panel, really. That was followed by Fanacademy, about archives and such. Juanita Coulson sat next to me! I was so happy to get to be on a panel with her and Randy Smith. We talked and had a very good conversation.

On the escalator, I saw a guy talking with a few people. As I made the landing, there, standing RIGHT THERE, was Bob Devny. He’s been a great fan writer for years, and he’s been on the Hugo ballot for ages, and I had never met him. I introduced myself and he was happy to meet me. SQUEEEEEE! With almost no exceptions, I can’t think of a guy I was happier to have met.

After that, it was Masquerade night, and there were some nice costumes, but it was a bit smaller than many Masqs I’ve been to. There was also the Wombat as the Masq MC, which was cool, but he had to vamp a fair bit and stumbled here and there. I feel for him. I’ve been there. There was a great Steampunk Kimono!

After that, there was a lot of partying to be done. Parties are awesome!

Sunday was the big day. It started with me working in the Lounge, and then it was the panel that freaked me out. They did a series of panels that were simulcast with Dragon*Con. The panel was on Movie Magic. Norman Cates was on it, as he works at Weta Digital, and there was one of the principal prop designers from Doctor Who, a puppeteer who had worked on a Muppets movie, and a couple of directors. Oh, and me. It was a good time. It turned out way better than I expected as we talked about what it was that effects did in a film and we told some great stories. I got to tell my jumping into the Charles River story (after which, one of the guys who watched from the shore said “You must be very dedicated to
your craft.”) and there was a lot of good stuff.

After that, it was time to prep for the Hugos. I started by going to my room and freaking out. I usually take a half hour or so to do that. It’s stressful, it really is, and I knew one thing that was ultimately going to suck about the evening. I just sat in there and stared at the ceiling. It happens. I dressed (well, changed my shoes) and then Linda got dressed in her loveliest corset and looked stunning. She always does. We headed down to the Hugos pre-party and it was, as always, AMAZING! I’d go so far as to say AWESOME.

The first thing was the food was better than most years, and we chatted with Mary Robinette Kowal, Seanan ‘Mira Grant’ McGuire, Tara O’Shea, James Bacon and many, many more. I even got to meet a guy who flew on every Space Shuttle: Story Musgrave. It was a lot of fun. They always take pictures before the ceremony, and they managed to do two of the categories in regular time, but they held off on the Best Dramatic Presentation Short Form until just before we went in.

And that one was the AWESOME one!

You see, that was the category with Chris McKenna and Dan Harmon (the folks of Community, my favorite TV show) and Neil Gaiman, the gentleman who wrote the Doctor Who episode that was certain to win. Now, in the Community episode, there was a segment where Abed gave all the characters fake goatees to represent the Darkest Timeline. Liz Batty, one of England’s top fans and an excellent writer, had cut a few fake goatees on the fly and gave them to me. I got the guys to all wear one for a photo.

IT WAS AMAZINGLY AWESOMELY AWESOME!!!!

After that, it was the ceremony. John Scalzi did a great job, though I did kinda miss SilverBob (Robert Silverberg) doing his schtick. First, they presented a Big Heart award to one of my heroes, the aforementioned Juanita Coulson! That made me very, very, very happy. It was a good start. After that, there was the scroll of the fans and pros who had passed. I was crying the whole way through, especially when they showed Kathryn Daugherty and Rusty Hevelin. Crying, crying, crying.

After that, they gave out the awards, one of the first being Mo Starkey winning the Best Fan Artist Hugo.

I was so happy, I ran over to hug her. Without question, there was no better win for me. I love Mo, and there is no one I’d rather see win because not only did she do a lot of her art last year for me, she also is one of those folks who just needs a win. And she got it. I was so happy. Overwhelming joy, that’s what I was feeling. She’s wonderful and I am hoping that this is only the first of many. It was the one win for the Drink Tank family.

That’s right, we lost all of our Hugos. We had the most nominations in Fanzine (83 noms, the second most being Banana Wings with 42) and I had the most for Best Fan Writer (more than Jim C Hines, which really shocked me), and we weren’t close in any of the categories. Still, it was fun to be up there with those great folks. I did get to meet John DeNardo of SFSignal (really nice guy) and Jim Hines (again, great guy, and we did some Kung Fu photos!) and finally met John Klima (exceptionally nice guy that beat me for Best Fanzine in 2009). A few BArea folks won the Rocket, not only Mo, but also Charlie Jane Anders for Best Novelette (Six Months, Three Days), and Locus for Best Semiprozine. John Picacio, who was the BayCon Artist GoH in 2011, finally won for Best Professional Artist. I loved that!
After that it was the Hugo Losers party. The best of the moments happened in that party. The first was getting to meet the future of Science Fiction writing — E. Lily Yu. She was awesome, obviously, and she was so nice and we chatted and her story, “The Cartographer Wasps and Anarchist Bees,” was one of the truly great science fiction stories of the last decade. I have a feeling it will be anthologized for years to come! It was so very different. I loved it. There was also amazing Brisket and Sausage and PIES ON A STICK!!!!!! I loved that! The Root Beer was also awesome.

And then it happened. I went to chat with Mo and Chuck Serface (whose first WorldCon this was and he spent a lot of time holding a Hugo so how cool is that!) and Cat Valente, Hugo-winning podcaster and Hugo-nominated novelist and fantastic writer) came up to me and introduced herself. SQUEEE!!!!!

I am a HUGE admirer of hers and she’s one of the great writers out there and I can not say how awesome it was to get to meet her.

We were pretty exhausted and we headed back to the room. I got a little sleep and woke up, threw everything into the bag and we moved out pretty much as soon as we woke. We were both beat. The day was pretty slow, I chatted with a few folks, completely exhausted and packed up. I basically did an early decompress. We gathered everything up to go over to the Super 8 at O’Hare. I stayed there on my journey to and from Dallas to New York last year. It was awesome. I was hoping to order a Chicago-style pizza from Room Service, but it was Labor Day and it was closed.

So, how was ChiCon VII? I loved it. I would do it all again!
San Jose Renaissance Faire

By Christopher Erickson
Senior Staff Writer

Downtown San Jose was transformed into a pocket of previous time and history where bodices and doublets were the fashion of the day. The Second Annual San Jose Renaissance Faire took over the grassy knolls of Silicon Valley on August 4th and 5th.

The production was amazing in the space that they occupied in Guadalupe River Park. The faire was situated in the Confluence East space of the park between St. John Street and Santa Clara Street East next to the HP Pavilion. The space is ideal for coming from all directions as you can access it from I-880, I-280, Highway 87 and from Highway 101 coming down Santa Clara Street. This area also hosted the San Jose Fantasy Faire back in April and was also organized by the same company, Renaissance Productions. The company also puts on the Valhalla Faire in South Lake Tahoe and the Folsom Faire.
This year’s show was very popular. The festival had several stages of entertainment, a number of interesting food vendors, and numerous encampments. The area was immediately inviting at the gate with the booth where tickets were sold providing a gateway to the world inside. Even the ticket checkers were in costume and posed for photos.

The entertainment was spread all throughout the faire. One of the stages featured perennial favorite Jack Spareribs providing his juggling and ventriloquism act as well as Michael Gallowglas performing his Bard’s Cloak of Tales. Another stage featured dancing and magic. Another stage also featured puppetry and Italian plays. I caught a bit of Jack Spareribs when we entered, one of the belly dance troupes, and a bit of the Italian play.

There were plenty of other entertainments as well. There were several encampments to wander into including Queen Elizabeth’s court, the encampment of St. John’s Guild (the Hospitallers), and fencing areas where people could learn martial arts. Other guilds were performing songs and had open-air pavilions for people to play games and interact with the performers.
One of the major attractions was the giant carved rocking horses. One was a unicorn and the other was a plain horse. People could climb up a stepladder and ride the horse as a handler pushed it. I rode the horse and had an amazing amount of fun.

The other major show was the joust. The tournament was held between two riders who battled each other with lances, tests of skills such as slicing cabbages and spearing rings while riding, and a full contact fight with swords, shields and other implements of destruction. There were lots of fans lining up to catch the show.

There were plenty of games for the young and their parents to play involving rolling balls, pond fishing and knocking down painted objects. There was also a “petting zoo” area where kids could play with stuffed animals in a nice shady area.

The amount of shopping was also staggering. There were lots of fine wares and clothing for sale, arms and armaments, pouches, and plenty of other items to complete decorating your costume or your house. The popular booth with bone pins that we see at a number of other faires was there. Several booths for jewelry and adornments were mixed throughout the grounds and there was also a booth that was selling patterns and other notions for costume design.

The food stalls were numerous. There were booths selling Siamese combination plates, Italian-style sandwiches, gyros, pizza and other similar dining options. There was a push cart that was hawking frozen treats made with fruit and honey, a
Bodices for Sale by Jean Martin

English Country Dancers by Jean Martin

Archery Range by Jean Martin

Bodices for Sale by Jean Martin
booth selling flavored lemonade and ice cream, and a very popular stall serving root beer, sarsaparilla and birch beer in refillable glass bottles.

The San Jose Renaissance Faire provided a lovely time in downtown San Jose for everyone who attended with lots of food, fun and frolicking. With the convenient locale and lots of available parking close by, this is a must-visit for everyone.

Radar, Chris and Jean enjoying the Faire
courtesy of Jean Martin
One of the growing patterns at the Elizabethan faires is seeing patrons dressed as characters from *Doctor Who*. I have been doing the same thing for a while myself since the time when I was tired of costuming as a pirate for the themed weekend at Casa De Fruta and went as the 10th Doctor. I imagined that it would be roundly mocked, but it actually got me noticed, and I was requested by the Queen’s court to give them an audience.

Since then, a number of other people have also represented the Time Lord in his various guises. There have been a few sightings of other personifications as well. Over the years, I have seen many fairies and mythological creatures, wizards, Mr. Tumnus from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and even a Starfleet officer. There have also been a number of people who have done representations from Disney such as Belle from *Beauty and the Beast* and Robin Hood.

With the rise of fantasy with recent shows like *Game of Thrones* and *Once Upon A Time*, Pixar’s *Brave* as well as *The Hobbit* coming out this year, I imagine that we will see a lot more in the way of medieval-style fantasy in costuming for the coming years. It will be a good place to do this style of outfits since the time period is correct and there are some patrons who wear outfits such as the suits of armor, chain mail and courtesan dresses.

The big draw for wearing any such outfit is the backdrops. With most conventions, you don’t really get a natural looking background to your photo opportunities. There are usually a lot people in the background, the décor might distract from the feel of the photo, and then you usually have major lighting issues. With a festival, you have an outdoor setting with tents, pavilions and others in similar costumes. All of these elements help to make the picture look more convincing and give it a great overall feel.

Some of the most popular and easiest costuming is to do fairies, wizards, witches and other fantasy characters. They were part of the fiction of the time including Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Sprites, nymphs and other woodland creatures are the perfect fit for a festival where there is an abundance of trees and grassland.

Anthropomorphic characters are another perfect fit since there are plenty of examples of animal representations in fairy tales, cartoons and fables that appear in outfits of a medieval or Elizabethan nature. Mickey Mouse as the “Sorcerer’s Apprentice”, Disney’s creations from *Robin Hood*, Puss in Boots, Shrek, Daffy from *Robin Hood Daffy* and Disney’s *Gummi Bears* all fit the time period.

Fantasy characters from Tolkien, the *Chronicles of Narnia* series, Arthurian legend, Disney animation, *Game of Thrones* and other similar stories are another option for costuming and play. Since most of the stories draw their inspiration from this epoch, there is a natural feel to seeing hobbits, elves and woodsmen with bows, arrows and swords.
Anime, manga and Japanese films are also great inspirations since there are a number of shows set in Sengoku and Edo period Japan. *Ninja Scroll, Rurouni Kenshin, Samurai Champloo, Lone Wolf and Cub* and the films of Akira Kurosawa (such as *Yojimbo* and *The Seven Samurai*) are all major examples of stories and fantasy that would mix in nicely as well. Oni (Japanese demons) such as the tengu would also be another addition that would work well.

Another source of fantasy that blends in is video games. Link and Zelda from the *Legend of Zelda* video game series, the Italian killers in the series *Assassin’s Creed* and the warriors from *Elder Scrolls* games. Since the games take place in a fantasy world usually set outdoors, the woodsy feel of most festivals would be perfect for photo opportunities.

Time travel and alternate versions of superheroes work as well. *Doctor Who*, the inventor from H. G. Well’s *The Time Machine*, time-lost Federation officers from *Star Trek* (as mentioned in *The Big Bang Theory* when there were not enough ren faire outfits) and people “dreaming” their way back into pervious eras such as in Mark Twain’s *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*. There are also a number of comic books that have been published over the years featuring familiar creations such as Superman, Batman, Green Lantern, the Fantastic Four and Iron Man, most notably in several Elseworlds titles for DC Comics such as *JLA: Riddle of the Beast* and *Marvel 1602*.

With a wealth of inspiration to draw from, there are several sources to dress as characters that would fit into the atmosphere of a festival inspired by Tudor period European history. Costuming for these events does not have to be limited to courtly dress or peasant garb. There is a lot of room to have fun and be creative.
By Jean Martin

Editor-in-Chief

I did a lot of fannish activities this summer as I mentioned in my editorial. I will briefly review the four shows I got to see and recount the four historical events I went to. In addition, I had two unique and interesting experiences that I’d like to report on. The first was the Pacifica Castle Tour and the second was my flight on a zeppelin through Airship Ventures.

The Gondoliers

My friend Cordelia Willis was part of the cast in the Gondoliers at the Lyric Theatre in San Jose, I love Gilbert and Sullivan, and I have not seen this particular production before. So I had several reasons to see this opera. I found out during the show that I actually know two other people in the cast, one of them in one of the leading roles, and so it was even more fun for me. The music, singing, costumes, acting and staging were quite delightful. I’ve only started watching shows at the Lyric Theatre since Cordelia recently joined the company but I’m sure I’ll be seeing more of their high-quality stagings in the future.

Henry V Set in World War II

I also got to see this year’s Free Shakespeare in the Park production of Henry V, which was oddly set in World War II. It was their first time in Redwood City and I wanted to catch it since it was so near to where I live. The musical interludes were charming and the acting was top notch. But I always did a double take when the English characters were talking about the French as the enemy. Still, I enjoyed the play as a whole and watching Shakespeare outdoors with a nice picnic lunch is just such a wonderful way to spend a warm summer afternoon.

Sci-fi-themed Pericles

Another Shakespeare play I saw was Pericles by Shady Shakes in Saratoga. This was sci-themed and was probably the
funniest and most entertaining Shakespeare play I’ve ever seen. Pericles, the Prince of Tyre, starts off in a planet ruled by Emperor Ming from *Flash Gordon*, then he goes back to his planet who are all depicted as Jedi (Pericles himself is in Jedi attire), we winds up in a planet that looks like something from *Stargate* (complete with the gate itself), he goes to a Klingon planet and falls in love and gets married there, and that is just the First Act. The Second Act sees the daughter of Pericles with his Klingon bride Thaisa grow up into Princess Leia (yes, she gets to wear the metal bikini), be rescued by Han Solo and reunited with her father and mother (who was encased in carbonite). All throughout, there were references to several other science fiction shows. There were references to *Doctor Who* (a Weeping Angel!) and *Firefly* (the crew of a ship were from *Firefly*). The most amazing part of the show was a light saber fight among six people (one in a *Tron* outfit), and the funniest, which really stole the show was the Red Shirt who was constantly being killed. Still, it managed to be Shakespeare all throughout and the reuniting of Pericles and his daughter Marina was quite touching and brought tears to my eyes.

**One Man Lord of the Rings**

Another play I watched was the *One Man Lord of the Rings* at the San Jose Repertory Theatre. I’ve been waiting for this since I found out about it and saw the same actor, Charles Ross, doing his *One Man Star Wars* last year. My friends and I went in costume for *One Man LOTR* as I did with another set of friends for *One Man Star Wars*. *Lord of the Rings* and *Star Wars* are two of my long-time favorite shows (with *Doctor Who* being the third one) that have really influenced my life and so I had to see both of Charles Ross’ productions. He has amazing physical stamina and a wide array of accents, actions and sound effects. It is incredible how remembers all his lines and all the personas he has to emulate. And it was amazing how he was able to capture the stories of all these movies (three each) into his show and add humorous asides. I have to say that I enjoyed his *One Man LOTR* a lot more, even though I did like *One Man Star Wars* as well. He did a great job voicing Gollum and there seemed to be more of a storyline that I could follow. Unfortunately, *One Man LOTR* didn’t seem to draw as big of an audience as his *One Man Star Wars*. I think a lot of people missed a really good show.
Historical Events
As far as more participatory events, I went to four historical ones. There was the San Jose Renaissance Faire (which Chris Erickson is covering in this issue), the Sunnyvale Centennial celebration (where Chris and I volunteered as costumed participants), the Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild’s Fallon House Picnic (which included a tour of the Victorian mansion) and the Period Events and Entertainments Recreations Society’s Robin Hood Ball (which had costumed roleplayers not only from the Robin Hood mythos but also from Ivanhoe and other similar stories as well).

Pacifica Castle Tour
Somewhat historical was the Pacifica Castle Tour that my friends and I went to (in costume, of course). This little known
gem is, yes, in Pacifica and has a wonderful view of the Pacific Ocean. The castle is only open for tours four days out of the year (I have no idea why) and so I couldn’t wait to go once I found out about it. The castle looks like a movie set and inside it is lavishly decorated with reproductions from movies. It was all surprisingly tasteful and elegant, and everything went together very well. Each room was different and beautiful in its own way. There were docents who portrayed previous residents of the castle as “ghosts.” Their stories were entertaining and the whole tour was quite enjoyable.

Flying in a Zeppelin

I’ve been wanting to go on the zeppelin since I saw it in the sky above my work a while back. I’ve had several friends go on it already and I started to make plans with friends to go in Steampunk costumes. What could be more Steampunk than going on an airship! However, scheduling and the high cost of the flights put those plans to rest. Still, I put it on my bucket list, I mean, this is the world’s largest passenger airship and it’s in our backyard! More recently, through my friend, and sometime SF/SF contributor, Louise Du Cray, I found out that you can sign up for last-minute discounted tickets. Then I saw the airship, Eureka, itself docked near a hangar in Moffett

Cosplaying at the Pacifica Castle Tour courtesy of Jean Martin

One of the ghosts in the Pacifica Castle by Jean Martin
Field as I was driving past. So I saw these as signs that I should go soon, and as luck would have it, I got an email for last-minute discount tickets! Airship Ventures is a high-class operation and they made us feel like we were experiencing a real airship flight from the days before commercial airplanes. The technical aspects of the zeppelin were fascinating and the views were spectacular. I got to see the Stanford Linear Accelerator as well as the Stanford Campus itself. Probably the most exciting for me was getting an overhead view of the location where Chris and I got married. The takeoff and landing were pretty smooth but the flight itself made me a little queasy. But I was too busy taking photos to pay attention to how I was feeling at the time. Although I did continue to suffer from mild motion sickness all throughout rest of the day. I was told by several people that motion sickness is hardly ever an issue on the zeppelin but I’ve been told that about trains, boats and helicopters and I have problems with all of those forms of transportation. Nevertheless, I’m glad I did it and it was truly a once in a lifetime experience.
Meeting Amtrak-6

August 27, 2012

Kevin Standlee, Emergency Holographic Secretary

Meeting Amtrak-6 of the Bay Area Science Fiction Association was held in the lower level of the lounge car of the California Zephyr. The meeting was called to order on August 27, 2012 at 7:17 PM as the train pulled out of Denver Union Station, Vice President Chris Garcia presiding and President Emeritus, etc. Kevin Standlee acting as Secretary. 9 people (including Kuma Bear) attended, plus those people crossing through the lounge to get to the restroom.

After a tie vote broken by the presiding officer, a party jar was established.

Previous Minutes
This being an out-of-sequence meeting, there are no previous minutes to approve.

Officer Reports
Vice President: There is no The Drink Tank out because the train has no internet access and therefore the editor hasn’t been able to reach his image files.

Committees
The Sports Committee reminds people that the outing to the Giants-Cubs game is for Friday afternoon. People attending the Friday Business Meeting will probably be late.

New Business
None
Announcements
There’s a convention going on around us: TrainCon!
There’s a Worldcon coming this weekend! In Chicago!
Chris announced that, when he asked for news from the outside world, España Sheriff said that The Singularity has been reached, which is pretty cool.

Reviews
Diane reviewed Amtrak as “way too much fun, worth full price, not matter how steep” and great food on board. *Moon Maze Game* (Niven & Barnes): Another amazing Dream Park novel.
Lisa D-H said, “Other than the fact that I got motion sickness and the upper bunk was a little harder that I would have liked, it’s been fun.”
Chris said the upper bunk was better than he thought it would be.
Diane said that having good company makes the trip better.

Auctions
Today is Kevin’s 47th birthday, but the consensus was that it was better for the club if we postponed the auction until the meeting at Chicon next Monday. (Time and place of said meeting to be determined.)

Rumor of the Week

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM, which means it started 27 minutes before it was originally scheduled to start.

Meeting 1152
August 27, 2012
Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary
Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale
Began 8ish - with Mo’s painted toesies
We refused to establish a party jar
18 people attended
The minutes of meeting 1151 were accepted as “needs more platypus”
The Treasurer was here after being out of town & reported that last week we took in $7.07 in the regular jar & $2.75 in the party jar
The VP was not here
The President had nothing fannish to report, except that he is life’s spectator & reminded folks to pay for their dinners - or else we will be put onto a single tab
The AdHoc Cinema Committee reported that *Moulin Rouge* is showing at the Retrodome this weekend & they will be there for the Saturday, 7pm showing

Announcements
Fred announced that [tall] Kevin had tweeted that the Amtrak BASFA meeting had begun.
Dave C announced that the Willows theatre is closed & announced that the august Cargo Cult catalog is out ... in August!
Josh announced that people had died
[evil] Kevin announced that there’ll be a Westercon 66 party at ChiCon, Friday in room 3352 & they’ll also have a fan table
JC announced that he was coaching his daughter’s soccer team and they had won their 1st game
Dave G announced that there’ll be a Chip’s 35th anniversary event at the LA Hilton on Sept 15
I announced “aaaaaaaagh”

Reviews
[evil] Kevin reviewed the Retrodome’s Monty Python & the Holy Grail as many folks came in costume & the film was mind altering as ever & it was packed - and the audience knew their stuff - absolutely worth full price; there were many other comments and all enjoyed themselves

We birthday auctioned off Mo for $15.00 to Josh & did other auctions
We adjourned at 8:53 pm
And the rumor of the week was: “you bastards”

Meeting 1153

September 3, 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 Oakmed Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began 8ish - taking ourselves lightly
12 people attended
The minutes of meeting 1152 were accepted as “Mo-bettah Hugo”
There was no Treasurer or proxy report
The VP was not here
The President had nothing fannish to report, except that he also mourns the murder of City of Heroes that is being killed with no warning by evil corporate lackeys
The AdHoc Cinema Committee reported that Spaceballs is showing at the Retrodome this weekend & the Saturday showing is the quote-a-long

Announcements
Aatheus proxy announced that Iron Sky will be showing in redwood City Sept 20 if they sell enough pre-ordered ticked by Sept 11 [they need 60 to commit] - check www.tugg.com/events/1462
I announced my sadness about the CoH murder and recommended trying Star Wars the old Republic MMO
Mike announced that the Mercado is showing *Flying Swords of Dragon Gate* in Imax this week
Ric announced that PechaKucha will be Sept 14 in San Jose at 3pm & he’s doing a Sept 16th web-seminar about powerpoint
JC announced a death & introduced us to his wife, Beth [hi Beth!]
Ken announced that Mo won a Hugo & announced [redacted]
Debbie announced that Westercon 2013 hotel reservations is up and running

**Reviews**
I reviewed Star Wars the old Republic mmo as a fun online game to play. The mmo is free to play to level 15, I’m on the Ebon hawk server & have been -very- impressed by the storylines
Ric reviewed the Hugo-cast as great - until the ’cast was killed by Ustream - but he got to see Mo win [and there was more neepery about that]
Debbie reviewed *The Girl in the Steel Corset* by Kady Cross as a YA steampunk book that she enjoyed and it had an actual ending
Ed reviewed Worldcon as fun and interesting - after he spent 5 days in the hospital - but he did NOT like Chicago; he approved of the large Dealer’s Room & the art show was good - and he’s still looking for a *Galaxy* 1980, volume 40, #1

JC reviewed *Bullet in the Face* as 6 episodes of dark comedy that is awesome & highly recommended & he absolutely loves it - check IFC & then [redacted]
Josh reviewed the UCBerkeley home opener as the renovations are awesome & the Bears lost & reviewed *The Fisherman’s Wife* as highly recommended & hilarious - it’s playing at the Impact Theatre for the next 4 weeks
Ken reviewed *Moulin Rouge* as fun & fantastic and a pretty good crowd & reviewed the Dr Who episode seen Saturday as you really need to see the end

We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:13 pm
And the rumor of the week was: “this rumor redacted redacted redacted”
Meeting 1154

September 10, 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 8ish - with Mo’s Hugo
31 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1153 were accepted as “truncated” & the minutes of the ChiCon meeting were accepted as “reread a week from tonight”
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $1.75 & $52.00 from the ChiCon meeting
The VP reported that there will be a new Drink Tank out soon - with a cover by Hugo winning Mo Starkey - plus a new Exhibition Hall soon
The President said “hi” to Rebecca Heineman from Seattle & one of the authors of Bards Tale - we welcomed her and Stellan & he warned that there will be fanac before the meeting end
The AdHoc Cinema Committee reported that Jaws is showing at the Retrodome this weekend & there’s $1.00 off of concessions if you wear your SJ Sharks gear & they also mentioned that Iron Sky will show [confirmed] in Cupertino at the AMC Cupertino Square Sept 20, 7:30pm [tickets obtained from tugg.com] - [plus, secretary adding that there is also an Iron Sky Sept 19, 7:30pm showing -confirmed- at the Santa Clara AMC Mercado]

Announcements
JC announced that the 2nd nerdvana podcast is out now - at nerdvanapodcast.com & also announced that his daughter’s soccer team are now 2-0
John O announced that he has a new job
Dave C announced that the Berkeley Target store is selling candicorn Oreos
Lisa announced that her daughter & son-in-law have bought a new house & that the son-in-law has a new job
Chris announced the next Journey Planet is due out in November & the deadline is Nov 1 - the topic being about James Bond and he is soliciting articles - send them to garcia@computerhistory.org & he announced that Mo had won a Hugo
There was much rejoicing [”yay!”] and champagne was served
and then Chris announced that he will have a piece in Worlds of Philip Jose Farmer #3
Stellan announced that he has a new job
Harold announced that there is an Iron Sky showing in Sacramento for Sept 12 at the Century Cinemark Stadium 14 [evil] Kevin announced that they will be sponsoring belt buckles for events at the 20th annual Best Buck in the Bay rodeo this weekend - Saturday & Sunday - in LaHonda; check bestbuckinthebay.com
Rebecca announced that she & Mo have formed a company = “Olde Sküül”
Bill announced that Carole did well at the ChiCon art show

Reviews
Worldcon was multiply reviewed as a huge success and a fun time by lots and lots of people [& it was “spiders all the way down”]
I reviewed Star Wars the old Republic MMO as a fun online game to play, with excellent character stories & it’s free to play to level 15 [I’m on the Ebon hawk server]
Harold reviewed prize fights as Oakland now has a champion & it’s worth watching for free
JC reviewed the Retrodome showing of Spaceballs as awesome fun
Tom reviewed N. K. Jemisin’s “Kingdoms” trilogy as high fantasy romance & surprisingly inventive with good world-building
Ed reviewed Ben Bova’s book Triumph as alternate world sf, nicely done

We did auctions
We adjourned at 10:16 pm
And the rumor of the week was: “the spiders, my friend, are blowing in the wind”

Meeting 1155
September 17, 2012
Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary
Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began at 8pm
24 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1154 were accepted as “Chris Garcia, MIA”
The Treasurer showed up late and did not report
The VP was MIA
The President said “hi” to Sten, originally from Sweden & now in the area - and had nothing fannish to report
The AdHoc Cinema Committee reported that Hairspray the Musical is showing at the Retrodome this weekend & that Iron Sky will show [confirmed] in Cupertino at the AMC Cupertino Square Sept 20, 7:30pm [tickets obtained from tugg.com] - [there is also an Iron Sky Sept 19, 7:30pm showing - confirmed- at the Santa Clara AMC Mercado]

Announcements
[tall] Kevin announced that on Wednesday there will be a talk given by Christian Wolmar, a British rails expert, on his
new book about US rail, *The Great Railroad Revolution*, at 6pm, at the Mechanic’s Institute, 51 Polk St, SF

JC announced that his daughter’s soccer team are now 3-0 & that Sept 28 is the premiere of this season’s *Big Bang Theory*

Howeird announced that he is in a production of *Anything Goes*, playing at the Saratoga Civic Theatre, Friday, Saturdays and Sunday thru October 6th and he recommends it

Ed announced that *Have Spacesuit will Travel* is due out in 2013

Bradford announced that he has had his 3rd academic review of his book

Lisa announced that Sept 22 is Hobbit Day & that [evil] Kevin won’t be here tonight

Reviews

Harold reviewed *Iron Sky* as it’s funny, makes reference to other films & has extensive credits - worth paying to see twice & recommended

Josh reviewed the Ring Cycle [all 4 parts] on KQUD/KQEH as he really liked it, the set didn’t upstage the actors & is worth seeing and even buying

Fred reviewed DragonCon as huge & crowded, a lot of fun & he has a wonderful time - then Mo commented that Jan Price does their parade

[tall] Kevin reviewed the train ride back from Worldcon as it’s warm in San Antonio & the train was early everywhere - they got into LA at 4am

Dave C reviewed *The Janus Affair* by Ballantine & Morris as steampunk fantasy, enjoyable and fun

We did auctions

We adjourned at 9:20 pm

And the rumor of the week was: “BASFA is one step closer to completing its Swedish fan collection”
Life is complicated; putting on an event is even more so. Please check before attending, as events are sometimes canceled or times and locations changed.

**Follow the calendar on Twitter:**
@sfsfcalendar

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

**Through October 24**

**Ransom & Mitchell: Smoke and Mirrors**
Varnish Fine Art
16 Jessie Street, San Francisco
www.varnishfineart.com
Ransom & Mitchell bring their uncanny tableaus to Varnish Fine Art in their first solo exhibition.

**Saturday, October 6**

**Macabaret: Grotesque Burlesque for the Sick and Twisted**
Oakland Metro Opera House
630 3rd Street, Oakland
www.facebook.com/events/363760133722099/
Round 2! More burlesque beauties, more fear and more blood! Flynn DeMarco MC.

**Friday, October 12**

**SFfinSF Litquake: Epic: Fantasy Literature is the Future, with Tad Williams, Ken Scholes, and Andrew Meyer**
Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org
Reading, followed by Q&A from the audience moderated by author Terry Bisson.
7 p.m. $5-$10 suggested donation

**Saturday, October 13**

**Anime Destiny**
MLK Student Union
UC Berkeley Campus, Berkeley
www.calanimedestiny.com
Anime convention, featuring bands, panels, artist alley, and more.
10 a.m. $10

**Sunday, October 14**

**East Bay Mini Maker Faire**
Park Day School, 360 42nd Street, Oakland
ebmakerfaire.wordpress.com
A Maker Faire is about celebrating learning and doing – not the finished and perfect end product. It’s a place to share what we’re learning with others, and celebrate the fun and freedom of being an amateur.
10 a.m. $TBA

**Friday-Sunday, November 2-4**

**Convolution 2012**
Hyatt Regency SFO
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
www.convolution.com
Convolution is a new, independent science fiction and fantasy convention in the San Francisco Bay Area. GOH: Steve Jackson, Howard Tayler, Julie Dillon, Steve Berman, Steven Brust

$55
Saturday, November 11
SFinsF: Kim Stanley Robinson and Cecelia Holland
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
7 p.m.

Saturday, November 17
The Way Tomorrow Was: A Retro-Future Burlesque & Bellydance Revue
50 Mason Social House, San Francisco
www.lightreclaimed.com/twtw.html
A celebration of all those futures of yesteryear hosted by Prof. Verhard Von Boom and featuring a bevvy of stellar starlets and intergalactic ingenues.
10 p.m. $20

Thursday-Monday, January 17-21, 2013
Further Confusion: Forbidden Planet
San Jose Convention Center
San Jose
www.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)

Friday-Monday, February 15-18, 2013
Pantheacon
San Jose Doubletree
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose
pantheacon.com
Pagan convention. This year’s theme is Cooperation, Tolerance & Love.
$55 (Till December 30)

Friday-Sunday, March 1-3, 2013
Consonance
Crowne Plaza San Jose/Silicon Valley
88 Bellew Drive, Milipitas
www.consonance.org
Filk convention. GOH: Ookla the Mook West, Merav Hoffman, Scott Snyder, “Downtown” Freddy Brown.
$50 (till January 15)

Friday-Monday, May 3-5
Corfu XXX
Red Lion Hotel
1021 Northeast Grand Avenue Portland, OR
corflu.org
Fanzine fandom convention.
$65

Friday-Monday, August 30-September 2, 2013
Celesticon
Fremont Marriott
46100 Landing Parkway, Fremont
www.celesticon.com
Celesticon offers four days of family-friendly gaming in the San Francisco Bay Area. Hundreds of game events, along with exciting special guests, sponsor prizes and gaming, gaming, gaming..
$50

Thursday-Sunday, July 4-7, 2013
Awesome! - Westercon 66
Hilton Arden West
2200 Harvard St, Sacramento
www.westercon66.org
$65

Thursday-Monday, August 29-September 2, 2013
LoneStarCon 3
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
San Antonio, TX
www.lonestarcon3.org
The 71st World Science Fiction Convention.
$160
**Ongoing**

**Daily**

**Cartoon Art Museum**
655 Mission Street, San Francisco  
www.cartoonart.org  
Current exhibitions:  
11-5 p.m. $6 (Closed Mondays)

**San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour**
Begins: Queen Anne Hotel  
1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco  
www.sfghosthunt.com  
Closed Tuesdays.  
7-10 p.m. $20

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

**Sundays**

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

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

**SF Games**
Zephyr Cafe  
3643 Balboa Street, San Francisco  
vax.hanford.org/dk/games  
SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week.  
2 p.m. Free

**Mondays**

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

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

**Mondays and Wednesdays**

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

**Tuesdays**

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

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

**Bay Area Role-Playing Society**
Go-Getter’s Pizza
1489 Beach Park Boulevard, Foster City
[www.BayRPS.com](http://www.BayRPS.com)
Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email [GM@BayRPS.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.fanboyplanet.com)
Live from Illusive Comics and Games, it’s the Fanboy Planet Podcast with your host, Derek McCaw.
6 p.m. Free

Thursdays

**CAS: NightLife**
The California Academy of Sciences
55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
[www.calacademy.org](http://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](http://vax.hanford.org/dk/games)
SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week.
7 p.m. to midnight Free

**Fridays-Mondays**

**Haunted Haight Walking Tour**
Meets at Coffee To The People
1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco
[www.hauntedhaight.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:commander@pensfa.org) for information on attending. PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host $2. Don’t smoke in the house without checking with the host first. Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.
Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers’ Group
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco
Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jude Livingston at sfscifi@yahoo.com for more information.

Monthly

Dorkbot-SF
www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf
Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity.
Free, donations welcome

Foothill Anime
Building 5015, Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
foothill.anime.net
Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.
12 p.m. Free

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

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

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

Spec Fiction Book Club
Keplers Books
1010 El Camino Real Menlo Park, CA 94025
www.keplers.com
Meets the second Sunday of every month.
4 p.m. Free

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

East Bay Star Wars Club
Central Perk
10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito
510-558-7375
www.ebstarwars.com
Meets the second Friday of every month.
7:30 p.m. Free

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

No-Name Anime
Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga
www.nnanime.com
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.
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 Free
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Borderlands Books</td>
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<td>866 Valencia, San Francisco</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.borderlands-books.com">www.borderlands-books.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Meets the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Jude at <a href="mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com">jfeldman@borderlands-books.com</a> for more information.</td>
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<th><strong>USS Defiance</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>5026 Don Julio Blvd, Sacramento</td>
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<tr>
<td>1566 Howe Ave, Sacramento</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.myspace.com/d2121978">www.myspace.com/d2121978</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>USS Northern Lights</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact <a href="mailto:firstjedi2000@yahoo.com">firstjedi2000@yahoo.com</a> for specifics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Micro Gods, Inc.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berkeley Public Library, West Branch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1125 University Ave, Berkeley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mgisciaf.angelfire.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Club for fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Movie, Anime &amp; Manga. Meets every 3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for updates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Religion &amp; SF Book Club</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First United Methodist Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1183 “B” Street, Hayward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets the 4th Sunday of the month. Please contact Rev. Randy Smith at <a href="mailto:RSmith2678@aol.com">RSmith2678@aol.com</a> for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Other Realms Book Club</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.booksinc.net/localinterest/291027">www.booksinc.net/localinterest/291027</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets the 4th Wednesday of the month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sci-Fi Book Group with Kym</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barnes &amp; Noble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Cerrito Plaza, 6050 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/event/3694215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets the fourth Friday of the month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Legion of Rassilon</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carl’s Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2551 N 1st St, San Jose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.legionofrassilon.org">www.legionofrassilon.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>USS Augusta Ada</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3567 Geary Blvd, San Francisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trek.starshine.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and *BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>916-338-2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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</table>
Endeavour’s last flight

by Lucy Huntzinger
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bad Movie Night Sakuramoto Anime SF Games</td>
<td>BASFA SF Boardgamers Haunted Haight</td>
<td>MGI Boffers Fighter Practice</td>
<td>BA Role-Playing Soc E.Bay Strategy Games Fanboy Planet Podcast SV Boardgamers</td>
<td>CAS: NightLife</td>
<td>SF Games Haunted Haight Vampire Walking</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SF&amp;F Writers’ Group</td>
<td></td>
<td>Macabaret Silicon Gulch Browncoats Rocky Horror</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Anime Destiny Fantastic Frontiers No-Name Anime SF Browncoats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foothill Anime Geeks Vs. Geeks (SM)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Litquake: Tad Williams, Ken Scholes, and Andrew Meyer East Bay Star Wars</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Bay Mini Maker Faire Spec Fic Book Club QSF&amp;F Book Club</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>USS Defiance USS Northern Lights</td>
<td></td>
<td>Micro Gods, Inc</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF/F Book Club</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SF&amp;F Writers’ Group</td>
<td>Legion of Rassilon Sci-Fi Book Group</td>
<td>USS Augusta Ada Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion &amp; SF</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Convolution 2012 (thru Sun)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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*Science Fiction/San Francisco* is the monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area – www.efanzines.com.