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Art Credits

Cover Catching air by Lucy Huntzinger
Happy spring everyone! The weather was nice and sunny in the Bay Area recently, and now it’s a bit colder and overcast. That’s a sure sign of spring when it goes back and forth before the summer comes. The blossoms have already been in full bloom and have been beautiful but wreaking havoc on my allergies. I’m still not up to par from the flu from this past January and I’m trying hard to slow down so I can rest and take care of my health but it hasn’t been working.

I’ve started a weekly career class and will be doing a flying class next week and a fencing class next month. I wasn’t planning on co-organizing the BAERS Cyprians Ball tomorrow but no one was stepping up to do it so I volunteered. I hope it goes well!

I really need to get down to sewing my costume for Comic-Con too. I know it’s still in July but I’m not that fast of a seamstress, and with my busy schedule, I have to do this sooner rather than later. What I’ve been doing more of is buying costumes for the Jane Austen Festival in Bath, that’s not till September but I’m so excited about it. It’s on my bucket list and I really want to make a good show of it as the group I’m with (we’re renting a Georgian House in the centre of town) consists of major cast members from Dickens Fair who are amazing costumers and re-enactors.

Speaking of Comic-Con and the Jane Austen Festival, coincidentally, I tried to buy tickets for Comic-Con the day before the tickets for the Jane Austen Festival promenade went on sale. The day before that, tickets to Queen with Adam Lambert had a pre-sale. So I had to buy tickets three days in a row for three of my long-running, favorite passions. Fandom, Regency/Historical and Hard Rock/Heavy Metal.

I was able to get tickets for the Jane Austen Festival for me and Chris and a ticket for myself for Queen (tickets were so expensive and there was only one left in the cheapest range). Unfortunately, I wasn’t able to get tickets for me and Chris for Comic-Con. There were 8 of us in our masquerade group trying to get tickets (and keeping each other company on Facebook chat, which helped us through the ordeal) and only one of us got through. Tickets sold out within the hour. Fortunately, it looks like we may be able to get special tickets for masquerade performers.

Today, I tried to get Gallifrey One 2015 tickets but it was sold out within 75 minutes. Chris was able to get one for himself. I may be able to get one through the transfer system in the fall but I’m feeling like it’s just so much of a hassle. I suppose I may feel more enthusiastic depending on the guests once they’re announced. If not, I’ll just skip it like I did this year.

It seems like fandom has just exploded these past few years. Which is good because there are more people who like what we like, but it sure makes it difficult to get into the
conventions that we’ve gone to in the past. However, there are more opportunities in the future to attend these popular conventions and there are so many other conventions and events to go to and even more popping up every day. It’s getting hard to keep track of them all!

One that I just found out about is Emerald City Comic Con in Seattle in March. Several Browncoats in the Bay Area are going. I wish I could have planned for this (budget, time, etc.) because several people from “Lost Girl” are going to be there as well as Stephen Amell (“Arrow”), Cary Elwes, Michael Biehn, Nichelle Nichols and Karen Gillan.

I just found out about several other conventions locally (Harry Potter, Sherlock, etc.) and one just popped up in my Inbox as I’m writing this. Check our calendar every month as we’re trying to include all of them.

Anyway, it was my birthday a couple of weeks ago and I had a great birthday. It was a low key one but with just a couple of friends going to the butterfly exhibit at the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park. We all dressed up in Steampunk attire and Chris was dressed as a Victorian naturalist complete with a butterfly net. Here we are in the Conservatory’s Facebook page: www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10152295352029777&set=pb.116660529776.-2207520000.1395476176.&type=3&theater

The Conservatory always reminds me of the Palm House at Kew Gardens, where Carl Sagan talked about how we’re related to all life on earth including plants in his TV show “Cosmos.” I’ve seen the Palm House from an airplane but hope to see it up close in the future. Coincidently, the “Cosmos” reboot was premiering on my birthday (what a birthday present!) and I was hoping Neil deGrasse Tyson would also film a scene there (which he did but not until the second episode). It was ironic that I was in Golden Gate Park a few days after the “Cosmos” live premiere and Q&A event, which I didn’t know about until after the fact. SallyRose Robinson was lucky enough to be able to attend and her report is in this issue (with some notes from me).

Chris and I also went to see the Computer History Museum, which we haven’t seen since they reopened after their renovation. It looks very impressive and entertaining. We spent several hours viewing the collection and I especially enjoyed all the videos about different topics. It’s amazing to see the achievements that have been made in the field of computing.

With lots of talented friends and family, we found ourselves watching two musicals two weekends in a row. My cousin’s daughter and son were in a middle school production of “Aladdin.” And wow, I was so impressed with the scenery, props, costumes, singing and acting. There were some very talented kids in there. They even had a huge “elephant,” and of course, a magic carpet. My cousin’s daughter was Jasmine and his son was one of the narrators. They had a girl portray the genie and she was fantastic. They had a puppeteer do Iago and he was hilarious.

Then our friend Cordelia was in several roles in “Spamalot.” We got to see her do numerous costume changes and she portrayed both male and female characters. She was adorable as one of Robin’s minstrels (which coincidently I portrayed when I was in a “Spamalot” masquerade group that Cordelia organized for BayCon 2006... we won a Best in Show award). And I finally got to see her tap dance. The show was fantastic! It was better and funnier than the one we all saw
in Las Vegas. King Arthur and his knights were great but the standout in the main cast was the Lady of the Lake who was just so snarky and was an incredible singer.

Other than these, we had our usual events and some new ones for me (Potlatch, Xena convention and Jane Austen Society), which I will cover in the next issue. In the meantime, Chris has a couple of event reviews this time, including Gallifrey One 2014 and the recent PEERS Hobbit Ball.

See you all next time!

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
Milt Stevens writes:

After looking at the cover of SF/SF #149, one thing became totally clear. You really need to make more friends who are fan artists.

Christopher Erickson writes:

We do know a lot of fan artists but it's a matter of us having the time to ask them and them having the time to send us something. Also, SF/SF isn't like traditional fanzines where art is a top priority. We are more like news magazines where photos are more important to adding a visual component to the events being covered. We do like to have more art in our zine, and we do include them when we do receive art contributions, as we do aim to showcase people's talents and that includes creating art. Also, our cover has always had photos, not art.

[Tom Becker interjects: I think Milt is pulling our tails.]

Before reading Jean Martin’s editorial, I had entirely forgotten there were Xena conventions in Los Angeles. I used to see the Creationcons mentioned in Starlog when they were still a printed magazine. For years, I thought I might attend one just for information purposes, but I never did. For a while, they scheduled some of their conventions the week before LA based conventions and in the same hotel. That was getting close to being a hostile act. However, reports indicated the proximity hurt them more than it hurt us. It appears they are still trying the week before one of our cons but at least not in the same hotel.

The problem with scheduling conventions is that there are only 52 weekends in a year and only so many venues in an area that can hold these types of events. Most hotels do not have event spaces and some places will hold multiple events if it is only in a single room to maximize their money.

I have heard many people complain about why certain events are scheduled against each other or next to each other. The problem is one of not enough space, not enough weekends and many of the events having a different focus.

My first reaction was that SacAnime sounded like a Japanese food item. On thinking about it, that’s a good association for an anime convention. They seem to have crowds. I don’t like crowds. Aside from money, there is just about nothing that would get me into the middle of a crowd. They also seem to have lines. A line is a way of getting into a crowd. I don’t like lines either.

Food does seem to be big at the anime conventions with the convenience items like cup of noodle soup, Pocky sticks and other things. Most of the anime conventions do tend to have a large number of attendees since the average age skews between pre-teen and college age even though there are older people who attend as well.

So the thing in the foreground on page 16 is a Flaming Art Car. It’s certainly interesting looking. If you parked one in your driveway, it would definitely make the neighbors wonder.

It is a big part of the maker community such as you will find at Maker Faire and Burning Man.
“In 2014: A Look Ahead,” much of the material appears to be horrifying. Some of it is even supposed to be horrifying. Series, and sequels, and remakes, oh my!! I’m now thinking of the planet Kluge where aliens have taken all the dumb characters and creatures that have ever been put in sci-fi movies and given them physical reality. The more I think about it, the more I think this idea could make money.

Media companies tend to go with similar ideas that have been proven moneymakers in the past (such as “The Golden Compass” and the “Chronicles of Narnia” movies after Harry Potter came out). The model that every studio is looking for is to have a franchise such as “Star Trek” where you can make money off of merchandise and tie-in products (books, video games, animated prequels or bridging series) that also serve a market for the fans who might want to see more of the universe that was built in the story.

John Purcell writes:

Holy Duplicator, Batman! Congratulations go to the whole lot of you — Jack Avery, Chris Garcia, Jean Martin, Tom Becker, Christopher Erickson, España Sheriff, and the rest of the BAreans responsible for this zine — for reaching this milestone. I am impressed: 150 issues is a remarkable run, and that is something not to be sneezed at. Well done, gang!

It has been a long and loving journey for everyone who ever contributed to this fanzine. Everyone who ever worked on it helped to get it to this point as we can’t do it without people wanting to share their experiences.

I remember when the first issue was posted at efanzines.com back in 2005. My early e-zines were fairly simple in layout and content, too, just like SFinSF was like at the beginning. It is always fun to revisit a fanzine and watch its growth. The evolution of SFInSF is interesting to see by perusing all of the back issues posted. Chris Garcia's brief history of the zine on pages 7 and 8 helps put this in perspective as well; add in Jean Martin's and Christopher Erickson's recollections, and the overall progression is readily apparent. I would also like to read España’s reminiscences for added input. No matter what, you people have had fun producing the zine during these NINE years, and it shows. Keep it up. I have been enjoying it, too, despite not writing that often. Whenever a new issue pops up on efanzines, I always read it.

I can only express my memories as other people have worked on this much longer but it has been an enjoyable experience. Just like anything, it evolves and morphs overtime based on what our contributors and submitters want to provide to us, and we like when people provide articles or artwork that we may not have thought of or provided before.

The major highlights of an issue are always the event reports with all — and I mean, ALL — of the photographs that go with them. It never ceases to amaze me at how active the Bay Area is for sfnal-oriented people. You are very lucky to live there with so much going on within a short driving range. It makes me pine for my younger days up in Minneapolis when I was active in Minn-stf; there was always something going on. Still is, too. But that's A Good Thing, and creates a unified community of fen. Enjoy your community, especially when it's very much like one big extended family.

I grew up in the Chisago Lakes area not too far from Minneapolis, but I was never able to join the fandom out there. I went to a “Star Trek” convention the same week that "Voyager" premiered (and the first convention appearance
of Garrett Wang aka Ensign Harry Kim) and watched classic movies at the now-defunct Oak Street Cinema next to the Superblock on the University of Minnesota campus.

Other than that, not much to add here. In response to Mr. Erickson’s editorial ramblings, my wife and I have been enjoying assorted science fiction and fantasy shows on television. We have yet to see “Once Upon a Time in Wonderland” due to conflicting schedules — things to do, that is, on the night the show airs, and we don’t have Tivo on our flat-screen TV. Oh, well. They are available on the Internet, so someday I may catch up on that and see what the show is like.

I have been watching “Once Upon A Time in Wonderland” as well as “Agents of S.H.E.I.L.D.” on ABC’s website, but they only keep about five episodes available at anytime.

Our current regular SF&F viewings include “Grimm,” “Almost Human,” “Lost Girl,” the Saturday night SF lineup on MeTv, and others. Oh, and I look forward to the return of “Defiance” and “Warehouse 13.” This is definitely a good time to be a media science fiction fan as it is all over the place.

For me, “Game of Thrones” is the one I am looking forward to. I will probably catch all of these other shows when they are completed as I like to watch all the episodes in a series at the same time to see how the long-arc storytelling develops.

Time to get back to finishing up Askew #8, then it will be onto Askance #31. A faned’s work is never done.

Diane Rooney writes:
Congrats to all on a wonderful 150th issue! Loved reading the great LOCs from Jack, Chris Garcia and Lloyd. What a great history this ezine has had, with much more to come. Issue #150 is just the most recent example of how diverse SF/SF really is, and how broad its coverage.

Christopher Erickson writes:
It is nice to have a variety of topics.

So, we had Jack’s review of a stage musical, the revival of Return to Forbidden Planet, and an insightful personal essay from Thad on A Year Without Cons - what he did instead and what he learned. Along with Chris’s review of FurCon and Jean’s review of Convolution plus another article from Jean on reconnecting with Star Trek cons. Then poetry and photos by Chris Villa. Ending with minutes AND a 12 page Fannish Calendar. Six different stories, plus all the listings of new things to do. That’s pretty awesome!

A lot of stuff for our readers!

By the way, Lloyd, I too am a big Abney Park fan. I hope by now you have found the details of the September concert, which will be at the Ft. George Steampunk Expo September 12-14. Hope you get to attend!

I missed Abney Park when they did a show back in 2010 at the DNA Lounge in San Francisco because I had to leave early for my only day of work (as I was unemployed at the time and only had a weekend job). I finally managed to catch them at the first Steamstock with their revamped lineup. It was a great show!

Hope to see you both at Downton Abbey Ball!

We’ll be there portraying characters as usual.
The Alameda Elks Lodge was transformed into the main ballroom of Laketown with dwarves, hobbits, wizards, Rangers, elves and humans in attendance for the PEERS Revel at Laketown Ball. The ball was inspired by the recent installment of the Hobbit movie series, “The Desolation of Smaug.” The setting was the Mayor of Laketown greeting Thorin Okenshield and his band of dwarves coming through on their way to the Lonely Mountain.

Several familiar characters were on hand to help play out scenes with Aragorn (Strider) and another Ranger came down from Eriador in the North to watch over the crowd; Arwen and Elrond came from the Last (or First) Homely House (also known as Rivendell); Thranduil, Legolas and Tauriel represented Mirkwood; and dwarf prince Kili and his mother were also in town.

There were several dances with themed names such the Riders of Rohan Gallopede. There was also a dance competition between Legalos and Kili to determine who would win the chance to woo Tauriel after they had a fight between them and had been bickering with each other all night. The Mayor of Laketown along with Elrond lead a grand march as well. Music for the ball was provided by the Celtic rock sounds of Avalon Rising.

Some of the other entertainment was provided by Arwen as she sang “Smaug the Magic Dragon” (revised lyrics to “Puff...
Lady Galadriel by Jean Martin

Legolas and Kili Fighting Over Tauriel by Christopher Erickson
the Magic Dragon”) with harp accompaniment as well as other songs.

The costuming for the ball was diverse with many people coming in Renaissance garb for humans and rangers, cloaks for wizards, and doublets and elegant fantasy dresses for elves. There were a number of people who came as hobbits as well as elves, a woman dressed in an ensemble as Smaug, there were a couple of Nazgul and there was a family of children who depicted an eagle and a ghost warrior.

The new location also had a professionally hosted bar run by the Elks with a special drink menu with themed spirits such as Gollum’s Grog, Gandalf’s Gimlet, Hobbit’s Happiness, Master of Laketown, Lady Morwen of Rohan and Dwarf Princess Thorina by Jean Martin

Smaug the Dragon by Christopher Erickson
Legolas’s Lemon Drop, Mordor’s Madness and Mirkwood Mai Tai. The bar was also able to serve traditional drinks such as a martini or a small selection of beers. All the proceeds of the bar went to the Elk’s charities including a scholarship program and youth basketball program.

The ballroom in the upstairs portion of the lodge gave the dance a much statelier feeling with the dark paneling of the benches and the red cushions. It was also wonderful happenstance that there was a current Shakespeare production of “MacBeth” with a medieval backdrop on the stage to make the feeling more complete.

Everyone in attendance had a wonderful time and were entertained by Tolkien’s characters as well as the music of Avalon Rising. Future PEERS events promise more fun in history and alternate fantastical realms.
Make Mine Marvelous:
The Influence of Marvel for 75 Years

By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

There have been a number of milestone anniversaries recently, 50th for “Doctor Who” and the Beatles on “The Ed Sullivan Show,” James Bond in movies a couple of years ago, Superman’s 75th last year, “Star Trek: The Next Generation” had its 25th, but another important one is just starting: Marvel Comics 75th year of existence.

Marvel Comics originally started out as Timely Comics as comic books were rising in popularity due to Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Captain Marvel and the like. Publisher Martin Goodman launched his first title “Marvel Comics” featuring a couple of unlikely heroes, a malfunctioning android named the Human Torch and an anti-hero Atlantean prince named Namor the Sub-Mariner. These characters became instantly popular and helped establish Timely Comics as an alternate to the superheroes with the perfect lives at National and All-Star Comics (eventually known as DC Comics). The heroes were shunned by society and often had to battle the society that they were trying to protect (in the case of the Human Torch) or fight for their people (in the case of Namor). The plots were set in the real location of New York City unlike the fictional cities in other comics. The storytelling eventually helped establish the idea of a shared universe (along with National/All-Star Comics Justice Society of America and Law’s Legionnaires) with Namor and the Human Torch having a knock-down, drag out fight in New York City. The difference in plotting and setting helped give it a more real world feel that would extend to Marvel’s “Window to the World” concept.

Eventually other heroes were added such as Miss America, The Whizzer, Angel, The Destroyer and the original Vision, along with the most popular of the Golden Age characters, Captain America. Captain America, along with his sidekick Bucky Barnes and other heroes in the Timely stable, were shown fighting Nazis in Europe during World War II to help boost morale and the fighting spirit of the men of the armed services. Unlike the DC heroes, whose powers limited the stories that could be written about fighting in a war, most of the Timely heroes were ordinary beings who were using their courage and know-how to do the things that the soldiers were doing while still having the potential to be killed. Even Namor and the Human Torch were able to set aside their differences and fight against the Nazis, providing a metaphor for all Americans to fight together despite their differences.

Important writers and artists to work at this time included Jack Kirby, Stan Lee, Bill Everett (creator of Namor and Daredevil) and Joe Simon (co-creator of Captain America). All of these artists would continue to work into the 1960s and 1970s, helping influence another generation of artists and readers.
After World War II ended, comic books fell out of favor and the fortunes of Timely Comics suffered as superheroes were replaced in popularity by funny animals, crime stories, war heroes, cowboys, teen romance and monster comics. Timely Comics stopped publishing its once popular superheroes and started publishing stories based on any popular trend and eventually changed the name of the company to Atlas Comics. Atlas tried to revive their three most popular superheroes in the wake of the Cold War, but the idea was short lived (lasting only a year) with the rising popularity of romance comics, funny animals and science fiction and western books. Atlas Comics eventually fell on hard times with distribution issues, first with the shutdown with their own distribution company, the ending of another company, America News Company, from a Justice Department lawsuit and eventually having to broker a deal with rival DC Comics that limited the number of comics that could be published.

After DC Comics helped re-launch the popularity of superheroes by introducing new versions of the Flash and Green Lantern, Atlas eventually rebranded itself as Marvel Comics in 1961 and launched a number of new characters and titles, such as Iron Man, the Fantastic Four, The X-Men, The Amazing Spider-Man, The Mighty Thor (in “Journey into Mystery”) and The Incredible Hulk. The popularity of the characters was based on the characterization and adult themes that Stan Lee (then main writer and editor-in-chief) and the stable of artists (such as Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko) focusing on, reviving the grittier nature of the comics from the 1930s. They tackled such topics as isolation/alienation from society and discrimination (The X-Men), self-doubt and the problems of growing up (Spider-Man), rage and anger management (The Hulk), worthiness (Thor), overcoming handicaps (Iron Man) and dysfunctional families (Fantastic Four). The heroes were shown to have shortcomings, self-doubt, personal flaws, psychological problems and personality issues. The also popularized the idea of females in a team with the Wasp in the Avengers, Sue Storm (Invisible Girl) in the Fantastic Four and Jean Grey (Marvel Girl) in the X-Men, along with the Scarlet Witch on the revamped Avengers lineup only a few years later with Black Widow eventually joining the team in the 1960s. There were three female Avenger members before the close of the 1960s with the Wasp rejoining the team.

The focus on character driven stories and incorporation of topical themes such as the Cold War and civil rights movement helped make Marvel popular with teenagers and young adults, helping Marvel to expand its output and create new titles, eventually being able to secure a new distribution deal with another company and grow the company. This also allowed them to create a number of cartoons based on their characters while still telling the same characterizations from the comics (however subtle it had to be for broadcast standards of the late 1960s, including the 1967 version of “Spider-Man”).

Marvel eventually revamped some of its characters, such as giving Iron Man a problem with alcoholism (covered in the excellent story arc “Demon in a Bottle”) and showing Peter Parker attend college and deal with the loss of Gwen Stacy, Harry Osborne deal with drug problems, Giant-Man (Hank Pym) and Wasp deal with marital problems, Sue Storm and Reed Richards marry and have a son, and multiple changes to both the Avengers and the X-Men (with a more internationally
and racially diverse team for both groups). The X-Men would go on to tackle more important social issues in the 1970s as the fight for racial equality continued, the women’s liberation movement reached its peak and the rise of tolerance for homosexuality (particularly in the disco culture) began.

The characters would eventually help usher in the respectability of the superhero movie with the release of the vampire hunter “Blade” and “The X-Men” movies, showing mature storytelling with deeper themes that were explored in the comic books. The popularity of the first “Spider-Man” movie eventually solidified the superhero genre as a popular movie offering.

Marvel Comics has pushed the boundaries of popular storytelling since its inception as a four-color book in 1939 by offering adult themes and more human characters that people could relate to, providing outlets for patriotism, expression of personal feelings, exploration of social issues and depictions of people who might be larger than life but still dealing with personal issues.
In a nice bit of happenstance (or Time Lord jiggery-pokery), Gallifrey One got to celebrate its 25th year shortly after the 50th anniversary of the show. Gally had a lot going on this year, and there was just too much to take in all at once. It was held at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott on February 14-16, 2013.

The fun kicked off on Thursday night, with a special badge pickup time during most of Thursday evening for their scheduled social events. This was convenient since I did not arrive at the hotel and get settled until about four in the afternoon and got dinner shortly thereafter. The unofficial event, Lobbycon, was in full force all evening, with lots of ribbon trading and costumes (including a card reading by the Sibylline Sisterhood), lots of beverage partaking, and a special announcement that Billy Piper had arrived at the convention though it was previously announced that she had to cancel due to illness.

The Thursday night festivities also featured an ice cream social and fair games like Dalek Ring Toss, The Beast Below (bean bag toss), Toclafane Toss and others to win tickets for prizes. Karaoke was also a featured event that night.

The special Thursday night programming and badge pickup were wonderful and helped relieve the congestion of people hanging out in the lobby and also helped shorten the line for badge pickup on Friday morning.
Friday morning was different this year as there was a truncated Opening Ceremonies in the morning with the organizers instead of the talent. It was nice to hear what Gallifrey One meant to them and actually see some of the people who work hard year round to make the convention.

The first panel that I attended for the weekend was “What’s the Big Deal with Screen Accuracy.” The panel was all female cosplayers providing tips on how to achieve the look of the New Series companions. They provided advice on the two-thirds rule (You can only have two of three things when making a costume: fast, accurate, cheap), the use of knock-off brands, resources for finding costume pieces and tips on wigs.

There was also a Prop Museum that featured the Eight Doctor’s TARDIS console (which has been further refurbished to include the iron lattice pillars and TV monitor), various sonic screwdrivers, a replica of the War Doctor’s costume, and various implements of The Inspector from “Inspector Spacetime” including costumes of the “Community” version and webseries version of The Inspector, his optic pocketknife and the Telephone Booth.
I also participated as a judge in the First Annual Iron Cosplay. This was an event where two teams of costume designers were pitted against each other to create a new enemy of the Doctor using various materials to construct a costume. During the construction of the outfits, Tadao Tomomatsu played sideline reporter and storyteller, similar to “Iron Chef,” as well as bantering with the judges and the crowd. The two teams (Team Omega and Team Rassilon) both constructed wonderful costumes. Team Rassilon designed an outfit with purple metallic fabric as a dress with wings and a facemask to create Prinsecta, who swore revenge on the entire humanoid race after Captain Jack Harkness snubbed her at a bar. Team Omega came up with an outfit that utilized gold quilted fabric for a tunic and designed a shield and blaster using CD-Roms and the spindle for the CD-Roms to make the Aviatrix. In the end, it was hard to decide who made the better costume, but the nod went to Team Omega with the classic series look to the costume.

The evening entertainment was amazing as well as Toby Hadoke returned to provide his comedy stylings with his
The sequel show to “Moths Ate My Doctor Who Scarf” entitled “My Stepson Stole My Sonic Screwdriver.” The show centered on his current marriage and bonding with his deaf stepson over “Doctor Who.” The show was funny and poignant at the same time.

The Friday Night Party was also in full swing with a 3-D theme called Cocktails in 3-D! The décor was different pictures and paintings from various science fiction shows rendered in three dimensions with help of the classic red/blue paper spectacles. The featured drinks added to the theme with Doctor’s Daily Dram, Donna’s Delightful Daiquiri and Doriums Dubious Drop (three drinks with three Ds in the name).

Saturday was another packed day of panels and events. The first panel I went to was the IDW “Doctor Who” comics panel featuring the writer and artists on the 50th Anniversary tribute maxi series “Prisoner of Time.” Unfortunately, IDW will not be publishing the Time Lord anymore.

The LonCon tea room made a return this year, which was a welcome respite from the hectic surroundings. The decorations included a map of London settings for selected adventures of all of the Doctors. Biscuits, cookies, jammie dodgers and different types of tea were offered. (I had the British Invasion.)

The Inspector Spacetime panel made its return to Gallifrey One as well, talking about the efforts to get a new webseries made, showing a prequel episode picking up from the events of Series 1 (with a good clone of Boyish the Extraordinaire, a bad clone of The Inspector) and leading into the next installment. At the panel, it was announced that they were going to make Series 2 as a movie with such luminaries as...
Robert Picardo, Chase Masterson, Mayim Bialik and Sylvester McCoy. To that effect, they had officially launched the Indiegogo fundraising campaign (as of this writing, they needed about $3000 to reach the $25,000 goal with 9 days left) along with a title change to “The Inspector Chronicles: Untitled Motion Picture About a Space Traveler Who Can Also Travel Through Time.”

The last major event for the evening was the Masque of Mandragora, Gallifrey One’s own masquerade. This year was a bit different for me as I participated in a presentation-only skit created by fan extraordinaires Kevin Roche and Andrew Trembley. The presentation was a mash-up of British car restoration show “Wheeler Dealers” with Kevin as Mike Brewer (car dealer) and Edd China (mechanic) buying a broken down Type 40 TARDIS with a dodgy chameleon circuit that they fix up (replacing the time rotor but can do nothing for the chameleon circuit) and eventually selling it to the First Doctor (played by yours truly). You can watch a lost-episode reconstruction of the skit here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVQgvPcipW8&feature=youtu.be. There were other
amazing costumes including a doppelganger of the Fifth Doctor, a femme Bessie (the yellow roadster car of the Third Doctor), a Time Lord who looked Klingon (complete with sonic Bat’leth and Fourth Doctor scarf sash) and The Happiness Patrol from the Seventh Doctor serial.

Karaoke was still to be had that night as well. I caught Travis Richie (The Inspector from “Inspector Spacetime”) belting out “Poor Unfortunate Souls” from “The Little Mermaid.”

Sunday was also a busy day as I caught several panels. I managed to catch the Billie Piper and Arthur Darvill panels, which were repeated from Saturday with the same questions so all the attendees would get the chance to see them. The extra special panel was The Two Doctors featuring Colin Baker and Paul McGann reminiscing about their experiences and generally having a good time. I also caught the traditionally held Year in Review and Closing Ceremonies, which needed two stages of celebrities and guests. Afterwards, there was another party held, with lots of people still hanging
about and spilling onto the pool deck (with people still in costume).

Gallifrey One managed the crowds very well this year. The traffic did not seem as heavy and the vendor hall managed to shuffle people through by only allowing people to go in one way and out the other, except for people who were in line to get autographs. They also adjusted lines for photo opportunities with Arthur Darvill and Billie Piper to help maintain the flow of traffic. I was lucky enough to be able to get a photo with her and she was very nice. I ran up to her and said “Rose, I remember how to dance” and she said “I remember that line.”

There seemed like there were less costumes this year, but there were some amazing costuming trends. The femme version of characters continued with plenty of gender-bent Doctors (including a 12th Doctor and War Doctor), a few versions of K-9 (including a poodle skirt and kimono), Inspector Spacetime and Girlish the Extraordinaire, and Dalek evening dresses. With the rediscovery of the Second Doctor episodes “The Enemy of the World” and “The Web of Fear,”
there were a number of Second Doctor, Jamie McCrimmon and Victoria Waterfield cosplayers, with a few who even did the costumes from the lost episodes. Another major trend was cosplay from the 50th Anniversary episode “Day of the Doctor” and the short “Night of the Doctor” with a number of War Doctor and Bad Wolf Girl costumers along with someone who did The Moment (including the big red button) and several Eight Doctors in the adventurer version of the costume featured right before his regeneration. There were also a few Sisterhood of Karn outfits. Time Lord Robes were also in fashion. Torchwood made a small comeback with several people wearing Captain Jack Harkness (including femme versions), Ianto and Gwen Cooper. There were also a number of Ninth Doctor and Twelfth Doctor costumes. Madame Vastra and Jenny were also a small trend this year. The other popular trend was Osgood Stewart from “The Day of The Doctor.”

There were also plenty of TARDISes to be found. The two most interesting ones were done in black and white in honor of the 50th anniversary. There were also a couple of people who did costumes from the docudrama about the first years of
“Doctor Who” entitled “Adventure in Space and Time” including Sydney Newman (Head of Drama at the BBC) and Verity Lambert (first producer for “Doctor Who”). There was also someone dressed as 1980s producer John Nathan-Turner. Some of the more interesting costumes included the Ninth Doctor Regeneration, The Black Guardian from the Fifth Doctor, Playboy bunnies versions of Tennant and Capaldi and Can-Can versions of various Doctors. There was also a nice trend with young people doing classic Doctors and companions. There were also a number of puppet versions of Whovian characters including a great looking Sontaran.

Another big trend was seeing non-Whovian characters such as Hermonie Granger, Star Trek characters (Klingons, Beverly Crusher, Orion Slave Girl and classic Trek outfits), Castiel the angel from “Supernatural”, a few Sherlocks, the juvenile delinquents from “The Misfits,” My Little Pony, Inspector Spacetime, a Jessica Rabbit, Miss Frizzle from “The Magic School Bus,” Mary Poppins, a student revolutionary from “Les Miserables,” Harley Quinn, Dr. Horrible and Malory
Archer from “Archer” among others. It was nice to see them accepted as part of the community without people isolating them.

Gallifrey One was a wonderful experience full of wonderful costumes, wonderful people, and wonderful surprises this year. I expect wonderful things from it next year.
By Robbie Pleasant
Staff Writer

For fans of comics, television, movies, and more, Sacramento became a go-to destination when Wizard World Comic Con came to the area. For its inaugural weekend, it took to the Sacramento Convention Center, and brought with it several guests and attendees.

The convention used the west end of the convention center, where lines lead into the dealer’s hall. Beyond that lay rows of booths selling all sorts of comics, toys, posters, and other assorted memorabilia, followed by an artist alley of professionals and fans alike, and then the booths where some of the many guests were signing autographs and getting pictures with guests.

Of course, such a wonderland is not without its cost. Badges varied in price according to the day, but on average it
was around $50 per day. Those who were fast when tickets came out could order a full weekend ahead of time, but eventually those sold out, leaving attendees with the choice between individual day badges or the more expensive VIP badges. After getting the badges, one would have to pay extra for the guest autographs or photos, sometimes ranging in the hundreds of dollars, but it was a price many deemed reasonable for meeting Stan Lee and Chris Hemsworth.

No convention is complete without cosplayers, and there were plenty in attendance. They ranged in variety, from comics to cartoons to live action movies, each portraying characters they love or connect with. Naturally, there were plenty from Thor, there to meet Chremsworth, as well as zombies and zombie fighters for cast members of “The Walking Dead,” and Power Rangers for Jason David Frank. Cosplay gatherings weren’t common, but there were some for series such as “G.I. Joe,” “Star Wars” or Marvel comics in general.
At the time of the convention, they were unable to use the entire convention center, due to multiple bookings. This made it rather cramped at times, as there were thousands of guests aiming to get into the same area, but next year promises to make more use of the space available.

As far as first year conventions go, Sacramento Wizard World was more than decent. It may have a few things in need of fixing for next year, but its first proved the convention worthy of the name Wizard World has made for itself over the years.

Anna and Elsa from Frozen

by Robbie Pleasant

Spaceballs

by Robbie Pleasant
The original “Cosmos” was a beloved part of my growing-up years and so I was looking forward to the reboot. I had heard from friends that there was going to be a pre-screening locally. My friend, Mike Charboneau, shared that he was fortunate enough to have gotten tickets to a pre-screening at California Academy of Science’s Morrison Planetarium. We both met up and awaited the opening of this event. It was very exciting because we knew we would get to see it early as well as getting to hear the creators of this new version talk about how they were able to make this show happen.

We were let in and seated in the Planetarium and then shown “Cosmos” facts on screen as we awaited the screening. We watched with awe and wonder as we saw Neil deGrase Tyson flying in the Ship of Imagination as well as sharing the wonder of the Cosmic Calendar. We saw how Giordano Bruno, who was an Italian Dominican friar, philosopher, mathematician, poet, and astrologer, proposed that the Sun was just another star moving in space, and claimed as well that
the universe contained an infinite number of inhabited worlds populated by other intelligent beings in an animated sequence during the episode. All of this was then followed by a discussion with Host Neil deGrasse Tyson, Executive Producer/Writer/Director Ann Druyan, Executive Producer Seth MacFarlane, Executive Producer Mitchell Cannold, Executive Producer/Director Brannon Braga and Co-Executive Producer Jason Clark being interviewed by Fox Broadcasting’s COO Joe Early as well as sharing questions from Twitter and pre-recorded questions from people at the many planetaria watching the live broadcasting.

The show was a seven-year project in the making that Ann had been working on and Neil introduced her to Seth who suggested Fox Broadcasting as the place to share Cosmos without cutting out parts that Ann had been told might make other networks uncomfortable. Seth assured her that Fox would let her say everything she wanted to get out and he offered to be one of the executive producers to help bring this project to the network. We witnessed Neil sharing his passion of science and answering questions including his favorite place to have filmed an episode at. Seth was asked about his involvement and he shared how honored he was to meet Ann as well as helping her in the making of “Cosmos” as the original had influenced him as a child and a young adult.

The quote that stayed with me after all the joking and camaraderie that was clear that these folks have is the following from Neil deGrasse Tyson:

So I’m not worried about [children], I’m worried about scientifically illiterate adults. They run the world. They wield resources. They’re in charge and they outnumber the kids. So, so the kids will see Cosmos and say “yeah, yeah we love that”... it’s the adults that I ... its everybody ... yes ... But the issue is: in modern times, do adults have the wisdom and insight brought by a scientific perspective to actually lead this world into the future? Because it doesn’t matter what you do with the kids. If the adults who are in charge don’t have it, you are throwing seeds to fallow ground.
Editor-in-chief’s note:

“Cosmos” also inspired me during my childhood and made a huge difference in my life. I continue to be in awe and wonder of the universe and was very grateful to have Carl Sagan not only broaden my knowledge of science but he also instilled in me an appreciation and optimism for humankind. I am very glad that “Cosmos” is back to do the same for the current generation of young people. I have enjoyed the first two episodes so far and was very touched by the inclusion of clips of Carl in both episodes and the fact that Neil is continuing what Carl started.

I was unfortunately unable to attend the premiere screening and live Q&A shown at the Cal Academy of Sciences in San Francisco (both were broadcast around the world from the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles). However, I was able to view the recorded Q&A afterwards online. It is available at: www.cosmosontv.com/live-event.

“Cosmos” airs Sundays on the FOX network as well as on the National Geographic channel. You can watch already-aired episodes from the show’s website is at: www.cosmosontv.com and via the FOX NOW app.

Carl Sagan’s writer son, Nick, has been providing content for the free “Cosmos” app, which has episode summaries, behind-the-scenes information, photos, videos and the famous Cosmic Calendar. The app is available on Android (play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.fox.cosmos) and iOS (itunes.apple.com/us/app/cosmos-a-spacetime-odyssey/id828554532?mt=8).
By Yvette Keller  

"Contributing Writer"  

My “midlife crisis” 40th year culminated with the decision to write a novel.

I wrote over 50,453 words in 30 days, and at the end of the experience, I not only felt good, I described myself as rejuvenated, proud and a better person.

So when comparing the stereotypical midlife crisis (sports cars, infidelity) to mine (writing every day for a month), I’m going to go for all-out pompous and say:  

“My Way is Better.”

These days it’s hard to know when to have your midlife crisis. I don’t know if I’ll live to be 50, like my maternal grandmother; 80, like my paternal grandmother; or if I will surpass them both and make it to centenarian. Like most other appointments in my life, at 40 I was either late or early to the midlife crisis game, depending on which way you were betting.

Early, late, or punctual, it was a shock to find myself 40 years old.

It felt like other people’s lives were ending and I was anxious about where mine was going. And, while some might say I was two years early, “What is the meaning of Life the Universe, and Everything,” came up on a regular basis.

Because of the number of transitions I was going through, I allowed life at 40 to “catch up” with me in a new way.
The devastation of hoping to visit a cousin, but learning via Facebook that she had died days before didn’t fade away quickly. Owning my own business seemed like a bet I was riding the rest of my life on. Yoga twice a week could not re-mold my middle-aged, pudgy midriff. Crying a lot after attending what felt like a barrage of funerals didn’t release me back to my old self.

Big things needed to happen.
I dyed my hair purple.
I trained physically to ride my bicycle 545 miles in 7 days, from SF to LA.
I raised over $8,500.00 for AIDS Lifecycle.

But it wasn’t enough to do things to ride out the crisis, or just to get all introspective ‘n shit … I decided to write it out.

I was inspired by a convention panel at Westercon 66 to try National Novel Writing Month: NaNoWriMo for short … NaNo for even shorter. The convention I attended was in July, weeks after my bicycle trip through California. After listening to the panel of writers discuss how productive they were in just one month, I decided I would do NaNoWriMo … some year when I had a story idea.

Not having an idea didn’t stop me from wanting the recommended text, so thanks to hotel WiFi and The Power of The Internets, before I left the panel I had already downloaded a copy of No Plot? No Problem! by Chris Baty. Baty was one of the founding “WriMos.” Just so that you don’t get lost, a WriMo is someone who participates in NaNo. All the words have to be very short because anyone participating will have to say them at least 5 times a day.

No Plot? No Problem! is an inspiring and funny read. It includes the history behind how and why Baty and friends
began the noveling craze in 1999, but more importantly it contains crucial guidance about why you will have to explain NaNo so often.

Yes, part of belonging to the group of 437,920 people around the world who participate is having a secret set of code words no one else understands. WriMo doing NaNo is a fun way to identify those IN and OUT of the community.

Code words are also great for making people ask, “Rye-What? Nan-Who?” And you get to tell them: “I’m writing a novel this month – Want to hear about it?”

You might be surprised by how many people say YES.

And how much fun it is to tell your whole world you’re doing something crazy.

That is a big part of Baty’s theory of writing a novel: it should be FUN. I really got behind content like, “No matter what your talent level, novel writing is a low-stress, high-rewards hobby.” And took it to heart when Baty said, “To really … understand the books you love … it helps to write one yourself.”

In July I thought, “some year when I have a story idea.”

The story idea showed up in September.

With Baty’s book in my Kindle app, I embraced the fact that I had only the very vaguest idea. I wanted to write about a character my age, dealing with some of what I had dealt with, but also tackling WAY more. I thought that would make me feel much better about the numerous big and small crises during my 40th year. I thought writing might soothe my anxiety when I found myself asking, “What does it all mean?”

Noveling was a clear way to let my “why” and “what now” questions really sink in instead of ignoring them. When a character and an idea presented themselves, I decided I could “fictionally” answer my questions by sitting down and participating in NaNoWriMo. I wrote a novel that included all of my chaos by giving it away: I gave the questions to a character … then suddenly, two different characters. I came up with an imagined scenario, a setting, and added themes that I was struggling with.

Instead of getting into a fancy new car or cheating on my husband, I wrote an average of 1,681 words per day.

I learned all about “pantsing” – writing by the seat of your pants. At first, I did not believe it was possible to write when you have nothing to write about. SPOILER ALERT: You CAN write tens of thousands of great, fun, words with absolutely no idea where you’re going.

Writing can be as fun as a game of free-association. Just shout “PANTS!” to yourself, and write whatever comes next. What pants do you like? How about pants your character likes? Hates? What pants would she wear out on a Saturday night date? Any word, any phrase can become a starting place for MORE WORDS. And that is all NaNo is: WORDS.

Only 1,667 a day will get you to 50,000 total, if you want to ‘Win.’

And No One Ever Reads Them.
They PROMISE.
The idea was so freeing! The words were JUST FOR ME!

I started my novel with an idea and a list of 10 things that I thought might be in the book. That didn’t get me very far. The rest was pantsing. During NaNo it is not just acceptable to write words freely and freely and freely (and even repeat them, if you run out of ideas), it is ENCOURAGED! And ENCOURAGED is in caps because no WriMo is alone. There is a website. There is online support and regional, topical,
neighborhood, local, genre ... groups of all kinds. Groups of people writing like crazy, with 437,920 reasons to be doing it.

I met two or three times a week with a core of 3-4 other writers. We all sat around my house, staring at our laptops and listening to each other type. We didn’t speak much. Sometimes we wore headphones. We typed into what was no longer fearful, anticipatory, I CAN NEVER BE GOOD ENOUGH silence. That soft sound of keys popping up and down became one of the most comforting noises I know. It became a symbol of the fact that I do not struggle alone to find the words ... we all do it alone, together.

In addition to the in-person fun and side effects of communal tea, cheese, and cookies, I became a NaNo twitter feed addict. That sounds bad, but seriously, for a creative writer, it is heaven. WriMos getting together on twitter to “Word Sprint” on outlandish prompts, taking advantage of the affinity with 437,920 people who participate. Never done a word sprint, here’s an example:

GO!

And then you can post how many words you got written in that 5, 10, 20, 30, 60 minutes. You can be encouraged by the range of words, typing skills, and creative successes flowing across the Twitters. Writing becomes a collective sport. And when you are assimilated into the collective it feels GREAT.

Support for WriMos is fantastic. Live web videos, hangouts, and chats. A staff member available to answer questions and respond to crises, either fictional or reality based. Regional leaders who help people get together for competitive “Write-Offs,” or just to facilitate supportive discussions on how everyone is doing. There is cheering. A LOT of cheering.

But the most fun element of NaNo for me was experiencing characters doing their own thing. There was a moment when I was writing as fast and furiously as I could and realized all I was doing was trying to catch up. My characters had left the building. They had an agenda they didn’t bother to share with me, and they walked off and did the most incredible things.

I had been told, but I did not believe until about one week into writing, my main character suddenly chewed out someone who had come to help her. WHOA! Instead of a guide into uncharted territory, that character now had nothing. And she did that to herself. I would never have been so mean – I sent the guide in the first place – but the character couldn’t accept it. The tension went up a notch, the stakes were raised, and all I could do as an author was say, “Well, if that’s how you want it to be...” and keep on following her.

Noveling became an effort in trailing my character like a private detective, seeing what she saw, listening to what she said, and interpreting how she felt without being seen myself. It was an unbelievable journey for me to suddenly be so immersed in my own imagination that it took control.

The way to arrive at the ultimate creative high that I am describing for you is to “… leave your Inner Editor here with me at the fully licensed, board-certified No Plot? No Problem! Inner Editor Kennel,” according to Baty. Seems easy enough, but as one of the fantastic Westercon 66 panelists had pointed out way back in July, it can take 20,000 or 30,000 words before that critic on your shoulder will Just. Fuck. Off.

Instead of cursing at a part of yourself, you can learn in a supportive environment how to kennel your editor during NaNoWriMo. And the skill you need for sending your critic on
a long vacation will be critical in the throes of a midlife crisis. Because really it’s that critic who is behind all the angst of whatever “big decade” birthday you are facing.

So I mean it when I say participating in National Novel Writing Month will make you a better person. It can help you gracefully through a midlife crisis. You should practice sending that inner editor out for a long succession of three martini lunches. Because while you are plagued with a critic, it is impossible to live your life. That editor wants to know, “Where are we going next?” “How are we getting there?” and “What the hell do you think you are doing?”

But with encouragement like, “There’s a book in you that only you can write,” Baty – and every person who has ever been a part of NaNoWriMo – will help you with whatever comes. During and after your NaNo experience you will learn to tell yourself with confidence, in as many words as it takes, “I have no idea what will happen – and that’s okay, because in life, having no plot is no problem. I just show up and the words will come.”
Meeting 1233

March 17, 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 - greenly
21 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1231 were accepted as “Barbara’s zombie cat ate them” & the minutes of meeting 1232 were accepted as “nom, nom, nom, nom”
The Treasurer reported that at meeting 1232 the regular jar took in nothing & the party jar took in $6.72
No Vice President
The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements
Ken announced that the Retrodome closes at the end of March & this weekend will be showing a double-bill of “Ferris Bueller’s Day off” and “Breakfast Club” & are showing “Raiders of the Lost Ark”, the quote-a-long on March 30 & that on March 29 the College of the Adaptive Arts will host a presentation

JC announced that Beth has been named teacher of the year for Dahl Elementary School & announced that Nerdvana
episode 25, the last part of the Oscar podcast will be released this Wednesday

John O announced that Consonance 2015 has new dates and nice guests and is on track & announced that Maker’s Faire will be May 17-18 at the San Mateo expo center & his taiko drum group will be outside, showing how to make drums - there were follow-ons and warnings and a mention that there is a bid for San Jose for the 2018 Worldcon

Lisa announced that it’s Moose’s 25th birthday today

Dave C announced that Norwescon is April 17-20

Adrienne announced that Contact is this weekend

Spike announced that she is looking for information to include in a Potlatch guide to the local area

Howeird announced that he is busy Baycon weekend - so there will be no BASFA party there unless someone volunteers to manage the party

Reviews

Bill reviewed Consonance 2014 as excellent - with very good music - worth the at-the-door full price & reviewed “My Life as a White Trash Zombie” by Diana Rowland as well-written for the white trash lifestyle; that it cost 10 cents and was well worth it and the time spent

John O reviewed “Spamalot” in Newark at Stage One as good talent, great comic timing, good costumes and go see it, worth full price, for more details check stage1theatre.org

Ken reviewed more of Hong Kong as their accommodations were good, they wandered around and saw sights, encountered a marathon, had a monsoon hit them in HK Disneyland & they shopped

Bradford reviewed “James Tiptree Jr - the double life of Alice B Sheldon” by Julie Phillips as highly recommended & reviewed the latest episode of “Walking Dead” as heart-rendering

I reviewed the Hash House on Hamilton Avenue as very crowded, very loud - but the food was very, very good and the place is worth trying out, Trey commented that he enjoyed their churros waffle

Aatheus reviewed the Netflix customer service folks as excellent

We did auctions

We adjourned at 9:30

And the rumor of the week was: “BASFA needs supervision”
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: @sfscalendar

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

Friday-Sunday, March 28-30
Conquest SAC
Sacramento Red Lion Hotel Woodlake Conference Center
500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento
www.conquestsac.com
Tabletop gaming convention.
$45 (See website for other pricing packages)

Saturday-Sunday, March 29-30
Twisted Terror Convention
Sacramento Doubletree by Hilton
2001 Point West Way, Sacramento
twistedterrorconvention.com
www.facebook.com/TwistedTerrorConvention/info
Horror/Sci-fi convention.
$45

Saturday, April 5
PEERS Downton Abbey Ball
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Ball (circa 1910-1920) hosted by the Earl and Countess of Grantham featuring vintage ballroom dance music performed by Bangers and Mash.
8 p.m. $15 (advance), $20 (at the door)

Sunday, April 6
Golden Gate Chapter Vintage Volkswagen Club Spring Meet
History Park, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/
Vintage Volkswagen cars on display.
8 p.m. - 3 p.m. Free

Saturday-Sunday, April 12-13
San Jose Fantasy Faire
Guadalupe River Park , Downtown San Jose
www.sjfantasy.com/
Fantasy themed faire in Downtown San Jose in the shadow of the Shark Tank (SAP Center)
$12

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-Sunday, April 12
GBACG Musical Interlude
Orchestria Palm Restaurant
E 27 William Street, San Jose
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Enjoy lunch surrounded by antique music machines and automata while wearing Edwardian or 1910’s attire.
$25
**Sunday, April 26**

**Bombs United Picnic/Car Show**
History Park, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/
Car and music show in the park.
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. $5 per person, $25 per car

**Saturday, April 26**

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

**Friday-Saturday, May 2-4**

**Corflu 31**
Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center
1021 Koger Center Boulevard, Richmond, VA
corflu.org
Fanzine fandom convention.
$80

**Saturday, May 3**

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

**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, May 10**

**30th Annual Art Deco Preservation Ball**
Bimbo’s 365 Club
1025 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco
www.artdecopreservationball.com/
Art Deco ball celebrating the 75th anniversary of the 1939 World’s Fair.
$100 (Members), $125 (Non-members), $150 (at the door)

**Saturday-Sunday, May 17-18**

**Maker Faire Bay Area**
San Mateo Event Center
1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo
makerfaire.com
Faire for hand crafted items and hobbies for display and sale.
$60

**Saturday-Sunday, May 17-18**

**Big Wow! ComicFest**
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose
bigwowcomicfest.com
Comics convention.
$35

**Friday-Monday, May 23-26**

**FanimeCon**
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose
www.fanime.com
General anime convention in conjunction with Clockwork Alchemy.
$75

**Friday-Monday, May 23-26**

**Clockwork Alchemy**
Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose
www.clockworkalchemy.com/#/home
Steampunk convention in conjunction with Fanime.
$75
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

Thursday-Sunday, May 29-June 1

**San Francisco Silent Film Festival**
Castro Theater
429 Castro Street, San Francisco
www.silentfilm.org
Four days of silent film programming with live musical accompaniment.
See website for pricing packages

Saturday, May 31

**BAERS Mansfield Park Ball**
Arlington Community Church
552 Arlington Avenue, Kensington
baers.org
Regency ball celebrating the bicentennial of the publication of the Jane Austen novel.
8 p.m. $15 (advanced), $20 (at the door)

Saturday-Sunday, May 31-June 1, June 7-8

**Valhalla Renaissance Faire**
Camp Richardson
1900 Jameson Beach Road, South Lake Tahoe, CA
www.valhallafaire.com/
22nd Annual celebration of Magic, Merriment and Mayhem.
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. $18, 5 and under free

Sunday, June 1

**Sac-Con**
Scottish Rite Temple
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sac-con.com/
Anime convention
10 a.m. $8

Saturday, June 7

**El Dia de San Juan Festival**
History Park, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/
Celebration of Puerto Rican culture.
11 a.m. - 7 p.m. $20 (advanced), $30 (at the door), 12 and under 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 Pemberley**
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 14

**Dia de Portugal**
History Park, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/
Celebration of Portuguese heritage in the Bay Area.
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Saturday-Sunday, June 14-15

**Northern California Pirate Festival**
Vallejo Waterfront
289 Mare Island Way, Vallejo
www.norcalpiratefestival.com/mainpage.htm
Northern California’s only pirate festival.
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. $10

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
Saturday, June 28
Godzilla Night 3
Bal Theater
14808 East 14th Street, San Leandro
www.baltheatre.com/events
Godzilla vs. Biollanten (1989) is the feature film celebrating the King of Kaiju’s 60th anniversary, along with live music from Big Pimp Jones and raffle prizes.
6 p.m. $9.99-$14.99

Wednesday-Sunday, July 3-6
Chute-212 (Harry Potter inspired Convention)
Santa Clara Convention Center
5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara
www.chute212.org
Convention for those who love all things creative, magical and inspirational
$180

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
$50

Saturday-Sunday, July 12-13
California Extreme
Hyatt Regency Santa Clara
5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara
caeextreme.com
Gaming convention featuring classic coin-operated arcade games and pinball machines.
$60

Friday-Sunday, July 11-13
GaymerX
InterContinental San Francisco Hotel
888 Howard Street, San Francisco
www.gaymerx.com
Gaming convention with LBGTQ focus.
$70

Sunday, July 13
Strangers Car Show
History Park, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/
Car show of custom cars and hot rods from the 1950s and 1960s.
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. $3, 12 and under free

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
Carnival of the Stars World Dance and Art Festival
Richmond Memorial Auditorium
403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond
www.carnivalofstars.com/home.htm
Belly dance performances, comic book artists and costume contest (Saturday only)
$15

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

Saturday, August 9
Spirit of ’45
History Park, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/
Salute to veterans with a World War II setting featuring vehicles and swing dancing.
12 p.m. - 5 p.m. $5, under 10 and veterans free
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

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**Loncon 3**

International Conference Centre, ExCel, London Docklands

www.loncon3.org


$205 (until July 13)

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Thursday-Monday, August 14-18

**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

Free

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**Saturday, August 24**

**Viejitos Car Club Juvenile Diabetes Car Show Fundraiser**

History Park, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose

historysanjose.org/wp/events/

Car show to help raise funds for fighting juvenile diabetes.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

$5

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**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.

$40 (before June 1)

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Friday-Sunday, August 29-31

**SacAnime**

Sacramento Convention Center

1400 J St, Sacramento

www.sacconventions.com

Anime and pop culture show

$30

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**Saturday, September 6**

**PEERS Casablanca 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)

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**Saturday-Sunday, September 13-14**

**Much Ado About Sebastopol**

Ives Park

7400 Willow Avenue, Sebastopol, CA

www.muchadoaboutsebastopol.com/

Immerse yourself in life of 1578 England in this historically recreated village.

$14 (until September 11), $16 at the door, 10 and under free

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**Saturdays-Sundays, September 13-October 12**

**Northern California Renaissance Faire**

Casa de Fruta

10031 Pacheco Pass Highway, Hollister, CA

www.norcalrenfaire.com/

Northern California’s annual Elizabethan festival.

$25, 12 and under free
Saturday, September 13
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

Sunday, September 14
Antique Autos in the Park
History Park, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/
200 antique automobiles, fire equipment, bicycles and motorcycles from late 1800s to
1945 on display.
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. price TBD

Sunday, September 14
Gatsby Summer Afternoon
Dunsmuir Helman Historic Estate
2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland
dunsmuirhelman.org/gatsby.htm
Afternoon picnic party with dancing, cars and
the Deco Belles inspired by “The Great
Gatsby”. Check website for prices

Saturday, September 21
GBACG Bilbo’s Birthday Bash
Holbrook Palmer Park
150 Watkins Avenue, Atherton
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Celebrate Bilbo’s eleventy-first birthday at
Hobbiton (Holbrook-Palmer Park). All hobbits,
dwarves, elves and humans welcome.
   Check website for prices

Friday-Sunday, September 26-28
Convolution 2014: Halfway Home
Hyatt Regency SFO Airport
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
con-volution.com/2014/
General science-fiction/fantasy convention
   $45 (pre-registration)

Saturday, October 4
PEERS Girl Genius Europen Oktoberfest
Ball
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Ball inspired by the popular webcomic “Girl
Genius” and music by Avalon Rising.
   8 p.m. $15 (advance), $20 (at the door)

Saturday, October 11
BAERS Regency Ball
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N. Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo
baers.org/
Regency ball with English country dancing.
   8 p.m. $15 (advanced), $20 (at the door)

Friday-Sunday, October 17-19
Big Bad Con
Hilton Airport Oakland
1 Hegenberger Road, Oakland
www.bigbadcon.com
Role-playing game convention
   $40

Saturday-Sunday, October 18-19
Folsom Renaissance Faire and Shakespeare
   Festival
Folsom Lion’s Park
403 Stafford Street, Folsom
www.folsomfaire.com/
22nd Annual Faire in beautiful Folsom.
   8 p.m. $16, under 6 free

Sunday, October 19
Sac-Con
Scottish Rite Temple
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sac-con.com/
Anime convention
   10 a.m. $8

Saturday, October 25
Gaskell October Fancy Dress Ball
Scottish Rite Temple
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland
gaskellball.com
Vintage ball featuring the music of Franklin
Beau Davis and the Brassworks. Costumes
admired or formal attire required (19th to 21st
century)
   7: 30 p.m. $20
Saturday, November 1

**PEERS Le Bal des Vampires**
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
21st Annual ball of the undead featuring music by Bangers and Mash, halftime show featuring the exploits of Sherlock Holmes and dark dance music at the Nightfall Club.
6: 30 p.m. $20 (until September 1)

**Saturdays-Sundays, November 22-December 21**

**The Great Dickens Christmas Fair and Victorian Holiday Party**
Historic Cow Palace
2600 Geneva Avenue, Daly City
peersdance.org
The annual Victorian Holiday season celebration featuring Victorian London populated by celebrities and Dickensian characters
Pricing TBA

**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.

### 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.

### 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

### Tuesdays

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

### Wednesdays

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

**CAS: NightLife**
The California Academy of Sciences  
55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco  
[www.calacademy.org/events/nightlife/](http://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](http://www.fanboyplanet.com)  
Live from Cafe Stritch, it’s the *Fanboy Planet* Podcast with Planeteers, Derek McCaw. Ric Bretschneider and Nate Costa.  
7 p.m. Free

Fridays-Mondays

**Haunted Haight Walking Tour**
Meets at Coffee To The People  
1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco  
[www.hauntedhaight.com](http://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](http://www.nilesfilmmuseum.org)  
[www.nilesfilmmuseum.org/movies.htm](http://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

Biweekly

**PenSFA Party**
The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions. Email [commander@pensfa.org](mailto: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)  
Full immersion Victorian-era World of Darkness Boffer LARP bimonthly weekends in the Santa Cruz Mountains  
Time and dates available on website, contact organizers for cost

**Dorkbot-SF**
[www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf](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

**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
**Doctor Who Perv Society**
Wicked Grounds Cafe
289 8th Street, San Francisco
www.wickedground.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

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

**Silicon Gulch Browncoats**
Various locations (see website for details)
www.siliconbrownecoats.org
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month. Noon - 2 p.m. Free

**The Bawdy Caste Presents “The Rocky Horror Picture Show”**
The Clay, 2261 Fillmore Street San Francisco/
The Guild, 949 El Camino Real Menlo Park
www.bawdycaste.org
The Bawdy Caste presents the classic midnight movie the first Saturday of the month, alternating between the Clay in San Francisco and the Guild in Menlo Park. Midnight

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Legion of Rassilon
International House of Pancakes
5403 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Santa Clara
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

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
**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

**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

**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

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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