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Clockwork Alchemy
Fanime
Big Wow!
Westercon
...and more!
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Art Credits

Cover San Francisco skyline by Lucy Huntzinger
May was quite a busy month for me. I attended Big Wow! ComicFest (which you can read about in this issue), Clockwork Alchemy (which you can also read about in this issue), the PEERS Once Upon A Time Ball (which was covered in Issue #153), a birthday party for one of my best friends (the theme was Disney villains) as well as a picturesque wedding of a friend in Santa Cruz at the Santa Cruz Surfing Museum for the ceremony and at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center for the reception. The day was sunny but very breezy for the ceremony and the food was great at the reception, which included a candy station (with bags for keepsakes) and two cakes (one decorated to look like a Google search page and another to look like the sea with a male and female otter cake topper).

Included in all of this madness was the usual costumer’s problems when trying to complete a project without having done it previously, preparing two separate panels at Clockwork Alchemy that I did without a moderator (one on non-English Victorian fashions that could be used as the basis of a Steampunk outfit and another on building a character around a costume), processing photographs from past events and writing. I still managed to find time to read some books (graphic novels count as well as audiobooks) and catch up on a few television shows as well.

The shows that I have finally completed are “Marvel’s Agents of SHIELD,” “Once Upon A Time,” “Cosmos” and “Mr. Selfridge.” I like the direction that “Agents of SHIELD” finally embarked upon, bringing in some of the supervillians and other characters like the Enchantress, Lady Sif, Deathlok, Blackout, Glen Talbot, Maria Hill and Nick Fury as well as tying into the events from “Captain America: The Winter Soldier,” showing the fallout of HYDRA’s takeover of SHIELD as well as revealing what TAHITI was about. It brought several things to a conclusion while also giving a direction for the next season so that there will be some long form storytelling.

“Once Upon A Time” also had a nice wrap-up with the destruction of the Wicked Witch of the West, while setting up the next season with Elsa as the new threat and problems for characters that are looking to be redeemed such as Regina (who has competition for her true love Robin Hood due to complications with a time travel spell) and Mr. Gold as he has lied to Belle about giving her his magic dagger that controls him.

The second season of “Mr. Selfridge” has been entertaining as it has shown complications on the home front during the Great War (World War I) involving war profiteering, refugees relocating and adjusting to a new society, the burgeoning power struggle between the rising entrepreneurial and
capitalist classes and the established landed gentry nobility, the pain and suffering of loved ones left behind wondering if their soldiers would be coming home, the adjustments that society made accepting women into the workplace due to the shortage of labor, the economic impact of the war, questions of patriotism and traitorism, and how life carried on for everyone.

Other recent developments that I am looking forward to are the “Agent Carter” series that will be in January of next year and the second season of “Marvel’s Agents of SHIELD.” There have been a number of announcements for movies as well. The J. J. Abrams “Star Wars” movie had a few released pictures from the set and it looks like it’s going back to physical sets instead of computer-generated playgrounds. I am also guardedly optimistic about the upcoming Superman/Batman film with Ben Affleck. My main issue is not his acting as there were scenes that he did fairly well with in “Daredevil,” but the fact that he is 41 years old and might be playing a physically demanding role for the next decade along with most of the depictions of the meeting of the World’s Finest had them as starting their crime-fighting careers at roughly the same time.

There are a number of short series that have been coming out recently with a sci-fi bent such as “Extant” and “Under the Dome.” It is nice to see the major networks taking a chance on good entertainment rather than trying to make something that is lowest common denominator storytelling or more reality entertainment that is derivative of all the current programming.

There are a number of upcoming events that I will be going to at the time of writing this that I am looking forward to. One is the Northern California Pirate Festival, which I enjoy going to every year. I am looking forward to attending the Buccaneer Bash during the festival, which I missed last year. I will also be going to the PEERS Space Cowboy Ball as a Browncoat.

I am looking forward to finally seeing Peter Capaldi in the role of The Doctor when “Doctor Who” comes back in August. There have been a number of announcements concerning the more companions added to the cast, giving the Doctor two teachers and a student who will be joining him on his adventures. It harkens back to the days of the First Doctor, so I am looking forward to what will be happening in the TARDIS.

Jean and I are also going on a trip to the Jane Austen Festival in Bath, England. It is a fully immerge festival with balls and a promenade with the wonderful city of Bath and its Georgian architecture. We will be taking side trips to see the only Charles Dickens house left standing, a couple of plays including “Richard III” with Martin Freeman and a day at the Royal Naval Observatory and the Prime Meridian.

I hope everyone has a great summer!
Milt Stevens writes:

In Science Fiction San Francisco #153, Peter Lee’s article on “The Prisoner” and the real setting for the Village reminded me there was a series of comic books which extended the original series. In the comic books, the protagonist was a woman with a fiancé involved with Secret Stuff. The fiancé may also have been tiring of her. Somehow, she is kidnapped and taken to the ruins of the Village where she meets the bearded Number Two. I only saw the first couple of issues, so I don’t know where it went from there. I’ve always suspected it was from the outline of a potential second series that never got off the ground.

Jean Martin responds:

I didn’t know about the “Prisoner” comic books. I’ll check that out.

I always thought of Godzilla as a monster that was silly enough to be entertaining. When I was in Japan in the late sixties I found that Japanese fans regarded Godzilla as a national disgrace. Of course, they tended to be more critical of their own works than we would be. What if we consider Godzilla as a metaphorical beast. The giant robot is a metaphor for modern Japan as an industrial giant. So what does Godzilla really represent? Think of all those Tokyo office workers. They are frustrated and crowded together. Godzilla is the id monster of the Tokyo office worker. He stomps on Tokyo again and again. I imagine the office workers come out of the theater feeling much better.

That’s interesting that the Japanese aren’t into Godzilla like Americans are. Your take on what Godzilla represents is very interesting as well.

However, the Tokyo office workers aren’t the only people on earth who feel frustrated. Most people feel frustrated. We’d like to be big and green and breathe fire. We’d like to do the city stomp again. We also feel much better when we come out of the theater.

That’s one of the reasons we love entertainment. We can get our frustrations out and vicariously live out experiences we may never or don’t ever want to do.

The article on Batman mentions Wertham’s book on comic books. I saw the comics Wertham was talking about when I was a kid. I found the E.C. Comics disturbing. As a kid, I couldn’t react negatively to that sort of thing. As an adult, I can say I don’t think you should let children have that sort of material. In later years, I fantasized about meeting some of the people who produced E.C. Comics. I probably wouldn’t have broken both their arms. I probably would only have mentioned that I would like to. The early Batman comics weren’t as bad as E.C. However, they weren’t my idea of fun reading. I liked Batman comics much better when they became less than serious.

Some graphic novels aren’t for kids. Even now I wouldn’t like to read disturbing ones.

How can you not want to be a penguin? Penguins are the ultimate in cool.

I think penguins are cool.
Alternate Empires: Performers and Writers at Clockwork Alchemy 2014

By Kirsten Weiss
Contributing Writer

The knives are out.
The man lunges.

In slow motion I step aside, brushing against him, hand light on his knife arm. A dance ensues, as he tries to cut and stab. But my arm is glued to his, and I shift and weave until we break apart, laughing. He sheathes the rubber knife in his belt. I’m in the Cossack Knife Defense class at Clockwork Alchemy, and I can’t wait for the upcoming class on parasol dueling.

Although Clockwork Alchemy, in San Jose, California, is only three years old, in 2013 Steampunk Chronicles awarded it Best New Convention and Best Regional Convention. I can see why. The lineup is terrific – from Victorian stage magic to martial arts, and from workshops on writing to how to build your own secret society.

And this year the organizers went all out with the details. Signs are posted on gas lamps. One room has a faux library complete with virtual fireplace. There’s even a telegraph office – you send a text and they deliver your messages at the con. Little wonder this year’s Clockwork Alchemy got more than 1,200 pre-registrations.

I interviewed Doctor Blackheart of the League of Proper Villains. The villains have brought a life-size TARDIS (on the exterior at least) and secured a corner in the Artist’s Gallery.

Me: What is the League’s mission?
DB: We’re attempting to make the world a better place, one villain at a time.

Me: How did you get started with the League of Villains?

DB: I was originally retained by Admiral Macabre, the founder of the League, in a different era. The Admiral, unbeknownst to all of us was attempting to destroy humanity, though we thought he was just in it for world domination. And so he modified the world by going to the future, getting technologies, and bringing them back into the 1800s. This advanced science and technology by several hundred years. (This explains the world of steampunk, a world where you have modern technology with a Victorian aesthetic, and with Victorian mores and proper dress and such.)

The Aether Battalion, which was a crack troop of heroes at the time, continuously attempted to thwart Macabre. Unfortunately, they pulled the wrong thread attempting to defeat him, erasing him from existence. When they did that, history changed and you ended up with the world we have now, with technology that is bland and has no personality. A few of us in the bubble – the epicenter of the accident – survived with our memories intact. The Aether Battalion became the Aether Brigade, a bunch of bungling fools. We of the League of Villains are attempting to rebuild our organization but with a more altruistic bent.

Me: What are your goals?

DB: We promote literacy by providing exciting stories that people want to read. Reading and knowledge is powerful.

Me: Would it be fair to call the Aether Brigade your arch enemies?
DB: [Laughing] No, no, we wouldn’t give them that much credit. Heavens! As proper villains, we don’t actually have enemies. We never break a sweat. We’re always one step ahead. And we never get our hands dirty. We are proper villains. We may hire henchmen and assassins, but we never do the work ourselves.

In the real world, the League of Proper Villains is a steampunk club and sister organization of the Sacramento Steampunk Society. They provide costume challenges for their members, invade Ren Faires, and yes, are involved in charitable fundraisers, including Fairytale Town in Sacramento where they play dark fairies.

Doctor Blackheart departs to hire a hit man, and I head to the Aether Brigade’s side of the gallery. After that smear on the Brigade’s reputation, it wouldn’t be fair to leave without giving them a chance to respond. One of their founders, Captain Lucky, vehemently denies the accusation of incompetence, but our interview is interrupted by a member of the time patrol, bent on arresting the Captain for future crimes.

The Captain charms his way out of the arrest. No surprise there. Outside (and inside) the con, The Aether Brigade works as an improv comedy troupe, acting as MCs and providing a comedy dinner cruise on San Francisco Bay.

Captain Lucky shows me some of the tools of their trade – a field alchemy kit heavy on the alcohol, a mechanical talking parrot, and a tabletop time turner. Many of the Brigade’s most extraordinary devices were built by Professor Tittiger, an artist who’s also claimed part of the gallery.

In addition to the Artist’s Gallery, Clockwork Alchemy hosts a bazaar where you can buy clothing, jewelry, and everything else your steamy heart desires. And the convention doesn’t neglect the literary arts. This year, Clockwork
Alchemy set up a Writers Alley where authors can promote their books.

Dover Whitecliff and Vicki Rorke are co-authors of the steampunk novel “The Stolen Songbird.” They’ve snagged a table in Writers’ Alley, and I asked them about their book and their experience at the con.

**DW:** The book is about three young girls in an alternate Victorian England. One of the girls is kidnapped and the others set out to rescue her.

**Me:** What brought you to Clockwork Alchemy?

**DW:** We came because last year when we were writing the book, we heard there was a wonderful set of writer’s panels here. We came and learned a lot, published the book, and now...
we’re back this year. Clockwork Alchemy helped launch our book. The authors here are wonderful mentors.

**Me:** What has your experience been so far?

**VR:** It’s been wonderful meeting other authors and the con attendees. And we’re hosting several panels this year, our way of giving back.

**Me:** What panels are you hosting?

**VR:** I’m doing a panel called *Research? Really?* and another one called, *Okay, I Finished My Book. Now What Do I Do?* Dover and I are doing one called, *Cradle to Grave Novel Planning*, where we’re using the principles of project management for getting your book done.

The author workshops and panels are terrific, but I’m exhausted by the book writing tips. So I slip into a workshop on Victorian and Edwardian Etiquette. This is less lecture than demonstration, and I kick back, watching actors in steampunk/Victorian garb demonstrate etiquette dos and don’ts. Some hints: DO tip your hat when greeting ladies and gentlemen. Remove the hat completely from the head, unless you’re in the Old West, in which case a tug on the brim is sufficient. The better class of bars will have someone to hold your hat for you. But DO NOT remove your hat in “lower” establishments; it may not be there when you attempt to retrieve it. Oh, and hand kissing is largely a Hollywood fantasy – it would have been considered outrageously aggressive flirtation in Victorian days.

Someone hands me a telegram: ENGLISHMAN MISSING IN CALIFORNIA TERRITORY! IF NEWS, CONTACT SENSIBILITY GREY! I can’t help chuckling – a fellow author has sent me a wink about my own steampunk novel, “Steam and Sensibility.” As a writer, this convention has been invaluable to me – not just for the lessons on writing and Victorian life, but because of the friendships developed.

Yes, I’m returning to Clockwork Alchemy next May. Are you coming?

**About the Author:**

Grinding Gears: Costumes and Entertainment at Clockwork Alchemy 2014

By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

The time to get out the alternate history finery came again to the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose on May 23-26, 2014, as Clockwork Alchemy went into its third year of existence. I was especially looking forward to this year’s convention as I had to miss 2013 for work commitments in Ulm, Germany. (You can read Jean’s article on some of our adventures together in Germany in SF/SF 145). I had many outfits I didn’t get to wear that were going to be on display and one was inspired by my trip to Germany.

Two of the things that costumers love are music and dancing. There was no shortage on either as there were lots of chances to catch the musical guests and dance to their music, watch others dance or take lessons. Friday night saw the takeover of the club in the ground floor of the hotel with an opening ceremony/musical performance program called Wind-Up Cabaret. There were lots of music with fan favorite Unwoman with accompaniment by belly dancers, a set by the Nathaniel Johnston Band, belly dancers and DJ music, and the musical finale by the Postmodern Jukebox who covered pop

Unwoman and Belly Dancer at Wind-Up Cabaret by Christopher Erickson

Postmodern Jukebox at Wind-Up Cabaret by Christopher Erickson
Postmodern Jukebox at Emperor Norton’s Ball

by Christopher Erickson

Jodi Ellen at Aural Alchemy

by Christopher Erickson

Lee Presson and the Nails at Emperor Norton’s Ball

by Christopher Erickson

Nathaniel Johnston Band at Aural Alchemy

by Christopher Erickson
Nathaniel Johnston Band Acoustic Set

Belly dancing in the Foyer

Alchemist Tea Parlour Steam Boiler

Airship Races
music with a jazz and swing flavor. The best song of their set was a jazz version of a text message conversation.

Saturday was the tribute to a local hero, the Emperor Norton’s Ball. The dance was held on the second floor ballroom and allowed a lot of space for people to waltz, foxtrot, polka, swing and generally cut a rug. Postmodern Jukebox opened with their wonderful blend of music and created many converts to their musical style. They performed their cover version of Tears For Fears’s “Everybody Wants To Rule the World” featured in the steampunk-inspired video game “Bioshock Infinite”. (A rendition of it can be found in YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKmHsr3f37A.)

Perennial favorite Lee Presson and the Nails was the second band featured and got a number of people out on the dance floor with his brand of big band music.

Sunday was the Aural Alchemy concert with no less than four bands. The first was local favorite Vernian Process and their sci-fi inspired songs. Next up was Unwoman and her haunting cello melodies. The Nathaniel Johnston Band carried the next set with their fusion of hard rock, eastern rhythms,
folk music and jazz. Tribal fusion dancer Tempest joined them onstage to dance to their songs. The band’s best song was a heavy metal influenced one called “Frog and Toad” about two friends having fun. The last performer of the evening was former Abney Park alumni Jody Ellen performing her mix of soulful songs, catchy pop-like melodies and punk rock. She was very reminiscent of Gwen Stefani in look and feel.

There were also lots of chances to learn to dance as there were several lessons throughout the weekend for waltz, blues, swing, the Congress of Vienna waltz, the Charleston and belly dancing. The bands also did a few acoustic sets in the second floor foyer area for people to enjoy and a few jam sessions as well. There were also belly dance performances for people to enjoy, complete with tent backdrop.
Steampunk Proton Pack  
by Christopher Erickson

Corseted Kimono  
by Christopher Erickson
Another thing steampunkers like to do is relax with a cup of tea. For that, there was the Alchemist’s Tea Parlour, which was put in a more accessible area next the second floor foyer. The setup was spectacular as it felt like a tea parlor complete with tables and place settings instead of just a suite like it had been at conventions past. The room had a faux gas-fired water heater where the water was actually boiled and had a fake wall complete with red wallpaper and a TARDIS door. The four teas offered included a special rooibos blend, an earl grey blend and a nice herbal tea. Friday night also featured an after-dinner murder mystery with the staff of the Bay Area Sherlock Con.

It was much easier to find the tea parlour this year as well as the panel rooms, the ballrooms, registration, the Artist’s Gallery and the Artist’s Bazaar (the dealer room). The convention put out street lamps with signs on them pointing out the directions of the rooms and had more lamps showing the day’s schedule for each room. This made it easier to know what the panels were in each room as well as adding a nice...
touch of decoration, making it feel more like a London street than a hotel room.

Another draw for the patrons was the weapons range and airship races. There was a shooting gallery with targets of the undead at different ranges. There were several classes including different sword and knife fighting techniques including the tomahawk, German Mensur dueling, parasol and cane fighting, Japanese naginata pole sword and other pole arms, bartitsu (Sherlock Holmes’s fighting style), Cossack fighting, firearm demonstrations and a class on lightsaber basics taught by the Golden Gate Knights (fitting the alternate empire theme). There was also plenty of airship action with dirigible races and airship combat along with a class on defending your airship and a LARP game where people where shipwrecked.

I didn’t make it to any other panels since I had one of my own on Saturday and Monday and I was busy with the fashion show on Sunday. The panels I hosted were “Making Character Fit the Costume,” which was about building your character around your costume and “Non-English Steampunk Jedi

Steampunk Jedi by Christopher Erickson

Steampunk Sith Lord by Christopher Erickson

Cthulhu Scouts by Christopher Erickson
Costumes” about alternate countries and modes of dress that could be used as a base for steampunk costumes. The character panel was well attended and I talked about building a character and background history, different character types, accents, poses and use of props for photos. The non-English costume panel covered traditional dress during the Victorian Era from France, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, India, Japan, China, Russia, Spain, Mexico, Turkey, Persia and the United States.

The Clockwork Fashion Show was held on Sunday and was a huge success. I was one of the models for the menswear line created by Mr. Alan Jeffries. We did a lot of prep work including practicing our fashion walk and getting dressed. It was announced that the room filled up immediately after the doors opened for seating. There were three groups of outfits. The first ensemble presentation was for one-off bespoke outfits. The second was women’s outfits designed by Butterfly Frillies, and the last group was off-the-rack menswear by Mr. Alan Jeffries. All of the millinery wear was provided by
Strawbanders. All of the models were real people who represented a cross section of convention goers to show how regular people would look in the fashions that would be for sale at the booths in the Artist’s Bazaar. Everyone had fun with the show and it proved to be very successful. Here is to hoping that it will be held again.

The Artist’s Bazaar was full and busy. There were plenty of sellers with various wares including hats for sale, belly dance outfits, corsets, full outfits for men and women, accessories including weapons and canes, and plenty of accents to help complete the outfit you have been working on.

The Artist’s Gallery was a very popular spot to hang out as well. The Aether Brigade had a booth to show off their monster hunting equipment. The Sacramento Steampunk Society had a nice backdrop designed to look like a study people could take photos with. The League of Proper Villains had a table presenting their special brand of evil and there was a table with steampunk contraptions like steam-powered hookahs, musical instruments, antique fire extinguishers, an
antique detonator box for explosives and a steampunk proton pack for ghost hunting. By far the most photographed and popular piece was a full-scale TARDIS that had autographs from Jon Pertwee, Peter Davison, Colin Baker and George Takei on the inside. There were many people hanging out and taking photos with the TARDIS that later showed up on my Facebook feed.

There was also a lot of costuming at the convention especially colorful dresses and corsets. The most interesting was a bustle skirt done up to be a TARDIS. There were a few steampunk/anime mixtures including a Homestuck outfit, Nurse Joy from “Pokemon,” a steampunk Minnie Mouse and a steampunk Sailor Moon and Sailor Chibi Moon. There were a few Lolita skirts as well. You could also find a good amount of anime fans walking through the dealer room and wandering the halls. There were also several examples of alternate empire costumes including steampunk Sith Lords and Jedi Knights; a few Doctors including a First Doctor, a femme Eleven and a steampunk Ten; a few Arabic outfits; Western wear; corsets mixed with kimonos; belly dance outfits; military wear
TARDIS Bustle Dress  
by Christopher Erickson

Ruffin Outfit for Fashion Show  
courtesy of Christopher Erickson
(including a man with a working flame thrower) and Cthulhu scouts. Other steampunk inspired outfits included Wonder Woman, Riddler and Poison Ivy, Mad Moxxi from the “Borderlands” video game, Booker DeWitt and Elizabeth from the steampunk-inspired game “Bioshock Infinite” and a Playboy bunny. There was also a “Once Upon A Time” costume group complete with Regina, Rumpelstiltskin and Belle and Morpheus/Dream from Neil Gaiman’s “The Sandman” with a faerie and a dragon. The most amazing costume was a full men’s outfit with a pith helmet done completely in lavender.

Clockwork Alchemy was an amazing experience this year with all of the music, panels, costumes, wares and the little details of the signs. I look forward to next year, seeing what they will have in store for the convention.
By Robbie Pleasant

Memorial Day weekend at San Jose presented the area with FanimeCon 2014, a weekend filled with cosplay, guests and all sorts of anime excitement. This year, there was a sense of dread and caution leading up to the con, given the LineCon of 2013, and the slow announcements of guests, professional registration and panels, but Fanime pulled through and provided attendees with the best convention they’ve held in years.

For starters, the massive registration line that caused so much frustration last year was no longer an issue. The line moved quickly and people checked in without difficulty, marking a great start for the con. Of course, the convention center had completed its construction from previous years,
which opened up many new areas for people to go and for things to be held.

After getting through the lines, the San Jose Convention Center was filled with attendees, many dressed in colorful and creative outfits from the series they enjoyed. Among the most popular series cosplayed from were “Attack on Titan,” “Kill La Kill,” and “Free,” which meant a lot of swords, scissor blades and near-nudity, which was undoubtedly more comfortable than most in the hot weekend weather. Of course, there were also cosplayers willing to withstand the heat and wear armor, fur and heavy suits for the sake of their fandoms.

For all those cosplayers, the convention had fan-run gatherings, overseen by the Cosplay Department to ensure everything ran smoothly. Fans would organize gatherings on the forums, then set up a time and have it approved by the department to become an official event. The department also offered a Cosplayer Hangout for those looking to rest, fix their costumes and/or escape the cameras, and right outside they could join in games of Cosplay Chess, Cosplay Clue and the Cosplay Battle events.

Inside the Dealer’s Hall, there were rows upon rows of booths selling goods, from DVDs and books to toys, body pillows and all sorts of assorted merchandise. Across from that
was the Artist Alley, where artists in attendance had booths to sell their work and take commissions. On Thursday and Friday night, people looking for rare goods or cheap used things could go to the Swap Meet, although the lines that were missing from registration were back there in full force.

For nighttime events, there were three big options at various points throughout the weekend. The Music Fest on Saturday offered performances from some of the convention’s guests, HOME MADE KAZOKU and Raj Ramayya, who also hosted panels and autograph sessions for their fans.

On Sunday night, attendees could go to the Masquerade, where cosplayers showed off their costumes and performed skits for prizes and the audience’s entertainment. Again, the previous year’s issues made attendees wary, but the problems were all but gone this time around, and the masquerade went much better. Another option that night was the Black and White Ball, a formal event for all attendees to dance the night away while looking fancy.

Throughout the weekend, other events were offered, such as game tournaments, karaoke, speed dating, a maid cafe and
more. That’s not to mention all the fan-held panels, such as “Pokemon Trivia League” and the “Anime Wrestling Federation.”

In spite of early concerns, this year’s Fanime proved a stunning success, with attendees glad they returned, and newcomers happy to have been there. The convention brings in fans from all over the country, if not the world, and it seems that the overwhelming majority of them thought this Fanime was a great one to go to.
By Michael Boehm  

*Contributing Writer*

There was a time, not too long ago, when if someone had suggested to me that I dress up as a superhero and walk around in public as such, the best response they could have hoped for would be a jaundiced eye. But times change, and society changes. The past 10 years have seen a blossoming of characters, genres, and tropes that had until recently been relegated to the cultural fringe – comics, videogames, and anime. Now we embrace these whole-heartedly, and there are many ways to celebrate them. FanimeCon is the San Francisco Bay Area’s premiere celebration of the characters and stories that have taken over humanity’s imagination.

From humble beginnings in 1994 on the Cal State Hayward campus, Fanime has grown tremendously. Since 2004, when the convention moved to its current venue of the San Jose Convention Center, it really took off. In 2013, the convention attracted well over 25,000 participants, and by all estimates 2014 broke that record handily.

But what is Fanime? Simply put, it is a love letter to all the hordes of die-hard fanatics of what has come to be known as geek culture. As the name implies, it is focused around fans of anime, but its all-encompassing vibe accommodates comics, videogames, sci-fi and fantasy literature, and other elements of the culture.

The framework of the convention revolves around seminars and panels. In dozens of rooms spread out across multiple
Godzilla faces a new enemy
by Cindy Tsai

My Little Pony Cosplay
by Cindy Tsai
buildings in downtown San Jose, one can, for example, speak with their favorite anime voice artist, learn the cur boili method of crafting leather armor, or get tips of the care and feeding of a Hatsune Miko wig. There are panels on swordplay, sketch art, scripting, and singing. Essentially, if you have ever wondered about any aspect of geek culture, there is an excellent chance there will be a seminar at Fanime to answer your questions.

Around that basic armature revolves a galaxy of other activities, both official and spontaneous. The dealers’ hall is an extraordinarily busy place where one can browse for just that perfect bit of costuming, or perhaps a Gundam or two. Several
Artist Alley
by Cindy Tsai

Convention goers resting
by Cindy Tsai

Maid Cafe show off the talent
by Cindy Tsai

Collection of Princess Anna
by Cindy Tsai
vendors offered various cutting and thrusting implements for sale, to the despair of the convention security staff.

Across the way was the Artists’ Hall, where artists of wildly different genres, media, techniques, and skill levels compete for the convention goers’ attention and dollars. Next door, the Gaming Hall offered a panoply of distractions for weary conventioneers, from classic videogames to a giant version of Jenga (requiring ladders and tippy-toes to place the 2x4 blocks on top of the tower). Down the hall and around the corner, several viewing rooms offered round-the-clock opportunities to watch anime classics. There is even the always-controversial “Maid Café,” where young ladies wait on tables for customers who have far more than food on their mind. They bring board games, toys and witty conversation with which to entertain their customers, and a good time is had by all.

And these are only the official, organized events. Many would say that the most fun at the convention comes from the spontaneous, fan-organized activities. From parties to hallway games to cosplay group photo gatherings, the fan-organized events are vibrant, joyful and always enriching.

Which brings me to the cosplay. The most visible, in-your-face, oh-my-god-what-is-she-wearing aspect of all conventions of this genre. I remember watching a news broadcast coverage of the DragonCon convention in Atlanta, circa 1998. The news anchor, otherwise a staid and reasonable sort of fellow, completely lost his composure at the end of the segment, declaring all those marching in the DragonCon parade to be “freaks” and “losers.” And yet, here we are, a decade and a half later, and cosplay convention culture is stronger than ever. Who is the freak now.
Yes, it’s about more than the costume. It’s about attitude and preparation and imagination. Do you want to hew as closely to an established character as possible? There were plenty of Tifa Lochhearts, Sailor Moons and Elsa-and-Anna pairs. Or, put a fresh and imaginative spin on an otherwise obscure or conventional character? Alternate versions of Disney characters were very well received at the convention – a Jedi Alice (nee Wonderland) was quite the inspired concept.

The true magic comes from the critical mass obtained in such conventions. Smear your face with red-and-gold paint and go to work at your office and you will get strange looks. But wear the same facepaint to a 49ers game and you will be
welcomed with open arms and a hearty slap on the back, along with all the other – dare I say it? Cosplayers at the stadium. The same phenomenon is in effect here. The hardest part is walking from the parking garage through the mundane parts of downtown San Jose. Once you reach the convention hall and merge with the masses of costumed characters, the scales fall away from your eyes and the true joy sets in. When other characters from the same TV show or comic book as who you are cosplaying confront you in the hallway in character and you all naturally act out a scene together, it is a sublime act of joy and devotion. It is a very modern version of communion.

Which is why Fanime gives me hope for the future. Wait – why would a mad, cackling, over-media-stimulated mass of young people give hope for the future? Because it is their future and they are making it on their own terms. They are taking fate by the reins, twisting it as they see fit, working their hearts out to copy or improve it, and presenting it in a fun, light-hearted, and wholly positive way. Yes, even the naughty costumes (less prevalent than most outsiders presume) are empowering – as if to say: “Here, society, is this what you want? Is this what you like? I am not ashamed! I own this role and I turn it into a source of power.”

Many would not agree. Many would find it cheap, pathetic, silly, frivolous and a waste of time. “Damn, how many hours did it take him to make that entire suit of Halo Master Chief armor?” To which I would bemusedly answer, how many hours did you spend watching “The Bachelor” last year? And at the end of it all, did you have anything to show for your time? Besides an empty pit of yawning ennui, of course.

Fandom, for better or worse, is here to stay. And I know, after experiencing Fanime, that it is very good. The future of America is in the hands of a generation that is smart, sassy, capable and passionate. What more could you ask for?
Big Wow! ComicFest has become the Bay Area’s comic book convention for the general pop culture in the last few years, growing from its simple roots as Super-Con. The convention will always have a special significance for me, as it was about the only show directly in San Jose that I attended and it was the first convention where I cosplayed. It is amazing how much Big Wow! has expanded and still maintained the feel of a small convention.

This year has seen a huge growth in the number of attendees. The hall quickly filled up with people wandering the dealer room floor. The aisles were packed and taking pictures became difficult as space became difficult to find at times. The show has seemed to expand its appeal to more than the local people.

The festival spotlighted the anniversaries of Godzilla and Batman with special events during the show. There was a Batman Museum set up displaying artifacts from the Dark Knight’s 75-year existence. There were many action figures, books, comics, toys, games, posters and Halloween-style costumes from the 1950s, the Adam West television show days, the Tim Burton films to the recent Christopher Nolan movie trilogy. The centerpiece was a replica of the 1960s “Batman” Batmobile. Many people were standing in line just to get a glimpse of it and have their photo taken with it. There
was also a group of professional cosplayers who were dressed as the heroes and villains of the series.

Godzilla was featured as the centerpiece to the Famous Monsters Film Festival with a special screening of the recent “Godzilla” movie with an introduction by Kenpachiro Satsuma (who played Godzilla from 1970 to 1984), Bin Furuya (who played Ultraman) and author and kaiju expert August Ragone. All three were featured guests as well with
their own panels. There was also an exclusive print and cover art for “Famous Monsters of Filmland” #274 featuring Godzilla fighting with Ultraman available only during the convention.

The Famous Monster Film Festival was concurrent with the convention and featured a number of original full-length features and a collection of short subjects that were all entrants for prizes. The screenings took place over both days awards were given for feature film, short film, screenplay, animation and production. The films will also be featured in August issue of “Famous Monsters of Filmland.” There was also a booth
There were a number of attractions on the showroom floor as well. Several gaming tournaments and open game play were going on including Magic: The Gathering and Yu-Gi-Oh. Several cosplayers and cosplay groups had booths set up so people could get autographs and pictures including the Bay Area Ghostbusters and GI Joe. The DeLorean time machine from “Back to the Future” was also on display. There was a makeshift costume photo shoot as well. Artifacts were on display from the movie “GalaxyQuest” including costumes, props and models. People were able to play the video game “Rock Band” making for some interesting groupings. There was also a display of full costumes for the Brandon Lee version of “The Crow,” a female Iron Man, and Batman.

The costume contest was much bigger this year as there were well over 50 entries. This was also the first year that there was costume judging with awards. The contest took over an hour for everyone to be onstage. The winners were Captain Jack Sparrow for Best Male, Apocalypse for Best Female,
Buzz Lightyear for Fan Favorite and the original version of Robocop for Best in Show. There were a number of amazing entries including a LEGO version of Iron Man (with light up repulsors), a Joker and Harley couple, a Black Panther and Storm couple, Jack Frost from “Rise of the Guardians,” Artemis from “Young Justice,” Scott Pilgrim and Ramona Flower, Lobo, Tony Stark and Pepper Potts from the “Iron Man” movies and Tony the Talking Clock and Sketchbook from the “Don’t Hug Me I’m Scared” web series.

The evening programming was a live presentation of the former local KTVU production “Creature Features” with former host John Stanley (from 1979 to 1984). The show featured live stage presentations replacing the studio segments (one featured a rather intelligent and well-spoken member of the undead) and classic television commercials from the era (Jordache jeans, a futuristic kitchen where you still need Mop’N’Glow, a fighting commercial for a cereal with the Scarecrow from “Wizard of Oz” popping into a kid’s bedroom and TV spots for “Friday the 13th Part 3” and “Creepshow”
among the most memorable). The feature film was one of the best horror movies of all time, George Romero’s original “Night of the Living Dead”.

There were also plenty of panels to attend. One that I attended was “Working with Greg Rucka” where artists Michael Lark and Justin Greenwood discussed how they viewed working with writer Greg Rucka (known for his runs on “Wonder Woman,” “Gotham Central,” “Detective Comics,” “Superman,” “Punisher,” “Wolverine” and his own works “Queen and Country,” “Stumptown” and “Lazarus”). They discussed the give-and-take of writers and artists, of building characters with both the artist and writer contributing (as well
the artist being able to tell the writer that they think they are wrong) and the trust that builds through the collaborative efforts of both.

There were several panels on cosplay including making props from inexpensive existing pieces (kitbashing), costuming basics, costume construction, costuming on a budget and cosplay image issues. One that I wanted to go to but missed was “Cosplay: Acceptance – No Matter What You Are or Aren’t Wearing.” It explored the recent issue of acceptance of costuming by women. Another panel that I did make was “So They Say You Shouldn’t Cosplay” featuring several well-known female cosplayers discussing their
experiences with people telling them that they are too short, too tall, not the right hair color, skin color, have the wrong figure and many more things. It was nice to see people in the audience respond to the experiences of these amazing costumers and share their own experiences as well. It is always helpful to hear other people’s experiences that you have gone through yourself.

With the increase in attendees, there were also a lot more costumes. The cosplay was diverse, ranging from comics, anime, science fiction, movies, television shows, cartoons, video games and even web series. One of the more popular
costuming trends this year was the television show “Arrow” including Green Arrow, Deathstroke and Black Canary. There were also several Batman character cosplayers including a Joker with a beaten Robin from “Death in the Family” and a Catwoman in the 1950s version of the costume. There were also a few Superman cosplayers including one who was dressed like Christopher Reeve as Clark Kent from the “Superman” movies and one person dressed as Jimmy Olsen. Another popular trend was the DC Bombshells, female characters turned into classic pinup girls. Other DC characters portrayed included John Constantine, Death from “The Sandman,” the Diana Troy version of Wonder Girl and
Wonder Woman. One of the more amazing DC costumes was an Aquaman when he had his hand cut off and replaced with a massive hook.

There were also several Marvel characters including Captain America, Moon Knight, Doctor Doom, a couple of Deadpools, Lady Sif, Ant Man, Rouge, Black Widow and the Carol Danvers version of Captain Marvel. There was a version of Rouge done as a 1950s party dress. Another woman was dressed as Madame Hydra. There were a number of X-Men characters including the punk version of Storm, Magneto, Logan, Cyclops, Mirage and Bishop.

There were also femme versions of Merle Dixon, Namor the Sub-Mariner, a Ewok, Mario, Captain America, Thor, Loki, Black Adam, Aquaman and Ash from “Evil Dead”. There was plenty of science fiction characters including several Doctors, Marty McFly from “Back To The Future,” Jedi Knights, Queen Amadala, Slave Leia, a Dalek, a Sleestack from “The Land of the Lost,” a TARDIS, the
There was also plenty of anime, cartoon and comic strip characters including Fred from “Scooby Doo,” Tintin and Captain Haddock from “The Adventures of Tintin,” Dr. Girlfriend and Henchman from “The Venture Brothers,” Bolin and Eska from “The Legend of Korra,” Ash and Misty from “Pokémon,” people dressed as characters from “Attack on Titan,” Speed Racer, a woman done up to look like a newsprint comic strip character and Quagmire from “Family Guy.” There were several Disney/Pixar characters as well including Russell from “Up,” a group of Little Mermaid characters, Princess Anna from “Frozen” including a Playboy Bunny version and Merida from “Brave.”

There were also a number of video game characters including Mega Man, the main character from “Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim,” Edward Kenway from “Assassin’s Creed IV: Black Flag,” Samus Aran from “Metroid,” Balrog and Chun-Li from “Street Fighter II,” characters from “Metal Gear Solid” and one of the nurses from “Silent Hill.”
There were plenty of other costumes as well including the nWo version of Randy “Macho Man” Savage, Judge Dredd, “The Walking Dead” characters, Emma Swan from “Once Upon A Time,” Daenerys Targaryen from “Game of Thrones,” Sookie Stackhouse from “True Blood,” Dr. Newton Geiszle from “Pacific Rim” and Mothra from the “Godzilla” movies.

Big Wow! has started to really expand it really showed with the amount of people and things to do this year.
By Yvette Keller

Staff Writer

I have already started packing for the West Coast Science Fantasy Conference (Westercon) happening this year in Salt Lake City, Utah. Although the Con doesn’t start for another 15 days as of this writing, I have to pack early because we will be traveling via train.

Why Westercon?
Why Utah?
Why the train?
Why worry about packing?
So many great questions, my fannish friends, and I will answer them all…

Why Westercon?

My husband and I attended our first Westercon (number 66) almost one year ago. It was chaired by two fan friends of mine, Kevin Roche and Andrew Trembley. As you know if you attended Westercon in 2013, or San Jose Costume Con 26 in 2008, Roche and Trembley GIVE GREAT CON.

In the case of Westercon, which is a “general interest science fiction/fantasy convention,” the Chairs set out to infuse new life into a con that was struggling. With a great staff, they lined up amazing Guests of Honor, fantastic programming, and launched a healthy western region con into 2014!

66 was so fun that I wanted more, so I signed up for 67. Westercon was founded back in 1948 by Walter J. “Doc” Zion Canyon by Mark Bessey
Dougherty. It is the kind of con I personally prefer: something for everyone. It covers “literature, art, science, costuming, gaming, music, television, movies, comics, anime, politics, and any other topic of interest to fans.” That’s a lot to provide, but it makes for a wonderfully diverse group of people to party with.

Four days long, and occurring around the 4th of July, Westercon celebrates Science Fiction and Fantasy in our region of the U.S. As a result, locations for the con are restricted to North America. The con has to occur west of the 104th meridian, Hawaii, or, due to a special provision (fandom loves wacky rules!) Australia (should the Americans and Aussies ever decide to become one country).

Because of the geographic focus, Westercons are often populated by a local fan base. This provides a great opportunity for traveling fans to become acquainted with how local fan communities operate. It is always exciting to peek over the fence into the neighbor’s yard, right?

Especially when the backyard is Utah!

Why Utah?

My husband packed up his Jeep Cherokee in 1994 and relocated from Michigan to California. Along the way he saw every national park he could … including many of the ones in Utah. Some he liked so much that he took other friends back for more camping trips years later … but I have only heard the stories. Utah has some of the most beautiful lands our country boasts, and I’ve only seen Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef and Zion National Parks in REI ads. Sure, those ads are BREATHTAKING, but I want to experience them in person!
Did I mention that Westercon 66 was so fun that I wanted MORE? And, Hey! UTAH! So it was decided that our summer vacation would indulge both Con-fix and Nature-fix by traveling to a single location. An additional benefit of going to Westercons: They aren’t THAT far away, and are usually in great towns or places that you would want to visit anyway.

One of the things that I know I am going to enjoy most about this trip is the otherworldly scenery. If you’ve drooled over REI promotional materials (like I have) you know that those red rocks, curved canyons, and spire-filled skylines look absolutely Martian. Or Betelgeusian. Or Ingjelflarvian.

But they are HERE! On Earth! I suspect that many readers are with me when I say I am not just a fan of Science Fiction and Fantasy, I am a die-hard aficionado of imagination. When I have an opportunity to go and experience the amazing creations of our natural world – the real things that inspire so much awe and wonder – sign me up! I love seeing new things, and most of all adventuring with my own personal scientist, amateur geologist, travel guide, and (BONUS!) the love of my life.

I know I’m not alone in this love of travel. What I’m NOT fond of is traveling light.

Why the train?
A lot of traveling involves leaving things behind. Airlines charge huge fees for baggage and multiple news sites recently reported that airlines have updated – and are enforcing – smaller carry-on bag policies.

That makes me very sad when traveling to cons. When hall costumes, party eveningwear, and historical themed events are the rule not the exception, I NEED MY CORSET. Without steampunk leathers, wig, and tophat, why bother even going?!

This is exactly the opposite of the problem I have with packing for camping. The duffle gets filled minimally – what do you really need? You are CAMPING. Just pack extra socks, underwear, layers to prevent death by high altitude temps, and those enormous, but necessary, hiking boots. Usually when I camp, the laptop stays home, and I make do with paper, pens, and maybe a small sketchbook.

But traveling to camp? Now you’re talking about transporting tents, sleeping bags, and towels. Don’t forget headlamps, and WHO THOUGHT THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA?!!

Packing angst can make all that fun a big drag.

Unless you take the train.

Amtrak is amazingly generous with luggage. Each passenger can carry on up to two 50-lb. bags. If that isn’t enough space, you can also check two 50-lb. bags at no charge. Want even more stuff? You can bring two more 50-lb. bags for just $20.00 each! That is 300 lbs. of luggage for $40.00 bucks!

SOLD! Not to mention the utter joy of sitting on a train, watching the world go by. And for sure I will not mention the complimentary champagne, the wine tasting, the dining car meals with other travelers ... I wouldn’t want my private

Mark Bessey and Yvette Keller at their Regency-themed wedding

courtesy of Yvette Keller
retreat to suddenly be in high demand.

Seriously, the train is an amazing way to travel and even the downside – it takes a long time to get places – provides what every fan wants most in all the world: READING TIME. I expect that I will get 4–5 books finished during our 5 days on the train (unless I spend that time on my own private Amtrak Writing Residency).

No matter what I decide to do in addition to watching the scenery go by, I know that I will be able to pack properly for any event Westercon has planned.

*Why worry about packing?*

Westercon 67 has a lot going for it. That means a lot of wardrobe. Beginning with Thursday, there is a Regency dance. When you have Regency attire, you take every chance you can get to wear it.

Programming includes all the usual suspects: panels, presentations, and workshops on topics I am interested in, like writing, costume, literature, and crafts. It is important to find the geekiest of geeky t-shirts to wear at con. That “Don’t Panic” T-shirt is the best way to make sure other rabid Hitchhiker fans stop you and say “Hi!”

Then there’s party dresses and something suitably costumey for enjoying the Masquerade. Pajamas are comfy for trying to get in a bit of late night gaming after ice cream socials (Edwardian?) and contra dancing (bloomers and circle skirts for twirling!). There is even rumored to be a Near Eastern Dance Concert, so I may try to pack something with an Eastern flair.

Friends I know are planning to wear steampunk in the halls and then change for a trip over to the sister-event: FantasyCon. I definitely want to pack something fantastic to wear across the street to visit with LOTR celebrities and “the world’s largest dragon,” all of which is included with my Westercon 67 membership.

After all of that, I’ll be in the wilds of Utah for four days. Precious space will be used for the tent, thermarests, and bedding. Temperatures at night will be near freezing, but those high altitude days will be warm, which is why camping, hiking and sightseeing adds so many more variables … and now you know why my packing list is a challenge!

Thank heavens I still have over a week to fill our suitcases. I’m pretty sure I can pack it all in just four checked suitcases, and four small carry ons.

Ladies and Gentlemen, place your bets!

Then watch for my full report in July’s Westercon Part 2…
By Cliff Winnig

*Contributing Writer*

No one ever accused Jay Lake of being an underachiever. He wrote multiple novels and short stories, worked as a product manager, was devoted as a father, shared time with friends and loved ones, attended science fiction conventions and blogged.

He blogged quite a bit, really, on all sorts of subjects. Nearly every day he posted a new entry on jlake.com, along with annotated links to articles he found interesting, and a new picture: a moment of zen. Such prolific blogging would have been a lot in and of itself, but Jay also added 10 novels (with more forthcoming) and some 300 published stories to the SF/F field. These ranged from steampunk to fantasy to space opera, most recently in the Mainspring, Green and Sunspin universes. Yet even this vast legacy is like the foam on the surface of an ocean. Jay himself went much deeper.

I first met him not long after he’d established himself as a new voice in short fiction. He’d yet to win his John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer, and his first novel wouldn’t be out for another year or two. With his casual dress — I never saw him not wearing a Hawaiian shirt — long blond hair and easygoing manner, one could take him for just another fun-loving guy, but he could turn his keen mind to a serious topic with grace and alacrity.

Jay loved people and thought deeply about the human condition. He traveled widely. He liked meeting new people and having new experiences. He could speak articulately on a number of subjects and didn’t shy away from the thorny ones. He gave freely back to the science fiction community by teaching at workshops and by editing or co-editing several anthologies, thus helping other new voices get heard.

When cancer struck and struck again, he continued these activities — and more. He made the extraordinary decision to blog about every aspect of his cancer experience. Thus, he helped demystify the disease and its effects on the lives of those who suffer with it, along with their friends and families. In his own life, he fought not just the disease but also its blind attempts to change his personality and the life he had chosen for himself. On that second front, at least, he won. With characteristic Jay Lake exuberance, he attended his own wake, including a Jay roast, last July when he was healthy enough to do so.

In those final years, his regular blogging, fiction writing, and larger-than-life personality continued. He amused and entertained both in print and in person, including a memorable job co-hosting the 2011 Hugo Awards with his friend Ken Scholes. His amazing imagination continued to dazzle. And more often than not, he made it all look easy.
Jay Lake and his family at the 2013 Nebula Awards

by Jean Martin
Renaissance Pleasure Faire Founder
Education & Entertainment innovator

Renaissance Pleasure Faire creator Phyllis Ann (Stimbert) Patterson, of Novato, California, died on May 18th, 2014, at the age of 82. Over the past 53 years, Phyllis Patterson touched the lives of millions of guests at her events and became mentor and symbolic mother to generations of participants.

She was born on January 25th, 1932, in Omaha, Nebraska, to Mildred Irene and Elden Carl Stimbert; her father became Superintendent of City Schools in Memphis, Tennessee, where Phyllis attended Messick High School.

While earning her B.A. in English at Memphis State College in the mid-1950s, Phyllis wrote and directed one of the very first broadcast television shows, Phyll’s Playhouse, and was a DJ on “all-girl” station WHER. In 1956 she married artist and Air Force officer Ron Patterson, and the newlyweds moved to Los Angeles, where Phyllis began teaching high school English and history.

In 1960, while expecting son Kevin, Phyllis and Ron created “Into the Woods,” a backyard drama-and-arts program at the Patterson’s Laurel Canyon home in the Hollywood Hills, and later taught art and drama at the Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts. In response to students’ enthusiasm for Commedia dell’arte, Phyllis enlisted Pacifica radio station KPFK to sponsor the very first Renaissance Faire in America on May 11th-12th, 1963 at a local park called “Haskell’s Raskels Ranch.”

When the Pattersons relocated the Faire to the Old Paramount (movie studio) Ranch in Agoura, California, Phyllis was
instrumental in establishing legal precedence allowing public gatherings in rural locations throughout California and the west, cajoling LA’s 1950s-style bureaucracies into approving the “Faire,” one of the first organized creative expressions of the early 1960s.

In 1966, while expecting the birth of son Brian, the Pattersons expanded their event to the San Francisco Bay Area. China Camp (now a State Park) in Marin County was the Faire’s first Northern California location and was highlighted by psychedelic ethnic music groups and bohemian artists. It outgrew that setting and moved to the old Satori Ranch at Black Point in Novato in 1971. They established the Living History Centre, where workshops and performances flourished in the landmark Red Barn, and thousands of school-age kids came to the Faire Village mid-week for “Workshops in the Woods.”

The “Blackpoint Forest” (Northern Cal) and “Paramount Ranch” (Southern Cal) Renaissance Pleasure Faires not only supported a way of life for many counterculture trail blazers, they became world famous as hundreds of thousands of guests, many in costume, engaged in the rediscovered seasonal rituals of mummers plays, parades, pageants and traditional revelry. “The Faire reminds us of simpler times more in touch with nature and the world,” said Phyllis.

In 1970, the Great Dickens Christmas Fair was brought to life in San Francisco, using the same techniques of immersive interaction to draw visitors into an exuberant holiday experience of Victorian London. Now in its 36th season, and organized by son and daughter-in-law Kevin and Leslie Patterson, and performed in by son Brian Patterson, it continues as a family legacy and popular feature of San Francisco’s holiday season.

The early Renaissance Pleasure Faires have had a visible influence on American culture: the crafts revival of the 1960s to 1970s; gourmet foods at festivals; musical hybrids involving ethnic, folk and psychedelic genres; the “psychedelic fop” fashions ultimately embodied by such popular musicians as Jimi Hendrix, Jefferson Airplane, and Jim Morrison; the introduction to Americans of many British foods and beverages. Tony Award-winning actor Bill Irwin, mime Robert Shields, magicians Penn and Teller, The Flying Karamazov Brothers, and the Reduced Shakespeare Company, all performed at Faires early in their careers. As the Living History Centre promoted the concept of first-person interpretive living history and improvisational theater, its value to the larger world was beginning to be recognized. Phyllis became a living-history consultant for the California State Parks, Plymouth Plantation, Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts, and Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia. Phyllis’s legacy extends to the United Kingdom as well, where a former student produces living history at the Tower of London and other Royal properties.

Phyllis will be missed—and remembered by all those she loved, influenced, inspired and transformed—with immense gratitude and great affection.

She is survived by her two sons Kevin and Brian Patterson; her daughter-in-law Leslie; her grandsons Andrew and Michael Patterson; her brother Vaughn Stimbert and niece Cindy Sands and family of Memphis, TN; and niece Susan Bullock and family of Virginia.

For more news of pending memorial plans, visit fairehistory.org and join the email list.
Meeting 1243

May 26, 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 8:01, according to Adrienne
24 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1242 were accepted as “on Facebook”
The Treasurer was not here
The Vice President was not here
The President had nothing fannish to report - but we said “hi” to Sally Woehrle, the Fan GoH of Baycon, who was visiting us for the first time
[tall] Kevin moved that Sally be appointed BASFA’s ambassador to Cascadia & this passed

Announcements
Adrienne announced that author Diane Gabaldon who does the Outlanders series will be in the area soon and that Kepler’s is sponsoring a talk by her on June 12, 7:30 pm at Foothill College - tickets on sale now - & announced that the newest season of Dr Who starts in August
Lisa announced that the Legion of Rasselon meeting will be at the IHOP on Steven’s Creek near Lawrence, 7:30 pm this Friday
Dave C announced that he - or his mispelled name - is in the credits for “Godzilla”

Reviews

[evil] Kevin reviewed Punk Rock Bowling as it really rocked, was fun, social and held in Las Vegas & absolutely worth full price
Andy reviewed Hogs & Heifers - a Las Vegas biker bar - as a bit better lit and cleaner than many - but still a good biker bar with good drinks at decent prices & [evil] Kevin lined that they wanted their customers to have a good time there
I reviewed the new “X-Men” movie as better than I’d been expecting & worth matinee; John O opined that it was a fun ride, worth full price AND 3D; Trey followed that he had problems with the plot and thought it worth matinee
Adrienne reviewed Fanime as they had really cool badges, reviewed Baycon as quiet when she was there & reviewed the latest episode of “Orphan Black” as great & the series is a “must see”; Mo then said Adrienne helped a lot with Fanime’s art show & Mo praised her staff there; Frank enjoyed Fanime’s art show, Dave C thought Baycon’s parties were slow & his book sales were good - and there were many other comments about Baycon being good but quiet and that it had really good panels this year and great programming
Carole reviewed Clockwork Alchemy as reasonably busy & it had a fashion show, Mo commented that she’d heard good things about the fashion show, Bill had a good time there and found it interesting

John O reviewed “Godzilla” as kind of old school & good dumb fun & worth full price & 3D, Dave C followed, agreeing that it was destructive fun and the 3D was good
And it was agreed that Captain America is hot
we did auctions
we adjourned at 9:23
and the rumor of the week was: “Godzilla - Gamera ready”

Meeting 1244

June 1, 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 8:00, because Trey insisted
29 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1243 were accepted
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $0.85 in the regular jar & $2.27 in the party jar
The Vice President said “hi” and then reported that there are several new issues of the “Drink Tank” out now and if you have any thoughts about Jay Lake send them to him at garcie@computerhistory.org
The President had nothing fannish to report
Dave C says he has copies of “Greetings from Lake Wu” for $50 [signed & numbered] or $25 [unsigned] - because he wants his basement back
The Party Committee is hoping to have a BASFA party at Convolution & there are newer new rules for FurCon parties
The Sports Committee is looking into doing a BASFA outing to the Giants versus the Dodgers, Friday, Sept 12 - view reserve seats in 307 for $33/each

Announcements
Ken announced that he is now a published app developer - applescrumper
JC announced that Nervana podcast, episode 27, part 3 is out now and announced that on Wednesday, episode 28, part 1 will be out and contains many naughty words and announced that he sold half of his art at Fanime
Lisa announced that Jay Lake had passed on & suggests taking self-pictures wearing wild shirts and posting them as [hashtag] jaycon
Dave C announced that tomorrow is a day to vote
Beth announced that on Thursday, at 9am they will become parents of a high school student
Chris announced that the latest “Drink Tank” will come out next week and he needs art for it badly & that the next issue of “Journey Planet” will be about Dr Who
Tom announced that the newest issue of “SF/SF” is out now and it has BASFA minutes in it
Dave G announced that there was a new scandal out of Wiscon about a former Tor editor allowed into the con - and Dave C asked if “his initials were James Frenkel” and got a nod

Howeird announced that a friend of his did well with model rocketry in Washington DC
Stan said “hi” and we said “hi” back

Reviews
Debbie reviewed “Maleficient” as really, really good - worth full price
Ric reviewed “First Kingdom” by Jack Katz as having amazing artwork
Tom reviewed “Harbin Hot Springs” written by Ellen Klages - as a very good read
Aatheus reviewed United Airlines Customer Support as they did everything they were supposed to
Brad reviewed the “Wil Wheaton experience” as not good
Dave C reviewed the new “X-men” movie as a bit shaky in parts, mostly good, worth matinee and that it needed more Kelsey Grammer in it
Bill reviewed “Greatshadow” by James Maxey as worth $0.13 and the time spent reading it & reviewed “Godzilla” as seen in 3D - with good 3D and it was fun
Diane reviewed “Kabu-Kabu” by Nnedi Okorafor as really good and worth full price
Adrienne reviewed the latest episode of “Orphan Black” as awesome
JC reviewed the “applescrumper” app by Ken as it’s fun and addictive - worth full price
Beth reviewed Fanime as a 13-year-old anime lover’s dream & reviewed “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” as fabulous
Fred reviewed Skeptical - a 1-day seminar on skepticism - as recommended
Chris reviewed NewYorkCity as awesome - as is the MOMA & reviewed “Sex Criminals” as the best comic out today
Yochanan says he had a great time at BayCon
we did auctions
we adjourned at 9:46
and the rumor of the week was: “I didn’t realize it vibrates”

Meeting 1245

June 9, 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 8:02, with pie!
26 people attended
A party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1244 were accepted as “meaningful, accurate and concise”
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $12.10 in the regular jar & $12.81 in the party jar
The Vice President was not present
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Sports Committee has 8 tickets left for the BASFA outing to the Giants versus the Dodgers game, Friday, Sept 12 - view reserve seats in 307 for $33/each

Announcements

Ken announced that Rick Mayall died
JC announced that someone else died & also announced that Nerdvana podcast, episode 28, part 2, now with added profanity, will be out at noon on Wednesday and announced that Michael’s has frames on sale and look for him to help you
at the McCarthy Ranch store in Milpitas
Mo announced that she would like more help with her storage unit on Saturday - and a van or truck would be really helpful
Chris O announced that she will be able to attend DetCon after all [Michigan, July 17-20, Detroit Marriott]
Dave C announced that he only has signed & numbered copies of “Greetings from Lake Wu” for $50 & announced that those googling for the online topless coed pulp fiction appreciation society will not be disappointed
[evil] Kevin announced that the Tech Shop is running a Maker’s Faire special for lifetime memberships at $7,000 - or $9,000 for partners [and this is an incredibly good deal]
Carole announced that she won’t be here next week
Bill announced that Westercon is the 4th ofJuly weekend

Reviews

I reviewed “Maleficient” as much better than I expected - worth full price - and there were follow-ons - all agreeing [tho Trey thought it worth “at least matinee”]
Adrienne reviewed the latest episode of “Orphan Black” as awesome & commented that she is reading a book = “Haunted Hotels of the California Gold Coast” as it contains uncredited and very nearly copied material that Adrienne had written and posted
Bill reviewed “A Star Above It”, a LoneStarCon freebie as quite good & reviewed the new “X-men” movie as worthwhile & he enjoyed it
Bradford reviewed Patterson’s volume 2 of Heinlein’s biography as a “must read”
Dave C reviewed “Bye Bye Baby” by Max Allan-Collins - a mystery/suspense novel - as enjoyable, a good read - worth full price pb; then reviewed the Dr Who DVD Dreamland, animated, as not very good animation, but otherwise okay & reviewed a June 1st “last week tonight” with John Oliver as a really good piece on net neutrality

we did auctions
we adjourned at 9:30
and the rumor of the week was: “The steak is a lie”

Meeting 1246

June 16, 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 8:02, with Howeird in a great shade of grape-l
30 people attended
The minutes of meeting 1245 were accepted as “minutes flashing before my eyes”

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $44.00 in the regular jar & $30.10 in the party jar
The Vice President was not present
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Sports Committee has 4 tickets left for the BASFA outing to the Giants versus the Dodgers game, Friday, Sept 12 - view reserve seats in 307 for $33/each

Announcements
Beth announced that Nerdvana podcast, episode 29, “Superdads”, will be out on Wednesday
[evil] Kevin announced that the gofundme crowdsourcing to send tiki dalek to Worldcon reached its goal
Tom announced that the Tuesday before Worldcon the Globe Theatre will have a production of “Julius Ceasar” in the afternoon and “Antony & Cleopatra” that night
Mo announced that Eric Larson helped her move things last weekend and she is very grateful for the help - and that she still could use help - please contact her
Dave C announced that he is looking for input about a documentary regarding a not made film about “Dune” & the opinion of the crowd was that it was not worth buying for $41 & he announced that the April 2014 “Cargo Cult” is out & announced that Evolution Expo 2014 will be at the Oakland Marriott June 27-29
Adrienne announced that she is still clearing out her father’s shop and still has more work to do
Ric announced that Fanboy Planet’s podcast, episode 357 is out and there is a Reading Rainbow Kickstarter now
Howeird announced that Casey Kasem died & announced that there are a LOT of community theatre productions out there
Ken announced that “Apple Scrumper” is still available as an app
Geri announced that California Xtreme is July 12-13 at the Hyatt Regency in Santa Clara

Reviews
I reviewed “Edge of Tomorrow” as much better than I expected - worth full price - and it has the added benefit of getting to see Tom Cruise get killed again and again and again
Adrienne reviewed the latest episode of “Orphan Black” as awesome
Howeird reviewed Atari day at the Sunnyvale public library as fun

Chris reviewed Nina Allan’s “Spin” as an alternate history book and had beautiful language in it
Joni reviewed Google as it sees all and recommends ... poorly
Tom reviewed “Ancillary Justice” by Ann Leckie as totally worth reading and may get his #1 Hugo vote & reviewed “Neptune’s Brood” by Charlie Stross as a rollicking space adventure & is currently re-reading Robin Hobb’s series
Beth reviewed “Orange is the New Black” as the show is good and inspires her to use the treadmill
Ric reviewed the season finale for “Game of Thrones” as very well done - and there were many comments
Fred reviewed a documentary, “Honest Liar” are very good
We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:30
and the rumor of the week was: “The book is not a spoiler”
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.

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**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

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**Monday, June 30**
**SF in SF presents “Europa Report”**
SOMA StrEat Food Park
428 11th Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org
Dinner and screening of the movie “Europa Report” with a discussion by astrobiologist Dr. Chris McKay
7 p.m. Free, but RSVP required

**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

**Saturdays-Sundays, July 5-August 24**
**Time Travel Weekends at Old Sacramento**
Old Sacramento, Sacramento, CA
www.redbarnproductions.org/oldsacramento.htm
An exciting immersive street-theater program recreating Sacramento society circa 1850-1870 with parades, local celebrities, speeches, squatter’s riot, “nickel” shows and much more.
Free

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

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

**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

**Rivertown Revival**
Steamer Landing Park
D Street and Copeland Street, Petaluma
rivertownrevival.com
Festival set on the Petaluma River with music, parade and an art boat race
11 a.m. - 8 p.m. $10 (at the door) $5 (for kids)

Saturday, July 19

**GBACG Workshop: Elevating the Regency Jockey Style Hat**
Hancock Fabrics
898 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Join for fabulous day of workshops on making Regency jockey style hats.. Questions? Email workshops@gbacg.org.
Check website for supplies to bring.
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. $65

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)
11 a.m. - 8 p.m. $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 p.m. - 6 p.m. $12

Saturday-Sunday, August 2-3

**Bay Area Sherlock Con**
Doubletree by Hilton Berkeley Marina
200 Marina Boulevard, Berkeley
www.bayareasherlockcon.com
The Bay Area’s own convention dedicated to the master detective
August 2-3 $55 (through July 16)

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

Saturday-Sunday, August 9-10

**Stockton-Con**
Stockton Arena
248 W Fremont Street, Stockton
stocktoncon.com
San Joaquin Valley’s only comic and pop-culture convention.
Saturday-Sunday, August 9-10
$15 ($20 at the door)

Saturday-Sunday, August 9-10

**Willits Kinetic Carnival**
Recreation Grove Park
400 East Commercial Street, Willits
www.kineticcarnivale.com
Annual celebration of 19th century life featuring a Fair, live music and entertainment, Handcar Races and a Grand Ball.
$10 per day, Check website for Grand Ball pricing
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
$212 (until July 13)

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-Sunday, August 16-17

San Jose Super Toy Comic & Collectible Show
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
344 Tully Road, San Jose
www.timetunnelnews.blogspot.com
Toy, comic and collectible show with guests Adrienne Barbeau and Cindy Williams.
$8

Friday-Sunday, August 22-24

Japan Expo
San Mateo Event Center
2495 S Delaware Street, San Mateo
japan-expo.org
A celebration of traditional Japanese culture with modern pop sensibilities
Pricing TBA

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

Sunday, 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 per person

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.
$45 (before August 24)

Friday-Sunday, August 29-31

SacAnime
Sacramento Convention Center
1400 J St, Sacramento
www.sacconventions.com
Anime and pop culture show $30
Friday-Sunday, August 29-31

**Gold Rush Days**
Old Sacramento Historic District
Sacramento
sacramentogoldrushdays.com
The 14th annual Labor Day weekend event transports you back to the days of Gold and Glory. More than 200 tons of dirt will pave the streets, as Old Sacramento “turns back the clock,” transforming the historic district into a scene straight out of the 1850s. Check website for event schedule.

**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)

**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

**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

**High Desert Steam Victorian Steampunk Ball**
Piper’s Opera House
12 North B Street, Virginia City, NV
www.facebook.com/HighDesertSteam/events
www.highdesertsteam.org/
Bazaar and ball with entertainment, steam train rides, a parade and exhibits helping to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the founding Nevada.
Noon Check websites for event pricing packages.

**Saturday, September 13**

**GBACG Workshop**
Site TBA
www.gbcg.org/gbcg-calendar.html
Join for fabulous day of workshops. Questions? Email workshops@gbcg.org. Check website for prices

**Sunday, September 14**

**GBACG Workshop**
Site TBA
www.gbcg.org/gbcg-calendar.html
Join for fabulous day of workshops. Questions? Email workshops@gbcg.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. $5 (non members), Free (members and kids under 2)

**Gatsby Summer Afternoon**
Dunsmuir Helman Historic Estate
2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland
artdecosociety.org/gatsby.htm
Afternoon picnic party with dancing, cars and the Deco Belles inspired by “The Great Gatsby”.
$70 (at the gate)
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
$55 (pre-registration through September 25), $65 (onsite)

**Friday-Sunday, October 3-5**
**HRM Steampunk Symposium**
Old Sacramento
Sacramento, CA
www.hrmssteampunk.com
Steampunk convention with tours of Old Sacramento, train rides, murder mystery dinner theater, screening of “Serenity” and dance.
$50/$85 (pre-registration)

Saturday, October 4
**PEERS Girl Genius Europan 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-Sunday, October 4-5
**Kraken Con**
Oakland Convention Center
550 10th Street, Oakland
www.krakencon.com
General anime convention $25

Saturday-Sunday, October 4-5
**Alternative Press Expo (APE)**
Festival Pavillion, Fort Mason Center
2 Marina Boulevard, San Francisco
comic-con.org/ape
2 days of small-press and independent publishers and artists.
Pricing TBA

Saturday, October 11
**BAERS The Waverly Ball**
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N. Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo
baers.org
Regency ball celebrating the 200th anniversary of the publication of Sir Walter Scott’s novel “Waverly” with English country dancing.
8 p.m. $15 (advance), $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)

Saturday, November 15

**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

Saturdays-Sundays, November 22-December 21

**The Great Dickens Christmas Fair and Victorian Holiday Party**
Historic Cow Palace
2600 Geneva Avenue, Daly City
dickensfair.com
The annual Victorian Holiday season celebration featuring Victorian London populated by celebrities and Dickensian characters
Weekends 1-3: $25, Weekends 4-5: $30;
Children 5-12, $12, under 5 free

Saturday, December 3

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

Friday-Sunday, December 12-14

**The Official Star Trek Convention**
Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport
3300 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
www.creationent.com/cal/st_sanfrancisco.html
Official Star Trek convention with many celebrities
Check website for price packages

Sunday, December 14

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

Saturday, December 27

**New York Society Holiday Tea**
Site TBA
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
A holiday bustle tea for the most fashionable of New York Society. Once again at the Garden Court in the Palace Hotel in San Francisco.
Costume: 1870-1890.
Check website for price

Ongoing

**Daily**

**Cartoon Art Museum**
655 Mission Street, San Francisco
www.cartoonart.org
Current exhibitions: Pretty In Ink: The Trina Robbins Collection (through August 24)
11-5 p.m. $6 (Closed Mondays)

**The Walt Disney Family Museum**
104 Montgomery Street, San Francisco
www.waltdisney.org
Current exhibitions: MAGIC, COLOR, FLAIR: the world of Mary Blair.
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

Amtgard Game Day
Codornices Park
1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley (Across from Berkeley Rose Garden)
caamtgard.com
Amtgard is a swords and sorcery styled medieval combat, culture, and sciences LARP. The Shire of Wyvern’s Spur plays Sundays at noon. We play on the main lawn or within sight of picnic areas 1 or 2. Loaner gear is available 12 p.m. Free

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

Vintage Ballroom Dance Classes sponsored by PEERS
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org/dance.html
2 dance classes offered: the first one covering basics for newcomers and those wanting a refresher, the second class offers choreography for experienced dancers and adventurous newcomers. Suggested attire is comfortable clothes and leather-soled shoes that glide easily 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. $10

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

**Tuesdays**

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

**Vintage Waltz**
Lake Merrit Dance Center
200 Grand Avenue, Oakland
http://vintagewaltz.com/
Weekly drop-in class in Victorian Waltz. No experience or partner needed.
7 p.m. - 8 p.m. $8

**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. Free

**Fridays**

**Friday Night Waltz**
First United Methodist Church
625 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto
http://www.fridaynightwaltz.com/
High energy dance featuring waltzes and other dances with 2 classes before the dance.
7 p.m. - Midnight $12 for dance and class, $8 class only
### 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 for information on attending. PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host $2. Don’t smoke in the house without checking with the host first. Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

### Monthly

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

### 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

**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 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
The Bawdy Caste presents the classic midnight movie the first Saturday of the month, alternating between the Clay in San Francisco and the Guild in Menlo Park.
Midnight

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

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

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**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

**BAERS Second Friday Dance Party**
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
600 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto
baers.org
Learn Regency dances in an informal, supportive atmosphere. Dances led by Alan Winston and guest callers. Held on second Friday of each month. 8 p.m - 10:30 p.m. $10

**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.

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**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

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

### Vintage Invasion (Vintage Waltz Party)
Finnish Brotherhood Hall  
1970 Chestnut Street, Berkeley  
vintagewaltz.com/Invasion.html  
 Parties held each 4th Friday of the month with lessons in vintage waltz with DJs.  
8 p.m - Midnight. $7

### 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
# 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

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<tr>
<th>Queered Science Book Club</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Au Coquelet Restaurant</td>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
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<td>2000 University Avenue,</td>
<td>4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento</td>
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<td>Berkeley</td>
<td>916-338-2300</td>
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<td>queeredscience.weebly.com</td>
<td>Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/qsbooks/">www.facebook.com/groups/qsbooks/</a></td>
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For even more events in the Bay Area, check out Bay Area Geek Guide: The San Francisco Bay Area Guide to Geek Events & Nerd Culture: bayareageekguide.com
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<td>BASFA SV Boardgamers Haunted Haight Sacramento SF/F Book Club</td>
<td>MGI Boffers Principality of Mists Fighter Practice Vintage Waltz</td>
<td>BA Role-Playing Soc E.Bay Strategy Games SV Boardgamers Steam Federation</td>
<td>CAS: NightLife Fanboy Planet Podcast</td>
<td>SF Games Haunted Haight Vampire Walking Friday Night Waltz</td>
<td>Niles Film Museum Saturday Movies</td>
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<td>29 Evolution Expo 2014 SF in SF presents “Europa Report”</td>
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*Science Fiction/San Francisco* is the monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area – [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com).