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Art Credits

Cover Our winter glory by Lucy Huntzinger
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March is my favorite month, not only because my birthday is in March, several relatives and friends have birthdays in March. So I’ve always thought of it as time of celebration. Also, while I grew up with my birthday being the start of summer in the Philippines and the beginning of warmer weather, it is somewhat the same here in the Bay Area even though it’s still technically winter. We’ve had several sunny days lately, for which I’m glad, because I’ve finally shaken off the winter blues. And was a pretty tough winter for me getting sick twice and just feeling generally tired and down due to it being so dark and work and other things being so challenging.

So to celebrate my birthday, I decided to go to Seattle with Christopher instead of throwing a party or planning an outing with friends. I haven’t been up to do much socializing these past few months due to various reasons. What seemed more right to me was to go on a trip. I miss traveling, which I used to do much more than I’ve done these past few years. Also, I wanted to cross something off my travel bucket list. Seattle being at the top of the United States list for a while now. And it was wonderful but not for the reasons I expected.

I actually enjoyed Pike Place Market more than I thought I would. Yes, it was touristy, but it also had a lot of local flavor. It was also like a big farmer’s market rolled into a Fisherman’s Wharf times 10. It was actually fun going to the first Starbucks even though I’m not a coffee drinker and prefer independent cafes than chains. The baristas there were like the rock stars of the café world! The famous Pike Place Fish Market where they toss the fish was fun. I only saw them toss one little fish but I can now cross that off my list as well.

Everything in downtown Seattle was pretty much accessible from our hotel in Belltown. The other nearby attraction was Seattle Center, which seemed like Disneyland especially since we took the monorail from Westlake Center to it. Seattle Center was like Fantasyland and Tomorrowland combined.

Space Needle seemed to be the most popular tourist spot but to me it was not the most memorable. The Experience Music Project too was not too exciting. It seemed too scattered and hard to find exhibits that were right next to each other with no rhyme or reason as to where one ended and another began. Some were even split into several rooms. The one thing at the EMP that I really did enjoy was the Icons of Science Fiction exhibit.

Christopher was a more in-depth article in this issue about Pike Place Market and the Seattle Center.

Anyway, I did like downtown Seattle very much. It was like San Francisco (especially the Union Square area) but with taller buildings, cleaner streets, less crowds and cheaper food. The people everywhere were so friendly and nice. There was art everywhere.
We went a few miles out of the downtown area to see the Museum of Flight, which was, of course, near the airport. This wasn’t on our original itinerary because it was farther away and I didn’t think we’d have time to do it. I’m glad we went, even just for a couple of hours, because to me, that was the highlight of the trip. I have a full article about this museum in this issue as well.

And also in this issue is my review of the PEERS Rivendell Revels (aka Hobbit Ball). PEERS is a very important arts and entertainment non-profit that has been producing themed costume and dance balls monthly for more than 20 years. They currently need to raise funds to continue operating and I have more information about this in my Hobbit Ball article. A “Doctor Who” ball is coming up in June to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the TV show and we hope that PEERS reaches its fundraising goal so that the ball will still happen. So please donate if you can as every donation counts. Even if you can’t donate, you can lend support by spreading the word. Unfortunately, organizations like these have a hard time keeping afloat in today’s economic environment. So it’s up to us to keep these fannish institutions alive.

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
By Christopher J Garcia

So, there’s a graphic novel called “Sparks.” It’s a noir graphic telling of a story that is as old as time: the impact of a meteor has killed many, and given 13 survivors special powers. Some of these survivors have had children, and they also have powers. Ian Sparks is a regular guy, but he ends up being in a car crash caused by a fleeing criminal. Both his parents are killed, and he’s exposed to RED G, a terrible chemical. Eventually, he follows the Batmaniam form and becomes a hero, meeting Lady Heavenly, another hero who is the Sweetheart of the Media. They fall for each other, only to have Sparks dishonored when the local evil villain, Ringmaster Jesus, kidnaps and has his way with Heavenly while Sparks apparently blacked out.

And that’s all in the first issue that was collected into the graphic novel.

The story is a noir masterpiece that plays with several themes that I consider to be essential to the genre. How heroes can be villains, how villains can be targeted, how the truth can be revised over time and revealed over the course of the telling of the tale. It’s all in there, with a giant amount of different targets of revenge. This would not have passed the Comic Book authority (nor the Hayes Code, for that matter) as it is dark, dark, dark and heavy. Reading it, it turns so brilliantly, forcing the reader to consider and reconsider each character.

And every character is so rich!

Sparks is being pulled in multiple directions, both by his personal sense of honor and by those around him. He’s not Bruce Wayne, driven to go beyond himself. He’s more like Ghandi. OK, that’s a stretch, but he is a complex interesting character. He’s the reason for the entire story, but he’s also a pawn at times.

Lady Heavenly is what drives much of the story, but she’s hardly present for a lot of the book. She’s the force, the embodiment of heroism and a commercially significant figure. She’s fascinating whenever she’s up. She’s the traditional Noir Dame, and has all the strengths attached to that concept.

Perhaps my favorite character in the entire work is Archer, the cop. He’s a powerful force, and he is the one that guides Sparks for a while. It’s a well-written character, and I could see that writer Chris Folino was working that character for a film role.

Perhaps the only thing I wasn’t fully bought into was the art. It’s of a style that works really well in full-page pictures. In fact, much of the tone of each issue is set by the full-page images. Artist JM Ringuet’s work is so much more effective in larger spaces than confined, and that did take some getting used to. There’s also a bit of art from Tyler Endicott, and while it’s not quite seamless, it doesn’t detract at all from the visual portion of the storytelling. There is a cinematic feeling to the way the art plays.

And then, they made a movie!
“Sparks,” the motion picture, was going to premiere at Cinequest, and this brought in all sorts of actors and folks involved with the film. As part of the premiere weekend, they held a “Sparks” signing at Illusive Comics & Games in Santa Clara. Of course, I had to attend because there were some amazing folks gonna be there. Chris Folino, who wrote the graphic novel and wrote and directed the film, was there, as was the editor of the novel, my pal (and oddly one of the people I’ve known the longest who I still regularly talk to!) Derek McCaw. I introduced myself, since I was going to be handling the Q&A the next night after the movie, and they were kind enough to give me a copy of the work! That was awesome!

And then there were the actors.

When I first got to the signing, the first person I saw was Clancy Brown. You may not know the name, but if I said Kurgan from “Highlander” (”It’s better to burn out than to fade away”), or perhaps Rawhide from “Buckaroo Bonzai.” He’s been in hundreds of things, both as a voice actor and in the flesh. He played Archer in the film, and he kindly signed my book AND let me take pictures with him! That was awesome! Next to him, and looking more and more like Jeff Bridges every time I see him, was William Katt. He was in Carrie, but let’s face it, he’ll always be The Greatest American Hero. He was involved with the project from the institution of it! He was the Executive Producer of the graphic novel and of the film, and he also appears in it as Ringmaster Jesus! He was kind enough to do photos and sign my book too!

I didn’t get to stay too long, but I headed to Cinequest the next day and saw some great films early. I’d been watching films since Tuesday at that point, and there were so many great shorts (some science fictional, like “AutoDrive” from the

The California Theater

by Chris Garcia
UK, or the amazingly beautiful “Lullaby for Lucius and Sumat”) and features were awesome. I got to the California, and I announced the film, where they also had a lovely red carpet. Now, there were some timing issues, but everyone appeared in the Red Carpet. Sadly, the theatre was understaffed, and the theatre manager actually held back a couple of folks from the film. One was William Katt, and the guy with him was Clint Howard, who you’d know from every movie made since 1980. I actually had to use my super-power (saying “They’re with me”) to get the pair of them in. Also showing up, though not at the signing, were other stars, including Jake Busey (Nick’s son, and more importantly, the creepiest character ever in “Contact”), the lovely Ashley Bell from “The Last Exorcism,” Clint Howard, and to me, the only important one: Larry Cedar.

Now, you may never have heard of Larry Cedar, but I was a HUGE fan of a show called “Square One TV,” a PBS show in the late 1980s and early 90s. He was one of the stars, and my Uncle Wayne said he knew him a little back in his UCLA days. He’s shown up in tons of projects, most notably in “Twilight Zone: The Movie,” “Deadwood,” and as The Vermin Man in “Constantine.” Recently, and to my great delight, he played Cornelius Hawthorne on “Community.” I was so psyched that he had shown up! I had no idea he was going to be in the picture!

Now, the film itself was really good. The script for the film is nearly identical to the script for the comic, save for a couple of very wise decisions to change up the end. I’d read three-fourths of the book the night before, but saved the ending until I saw the film. It was very smart the way they did it in the comic, but it’s a bit more powerful how they played with it in the movie. Reading it later, I found myself far more interested in the movie form for the finish.

The film plays with the characters, and you’ll remember when I described the action of the first section of “Sparks,” well, it goes through all of that very quickly, which drives you deep into the story. It slows a bit after, but it never fails to carry you along. The story is so damn strong! The dialogue even matches the book in most areas. The performances were all very good, though Sparks and Lady Heavenly weren’t standouts. Brown as Archer was spectacular, imbuing the performance with all the intensity you’d expect from Clancy. Clint Howard as the newspaper editor Gordon Eldridge was everything you’d expect from a man who has worked in almost as many films as the great Christopher Lee. Jake Busey was good, especially when he got to fight with himself! The real stand-out was the lovely Marina Squerciati as Dawn. She’s probably best known from “Gossip Girl,” but she was also great in the superhero film “Alter Egos.” She plays a character who has to deliver a lot of the conflicted Femme Fatale vibe to the central portion of the movie, and she’s so good at it. I really want to see her in more work, because here, she was a star!

The biggest thing that I fear will keep Sparks from getting a big distribution deal is that some of the effects were a bit poorer than you’ll likely see in a multiplex. It’s got the story, the performances, the score (and the score from the amazing Jacob Shea is a HUGE part of the artistic success of the film!), and especially the cinematography, but a few effects are just the kind of thing that turns off a lot of executives. Sucks, but it’s true. Luckily, those are the kinds of things that you can fix without too much effort.
The Q&A went well. I mostly just stood there and let the folks talk. At first only a couple of folks came to the stage, but Chris Folino and I kept urging folks. I specifically called up Larry Cedar saying “I’m a total ‘Square One TV’ mark, so I have to share the stage with Larry Cedar!” And he came up! It was great! They talked, got a few laughs, a lot of photos, and that was that.

Overall, a really fun and well-done film, especially for a small budget. I hope it gets distribution and that folks get to see it, and hopefully that leads to more and more folks reading the graphic novel!
By Jean Martin

Editor-in-Chief

The first Period Events and Entertainments Re-creation Society (PEERS) ball I attended was in February of 2004. It was their Return of the King Ball, which I found out about from the “Lord of the Rings” fan club magazine. I didn’t even know PEERS existed before then even though this organization has been holding monthly balls for over a decade right in my backyard.

“Lord of the Rings” is my all-time favorite book and I loved the Peter Jackson movies as well. To find something like a costume ball where people can also dance appropriate dances for the theme totally changed my life and PEERS has been my main hobby and activity ever since.

Fast forward nine years, and soon after Peter Jackson’s “The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey” hit the theatres,
Tauriel and Legolas

courtesy of Jean Martin

Gandalf and Radagast

by Jean Martin
Hobbits

by Jean Martin

Human Ranger and Elf Warrior

by Jean Martin
PEERS held another ball set in Middle Earth. This time the event was set during Bilbo Baggins’s first visit to Rivendell in “The Hobbit” novel. Titled the Rivendell Revels, the ball was held at the San Mateo Masonic Hall last Saturday, Feb. 2.

Attendees came in an amazing variety of costumes not only from “The Hobbit” but also from “Lord of the Rings.” There were lots of elegant and otherworldly elves, a handful of hobbits and some dwarves. There were, of course, lots of humans in fantasy, Medieval, Renaissance, Middle Eastern and Victorian styles. The most clever and creative costume at the ball was a young man in a blue unitard motion-capture suit complete with little white balls. He even acted and sounded like Gollum.

Among the official PEERS cast were Darbus Oldham as Bilbo Baggins, Emily Gladstone Cole as Arwen, Charles McKeithan as Aragorn, Arthur Pruyn as Gandalf, James Myers as Radagast and Sheri Jurnecka as Galadriel. I portrayed Tauriel, the captain of the Mirkwood Elven guard, who Peter Jackson created for the Hobbit movies but did not appear in the first one.

Popular Celtic Fusion and Renaissance rock band Avalon Rising provided the live dance music. They performed their original songs as well as tunes based on Tolkien’s words with music by either by author Marion Zimmer Bradley or two members of Broceliande (who are also in Avalon Rising), Kristoph Klover and Margaret Davis. These songs included “The Hobbit Walking Song,” “Merry Old Inn” and “Galadriel’s Lament” and can be found in Broceliande’s album entitled “The Starlit Jewel.”
Dances during the evening included polkas, waltzes, mazurkas, schottisches, a grand stroll, a spiral dance, reels, set dances and country dances. Several of the dances were renamed to have Tolkien-esque names such as Gandalf’s Spiral Dance, the Congress of Rivendell Waltz, the Dwarven National Polka and the Riders of Rohan Gallopede.

It was a wonderful event of costuming, dancing, music and reliving the magical world of Middle Earth.

If you’re interested in reading about the preview article I wrote before the ball as published in Examiner.com, go to: www.examiner.com/article/lord-of-the-rings-fantasy-costume-ball-the-sf-bay-area-on-feb-2.

More importantly, if you’d like to help PEERS continue to produce these amazing monthly themed costume and dance balls, please consider donating to their Indiegogo fundraising campaign at: www.indiegogo.com/projects/period-events-and-entertainments-recreation-society.
By Christopher Erickson  
Managing Editor

It would seem that science fiction and related genres are niche ideas since they never really seem to get major recognition from award ceremonies and popular media outlets such as “Entertainment Tonight.” Scifi is important as a story style since it has always been a proxy for the exploration of important sociological issues and questions and has been an inspiration for science and exploration.

Technological innovation has always been one of the staples of science fiction. Advanced medicines, outrageous inventions and wondrous tools are commonplace in these tales. The story elements have inspired scientists and military personnel to create new technologies and new techniques. This is most exhibited by the technologies from “Star Trek” such as the communicator and electronic data pads leading to the cell phone and PDA/tablets, information memory cassettes becoming floppy disks and flash drives, medical scanning leading to MRI and CAT scans and the military studying the bridge setup to utilize it in ship and aerospace designs.

Science fiction also tackles societal issues through commentary that is metaphorically represented. The overall concepts of good and evil, honor, loyalty and ethics is constantly explored through the heroes and villains that are found in almost every single work spanning planetary romances such as the John Carter books, futuristic space operas and adventure stories like Buck Rodgers and Flash Gordon, superhero fiction, cyberpunk fiction like “Blade Runner” and “Ghost In The Shell,” Steampunk works, alternate political structures like the classic novels “1984” and “Brave New World,” dystopian and utopian futures and alternate history and time travel stories. These stories can explore the nature of evil and the various spectrum of the concepts of good and evil such as the redemption of Darth Vader and Han Solo in “Star Wars,” show examples of loyalty and honor through people sacrificing themselves to save entire planets and people standing together to face a common enemy.

Exploration of political structures has featured in a number of works. Totalitarian societies such as those in “1984” and “THX-1138,” the works of Ayn Rand pushing the ideas of capitalism and individuality, and utopian societies depicted such as the idyllic city of Olympus in the manga and anime “Appleseed.”

Ethical issues, such as discrimination, racial harmony, acceptance of different people and application of new or untested technologies, are another recurring theme. Discrimination becomes an allegory when a socially marginalized group is exploited and used for slave labor or is pushed to the fringes of society. Robots and clones becoming a new type of being or rebelling against human oppressors is one of the themes that are explored in a number of different tales and characters like Data from “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” the replicants of “Blade Runner” or the rebellion featured in the silent film “Metropolis.” The comic book characters of the X-Men are another prime example of this. Racial harmony is shown through groups of people from different backgrounds brought together to explore space, save civilizations...
from extinction or try to survive in a nightmarish existence. Acceptance of people who are different from oneself is a constant theme when people have to coexist to achieve a mutual goal such as rescue or survival. “Enemy Mine” features two characters who hate each other but must work together to survive on a planet they have crashed on and eventually become friends. The ethical issues of new technologies are also another theme found in scifi. The development of new medicines that can become weaponized like the T-Virus from the “Resident Evil” video games, the use of new technologies that can destroy planets ala the Death Star, the development of the perfect soldier such as Captain America and the development of a doomsday weapon or devices for controlling people such as those used by the thought police in “1984” to monitor the populace have highlighted concerns about developing new technologies and how to apply them in an ethical manner. Other stories have shown how new technology can be used to help mankind such as the “I, Robot” stories by Isaac Asimov, the short story “Flowers for Algernon” where a mentally handicapped man has a procedure that increases his intelligence temporarily or the use of the Nautilus by Captain Nemo to explore the ocean in “20,000 Leagues Under The Sea.”

The fear of technological advancement or the over-reliance on technology is also at the forefront of a number of stories. Post-apocalyptic settings, such as “The Road Warrior,” show the world in peril after a major catastrophe and the only people who survive are those who do not rely on technology. “Battlestar Galactica” is a good example of this as the human survivors of the attacks on the colony are defended by the one ship that didn’t have the integrated technology that allowed the Cylons to attack. “Frankenstein” was one of the first examples of the fears of industrialization creating an inhuman monster that would terrorize society. Further examples are Godzilla as a response to the development of nuclear weapons (Godzilla was an ancient creature originally woken up by nuclear testing), the development of the perfect human (such as Khan from “Star Trek”) who becomes a corrupted dominant power, and a number of stories where computers take over the world similar to Skynet in “The Terminator.”

The definition of being human, alienation and acceptance into society are overarching themes that are constantly explored. Robots and androids trying to act human, the development of artificial intelligence and cybernetic implants, and aliens trying to integrate into a different society all represent the acceptance issues that everyone faces. Superman trying to pass as a human has long been recognized as a metaphor for Jewish integration into Western culture. Cyberpunk stories like “Ghost in the Shell,” challenge the definition of “being human” when you might have most or all of your body replaced by artificial parts. Stories where normal behavior becoming subversive to society is shown in stories like “Fahrenheit 451” and several episodes of “The Twilight Zone” have highlighted the estrangement of individuals or groups of people.

Science fiction has long provided social commentary and outlets for the expression of fears about technology and the use of power, political structures, discrimination, racial harmony and exploration of acceptance and humanity. All media forms have pervaded the public consciousness and helped shape the thinking of society toward these issues. Scifi will continue to explore these issues and provide a platform for debate and discussion.
Jean and I recently went to Seattle for a nice weekend vacation. There were a number of sights to see that are of interest to science fiction fans. Most of them are located in the Seattle Center located a short bus ride or a nice leisurely walk from the main part of Downtown Seattle.

The most interesting part of Seattle is the people. The driver of the shuttle who took us to our hotel from the airport acted as a guide to give us a bit of history about Seattle and pointed out the areas as we drove past them. I noticed a number of people who sported brightly colored hair and no one seemed to even take notice of it. We also met a man on the bus coming back from the Museum of Flight in a wonderful Steampunk outfit who was going to the ball that was the same day as we were visiting and no one even commented on it. The people were very personable and helpful.

The best place for food (always of interest to the fans) is Pike Place Market. There are a number of food stalls and fresh fruit stands along with a number of restaurants. The eateries also include places that are inexpensive and offer great food. There also are several shops including a magic shop, a geeky merchandise store and bookstore.

Nearby is one of the institutions that Seattle is famous for, Starbucks Coffee. The original store is still open and it is a major tourist spot. There are usually street performers outside playing music and selling compact discs. The store is small and still looks like it did in 1971. The baristas play toss-and-catch with the cups and the line moves quickly even though it may be out the door.

Another point of interest is Miner’s Landing. It is a collection of restaurants, shops and an indoor carousel and arcade. The carousel is similar to one found at carnival midways with the horses. The one fun shop we visited was Pirate’s Plunder. It was a pirate-themed store similar to the old Seawolf Trading Company in Fremont. The store sells tourist
mementos, but the main trade is buccaneer-themed items. There is a vast array of t-shirts, posters, clothes, toys, books, games, costume items, flags and other paraphernalia. The store being inside Miner’s Landing, which sits on Pier 57, is fitting since you can step outside and see the water a short distance away.

Nearby is the Seattle Aquarium on Pier 59. It sits directly on the water and has great views of Puget Sound. The building houses seals, birds, salmon, otters and a view directly out to the waters surrounding Seattle.

The main draw for the metropolis is the Seattle Center. It is an entire complex that covers 25 city blocks and houses a variety of sights. There are a number of theaters, Key Arena (home of the previous Supersonics basketball team), a science museum, art galleries as well as restaurants. The Seattle Center grew out of the old fairgrounds of Seattle’s World’s Fair and is served by the Seattle Monorail, which was also built as part of the fair. The Monorail runs about every 10 minutes and runs from the Retail Core of the downtown area. Of course the area is dominated by the main symbol of the Emerald City.

The Space Needle is the centerpiece of the entire complex as it dominates the skyline leading into the city from the water. The Space Needle was originally built as part of the 1962 World’s Fair (known as the Century 21 Exposition) with a major theme of the Space Race and aerospace engineering being a part of the fair. The Space Needle has become the main attraction for visitors and locals alike with the 360° views of Seattle and the Googie/Futuristic architecture style popular at the time of construction (similar to the buildings in “The Jetsons”). The tower still impresses with its height (605 feet) and design. The landmark also boasts a rotating
restaurant called Sky City. The views from the observation
deck are amazing where you can look out into downtown,
Puget Sound, Queen Anne Hill and Lake Union and even see
Mount Rainier.

Seattle Center also boasts a number of fountains and
gardens. The most of the fountains are tucked away in various
corners and provide a nice peaceful place for views of the
Space Needle or just a quiet lunch. The main fountain is the
International Fountain, originally built for the World’s Fair but
eventually rebuilt as a frolicking ground for people with jets of
water shooting upwards to 120 feet. The gardens include the
Broad Street Sculpture Garden, the Kobe Bell Meditation
Garden with its gift from sister-city Kobe, Japan, a children’s
garden, a Peace garden, a poem garden (where poems are
carved in stone for all to read), a tree walk with lovely fauna, a
September 11 memorial garden, and the centerpiece garden,
the Chihuly Garden and Glass.

The Chihuly Garden and Glass features an array of works
from Dale Chihuly, both housed outside in a garden area and
inside a glass building. It is possible to see some of these
amazing works from the Space Needle both on the grounds
and in the structure housing some of the larger pieces. The
entire area is a museum to the Tacoma-born artist showing off
his artwork.

There are also a number of galleries and art sculptures
scattered around the complex. Many statues, murals, and
decorative spaces can be found throughout the gardens,
buildings and spaces of the area.

There are also a number of exhibition spaces where
conferences, concerts, events and athletic contests are found.
Marion Oliver McCaw Hall hosts concerts and symphonic
performances. The other main event space is Key Area, home of several sports teams and major concerts.

There are also a number of museums and theaters. The complex boasts the Seattle Repertory Theater, the Children’s Theater and the Intiman Playhouse. The theaters include the Seattle Children’s Museum, the Chihuly Garden and Glass, and the Pacific Science Center. The Pacific Science Center is focused on bringing science alive to people so that they can experience and learn about the forces of nature and the workings of technology in a hands-on manner.

The main museum is the EMP (Experience Music Project), a collection of exhibits about the ideas and risk-taking that fuel contemporary pop culture. When you walk in, there is a large area called Skychurch that features rotating videos about
some of the exhibits, music videos and recorded performances from previous functions. The areas of the museum are dedicated to music, science fiction and fantasy and pop culture. When Jean and I visited, there were a number of excellent exhibits. The music areas featured an exhibit of Seattle-born Jimi Hendrix and his time in England where he became a big star, a Nirvana exhibit and the evolution of the guitar.

The Hear My Train A Comin’: Hendrix Hits London exhibit chronicled his time in the UK where he became popular and his rise to worldwide fame and featured some of his guitars (including the one he played at Woodstock and the one he lit on fire at the Monterey Pop Festival) along with some of his personal clothing.

The Nirvana: Taking Punk To The Masses exhibit explored how the band changed popular music in the 1990s when they burst onto the scene, reinvigorating hard rock with their stripped down sounds and grunge attitude. The exhibition showed the influences of early Seattle rock on Kurt Cobain as well as how he opened up the airwaves to a number of bands from the area including Pearl Jam and Soundgarden.

The Guitar Gallery: The Quest for Volume space showed how guitars evolved from acoustic stringed hollow instruments to the current solid body form with wah-wah pedals and whammy bars. The guitars featured included the famous Fender models such as the Telecaster and Stratocaster and several Gibson Les Paul models.

Another of the spaces was dedicated to science fiction and fantasy. This section includes the Science Museum Hall of Fame with a wall dedicated to all of the inductees including George Lucas, Ray Bradbury, Gene Roddenberry, Jules Verne, H.G. Wells, Isaac Asimov and several others. The two main
Buffy’s Wooden Stakes  
by Christopher Erickson

Captain Sheridan’s Uniform from Babylon 5  
by Christopher Erickson
The Icons of Science Fiction gallery featured props and costumes from an array of science fiction movies, shows and books and franchises including “Star Wars,” “Star Trek,” “Doctor Who,” “Babylon 5,” “Watchmen,” “Ender’s Game,” “The Matrix” movies, “Men In Black” and Superman. The exhibit explored the questions and themes that science fiction asks, such as exploring the stars, interaction with alien cultures, development of super powers and advanced weaponry, the advance and use of technology and genetic research. These questions were explored by the use of props, art, costumes and books that have touched on these subjects.
The Lure of the Horror Film featured properties from television shows and movies such as “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,” classic horror films, slasher flicks like “Friday the 13th” and suspense thrillers like “Saw.” The area also featured interactive experiences such as a scream booth and a shadow monster installation. The fears and dark side of the human psyche was on display during this exhibit.

Another fun exhibit was the Art of Video Games installation. The evolution of the consoles and the art of games were displayed featuring the original Atari, the Commodore 64, the Nintendo Entertainment System, Sony Playstation and Xbox among others. Video screens played clips from video games and showed the different range of games that art was developed for including adventure, roleplaying and puzzle genres. Games could be played showing off the interactive worlds that could be explored.

The most interesting exhibit was Worn To Be Wild: The Black Leather Jacket. This one displayed the origins of the leather jacket from protective gear for motorcycle drivers and its ever-changing status symbol from rebellion to counterculture icon to everyday fashion. Jackets worn by Elvis, Michael Jackson and several local residents were on display. The outfit worn by the Terminator in “Terminator 2: Judgment Day” was also on display.

The permanent features of the building all explore music creation and fandom. An interactive sound lab is set up for people to play with instruments and mix tracks. There is also a stage where you can live the fantasy of being a musician.

The Black Leather Jacket as Protection by Christopher Erickson

Bad Dude courtesy of Christopher Erickson
There is a touch screen that allows museum visitors to vote on their favorite songs and musical genres.

For Bay Area residents, Seattle offers a number of attractions and exhibits worth visiting when going to a convention, a vacation or during a business trip. The city provides a chance to experience culture, science, food and nature in small area without having to go very far.
Amazing Airplane and Spacecraft Displays at Seattle’s Museum of Flight

By Jean Martin
Editor-in-Chief

On my first trip to Seattle a few weeks ago for my birthday weekend, I prepared a list of what I wanted to see beforehand. Most of the items on my list were the regular tourist attractions, which were also walking distance from our hotel in Belltown. However, on the way to our hotel from the Seattle-Tacoma airport, our friendly shuttle driver pointed out interesting spots along the way. One of them was the Museum of Flight.

I knew about the museum from doing research about the area, but I didn’t think we’d have time to go to it because we already had a full schedule of things to see and we only really had one full day of sightseeing. The museum was also not within walking distance. What convinced me to squeeze it into our itinerary was the driver pointing out the first Air Force One and a British Airways Concorde right outside the museum. There were also numerous planes parked around the museum as it so happens that the Boeing manufacturing plant is right next to it.

Now, I’ve always been an airplane enthusiast and have always wanted to learn how to fly. Seeing lots of different
Blackbird in the Great Gallery

by Jean Martin
kinds of planes just gets me really excited. So I negotiated with Christopher that we’d spent less time at the Seattle Center the next day so that we could do the Museum of Flight in the morning and the Seattle Center in the afternoon and evening.

It turns out that we made the right decision as the Museum of Flight was more amazing than I expected and it was the highlight of our trip to Seattle. It took a while for us to figure out how to get there by bus. Luckily, the people at the front desk of our hotel were very helpful and the bus stop was right in front of our hotel. It did take a long time to get there and back as there were lots of stops on the way but the bus runs every 30 minutes on Saturdays so it wasn’t too inconvenient of an option. It cost way less than having to hire a cab.

I knew right away that we had a special treat in store for us when we walked across the Memorial Bridge from the bus stop to the main museum building. The opening strains of the “Star Wars” theme blared through speakers as soon as we stepped on the bridge and it continued all the way until we reached the other side. The bridge itself was a marvel as it was made of glass and steel painted white. According to the museum’s web site its “dynamic shape is inspired from the metaphor of the contrail, a stream of crystallized vapor created in a plane’s wake.”

There were people already at the museum when we arrived to buy our tickets but it was not crowded by any means. I guess the museum is not as much of a draw as the Space Needle and the first Starbucks, which both had long lines and...
were packed with tourists. After we got our tickets, we admired the displays hanging in the Museum Lobby. The most memorable and colorful one was the 10-scale model of the Montgolfier brothers’ hot air balloon.

Then we went to the T. A. Wilson Great Gallery. Quoting from the web site, it is “one of Seattle’s most spectacular settings. The six-story tall glass and steel structure gracefully suspends more than 20 full-size aircraft from its ultra-modern frame.” The overall effect was one of different airplanes from different time periods either parked, flying, landing or taking off all at the same time. It was wonderful. There were planes used for commercial, military and leisure purposes. With so many things to see all at the same time, it was a bit overwhelming. So I first took all of it in as a whole, then saw that they were grouped in some sort of order, and then I focused on the ones that I personally found the most interesting. The main attraction in the Great Gallery was the Blackbird spy plane, the world’s fastest aircraft. Christopher told me that it’s the same type of plane that was used in the “X-Men: First Class” movie. I also liked the Wright Flyer reproduction, the Northrop Freedom Fighter jet and the US air mail plane.

With the sun coming in through the glass walls, it made it easy to see things but it was hard to take photos due to backlighting or shadows. It also got quite hot as it was like a greenhouse. But I was grateful that it was actually sunny and warm in Seattle for my actual birthday!
Since we didn’t have much time, we rushed through the adjacent Bill & Moya Lear Gallery, which had an exhibit called “Space: Exploring the New Frontier.” In it was a full-size replica of the International Space Station’s research laboratory. It was quite a thrill to walk inside and imagine what it’s like to be in the actual ISS, which I’ve seen a few times with the naked eye at night. There was also a Lunar Rover and an Apollo Command Module in the exhibit.

We also breezed through the Red Barn, the original manufacturing facility of Boeing, and walked past the William M. Allen Theater where they were holding talks. That entire week was scheduled with activities and lectures commemorating Women’s History Month. On that particular day, there was an aerospace career event for girls; introductory airplane rides for girls and women to promote their interest in aviation and space professions; a lecture about Bessie Coleman, the first African-American pilot; and a panel titled “From Earth Orbit to Mars with Women Who Work There.” There was also a NASA Space Shuttle Trainer and Flight Simulators, which we didn’t have time for, unfortunately.

We did have time to tour two floors of the J. Elroy McCaw Personal Courage Wing. The first floor had fighter planes from World War II, while the second floor had planes from World War I. There were more planes on the first floor as there are probably more planes from WWII available. There were planes from both sides of the war represented. They were all great. But what stood out for me in the WWI area were the replica of a trench (much cleaner, of course), a display about WWI in pop culture and the Sopwith Camel (Snoopy’s “plane”). In the WWII area I liked the Warhawk and a display and stories about female pilots during that war.

Then it was back on the Memorial Bridge to go to the other, newer side of the museum. This time to the tune of Also Sprach Zarathustra from “2001: A Space Odyssey.” The Charles Simonyi Space Gallery was a lot of fun. I didn’t know there was going to be anything about space at the museum, so that was a pleasant surprise. I wanted to be an astronaut when I was a kid so anything about space is fascinating for me. In this part of the museum, the highlight was a replica of the Space Shuttle where you can walk into the payload bay.

Right outside the Space Gallery is the Airpark, which has the aforementioned first Air Force One and a British Airways Concorde. There were also other historic planes there but these two were the main attractions. The best part was that you could actually go into the planes! We, of course, went inside Air Force One, which was used by Presidents Eisenhower,
Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon. There was a small passenger area, an office area, a living room space, a communications station and a special alcove for the President. I had previously seen an actual Air France Concorde at an airport a long time ago but I haven’t seen one up close. This British Airways Concorde was sleek and beautiful on the outside but it was very confined and claustrophobic inside. There were only two seats on each side of the narrow aisle. I can’t imagine flying in such cramped conditions but at least the flight time was very short. I do wish I could have gone on one.

And last but not the least was the gift store. There were a lot of fun souvenirs but there were also books and other educational items.

The Museum of Flight is affiliated with the Smithsonian Institute. I went to the Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC, when I was very young and I remember being awed by it. It’s probably time to go back to that one. This one in Seattle is a definite must-see. But then, I guess, every museum that features air and space flight is going to be on my to-do list if I’m in the vicinity. We did miss the Future of Flight Aviation Center and Boeing Tour next door. We’ll just have to go back to Seattle at some point.

For more information on the Museum of Flight in Seattle, go to: www.museumofflight.org
Lloyd Penney writes:

Thank you for issue 138 of SF/SF. I haven’t written anything in over a week, mostly because of more job-related chaos…my evening job is no more as of yesterday, because it was automated, and my services were no longer required. So, EI starting to come in again, and I am home all day. Time to stop mourning over the lost job, and get back to a regular schedule. Comments on this zine are coming…

Jean Martin responds:

Sorry to hear about your losing your job. Good luck finding a new one.

‘Tis the Ides of March, so beware already! (Guess the reference…) I hope this gets to you before you put out 139. So many typos this morning that I must go and correct…zzzz…

Yes, the Ides of March as well as St. Patrick’s Day has come and gone. I myself can’t believe March is already almost over. My birthday was in early March and that came and went really quickly too. It’s been warm here for a few days and I can’t wait for spring and summer to really come!

In Toronto, conventions are undergoing some changes. Hobbystar Productions is our own version of the big professional convention management company that brings in lots of actor guests to their small conventions, like Toronto Comicon last weekend, and the big annual Fan eXpo downtown in August. They have announced they will be introducing a sports track to the event, so many can see the nerds and the jocks clashing, and many local fans say they will boycott, and they may look at producing their own conventions. Such as it always was, such will it be. Also, the team that staged Polaris in the past will be hosting a Relaxicon this summer called Polar Chill, and a big 50th anniversary “Doctor Who” event called Reversed Polarity. I doubt I will get to either, but there are changes happening. Sometimes, I think I have aged right out of the fannish demographic.

Putting nerds and jocks together sounds like a terrible idea. Fannish cons are our one refuge where we can be ourselves and be safe to share and connect with like-minded people. If they want to do a sports convention, they should just do a separate one. Polar Chill and Reversed Polarity are very clever names.

Great pictures of London. We still hope to go next year for a couple of weeks. There is a British consulate in Toronto, as well as a British Trade and Tourism Office, so we still have some research to do.

There’s always more to see than there is time to see them. So make a list of your absolute must-sees and then also make room for spontaneously discovering things. London is especially wonderful for this as you’ll just run into amazing places everywhere.

My loc…I’ve been told that Wizard World Toronto may have been postponed to later on in the year. There is also a family event called the Wizard World Fun Park that is also in the spring, and it was here in Toronto long before the Wizard
World conventions were even started. I suspect there were some negotiations to keep the public from confusing the two. 

*I’ve been curious about these Wizard World conventions for a while now. I wonder if they’re worth going out of town for especially now that WonderCon has been in Anaheim these past two years. There are so many out-of-town cons I want to go to but there’s only so much time, money and energy.*

Above, I told you about losing my evening job. Several of the managers asked for my resume, so there might be the opportunity to return in the future. Some leads have presented themselves, so writing might be pushed further aside for the job hunt.

*That’s great that you already have leads. Hope you find a job real soon.*

All done, see the next issue real soon!

*And here’s our latest issue!*
Meeting 1178

February 25, 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 cocaine trees far as the eye can see
26 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1177 were accepted as “accepted the minutes”

The Treasurer reported that on Feb 4 the regular jar took in $7.75 & $3.75 in the party jar; that on Feb 11 the regular jar took in $2.75 & that on Feb 18 the regular jar took in nothing & the party jar took in $0.25

The Vice President reported that his “5 cons” doco has been funded on indiegogo - and that a new “Drink Tank” is out - and that he has a new zine out = “Klaus at Gunpoint” for film reviews

The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements
Carole announced that Consonance is this weekend & announced that Condor will be in San Diego March 9-10
Cindi announced that FogCon is in Walnet Creek & there’ll be an Ordinary Hotel Room party Saturday night
Chris announced that Cinequest starts tomorrow and goes for 12 days, there was a follow on that the Silicon Valley Browncoats will have an outing to see “Sparks” there on Saturday & then Chris also announced that Jan Finder [Wombat] is in hospital

News today is that Wombat died

Adrienne announced that the BBS is cancelling “Being Human”

JC announced that Nerdvana episode #9 will be released Wednesday - and this Saturday they will record “Pulp the Celluloid”, ep 10 Wednesday

[evil] Kevin announce that barbot will return this Fri & Sat from 7-10pm, check for info at www.somarts.org & www.robogames.net/barbot

Ric announced that Fanboy Planet #298a is now out & that #298b will be recorded at Cinequest & that PechaKucha #9 will be at Cafe Stritch, Wed, 6:30pm Feb 27th & announced that PechaKucha #10 will be April 2 & Chris says he’ll present at that one

Tom announced that Potlatch 23 will be selling memberships at FogCon

Reviews

JC reviewed “Beautiful Creatures” as having wonky pacing with nic fx - worth matinee

Ric reviewed “Silver linings Playbook” as such a good movie - the topic well-handled & highly recommended - Mo commented that it wasd excellent, worth full price

Adrienne reviewed “Randall & Hopkirk [Deceased]” as a lot of fun & worth buying on DVD - but it’s a region 2 DVD

Dave G reviewed Capricon - a midwest con - as it snowed - he enjoyed the con, it had good programming

Tom reviewed the Flying Karamozov Brothers 40th anniversary show as pretty good non-stop silliness

Dave C reviewed Gallifrey as the Dealer’s room was larger than last year & he saw Shelley Goldstein who was enjoyable

Mo reviewed seeing 5 Oscar nom’d films as pretty spectacular - and recommends going to a marathon like that with a friend

[tall] Kevin reviewed an Al Stewart concert as definitely worth full price ^ was lots of fun

We did auctions

We adjourned at 9:28 pm

And the rumor of the week was: “I just barely got Saturday”

Meeting 1180

March 11, 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 8:07 pm with the silver pen
23 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1178 were accepted as “an Al Roker concert” & the minutes of meeting 1179 were accepted as “with ruthless efficiency and an almost fanatical devotion to the pope”

The Treasurer reported that last week the regular jar took in $11.32 & $3.76 in the party jar

The Vice President reported that there is no new new “Drink Tank” out

The President had nothing fannish to report & we said “hi” to Lisa, visiting us for the 1st time

Then we did auctions

**Announcements**

Mo announced that she is having problems with mice and needs plastic storage bins

JC announced that Nerdvana episode #10, part 1 of 6 - is up now and that the others parts will be released every day or so in order

Chris announced that Fanboy Planet podcast #300 was recorded yesterday & is available on fanboyplanet.com

Brad announced that the SF Giants are touring the area with both World Series trophies and will be at different venues so you can get photos with them - check their website for where they will be next

Andy announced that he was spammed & announced that Gallifrey is selling memberships only online & 1700 sold the first HOUR & there are about 400 left

Fred announced that Marvel is giving away free downloads of cover art until Tuesday & announced that the 1st Saturday in May [May 4] is free comic book day

Josh announced that he is looking for cost-sharing options for Worldcon

**Reviews**

[evil] Kevin reviewed “Pleasure Unwoven” a very good video about neurochemical addition - and mentioned it’s available on Youtube

Adrienne reviewed “Warm Bodies” as she enjoyed it - but would’ve liked an explanation for the zombie cause & recommends it, worth full price

JC reviewed “Oz the Great & Powerful” as seen in 3d & well done; several others commented that they enjoyed it - good, even if it is unlikely to have the staying power of the 1939 film

Mo reviewed “House on the Border Lands” by William Hope Hodson as it weirded her out and is worth full price - and she also took a class in making Venetian masks - the teacher was very good & will offer another class in Campbell in May - check carladequant.com

Chris reviewed Cinequest as awesome & Ken pretty much agreed

Fred reviewed FogCon as he enjoyed it - it’s a con focused on literature & ideas; Brad also enjoyed himself, Andy enjoyed it - thought it simultaneously silly and serious & Diane thought it was a nice little con & she had fun there

Lisa reviewed 7 Stars Bar & Grill 398 S.Bascom - as lots of fun & decorated in a Star Wars theme

We adjourned at 9:32 pm

And the rumor of the week was: “Chris Garcia for Pope”
Meeting 1181

March 18, 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 pm with Andy having hair
22 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1180 were eventually accepted as “here we go again”
The Treasurer wasn’t there
The Vice President reported there’s a new new “Drink Tank” out on efanzines.com - and a new “Exhibition Hall” out too - plus he airlifted yellow jackets out of his bathroom
The President reported that BASFA received a postcard solicitation

Announcements
Ken announced that people died
[evil] Kevin announced that this year’s Transgendered Day of Visibility will be celebrated at Billie deFrank this Saturday, 3-6pm & then 7-11pm at Chars Place for Hair for for a dance and cocktails & announced that PR3 for Westercon went live this weekend & announced that he’s assembling articles for “Yipe” about hats

Ric announced that Fanboy Planet podcast #302 will be recorded Wednesday at Cafe Stritch & announced that April 2 will be the next Pachachachachachachacha event, also at cafe Stritch - check fanboyplanet.com
JC announced that Nerdvana episode #10 will start to be released Wednesday
Adrienne announced [in Chris’ voice] that a Wonder Woman celebration will be Tuesday night at the main SFPL & announced that Bay Area Ghosthunters is now the largest paranormal group on Meetup.com with 1000+ members
Dave C announced that Norwescon is coming up in 10 days

Reviews
Adrienne reviewed “Oz the Great & Powerful” as she had fun & it’s worth seeing in 3D, worth full price; Diane commented that she saw it in 2D and was delighted by having seen it
Diane reviewed “Domino Falls” by Steve Barnes as an incredibly fun read with good characters
Dave C reviewed Charlie Brooker’s Weekly Wipe - a review and commentary about TV as it’s funny and worth full price
Fred reviewed the Anarchist’s book fair as okay, reviewed the terra cotta figures at the Asian Art Museum, visiting from China as well done & he enjoyed it & worth the $5 extra fee for the recorder & reviewed SFinSF as nice

Then we did auctions
We adjourned at 9:39 pm
And the rumor of the week was: “eeeeeeewwwwwwwwwww!”
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.

Friday-Sunday, April 5-7
ConQuest SAC
The New Red Lion Woodlake Conference Center 
Sacramento 
conquestsac.com 
Gaming convention.  
$50 (till April 7)

Saturday, April 20
SF in SF: Mary Robinette Kowal & Rick Klaw 
The Variety Preview Room 
582 Market Street, San Francisco 
sfinsf.org 
Reading followed by Q&A.  
6:30 p.m.  
$5-10 suggested donation

Saturday, April 20
The Last Unicorn: Screening and Birthday Celebration 
Cartoon Art Museum/Castro Theatre 
San Francisco 
guestlistapp.com/events/154704 
Kickoff event for a two-year screening tour that will see Peter S. Beagle and The Last Unicorn coming to hundreds of local movie theaters in the United States and Canada. Screening only tickets are available through The Castro for $8.50.  
12 p.m.  
$25

Friday, April 26
The Phenomenauts 
Bottom of the Hill 
1233 17th St, San Francisco 
www.phenomenauts.com 
With Emily’s Army, and Warm Soda.  
8:30 p.m.  
$12

Saturday, April 27
Daydream Nation 13: The Phenomenauts 
San Pedro Market Square 
87 North San Pedro St, San Jose 
www.facebook.com/events/548812888486210 
Free outdoor festival. With Matthew Joseph Payne, and Usurper Vong. Show starts at 7 p.m., Phenomenauts go on stage at 8:30 p.m.  
7 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, April 26-28
Nova Albion Steampunk Exhibition 
Hyatt Regency Santa Clara 
5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara 
steampunkexhibition.com 
Steampunk convention, this year’s theme is Steampunk in Space.  
$50
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday-Saturday, May 3-5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Corflu XXX</em></td>
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<td>Red Lion Hotel, 1021 Northeast Grand Avenue, Portland, OR corflu.org</td>
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<td>Fanzine fandom convention.</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, May 11</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>SF in SF: Robin Sloan &amp; Austin Grossman</em></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>The Variety Preview Room, 582 Market Street, San Francisco sfinsf.org</td>
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<td>Reading followed by Q&amp;A.</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>$5-10 suggested donation</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, May 18</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>The Pride and Prejudice 200th Anniversary</em></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Alameda Elks Lodge, 3rd Floor, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bay Area Regency Dance Society event. Caller Alan Winston with the Divertimento Dance Orchestra, Costumes admired but not required, all dances taught during the ball. No partners required.</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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<td>$20</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday-Sunday, May 18-19</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Maker Faire</em></td>
<td>Saturday-Sunday</td>
<td>San Mateo Event Center, 2495 S Delaware St, San Mateo makerfaire.com</td>
<td>$55</td>
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<td>A family-friendly festival of invention, creativity and resourcefulness, and a celebration of the Maker movement.</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday-Sunday, May 18-19</strong></td>
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<td><em>Big Wow Comicfest</em></td>
<td>Saturday-Sunday</td>
<td>San Jose Convention Center, San Jose bigwowcomicfest.com</td>
<td>$30</td>
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<td>Comics convention.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday-Monday, May 24-27</strong></td>
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<td><em>Baycon</em></td>
<td>Friday-Monday</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, 5101 Great America Pakway, Santa Clara baycon.org</td>
<td>$70 (till April 15)</td>
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<td>GOH: Lois McMaster Bujold, Chris and John O’Halloran. Toastmaster; Veronica Belmont. Special Music Guests; S.J. Tucker and Betsy Tinney</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, June 2</strong></td>
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<td><em>Sac-Con</em></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H St, Sacramento <a href="http://www.sac-con.com">www.sac-con.com</a></td>
<td>$6</td>
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<td>Comic, toy, and anime show, $10 early bird entry at 9 a.m.</td>
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<td>10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, May 11</strong></td>
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<td><em>SF in SF: Erin Cashier, Cliff Winnig, and Heather McDougal – Hadley Rille Books Night</em></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>The Variety Preview Room, 582 Market Street, San Francisco sfinsf.org</td>
<td>$5-10 suggested donation</td>
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<td>Reading followed by Q&amp;A.</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, June 22</strong></td>
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<td><em>Godzilla Night 2</em></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>The Historic Bal Theatre, 14808 East 14th St, San Leandro <a href="http://www.baltheatre.com">www.baltheatre.com</a></td>
<td>$15</td>
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<td>Hosted by Balrok from TV20’s Creepy KOFY Movietime, with live music by Big Pimp Jones.</td>
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<td>10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday-Sunday, May 18-19</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Fanime</em></td>
<td>Friday-Monday</td>
<td>San Jose Convention Center, San Jose <a href="http://www.fanime.com">www.fanime.com</a></td>
<td>$60 (till March 31)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anime convention.</td>
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<td>Thursday-Sunday, July 4-7</td>
<td>Awesome! - Westercon 66</td>
<td>Hilton Arden West&lt;br&gt;2200 Harvard St, Sacramento&lt;br&gt;www.westercon66.org</td>
<td>GOH: Nicola Griffith, Kelley Eskridge, Eric Shanower, David Maxine, Warren Frey, Steven Schapansky, Chris Burgess.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, July 20</td>
<td>SF in SF: Deborah Ross</td>
<td>The Variety Preview Room&lt;br&gt;582 Market Street, San Francisco&lt;br&gt;sfinsf.org</td>
<td>Reading followed by Q&amp;A. Second author TBA. 6:30 p.m. $5-10 suggested donation</td>
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<td>Saturday-Monday, August 3-4</td>
<td>Gaymer X</td>
<td>Japantown&lt;br&gt;San Francisco&lt;br&gt;gaymerconnect.com</td>
<td>Gaymer X is the first gaming and geek lifestyle convention with a focus on LGBTQ culture. At the Hotel Kabuki and Hotel Tomo in Japantown.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday-Monday, August 17</td>
<td>SF in SF: Laura Ann Gilman &amp; Chaz Brenchley (aka Daniel Fox)</td>
<td>The Variety Preview Room&lt;br&gt;582 Market Street, San Francisco&lt;br&gt;sfinsf.org</td>
<td>Reading followed by Q&amp;A. 6:30 p.m. $5-10 suggested donation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, August 30-September 1</td>
<td>Sac-Anime</td>
<td>Sacramento Convention Center&lt;br&gt;1400 J St, Sacramento&lt;br&gt;www.sac-con.com</td>
<td>Anime show. $30 (till April 30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday-Monday, August 30-September 2</td>
<td>Celesticon</td>
<td>Fremont Marriott&lt;br&gt;46100 Landing Parkway, Fremont&lt;br&gt;www.celesticon.com</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 28</td>
<td>SF in SF: Nick Mamatas &amp; Michael Marshall &amp; Lesa Smith</td>
<td>The Variety Preview Room&lt;br&gt;582 Market Street, San Francisco&lt;br&gt;sfinsf.org</td>
<td>Reading followed by Q&amp;A. Claude Lalumiere and authors TBA. 6:30 p.m. $5-10 suggested donation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 11</td>
<td>SF in SF: Litquake, Super Stories of Heroes &amp; Villains</td>
<td>The Variety Preview Room&lt;br&gt;582 Market Street, San Francisco&lt;br&gt;sfinsf.org</td>
<td>Reading followed by Q&amp;A. Claude Lalumiere and authors TBA. 6:30 p.m. $5-10 suggested donation</td>
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Sunday, October 13

**East Bay Mini Maker Faire**
Park Day School
360 42nd St., Oakland
[ebmakerfaire.wordpress.com](http://ebmakerfaire.wordpress.com)
Small scale mini Maker Faire.
10 a.m. $20

Saturday, October 19

**BAL-O-Ween**
The Historic Bal Theatre
14808 East 14th St, San Leandro
[www.baltheatre.com](http://www.baltheatre.com)
Lord Blood Rah hots the annual BAL-O-WEEN Spooktacular.
10 a.m. $15

Sunday, December 8

**Sac-Con**
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H St, Sacramento
[www.sac-con.com](http://www.sac-con.com)
Comic, toy, and anime show, $10 early bird entry at 9 a.m.
10 a.m. $6

**VIZ Cinema**
1746 Post Street, San Francisco
[www.newpeopleworld.com/films](http://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.
7-10 p.m. $20

**Sac-Con**
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H St, Sacramento
[www.sac-con.com](http://www.sac-con.com)
Comic, toy, and anime show, $10 early bird entry at 9 a.m.
10 a.m. $6

**Ongoing**

**Daily**

**Cartoon Art Museum**
655 Mission Street, San Francisco
[www.cartoonart.org](http://www.cartoonart.org)
Current exhibitions: Chuck Jones, Drawing on Imagination (till May 5)
11-5 p.m. $6 (Closed Mondays)

**The Walt Disney Family Museum**
104 Montgomery Street, San Francisco
[www.waltdisney.org](http://www.waltdisney.org)
Current exhibitions: Show White and the Seven Dwarfs (through April 14). Alice in Wonderland starts May 1.
10-6 p.m. $20 (Closed Tuesdays)

**San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour**
Begins: Queen Anne Hotel
1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco
[www.sfghosthunt.com](http://www.sfghosthunt.com)
Closed Mondays & Tuesdays, and on November 21-22 for Thanksgiving.
3-6 p.m.

Sundays

**Bad Movie Night**
The Dark Room Theater
2263 Mission Street, San Francisco
[www.darkroomsf.com](http://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](http://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  
www.facebook.com/pages/SF-Games/121590681933

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

**Tuesdays**

**Principality of Mists Fighter Practice**

Twin Creeks Sports Complex  
969 Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale  
www.westkingdom.org/as46/mar/sunnyvale-fighter-practice  
SCA event. Non-members must remember to fill out a waiver form. In case of rain, call from 3pm on to determine of the facility will be closed that day. 408-534-1169.  
7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Free

**Wednesdays**

**East Bay Strategy Games Club**

EndGame  
921 Washington, Oakland  
www.endgameoakland.com/event-calendar  
6:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. Free

**Thursdays**

**CAS: NightLife**

The California Academy of Sciences  
55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco  
www.calacademy.org  
Every Thursday night, the Academy opens its doors for NightLife, a chance for adults to explore the museum in a whole new light. Dance to some of San Francisco’s most popular DJs, enjoy food and cocktails, and mingle while you delve into the Academy’s world-class exhibits and get up close and personal with aquarium critters.  
6 p.m. - 10 p.m. $12 (21+)
SF Games
Muddy’s Coffeehouse
1304 Valencia Street, San Francisco
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

Haunted Haight Walking Tour
Meets at Coffee To The People
1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco
www.hauntedhaight.com
Reservations required.
7 p.m. - 9 p.m. $20

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
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

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

East Bay Star Wars Club
Central Perk
10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito
510-558-7375
www.ebstarwars.com
Meets the second Friday of every month.
7:30 p.m. Free
Fantastic Frontiers
www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/
Social club for Sacramento County sci fi/fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.

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

SF Browncoats
Cafe Murano
1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco
www.sfbrowncoats.com
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Religion & SF Book Club
First United Methodist Church
1183 “B” Street, Hayward
Meets the 4th Sunday of the month. Please contact Rev. Randy Smith at RSmith2678@aol.com for more information.

Other Realms Book Club
Books, Inc.
1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame
www.booksinc.net/localinterest/291027
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Sci-Fi Book Group with Kym
Barnes & Noble
El Cerrito Plaza, 6050 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito
store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/store/2113
Meets the fourth Friday of the month.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>USS Augusta Ada</strong></th>
<th><strong>Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE</strong></th>
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<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
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<td>3567 Geary Blvd, San Francisco</td>
<td>4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento</td>
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<td>trek.starshine.org</td>
<td>916-338-2300</td>
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<td>Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and *BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month.</td>
<td>Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.</td>
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<td>1 p.m.</td>
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Free
Our winter glory

by Lucy Huntzinger
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<td>Mary Robinette Kowal &amp; Rick Klau The Last Unicorn Micro Gods, Inc</td>
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<td>The Phenomenauts Nova Albion Steampunk (thru Sun) Legion of Rassilon Sci-Fi Book Group</td>
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<td>Daydream Nation 13: The Phenomenauts USS Augusta Ada Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</td>
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Science Fiction/San Francisco is the monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area – www.efanzines.com.