SacAnime
Edwardian World’s Fair
Mad Hatter Ball
2014: A Look Ahead
... and more!
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Art Credits
Cover I’ve been getting a little behind by Lucy Huntzinger
Our February issue is a bit late because I came down with the flu—that-wouldn’t-go-away. I don’t usually get the flu and when it hit me I was in denial. And it was a pretty bad one too as I had fever, chills, coughing and congestion, and literally could not move due to aches and pains for about a week. It’s taken me another week to feel better and I’m finally able to catch up with life. All through this, I had to work from home as January is the busiest time of the year at my day job. Luckily, I was through most of the difficult and time-consuming projects when I fell ill so I was able to all the other projects even though I was weak and suffering. Better to do it at home when I can rest every hour and sleep when I could (mostly during the day when I wasn’t congested and coughing) rather than be forced to go to work and be vulnerable to catching other worse things and not get well.

So January’s pretty much of a blur to me. I originally planned on not doing any events in January so that I wouldn’t get sick. January’s hard enough for me with my heavy workload and the cold/flu season. Well, it didn’t quite work out that way. In fact, even though the weather has been almost Spring-like and with no rain (in contrast to the brutally cold conditions in the Northeast), I still got sick. Oh well, at least I was able to catch up with some Classic “Doctor Who” and watch the latest “Sherlock” and “Downton Abbey” episodes. Although there was one day I was so sick I couldn’t watch anything as my eyes and head hurt too.

As I mentioned, I didn’t get to take a break as planned. I did make an exception for the PEERS Twelfth Night Ball, because I was going to perform as one of the Peerless Beauties during the Music Hall. And this time I had a pretty substantial part pantomiming the golden-haired character in the song “Her Long Golden Hair Hanging Down Her Back.” It’s a fun, vampy role and I got a lot of compliments from my fellow performers and from audience members afterwards. Starting with that ball, most of the PEERS Balls will now be in Alameda, and while it’s farther away from me, it’s got a beautiful ballroom and a much larger stage. The San Mateo Masonic will always be my “home,” though, as it’s been the location of most of the PEERS balls I’ve gone to for 10 years and I have lots of fond memories at that venue.

Speaking of which, the PEERS Middle Earth Ball is tomorrow (as of the time I’m writing this) and I’m looking forward to portraying Tauriel again. This time, there will be a Legolas and a Kili so that we can have fun depicting the love triangle from the latest Hobbit movie. And yes, it’s fitting that my 10th-year anniversary of going to PEERS is a Tolkien ball as the first one I went to in February 2004 was the Return of the King Ball. My life hasn’t been the same since and I’m so
happy that 10 years later I’m not only able to enjoy these balls but also am part of them.

Another event I couldn’t miss in January was my friend Cordelia’s annual Hobbit birthday party where we celebrate Tolkien’s birthday as well as some of the actors in the movies and some of our friends. It’s also been a traditional thing we do so that we can see our friends after the busy holidays. The highlight of the evening is the White Oliphant (yes, Oliphant… we’re Tolkien fans after all) gift exchange where we give away geeky things we no longer need (in the spirit of Hobbits giving away mathoms on birthdays).

Then a friend of mine organized a costume expedition to the Star Wars Exhibit at the Tech Museum in San Jose. I initially didn’t want to go as I’d already seen the exhibit but going in costume with friends was too much of a lure to resist. And I didn’t think I’d have the chance to go in February as I’m already booked for that month. Well, I’m glad I went but if I knew they were going to extend the run, I would have gone later. I still haven’t been able to see the Millennium Falcon Experience as it was sold out that day as well. But I don’t think I’ll go again as there’s just so many other things to do and the replacement for Chewbacca, Boba Fett, isn’t a big draw for me.

I was also invited to cover the Edwardian Ball and I decided to go because I hadn’t gone in a few years. The last time I went I remember it being fantastic but too crowded so I went to the Edwardian World’s Fair instead and that was great too and not as crowded. This year, I decided to brave the Edwardian Ball again and it was spectacular but that’s probably where I caught the flu bug. There were just way too many people packed in even though there were three levels of entertainments and attractions to experience. Diane Rooney covered the Edwardian World’s Fair and that’s in this issue. My article about the Edwardian Ball will have to be in a future issue as I’m just way behind not only on writing SF/SF articles but also processing photos. I haven’t even done anything from December and we’re already starting February tomorrow.

So the only thing I missed in January, unfortunately, was a friend’s birthday party at a speakeasy in San Jose. I also didn’t get to go to the PEERS planning meeting for 2015. But, I have to get well as February is starting with a roar with the PEERS Middle Earth Ball and keeps going in hyperdrive after that.

Next weekend I’m going to the Xena convention in Burbank and then the weekend after I’m skipping Gallifrey One but will be going to a couple of Regency events (BAERS and JASNA) as well as a planning meeting for our trip to Bath for the Jane Austen Festival. I’m also going to see Baryshnikov at the Berkeley Rep where I got to see Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen. Baryshnikov is one of my childhood idols so I hope I get to meet him just like I met McKellen.

February is a short month so hopefully I’ll get to catch up! Our next issue will be our 150th. And so if anyone is inclined to write about what SF/SF has meant to you over the past 149 issues, we’d love to hear from you! And any ideas for our 150th and the next chapter of the SF/SF story, feel free to drop me a line.

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
SacAnime Winter Convention

By Robbie Pleasant

Staff Writer

SacAnime is, as the name suggests, an anime convention that comes to Sacramento twice a year. For many anime fans in the Bay Area, SacAnime Winter marks the start of the convention year, as it’s in the first weekend of January.

So once more, the Sacramento Convention Center was flooded by fans of all sorts, wearing a variety of amazing costumes, crafted by hand or pulled together from thrift stores. Spirits were high as the convention began, running from Friday to Sunday with all sorts of activities and things to see.

Inside the convention center, attendees could visit the Dealer’s Hall for all sorts of toys, swords, and other awesome things. While the prices can vary depending on the booth, a smart shopper knows to look around before making any purchases. But for something more unique, the Artist Alley in the hall was home to many local artists and craftsmen, creating homemade goods and drawing up commissions on the spot for those who were willing to buy.

Next to the Dealer’s Hall was the main stage, where the biggest panels were held. Throughout the day, one can spot long lines stretching from the entrance of the room all the way outside, but attendees were more than willing to stand and wait as long as it took to see the panels. For example, the “Avatar Q&A” panel featured three of the voice actors from Nickelodeon’s hit show “Avatar: The Legend of Korra” (not associated with James Cameron’s “Avatar” movie), and they did a wonderful job responding to audience questions (including my own). All the fans were made to feel welcome and included, showing that the guests truly did care for and appreciate those who came to show them some love.

This year, SacAnime brought in some wonderful guests. For Nintendo fans, Charles Martinet, voice of Mario, was a must-meet. For those who like the Borderlands games, Ashly

Steve Blum, Dante Basco, and Janet Varney at the Avatar Q&A panel

by Robbie Pleasant
Zelda and Hilda from “Legend of Zelda: A Link Between Worlds”  
by Robbie Pleasant

A TARDIS made out of balloons might be a sign of a broken chameleon circuit.  
by Robbie Pleasant
A Pokemon battle broke out at the con

by Robbie Pleasant
Burch, voice of Tiny Tina, was a guest of honor. As mentioned before, fans of “Legend of Korra” could meet Steve Blum, Dante Basco and Janet Varney. Adventure Time viewers were also in for a treat, with Jeremy Shada, the voice of Finn the human, as a guest in attendance.

Naturally, in order to meet any of the guests, waiting in line is a sad necessity. While the lines could get quite lengthy, there were multiple autograph sessions throughout the weekend, so missing a guest one day is not the end of the world nor the last chance to meet them. (Though please, if you’re in line, try to respect the other people who are also there. Everyone is trying to wait patiently; if you’re bored, try singing a song and see who joins in, rather than start cursing about it.)

There were also game rooms for card, video and board games. Occasionally they would hold tournaments for various games, such as “Pokemon,” “Marvel vs Capcom,” or “Red Dragon Inn.” Throughout the day, the rooms were filled with people taking a break from wandering about by stopping in to get some gaming in with fellow attendees.

For food, there are a few good locations nearby. While the local Subway closes too early to grab dinner, it’s very crowded around lunchtime, but there are a few delis nearby. Not more than a block away is a very affordable pizza place, along with “Osaka Sushi,” which recently opened up. For those willing to walk and pay a bit more, there are some other options around Sacramento, though some may opt to just buy slightly more expensive food from the hotel.

While SacAnime may have some flaws, this year’s SacAnime Winter proved to be one of the best yet. It may prove hard to beat in future years, but we can hope for one just as good when SacAnime Summer comes along.
Meet Me at (the Edwardian World’s) Fair!

By Diane B. Rooney
Staff Writer

Once again this year I had the privilege of covering the Edwardian Ball for SF/SF, focusing on Friday night’s Edwardian World’s Fair. This was my sixth year attending the event – I enjoy it so much I purchased a full weekend ticket as soon as tickets went on sale, way before Jean asked me to cover part of the event.

I arrived early, just before 8:00 p.m., checked in at the media table with Karin Conn, who gave me a wonderful welcome, and made my way to the main floor ballroom. The ballroom and adjacent area were still a bustle of activity as crew members and others worked to finish setting up the portrait studio, the bars, sound equipment, steam-powered machinery and other items before guests began to come in shortly after eight o’clock. The opportunity to experience the beautifully lit and decorated ballroom before it became crowded was a true gift.

I spend most of my time at Edwardian Ball just walking around, looking at the exhibits and décor, eyeing attendees’ amazing costumes, makeup and character presentations and above all taking pictures. Over the four-plus hours I was there, I made several full circuits of the Regency, down to the Vendor Bazaar, then back and on upstairs to the third floor Lodge.

The two downstairs Vendor Bazaar rooms were well worth visiting, even though I am not much of a shopper these days.
The area is well lit, with reasonably wide aisles and space to move, so it’s a good place for photos of guests and vendors, as is just waiting at the foot of the stairs for interesting people to pass by. At the front, a smallish stage, The Piano Saloon, featured several sets by Oakland-based The John Brothers Piano Company (thejohnbrotherspianocompany.bandcamp.com), which played great swing music, featuring both clarinet and trumpet. Brian and Emily Gardner, of Swing Goth, cordoned off part of the area with sofas just in front of the stage for swing dancing and had regulars and newbies moving to the music.

But there’s real magic to be found way upstairs in the third floor Lodge. Initiation ceremonies took place here when the building was a Masonic Temple. The red velvet walls, red carpet, and dark mahogany woodwork keep the room intimate and mysterious, despite the high ceilings and the massive pipe organ at the opposite end from the stage. To me it is always a place where time stands almost still and people seem to move more slowly. Musician and artist Jill Tracy has written a wonderful article about the lodge and her mystical experiences there filming the video for “Haunted by the Thought of You” – be sure to read it here: edwardianball.com/jill-tracys-parlour-of-spirits-secrets-hidden-within-san-franciscos-magnificent-1909-masonic-lodge.

This year the third floor featured self-guided tours and interesting experiences throughout the Museum of Wonders. In the Museum of Wonders I always enjoy looking at the old-time machines and contraptions, and the illustrations and diagrams from old books. Personally though, I find the taxidermy animals rather sad, especially the big lion, even
though all these creatures died a long time ago, and I don’t spend time looking at them.

For the first time (for me, at least) the Museum had a progression of experiences to follow. Several fairies had hand stamps you needed to get before starting, and to get the stamps you had to tell them one magical thing and one terrible thing. (I used the same item for both, saying “I can see into the past.”) After the getting the hand stamps, I visited a tent with two mermaids, one of whom told me to expect “death by water.” Next I saw the magician, who performed in a very small tent to an audience of seven or eight at a time, so we were all very close to him. He was very good – performing a neat scarf trick and another one that involved guests playing a round of poker with a surprising outcome. Lastly I visited the tarot reader, who read two cards I selected from her deck, one magical and one terrible. I listened to Malvoy the Mentalist answer some questions from inside his booth, but there was a long line of seekers so I didn’t wait, and Owl Tree Healings, which offered personalized tarot readings, was fully booked for the night by the time I got upstairs.

Unwoman (AKA Erica Mulkey), whom I know from numerous Steampunk events, started her performance in the lodge just before 11:00 p.m. If you don’t know her, she is an amazing San Francisco-based cellist-singer-songwriter who draws raw emotion and poignancy from both her cello and her voice (unwoman.com). I also know her mother, and spent some time talking with her as she runs the merch table.

The main ballroom, with its wraparound VIP balcony, 35-foot ceilings, and ornate chandeliers, is always grand and elegant and always has numerous things going on. Up front by the main stage in the early evening DJs spin while silent movies screen behind them. In the back, Kinetic Steam Works (KSW) operates a steam powered printing press and other machinery. Along the west wall are half a dozen or so Gorey-esque midway games, complete with barkers. Just in front of KSW is Cyclecide, the human-powered bike merry-go-round for two, familiar to many attendees from Maker Faire. To the left of the main stage is a smaller parlor with an elegant bar, windows that open for some fresh air, and the portrait booth, which all night had a long line of people waiting to be posed in their finery and to have their picture taken against Edward Gorey backgrounds (see a great video of portraits here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LNFzpJnTrQ#t=172)

What are the best things about Edwardian Ball? This year I decided to ask some of my fellow guests and come up with a list. Not a scientific or statistically valid list, but here are 10 things about the event people gave me as favorites:

- The lodge
- The costumes and makeup
- The people who attend
- The overall fantasy atmosphere
- The creativity
- The range of entertainment offered
- The view from the balcony
- The politeness (everyone on best behavior)
- The elegance (people and environment)
- The visual and auditory overstimulation

My own favorite things about Edwardian Ball are the fantastic atmosphere created by the magnificent event rooms themselves and the constant flow of people in incredibly
creative costumes and makeup that flow through them, providing endless eye candy and outstanding photo opportunities. (That’s why I spend the evening just walking around!) Next year will be the 15th for the event – will you be here to celebrate this anniversary?

In addition to the photos here, please view and enjoy my Edwardian Ball album at www.flickr.com/photos/dianesf/sets/72157640013135116.
Clean Cup, Move Down: The 2013 Mad Hatter Ball

By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

The town of Vallejo had a different kind of Christmas spirit with an “Alice in Wonderland”-themed event, The Mad Hatter Holiday Festival. The 2013 edition was held over December 7 and 8 in Downtown Vallejo.

The festival included a number of events. The big daytime attraction on December 7 was the parade which included a number of Burning Man-inspired floats and kinetic sculptures, costumes and art cars. There was also a tree-lighting ceremony, a lighted-boat parade and a picture booth with Santa. There was also a Grand Homes and Historical Landmarks Tour through Vallejo on December 8.

The evening’s entertainment on December 7 that Jean and I went to was the Mad Hatter Costume Ball held in the Grand Ballroom at the Mira Theater inside the Hub Building. Even before we went in, there were art cars parked out in the street to enjoy including a Cheshire Cat car, an open steam car reminiscent of the very early motorized vehicles (similar to Benz Patent-Motorwagen, first built in 1886: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benz_Patent_Motorwagen), a bar on wheels built to look like a horse, a stage built to look like a stagecoach and teapots and teapot cozies. There was also an art gallery space where there were arts and craft peddlers were selling their wares and an art display mixing “Alice in Wonderland” and Steampunk.
Jean and Chris at Alice’s Palace
courtesy of Jean Martin
Cheshire Cat with Flaming Art Car

by Jean Martin
The Grand Ballroom was a nice intimate space in the upper portion of the building. There were seats of various shapes and styles around the floor with a nice large open space for the performers. There was a side area where there was catered food from Rubio’s Taqueria, alcoholic beverages and a photograph area.

There was plenty of entertainment as there were several belly dance numbers to various styles of music (1920s popular music, rock, jazz, blues, etc.), an awards ceremony for the parade participants, and musical acts Annie Marie & Fiddlearound (a three-piece acoustic band mixing New Orleans blues, gypsy, country, Cajun, Zydeco and swamp boogie music) and The Raymond Victor Band (electric-based blues band covering the various styles of blues). There were also a few Burning Man-style ravers with lightsticks, glow balls and hula hoops.
There was also plenty of costuming, with parade participants in their “Alice” costumes, Steampunk outfits, Victorian and Edwardian outfits, and people in masquerade outfits. The event was a nice alternative way to celebrate the spirit of the holiday season of camaraderie, fellowship and fun.
Shannon O’Hare presenting an award to the Sacramento Steampunk Association

by Jean Martin
By Christopher Erickson  
*Managing Editor*

There are a number of things coming up in television, movies and pop culture that we can look forward to this year. Some of these have already passed but still worth checking out.

**Movies:**

“Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones” – A spin-off movie of the popular found-footage horror movie series. (January 3)

“The Legend of Hercules” – The first of two Hercules movies provides an origin story where Hercules must discover his powers and fight to free himself from slavery and regain his kingdom. (January 10)

“Devil’s Due”- Horror movie where a newlywed couple must deal with changes to their life that might have a demonic origin. (January 17)

“Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit” – The popular Tom Clancy character (played by Chris Pine) gets a cinematic origin story where he is recruited into an international espionage plot. (January 17)

“Knights of Badassdom” – The highly-anticipated independent movie starring Summer Glau and Peter Dinklage hits the big screen. A LARP group accidently conjures up a demon and must fight to stop it. (January 21)

“I, Frankenstein” – The famous monster gets stuck in a battle between monster clans. (January 24)

“The LEGO Movie” – A LEGO minifigure must fight an evil plan to glue the world together with other LEGO people, including DC Comics superheroes. (February 7)

“RoboCop” – The remake of the classic 1980s cybercop movie. (February 14)

“Vampire Academy”- A Dhamphir fights to protect mortal vampires living peacefully in society from bloodthirsty immortal vampires. (February 14)

“Winter’s Tale” – A burglar sets out to save a woman he falls in love with when he finds out she has the gift of reincarnation. (February 14)

“Pompeii” – A gladiator must fight to save his beloved from a corrupt Roman Senator while Mt. Vesuvius erupts. (February 21)

“Welcome To Yesterday” – Teenagers discover plans to a time machine and build one on their own and must deal with the consequences of their actions (February 28)

“300: Rise of an Empire” – The companion/sequel film to the popular “300” follows the naval battle between the Greeks and Persians. (March 7)

“Mr. Peabody and Sherman” – The computer animated big screen adventures of the intelligent time traveling dog and his boy. (March 7)
“Veronica Mars” – The popular show gets the big screen treatment. (March 14)

“Divergent” – Based on the popular novel, a special girl must fight to survive with others like her in a post-apocalyptic society. (March 21)

“Muppets Most Wanted” – The follow-up film to the recent Muppets outing finds Kermit framed for crimes by a look-alike master criminal and the rest of the gang fighting to free him. (March 21)

“Noah” – The biblical story of the flood gets an action treatment as Noah fights to defend his family from groups fighting to get control of the Ark. (March 28)

“Captain America: The Winter Soldier” – Steve Rogers must adjust to the modern world while fighting the old Soviet threat of The Winter Soldier with help from Black Widow. (April 4)

“Under The Skin” – An alien seductress played by Scarlett Johansson preys on hitchhikers in Scotland. (April 4)

“Transcendence” – Johnny Depp plays a scientist who downloads his consciousness to a computer and develops powers beyond his imagination. (April 18)

“Oculus” – Katee Sackoff and Karen Gillian star in a movie where a woman tries to exonerate her convicted brother by proving the murder was committed by supernatural phenomenon. (April 18)

“The Quiet Ones” – A scientist leads a team attempting to create a poltergeist. (April 25)

“The Amazing Spider-Man 2” – Spider-Man faces off against Electro and The Rhino as Oscorp head Norman Osborn takes an interest in Peter Parker’s life. (May 2)

“Legends of Oz: Dorothy’s Return” – Animated tale about Dorothy Gale returning to Oz to help her friends. (May 9)

“Godzilla” – The King of Kaiju returns to the big screen to wreak more destruction and havoc. (May 16)

“X-Men: Days of Future Past” – Bryan Singer returns to direct cast members from the original “X-Men” movies and the recent prequel “First Class” in a time travel story based on the popular story arc “Days of Future Past”. (May 23)

“Malificent” – Angelina Jolie stars as the movie based on the popular evil queen from “Sleeping Beauty”. (May 30)

“Edge of Tomorrow” – A soldier repeats his last day of battle against alien forces. (June 6)

“How to Train Your Dragon 2” – Hiccup and Toothless fight to protect the peace between Vikings and dragons as another Dragon Rider is discovered. (June 13)

“The Purge 2” – The sequel to the surprise hit movie about a 12-hour period where all crime is legal to commit. (June 20)

“Transformers: Age of Extinction” – Set 4 years after “Dark of The Moon”, the Autobots must fight the Decepticons to help save a family of humans who makes a vital discovery. The popular Dinobots will appear in this film. (June 27)

“Deliver Us From Evil” – A police officer investigates crimes involving the occult and demonic possession. (July 2)

“Dawn of the Planet of the Apes” – Humans fight to survive after the events from “Rise of the Planet of the Apes”. (July 11)

“Jupiter Rising” – A human woman discovers her powers while being threatened with assassination by the Queen of the Universe. (July 18)
“Hercules” – The second Hercules movie. Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson plays the demigod as he is hired by the King of Thrace to defeat an evil warlord. (July 25)

“Guardians of the Galaxy” – The adaptation of the quirky Marvel Comics space group that fight to proactively protect the universe. (August 1)

“Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” – The heroes in a half shell fight against alien invaders. (August 8)

“The Expendables 3” – The third installment of the all-star action hero team’s exploits. (August 15)

“Sin City: A Dame To Kill For” – The long-awaited sequel to the Frank Miller comic book adaption features the stories “A Dame To Kill For” and “Another Saturday Night” among others. (August 22)

“The Maze Runner” – A group of boys must work together to navigate a maze and work their way to freedom in a post-apocalyptic world. (September 19)

“The Boxtrolls” – Animated tale of an orphaned boy raised by cave trolls as he tries to save them from an exterminator. (September 26)

“Dracula Untold” – Mixture of vampire lore and historical facts of Vlad Tepes to tell the origins of Dracula. (September 17)

“Paranormal Activity 5” – The second movie of this series this year brings the action back to the main story. (September 24)

“Big Hero 6” – Animated movie about a group of six superheroes recruited by the government to help protect the nation set in an alternate version of San Francisco with a more Asian feel. (November 7)

“Interstellar” – Christopher Nolan directs a story of a group of space travelers who utilize a wormhole to go further than anyone has ever attempted. (November 7)

“The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1” – The final adventure of Katniss and her struggles to lead a rebellion against the Capitol. (November 21)

“Home” – Animated movie about a group of aliens try to escape from their pursuers by hiding on Earth. (November 26)

“The Hobbit: There and Back Again” – The final installment in the adaptation of the famous book with the attack on Lake-town and The Battle of Five Armies. (December 17)

“Into the Woods” – Musical featuring a witch teaching important lessons to fairy tale characters such as Little Red Riding Hood, Jack, Rapunzel and Cinderella.

**Television:**

“Once Upon A Time” – The second half of the third season returns in March with the Wicked Witch of the West as the main antagonist.

“Doctor Who” – The first season with Peter Capaldi as The Doctor, scheduled for autumn.

“Game of Thrones” – The fourth season is scheduled for early in the year.

“Agents of S.H.E.I.L.D.” – The remainder of the first season will air with a tie-in episode to “Captain America: The Winter Soldier”.


“Orphan Black” – The hit BBC America series about clones returns for its second season in April.
“Continuum” – The show will be back for its third season in March.

“Once Upon A Time In Wonderland” – The companion series to “Once Upon A Time” finishes the season following Alice’s adventures to reunite with her love, the Genie, while being pursued by the Red Queen and Jafar. (Episodes resume in March)

Pop Culture:
February 9, 2014 – 50th anniversary of The Beatles on “The Ed Sullivan Show” – The event that kicked of Beatlemania and the British Invasion. A special show will air on that date on CBS and a tribute is planned at the Grammy Awards.

Conventions:
Wizard World Sacramento – The ever growing Wizard World conventions comes to Northern California for the first time on March 7-9.
Big Wow! ComicFest – The jewel of the small local conventions returns on May 17 and 18.
Clockwork Alchemy – The steampunk convention holds its third run on May 23-26.
Convolution – The convention moves to the month of September and shifts to a sci-fi theme. (September 26-28)
Letters of Comment

Jason Burnett writes on SF/SF 144:

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.

Christopher Erickson writes:

I am actually from Minnesota as well. I have been hearing a lot of good things about the fandom out there especially from people I run into out here at events. Convergence has been one that I have heard great things about, as well as MinnCon and a couple of anime conventions. The Ren Faire is also something that works well with that crowd (I usually go as The Doctor once per season out here). I would love to hear about the scene out there!

Sorry to be so long getting back to you - clearing out my inbox for the new year. It wasn’t until I started writing this email that I realized just how many cons were here in Minneapolis: Con of the North (gaming) in February, an anime con in February whose name slips my mind (plus at least one other anime con over the course of the year), Minicon (literary SF) on Easter weekend, Convergence (general SF on 4th of July weekend), 4th Street Fantasy Con (mainly for writers) at some point during the year, comic book conventions in May and October, plus the Minnesota Renaissance Faire from August through September, plus this year we had BritCon (just like the name says) and a horror con in October, plus various other meetups and whatnot that I’m aware of, plus who knows how much more stuff that I’m not aware of. It makes me tired just thinking about it!

Wow, it is nice to know that there is so much there. I always remember that the Twin Cities had a pretty big Sci-Fi crowd with the popularity of “Doctor Who” on KTCA (Channel 2 PBS station in Minneapolis) having a color episode and a black-and-white episode on Saturdays, as well as having “Hercules,” “Xena” and “X-Files” on Sundays on the local Fox channel in the 1990s. Thrown in “Mystery Science Theater 3000” starting out on KTMA (Channel 23), we had it pretty good in the 1980s and 1990s.

Unfortunately, I’ve got 2 kids on the autism spectrum, which makes it kind of hard to go anywhere, and especially hard to go anywhere with lots of people and loud noises. Fortunately, the kids are getting older and learning to adapt better, so hopefully this coming year I can do more than I did last year. (Convergence is probably still too much, but Minicon might be doable soon.)

Hopefully they can get out and enjoy it as well.

Hope you have a happy new year!

Jason Burnett writes on SF/SF 145:

Another beautiful issue. As always, lots of wonderful pics of fannish people doing fannish things. For me, the highlight of this issue was Tom Becker’s LoneStarCon report. I’ve lost track of how many reports I’ve read from this year’s Worldcon
but, as Tom said in the opening of his report here, each person’s Worldcon experience can only include a fraction of the whole event, so it was well worth reading another one.

Christopher Erickson writes:

I think anything where there are multiple programming offerings it is hard to do everything, but a WorldCon especially with all of the events going on.

Tom’s experience included a number of experiences (working backstage at the Masquerade, for example) that I would have been unlikely to have had even if I had been there, so I found his account doubly exciting.

Having been involved in a few masquerade entries and having made friends with some people who actually organize conventions, I can tell you that it is a lot of work to make it look like it is no work at all.

Lloyd Penny writes on SF/SF 147:

Thank you for issue 147 of SF/SF … as of right now, my area of Ontario is going through a major ice and freezing rain storm, and that means about a quarter of a million people in the Toronto area have no power. Our building has power, but it is flickering, and my computer keeps rebooting with each flicker, so I am borrowing Yvonne’s laptop to write letters. I am sure I will get this off to you later on today.

Christopher Erickson writes:

Having lived in Minneapolis for 25 years, I know the problems that you get with the ice storms. It makes everything not so fun. At least you have power for the most part.

I thought that most of the balls held by PEERS always had some SFnal costuming content, especially with the appeal of “Doctor Who” these days. Has anyone ever been turned away from a ball because their costumes were deemed unsuitable for the event?

PEERS tends to hold a Space Cowboy-themed ball and has done a number of fantasy balls as well. In the three-plus years I have been going there, no one has been turned away because of inappropriate costuming. I think the participants enjoy the inventive costuming that people come up with. My favorite was a masked luchador wrestler at the Masque of the Red Death Ball.

Yvonne and I have plans to reduce the number of conventions we go to (getting terribly expensive), and we plan to go on some road trips in the province, starting in the spring when the weather starts warming up again. One road trip we are planning is to go to the Niagara Falls, Ontario and New York areas to do some research into the life of Nikola Tesla. I especially would like to do a photo set of the Tesla monuments in both towns, plus the Tesla display at one of the hotels on the Ontario side.

Jean and I try to limit the things we go to since there is just so much of it. It helps that there are a number of things that are low-cost or free in the Bay Area or you can get discounts through different groups. Colorado Springs, Colorado, is another area where Tesla did some experiments. The twin towns of Niagara Falls, both in Ontario and New York, have statues honoring Tesla.

I certainly agree with you about Les Misérables and its music. I have only seen it on stages once, but have seen it on television twice, once on TVOntario and once on the Buffalo PBS station. The music is simply the best; should the play ever fade, the music will continue on, I am sure.

The movie was excellent. It is amazing how you can do a musical of a tragic event such as the 1832 Paris Uprising
and it still has an impact. We eventually saw a local stage production of Les Miz in Newark.

All these anniversaries in 2012, 2013 and 2014 show me the breadth of science fiction and pop culture, but also show me how old I am! I do remember watching “Star Trek” in its original run on NBC. Trek’s 50th anniversary will be coming in a couple of years, and that should be a great party.

I saw the Original Series in reruns but watched Next Gen from the beginning. I also caught the “Doctor Who” phenomenon in America almost at the beginning.

There’s a relatively new facility in Toronto called The Metropolis Factory, in a small industrial area in the west end of the city. The building has a real Steampunk vibe to it, and we attended a craft show last weekend … we are tempted to take a table at future shows, and get the word out to all the Steampunk groups in the province. We’ve found out it is simply too expensive to hold a Steampunk event there, but it would be great to have a photoshoot there. One reason for the Metropolis name is that some of their large electronics are suggestive of the movie of the same name.

I have never really thought of the Fritz Lang film as being Steampunk since it is supposed to be futuristic by 1927 standards, but with all of the clockwork and factory sets, I can see how that would work for the name.

The Intergalactic Nemesis sounds quite interesting, a cross between a stage play and a radio play. I think there is an increase in interest in radio-style plays, and I wish there were more of them around, especially on national radio here.

The creators of “Girl Genius” have done a few radio plays, but it is mostly a lost artform here. I heard a bit of one driving home once on a local AM station when I was just scanning for something to listen to.

My loc … the job I had was a short-term contract, and the people at the company where I was liked me a lot, but the work dried up, and I was told that my contract would not be renewed beyond Christmas Eve. So, there’s a present I really did not want, and the job hunt starts again. I have already updated my resumes, and some jobs are already applied to. There is also the possibility of being called back to the company in January … I am hoping for the best, but I am prepared for the worst.

I hope you find something soon. At least there are a number of prospects already, so you have hope.

Yvonne and I will make it through, we always have, so we are not letting this ruin our Christmas. The tree is up, and the presents are underneath, and we wish you two the best of Christmases and a happy new year … may 2014 give us what we want and need. See you with the next issue!

Lloyd Penney writes on SF/SF 148:

Issue 148 of SF/SF is here, dated Christmas Day. Thank you for this present! With luck, my loc will be a suitable thank you. Let’s get started.

I love Christmas, but hate the carols and other nonsense, and the fact it all starts just before Hallowe’en. When Christmas starts too early, it becomes much less special for everyone, and just creates more stress.

Christopher Erickson writes:

It is even worse when you hear it a week after the New Year. I can understand that people keep their trees around afterwards, but still hearing Christmas music on the 7th of January is a bit much. I know people celebrated 12 days of Christmas, but most of us can only really celebrate maybe 4 days before reality sets in and we have to be back to work.
You’ve probably heard about the cold that hit the middle of the continent; we were in the heart of it, and we had to deal with temperatures around -40°C, which is -40°F. No matter the temperature scale, it was dangerously cold. The term ‘polar vortex’ was truly overused.

I have experienced a few truly cold days when school wasn’t cancelled and a couple of days where my college (University of Minnesota) didn’t cancel class even though the public schools and state universities were cancelled. At some point, they will run out of compound words combining snow/cold and end-of-the-world scenarios.

The Dickens Fair looked truly fascinating, truly Steampunkish. This is the kind of event I’d love to go to. There are Steampunk movers and shakers who are planning an event for Toronto and/or southern Ontario, and there are great promises being made ... as soon as I learn what will be happening, I’ll pass it along.

There are a lot of Steampunkers who attend the event, but the Dickens Fair is strictly non-Steampunk itself. There is a booth with a “scientific romance” aspect and there was the Legion Fantastique based on the works of Jules Verne, but the event is a historical recreation of Victorian London populated with the characters from Charles Dickens’s novels the author himself. That does not mean that Steampunk is not invited, it is just not an official capacity. That said, lots of the people who see it do truly love when people come in costume, especially things like Steampunk, Western and “Doctor Who.” We will be looking forward to hearing about what is going up there besides the Maple Leaf games.

We are making our plans to go to the London Worldcon. We’re not sure if we can really afford to go, but if we can, we’ll be ready. We are also coming up with a Plan B, just in case we can’t do it. Maybe Florida, maybe Britain the year after, maybe the NASFiC in Detroit, just down the highway from us.

The United Kingdom is always worth the trip. I would suggest going there when there is no convention since you might not see a whole lot while attending the convention. Jean and I are planning a trip to Bath to attend the Jane Austen Festival along with a few side trips (including The Doctor Who Experience in Cardiff).

I am going to fold this up...the hour is getting late, and I am having trouble focusing. Many thanks, and see you next time.

John Purcell writes:

Once again, a very lovely photograph by Lucy Huntzinger graces the front of your fanzine (#148). “Walking the coast near Half Moon Bay” makes me want to do just that: I would love to walk that beach with my wife, searching for shells and other bits of flotsam washed over by the waves, feeling the sand between our toes ... Dagnabbit, but that would be a lovely way to spend an afternoon. One of these days what you guys should do in your zine is include a portfolio of a half dozen or so of Lucy’s cover photographs for SFinsf. I know I’d like it. The problem obviously would be selecting the best photos of all of her wonderful contributions. Just a thought, but I think this is a good idea.

Christopher Erickson writes:

We may just have to do that. I have been to Half Moon Bay a few times, but it was always during winter.

Christopher’s editorial certainly covered a lot of territory. I find it hard to believe that Jean has not seen all of those Christmas television specials; well, like Christopher said, that
was fun for him to enjoy them all over again, probably more
so since Jean was seeing them for the first time.

I stopped watching them since you see them every year
and there is just no time to enjoy Christmas when you start
seeing decorations and cards being sold in late September
and you haven’t even thought of what you are doing for
Halloween.

By now I am a bit jaded about Christmas: I can’t stand the
onslaught of television specials, commercials, the incessant
carols, and so on. It is so much materialistic overkill that this
time of the year simply galls me by its conspicuous
consumption. That and the news reports of people storming
the stores as soon as they’re done eating Thanksgiving dinner,
even getting into fights over sweaters, toys and underwear.
(Yes, there was one report about two women slugging each
other about a bra. Whow!)

This is why I just don’t go to the stores anymore directly
afterwards. I tend to do more online shopping now as you get
deals almost every day and can find more unique items as
well.

So I hate to be a curmudgeon about the holiday season, but
I really don’t care for it anymore. The only good thing about
Christmas now is that we have a grandson, so that makes it
fun. Other than that, I merely weather the season and wait for
it to be over.

That is why I like going to the Dickens Fair here. It is a
great chance to see Christmas when it was more about the
human spirit and less about the politics that have become
part of it recently as well as the increasing commercialism.

However, I did get a couple of excellent books as gifts, the
coolest one being the bicentennial biography of Charles
Dickens written by one of his descendants, Lucinda Dickens
Hawksley, in 2011. It is an exquisite, large, colorful coffee
table book full of photographs, sketches, and reproductions in
the form of facsimile pullouts (tucked into tip-in pockets) of
assorted publications that Dickens wrote or produced during
his lifetime. A fascinating look into his life. I may have to give
this a thorough reading and then write a review of it for my
fanzine. It will take a while to go through, but that’s okay; it
will most definitely be enjoyed.

Dickens was a hugely prolific author who did some court
reporting in his early years, wrote a number of editorials,
wrote plays and produced them as well. It was amazing he
had time for a family or his liaisons later in life.

Once again, lots of reports with accompanying photographs
of all sorts of events you BAYreans get to scamper around.
These certainly make me want to take a vacation out there
with Valerie so we can hang out with you folks and enjoy
some of these events. No promises, mind you, but I have
always wanted to visit San Francisco so that I can stand on a
street corner and ask passersby in my best phony Russian
accent, “Excuse me: can you tell me where they keep the
nuclear wessels?”

They were moved away from Alameda a while back,
Chekov. San Francisco itself is pretty much an event, with
all of the hippies that can still be found in Golden Gate Park
and Haight-Ashbury and the views you can get of the
bridges.

Ah, me. That should do it for now. Many thanks for posting
the zine, and I look forward to seeing your next one and
finding out what other kinds of trouble you people are getting
into.
Milt Stevens writes:
In Science Fiction/San Francisco #148, Christopher Erickson talks about the increasing number of Christmas related movies and television shows. I have to agree with some religious types who mention that Christmas was originally a religious holiday. There is very little of that left in the current holiday. There seems to be a belief that the Christmas season is morally uplifting in some way, although I have never noticed that to be the case in the real world.

Christopher Erickson writes:
It is when you look at it on a more personal level.
The Santa Claus mythos grows by the year. As commonly represented, Santa looks like a retired fertility god. He seems to have assumed the duties of a modern god of consumerism. I sometimes wonder if the Santa mythos might actually develop into a Santa Cult. There certainly have been worse gods than Santa. The cult might be something like Santoria which is practiced by tens of millions of people in Latin America. Santoria is supposedly the veneration of saints, but it identifies each saint with a West African god. The practices of Santoria are generally like those of Voodoo.

Since Western culture incorporated a lot of non-Christian ideas into Christmas, it makes sense that some other religions would also do the same.
I remember the first time I heard of “Star Wars.” It was before the film was released. In December 1975, we had a start-up convention called L. A. 2000 which developed into Loscons. I don’t know how we did it, but 20th Century Fox sent out a presentation on the film. Mark Hamill was sent along with the presentation. I recall someone asked him what he did on the movie. He said he was sort of the star. After the presentation, everybody agreed that it was good, old fashioned Planet Stories material. We didn’t know how right that comment was going to be. Leigh Brackett was one of the top writers for Planet Stories and was going to do the screenplay for the second movie.

I have heard that the movie was also presented at Comic-Con the same year back when it was just a local convention in San Diego. It helped create a lot of buzz. The case for that is almost smaller nowadays.
A Dickens Fair sounds like fun. I did most of my reading of Dickens in a course in Victorian Lit. That course had the most extensive reading list of any English course in my experience. The instructor was a man named Stone. He said he had the most extensive collection of Victorian porn in the world. He didn’t show any of it to us. He dressed very badly. After 50 years, I still remember how badly that man dressed. I think it was a status thing in the English Department. They didn’t want to be mistaken for businessmen. They weren’t.

There was a stereotype of comparative literature students dressing like beatniks and smoking cigarettes all the time. I guess the stereotypes run deep.
When I took Victorian Lit Rudyard Kipling had been removed from the reading list. I thought that was unreasonable at the time, but I didn’t mention it. Thoughts are free for no one may know them.
A lot of the syllabus is set by the professor, so it is all individual to the class at the time.
Meeting 1222

December 30, 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 new sideburns
24 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1221 were accepted as “totally worth the $32.00 it took to get there”
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $2.50 in the regular jar & $14.50 in the party jar
The Vice President reported that there is a new “Journey Planet” out & a new “Drink Tank” will be out tomorrow
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Sports Committee is looking at dates for a BASFA baseball outing

Announcements
Ken announced radio stuff & announced that the next Psychotronic Fil Festival will be Saturday, Feb 1
JC announced that episode 22 of Nerdvana Podcast will be recorded soon
Debbie announced that she bought her membership to ShamrockCon and that the prices go up Jan 1st.

Adrienne announced that she has stuff to give away for anyone interested.

Reviews
Dave C reviewed films
Steven reviewed comics [as good] & reviewed a movie that was so good it ended with an arrest - then reviewed a review of Room 237 as way deep with many interpretations - and this inspired a lot of follow ons.

Ric reviewed a movie trailer as indescribable & reviewed a Star Wars exhibit as good & that Chris is now kicking himself for having forgotten to review it; reviewed “American Hustle” as delightful & recommended; then announced that Sherlock Holmes materials before 1923 are now in the public domain.

JC reviewed the Dr. Who Christmas special as not one of his favorites - and there was much discussion.

[evil] Kevin reviewed “Training Wheels” as the best application of Stark Technology in any film & only available on the “Despicable Me 2” blu-ray & Andy comments that the mini-movies on it were good and the featurettes were terrible.

Howeird requested titles by James Gunn that are worth reading.

Trey reviewed the newest “Man of Steel” flick as he was terribly disappointed by it; Mo agreed & there were various other follow ons.

Then we did auctions.

We adjourned at 10 pm.

And the rumor of the week was: “BASFA announces a campaign to cast Benedict Cumberbatch as the new Superman.”

Meeting 1223

January 6, 2014

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 - hungrily
23 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1222 were accepted as “eat your vegetables - there are secretaries at Coco’s that have no food”

The Treasurer was late, but reported that last week we took in $55.75 in the regular jar & $17.21 in the party jar.

The Vice President reported that issue 362 of “Drink Tank” is out now on efanzines.com & he is compiling a Twin peaks/David Lynch issue now.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

Announcements
Ken announced that the Retrodome’s original site is now rubble.
JC announced that episode 22, part 1, of Nerdvana Podcast will be released this Wednesday.

Adrienne announced that she has reserved a suite at the Hampton Court Palace in England, Aug 8-11, and she is looking for roommates & she announced that Gallifrey One is sold out & [evil] Kevin followed, saying that there’s be “cocktails in 3D” on Friday night of con.

Jan announced that a member of the Whig party won, so she applied to be grammar checker for the Whigs - plus she has voter registration materials for Santa Clara.

Dave C announced that his Cargo Cult Dec 2013 catalog is now ready & available & announced that Further Confusion is coming up in 2 weeks - and Dave G followed that Confusion will be in Dearborn Michigan that same weekend.

Tom announced that Potlatch’s book of honor will be China Mieville’s “The City and the City” - check www.potlatch.sf.org - dates Feb 21-22-23 - and they are looking for panel suggestions.

[evil] Kevin announced that Hugo nominations are now open & announced that both hotel reservations & volunteer applications are now open for the London Worldcon.

Chris announced that File 770 says Clarksworld is just barely not eligible for Hugo semipro magazine.

Ric reviewed “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” as a great date-night movie, worth full price.

Tom reviewed a SJ Symphony concert as he would see it again but without the Handel segment; his take on that being “even with good people in it, it turns to crap”.

Dave C reviewed Rex Stout’s “The Broken Vase” as it “is the definition of contractual word length” - and not really recommended.

Andy reviewed “Sherlock” as the 3rd season began well - episode 1 was “pretty damn good” and ep 2 was “too damn clever for its own good” & both were totally worth cheating for and viewing early before it’s shown on PBS.

Bradford reviewed a Hollywood collectors show as he had some great discussions there.

[evil] Kevin announced that Hugo nominations are now open & announced that both hotel reservations & volunteer applications are now open for the London Worldcon.

Chris announced that File 770 says Clarksworld is just barely not eligible for Hugo semipro magazine.

Reviews

Chris stated that “movies are good” - reviewed “Her” as one of the best movies of the year that he saw it twice & it can only be properly appreciated by emotionally crippled 40-year olds - is really worth going out to see & reviewed “Community” as he was moved by the 2 episodes he saw on TV.

Ric reviewed “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” as a great date-night movie, worth full price.

Tom reviewed a SJ Symphony concert as he would see it again but without the Handel segment; his take on that being “even with good people in it, it turns to crap”.

Dave C reviewed Rex Stout’s “The Broken Vase” as it “is the definition of contractual word length” - and not really recommended.

Andy reviewed “Sherlock” as the 3rd season began well - episode 1 was “pretty damn good” and ep 2 was “too damn clever for its own good” & both were totally worth cheating for and viewing early before it’s shown on PBS.

Bradford reviewed a Hollywood collectors show as he had some great discussions there.

[evil] Kevin announced that Hugo nominations are now open & announced that both hotel reservations & volunteer applications are now open for the London Worldcon.

Chris announced that File 770 says Clarksworld is just barely not eligible for Hugo semipro magazine.

Meeting 1224

January 13, 2014

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 8:03 - with Trey making sense
29 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1223 were accepted as “I hid tall	
Kevin’s tinfoil hat”
The Treasurer was late, but reported that last week we took
in $19.00 in the regular jar & $4.65 in the party jar
The Vice President reported that there’s a new “Drink	
Tank” out - with a Mo Starkey article - plus a new “Klaus at	
Gunpoint”
The President had nothing fannish to report [”from Good	
King Status Quo”]
The Party Committee reports there will be a BASFA party
at Further Confusion - Sunday at 9pm
[tall] Kevin brought up that Hugo nominations are open
until the end of March & suggested that we hold 4 Hugo
nomination meetings, held in 2, 2 week chunks - so those
weeks will be Feb 3 & 10 - and March 3 & 10

Announcements
Dave C announced that there will be a March 3rd concert at
Carnegie Hall with Max Raabe & the Palast Orchester - and he
announced that this weekend the SJ Convention center hosts
both FurCon and HempCon
Tom announced that Potlatch is crowd-sourcing for panel
suggestions - check www.potlatch.sf.org - dates Feb 21-22-23
& he’s going to Foolscap con at the end of the month
Bill announced that there’s a show called “Downton Tabby” & announced that Conflict is Jan 24-26 in Seattle & he & Carole will be attending

Chris announced that he will be Fan GoH at IllogicCon in
Raleigh, NC & also Fan GoH at Westercon
JC announced that episode 22, part 2, of Nerdvana Podcast
will be released this Wednesday

Reviews
I reviewed getting my desktop computer upgraded as worth
full price - but make sure you have a good techie friend to help
- and know what you want to buy for the job before going to
Frys & I reviewed Coco’s dark chocolate chipendipity pie was
wonderful, have it served hot
[tall] Kevin wishes there was a Fry’s in Reno & reviewed
SMOFcon as it was warm in Toronto & Cheryl was able to go
to Canada - & gave him paws & a hat - which he looked
ADORABLE(!) [Chris “he is Chief Running Gag”] & then he
said SMOFcon was in too small a space in a huge hotel & his
videos suffered from the dim lighting conditions & that he -
won- the probability and statistics tournament - and was
overall worth the trip; then he reviewed Toronto as the
Winchester Mystery city, always under construction - and he
commented there was no death march to sushi
Chris reviewed “Inside Llewyn Davis” as the second
slowest movie he has ever seen - & the *first* is “Invisible
Woman” as a “six and a half hour movie crammed into 90
minutes” & he reviewed “Community” as the best show in the
history of TV & reviewed Bradford as a great human being
Adrienne reviewed “Saving Mr. Banks” as enjoyable - and
there were several positive follow-ons
Yochanan reviewed “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” as
he really loved it & reviewed “Almost Human” as really good
& he likes Karl Urban - and Trey agreed
Lisa reviewed a book - “The Art of Frozen” as really, really nice
Bill reviewed air travel in the cold weather as slightly delayed going out - -very- delayed coming back & reviewed the Palm Springs WWII Air Museum as interesting
Andy reviewed “Sherlock” as well-served by having 3 episodes - but leaves you wanting more & definitely worth cheating the embargo to see & reviewed “An Adventure in Space & Time” - a Dr Who documentary - as worth seeing and very good & [evil] Kevin really liked it, it made him cry
Tom reviewed Paso Robles as really, REALLY dry and they have wine and wineries, but maybe not for much longer if it stays so scary dry
Brad reviewed “Transparent Society” by David Brin as obscure & reviewed a Turner classic film - “Dr Jekyl and Mr Hyde” as it had totally miscast actors in it - & Mo says she likes the movie
Then we did auctions
We adjourned at 9:41 pm
And the rumor of the week was: “show me on the cow where the alien touched you”

Meeting 1225

January 20, 2014

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 8:03 - with some thoughts on FurCon
24 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1224 were accepted as “secretary death stare”
The Treasurer was not here
The Vice President was not here
The President had nothing fannish to report
Reminder = there will be 4 Hugo nomination meetings, held Feb 3 & 10 - and March 3 & 10

Announcements:
Lisa announced that there will be a play coming up called “Silent Sky” about sexism and star-gazing
Ken announced that the Legion of Rasselon meeting will be at the IHOP on Steven’s Creek near Lawrence, 7:30 pm Friday Jan 24 & announced that the new Retrodome will show “The Princess Bride” quote-a-long this weekend & that he & Geri plan to visit Disneyland in Hong Kong in the near future
Tom announced that Potlatch is still crowd-sourcing for panel suggestions - check www.potlatch.sf.org - dates Feb 21-22-23
Beth announced that she is doing a classroom project involving football jerseys - so needs to borrow football jerseys - contact her
JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast episode 22, part 3, & episode 23, part 1, will both be released this Wednesday
Reviews:

Lisa reviewed FurCon as being a lot of fun - with good science panels & good gaming design information there - she enjoyed it - and there were some follow-ons

Brad reviewed having given a panel talk some time back and now he found a book called “The Cave & the Lion” based on the same idea

Tom reviewed a book - “Touched by an Alien” by Gini Koch as silly but enjoyable & also reviewed a fanzine, “Trapdoor” by Robert Lichtman, as the writing is awesome & previous issues are available on efanzines.com

Bill reviewed “The Year’s Best SF”, edited by Dozois as it didn’t fit in his bag - but still a good read and worth reading

Carole reviewed her new handmade coat as worth the effort

Beth reviewed Lynda as a pie maker extraordinaire - and that the banana-toffee pie she made was so very good

Adrienne reviewed Oscar contenders - “Despicable Me 2” as cute, worth cable & Carole agreed that it was enjoyable

JC reviewed playing Dalmuti as it’s even better when played with a full group, hats and the right chairs

Mo reviewed shopping at Safeway as the decorated cake was lonely after the 49ers lost

Josh reviewed Gregorie as he has poutine on the menu & that taking the toppings off it and putting them on the potato puffs was worth way more than full price

Then we did auctions - tasty, tasty auctions

We adjourned at 9:12 pm

And the rumor of the week was: “none of my pots have latches”

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Meeting 1226

January 27, 2014

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 - and the floor was not made of lava
24 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1225 were accepted as “what?”
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $10.05 in the regular jar & $6.00 in the party jar - and that at meeting 1224 we took in $4.30 in the regular jar & $16.60 in the party jar

The Vice President reported that there are no new “Drink Tanks” - but that zines will come out soon & that the latest episode of “5 Cons” is up now

The President had nothing fannish to report

The Party Committee reported that the FurCon party went well & its party jar took in $53.00

Reminder = there will be 4 Hugo nomination meetings, held Feb 3 & 10 - and March 3 & 10
Announcements

Ken announced that the Retrodome will be busy - showing “Casablanca” on Friday & Saturday nights & showing “Cinderella” on Saturday & Sunday - & then announced that Saturday KFJC hosts the Psychotronic Film Festival at Foothill College, room 5015

JC announced that Beth is sick & announced that episode 23, part 2, of Nerdvana Podcast will be released this Wednesday

Adrienne announced that an expensive Brasilian steakhouse will open in Santana Row soon & Andy mentioned there is one in San Mateo & she announced that Worldcon memberships that allow voting to nominate for the Hugos have a deadline for purchase of Jan 31

Dave C announced that he may have drunk his last can of Jolt Cola - since the company that makes it may stop making it in cans & announced that he has a French version & the Americanized version of a DVD for the film “The Extraordinary Adventures of Adele Blanc-sec”

Dave G announced that the online ballots for Debtcon 1 are now out

Brad announced that Feb 5, from 6pm till 9pm, David Brin will be speaking at SAP labs

Aatheus announced that the Castro theatre will show “Revenge of the Nerds” on Feb 8, 8:30pm

Chris announced something something Cinequest

Ric announced that the Fanboy Planet website has a truckload of new materials there - plus a new podcast

Mike announced that there will be a gathering going on tomorrow night at 7pm at the Union City Little Sheep hotpot

Reviews

Brad reviewed “I Frankenstein” as he got in for free and still overpaid - that the movie is wretchedly awful and he “can’t spoil the movie for you because it’s spoiled already”

Dave C reviewed “American Hustle” as okay & reviewed “At Midnight” as silly, insane & it works

Spike reviewed “Silent Sky”, playing thru Feb 9, as well-acted and well-paced - worth full price

Chris reviewed “the Bat” as a wonderful, wonderful film & reviewed “the One Ups Strategy” as that bitcoins are science fiction anyway since it dealt with theoretical economies & reviewed a Polish film “Head Shot” as very dark, brutal & 9 minutes long

Adrienne reviewed “12 Years a Slave” as well done but distressing that it happened & reviewed “The Croods” as worth seeing on demand & reviewed “Philomena” as well-acted by Judy Dench

Ric reviewed Trey as worth full price & reviewed Disneyland as fun & reviewed “Frozen” as the most socially-advanced Disney film ever - Ken agreed - & reviewed the Grammy awards as interminable

Tom reviewed his Potlatch forms as well-designed

Dave G reviewed Confusion in Deerborn, Michigan as the parties were fun & the con was entertaining

Miko reviewed laser eye surgery as scary but worth it & horrifying

Trey reviewed “47 Ronin” as the ads for it are terrible & the movie is elegant & recommended it as worth matinee

Then we did auctions

We adjourned at 9:53 pm - in consideration of Dave C’s fanfic
And the rumor of the week was: “Groupon is not another word for orgy”

Meeting 1227

February 3, 2014

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 the Broncos not showing up here, either 29 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1226 were accepted as “wiggle room”
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $18.26 in the regular jar & $11.87 in the party jar
The Vice President was not present
The President said “hi” to Chris & Kathy Duval, visiting us for the first time - and then reported that Dr. James Earl Jones was on this [last] week’s episode of “The Big Bang” series & recommends seeing the episode
The Sports Committee reminded us that he is seeking to organize an outing to the last Friday in April’s Giants game
Reminder = there will be 4 Hugo nomination meetings, held Feb 3 & 10 - and March 3 & 10

Announcements

Howeird announced that he has 5 pairs of 3D glasses to give away [they went] & then announced that the Sunnyvale Community Players will be doing “Little Shop of Horrors” during April & he may be in it - then Ken followed, saying that Foothill College will also be doing it at the end of February
Ken announced that the Retrodome will be showing Romeos and Juliets this weekend - “West Side Story” and Baz Luhrmann’s version of “Romeo and Juliet” - plus the Retrodome will have a members only showing of the Oscars telecast on March 2
JC announced that Nerdvana episode 23, part 3, will be released this Wednesday
Adrienne announced a deadline passed & that she & Mo will be going to see the short subject Oscar nominated films soon - so if you’re interested in going, too, contact them
Beth announced that the Starting Artists Dream team 2 will be presenting the Golden Age of Broadway, Thursday & Friday at 7pm & Saturday at 3pm & 7pm
John O announced that Pat Turner is going in for surgery & good wishes are welcome & announced that the Taiko drum group they belong to will do a concert in Newark Adult school on March 1-2 & announced that Consonance will be March 7-9 at the Milpitas Crowne Plaza & on March 7-9 Stage 1 theatre will premiere their version of Spamalot - playing for the next 3 weeks
Carole announced that the Steam Federation meets this Wednesday, 7pm at the Duke of Edinborough pub
Diane announced that Cory Booker will be speaking at Stanford sometime in the near future
Kevin announced that Capricon is this weekend & that he will be a panelist via Skype there

Reviews
Brad reviewed “Shattering Conventions” by Bob Calhoun as interesting & reviewed the specific episode of an Ed Sullivan show with the Beatles as it also had fannish tie-ins
Bill reviewed Conflikt as con attendance was down a little, he & Carole had a really good time there & reviewed “The Taken” by Vicki Pettersson as disappointing and he resented the time he spent reading it
Chris O reviewed the Star Wars exhibit at the Tech as excellent & reviewed the BART commute to SF as easy to get there & terrible to get back from
Adrienne reviewed “Dallas Buyers Club” as a good movie, but not memorable & Mo followed that the acting in it was good
Diane reviewed the Psychotronic Film Festival as 6 hours of hilarious fun - and there were various follow-ons
Andy reviewed the Eurovision competitions as the Nordic country entries were completely bonkers - there was some crap & some good stuff & totally worth watching
Yochanan reviewed “helix” as it has terrible production values
Then we did 1 birthday auction
We adjourned at 9:04
And the rumor of the week was: “Denver must’ve smoked the Superbowl”
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, February 8
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
DunDraCon
San Ramon Marriott
2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon
www.dundracon.com
Gaming convention
Check website for price

Sunday, February 16
East Bay Comic-Con
Concord Hilton
1970 Diamond Boulevard, Concord
eastbaycomiccon.com
Comic book and art convention
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. $5 (Children under 8 free)

Friday-Sunday, February 21-23
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
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

Saturday, February 1
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)

Friday, February 7
Salinas Valley Comic Con
National Steinbeck Center
1 Main Street, Salinas
www.steinbeck.org/pages/salinas-valley-comic-con
Convention featuring guest speaker author Davidson L. Haworth.
4 p.m.-9 p.m. Free
Saturday, March 1

**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)

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
Advanced price: $65, Onsite price: $75

Saturday, March 15

**GBACG Costume Academy**
Site TBA
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Join for fabulous day of workshops. Learn amazing tips & tricks, start on some cool projects, even do some shopping. Questions? Email costumeacademy@gbacg.org.
Check website for prices

Saturday-Sunday, March 22-23

**San Jose Super Toy & Comic Book Show**
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
344 Tully Road, San Jose
www.timetunneltoys.com/toyshow.html
Toy and comic book collectables show with special guests Cindy Williams and Dee Wallace.
$8

**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.

Friday-Sunday, April 18-20
Bay Area Brony Spectacular (BABSCon)
SFO Hyatt Regency Hotel
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
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 (advance), $20 (at the door)

Sunday, May 4
GBACG Workshop
Site TBA
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Join for fabulous day of workshops. Questions? Email workshops@gbacg.org.
Check website for prices

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

Sunday, March 2
GBACG Costume Salon: Steampunk
Site TBA
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Join the GBACG for potluck tea snacks, socializing, and sharing resources. Theme appropriate books, patterns, garments, or projects also welcome. Salons are free and no dress-up is required. If you’d like to attend, email costumesalons@gbacg.org.

Free

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)

Sunday, June 8
GBACG Tea at Pemberly
Palm Court at the Fairmont Hotel
950 Mason Street, San Francisco
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Join Lizzy Bennet, more properly known as Mrs. Fitzwilliam Darcy, for tea in the newly refurbished neoclassical Palm Court at the dazzling Fairmont Hotel.

Check website for prices

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

Thursday-Sunday, 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. Guests of Honor: Cory Doctorow, Chris Garcia, Mary Robinette Kowal, Brandon Sanderson, Howard Tayler, Dan Wells.

$50

Saturday, July 19
GBACG Workshop
Site TBA
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Join for fabulous day of workshops. Questions? Email workshops@gbacg.org.

Check website for prices

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

Saturday-Sunday, August 2-3
San Jose Renaissance Faire
Guadalupe River Park, Downtown San Jose
www.sanjosefaire.com
Renaissance faire in Downtown San Jose in the shadow of the Shark Tank (SAP Center)

$12
Sunday, August 10

GBACG Costume Salon: 1950s
Site TBA
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Join the GBACG for potluck tea snacks, socializing, and sharing resources. Theme appropriate books, patterns, garments, or projects also welcome. Salons are free and no dress-up is required. If you’d like to attend, email costumesalons@gbacg.org.

Free

Thursday-Monday, August 14-18

Loncon 3
International Conference Centre, ExCel, London Docklands
www.loncon3.org
$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

Saturday, August 23

GBACG Safari at the San Francisco Zoo
San Francisco Zoo
1 Zoo Road, San Francisco
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Come tour the Serengeti with our band of intrepid Steampunk / Victorian / Edwardian explorers. We’ll stalk big game and picnic.
Check website for prices

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)

Friday-Sunday, August 29-31

SacAnime
Sacramento Convention Center
1400 J St, Sacramento
www.saconventions.com
Anime and pop culture show
$30

New Ongoing Event
Niles Film Museum Saturday Movies

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
www.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.

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

Sundays

Golden Gate Knights (Lightsaber Instruction Class)
Studio Gracia
19 Heron Street, San Francisco
goldengateknights.com
www.facebook.com/groups/goldengatejedi
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

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 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 if the facility will be closed that day. 408-534-1169.
7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

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.

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.

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](http://gaslight.endogaming.net)
[www.facebook.com/groups/gaslightlarp](http://www.facebook.com/groups/gaslightlarp)
[www.facebook.com/gaslightlarp](http://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](http://www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf)

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](http://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](http://foothill.anime.net)

Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.

12 p.m. Free

**The Tech After Hours**
The Tech Museum of Innovation
201 South Market Street, San Jose
[www.thetech.org/programs/after-hours](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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/](http://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.  
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.

### 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

### 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

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

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

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 p.m. 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 p.m. 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
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bad Movie Night&lt;br&gt;Sakuramento Anime&lt;br&gt;SF Games&lt;br&gt;Golden Gate Knights&lt;br&gt;Cloondara Fighter Practice</td>
<td>BASFA&lt;br&gt;SV Boardgamers&lt;br&gt;Haunted Haight&lt;br&gt;Sacramento SF/F Book Club</td>
<td>MGI Boffers&lt;br&gt;Principality of Mists&lt;br&gt;Fighter Practice</td>
<td>BA Role-Playing Soc&lt;br&gt;E.Bay Strategy Games&lt;br&gt;SV Boardgamers&lt;br&gt;Steam Federation</td>
<td>CAS: NightLife&lt;br&gt;Fanboy Planet Podcast</td>
<td>SF Games&lt;br&gt;Haunted Haight&lt;br&gt;Vampire Walking</td>
<td>Niles Film Museum&lt;br&gt;Saturday Movies</td>
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<td>Doctor Who Perv Society&lt;br&gt;Foothill Anime</td>
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<td>PEERS Middle Earth Ball&lt;br&gt;Silicon Gulch Browncoats&lt;br&gt;Rocky Horror (*2)</td>
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<td>QSF&amp;F Book Club</td>
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<td>The Tech After Hours</td>
<td>Salinas Valley Comic Con</td>
<td>GBACG A Venetian Carnival&lt;br&gt;Fantastic Frontiers&lt;br&gt;No-Name Anime&lt;br&gt;SF Browncoats</td>
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<td>East Bay Comic-Con&lt;br&gt;SF/F Book Club&lt;br&gt;Night of the Living Book Club</td>
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<td>DunDraCon (thru Mon)&lt;br&gt;Pantheacon (thru Mon)&lt;br&gt;East Bay Star Wars</td>
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<td>Potlatch 23 (thru Sun)&lt;br&gt;USS Defiance&lt;br&gt;USS Northern Lights\</td>
<td>Gaskell Winter Ball&lt;br&gt;USS Augusta Ada&lt;br&gt;Veritech Fighter Cmd 13&lt;br&gt;Queered Science Book Club&lt;br&gt;Wicked Games</td>
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<td>Religion &amp; SF</td>
<td>Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club</td>
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<td>Legion of Rassilon&lt;br&gt;Sci-Fi Book Group</td>
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<td>PEERS Gotham City&lt;br&gt;Black and White Ball</td>
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Science Fiction/San Francisco is the monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area – www.efanzines.com.