“Star Wars” at The Tech
Steampunktoberfest
Dr. Who 50th
Dickens Fair
Edwardian Weekend Planner
... and more!
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Art Credits
Cover Walking the coast near Half Moon Bay by Lucy Huntzinger

Note: SF/SF has not been able to obtain recent BASFA meeting minutes. BASFA is still going strong. See the Bay Area Fannish Calendar for details.
By Christopher Erickson  
*Managing Editor*

Christmas is upon us and that means lots of things: Presents, snow (oh, wait, not in most of California, but I have had to scrape ice off my windshield), parties and eggnog (I love the eggnog shake from Jack-In-The-Box in particular). It also means lots of Christmas specials. With all of the available cable channels and new content coming out every year, it seems like there is no end to the yuletide programming. I haven’t really gotten into the Christmas spirit until right at December 24 in recent years, mostly due to the Christmas items being sold while people are still putting up Halloween decorations, and the seasonal music being played as soon as you wake up from your Thanksgiving nap.

Jean and I have actually been watching Christmas specials early this year as she has not seen a number of them, particularly “How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” and “Frosty the Snowman.” Since she had never really seen them, it has been wonderful to find some new joy in something that I have seen for most of my life. I even managed to sit down and watch the “Shrek” Christmas special. I find myself smiling when I hear the Christmas carols (and even get the earworms with them) when I go into the stores or see the commercials with Santa Claus in them. We also watched the lesser known specials of “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town” and “The Little Drummer Boy.” It has been a long time since I have seen either one of them and I enjoyed them immensely.

Of course, the Dickens Fair is one of the best holiday traditions in the Bay Area. It is one of the ways that I get into the Christmas spirit since it traces back directly to the 19th century revival of Christmas driven by Charles Dickens (with publication of his Christmas books) and Prince Albert. It is the best reminder of what the time of year is meant to stand for regardless of political, religious or cultural denomination: good will, celebration of the human spirit and conviviality with friends, family and all people. It is wonderful to see friends who you only get to see a few other times per year and experience a wonderful oasis of holiday cheer that is free of the more corporate feel that can sometimes sneak into the celebrations.

With the recent anniversary of “Doctor Who,” I have pretty much learned that I really don’t want to know all the details of the actual production but I enjoy some of the speculation from fans on what is going to happen on the show. I avoided almost all mention of the details of the story other than the occasional set pictures and a few small clips. Speculation of what the “missing” Doctor was or how he came to be was fun, but I found it heightened my anticipation and enjoyment if I did not know major plot details or even the general synopsis of the show.

Other shows I have been following have gotten better as the season has gone on. “Once Upon A Time” has built up the storyline by making the characters even more interconnected
and has woven in a better overall story arch that didn’t seem to be there in the first two seasons. “Agents of SHEILD” has gone the opposite direction from development of a season-long plot to focusing on the characters featured on the show. The initial episodes were entertaining, but they seemed to lack the usual character development that we have come to expect from a Joss Whedon-run series. The character cameos have also been removed from recent episodes to focus on the main people.

We went to the recent “Star Trek” convention. There seemed to be a mix of older fans and much younger ones who were discovering the previous incarnations not related to the reboot/relaunch movies. It was my first such convention since 1994 and had a bit of a different feel in that it was more energetic and had more people involved from the celebrity standpoint. It was nice to see fans of the series since most of the buzz lately has been about “Star Wars,” anime, “Sherlock,” “Doctor Who” and Steampunk.

Convolution was another great event. I felt much more comfortable being on a panel and presenting my knowledge of the subjects that I was on (costuming on a budget, 50 Years of Doctor Who and photography for costumers). It was a more natural experience to be part of a give and take with a group of other people. More people at the convention were in costume this time and the ball was well attended. This convention seems like it will be around for a while and take the place in the schedule that has been missing since SiliCon has disappeared.

Part of the nostalgia kick that I have been on recently is watching old wrestling matches from WWE programing. There are a number of documentaries and anthologies of personalities I like. One of my favorites was the Hulk Hogan anthology. It contained a number of matches that I had not seen in years including the famous match where he bodyslammed Andre the Giant at Wrestlemania III. I also watched an anthology of The Rock’s matches. The one I am currently watching is The Undertaker. It is amazing to see a character that would be considered silly in a normal context but watch how it can be executed by a talented performer and production team. With the recent announcement that the 2015 edition of Wrestlemania will be at Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara, I am even more interested in watching wrestling.

With having to take some vacation time, I did some tourist agenda items that I wanted complete. I rode on the bay cruise of the Red and White Fleet that I had originally done back in 2000 when I was out from Minneapolis on a job interview. I only had a 35mm film camera at the time and did not have a great number of pictures from the experience. Having a digital camera now, I was able to take more than 200 photos. I also went on the Alcatraz Island tour that I did back in 2003. I didn’t have my camera with me at the time since I didn’t have my computer set up. I made up for this with many photos and I even got to see buildings that were normally closed.

I am looking forward to events in 2014 including Gallifrey One, the PEERS events, Big Wow! Comic Fest and Clockwork Alchemy (which I missed last year).

Hope everyone has a safe and fun new year.

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
By Jean Martin  
*Editor-in-Chief*

As a lifelong “Star Wars” fan since I saw the first movie when it came out, I was thrilled to find out that there would be a “Star Wars” exhibit at the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose. A few years ago, the Tech had a fantastic “Star Trek” exhibit that my friends and I went to in costume and we had a marvelous time looking at all the props, costumes and memorabilia.

The “Star Wars” exhibit, which opened last Oct. 26 and will be running through Feb. 23, 2014, has the complete title of “Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination.” So not only is it a showcase of the “Star Wars” movies, it also features exhibits that show how “Star Wars” has inspired the imagination of scientists and continues to do so to this day.

As Christopher and I approached the museum, we were treated to a huge poster promoting the exhibit that had Yoda
and Darth Vader dueling with their light sabers. The poster was as tall as the building! I knew something big was in store for us inside as well and I wasn’t disappointed.

The first area of the exhibit had scale models of X-Wing Fighters and Imperial Star Destroyers. They were encased in glass boxes, which just reinforced the notion that these are prized possessions and part of the movie-making mythos of the “Star Wars” franchise. The pièce de résistance in that gallery was the Millennium Falcon, which looked as graceful and beautiful in real life as it does on screen. The detail was incredibly intricate.

There were a lot of other starships and starfighters from the prequels as well. I was happy, though, that there were a lot of items from the original trilogy throughout the exhibit. I was
worried that there would be more from the prequels because they are more recent, but there was a good balance of both.

One of the next galleries had the costumes and you could feel the presence of the “Star Wars” legacy and even the Force as there were several Jedis depicted. All from the prequels were Anakin Skywalker, Obi-Wan Kenobi, Mace Windu and Yoda. Also from the prequels was Padme Amidala and the young Anakin. From the original trilogy were Han Solo, Chewbacca, Princess Leia, R2-D2, C-3PO, a Wampa and a Snowtrooper. From either prequels and originals were Darth Vader, a Stormtrooper and a couple of Tusken Raiders. There were also blasters and lightsabers in a glass case.

The main attraction in one of the big galleries was Luke Skywalker’s original landspeeder. Right next to it was a
smaller version that had figurines of Luke, Obi-Wan and C-3PO. To demonstrate the feasibility of landspeeders, there was a hovercraft across from the display. I rode on the hovercraft a couple of times because the first time it didn’t move. The second time it just went around and around and I got very dizzy. It was fun, though, and it was nice to experience what it would be like to be on a real landspeeder.

As far as the more science aspect of the exhibit, there were several interactive stations interspersed throughout that were categorized by topic. Each showed how the science of the future is already being developed now. It was pretty exciting to see the different advancements in science and technology that will be put to practical use at some point, hopefully, during my lifetime.
My favorite ones were the robots, starships and magnetic levitation transportation. Most of the interactive activities were being used by children and so I didn’t get to use a lot of them. But it was fun just watching them enjoy science and explore their creativity and intelligence. They are, after all, the future of mankind who will continue to propel the advancement of our species into the stars.

There was a Millennium Falcon Experience that required an extra $5 for a five-minute ride. But they were already sold out that day so we weren’t able to experience it. I’m hoping to go back to the exhibit again, next time in costume, and get to go on the ride. Apparently, you can purchase these in advance so I’ll be prepared next time.
After we were done with the “Star Wars” exhibit, Christopher and I explored the upper and lower floors of the actual Tech Museum. I hadn’t actually seen the museum before and I enjoyed it.

Upstairs there was a Health and Biotech gallery that had a wet lab. There was a large Google Maps in 3D that Chris did in the Silicon Valley Innovation Gallery. We rode on a “roller coaster” in the Test Zone, which was fun for me because I can’t go on the real thing due to motion sickness. Downstairs was the Exploration Zone, which was my favorite, because I’m interested in astronomy and space travel. In that gallery was a spinning globe depicting the earth as viewed from
space, a jet pack chair and a full-size science pod as it would look like if it were on the surface of Mars. There was even a Mars Rover next to it.

For more information on the “Star Wars” exhibit, go to: www.thetech.org/plan-your-visit/special-exhibitions/STAR-WARS. For the Tech Museum exhibits, go to: www.thetech.org/plan-your-visit/galleries.
The Period Events and Entertainments Re-creation Society (PEERS) once again held a Steampunktoberfest Ball at the San Mateo Masonic Hall last Oct. 5. Touted as a “Victorian Steampunk Ball and Oktoberfest Celebration,” the event was a fun and colorful mix of attendees in Victorian, Steampunk and Bavarian costumes.
Since I just went to Bavaria last May and had to miss the Steampunk convention Clockwork Alchemy, it was wonderful timing to be able to go to a ball that celebrated both. I wore a pink and black dirndl and Christopher wore a Bavarian-inspired outfit complete with a blue-and-white Bavarian flag and cravat, a mug with the Bavarian crest and a Bavarian green hat. It was also a good way to reminisce about our trip (which I covered in SF/SF #145 at www.efanzines.com/SFSF/SFSF145.pdf). There were numerous men in lederhosen and lots of women also in dirndls.

Juxtaposed with traditional Oktoberfest garb were creative and fantastical Steampunk outfits that ranged from the adventurous to the elegant to the mysterious. And, of course, there were those in historical Victorian attire.
The music and dancing were tailored for the theme of the ball with lots of waltzes, polkas and other vintage ballroom dances to the tunes provided by the popular Bangers and Mash. There were also some Victorian Steampunk set dances that were briefly taught and called.

Since this was an Oktoberfest celebration, there was beer as well as other drinks available at the bar. There was also a light Bavarian-style snack buffet to keep the dancers’ energy up during the lively evening.

Specifically, the concept for this year’s Steampunktoberfest Ball was Prime Minister Lord Palmerston (James Myers) and
Lady Palmerston (Cathleen Myers) hosting a ball in honor of Professor Charles Babbage (Chris Knight), inventor of the Difference Engine and Analytical Engine, and his patroness and “software writer” Ada, Countess of Lovelace (Jen Jerlic).

During one of the intermissions, there was a lecture by Babbage, assisted by Countess Lovelace, explaining the Difference Engine on a whiteboard as Prince Albert (Gregory Seeley) looked on.

This unique event is always a great way to celebrate history, science, dance, music, costuming and science fiction. I hope PEERS does this again in the future.
Golden Years: A Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of “Doctor Who”

By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

Nov. 23, 2013, marked a worldwide celebration of the 50th year of the iconic British science-fiction show, “Doctor Who.” As part of that milestone there were several occasions and items marking the anniversary worldwide as well as locally.

Locally, the Period Events and Entertainments Re-enactment Society (PEERS) held a themed ball on June 1, 2013, based on the episodes “The Empty Child/The Doctor Dances” with an original live-theater presentation featuring the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Doctors along with numerous companions. (See issue #143 for details). The local sci-fi/fantasy organization Science Fiction in San Francisco also held a screening of the Tom Baker era episode “Terror of the Zygons” on Nov. 23, 2013, to coincide with the classic monsters’ return to the series.

There were also a number of merchandising tie-ins with the event. One of the most obvious ones, based on the long tradition in print, was the re-release of several classic original novels with a special packaging for the 50th anniversary. The series featured a single story for each of the Doctors with new cover art (including the “50 years” logo), introductions and a picture of the Doctor in that story on the spine of the book. The writers include Terrance Dicks (writer of several classic “Who” episodes and script editor), Gareth Roberts (writer of “The Shakespeare Code” and others), Gary Russell (director of several Big Finish “Doctor Who” audio and script editor for

Time Lord

by Jean Martin
both “Torchwood” and the new series) and Mark Gatiss (writer and actor in the new series and Big Finish audio adventures).

IDW comics also put out a 12-part maxi series written by Scott and Dave Tipton (writers of various “Star Trek” comics for IDW and the “Doctor Who”/“Star Trek: The Next Generation” crossover comic) featuring all of the Doctors entitled “The Prisoner of Time.” Each issue featured a full story about one of the Doctors and featured many classic characters, villains and monsters within the pages. The plot interlocked together over the issues and culminated in the last issue.
Not to be outdone, Big Finish put out an original audio adventure featuring all of the Doctors of the classic era (using new actors doing the voices lines for William Hartnell, Patrick Troughton and Jon Pertwee) and several of the original companions called “The Light at The End.” The drama crosses over several different eras and different worlds but starts on Nov. 23, 1963.

BBC Home Video released a collection of episodes titled “The Doctor Revisited” with a featured story for each Doctor with special features including a retrospective look at the era of each Doctor and a set of collectible magnets.

Unofficial merchandise was also for sale on several t-shirt websites with fan-designed artwork marking the occasion.

Not to be outdone, the British also became highly involved with the celebration. A yearly corn maze done in York featured a maze with a design incorporating the images of the First and Eleventh Doctors and a Dalek. (More information here: www.doctorwho.com/york-creates-doctor-who-50th-anniversary-corn-maze/ and video here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0z6_U0jWiug#t=68). Heathrow Airport also featured an invasion of characters including Cybermen and a TARDIS. (More information here: www.doctorwho.tv/whats-new/article/doctor-who-materializes-at-london-heathrow/ and your.heathrow.com/dossier/dr-who-and-the-tardis-visit-heathrow-airport/). There was even a visit by the British Royals to the set of “Doctor Who” (information here: www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/doctorwho/articles/The-Royal-Visit-to-the-Home-of-Doctor-Who).

Also in the U.K. was the Official 50th Celebration held on Nov. 22-24, 2013, at the London ExCel. The Eleventh and other Doctors made an appearance and some fans from the
Doctor Whovians in SF Bay Area Meetup group were in attendance and one of them got to meet Matt Smith.

As a lead up to the 50th anniversary episode, “The Day of the Doctor,” the BBC commissioned a number of shows and related media. There was a series of one-hour retrospectives on each of the Doctors. One of the most anticipated ones was the docudrama about the creation and filming of “Doctor Who” entitled “An Adventure in Space and Time.” The television movie dramatized the events of the creation of the show and the difficulties of making it featuring Brian Cox as Sydney Newman, Jessica Raine as Verity Lambert, Sacha Dhawan as Waris Hussein (the first director of “Doctor Who”) and David Bradley as William Hartnell.

A comedy tribute was made starring all the living classic Doctors not named Tom Baker called “The Five(ish) Doctors Reboot” chronicling the efforts of Peter Davison, Colin Baker and Sylvester McCoy to get involved in the filming of the 50th anniversary episode. The short film featured cameos of the cast and crew of the current series and other big names like Paul McGann, John Barrowman, Peter Jackson and Ian McKellen.
The official minisodes for the occasion were quietly released and became major news on the Internet. “The Night of the Doctor” was only announced by Twitter and spread through websites and Internet boards quickly. The short featured the final night of the Eighth Doctor and his previously unseen regeneration, tying in with the previous episode “The Name of The Doctor” and the “The Day of the Doctor.” The other short was “The Last Day,” featuring the last day of the Time War from the viewpoint of a soldier.

The climax of the celebrations was the airing of “The Day of the Doctor,” for which the BBC did a worldwide television simulcast on outlets that carried the show. It then announced a limited showing in movie theaters on Nov. 23, 2013, in 3D. Tickets went quickly after the announcement was made. The theater simulcast featured a vignette on theater etiquette by Commander Strax of the Sontarans and a second short with Matt Smith and David Tennant as well as a behind-the-scenes featurette after the episode.

For the showing that Jean and I went to at the Century San Francisco Centre 9, there were many people dressed up in costume, featuring several different Doctors, companions and creatures. The people in attendance cheered during the feature and clapped at the end (more information and photos by Jean are here: www.examiner.com/article/costumers-at-doctor-who-50th-anniversary-events-the-sf-bay-area).

There was a re-showing in more movie theaters on the following Monday, Nov. 25. Many people went to those showings as well and many came in costume. The combined viewings of the episode made a Guinness Book record for the largest simulcast showing (www.guinnessworldrecords.com/news/2013/11/doctor-who-day-of-the-doctor-sets-world-record-for-biggest-tv-drama-simulcast-53133/), also taking in $4.8 million in a limited engagement in United States theaters (insidetv.ew.com/2013/11/26/doctor-who-box-office/).

The events, merchandise and other related media helped celebrate a worldwide phenomenon that was once considered a silly children’s show that almost had no chance of being successful.
By Christopher Erickson  
*Managing Editor*

The environs of London arrived in Daly City at the Cow Palace for the 35th Annual Great Dickens Christmas Fair and Victorian Holiday Party for its seasonal run on weekends from Nov. 22 to Dec. 22, 2013.

The Dickens Fair always has something new or expanded every year and this year did not disappoint. There were several changes that were made to accommodate the flow of traffic. One of the biggest was relocating Cuthbert’s Tea Shoppe. It was moved next to the farther food court that has the fish and chips booth, Greek food and the Tippling Toad. This move helped to avoid congestion when people were queuing for the tea parlor. The coat check likewise was relocated to the entrance area and was also set up with a back window to help accommodate the flow of people at the end of the day. The telegraph office was also moved up to the front next to the Christmas tree to give it a more prominent place and allow people to send messages easier and collect tickets for the French Postcards show. The Peelers’ jailhouse was moved down to the London Docks for a more fitting place since a number of unsavory characters including Bill Sikes, the Artful Dodger and Bill Fagin were known to frequent the area.

Two other expansions were the Scrooge and Marley Stage and the Crystal Palace Exhibition. The Scrooge and Marley Stage was moved from near the front entrance to (appropriately enough) Cratchit’s Yard. The move allowed the
skit performances to be heard and provided seating for people to gather and view the scenes on stage. The stage was also used by the Royals as they were completing their procession through the streets of London. A tableau with Prince Albert, Queen Victoria and their children celebrating Christmas was presented to show how the Royal Family celebrated the season. The children helped trim the tree, Albert lead caroling of “Silent Night” and “O Christmas Tree” in both English and German (reflecting his influence in helping establish these traditions and their Germanic roots), and Albert chased around his children and let them ride on his back while wearing a bear mask. The scene was a nice touch of domestic life that we usually don’t think of for people of such high rank.
The other expansion is the Crystal Palace Exhibition. The space was moved over to the Fish Street Area and given a bigger space. This allowed for multiple presentations revolving around themes (art, science, technology) with a greater number of luminaries. Exhibitions were presented on the telegraph by Charles Wheatstone, the use of electromagnetic force by James Clerk Maxwell, the revolver pistol by Samuel Colt, the Tempest Prognosticator (leech barometer) by George Merryweather, fossils by Sir Richard Owen, suspension bridges by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, a corset demonstration and artistic expression by the Pre-Raphaelite Society. The demonstrations were popular and the patron of the entire celebration of human endeavor, Prince Albert was known to make an appearance at times.
There were some new attractions as well. One is a booth devoted to baby and children’s clothing, Nana’s Nursery. It was well stocked with bibs, bonnets, quilts, clothing, cradles and perambulators for people to get the perfect look for their young ones. There was even a high chair that converted to a baby cart for sale.

The meat pie store had two new offerings, a lamb curry pie and a vegetable curry pie. I tried both of them and found them to be of excellent quality.

The Saucy French Postcards Tableaux Revue also had a new presentation this year. The dialogue revolved around the comparison between modern (Victorian) English womanhood and the womanhood of Greek mythology, especially with the Greek goddesses.

Of course, there is no end to the amount of entertainment that can be found at the Dickens Fair. There was plenty of dancing at Fezzywig’s as always, with plenty of chances to witness performances such as Scottish and Irish dancing, watch the Morris dancers and play parlour games. The
Dickens reading “A Christmas Carol”
Victoria & Albert Music Hall is also the place to catch wonderful performances. I caught the Royal English Opera Gala featuring Le Cancan Bijou to get a bit of high-class culture (and a bit of naughty French fun). The Silk Road Stage also had lots of opportunities to join in English country dancing not featured at the Fezzywig party. The Dark Garden corset windows also provided plenty of amusement, both in the window presentations of the “mechanicals” and the conversation of people trying to figure out if the people in the window were real and the children looking at the people.

Additionally, there were lots of immersive theater to be found. Fagin’s Den is a great place to see snippets of “Oliver Twist,” hearing the characters comment on the Ghosts of Christmas walk past (especially the Ghost of Christmas-Yet-
To-Come where they feel as if their own grave has been stepped on), witnessing Pip upbraid Estella in a drunken state, David Copperfield interact with Dora or Agnes and Sir Mulberry Hawk and his entourage being confronted by Nicholas Nickleby are wonderful to witness before your eyes. It was a special treat to hear the creator himself, Charles Dickens, read sections of “A Christmas Carol” in his legendary style and then to see a nightshirt-clad Ebenezer Scrooge wander the streets with the Ghosts.

Other wonderful bits are seeing Her Majesty greet her loyal subjects. She was especially wonderful with the young ones and two special-needs children with service dogs. Krampus also showed up to punish misbehaving children, but thankfully, they were all well-behaved. I also witnessed The
Pickwick Club’s rendition of a classic Christmas carol, “Deck the Halls,” using the words of Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Raven.”

It is wonderful that the characters also directly interact with the patrons. I had several instances where the characters spoke directly to me. One was when I was dressed as a United States Marshall. Fagin and Mad Sal were asking me about my business in London and I told them about my pursuit of the desperado, Black Jack Mulligan, who they mentioned as a man they might want to employ. Another was when two poor children ran away from me since they recognized me as a sort of policeman. I chased them down to find out why they were running away from me and told them they had nothing to
worry about from me since they did nothing wrong, even though they were still frightened. I also sat in at a meeting of the Pickwick Club with Mr. Pickwick, Mr. Snodgrass and Samuel Weller with H.G. Wells also joining us as we discussed a very scientific experiment to determine whether good or evil weighs more (since good souls ascend to heaven and bad souls descend to Hades). Another wonderful moment was when I was passing a group of people singing the virtues of gin to the tune of “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” I joined in singing the Civil War version.

Jean and I participated in a meet-and-greet at Tavistock House, the residence of Charles Dickens, with several people of note. The Dickens family, Mad Sal, “Buffalo” Bill Cody, Sir Mulberry Hawk, Mr. Pluck and Mr. Pyke along with the producer (and son of the original producers) Kevin Patterson were on hand to greet guests. Food including finger sandwiches, cookies, mincemeat pies, tea, sherry and port were available for guests to dine on while conversing with the characters and listening to piano accompaniment.

The costumes of the patrons were just as lively as always. There were plenty of people in middle and late Victorian wear, with plenty of corsets and hoopskirts in bright colors with trimmed bonnets. There were a number of people in Steampunk finery, Western wear and a few women in Indian saris. There were also several people in “Doctor Who” dress including variations of the TARDIS, several Doctors and a Madame Vastra (the Silurian consulting detective from “The Snowmen” and “The Crimson Horror.”

Even though some popular offerings from the past were not there anymore, such as Le Legion Fantastique and the Pirates at the London Docks, the entertainments presented were still numerous, enticing and wonderful. It put a larger focus on life in Victorian London and the characters of Dickens’s novels. The environment brought holiday cheer and wonderful smiles to everyone’s face.
Mark Your Calendars for Edwardian Weekend 2014!

By Diane B. Rooney
Staff Writer

Edwardian Weekend 2014 is coming up fast, so it’s time to get tickets and start working on your outfits! This year will be my sixth consecutive time attending these two evenings of incredible sensory overload and fun. I love this event because, like Dickens Fair, Maker Faire and the Northern California Pirate Festival, it combines a wide range and full schedule of organized activities and entertainment with interactive, spontaneous and participatory fun created by the attendees. In this preview, we’ll take a look at what you need to know for Edwardian Weekend, especially if you are a first-timer, and what to look forward to.

Background
Most readers probably know that this event was started as a celebration of all things concerning artist and writer Edward Gorey, rather than of King Edward VII, but over the years since its beginning in 1999 the two contexts have merged to some extent so that Edward Gorey’s work and worldviews are celebrated with a rather Edwardian, even Steampunkish, sensibility (among others). It’s grown from the Edwardian Ball to “Edwardian Weekend” as it’s grown in attendance and event space. Some 3,500 revelers are expected to attend the next one.

Timing
The San Francisco event takes place on Friday, Jan. 17, 2014, and Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014, from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
On Saturday, the vendor hall is open from noon to 5:00 p.m. for last-minute, must-have costume items or accessories.

**Location**
Edwardian Weekend once again takes on four levels of the fabulous Regency Ballroom at Van Ness Avenue and Sutter Street in San Francisco. This building is a former Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, built in 1909. The main floor features 35-foot ceilings and 22 Edwardian chandeliers, a hardwood floor for dancing plus a wraparound balcony for VIPs. The upstairs Lodge has a quieter, more intimate feel, with red carpeting and dark wood. Downstairs hosts the Vendor Bazaar, bars and a secondary stage.

**What’s On Offer**
Edwardian Ball describes itself as “an elegant and whimsical extravaganza of costumery, carnival, music, acrobatics, ballroom dancing, theater, circus, games, steam machinery, aerial performances, obscure artifacts, period technology and elaborate fashion shows, while honoring author/illustrator Edward Gorey.” But as noted above, a lot of the show is also in the audience, with amazing costumes, makeup, self-created characters, and an endless sense of play.

Friday night’s focus is the Edwardian World’s Faire, when the main floor features bicycle-powered carnival rides, steam-powered machinery by Kinetic Steam Works, sideshows, a tea parlor, and a complete circus extravaganza by the Vau de Vire Society.

Saturday night is the Edwardian Ball, so the main floor is cleared for ballroom dancing. The evening features the dramatic and musical presentation of an Edward Gorey tale, a different one given each year by founders and hosts Rosin Coven and Vau de Vire Society. This year’s selection is "The
Curious Sofa." Writing about it for The Atlantic in 2011, Maria Popova described the work as “a delightfully dark quasi-pornographic (that is, without actual nudity) quasi-horror (without actual blood and gore) illustrated story about furniture."

Justin Katz, Executive Producer at PARADOX Media, explains, “Gorey's stories are often dark, sometimes obscure narratives, or even ‘non-narrative’ in his way of presenting mysterious tableaus. They are intriguing but challenging to ‘bring to life,’ that is, to create theatrical narrative, action, movement, and character from the stills. ‘The Curious Sofa,’ to the contrary, is a fun, naughty, playful little story that has plenty of action and excitement. Titillating, even! So when this suggestion came up from the Vau de Vire camp, we all leapt at the opportunity to play! This being the only ‘pornographic’ work in his collection ... who knows what will happen!”

Both nights feature plenty of music, dance, performance art, displays and interactive entertainment upstairs in the Lodge, the “Museum of Wonders,” numerous bars including the St. George Spirits Absinthe Bar, plenty of food options, and the vendor room.

My personal favorites include Le Can Can Bijou (whom I know from Dickens Fair), Kinetic Steam Works (from Maker Faire and other events), Unwoman (from Steampunk conventions and concerts), and Dark Garden Corsetry (from Dickens Fair), as well as Rosin Coven and Vau de Vire Society. A full list of artists for San Francisco and Los Angeles can be found at edwardianball.com/artists.

**Dancing at Edwardian Weekend**

Saturday night’s dancing ranges from traditional waltzes to Latin and more. To ensure you are dance-floor ready, should you choose, Edwardian Ball has partnered for several years with Vima Dance Studio, which offers very reasonable introductory and intermediate classes for just $7 each. Schedule and descriptions are at edwardianball.com/ballroom-dance. I took classes a few years ago at Vima when I lived in San Francisco and I was quite happy with them!
What to Wear
The simple answer is “anything you want,” but for more ideas feel free to check my recent Flickr sets at: flickr.com/photos/dianesf/sets/72157633508389170/ (2013), flickr.com/photos/dianesf/sets/721576290222168163/ (2012), flickr.com/photos/dianesf/sets/72157626932292393/ (2011), and resources at the Edwardian Ball website, especially edwardianball.com/category/fashion and edwardianball.com/photos-videos.

Make A Weekend of It
If you are concerned about getting home late, dazzled and overwhelmed by what you’ve experienced, make a weekend of it by staying over at the Holiday Inn just two blocks north of the Regency Ballroom. They are offering rooms at just $129 per night if booked by December 27. More info at: roomstays.com/hotel/94371 – if booking be sure to mention Edwardian Ball!

Los Angeles Edwardian Ball
The Los Angeles event takes place on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014, at the Fonda Theatre at 6126 Hollywood Boulevard.

Tickets for All Events
For San Francisco, advance general admission tickets are $40 for Friday and $50 for Saturday, $5 more at the door. A two-night ticket is $80, sold in advance only. VIP tickets are $80 for Friday and $95 for Saturday. Saturday daytime entry to the Vendor Room only is $5. For Los Angeles, general admission tickets are $45, VIP tickets and special packages range from $75 to $575. Ticket information, including online purchase and list of ticket outlets, can be found at: edwardianball.com/tickets.
Milt Stevens writes:

Your editorial in Science Fiction/San Francisco #147 certainly makes you sound busy. I certainly don’t get around that much. I do watch some television but mostly movies. At the moment, “Game of Thrones” is the only series I plan on watching again. Most SF or fantasy series don’t keep my attention for more than an episode or two, and some only keep it for a matter of minutes.

Jean Martin responds:

Hi Milt, thanks for writing to us!

I could probably do more productive (and healthy things like sleeping and exercising) if I didn’t watch too many TV shows and movies. But with a new iPad mini and lots of great shows that I talked about in my last Editorial, I have a lot of shows to catch up on. I think it’s just a phase and I’ll go back to my usual level of passive entertainment. On the other hand, these shows (and books) do inspire me to do things like write and costume as well as have something to talk about with fellow fans. I understand that some people like yourself only like a few shows. We all have our preferences for entertainment.

I did watch one season of “Once Upon a Time.” I quit watching it when I realized my reaction to the show was something like distaste. There are limits to how far you should go in interpreting and old story. They had exceeded those limits. They had just appropriated character names and pasted them on whatever they felt like doing. I felt a little curiosity regarding “Once Upon a Time in Wonderland.” The idea of Alice being sent to an insane asylum didn’t sound promising. I recorded two episodes but finally deleted them without watching. I just didn’t want to watch it.

There seems to be two camps when it comes to re-interpreting old stories. There are those, like yourself, who don’t like things being changed too much, and there are those, like myself, who are okay with it as long as the re-imaginings make a good story. Every time “OUAT” goes into new territory I sometimes cringe but then like it anyway. They are going into the Oz mythology next year and I’m skeptical but will see what they do with it.

Before reading Christopher Erickson’s article, I’d never thought of the Christmas Truce of 1914 as a pop culture event. Yeah, in a way. In the next few years, we are going to have the centennials of many really big events from the WWI era. Some say the Christmas Truce was the real end of the 19th century. Others theorize it may have been the end of Christian
Civilization in Europe. If Christianity didn’t die on the battlefields of WWI, it was certainly badly damaged.

*Christopher didn’t mention the Christmas Truce of 1914 so I’m assuming that you made that inference yourself, which makes sense to me. Yes, 2014 will be a big year for WWI events and we are hoping to at least list them in our calendar of events if we’re not able to cover them ourselves. We already know of one WWI re-enactment group who’s busy with their plans.*

“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.”

SAY WHAT? The above paragraph caused my eyeballs to go into a four-wheel locked skid. It’s unfortunately obvious that Michael Boehm suffers from JARGON SPLICE. Jargon Splice is a condition that afflicts many college students particularly in the sociology, psychology and English departments. Those departments develop complex jargons which students are expected to juggle with dexterity. I suffered from the same condition when I was a young English major. I finished one particular paper and realized I had no idea what I was talking about. I got a B on the paper. At that moment, I realized the system didn’t require me to know what I was talking about.

*Other than the word “liminal,” I thought that paragraph was understandable. I thought of changing the word but didn’t want to change the voice and style of the writer, which tied in to the nature of the event. Yes, it does sound like jargon but I thought it was also nice to learn a new word and introduce others to it.*

*Jason Burnett writes:*

For a long time I’d avoiding reading SF/SF, since I don’t live anywhere near San Francisco. With this issue I decided to give it a shot and find that I'm both impressed and somewhat jealous. Mainly impressed, though: I've got some inspiration now to get more involved in fandom here in Minnesota.

*Jean Martin responds:*

Hi Jason, good to hear from you. And thanks for checking us out! Yes, it does limit our audience a bit to folks that live in the SF Bay Area. But I think that our coverage of events would be of interest to people who live in other places for the reason you mentioned. Also, sometimes I find that reading about amazing events in other areas also gives me a feeling of how great people and the world are with so much creativity and community. It balances out the mostly negative things I read about in mainstream news outlets and gives me hope for mankind.

Coincidentally, my husband Christopher, grew up in Minnesota and he’s been saying that there are more fannish events there now than when he lived there. So he’s hoping to take me to CONvergence someday.
Bay Area Fannish Calendar

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, December 28, 2013
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

Tuesday, December 31, 2013
New Bohemia New Year’s Eve with Crystal Method
The Armory
1800 Mission Street, San Francisco
newbohemianye.com
A novel kaleidoscopic wonderland of activity and experience featuring burlesque dancers, circus performers, DJs and more. Featuring main guest Crystal Method.
9 pm
$75

Friday-Sunday, January 3-5
Sac-Anime
Sacramento Convention Center
1400 J St, Sacramento
www.sacconventions.com
Anime show. Check website for prices

Saturday, January 4
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
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
$45 (until June 30), $50 (until December 31)

Friday, January 17
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.
$40

Saturday, January 18
Edwardian Vendor Bazaar Daytime Shopping
The Regency Sutter Room
1270 Sutter Street, San Francisco
edwardianball.com/2014-events
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
$5
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Admission</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, January 18</td>
<td>The Edwardian Ball</td>
<td>The Regency Ballroom</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1300 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco</td>
<td>edwardianball.com/2014-events</td>
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<td>Ball inspired by the artwork of Edward Gorey.</td>
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<td>8 p.m. - 2 a.m.</td>
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<td>Saturday-Sunday, January 25-26</td>
<td>Animation on Display</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aodsf.org">www.aodsf.org</a></td>
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<td>Celebrating Japanese animation (anime), video games, recent American cartoons, and their related interests.</td>
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<td>$30 (till January 1), $35 (at convention)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 1</td>
<td>PEERS Middle Earth Ball</td>
<td>Alameda Elks Lodge</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda</td>
<td>peersdance.org</td>
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<td>Ball inspired by “The Hobbit” and “Lord of the Rings” with music by Celtic-fusion rock band Avalon Rising..</td>
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<td>8 p.m. $15 (advance), $20 (at the door)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 8</td>
<td>GBACG A Venetian Carnival</td>
<td>Location TBD</td>
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<td>Costume: 18th Century, all classes or 18th Century Fancy Dress. Masks required!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Check website for price</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday-Monday, February 14-17</td>
<td>DunDraCon</td>
<td>San Ramon Marriott</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dundracon.com">www.dundracon.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gaming convention</td>
<td>Check website for price</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday-Monday, February 14-17</td>
<td>Pantheacon</td>
<td>San Jose Doubletree</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2050 Gateway Place, San Jose</td>
<td>pantheacon.com</td>
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<td>Pagan convention. This year’s theme is</td>
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<td>Networks of Community and Diversity,</td>
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<td>Pleasure &amp; Service.</td>
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<td>$65 (till January 1), $75 (after January 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday-Sunday, February 21-23</td>
<td>Potlatch 23</td>
<td>Sainte Claire Hotel</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<td></td>
<td>302 South Market Street, San Jose, California</td>
<td>potlatch-sf.org</td>
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<td>Literary SF convention supporting Clarion West.</td>
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<td>Saturday, February 22</td>
<td>Gaskell Winter Ball</td>
<td>Scottish Rite Temple</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland</td>
<td>gaskellball.com</td>
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<td>Vintage ball featuring the music of Franklin Beau Davis and the Brassworks. Formal attire required (19th to 21st century)</td>
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<td>7: 30 p.m. $20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 1</td>
<td>PEERS Gotham City Black and White Ball</td>
<td>Masonic Lodge of San Mateo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>100 N. Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo</td>
<td>peersdance.org</td>
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<td>Ball held at Stately Wayne Manor with familiar guests in black tie featuring Swing Era dancing and music by Sarah and Swingtime.</td>
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<td>8 p.m. $15 (advanced), $20 (at the door)</td>
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**Friday-Sunday, March 7-9**

**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**

**FOGcon 2014**  
Walnut Creek Marriott  
2355 North Main Street, Walnut Creek  
fogcon.org

$75 (through December 31, then $85)

**Friday-Sunday, March 7-9**

**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  
$65 (advance), $75 (on site)

**Friday-Sunday, March 28-30**

**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**

**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**

**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 (advance), $20 (at the door)

**Friday-Sunday, April 18-20**

**Bay Area Brony Spectacular (BABSCon)**  
SFO Hyatt Regency Hotel  
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame  
http://www.babscon.com/

Convention devoted to *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic.*  
$60

**Saturday, April 26**

**Gaskell Spring 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-Saturday, May 2-4**

**Corflu 31**  
Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center  
1021 Koger Center Boulevard, Richmond, VA  
corflu.org

Fanzine fandom convention.  
$80
Saturday, May 3  
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
Big Wow Comicfest
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose
bigwowcomicfest.com
Comics convention.  

Friday-Monday, May 23-26
KublaCon
Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
www.kublacon.com
West Coast’s largest gaming convention.  
$40 ($60 at the door)

Friday-Monday, May 23-26
BayCon
Hyatt Regency Santa Clara
5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara
baycon.org/2014
General interest science fiction/fantasy convention.
$65

Saturday, June 7  
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
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
Evolution Expo 2014
Oakland Marriott City Center
1001 Broadway, Oakland
sciencefictionentertainment.com/event-attendees/evolution-expo-overview/
Convention about hard science in science fiction
$50

July 3-6  
Westercon 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
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

Thursday-Monday, August 14-18
Loncon 3
International Conference Centre, ExCel, London Docklands
www.loncon3.org
The 72nd World Science Fiction Convention.
$185 (until February 28)
Saturday, August 16

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

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

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 (advance), $20 (at the door)

Ongoing

Daily

Cartoon Art Museum
655 Mission Street, San Francisco
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
waltdisney.org/
Current exhibitions: 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
Closed Mondays & Tuesdays, and on November 21-22 for Thanksgiving.
7-10 p.m. $20

Nightly Nerd Show
KCSF Radio, 90.9 FM
nightlynerdshow.tumblr.com/
Radio show covering nerdy topics 5-6 p.m.

Sundays

Golden Gate Knights (Lightsaber Instruction Class)
Studio Gracia
19 Heron Street, San Francisco
goldengateknights.com
goldengatejedi@westkingdom.org
Instructor-led class on lightsaber stage combat and choreography.
12 p.m. $10

Cloondara Fighter Practice
Golden Gate Park
47th Avenue @ Fulton, San Francisco
www.westkingdom.org
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)
12 p.m. Free
### Bad Movie Night
The Dark Room Theater  
2263 Mission Street, San Francisco  
www.darkroomsf.com  
Featuring bad movies old and new.  
8 p.m.  
$5

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

### East Bay Strategy Games Club
EndGame  
921 Washington Street, Oakland  
www.endgameoakland.com/event-calendar  
Various games played throughout the week, check website for times and games.  
Free

### Fridays and Sundays

#### SF Games
Taqueria San Jose, 2830 Mission Street, San Francisco (Fridays, 7 p.m.)  
Zephyr Cafe, 3643 Balboa Street, San Francisco (Sundays, 2 p.m.)  
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.  
Free

#### 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 Crepreville  
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

### Mondays and Wednesdays

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

### Tuesdays

#### 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 of 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.  
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+)

**Fanboy Planet Podcast**
Cafe Stritch
374 South First Street, San Jose
www.fanboyplanet.com
Live from Cafe Stritch, it’s the Fanboy Planet Podcast with Planeteers, Derek McCaw, Ric Bretschneider and Nate Costa.
7 p.m.  Free

**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

**Saturdays**

**Niles Film Museum Saturday Movies**
Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum
37417 Niles Boulevard, Fremont
www.nilesfilmmuseum.org
www.nilesfilmmuseum.org/movies.htm
Weekly showing of selection of silent features and short subjects with live musical accompaniment. Check website for movies.
7:30 p.m.  $5

**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/gaslightlarp
www.facebook.com/gaslightlarp
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

**Monthly**

**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. Dates vary.
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.silicon gulchbrowncoats.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.bawdy caste.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.rhaps.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 Stree, Livermore, CA  
www.timewarp cartel.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.org/about_events.html  
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.facebook.com/groups/35116614719/  
Meets the second Friday of every month.  
7:30 p.m. Free

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

**No-Name Anime**  
Saratoga Library  
13650 Saratoga Avenue  
Saratoga  
www.nnanime.com  
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.  
Free
**SF Browncoats**  
Cafe Murano  
1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco  
www.sfbrowncoats.com  
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.  
Noon  
Free

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

**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 p.m.  
Free

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

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

**Micro Gods, Inc.**  
Berkeley Public Library, West Branch  
1125 University Ave, Berkeley  
mgisciaf.angelfire.com  
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGiFamilyClub/  
Family Club for fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Movie, Anime & Manga. Meets every 3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for updates.  
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Free

**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 1st St , San Jose  
www.legionofrassilon.org  
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.  
7:00 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USS Augusta Ada</td>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
<td>trek.starshine.org</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and *BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month.</td>
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<td>Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE</td>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
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<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<td>Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.</td>
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<td>Queered Science Book Club</td>
<td>Au Coquelet Restaurant</td>
<td>queeredscience.weebly.com</td>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>2000 University Avenue, Berkeley</td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/qsbooks/">www.facebook.com/groups/qsbooks/</a></td>
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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
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<td>Bad Movie Night Sakuramento Anime SF Games Golden Gate Knights Cloondara Fighter Practice</td>
<td>BASFA SV Boardgamers Haunted Haight Sacramento SF/F Book Club</td>
<td>MGI Boffers Principality of Mists Fighter Practice</td>
<td>BA Role-Playing Soc E.Bay Strategy Games SV Boardgamers Steam Federation</td>
<td>CAS: NightLife Fanboy Planet Podcast</td>
<td>SF Games Haunted Haight Vampire Walking</td>
<td>Niles Film Museum Saturday Movies</td>
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<td>New Bohemia New Year's Eve with Crystal Method</td>
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<td>Sac-Anime (thru Sun)</td>
<td>PEERS 12th Night Ball Silicon Gulch Browncoats Rocky Horror (*2)</td>
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*Science Fiction/San Francisco* is the monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area – www.efanzines.com.