Lost Horizon Night Market
SF Steampunks
Diana Paxson
Intergalactic Nemesis
Gaskells Halloween Ball
... and more!
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October has come and gone and November is almost over. Now we are looking toward December and 2014! I already have big plans for 2014, which I will talk about later. First, I’d like to say that October and November were jam-packed with not only events but also touring local sites, going to plays and watching new TV shows.

As far as events, unfortunately, two events I was looking forward to, both by the Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild were canceled at the last minute. The Regency Tall Ships event (which I bought a used BBC Regency dress for at the GBACG Bazaar) had to be postponed because the Hawaiian Chieftain had to undergo repairs. Luckily, the organizers scrambled to put on a Regency Gondola Picnic in Lake Merritt in Oakland. I’ve gone on the gondola there twice before but this was the first time in costume. The weather was lovely that day and we had a very pleasant afternoon in our lovely costumes, delicious food and fun trip around the lake in authentic Venetian gondolas manned by Venetian gondoliers.

The second event that was canceled was the Starverse Picnic, which was going to be held at the Port of Oakland (the inspiration for the AT-ATs in “Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back.” Costumes from any sci-fi universe were welcome. Apparently, not enough people signed up. The GBACG has not really done sci-fi events in the past and perhaps the membership is more oriented toward historical costuming.

In contrast, the generally Victorian Gaskell Ball in Oakland saw some sci-fi costuming at its Halloween Ball. Christopher has an article about the ball in this issue. He and I could have gone in any sci-fi or fantasy outfit to the ball, but we decided to go with historical as I won an auction for renting two costumes from the SF Shakespeare Festival costume shop. It’s not a retail shop but a shop where they keep costumes. Carl Holvick-Thomas, Education Program Manager, was there to show us around and he was very helpful in finding us costumes that fit us and that went together so that Christopher and I matched. Christopher and I went with royal medieval costumes. Since I’d just finished watching the miniseries “The White Queen” on Starz, I decided we were going to be King Edward IV and Queen Elizabeth (née Woodville). It was so much fun trying on the costumes and wearing one to an event as I’ve been watching their Free Shakespeare in the Park shows on and off since I moved to the area in 1987. Gaskell was perfect as it was indoors and people complimented us on our outfits.

Christopher and I have also been going on day trips. One of our goals is to visit all the California Missions. I’ve been wanting to do this for a long time and it’s great that Christopher, independently of me, decided recently that he wanted to do this as well. So far (together) we’ve gone to the Carmel, Santa Cruz, San Jose and Santa Clara Missions. It’s great to explore local history since we’re always usually
immersed in history of other countries. And California has a pretty rich history as well. We’ve also been going to science museums and recently enjoyed the Exploratorium, we’re planning on going to the California Academy of Sciences (which I’ve already been to but Chris hasn’t) and Curiodyssey, which is relatively new in our area.

Speaking of the California Academy of Sciences, we actually went there at night recently to watch “Kepler Story,” a one-man multimedia play about the scientist Johannes Kepler. I’m a big fan of Kepler, and I even went to the tiny town he was born in on my trip to Germany last May (you can find my Germany trip report in SF/SF 145) and has a museum dedicated to him. The play is the first of its kind to use a planetarium’s dome for visual projections. It was quite mesmerizing and awe-inspiring to see snowflakes falling, stars and galaxies, interior scenes, etc. The actor Norbert Weisser was excellent at portraying not only Kepler but other characters as well. The music was lovely too. I wish I could see it again as it was a bit difficult to see everything all at the same time. When I looked up, I was wondering if I was missing something Weisser was doing and vice versa. Unfortunately, it only had a short run and most of the shows were sold out when I bought tickets.

We also saw our friend Cordelia Willis in a production of “Les Miserables” at the Stage 1 Theatre in Newark. Les Mis is a pretty ambitious undertaking for a community theater but they did a fantastic job. The acting, singing, costumes and sets were great. I especially liked the actor who played Javert, who was way better than Russell Crowe. And the songs are really just so good that even if I’ve seen the official versions on Broadway and in SF as well as the anniversary concerts on TV and last year’s movie with Hugh Jackman, I just never get tired of them. In fact, even days after watching Les Mis, I can hear the songs in my head.

With so many events going on, theater is really at the bottom of my list other than exceptions such as “Kepler Story” and when friends are involved in it such as Les Mis with Cordelia. Then another friend, Cynthia Barnes, said that she was doing the choreography for “Pride and Prejudice” at Santa Clara University. Since it’s also the 200th anniversary of “Pride and Prejudice,” we decided to go even though the novel isn’t one of my favorite Austen stories and I don’t really like Mr. Darcy like most women do. I’m glad we went because it was a totally delightful production and I had a smile on my face the entire time. The acting was top-notch, which was a surprise considering the actors are students. The actress who portrayed Elizabeth Bennett was fantastic and the actor who portrayed Darcy was aloof but had a vulnerable side. He also reminded me of Rupert Penry-Jones who was Captain Wentworth in ITV’s “Persuasion.”

I’ve also been busy watching numerous TV shows, which I don’t normally do. But there’s just a plethora of good genre shows right now! And there are a lot of new ones too that I watched a couple of episodes just to check them out and I’m not going to follow. For the ones I like, I surprisingly love both “Arrow” and “Sleepy Hollow.” I thought these were going to be B-movie type productions but they’re both high-quality and engaging in their own ways. “Arrow” is the typical superhero with a secret identity but Oliver Queen just has so much heart and is so earnest in his goal of fighting crime and protecting his loved ones. “Sleepy Hollow” incorporates early American history, supernatural legends and biblical prophecy in a way I’ve never seen. And the chemistry between Ichabod Crane and Abigail Mills is so wonderful in that they’re great
friends and partners without the usual romantic undertones (similar to “Elementary” whose second season is also as good as its first season so far). So refreshing. It’s also a plus that both these shows have strong multiracial casts.

“Once Upon a Time” season three is going okay, but I’m not as excited about it as I was for the first two seasons. “Once Upon a Time in Wonderland,” its spinoff, is quite dreary and dull. I just don’t like the actors in that one and I’m disappointed that such a talented actor as Naveen Andrews is cast as the one-dimensional Jafar. Andrews was so much better in a similar role in “Sinbad.”

Other talented actors that seem to be wasted are in “Dracula.” Although for some reason, its Steampunkish take on the story is oddly alluring. “Reign” is quite ethereal with its haunting music and more fantasy-like than historically accurate costumes. The actress playing Mary Queen of Scots is wonderful but the convoluted plots and annoying wishy-washiness of Prince Francis doesn’t really make me want to see more of it. I haven’t seen “Almost Human” but I’m looking forward to checking that out as its got Karl Urban who’s Eomer in “Lord of the Rings” and Dr. McCoy in “Star Trek.”

I’ve also been catching up with “Legend of Korra” season two, which takes the story into a different realm, which is great. I’ve seen the “IT Crowd” finale, which has some genius moments and cringe-worthy moments, but all in all a good sendoff to a brilliant series. “Red Dwarf X”… no, I still haven’t had time to see this!

Tomorrow (as of the day I’m writing this) is the 50th anniversary of “Doctor Who” and Doctor Who mania is reaching a fever pitch at this point. “The Day of the Doctor” is going to be shown in movie theaters simultaneously all over the world. I’m really looking forward to this as we’re going in costume, it’s going to be fun to see the episode with fellow fans and it’s going to be my first time seeing “Doctor Who” on the big screen. I also just saw a surprise minisode “The Night of the Doctor,” which (spoilers coming up… skip to the next paragraph if you don’t want spoilers) bridges the gap between the classic series and the new series. It also stars Paul McGann, my favorite Doctor, and he is just so amazing in it. It’s great that Steven Moffat gave us this special, unexpected treat, and the fan reaction has been unanimously positive. However, now we want more of Paul McGann as the Doctor since he has had the least screen time even though his Eighth Doctor has lived on in his audio adventures, which are fantastic, by the way.

This November, we also went to two conventions a week apart in the same hotel, the Hyatt in Burlingame. The hotel is a great one as it’s beautiful inside and it’s close to where we live. My review of both will be in the next issue as I just ran out of time for this issue. Too many events and shows… and, oh yeah, there are books too! Not to mention work.

I was hoping to take it easy in December but no such luck. I’m going to Dickens Fair this coming weekend, which is still November, and that’s going to be it for me for Dickens Fair. But December has the Mad Hatter Holiday Party in Vallejo, which I missed last year and really want to go to this year. Then, there are Christmas and other holiday parties. I won’t be able to go to the Philippines for my grandmother’s 100th birthday due to not having enough vacation days and it’s twice as expensive to go to the Philippines around the Christmas season. But that enables us to go to a friend’s wedding in San Francisco instead.
Speaking of the Philippines, my family is in the Metro Manila area and none of them were affected by the recent super typhoon, thank goodness. It’s been heartbreaking to see the devastation and suffering of my fellow Filipinos, though. And the same folks in the Central Philippines just went through a huge earthquake not too long ago as well. My godmother is from the town that was covered in the news as being totally devastated, and her nephew is the mayor. Unfortunately, with the Philippines being a third world country with poor infrastructure that was made worse by the disaster and the affected islands being quite remote and not easy to get to, the relief efforts have been slow to reach the victims. It’s great that people all over the world have donated to help out, and two weeks later, it seems like things are finally starting to stabilize. It’s such a tragedy and it really puts things into perspective. I’ve been reminded to be more grateful of all my blessings and be more patient about minor irritations that I’ve seen on social media called “first world problems.” Yeah, we have it good here in the U.S. and I never take that for granted.

I’m also reminded that we have to make the most of our time and enjoy our lives to the fullest, use our talents that have been gifted to us, make our unique contributions to the world, love well, make meaningful connections with people, form supportive communities, take care of our planet and fulfill our missions while we’re on this earth.

Which leads me to 2014 planning. As I mentioned earlier, I already have big plans so far. The first is the Xena Convention in Burbank, which I’ve been wanting to do for a long time. Both Lucy Lawless and Renee O’Connor will be there and I figure I should do this before they stop doing this convention and while the two of them are both going to be present, which they don’t often do. This means that I have to skip Gallifrey One, which is in the same area a couple of weeks beforehand. I just don’t have the time, money and energy to do two out of town conventions back-to-back.

The second is that I’m planning on going to Comic-Con again to be part of the masquerade. The first and only time I’ve gone was in 2005 also for a masquerade entry. While that was fun, there hasn’t been much of a draw for me to go back especially since it’s such a pain to buy tickets and get hotel rooms. But nine years later, I think it’s a good time to go back and the masquerade routine a friend is planning is intriguing to me and Christopher.

The third is that we’re planning on going with a group of Bay Area folks to the Jane Austen Festival in Bath. We’re also hoping to go to Cardiff to see the Doctor Who Experience, so we’ll see how this all goes down as the festival is nine days already and we can’t get away for too long. But since we’re already there, we might as well. Which means that we won’t be able to make Loncon either as, again, it’s a matter of two things around the same time costing time, energy and money. And I think we have enough going on already!

This will be my last editorial before the New Year, and so as we are close to wrapping up 2013, I would like to wish everyone peace, joy, prosperity and good health this holiday season and into 2014.

Join our crew!
We are always looking for writers to cover local events, conventions, fan groups and the fannish scene in general.
Contact Jean Martin at SFinSF@gmail.com
The Date You Don’t Want To Forget:
Why Pop Culture Anniversaries are Important

By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

2013 is an important year for anniversaries in popular culture. Two highly influential British institutions were introduced, The Beatles (with the release of their first album, “Please Please Me”) and the airing of the first episode of “Doctor Who” (“An Unearthly Child”) fifty years ago in 1963. The first publication of “The Uncanny X-Men” and Marvel’s “Avengers” also occurred in 1963. 2013 is also the 75th anniversary of the first publication of Superman in “Action Comics” and the 200th year since the publication of “Pride and Prejudice” by Jane Austen. Several other notable milestones were celebrated in 2012 with the 25th anniversary of “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” the 50th anniversary of the first appearance of Spider-Man (in “Amazing Fantasy” #15) and the Hulk, and the 50th anniversary of James Bond in the cinema (“Dr. No”) and the 200th year since the birth of Charles Dickens. Next year, 2014, will again be a big year with 50 years for Batman and 30 years for the Transformers and Terminator franchises among others.

These anniversaries are important for several reasons. One of them is that they connect us with other fans of the things we love. Many people have bonded over reading the same novel, watching the same book or following the exploits of the same character. It has created friendships, marriages and connections between parents and children. The pop culture icons resonate throughout time and connect people across generations, color lines and nationalities and help them feel a shared connection that overcomes perceived barriers such as gender, race, age or country of origin.

Another reason is the personal memories that are created through the things that we love. The characters have helped many people get through terrible times and overcome personal tragedies like the loss of a loved one or suddenly becoming unemployed. A song or movie can lead to a chance to get to know someone better. A book can lead to a conversation where two friends catch up with each other’s lives.

The celebration of the “event” surrounding a pop culture phenomenon also helps us to remember the era in which it was released and how times have evolved. In the case of a long-running character or franchise, part of the examination of the celebration will be looking at the times in which the fictional work first existed and the times and events that occurred throughout the consumption of the media. This look will also reveal how the item has changed in response to changing social norms, tastes and realities. In the case of a more static creation such as a book, singular movie or song, the festivities invite study of the historical period of creation; the real-life events, people, social customs and attitudes, political structures, and the way people lived. Awareness of how people lived and how society was structured is raised and fresh scholarship into how the present day was shaped by these past cultures is done. Historically significant events such as the Kennedy assassination, the March on Washington and others...
become remembered as well, prompting a look back at how much of a watershed moment the historical event is.

Nostalgia is always another major factor in the importance of anniversaries. People who grew up with the characters and stories will go back and look at them with a fresh perspective, sometimes finding new meaning in the plots that they may have missed the first time around. It allows people to share past times with each other and how meaningful it was to them. Parents can share it with their children and relive their own childhoods in the process.

With the nostalgia factor, a story or character will be remembered for how groundbreaking it was at the time, such as the multiracial cast of “Star Trek,” the teenage angst and confusion of Spider-Man, the social commentary of Jane Austen and Charles Dickens novels, and the symbolic patriotism and humanity of Superman. The depictions of issues and problems of society in fiction allow the subject to be explored in a non-threatening manner that becomes accessible to everyone.

With the stories taking culture in a new direction, the influence they have on society should also be celebrated with the anniversary. Laws have been changed or created since stories written by Dickens, John Steinbeck, Upton Sinclair and others. Science fiction such as “Star Trek,” “Star Wars” and many others have influenced people to become scientists, doctors, engineers and a host of other professions. Depictions of diverse groups of people such as on “Sesame Street” have shown how people of different backgrounds can live and work together. All of the popular culture anniversaries show how people can be inspired to create, be heroic in their own way and make the world a better place.

As people who follow a seemingly irrelevant media, we should remember that the anniversaries we celebrate are important in the larger scheme since they have influenced and enlivened so many people.
By Michael Boehm

Contributing Writer

There are few things in this world that remain liminal. We systematize and categorize away any ambiguity until a comforting regularity prevails. Which is why things like the Lost Horizon Night Market are still relevant.

Part avant-garde art project, part hippie-collectivist dream, part post-industrial grunge ironic statement, this is what hipsters talk about when they talk about authenticity.

It takes the form of a series of nondescript box vans, rental trucks and semi-trailers, seamlessly blending in with the gritty West Oakland post-industrial wasteland. One could walk right past them without realizing they were part of a conspiracy of art, which is exactly what I did as I was looking for the Night Market. Wandering the streets near the port of Oakland, beginning to wonder if I had been the subject of an elaborate ruse, when another fellow comes along with a look on his face I have come to recognize as someone seeking more. More than the mundane, more than the corporate-sponsored reality of suburban American life.

We found it.

With the full moon rising over Oakland and with the Amtrak trains to our backs, a crowd gathered before the first two trucks to open. The Night Market was in business.

It began many years ago and many miles east, I was led to believe, as the germ of an idea among the Brooklyn artists as they looked for a way to showcase their talents, free from the...
constraints of the ingrained art establishment. A box van worked well – and the gatekeepers of gallery showings were thus bypassed. The whole concept of licenses and permits was just as easily discarded, and soon the Lost Horizon Night Market was born, a loosely-organized, collectivist concept where boxvans full of strange art would occasionally show up on some back street in a metropolitan area, cast a spell of oddness for a few hours, and then vanish with the dawn.

To the ends of that purpose, several square blocks in west Oakland were recently pressed into service as a virtual festival
ground of the bizarre. Perfectly camouflaged among the cargo trucks of the port, a few hours after dark the vehicles of the Night Market blossomed open their steel petals to reveal something… different. Something:

**Whimsical:** One box truck was transformed into a nightclub, with booming bass music, disco lights, and a surly doorman.

**Thought-provoking:** A truck labeled the “Outerbody Labs,” engaged passersby in contests of manual skill while wearing goggles that blocked out all vision except the signal received from a camera – mounted ten feet away. Participants fumbled and stumbled as they tried to control their suddenly-awkward bodies as if by remote control to shoot baskets, eat cookies without using their hands and play “body bocci.”

**Poetic:** A truck, outfitted with comfortable chairs and rugs, with a table full of poetry books, invited participants to come in and read poems – while sitting in a passable representation of an electric chair.

**Saucy:** A truck festooned with red velvet curtains was surrounded by scantily-clad bellhops (both male and female) handing out overflowing boxes of popcorn and propositioning passers-by in for a viewing.

**Playful:** Hay bales and horseshoes in a semi-trailer set the stage for a hoedown.

There was no admission fee for any truck, except the willingness to participate to the spirit of the night, and to mingle with costumed freaks, artsy Burners, earnest hipsters and the occasional suburbanite with connections. There were no organizers, merely “those who choose the time and place.” There was no infrastructure, just pilgrim-clad helpers with wicker baskets going from one truck to the next, handing out pastries and meat pies. There were no e-mail lists, no invites, no Twitter accounts, no Facebook pages; publicity is strictly viral and distinctly personal. In a few hours, the trucks would close their doors and the Night Market would fade away into the ether. But for a while, the boundaries were lowered for those lucky enough to encounter it.
New Steampunk Group in San Francisco

By Aaron Almanza  
Co-founder of SF Steampunks

The Bay Area is a wonderful place for Steampunks. There are old military bases, rows and rows of Victorian houses, old industrial buildings, and reusable supply stores all over the Bay. There are costume societies, history groups, Dickens Fair, the Edwardian Ball and countless dances and parties. What’s more, the Bay Area is home to amazingly creative artists, crafters, techies and makers.

The Steam Federation, the large Steampunk group in the Bay Area has been very successful in bringing together much of this community throughout the area. With weekly meetings and successful conventions they have been able to pool the resources and creativity of their members to create a very dynamic community.

San Franciscans, while always welcome to events and outings have often found it difficult to be able to participate as much as they would like because most weekly meetings take place outside the city borders.

I’ve been actively attempting to meet more local Steampunks and form a community since at least 2006 with the occasional picnic or movie outing. The first large turnout we had was a pub night and movie viewing of the “Golden Compass.” Over the years, along with a few others we’ve had several meetups and coffee nights and even an annual Emperor Norton walking tour. However, never being a formal group it was hard for us to stay connected on a regular basis.
and it was hard to communicate ideas when there was no regular meetups.

In 2011, I started sfsteampunk.com as a website to list events mainly in San Francisco that would be of interest to Steampunks like walking tours, dances, history lectures, movie nights and the like. It also was a place to link to ongoing events around the city and a map of stores and locations that might be of interest. It’s great fun hunting out events of interest and having the site, but it didn’t foster the idea of having a community that could connect here in the city.

Earlier this summer, I was contacted by Matt Freeman, another local who was interested in really getting an actual group going. We hashed out some quick ideas and were off running. The group was formed a few weeks before Steamstock II, a local Steampunk music festival giving us a great venue to publicize the formation of the group.

The plans for the group are still forming and we’re learning as we go. The goal of the group is to form a strong local community of like-minded Steampunks here in San Francisco. We will be having at least one monthly weekday meeting and weekend event. We will be having members lead talks and workshops on subjects like 3D printing, costume and pattern design, goggle making and electronics. Utilizing library community rooms we plan on having discussions on Steampunk literature and having movie presentations. We will also be having more meetups and events. In August we had our first group meeting and an outing to Fort Point to picnic and watch the Civil War Re-enactments. We also headed out to both the Greater Bay Area Costume Guild’s Bazaar and SFinSF’s “Doctor Who” movie night both on August 24.

We welcome any ideas for meeting locations, meetup ideas and events, the group is only as active as members are. It’s been exciting to hear the ideas people have and what they’d like to see the group become and we’re all looking forward to see where it takes us.

For more information on upcoming events you can find us at sfsteampunk.com or for the hub of activity on Facebook at facebook.com/sfsteampunks.
By Jean Martin
Editor-in-Chief

Editor’s Note: I was excited to finally interview Diana Paxson at the Nebula Awards last May 18. I’ve talked with her at previous conventions and I remember her handing out the awards at BayCon 2007 masquerade where she was one of the guests of honor (and when our group’s L-11 entry won Best in Show). She’s a vital part of not only the science fiction/fantasy community but also the historical re-enactment and pagan communities as well. I’ve enjoyed the Avalon novels she co-wrote with Marion Zimmer Bradley and wrote by herself after Bradley’s passing.

This is the last of four author interviews I did at the Nebulas. If you missed my article about the Nebulas, you can find it at www.efanzines.com in SF/SF 143. My interviews with Nick Sagan, Mary Robinette Kowal and Connie Willis are in SF/SF 144, SF/SF 145 and SF/SF 146, respectively.

Special thanks to Christopher Erickson for transcribing this interview from my recording.

Jean: What got you initially into writing professionally?

Diana: What got me into writing initially was I used to tell myself stories to put myself to sleep when I was a little girl. I would tell stories that my mother would then write down for me. I was one of those voracious readers. I went through elementary school with one book on the desk and one on my lap. It’s amazing I learned anything at all. I had in the back of
my mind that being a writer would be a really cool thing. I took a college creative writing class, which actually stopped me writing for about 10 years because the professor wanted us to write literary fiction. It bored me and I couldn’t imagine anyone else wanting to read it. I just gave up on that idea and got a teaching credential and so forth, but in graduate school I got into fandom and I ended up marrying John DeCles, who had been adopted into Marion Zimmer Bradley’s family.

As I got to know Marion and go to know lots of people who were writing, suddenly the penny dropped and I realized that, really with Marion, that this was somebody who wrote stories we all liked to read and that this was a possibility. My husband was already a published writer; my brother-in-law was working on being a writer and then there was Marion who was our superstar in the family. So I just thought, “Alright, I am just going to finish something” because I had a drawer full of first chapters and outlines and that is as far as it had gone. I didn’t tell anybody what I was doing and I would just write at odd moments. It took about a year and I finally finished it. I said to my husband, “Honey, there is something I need to tell you.” He said, “You’re pregnant,” and I said “You would have known about that from the beginning. No, I’ve written a book.”

It has the usual problems with first novels with everything but the kitchen sink because your first time out you have this feeling that if I don’t write it down in this book it will never be said. I gave it to Marion and bless her heart she read it, then she critiqued it, and then I wiped my eyes and re-wrote it. It went through a couple of rounds of that. I had in mind for it to be a children’s book or young adult book, that being the only market for fantasy that was left in the mid ’70s. Fortunately by the time I actually got a version that was salable there was an adult fantasy market. I sent it out and it got lots of nice rejection slips. I kept re-writing and re-writing and writing other things and the usual story. It really wasn’t until 10 years later. It took me 10 years from starting that first draft to actually having something that was sold and published. The thing that I started writing became the raw material for the whole Westria series. I eventually had to go back and figure out what the backstory was. The backstory was what ended up being the first published novel in the series.

Jean: You write a lot of fantasies and historical fantasies that center around women and paganism and mysticism. I know that is something you are personally interested in as well. Is that something you think that people are still interested in nowadays because most of the people now like vampires or post-apocalyptic stuff?

Diana: There certainly is still a lot of interest in paganism. I also write non-fiction in the metaphysical area. At this point, the communications I get from people are about evenly divided for my fictional and my non-fictional work. Certainly, “Mists of Avalon,” Marion’s best seller: Marion had a great gift for writing something that a group of people desperately needed to hear at exactly the right time. I think that may have been her greatest gift as a writer. She hit with “Mists of Avalon” just at the point where feminism and paganism were becoming a widespread thing and really helped it along. That in many ways paved the way for me to sell what I was doing.

She was effectively my sister-in-law, we were very close. That is why, eventually, when her health failed she turned the Avalon books over to me. By that time I had a fair number of my own books done so I had plenty of experience to bring to it.
What I was trying to do that was different from what was mostly read. Now we are getting a lot of paranormal romance and a number of actual practicing pagans are writing this stuff so they actually know what they are talking about.

When I started, Katherine Kurtz and Marion, of course, were the only other writers with actual pagan experience that I knew of who were actually writing. You can kind of tell because there is a practical, nitty-gritty element to the descriptions. When you see that either it is someone who practices or who has a good friend that does who can give descriptions. S. M. Stirling is very good, very nitty-gritty descriptions of stuff. The difference is that in a novel a ceremony always works unless the plot requires that it doesn’t. The candles never fall over, nobody ever forgets the cauldron. What fascinates me is that there are a lot of people who have written really good theology who do not practice, for whom their unconscious minds clearly understand more than their conscious minds do, so there are plenty of books.

Diane Duane is a good example, her theology is wonderful. Lois Bujold and the Challion series. She manages to write some really receptive scenes with people’s relationships with the deities they work with. Her actual descriptions of ceremonies are kind of sparse. There are a lot of people out there who are worth reading and are very popular with people who are practicing pagans because the get across this mythology. I think everyone has a resonance with mythology in their unconscious minds or the collective unconscious or whatever.

Jean: How much paganism in your work is actually paganism that is practiced now as opposed to the fantasy world or what was practiced historically?

Diana: It depends on the book. In “The White Raven” for instance, I was drawing on a lot of the folklore information about Irish paganism. I went to Cornwall to the Padstow for Beltane. I was bringing some stuff back that doesn’t go that far back but it is possible it is something similar, Padstow song and so forth. I do a lot of research and interpret the information we have on older practices in the light of my own experience with “This is how you do ritual, this is what happens, this is what it feels like when you raise the energy” and so forth.

The Avalon books, the ones I wrote, are kind of an odd mixture. Marion, who also had all this ritual experience, was not so much in the historical research end of it and who had decided if history wasn’t going to go where she wanted it to in “Mists of Avalon” she was just going to drop history. You can do that in Arthurian story because it’s a sort of a thing in itself. The rest of them are theoretically historical. She had written into the first draft of “The Forest House,” which was the first book I worked with her on, an Oracular ceremony. “The Forest House” is based on the libretto of Bellini’s “Norma,” an opera based on the Druids written by somebody who didn’t know anything about Druids and thought that their priestesses were vestal virgins. Marion knew about vestal virgins and knew about the opera and put this Oracular ceremony into the book.

I do actually practice Oracular work, although I’m drawing partly on the Delphic information and a lot more on information on how the oracles worked in the Viking period. In fact, I have a non-fiction book that came out last year from Weiser called “The Way of the Oracle,” so I knew all about this. I looked at this and thought, “I can at least write about
how this process works with as much detail as possible.” Where I ran into trouble was “Ravens of Avalon,” which is three or four years ago now, which is about Queen Boudicca. Since Marion had put into the system that you have these Oracular things and “Ravens of Avalon” is a direct prequel to “The Forest House,” they had to be fairly close. We know a lot about that period, that is the period where Britain is being conquered by Rome. We have Roman accounts of the whole period. There was almost too much historical material to work with. With the historical, my approach has been to look at what actually happened and then look at the legend and figure out what historical elements could have caused things to happen the way they do in the legend.

I look at the history and discover that Romans had outlawed the Druids in Gaul. The British Druids are going to know that if Rome comes to Britain again they are going to have a problem. What would they probably do? They would try to get all the southern tribes to swear an alliance to resist the Romans. In fact, somebody probably did because Caratacus and his brother attacked the one holdout who had the area near the Isle of Wight. This guy had a client relationship with the emperor because they have been having a lot of trade with Rome ever since Julius Caesar had come and gone. So he escapes, he takes a ship and goes down to Rome and he goes, “Help! We have a contract, you’ve got to help me get my kingdom back.” The Romans look at this and went, “Oh, an excuse to invade Britain!” So this has backfired. Then what would the Druids do? They do magic to stop the Romans from invading. Maybe they did, because the Roman troops got to Boulogne and looked at the English Channel and went, “There are monsters out there. We’re not going.” Word gets across the English Channel that the Romans have mutinied effectively and there isn’t going to be an invasion. Everybody that Caratacus has gotten together to resist them has gone home to do the spring planting.

At this point the emperor has this guy who comes and jollies them all out of their funk and they get on their boats and they cross the Channel. At this point I think, “You have magic, you have oracles and it just keeps backfiring. There is no way I am going to make the Celts win this one. This is going to be a total bummer.” I was really wrestling with the history at the same time as everything that I put in actually fed into the historical underpinnings. It was a challenging book to write but I was able to go to Britain and tromp over what are the better choices for Boudicca’s last battlefield. I like doing the historical research and the actual physical research.

What has become more important fairly recently is using the Internet. For instance, in “The Sword of Avalon,” which is set at the very end of the Bronze Age, I have a smith who is going to be forging the first version of Excalibur, so I need to know what tools a Bronze Age smith has. There on the Internet is a report on finding a sunken ship from the Bronze Age with the tools on board. With almost every page, there was something that I would have to look up. Now it’s there and I no longer have to tromp down to the University of California library every time I want to know something. Now I am putting a lot more hard detail in, even more than I used to.

Jean: With the Avalon novels that you have been doing, how much of that now are your characters, your style, your plot as opposed to Marion’s?

Diana: She started her concept with a book called “Web of Darkness,” which was reissued by Tor as “The Fall of
Atlantis” even though Atlantis does not fall in that book. It was an occult romance set in the early Bronze Age in which there is a big magical confrontation that has two results. It upsets things so that the tectonic plates are destabilized and there is series of earthquakes that eventually get to the sea kingdoms. She has two children born who escape the first fall of where the first magical battle took place and end up in the sea kingdoms. They are the ancestors and the previous incarnations of Uther and Igraine, which in “Mists of Avalon” Igraine has a vision that she and Uther are standing and watching Stonehenge being built. She had this whole mythology that she had worked up over many years and she put into “Web of Darkness.” She told her son a lot about it because she was writing it when he was growing up. She hadn’t done much more with it, but that is a lot of the underpinnings of her approach to magic and some of that appears as a substratum for the way she wrote the Avalon priestesses.

The other thing that went into the Avalon priestesses was the experience I shared with her starting Dark Moon Circle, which she refers to in the introduction to “Mists of Avalon” where we had a group of women just discovering the goddess and feminism and paganism and there was a wonderful energy. Dark Moon Circle is still going, by the way. The energy of the college of priestesses on Avalon really reflects our experience with Dark Moon and some of the magical practices and stuff come out of that. Because I had been in her previous magical group and because of our work together in Dark Moon and the family connections and traditions I knew a lot about that mythos that had never gotten into the books.

In the succeeding Avalon books, I am taking that as writing historical novels where our world history is one component that I have to work with, Marion’s mythology is the other component. The religious system on Avalon is based on what she had set up, which then I took and developed because I knew so much about where she was coming from with it. The world it interacts with is my own historical research, which she might not have been able to do because she was not a historian. She felt that history should be more maneuverable. When I got the rough draft of “The Forest House,” which she had a stroke in the middle of it, and I read it and I called her up and I said, “Marion, we have a problem. You have in the first chapter a reference on the attack on the Druids that took place in A.D. 61, and you have a reference to a Third Century emperor; and a reference to the imminent departure of the legions which took place in 410. We need to make a decision.” The only one that impacted the plot was the attack on the Druids of Mona. That is later put into “Ravens of Avalon.” I had to tack it down into history.

Jean: About your Westria novels, what was your inspiration for that? I know that was based on the Bay Area.

Diana: That is certainly where it starts. That was the initial thing that I decided to start writing. At that point I was working as a secretary at the YMCA. I had the office all to myself and I was getting through all of the work in two-thirds of the day. That’s when I started writing and I just started what they say: write what you know. I thought, “What do I know? I know California geography and I know medieval technology because this was in 1971. In 1966, I had inadvertently started the Society for Creative Anachronism in my backyard. My husband and I basically ran it for the first 10 years so I knew
that on top of a master’s degree in literature. Middle ages I knew and I also thought, “Everybody was writing really gloomy catastrophe books.” I knew that if I was going to write the kind of story I wanted to, I had to get rid of civilization because that is really bad for the environment, so I thought, “Alright, what could we have? How about a really major natural catastrophe where Mother Earth gets tired of everything we are doing to her and everything goes at once so nobody can help anybody and all the systems break down?”

I thought this was a bizarre and original and strange idea in 1971. A few years later when I was working writing educational material and we got into environmental studies and I began to realize just how fragile all the systems are. And how much this could happen. It made me rather twitchy. I also thought, “I need ecological equivalents of elves if I am writing this. How about taking an idea from native Californian folklore where originally everything was people and then humans got put in charge and what if the first people, i.e., the guardians of all the plant and animal species sort of came back. Then I discovered that the people at Findhorn thought the people were talking to them. That made me wonder. The period that I was developing that material, that period of the 10 years where I was learning how to write, was also the period that I was becoming a pagan. So everything that I learned and liked kind of made its way into the books.

Jean: What are you working on now? Are you working on any stories or novels or non-fiction?

Diana: I have a contract for a non-fiction book on deity possession, the sort of thing they do in voodoo. There are several short stories I have agreed to do for various anthologies. I have been working on a novel based on one of the Viking sagas about a young woman who is the complete tomboy, she is not happy at home, who takes on a male persona, goes off to become a Viking. This is from a period saga, this is not something a feminist decided to project onto the period. Her father was a berserker and he had a magic sword and she has to go and find it, so that is really interesting.

Jean: You seem to be very active in fandom. Do you like being part of that community?

Diana: Interacting with readers is really important because otherwise you sit in front of the computer going, “Why am I doing this? There must be some other way to earn a living.” I do a lot of conventions and I do a lot of pagan festivals, in fact, probably more pagan festivals. These days, most of the time, if it is not local, they pay my way out. I will be in western New York in July and in Pittsburgh in September and in Virginia in October. Every three months or so it seems like I am going somewhere.
By Jack Avery  
*Editor Emeritus*

After touring just about everywhere else, “The Intergalactic Nemesis” ([www.theintergalacticnemesis.com](http://www.theintergalacticnemesis.com)) finally got around to invading the Bay Area this month with events at UC Berkeley and UC Davis of “Book One: Target Earth.”

The “Live-Action Graphic Novel” has been touring around the U.S. for the past three years, but the November shows were the first to take place in Northern California.

The production is a live stage show that combines projected comic book-style artwork with audio drama performances by actors to tell a retro-pulp science fiction tale.

Actors Danu Uribe, Brock England and Christopher Lee Gibson play all of the characters in what is very close to an old-time radio drama. All three did a great job, switching effortlessly between multiple characters, providing distinctive voices for each role and really selling the story. The trio was great fun to watch as they changed character and provided visual acting to enhance the vocals.

Aiding their audio performance is the foley sound effects by Cami Alys. She stood in front of two tables filled with devices, playing each one as needed to produce a huge range of sounds. Unfortunately, my seat was too far away to get a really good look at what she was doing, but what I saw was very entertaining and her work was just as important to selling the story as the actors. There was also piano and organ music by Kenneth Redding, Jr. that added to the atmosphere.

But what makes this performance different from just an audio drama is the work of company manager Jessie Douglas who projected more than 1,200 comic book panels on the large screen above the stage in concert with the actors’ performance. This is where the “Live-Action Graphic Novel” bit comes in.

The story is drawn by artist Tim Doyle and as the actors read their lines, the appropriate panels are projected by Douglas. Doyle’s artwork is quite serviceable and works well for the project. The panels pass by too quickly for a detailed look at his work, but actual graphic novels were available at the merchandise table for those wanting to take a second look.
The project has a long and complicated history, including being a stage play and a radio drama at various points. The original idea is credited to Ray Patrick Colgan, but the current touring version is written and directed by Jason Neulander.

As for the story itself, while not a parody per se, the tale is hardly a serious science-fiction tale. Taking its cue from the popular perception of old-time pulp fiction, the story features the adventures of intrepid heiress/investigative reporter Molly Sloan (Uribe) and her sidekick Timmy Mendez (England) who are investigating Mysterion the Magnificent (Gibson) and his connection to an alien invasion of Earth.

Gibson also plays heroic time traveler Ben Wilcott who has traveled back in time to prevent the Zygonian Slime invasion of Earth. There’s a number of less than logical plot twists and some deus ex machina bits so it’s best not to take the whole story too seriously.

There are two parts to the show. The first an adventure on Earth that introduces the characters and the menace, followed by an intermission and then a second part that takes place off of Earth as the heroes take the fight to the Zygonian home world.

While it’s not serious science fiction and the story wouldn’t stand up on its own, it is fun, particularly when the entertaining live performances of the actors and the foley artists combine to enhance the comic book elements. This is definitely a project where the whole is greater than the parts.

The troupe also tours with “Book Two: Robot Planet Rising” and are preparing “Book Three: Twin Infinity,” which is scheduled to debut next year.
By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

One of the great things about the Bay Area is with all of the costuming groups, there is no shortage of events, even on “routine” days like Halloween. One of the nice events is the Gaskells Halloween Ball every year. The 2013 edition was held on Oct. 19 at the Scottish Rite Center on the shores of Lake Merritt in Oakland.
Jareth and his new queen
by Christopher Erickson

Snow Leopard 
by Christopher Erickson

The Dictator

Pirates

Jareth and his new queen
by Christopher Erickson
The Halloween dance is also the autumn event for Gaskells. The costume ball is perfect for this time of year as the dark has arrived earlier, there is a crispness in the air from the cold and harvest time also starts to arrive around now as the leaves change color.

The festivities allow for a relaxation of the dress code for the patrons, who can wear less formal attire while dancing. This allows people to be very creative with their outfits while having fun dancing to waltzes, polkas, tangos, mixers and set dances.

The variety of costumes ran from historical to fantastical with kings and queens, pirates, cats, snow leopards, bats, flappers, Dorothy from “The Wizard of Oz,” Greco-Roman gods,
Dancing

by Christopher Erickson

There were also wonderfully themed refreshments with orange-colored crème sandwich cookies, brownies with spider web frosting patterns and orange-colored beverage.

The music was provided by perennial favorites Brassworks for people to enjoy dancing. There were many interesting pairings as the different costumes mixed together. The revelry and outfits were a fitting tribute to the millennia-old celebration to another successful harvest and scaring away evil spirits.
Lloyd Penney writes:

Thank you for SF/SF 146…finally, I can report that I am back to work, after about eight months of job hunting, and I can get back to a regular life, and you won’t get bored with me making the same report on the search! Anyway, on to commenting on more pleasant things, like some fun fanac…

Christopher Erickson writes:

Good to hear that you finally have a job! Hopefully it is one that you wanted instead of having to take the first one offered.

What have I been watching lately? “Murdoch Mysteries,” and on the provincial educational channel episodes of “Edwardian Farm,” one of the great series on life on a British farm, this one about 100 years ago. Work has come along at the last minute, so money will be tight until we recover, so no movies for a while. That’s okay, we still have two seasons of “Babylon 5” to watch via DVD, and we also have all the Harry Potter movies on DVD/BluRay to watch, too. We won’t be bored.

At least you have plenty of time to catch up on shows that you have wanted to watch. I seem to be in the middle of about 10 different series including “Deadwood,” “The Walking Dead,” “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,” “Angel” along with the series I am currently watching on live TV.

I think I’ve only met Connie Willis once, a lovely lady. I wanted to be a writer too, but there was always discouragement from everyone around me. “Sure you can be a writer, but what are you going to do for a living?” It’s all I’ve wanted to do, and all the work I’ve ever had has been centered around the written word. If I couldn’t make a living as a writer, I have as an editor, and in this computerized age, it’s gotten a lot tougher, but as I have found out in recent days, it is not impossible.

There are plenty of people who have a career as writers, and they are even at major companies, so there is always that in the cards. Never a reason to give up at least trying to get something published, since there are plenty of options with self-publishing. I know several people who have books that are actually in print and are all selling them, even if it is just a “hobby.”

A cavalcade of Steampunk, indeed. I have only been to one steampunk event, and I am hopeful that I might get to another shortly. One seems to be in the preparatory stages for somewhere in the Toronto-Hamilton area, and I think I will be selfish and simply attend it for my own enjoyment. The event in the Dearborn area of Detroit is changing once again, and will be called, I believe Steamtopia. Wish I could go, but luck’s been with me lately, who knows? I must relocate all renaissance faires around me; I think there are few such events, but one or possibly two in southern Ontario.

Steampunk seems to be the very popular thing currently. It is good that there is at least one in your area. My mother recently went to Teslacon in Milwaukee. The renaissance
FAIRES ARE ALSO A NICE PROVING GROUND FOR STEAMPUNK
COSTUMES DUE TO THE TIME TRAVEL THING. JUST GOING TO ONE TO
TAKE PART IN THE AMBIENCE NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTFIT YOU WEAR
IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

My loc … Canadian Thanksgiving is in October. A shorter
summer means an earlier harvest, and a couple more
paycheques to prepare for Christmas. My 36 years in fandom
allows me to see the changes in fandom along the years, not
just a few changes, but continuous changes over time. The
Steampunk store that will be opening in the spring in
Peterborough, Ontario, is called The Steaming Clock. We’re in
touch with it through Facebook, and I think there must be a
road trip to Peterborough in April or so.

American Thanksgiving means the start of the madness
that is the Christmas shopping season here as well as
gorging yourself on turkey and trimmings while falling
asleep watching 10 hours of National Football League
coverage. We don’t really have anything like a dedicated
Steampunk store here in the Bay Area, but we do have
several amazing hat stores along with a costume shop that
carries a nice selection of inexpensive accessories.

There is a big Filipino community here, so you’d be
comfortable here. That reminds me of the news, the huge
super-typhoon that ripped up so much of the Philippines. I
sincerely hope you aren’t personally affected by this, but
there’s so many who are homeless in this disaster. All from the
Philippines are affected in some way, and I know aid is
streaming in there now. We can hope for the best, but must
expect the worst.

We don’t have any immediate family that has been left
homeless and they are doing alright. The pictures of the
devastation remind me of the tornadoes that would rip up
Minnesota but it was never anything on this level.

You may have seen on my Facebook page that I have
finally found some work, and I am now in my third week on
the job. I am working as a proofreader for an advertising
agency literally a few kilometers south of where I live, the pay
is good, and I am guaranteed work until Christmas Eve, and
will probably be extended well into the first quarter of the new
year. Couldn’t have come at a better time.

Good to hear that. I hope that it becomes permanent. At
least you have something while you are looking for work on
a full-time or contract basis.

Take care, hope everyone is well, and see you with the next
issue.
Meeting 1212

October 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 8 - with flu shots
24 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1211 were accepted as “accepted”
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $81.04 in the regular jar & $3.00 in the party jar
The Vice President reported that there are 2 new “Drink Tanks” out - and a new “Journey Planet” & it’s his birthday today & he won’t be here for the next 3 weeks
The President had nothing fannish to report
We had a vote, then said “hi” to Lynda, then had a birthday auction for Chris then and Beth bought him for $35.00

Announcements

Ken announced that the Legion of Rasselon meeting will be at the IHOP on Stevens Creek near Lawrence on Friday Oct 25 at the “new usual place”
[evil] Kevin announced that Barbot 2013.75 will be Oddfellows Hall on Oct 25-26 at a kick-off for Bay Area Science Fest - check barbot.us

JC announced that episode 19, part 3 of Nerdvana Podcast will be up Wednesday & announced they will do a podcast panel at Convolution this Saturday from 4 to 6pm - then it was added that [evil] Kevin and Andy will be on various panels & that [evil] Kevin will be updating his Spintronics lecture Saturday at 6pm

Ric announced that there will be a mayoral kick-off event for Sam Liccardo at 6pm & announced that fanboy planet podcast, episode 329 is available now

Adrienne announced that she just renewed her passport & has an extra form to give away for anyone interested

Michael announced a death & announced that Seanan McGuire/Mira Grant will have a book signing 7pm Wednesday at Books Ink

& announced that Baycon will have a special membership rate offered at Convolution and that Baycon still needs staff - come see him

Howeird announced that the Sunnyvale Community Theatre is opening “Zombie Prom” Nov 1 & announced that he is in the process of purchasing a “manufactured home” in Willow Ranch

Chris announced silly things - plus that at 7pm, Wednesday he will be at the “Merrily We Roll Along” event at the AMC 16 in Cupertino

Reviews

Michael reviewed the lens cleaner for the blue ray player as excellent & allowed him to see & review the blue ray edition of “Avatar” as pretty and containing good explanatory scenes

Ric reviewed “Gollum sings Wrecking Ball” on YouTube as delightful & reviewed the CW’s “Tomorrow People” as recommended; reviewed the Traviseo wine tasting as pleasant & reviewed “The Smiling Pig” in SJ as very impressive & Chris recommends the cornbread

Chris reviewed a Castillo de Amaroso winery tasting as the grape juice was spectacular & the olive oil tasting changed his life; reviewed the “Carrie” remake as not bad & reviewed “Machete Kills” as a sf movie & that Charlie Sheen was fricking awesome

Eric reviewed the DVD set for “I Claudius” as even better than he remembered - highly recommended - especially the $13 cost for the set at Costco

Howeird reviewed “Gravity” as see the film and you’ll understand the punchline

Michael reviewed the newest Baycon PR as fabulous for the 2 pictures of John O with and without beard

JC reviewed “Arrow” as it had bare flesh again & reviewed “Agents of Shield” as clever

Then we did other auctions

We adjourned at 9:25 pm

And the rumor of the week was: “this is BASFA’s fact of the week”
Life is complicated; putting on an event is even more so. Please check before attending, as events are sometimes canceled or times and locations changed.

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

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

**Saturday, November 30**

**Santa Rosa Toy Con**
santarosatoycon.com
Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building
1321 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa
More than 100 booths of toys, comics and games. Free parking
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. $5

**Weekends, November 23-December 22**

**The Great Dickens Christmas Fair and Victorian Holiday Party**
dickensfair.com
Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Avenue, Daly City
Victorian Christmas Card come to life with Charles Dickens characters come to life in London.
Check website for prices

**Sunday, December 8**

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

**Various, November 29-December 19**

**Another Hole In The Head Genre Film Festival**
anotherholeinthehead.festivalgenius.com/2013/films
Balboa Theater and New People Theater
San Francisco
Annual festival of horror, dark fantasy, sci-fi and exploitation cinema from emerging and established filmmakers.
Various dates and times, check website for prices and showtimes

**Friday-Sunday, December 13-15 & 20-22, 2014**

**California Revels: The Spirits of Haddon Hall**
Scottish Rite Temple
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland
californiarevels.org
This year’s Revels takes place on the English country estate of Haddon Hall after The Great War. Spirits of past generations celebrate the solstice as the owner prepares to sell. Can they convince him to keep the Hall? Music, dancing, storytelling and annual rituals all performed. Check website for ticket prices and times.

**Saturday, December 21**

**Gaskell Festive Holiday Ball**
Scottish Rite Temple
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland
gaskellball.com
Holiday ball featuring the music of Franklin Beau Davis and the Brassworks. Formal attire required (19th to 21st century)
7:30 p.m. $20

**Saturday, December 28**

**GBACG Holiday Bustle Tea**
Palace Hotel
2 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Back by popular demand! A holiday bustle tea for the most fashionable of New York Society. Once again at the Garden Court in the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Costume: 1870-1890. Check website for price
Friday-Sunday, January 3-5, 2014

Sac-Anime
Sacramento Convention Center
1400 J St, Sacramento
www.sacconventions.com
Anime show.
Check website for ticket prices

Saturday, January 4, 2014

PEERS 12th Night Ball
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Ball celebrating the end of the Christmas season with guests from Charles Dickens’s novels, a reading by Charles Dickens and Victorian Era dancing and music by Bangers and Mash.
8 p.m. $15 (advanced), $20 (at the door)

Thursday-Monday, January 16-20, 2014

Further Confusion 2014: FurCon Vs. The World
furcon.org/2014
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose
Anthropomorphic costuming convention
$50 (until December 31)

Friday, January 17, 2014

Edwardian World’s Faire
The Regency Ballroom
1300 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco
edwardianball.com/2014-events
Fair inspired by the artwork of Edward Gorey.
8 p.m. - 2 a.m. see website for pricing

Saturday, January 18, 2014

Edwardian Vendor Bazaar Daytime Shopping
The Regency Sutter Room
1270 Sutter Street, San Francisco
edwardianball.com/2014-events
12 p.m. - 5 a.m. see website for pricing

Saturday, January 18, 2014

The Edwardian Ball
The Regency Ballroom
1300 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco
edwardianball.com/2014-events
Ball inspired by the artwork of Edward Gorey.
8 p.m. - 2 a.m. see website for pricing

Saturday-Sunday, January 25-26, 2014

Animation on Display
Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
www.aodsf.org
Celebrating Japanese animation (anime), video games, recent American cartoons, and their related interests.
$30 (till January 1), $35 (at convention)

Saturday, February 1, 2014

PEERS Middle Earth Ball
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Ball inspired by “The Hobbit” and “Lord of the Rings” with music by Celtic-fusion rock band Avalon Rising.
8 p.m. $15 (advanced), $20 (at the door)

Saturday, February 8, 2014

GBACG A Venetian Carnival
Location TBD
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Enjoy an evening of appetizers, desserts and dazzling feats of skill in the glittering atmosphere of the Venetian Carnivale.
Costume: 18th Century, all classes or 18th Century Fancy Dress. Masks required!
Check website for price

Friday-Monday, February 14-17, 2014

DunDraCon
San Ramon Marriott
2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon
www.undracon.com
Gaming convention
Check website for price
Friday-Monday, February 14-17, 2014
Pantheacon
San Jose Doubletree
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose
pantheacon.com
Pagan convention. This year’s theme is Networks of Community and Diversity, Pleasure & Service.
$65 (till January 1), $75 (after January 1)

Friday-Sunday, February 21-23, 2014
Potlatch 23
Sainte Claire Hotel
302 South Market Street, San Jose, California
potlatch-sf.org
Literary SF convention supporting Clarion West.
$50

Saturday, February 22, 2014
Gaskell Winter Ball
Scottish Rite Temple
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland
gaskellball.com
Vintage ball featuring the music of Franklin Beau Davis and the Brassworks. Formal attire required (19th to 21st century)
7: 30 p.m. $20

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9, 2014
PEERS Gotham City Black and White Ball
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N. Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo
peersdance.org
Ball held at Stately Wayne Manor with familiar guests in black tie featuring Swing Era dancing and music by Sarah and Swingtime.
8 p.m. $15 (advanced), $20 (at the door)

Saturday, March 1, 2014
Consonance 2014
Crowne Plaza San Jose/Silicon Valley
88 Bellew Drive, Milpitas
consonance.bostoncalifornia.com
Filk convention convention. Guests: Margaret Davis, Kristoph Klover, Johathan Turner, Robin Holly, Mark Osier, Rika Koerte
$50 (until February 14)

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9, 2014
F OGcon 2014
Walnut Creek Marriott
2355 North Main Street, Walnut Creek
fogcon.org
$65

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9, 2014
Wizard World Sacramento Comic Con
Sacramento Convention Center
1400 J Street, Sacramento
www.wizardworld.com/home-sacramento.html
General comic book and pop culture convention
Advanced price: $65, Onsite price: $75

Friday-Sunday, March 28-30, 2014
Conquest SAC
Sacramento Red Lion Hotel Woodlake Conference Center
500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento
www.conquestsac.com
Tabletop gaming convention. See website for pricing packages

Saturday-Sunday, March 29-30, 2014
Twisted Terror Convention
Sacramento Doubletree by Hilton
2001 Point West Way, Sacramento
twistedterrorconvention.com
www.facebook.com/TwistedTerrorConvention/info
Horror/Sci-fi convention.
$45
Saturday, April 5, 2014
**PEERS Downton Abbey Ball**  
Alameda Elks Lodge  
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda  
peersdance.org  
Ball (circa 1910-1920) hosted by the Earl and Countess of Grantham featuring vintage ballroom dance music performed by Bangers and Mash.  
8 p.m. $15 (advanced), $20 (at the door)

Friday-Saturday, May 3-5, 2014
**Corflu 31**  
Holiday Inn Koger Center Conference Center  
1021 Koger Center Boulevard, Richmond, VA  
corflu.org  
Fanzine fandom convention.  
$80

Saturday, May 3, 2014
**PEERS Once Upon A Time: A Fairy Tale Masquerade Ball**  
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo  
100 N. Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo  
peersdance.org  
Fairy tale and fantasy inspired ball featuring vintage ballroom dance music performed by Bangers and Mash.  
8 p.m. $15 (advanced), $20 (at the door)

Saturday-Sunday, May 17-18, 2014
**Big Wow Comicfest**  
San Jose McEnery Convention Center  
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose  
bigwowcomicfest.com  
Comics convention.  
Pricing TBA

Friday-Monday, May 23-26, 2014
**KublaCon**  
Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport  
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame  
www.kublacon.com  
West Coast’s largest gaming convention.  
Pricing TBA

Friday-Monday, May 23-26, 2014
**BayCon**  
Hyatt Regency Santa Clara  
5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara  
baycon.org/2014  
General interest science fiction/fantasy convention.  
$60

Saturday, June 7, 2014
**PEERS Space Cowboy’s Ball**  
Alameda Elks Lodge  
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda  
peersdance.org  
Browncoat inspired ball featuring vintage ballroom dance music performed by Bangers and Mash.  
8 p.m. $15 (advanced), $20 (at the door)

Saturday, June 21, 2014
**Gaskell Summer Ball**  
Scottish Rite Temple  
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland  
gaskellball.com  
Vintage ball featuring the music of Franklin Beau Davis and the Brassworks. Formal attire required (19th to 21st century)  
7: 30 p.m. $20
Friday-Sunday, June 27-29, 2014

Evolution Expo 2014
Oakland Marriott City Center
1001 Broadway, Oakland
sciencefictionentertainment.com/event-attendees/evolution-expo-overview
Convention about hard science in science fiction
35

Thursday-Monday, August 14-18, 2014

Loncon 3
International Conference Centre, ExCeL,
London Docklands
www.loncon3.org
The 72nd World Science Fiction Convention.
Guests of Honour: Iain M Banks, John Clute,
Chris Foss, Malcolm Edwards, Jeanne Gomoll,
Robin Hobb, Bryan Talbot.
$50
$170 (until September 30)

Thursday-Sunday, July 3-6, 2014

Westcon 67/CONduit 24
Marriott City Creek Hotel
75 South West Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
westercon67.org
General interest science fiction/fantasy convention
$50

Saturday, August 2, 2014

PEERS Alameda 1902 Picnic Dance
Lincoln Park, 1450 High Street, Alameda
www.peersdance.org
Picnic and dancing to celebrate the year that Alameda officially became an island with music by Bangers and Mash.
11 a.m. Free

Saturday, August 16, 2014

Gaskell Midsummer Ball
Scottish Rite Temple
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland
gaskellball.com
Vintage ball featuring the music of Franklin Beau Davis and the Brassworks. Formal attire required (19th to 21st century)
7: 30 p.m. $20

Friday-Monday, August 29-September 1, 2014

CelestiCon
Fremont Marriott
46100 Landing Parkway, Fremont
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
$35 (before March 1)

Saturday, September 6, 2014

PEERS Casblanca Ball
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Ball inspired by the all-time classic film featuring swing and vintage ballroom dance music performed by The Brassworks.
8 p.m. $15 (advanced), $20 (at the door)

New listings for ongoing events
Golden Gate Knights
(Lightsaber Instruction Class)
Gaslight LARP
Doctor Who Perv Society
Wicked Games
The Tech After Hours
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ongoing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Daily</strong></td>
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<td>Cartoon Art Museum</td>
<td>655 Mission Street, San Francisco</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cartoonart.org">www.cartoonart.org</a></td>
<td>Current exhibitions: Chuck Jones, Drawing on Imagination (till May 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour</td>
<td>Begins: Queen Anne Hotel</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sfghosthunt.com">www.sfghosthunt.com</a></td>
<td>Closed Mondays &amp; Tuesdays, and on November 21-22 for Thanksgiving.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nightly Nerd Show</td>
<td>KCSF Radio, 90.9 FM</td>
<td>nightlynerdshow.tumblr.com</td>
<td>Radio show covering nerdy topics 5-6 p.m.</td>
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<td>VIZ Cinema</td>
<td>1746 Post Street, San Francisco</td>
<td><a href="http://www.newpeopleworld.com/films">www.newpeopleworld.com/films</a></td>
<td>VIZ Cinema is a 143-seat underground cinema inside New People in San Francisco. Its programming focuses on the latest and hottest films from Japan, as well as classics, favorites, documentaries and anime. Please check theater for showtimes and tickets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Gate Knights (Lightsaber Instruction Class)</td>
<td>Studio Gracia</td>
<td>goldengateknights.com</td>
<td>Instructor-led class on lightsaber stage combat and choreography.</td>
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<td>Cloondara Fighter Practice</td>
<td>Golden Gate Park</td>
<td><a href="http://www.westkingdom.org">www.westkingdom.org</a></td>
<td>The Shire of Cloondara (San Francisco, CA) holds fighter practice Sundays at 12:00 p.m. (if there are no major SCA events and the weather permits)</td>
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<td>Bad Movie Night</td>
<td>The Dark Room Theater</td>
<td><a href="http://www.darkroomsf.com">www.darkroomsf.com</a></td>
<td>Featuring bad movies old and new.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sakuramento Anime Society</td>
<td>Rancho Cordova Library</td>
<td><a href="http://www.saclibrary.org">www.saclibrary.org</a></td>
<td>Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs. 3-6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Bay Strategy Games Club</td>
<td>EndGame</td>
<td><a href="http://www.endgameoakland.com/event-calendar">www.endgameoakland.com/event-calendar</a></td>
<td>Various games played throughout the week, check website for times and games.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SF Games</td>
<td>Taqueria San Jose, 2830 Mission Street, San Francisco</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sfgames.org">www.sfgames.org</a></td>
<td>SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week.</td>
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**Mondays**

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

**Sacramento Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club**
Midtown Creperie
1730 L Street, Sacramento
www.sacgeeks.com
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.
6:30 p.m. Free

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

**Tuesdays**

**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 3 pm on to determine if the facility will be closed that day. 408-534-1169.
7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Free

**Wednesdays**

**Steam Federation - Bay Area Steampunk Society**
Various - check website or Facebook page for information
steam-federation.com/%20cal2.html
www.facebook.com/groups/steamfederation
General gathering for craftwork, discussions and general fun.
6:30 p.m. Free

**Thursdays**

**CAS: NightLife**
The California Academy of Sciences
55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
www.calacademy.org/events/nightlife
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
Reservations required.
7 p.m. - 9 p.m. $20
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.

Bimonthly

Gaslight LARP
289 8th Street, San Francisco
gaslight.endogaming.net
www.facebook.com/groups/gaslightlar
www.facebook.com/gaslightlar
Full immersion Victorian-era World of Darkness Boffer LARP bimonthly weekends in the Santa Cruz Mountains
Time and dates available on website, contact organizers for cost

Dorkbot-SF
www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf
www.facebook.com/pages/dorkbot-SF/101954222010
Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity. Free, donations welcome

Doctor Who Perv Society
Wicked Grounds Cafe
289 8th Street, San Francisco
www.wickedgrounds.com/regular-events.html
Gathering for Doctor Who fans to discuss the show and other topics. Meets first Sunday of every month.
4 pm Free

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

The Tech After Hours
The Tech Museum of Innovation
201 South Market Street, San Jose
www.thetech.org/programs/after-hours
The monthly evening event where adults 21 and older can enjoy science, technology, entertainment and cocktails together with their friends. Held on the first Thursday of the month.
7 p.m. $10

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

The Bawdy Caste Presents “The 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
Barely Legal Presents “The Rocky Horror Picture Show”
Camera 3 Cinema
288 South Second Street, San Jose
barelylegal.rhps.org
Barely Legal provides the shadow cast for the South Bay for the classic midnight movie every first Saturday of the month in Downtown San Jose.
Midnight

Time Warp Cartel Presents “The Rocky Horror Picture Show”
The Vine Cinema
1722 First Street, Livermore, CA
www.timewarpcartel.com
Time Warp Cartel provides the hijinx for the East Bay and Tri-Valley area of the classic midnight movie every first Saturday of the month in Downtown Livermore.
Midnight

QSF&F Book Club
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com/about_events.html
Meets the second Sunday of the month.
5 p.m.

East Bay Star Wars Club
Central Perk
10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito
510-558-7375
www.facebook.com/groups/35116614719
Meets the second Friday of every month.
7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Night of the Living Book Club
Books, Inc.- Mountain View
301 Castro Street, Mountain View
www.booksinc.net/night-living-book-club
Monthly book club discusses classic and contemporary selections from suspense, thriller, and horror fiction genres. Meets every third Sunday of each month.
5 pm

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.
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
damn. 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

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

Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club
Inklings Books and Things
1855 41st Avenue, Capitola
www.inklingsbooksandthings.com
Meets every fourth Tuesday of each month.
6 pm Free

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.
7 p.m. Free

Legion of Rassilon
Carl’s Jr.
2551 N 1 St , San Jose
www.legionofrassilon.org
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth
Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who,
news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.
7:00 p.m. Free

Wicked Games
Wicked Grounds Cafe
289 8th Street, San Francisco
www.wickedgrounds.com/regular-events.html
Gaming at Wicked Grounds. Meets fourth
Saturday of every month.
6 pm to 10 pm Free

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

Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE
_round Table Pizza
4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento
916-338-2300
Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last
Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.
6 pm Free

Queered Science Book Club
Au Coquelet Restaurant
2000 University Avenue, Berkeley
queeredscience.weebly.com
www.facebook.com/groups/qsbooks
Monthly book club that focuses on science
fiction, fantasy, and magical realism that
includes trans*, queer, genderqueer, and strong
female protagonists and themes.
Meets the last Saturday of each month.
4:30 PM Free

For even more events in the Bay Area, check out Bay Area Geek Guide: The San Francisco Bay Area Guide to Geek Events & Nerd Culture: bayareageekguide.com
## Bay Area Fannish Calendar – December 2013

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