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First of all, happy new year to everyone! 2012 was the best of times and the worst of times for me, and it seems like with lots of people. At least according to most Facebook posts I read around the end of the year. Most people were glad to see the year end and were looking forward to a better 2013.

For me, last year was great due to my wedding and honeymoon. And I promise, next issue will have my fannish travelogue from my and Chris’s honeymoon tour of the UK. But 2012 was also extremely stressful and busy (hence, an over three-month lag between the tour and my travelogue). It also saw the loss of numerous people in fandom as I’d mentioned in my previous editorial. And I ended the year with a cold from Christmas through New Year’s Eve and wasn’t properly able to celebrate either holiday.

So, I’m looking forward to this year. While this January has already been stressful due to work and health issues, I am still hopeful that the rest of the year will be better. Positive changes are already in the works and I’m holding myself open to whatever opportunities come up this year. I’m also hoping to cross a few things off my bucket list. My mantra for this year is “joy.”

Well, one change that I was expecting, but am still sad about, is España Sheriff leaving SF/SF as Editor as she mentioned in her editorial in our last issue. España has been with us for a long time, and she’s also a good friend, so we will miss her for both these reasons. I’m very happy for her as she’s planning on moving to the UK to be with her boyfriend. Ah, I wish Chris and I can move to the UK too! But then, we love the Bay Area and our jobs, friends and activities are all here. And part of the reason I enjoy doing SF/SF is reporting on all the amazing things that happen in our corner of the world.

So Chris has stepped up as Managing Editor since he’s been writing a lot of our content lately anyway. And as my day job has become busier, I’ve needed to have someone take care of some of the logistics of running SF/SF. Thus, this transition makes sense and is timely. This will also leave me more time to actually write more for SF/SF as well as do the editing, proofreading, assigning, etc. We would appreciate more content from new people and so please contact me if you would like to contribute articles, photos or artwork! I know we have a lot of talented and creative folks out there who are as passionate about fandom as we are.

Going back to the topic of the UK, so Chris finally got to go there and it was fun showing him around and seeing new things too. We were already planning on going back even before we left. There are so many historical, literary and, of course, scifi/fantasy things to see and so many more to come back for. It would be great to live there, I suppose, but it’s probably a better place to visit. It is ironic, though, that in the
past few months after I got back, almost all of the DVDs I’ve purchased are from Amazon UK. I seem to want to see shows that are not available here and haven’t even been shown here.

I remember mentioning “Eternal Law” a while back and I finally ordered that on DVD. Chris and I got to see part of the set for that TV show while we were in York (more on this in my Honeymoon article). I bought all three available seasons of “Horrible Histories,” which is just so clever and funny that I have a smile on my face every time I watch it. I’m so looking forward to Season 4, or I should say Series 4, as they say it in the UK. Lastly, I got “The Scapegoat” based on a Daphne du Maurier novel and starring Matthew Rhys. I’ve been following Rhys for about 13 years as I think he’s a great actor, but while he’s been in a lot of movies and TV shows, he still seems to be labeled as a relative “unknown.” Anyway, this TV movie is sort of a Prince and the Pauper tale but with a psychological and suspenseful twist. It’s set during the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953, and the plot, atmosphere and costumes are wonderful. Very reminiscent of the current “Marple” series, which I love. I know lots of Agatha Christie fans don’t like these more modern adaptations because they’ve taken liberties with the novels, but I think they’re great anyway.

As far as movies in 2012, I find that most of the movies I saw on the big screen were entertaining but didn’t really touch my heart, ignite my imagination or leave a lasting impression. I think my favorite movie from last year was “John Carter.” I’ve already waxed rhapsodic about this movie previously so suffice it to say that it took me back to a more innocent time of childlike wonder at the universe, excitement about imagining adventures and knowing the comfort of good triumphing over evil. I’ve also previously talked about enjoying “Skyfall,” “The Avengers” and “The Dark Knight Rises.” Fun movies but I didn’t love them enough to see them again or buy them on DVD.

So I was looking forward to two movies this past December. “The Hobbit” and “Les Miserables.” “Le Miz” is my favorite musical, which I’ve seen live on Broadway and in SF, and I’ve seen both anniversary concerts on TV, which were both great. The movie was a wonderful adaptation and the performances were outstanding. Hugh Jackman (Wolverine!) was just incredible as Jean Valjean, and he deserves all the awards and accolades he’s been getting and will hopefully continue to receive. I’ve seen him on stage twice and he’s just amazing. Anne Hathaway (Catwoman!) turned in a marvelous performance as Fantine but I thought she was a bit over the top. The rest of the cast were awesome too. But in between the songs, it just felt flat to me. While there were added scenes that tied everything better together, it felt like I was watching a movie and was in a theatre and didn’t feel transported and drawn into the story.

“The Hobbit” fared a little better for me in this respect. While I would have preferred one movie with just the original novel, the additions from J.R.R. Tolkien’s appendices worked well and made me feel I was back in Peter Jackson’s “Lord of the Rings” world. So yes, it was less about Bilbo, the hobbit, and more about him and the dwarves, Thorin Oakenshield in particular, but it made for an enchanting tale in Middle Earth. Martin Freeman as Bilbo was just perfect. Thorin Oakenshield was properly heroic as Thorin. Ian McKellen as Gandalf just has so much presence with both gravitas and humor at the same time. However, I didn’t love the movie as much as I loved the three “Lord of the Rings” movies. So while I would
still rate this movie highly, I am not passionately in love with it. A tad disappointing, but it’s understandable given that “The Hobbit” is much more of a children’s tale compared to “The Lord of the Rings.” As I’m sure I’ve mentioned several times already, I read “The Hobbit” after “The Lord of the Rings” around 30 years ago. And I remember feeling the same way about “The Hobbit” novel then as I do about the “Hobbit” movie now. That it just didn’t capture my imagination and want me to create and connect as “The Lord of the Rings” did and continues to do for me to this day.

Looking forward to this year, Chris has written an article in this issue about upcoming movies and TV shows of interest. I am especially looking forward to “Star Trek Into Darkness” and, of course, the next installment of “The Hobbit.” I’m surprised there’s a sequel to “Percy Jackson” coming up as I didn’t think the first one was that good and I didn’t think it did that well at the box office. I love that series of novels by Rick Riordan and was disappointed at its first big screen outing. So I hope this second one will be better so that they adapt the third book, which has scenes in the Bay Area. The other movie I’m excited about is “City of Bones,” which is the first book in the Mortal Instruments series. I know this is based on a series of young adult novels by Cassandra Clare, but I enjoyed the series despite comparisons to “Twilight.” For the record, I’ve generally liked the “Twilight” movies even though I disliked the first novel (and have not read any after that). “City of Bones” has Jamie Campbell Bower (“Camelot,” “Harry Potter,” “Twilight”), Aidan Turner (“Being Human,” “The Hobbit”) and Robert Sheehan (“Misfits”). Oh, and yeah, Lily Collins (“Mirror Mirror”) and Lena Headey (“300,” “Sarah Connor”) are in it too.

Someone noted on Facebook recently that it seems like most fantasy and books lately are aimed at young adults, and that has sort of become the default. It also seems to me like most fantasy books nowadays are either post-apocalyptic or urban fantasy. Classics like Tolkien’s work seems to be considered more old-fashioned. You know, the ones where the main characters are adults and where there are royalty, elves, dragons, etc. I was on a panel at the recent Convolution convention in Burlingame that touched on this. The consensus was that it’s a reflection of the times. Maybe I’m just getting older or I’m just an eternal optimist but I can’t relate to the current trend toward a bleak, and even nihilistic, world outlook. I know “Lord of the Rings” was very dark in parts but there was always a spark of hope and a sense of beauty and magic all throughout.

So I’ve actually been reading more old-style fantasy lately. I never got to read Roger Zelazny’s “Amber” series so I started reading those. I’m catching up on the latest “Avalon” prequel by Diana Paxson too. I’m catching up on some old “Star Wars” novels as well.

Speaking of “Star Wars,” as of the time I’m writing this, there’s an-almost-confirmed rumor that J.J. Abrams will be directing “Episode 7.” I was very excited that there will be another trilogy of “Star Wars” movies set after the original three. I hope they’re better than the prequels. I like how J.J. Abrams reimagined “Star Trek” and I’m sure he’ll do a good job with “Star Wars.” Some people have reservations because they’re either for one camp or the other. I think the whole “Star Trek” vs. “Star Wars” debate is silly and harmful. I have always loved both and have appreciated the differences between the two franchises. I think most of us in fandom feel
the same. However, I do have some reservations with having the same director do both. As I mentioned, these two universes are different. They have different aesthetics, formats, themes, characters, plots, mythologies, etc. So I hope that they retain their distinct flavors. “Star Trek” was always more about the interaction of the characters, exploring new cultures, dealing with what it means to be human, and well, science. “Star Wars” is more of a romantic swashbuckling adventure, a war against evil and mysterious and magical Jedi powers, which is more like, well, fantasy. Regardless, I’ve been looking forward to these sequels since I was a kid and am just happy they’re finally going to be made.

Lastly, this year is the 50th anniversary of “Doctor Who.” Chris and I are going to Gallifrey One this February and Sylvester McCoy (Seventh Doctor) will be there. There hasn’t been any official word as to what the BBC is planning for the 50th anniversary. I hope they get all the Doctors still around to do something! Also, I’m looking forward to the upcoming PEERS “Doctor Who” ball on June 1st. Mark your calendars!

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
Upcoming Year of Geekitude: Things to look forward to in 2013

By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

With 2012 at an end, there are a number of things in 2013 to look forward to. There are a number of retelling or prequel movies of popular fairy tales and children’s literature, sequels to popular movies, plenty of superheroes, zombies galore, original science fiction, a major anniversary, another season for several popular shows, and a return of one convention that didn’t happen last year.

Movies

“Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters” – This version of the Grimm fairy tale follows the exploits of the siblings as adults as they try to rid the town of a witch coven. The film stars Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton and Famke Jassen. (Jan. 25)

“Escape from Planet Earth” – An animated movie where two brothers attempt to rescue captured fellow space adventurers from a far-distant planet called Earth from the notorious Area 51. (Feb. 15)

“Jack the Giant Slayer” – Bryan Singer’s latest movie will feature another alternative telling of a fairy tale. In this one, giants return from banishment in another realm to terrorize the kingdom they once ruled. It is up to Jack, a farm boy, to help lead the battle against the giants once again. (March 1)

“Oz: The Great and Powerful” – Sam Raimi takes his madcap storytelling and applies it to a prequel of classic children’s literature as he tells the story of how the Wizard of Oz became the fabled inhabitant of the Emerald City. (March 8)

“GI Joe: Retaliation” – The sequel to the fun but critically-bashed GI Joe: Rise of Cobra follows the adventures of the Joes as they fight back from an assassination attack on their ranks ordered by the President of the United States after he was replaced by Zartan in the first film. (March 29)

“The Host” – The adaptation of Stephanie Meyer’s post-Twilight series novel features a girl who manages to survive the takeover of her body by a parasitic alien known as “The Soul” as she fights to make the alien understand humanity as well as search for her loved ones. (March 29)

“Evil Dead” – Director/writer Fede Alvarez puts his spin on the classic Sam Raimi horror-comedy. (April 12)

“Oblivion” – Tom Cruise is a drone repairman in a post-apocalyptic future Earth who discovers the past that he knew might not be what he thought it was. (April 12/limited IMAX Release, April 19/wide release)

“Iron Man 3” – After the events of Marvel’s The Avengers, we get the first solo adventure of Tony Stark facing off against international terrorist The Mandarin. The movie plot is based on the story arc Extremis by comic book scribe Warren Ellis. (May 3)

“Star Trek Into Darkness” – The highly anticipated sequel to the successful reboot movie Star Trek follows the
adventures of the crew of the Enterprise as they struggle against a powerful and cunning adversary. (May 14)

“Epic” – An animated movie based on The Leaf Men and the Brave Good Bugs, a teenage girl gets swept up in a battle between good and evil in a forest that has consequences for the real world. (May 24)

“After-Earth” – A father and son (played by real-life father and son Will Smith and Jayden Smith) crash land on an abandoned Earth while transporting an alien life form. With the father critically injured, it is up to the son to fight the dangerous wildlife of the planet to get a rescue signal sent out. (June 7)

“Man of Steel” – Director Zack Snyder reboots the Superman franchise with a new origin story movie with Henry Cavill as the Last Son of Krypton leading a heroic cast with Michael Shannon as fellow Kryptonian General Zod. (June 14)

“Monsters University” – Pixar/Disney puts out a sequel to their beloved Monsters, Inc. following the college hijinks of Sully and Mike. John Goodman and Billy Crystal once again provide the voices of our favorite bedtime spooks. (June 21)

“World War Z” – Brad Pitt stars in the adaptation of the Max Brooks book of the same name, where an outbreak of a zombie plague is destroying the planet. (June 21)

“Kick-Ass 2” – The sequel adaptation of the Mark Millar/John Romita Jr. sequel comic follows the exploits of Kick-Ass and Hit Girl as they fight against The Red Mist seeking revenge for the death of his father in the first movie. (June 28)

“Pacific Rim” – Guillermo del Toro directs this mash-up of mecha (giant robots) and Kaiju (giant monsters) inspired by Japanese pop culture that follows a retired pilot and an untested trainee operating an outdated robot as the last effort to defeat the monsters mysteriously appearing from the ocean that have been attacking Earth for years. (July 12)

“The Wolverine” – Hugh Jackman reprises his role as Logan, traveling to Japan to face an enemy from his past. (July 26)

“300: Rise of an Empire” – A prequel/companion film to the successful 300, this movie follows the naval battle between the Greeks and the god-king Xerxes. (Aug. 2)

“Elysium” – Matt Damon and Jodie Foster star in the story of an ex-con taking on a mission that could change the balance between the ruined Earth and the idyllic world of the space station where the privileged few live. (Aug. 9)

“Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters” – The sequel to the first Percy Jackson movie based on the young adult fantasy novel follows the adventures of Percy and his friends as they seek the fabled Golden Fleece to save Camp Half-Blood from monsters. (Aug. 16)

“The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones” – An adaptation of the first of the Mortal Instruments book series follows a girl as she tries to rescue her kidnapped mother as she dives into a world of magic and monsters while discovering her heritage as a Shadowhunter. (Aug. 23)

“Riddick” – The third live action installment (and fourth overall) in the Chronicles of Riddick series with Vin Diesel reviving the character as mercenaries are hunting him on a hostile planet. (Sept. 6)

“I, Frankenstein” – The monster becomes involved in a war between two immortal clans in this adaptation of the graphic novel. (Sept. 13)

“Sin City: A Dame To Kill For” – The long awaited sequel to Sin City based on the graphic novel series by Frank Miller
features the adaptations of “A Dame To Kill For” and “Just Another Saturday Night.” (Oct. 4)

“The Seventh Sun” – A Spook fights the return of a powerful witch and must train his replacement to avoid the destruction of the world. The source material is The Spook’s Apprentice, the first book in The Wardstone Chronicles. (Oct. 18)

“Ender’s Game” – The adaptation of the best-selling novel by Orson Scott Card following the exploits of Ender Wiggin as the boy is trained to fight a coming invasion of earth. (Nov. 1)

“Mr. Peabody and Sherman” – The big-screen animation movie based on the time-traveling dog and his boy. (Nov. 1)

“Thor: The Dark World” – The second of the Marvel movie offering shows Thor trying to save all the Nine Realms from a terror as old as the universe. (Nov. 8)

“The Hunger Games: Catching Fire” – The second installment in this series follows Katniss as she is forced to participate in a special Hunger Games competition featuring previous victors. (Nov. 22)

“The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug” – The middle film of Bilbo Baggins’s journey through Middle Earth as he helps Thorin Oakenshield and his band of dwarves to recapture their homeland. (Dec. 13)

Television

“Doctor Who” (BBC America) – The second half of Series 7 kicks off on March 30 as The Doctor tries to find Oswin/Clara and determine who she is. One of the episodes will feature a script by uber-author Neil Gaiman and another will feature the Cybermen.

“Game of Thrones” (HBO) – The maneuverings of all of the rulers of the various kingdoms of Westeros returns March 31 with a number of new characters, depicting the events in first half of A Storm of Swords.

“One Upon A Time” (ABC) – The popular fairy tale series finishes its second season as the characters venture out of Storybrook into the rest of the world.

“The Walking Dead” (AMC) – The second half of the zombie-survival show’s third season follows former sheriff Rick Grimes as he tries to lead his group to safety from not only the Walkers but The Governor’s attempts to destroy the group.

“TrueBlood” (HBO) – Sookie Stackhouse and the preternatural community of Bon Temps, Louisiana, return for season six on June 9.

Miscellaneous

50th Anniversary of “Doctor Who” – With the coming anniversary of the British sci-fi series, several things have been in the works to celebrate this milestone. All of the remaining classic Doctors are going to be in audio adventure entitled “The Light at the End.” IDW Publishing will be releasing a 12-part limited comic book series, “Prisoners of Time,” written by Scott and Dave Tipton. Each issue will feature one of the Doctors and will have a wrap-up issue for the finale. There has also been massive speculation on a multiple Doctor episode similar the 10th anniversary “The Three Doctors” episode and the 20th anniversary “The Five Doctors” episode.

Return of Nova Albion – This popular Steampunk convention will take place once again this year. The theme is “Steampunks in Space” and will no doubt be welcomed by the
costuming community. The convention takes place on April 26-28. (www.steampunkexhibition.com)

Streamstock – This second annual music festival showcasing a number of Steampunk musical acts and lots of shopping is scheduled for July 27 at the Craneway Pavilion in Richmond. (www.steamstock.org)

With all of these events and entertainment options to look forward to in 2013, there is probably more to see and do than there is time to enjoy them. Here is looking forward to a great 2013.
Furs, scales and feathers were beaming down to the San Jose Convention Center on Jan. 17-21, 2013. Further Confusion (FurCon) came again to mark the first costuming convention of the New Year in the Bay Area.

The convention was held for the second year at the convention center in Downtown San Jose and the adjoining San Jose Hilton Hotel. The main building was undergoing expansion construction, but it did not impact any of the planned functions. There were also other scheduled events that were held concurrently with FurCon. With the convention tucked away into one end of the hall and the dealer room in the hotel, there didn’t seem to be the mingling of the different activities like there was last year. The one thing that didn’t happen at the convention was the gathering of fursuiters that you normally would have at the plaza in front of the main entrance due to the ongoing improvements to the building.

The theme for the convention was “The Furbidden Planet.” FurCon offered plenty of creative items throughout the show to support the idea. The souvenir book featured anthropomorphic artwork on faraway planets and science-fiction short stories. The panel offerings offered several topics on space travel, robotics, alien life and science fiction writing. The recruitment poster for the Go-furs featured anthropomorphic “Star Trek: The Next Generation” crewmembers battling a space monster.
Doctor Who Group
courtesy of Christopher Erickson
There were a number of fursuiters who dressed up to match the theme. Several fursuit costumers wore space suits that could be seen throughout the halls. There was a couple who were an Endor speeder bike Storm Trooper and a Jedi, a few people dressed as flying saucers, aliens, fantasy characters and a number of “Doctor Who” cosplayers who were in attendance. There were also a number of Steampunk costumes that were visible as well as military costumes from “Stargate.” There was even a Browncoat furrie. The other nice touch was a number of costumes that had lighted eyes that made them look demonic or alien.

The other major costuming theme for this year was the My Little Pony interpretations. There were a number of men and women who sported colorful wigs, tutus and ears. The Brony fandom was also represented in the some of the panels.

The art show featured a number of wonderful paintings, sculptures, stuffed animals and drawings. The subjects varied from serious interpretations of spirit animals, realistic nature scenes, science fiction, pin-up style artwork, and Norman Rockwell-like whimsical scenes.

The parties were in full swing as well. There were a number of new rooms this year. Two were for upcoming
Browncoat Cow by Christopher Erickson
Star Trek Skunk by Christopher Erickson
Warrior Lizard by Christopher Erickson
conventions, WesterCon 66 and Convolution. The Black Hole served up their usual Klingon brand of entertainment to patrons and the Communist Party was back for its fourth year serving Russian spirits and beer along with snack food.

The convention always has wonderful little moments that can be experienced throughout. There was a group of people in costume playing with a large tennis ball and actually acting like their animal costumes when a woman who worked for Pizza My Heart came in and tossed Frisbees with advertising on them. You can always find the furries hanging out in groups and giving each other hugs and scratches. They also will go to the local restaurants downtown in costume and even drink and sometimes eat without taking the head of the costume off.

One of the more interesting things about the furrie community is that a lot of the people develop their own personal characters, called fursonas. They will have a unique name and will have commissioned badge art with their character, usually worn like a dog tag that would be on a collar. The fursona stands in as an identifier for the person since most people might not actually see the person out of costume for most of the convention. Most of the fursuiters treat their costume similar to that of a team mascot where they
would not want to be seen without the head on in the more public areas.

Since wearing a costume consisting of fur and a giant head, or even leather for a scalie (lizard), the cosplayers who wear these outfits often get overheated and exhausted. Some of them build fans into the head to allow them to wear their ensemble for a longer period, but that only works for a time. At the convention, there are places set up for the comfort of the fursuiters to relax, cool down and hydrate in privacy where they can keep the illusion of their fursonas. A number of the participants will have a hotel room where they can go back and relax in quiet.

For others who do not want to go through the hassle of having a full costume with clothing as an additional layer, they might only have a “partial” that consists of a head, hands and feet or even just the head. Others will use makeup and prosthetics to achieve the look. A number of people just get into the mood by wearing a tail and ears and might work it into existing costumes.

The convention is also friendly to pets. People can be seen walking their dogs around the convention as well as people carrying other animals in cages. The programming also features spotlights on animal care. There are also official charities chosen every year to receive proceeds from the event for furthering animal care, animal shelters and preservation causes.

I was only able to go to the convention for a single day and I unfortunately missed the main highlight of the fursuit parade. Even thought I did not see it, I still had a wonderful time at the convention meeting new people and seeing all of the costumes and sights that the event has to offer.
Reviewed by Tom Becker

SF/SF Compositor

“Space: the final frontier. These are the voyages of the starship Pinafore. Its five-year mission: to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no Englishman has gone before.”

And so begins the production of “HMS Pinafore: The Next Generation” by the Stanford Savoyards. William Riker and Deanna Troi are the young lovers Ralph Rackstraw and Josephine, Jean-Luc Picard and Lwaxana Troi the older lovers Captain Corcoran and Little Buttercup. Which ridiculously makes Counselor Troi Captain Picard’s daughter, but it fits in perfectly with the utterly absurd original plot. In an act of genius, Admiral James T. Kirk is cast as The Right Honorable Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B., and a legion of his lovers from the original Star Trek make up the chorus of his “sisters, cousins, and his aunts.” Dick Deadeye is played by Worf.

The set was based on the bridge of the Starship Enterprise from Star Trek: The Next Generation. One might wonder how a starship bridge design could work so well as a stage set, but indeed it did.
Dinkelspiel Auditorium is wide and not very tall. Instead of supertitles, a Federation-standard data display was projected on the wall to the left of the stage. Before the performance, it displayed helpful safety messages such as “In the event of a saucer separation, please proceed to the turbolift.” In Act One the display was used brilliantly to show Sir Joseph (and his sisters and his cousins and his aunts) waving and then beaming aboard.

The dialog and lyrics were mostly unchanged from Gilbert & Sullivan’s original script. So the Starfleet Crew sang about sailing “the ocean blue” and not the starry skies. I think this was another smart move by the Stanford Savoyards. The delightful rhymes and twists and turns of Gilbert & Sullivan’s language stayed intact, and the incongruity of the science-fictional setting only turned the silliness up to eleven.
“Carefully on tiptoe stealing” by Tom Becker

Brian Chin by Tom Becker

Christina Krawec by Tom Becker
“HMS Pinafore” has some wonderfully witty songs where the entire ensemble has to sing a complex patter in many parts. The choruses singing was strong, clear, and had a real zing to it. Among the soloists, Christina Krawec as Deanna Troi/Josephine was the star of the show. Her voice was clear and powerful. She had a little trouble with the highest notes, but she got stronger as the show went on, and her long solo “Sorry her lot” was superb. Brian Chin as William Riker/Ralph Rackstraw looked the part and his voice had a nice tone but it tended to wobble. Gerar Mazarakis as Admiral Kirk/Sir Joseph had a fine strong voice and some amazingly athletic leaps in the hornpipe. Graham Roth as Captain Picard/Corcoran and Simone Hudson as Lwaxana Troi/Little Buttercup sang well. John Graham as Worf/Dick Deadeye did not have the biggest voice but his duet with Graham Roth in “Captain, I’ve important information” was beautifully sung.
The only place where I felt the Star Trek characterization didn’t fit was for a moment in the second half, when Captain Corcoran gets angry and vindictive. Picard would never do that. Where it did work was in those moments, as in the original 19th century production, it gently poked at the pomposity of the high and mighty. In a comedy everyone is a scoundrel, or clueless, or both, and in spite of that everyone gets what they want, and we walk out singing.

The Stanford Savoyards web site is www.stanford.edu/group/savoyards. “HMS Pinafore: The Next Generation” has two more shows, on February 1st and 2nd.
The Books of the Raksura by Martha Wells

Reviewed by Tom Becker
SF/SF Compositor

“The Books of Raksura” is a fantasy trilogy: “The Cloud Roads,” “The Serpent Sea” and “The Siren Depths.” It is published by Night Shade Books of San Francisco. The third book just came out in December, and now that the trilogy is complete there are no more excuses for waiting. It is an excellent fantasy in every way, except for the world-building, which is beyond excellent.

The peoples of “The Three Worlds” call it that because the air, the ground and the seas each have so many different kinds of living things it could be its own world. There are many humanoid species (and stranger non-humans) but no humans. This is an alien world. The only thing that makes this fantasy instead of science fiction is that some aspects of the world follow laws other than our laws of physics. There are rocky islands in the sky that drift with the winds. There are trees the size of mountains that somehow manage to pump water to their uppermost leaves. And there is Moon, our hero, who is a shapeshifter.

Moon looks like any other groundling, a bit taller than average, lean and rawboned, with dark bronze skin and green eyes. But in an instant he can shift to his winged form, larger, more powerful, with black scales, a long tail and very sharp talons. Moon is a very good hunter, and he needs to be, because flying burns a lot of calories.
Moon doesn’t know what he is. Separated from his own kind as a child, he has lived in groundling communities, helping them but keeping his shapeshifting nature secret. He has never seen other shapeshifters like himself, except for the Fell. The Fell are intelligent predators who infiltrate and conquer cities so they can eat the inhabitants. Moon is pretty sure he’s not one of the Fell, but that could be just because he’s spent so much time among groundlings and sympathizes with them. Unfortunately, when groundlings see Moon in his aerial form they think he is a Fell ruler and try to kill him. Moon has learned that any home he makes will not last. Either he is chased out, or the Fell come.

Stone is a Raksura line-grandfather, a consort (fertile male) who has grown to great age. He gets wind there may be a feral consort living with groundlings. His home court of Indigo Cloud is in desperate need of consorts, so much they will consider a feral, who is likely an outlaw exiled from his court. And so Stone finds Moon, and Moon finds his people.

The Raksura are a hybrid race of tree-climbing groundlings (the arbora) and flying shapeshifters (the aeriat). The aeriat are eusocial, like ants or bees: only the female queens and male consorts are fertile, the male and female warriors are infertile. The queens are the largest and most powerful of the Raksura (except for the rare line-grandfathers) and rule the nest. The arbora are all fertile and care for their own young and the aeriat young. And the arbora are inter-fertile with aeriat and sometimes bear warrior young. This leads to some very complex social dynamics. And before Moon can figure out whether he fits in, or how he feels about it, Indigo Cloud is attacked by the Fell.
This is a no-spoiler review, so I am not going to reveal more than this very sketchy bit of background material, but I hope it gives you an idea of what an extraordinary world that Martha Wells has created. There is so much more I could burble on about: the huge and fascinating cast of characters, the ways in which they care for and look out for each other, and the way Martha Wells’ writing can range from domestic details to inter-species politics to aerial action scenes all with vivid clarity. But find out for yourself what happens next. It is quite an adventure.

Martha Wells’ web site is marthawells.com. It includes links for where you can buy the books, sample chapters, additional short stories of the Raksura, scholarly texts about the Three Worlds, and fan art and music.

The publisher has information about the books at nightshadebooks.com/book_authors/martha-wells

I have had good success finding Martha Wells’s books at Borderlands Books (borderlands-books.com) on Valencia Street in San Francisco. Sometimes Jeremy Lassen, one of the publishers of Night Shade Books, will be there working behind the counter.
John Purcell writes:

It has been quite a long time since I have written to you folks, and a perusal of the latest issue of SF² gives me a chance to catch up with the zine. So onward!

Jean Martin responds:

Hi and good to hear from you again!

First of all, congratulations on your wedding, Jean and Christopher. If I haven’t said this before — and I don’t think I have — the best wishes to you both, and may you be blessed with many happy years together.

Thank you so much!

I, too, was very surprised and saddened by the news of Vanessa Schnatmeier’s death. Many years ago I was in at least one apa with her — LASFAPA — so this hurts. I am sorry for your loss because it sounds like you were very close with Vanessa. My deepest condolences. In fact, 2012 saw the loss of many science fiction fans and writers; such is what happens as we age. Like you, I miss these friends. Despite these painful losses, here is looking forward to a prosperous new year.

Wishing you the best this year as well. I actually didn’t know until more recently how active Vanessa was in scifi/fantasy fandom. I knew her more through Regency dancing.

Say, I saw “The Hobbit” two weekends ago and enjoyed it immensely. Naomi Fisher, a fan from Huntsville, Alabama was in town visiting her sister who now lives in College Station, Texas, and so Naomi, her sister and I went to see it on Sunday, Dec. 16. We wanted to get into the 2:30 p.m. matinee showing (cheaper price), but it was overflowing, so we decided to see the 3:15 p.m. showing, which was in 3-D. Sure, it cost us more, but holy cow, was it worth it! A total visual experience. I think “The Hobbit” would be wonderful in 2D or even 1D (if that is possible); I shall hold off on any critical review of the movie for now, but I do recommend seeing the movie.

My brief review of “The Hobbit” is in my editorial in this issue. I did see it in the HFR 3-D and I am curious to see if I’d enjoy it more in 2-D as it seemed to just be too fast and computerized in some scenes. But I did like it a lot too.

Jean, your comments about some of your television viewing struck a common chord. My wife and I are faithful viewers of “Once Upon a Time,” “Grimm,” “Arrow,” and look forward to the resumption of “Warehouse 13,” “Lost Girl,” “Merlin,” and “Face-Off.” I tried watching “Elementary,” but it felt very flat to me. Don’t care for Lucy Liu in the role of Jean Watson, even though Johnny Lee Miller did put in a nice turn as Sherlock Holmes. Other than that, I didn’t care for the show, and I am a big fan of the Sherlock Holmes canon, especially the recent BBC version starring Messers Cumberbatch and Freeman. Oh, well. To each their own tastes. The bottom line of current American television is that there are many science fiction and fantasy shows on the air. Good news for us!

I love the BBC version of “Sherlock!” I agree “Elementary” is not as brilliant, but it’s just fun seeing
another version of Sherlock Holmes. Lucy Liu started out interesting as Watson but it does seem like she’s becoming too flat. Like they’re not really using her as much in the more recent episodes. The plots are still quite entertaining, though, more so now that they’ve brought in hints of Moriarty.

Very nice full-page art by John Barrows to celebrate Tarzan’s 100th birthday. The jungle man is looking good as he hits triple digits.

I’ve been an ERB fan since I was a kid but only just started reading his Tarzan novels in honor of his 100th birthday. I don’t know why I’ve waited this long! I like them as much as his scifi novels.

Valerie and I spent our 23rd wedding anniversary at the Texas Renaissance Festival on November 25, and it was a splendid day. Beautiful weather, and lots of fun things to see and do. Our favorite shows were the Birds of Prey and Adam Crack, an award-winning whip-slinger/whip-meister, or whatever you want to call him. He’s very good and maintains hilarious patter throughout his show. If he ever appears at a Renaissance Festival near you, go and see him do his flaming whip routine at night. Dazzling stuff.

Congratulations on your 23rd wedding anniversary! What a fun way to celebrate. I don’t think I’ve heard of Adam Crack but will keep an eye out for him.

By the way, I am attaching pictures of us in the costumes that Valerie made; in the first half hour of wandering the festival, we were stopped for pictures a dozen times! I hope the photos turn out well enough for you to use. The festival-ending fireworks display was spectacular and sent everybody home happy. As we walked out the main gate we passed by the group Tartan playing to a large crowd. A great way to finish our anniversary date.

Wow, that’s cool that they have fireworks there. Your costumes are amazing! Valerie did a great job making them.

We are also looking forward to next fall’s Sky Commodore Autumn Masquerade Ball, which is held in Dallas, one of the bigger Steampunk events in Texas. There are numerous Steampunk-related conventions in the state, but the 2013 dance is going to be a huge two-day affair featuring numerous guest performers. This past September we went — in our Steampunk costumes, of course (no good pictures of those available, sad to say) — and enjoyed the music and all of the wonderful costumes. Steam Powered Giraffe was the primary
musical guest, and they did not disappoint. On a side note, a couple weeks later SPG announced that one of their original members, Jon Sprague, had left the band, which is a huge blow. Even so, they quickly added a new “robot” in place, and they will be returning to Dallas next September. We are most definitely going. As more guest artists are announced, I will let you know. Don’t know if Abney Park will be appearing. I am hoping Voltaire will be playing.

That sounds like a wonderful Steampunk event. That’s what’s great about Steampunk is that there are musical performances by bands along with the costuming opportunity.

Very cool to read that Thomas Dolby is still recording and playing Steampunk music. I loved “She Blinded Me with Science” back in the day; must keep my eyes open for him appearing somewhere nearby. Maybe next September at Sky Commodore’s shebang? So awesome if he is one of the guests.

It was an added bonus seeing him as I never really thought much about him over the years even though I love that one hit song of his.

Well, that brings me to the end of this issue and this letter. Many thanks for posting the zine, and I look forward to seeing the next one.

Thanks as well and see you next time!
Meeting 1169

December 24, 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

There being no officers present, the meeting was called to order by Fred at roughly 8:00 with an estimated nine people attending, though possibly at least one of them wasn’t attending very well.

Jo moved to put Chris Garcia in charge of the meeting. The motion failed.

Andy moved to establish elvin law. The motion passed.

The Ad Hoc Cinema and Outings Committee is organizing meeting for the rest of the Retro Dome showings. Kevin reported that there would be Deloreans at the Back to the Future showings.

Fred reported that Mike Ward had broken his leg. Mike had undergone surgery and would be back in the Bay Area mid-January.

Kevin reported that December 29 SF in SF would be having a showing of the Doctor Who specials “The Christmas Carol” and “The Doctor, the Widow, and the Wardrobe” at the Variety Children’s Theater in the Hobart Building, 582 Market Street in San Francisco. The Tiki Dalek would be there. The doors would open at 4, events start at 5.
Someone noted that the party at the House of Spike would be the same evening, with details on the mailing list.

Lisa reported that Jack Klugman had died.

Jo reviewed a party Friday night as “good” and noted that things had been burned.

Kevin reviewed the end of the Mayan calendar as underwhelming, but the beginning as worth full price.

Jo reported that they’d just very painfully retrieved a domain from Network Solutions.

A bag of cables went to Fred for twenty-five cents. It will be donated to Goodwill.

The rumor of the week was that BASFA meeting #1169 was cancelled on account of apocalypse.

Meeting 1172

January 14, 2013

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

Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale
Began at 8:02 p.m.
President and Secretary MIA
Vice President presiding
Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker
24 people attended

We established a party jar.

The minutes for meeting 1171 were accepted as “escaped.”

The treasurer said at meeting number 1171 we took in $4.71 in the regular jar and $27.87 in the party.

The VP said there were no new “Drink Tanks” out, but he did release a new “Drink Tank Review of Books”.

We did auctions, since Treasurer was leaving early.

Kevin proposed the schedule for putting together BASFA’s recommendations for the 2013 Hugo Awards. It was approved. Please be advised there will be no auctions at the meetings on January 28 and February 11 and 18.

Ad Hoc Outing committee announced the last venture at the Retrodome in its current location will be at 2 p.m. Sunday for a quote-a-long of “Raiders of the Lost Ark”.

Sports committee announced we have a hockey season.

Announcements

J.C. announced Nerdvana had an emergency show last Sunday on the Oscar nomination announcements.

Kevin R. announced there will a perfectly ordinary party at Furcon this weekend. Andy followed on that there will also be a BASFA party.

Josh announced that this will be the last BASFA meeting he will attend for a year. He has another schedule commitment that takes precedence.

Dave C. announced that Fathom Events schedule has a few productions worth noting:
Jan. 24, Rifftrax Live: “Manos, the Hands of Fate”
Jan. 31, Rifftrax Live: “Plan 9 from Outer Space”
May 2 & 7, “Wait, Wait Don’t Tell Me”
Dave added that a Kickstarter campaign started to help Jay Lake with his cancer treatment. Others followed on that it is not to be confused with another related to Jay Lake for a movie project.

Dave’s third announcement was that on Feb. 2, there will be “A Conversation with Michael Chambon & Junot Diaz” at the Berkeley High School Little Theatre.

Reviews
I reviewed the HBO baseball movie “Soul of the Game”, which was about the racial integration of the major leagues, as worth the time to watch. The Penny Marshall movie, “A League of Their Own”, still holds up well, too.

Dave C. has been watching “You Have Been Watching” on You Tube, particularly singling out the episode that reviewed “Children of Earth” and the news coverage of Michael Jackson’s death with background music from “Experiment in Terror”. Worth full price.

Jo thought “The Hobbit” in 3D was intense. He liked it.

He also thought another 3D production, Cirque du Soleil’s “Worlds Away”, was just a filming of their acts, but it was visually beautiful.

He later added that C.J. Cherryh’s sequel novel, “Regenesis”, is very well done.

Diane read “Folly of the World” by Jesse Bullington and said it was weird and engrossing and set in Holland.

Andy is watching a Danish TV series that translates to “The Killing” and highly recommends it. He’s interested in seeing more Danish TV.

Josh thought “Les Miserables” was fantastic, but hates Dutch angles.

He also said the game Ascension is okay, but he no longer likes deck building games.

His last review was on the book “A Plague on Both Your Houses”, by Susannah Gregory. It’s the first of the Matthew Bartholomew historical mystery series and is worth full price.

Jerry, Ken, Diane and Chris agreed that DoubleClicks gave an excellent show in a comic shop and is going on tour.

J.C. said Dixit is an excellent game that is tons of fun. He also recommends Zombie Dice.

Chris said “Django Unchained” is the ballsiest movie ever made. He read “Earth Girl” by Janet Edwards. He said it’s a weird “Sweet Valley High” hard SF story. He has also seen “Portlandia” and loves Kyle McLaughlin as the mayor. It’s weirdness, but a lot of fun.

Rumor of the Week: “Suddenly, a thought rang out.”

We adjourned around 9:30 p.m.
Meeting 1173

January 21, 2013

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 – anticipating the Superbowl
18 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1172 were accepted as “Dave’s flaming nuts”
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in an unknown amount
The Vice President commented that he was besmirched & then reported that there are no new “Drink Tanks” out yet – but that he has put out 2 podcasts – search for “Chris Garcia podcasts”
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Website committee reported that the website has been updated and that Josh is now a member of this committee
The Sports Committee reports that tickets are going on sale tomorrow and he will get a group’s worth for the May 10th Giants game

Announcements

Mike announced that A History of Children’s Art is incredible at the Los Gatos Art Museum & will be there until Feb 27 & he announced that Harry’s Hofbrau has excellent hot dogs
[tall] Kevin announced that Hugo nomination nights will be Jan 28, Feb 11 and Feb 18
Chris announced that he and Lynda are making a documentary about 5 conventions
Ken announced that the Legion of Rassilon meeting is this Friday, 7:30 at 1st & Trimble at the Carl’s Jr

Reviews

Mike reviewed that Harry’s Hofbrau has excellent hot dogs
Chris reviewed that a “Portlandia” episode made him cry after burbling on about ... stuff
Howeird reviewed the Castello di Amorosa winery as he visited it about 10 years ago and it sounds like it hasn’t changed & reviewed Jenny Lawson’s blog as very funny & reviewed Jenny Lawson’s book “Let’s Pretend this Never Happened” as he’s done a review for it for Chris and it’s worth paperback – not as funny as her blog - and he also reviewed the Inauguration as check out Michelle Obama’s coat
JC reviewed “Argo” as he now understands why Affleck did so well at the Golden Globes - worth full price, highly recommended & also reviewed “King of Nerds” as entertaining
Lisa reviewed the Retrodome “Raiders” quote-a-long as it was fun & reviewed BASFA’s party at Furcon as very well done - there were many follow-on’s that praised the party & Aatheus
Adrienne reviewed the latest season of “Being Human” as she likes the way the cast changes were handled & the American version has more humor in it

Kevin reviewed helping with the Retrodome tear-down as he now has sore muscles from it

Dave C reviewed the Sonoma Chicken Coop’s jambalaya as made of mac and cheese and chicken and shrimp and just wrong

We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:26 pm
And the rumor of the week was: “this rumor will not be voted in”

Meeting 1174

January 28, 2013

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

Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale
Began at 8pm – with superheroic tropes and threats of Joe Biden
28 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1173 were accepted as “minutes not being reviewed”

The Treasurer was not here
The Vice President commented that he didn’t know where to go & then reported that the newest “Drink Tank” is in his hand now - and will be out soon
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Outing committee reported that they plan to go to the HMS Pinafore TNG at Dunklespiel Auditorium on Stanford campus, Saturday, Feb 2nd
The Party Committee reports that the BASFA party at FurCon went well, they took in $180 in the jar and a good time was had by all

Announcements

Kevin announced that Hugo nominations part 1 of 3 will be tonight - the other 2 nights will be = Feb 11 and Feb 18
Fred announced that Cory Doctorow will be at Borderlands books on Friday, Feb 8, 7pm-ish
Dave C announced that BBC America is now broadcasting from the West Coast but the times are still being given as if it’s the East Coast & announced that Other Change of Hobbit appreciates its customer’s business & announced that on Feb 1 the Greenway Court Theatre in LA is showing “When You’re in Love the Whole World is Jewish”
Beth announced that her class was in the top 10 and will get a visit from Sharkie on Monday
John O announced that they will be seeing the “HMS Pinafore TNG” on Feb 2 & announced that John Coulton’s arrangement of “Baby Got Back” was lifted by “Glee” so he has re-released the song
Ric announced that Fanboy Planet’s podcasts are reaching near 300 - #296 is out now “Ambient Coughing”
[evil] Kevin announced that PR2 for Westercon 66 is now out and they have a page at westercon66.org for folks to make programming suggestions & announced that their suite at Gallifrey 1 will host 3 events: Suite 110 will have, #1 “an ordinary room party”, #2 will be a western-themed room party called “Mercy” & #3 will be a tea for LonCon 3 - and he announced that Andy is home, not infecting us.

Chris announced that deadlines for “Exhibition Hall” & “Journey Planet” are Feb 15.

Reviews

Dave C reviewed “Hansel & Gretel” as less than he expected - like watching a faster, less witty “Xena” episode & reviewed “King of the Nerds” as unfortunate

Mike reviewed “Draw me a Story” as excellent and worth full price & to check out www.museumsoflosgatos.org - it’s there thru Feb 24

Bradford reviewed Washington DC as great to hold an inauguration in - the trip as a whole was excellent & he had a great time; & he reviewed that Oxford Press has released an 11-volume history of sf as good but they left out some cogent information.

Tom reviewed “2312” by Robinson as a weird but good book, worth paperback & reviewed “HMS Pinafore TNG” as worth full price - a beautiful production & those speaking to this agreed.

Ric reviewed the “Fringe” series finale as he really enjoyed it & he recommends a new comic called “The Highway” by John Byrne as hard sf & also recommended a manga series “The Drops of God” as really excellent

JC reviewed “Movie 43” as all kinds of wrong and hysterically funny [Something Awful gave it a 0 of 50 rating] - rated as YMMV & Mo has only seen previews of it and says “it looks like the kind of movie that would make her retch”

[evil] Kevin reviewed the Retrodome farewell shindig as wonderful and sad and poignant & reviewed the 20th Century remake of “Hidden Fortress” big-screen showing as the recent CGI additions were disappointing - [tall] Kevin pointed out the showing was quite literally priceless

Ken reviewed the Retrodome’s closing as very sentimental

Chris reviewed “Six-Gun Snow White” as amazing & spectacular

John reviewed Unwoman as she does really beautiful cello songs - definitely worth attending & buying her music

We did auctions

We adjourned at 9:40 pm

And the rumor of the week was: “bacon is not meat - it is pig candy”
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.

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**Friday, February 1**

**w00tstock Founders Night**
Marines Memorial Theatre
609 Sutter, San Francisco
sfsketchfest.com
Adam Savage, Wil Wheaton, and Paul and Storm present a night of songs, readings, comedy, and other clever widgets born from and dedicated to the enthusiasms, obsessions, trials and joys of geek pride.
7 p.m. $25

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**Friday-Sunday, February 1-3**

**Potlatch 22 & Foolscap 15**
Redmond Marriott Town Center
7401 164th Ave NE, Redmond, WA
potlatch-sf.org
foolscapcon.org
Small literary and general SF convention. GOH: Nancy Pearl, author of “Book Lust”. Book of Honor: “Among Others”. $50

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**Saturday, February 2**

**Rivendell Revels**
The Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N Elsworth Avenue, San Mateo
www.peers.org/rivendell.html
Elves, wizards, hobbits, dwarves, and humans alike are welcome at Lord Elrond’s grand ball at Rivendell in our tribute to “The Hobbit” and “Lord of the Rings” with glorious dance music by Avalon Rising.
6:45 p.m. $15 (till January 26)

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**Tuesday, February 5**

**An Evening with Bruce Campbell**
The Castro Theatre
429 Castro, San Francisco
www.castrotheatre.com
Join Bruce for a rollicking onstage conversation with his friend and recent “Burn Notice” guest star Patton Oswalt, followed by a screening of Sam Raimi’s much-loved “Army of Darkness”.
8:30 p.m. $25

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**Tuesday, February 5**

**Gail Carriger**
Books, Inc.
601 Van Ness, San Francisco
www.booksinc.net
The author signs her latest Parasol Protectorate novel: “Etiquette & Espionage”.
7 p.m. Free

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**Thursday, February 7**

**Cory Doctorow**
The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street, San Francisco
www.booksmith.com
The author signs his latest book “Homeland”, a sequel to his YA hit “Little Brother”.
7:30 p.m. Free
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<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Price/Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday-Monday, February 15-18</strong></td>
<td>DunDraCon</td>
<td>San Ramon Marriott</td>
<td>$50 (Till February 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday-Monday, February 15-18</strong></td>
<td>Pantheacon</td>
<td>San Jose Doubletree</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, February 16</strong></td>
<td>Steampunk Emporium</td>
<td>Great Escape Games</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday-Sunday, February 16-17</strong></td>
<td>Animation on Display</td>
<td>Hotel Kabuki</td>
<td>$30 (till January 15)</td>
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<td><strong>Friday, February 22</strong></td>
<td>LOPV Presents: Virtual Villains</td>
<td>The Other Office</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday-Sunday, March 1-3</strong></td>
<td>Consonance</td>
<td>Crowne Plaza San Jose/Silicon Valley</td>
<td>$55 (till January 15)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday-Sunday, March 8-10</strong></td>
<td>FOGcon 2013</td>
<td>Walnut Creek Marriott</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday-Sunday, March 9-10</strong></td>
<td>San Jose Super Toy &amp; Comic Book Show</td>
<td>Santa Clara County Fairgrounds</td>
<td>$6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday-Sunday, April 5-7</strong></td>
<td>ConQuest SAC</td>
<td>The New Red Lion Woodlake Center</td>
<td>$45 (till February 28)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday-Sunday, April 26-28</strong></td>
<td>Nova Albion Steampunk Exhibition</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency Santa Clara</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday-Saturday, May 3-5</strong></td>
<td>Corflu XXX</td>
<td>Red Lion Hotel</td>
<td>$65</td>
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Saturday–Sunday, May 18–19

**Big Wow Comicfest**
San Jose Convention Center, San Jose
bigwowcomicfest.com
Comics convention.

Friday–Monday, May 24–27

**Fanime**
San Jose Convention Center, San Jose
www.fanime.com
Anime convention.

**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..

Thursday–Sunday, July 4–7

**Awesome! - Westercon 66**
Hilton Arden West
2200 Harvard St, Sacramento
www.westercon66.org

Thursday–Monday, August 29–September 2

**LoneStarCon 3**
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
San Antonio, TX
lonestarcon3.org
The 71st World Science Fiction Convention.

Saturday–Sunday, May 18–19

**Cartoon Art Museum**
655 Mission Street, San Francisco
www.cartoonart.org
Current exhibitions: The Art of Paranorman (through Feb 17)
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 Mondays & Tuesdays, and on November 21-22 for Thanksgiving.
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.

Ongoing

**Daily**

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<td><strong>Bad Movie Night</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Dark Room Theater&lt;br&gt;2263 Mission Street, San Francisco&lt;br&gt;www.darkroomsf.com&lt;br&gt;Featuring bad movies old and new.&lt;br&gt;8 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Sacramento Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club</strong>&lt;br&gt;Midtown Crepreville&lt;br&gt;1730 L Street, Sacramento&lt;br&gt;www.sacgeeks.com&lt;br&gt;A laid-back, friendly social club for people to discuss, recommend, share and trade their favorite SF and fantasy books. NOT a book-of-the-month club.&lt;br&gt;6:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Principality of Mists Fighter Practice</strong>&lt;br&gt;Twin Creeks Sports Complex&lt;br&gt;969 Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale&lt;br&gt;www.westkingdom.org/as46/mar/sunnyvale-fighter-practice&lt;br&gt;SCA event. Non-members must remember to fill out a waiver form. In case of rain, call from 3pm on to determine of the facility will be closed that day. 408-534-1169. 7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Sakuramento Anime Society</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rancho Cordova Library&lt;br&gt;9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova&lt;br&gt;www.saclibrary.org&lt;br&gt;Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs. 3-6 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Mondays and Wednesdays</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Silicon Valley Boardgamers</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mountain View Community Center&lt;br&gt;201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View&lt;br&gt;www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb&lt;br&gt;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.&lt;br&gt;6:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Wednesdays</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>East Bay Strategy Games Club</strong>&lt;br&gt;EndGame&lt;br&gt;921 Washington, Oakland&lt;br&gt;www.endgameoakland.com/event-calendar&lt;br&gt;6:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>SF Games</strong>&lt;br&gt;Zephyr Cafe&lt;br&gt;3643 Balboa Street, San Francisco&lt;br&gt;www.facebook.com/pages/SF-Games/&lt;br&gt;121590681933&lt;br&gt;SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week.&lt;br&gt;2 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Fanboy Planet Podcast</strong>&lt;br&gt;Illusive Comics and Games&lt;br&gt;2725 El Camino Real, Suite 105, Santa Clara&lt;br&gt;www.fanboyplanet.com&lt;br&gt;Live from Illusive Comics and Games, it’s the “Fanboy Planet” Podcast with your host, Derek McCaw.&lt;br&gt;6 p.m.</td>
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### 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-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

#### Biweekly

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

**Monthly**

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

### Fridays

**SF Games**  
Muddy’s Coffeehouse  
1304 Valencia Street, San Francisco  
[www.sfgames.org](http://www.sfgames.org)  
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

**Geeks Vs. Geeks**  
San Francisco / San Mateo  
[www.facebook.com/geeksvsgeeks](http://www.facebook.com/geeksvsgeeks)  
[www.geeksvsgeeks.com](http://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](http://www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org)  
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.  
Noon - 2 p.m.  
Free

**Foothill Anime**  
Building 5015, Foothill College  
Los Altos Hills  
[foothill.anime.net](http://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
## 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

### Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Meets the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.
6 p.m. Free

### USS Defiance
5026 Don Julio Blvd, Sacramento
1566 Howe Ave, Sacramento
www.myspace.com/d2121978
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.
7 p.m. Free

### USS Northern Lights
sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights
Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for specifics.
The ‘Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International and a swell group of science fiction fans. We do more than Trek. Usually meets the third Friday of the month, with social event TBD.
7 p.m. Free

### Micro Gods, Inc.
Berkeley Public Library, West Branch
1125 University Ave, Berkeley
mgisciaf.angelfire.com
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub
Family Club for fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Movie, Anime & Manga. Meets every 3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for updates.
1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Free
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Meeting Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religion &amp; SF Book Club</td>
<td>First United Methodist Church</td>
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<td>40 February 2013, 7 p.m., Free, contact Rev. Randy Smith at <a href="mailto:RSmith2678@aol.com">RSmith2678@aol.com</a></td>
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<td>Other Realms Book Club</td>
<td>Books, Inc., Burlingame Ave</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m., Free</td>
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<td>Sci-Fi Book Group with Kym</td>
<td>Barnes &amp; Noble, El Cerrito Plaza</td>
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<td>7 p.m., Free, February book is “Seeds of the Earth” by Michael Cobley, New members are always welcome.</td>
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<td>Legion of Rassilon</td>
<td>Carl’s Jr., San Jose</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m., Free, Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month.</td>
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<td>USS Augusta Ada</td>
<td>Round Table Pizza, San Francisco</td>
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<td>1 p.m., Free, 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>
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<tr>
<td>Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE</td>
<td>Round Table Pizza, Sacramento</td>
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<td>6 p.m., Free, Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.</td>
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A secret wilderness

by Lucy Huntzinger
## Bay Area Fannish Calendar – February 2013

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Foothill Anime Geeks Vs. Geeks (SM)</td>
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<td>An Evening with Bruce Campbell Gail Carriger</td>
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<td>East Bay Star Wars</td>
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Science Fiction/San Francisco is the monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area – www.efanzines.com.