Science Fiction/San Francisco

Issue 158
November 2014

SF Short Film Fest
Con-volution
Loncon
Regency Caving
Girl Genius Ball
Japan Expo
Steampunk Safari
...and more!
Contents

Editorial ................................................................................................................................. Jean Martin .................................................................................................................................. 3
Letters of Comment .................................................................................................................. Christopher Erickson .................................................................................................................. 5
Silicon Valley Science Fiction Short Film Festival ................................................................. Christopher J Garcia .............................................................................................................. 10
Convolution Report ................................................................................................................. Christopher Erickson .............................................................................................................. Photos by Christopher Erickson .......................................................................................... 12
Loncon Calling .......................................................................................................................... Tom Becker ............................................................................................................................. Photos by Tom Becker ............................................................................................................. 20
A Time Traveller’s Note ............................................................................................................. Yvette Keller ............................................................................................................................... Photos by Tom D’Silva and Oregon Chateau Staff .................................................................... 39
PEERS Girl Genius Ball ........................................................................................................... Christopher Erickson .............................................................................................................. Photos by Christopher Erickson .......................................................................................... 47
Second Impact: Japan Expo 2014 ............................................................................................ Robbie Pleasant .......................................................................................................................... Photos by Robbie Pleasant ...................................................................................................... 51
GBACG Steampunk Safari ....................................................................................................... Christopher Erickson .............................................................................................................. Photos by Christopher Erickson .......................................................................................... 55
BASFA Meetings 1261-5 .......................................................................................................... BASFA ....................................................................................................................................... 61
Bay Area Fannish Calendar ...................................................................................................... Christopher Erickson .............................................................................................................. 67

Art Credits
Cover Summer’s late farewell by Lucy Huntzinger
Editorial

By Jean Martin  
Editor-in-Chief

So we’ve been back from the Jane Austen Festival in Bath for over a month. I can’t believe it’s already done and gone. After Comic-Con and the Jane Austen Festival, which were my two activities that required a lot of preparation, I’m now very behind on processing photos and writing articles. As well as doing laundry and packing away all my new costumes into storage.

But both were so much fun and life enriching experiences. We may do Comic-Con again next year, but the Jane Austen Festival is probably going to be a one-time thing. There are so many other new things I want to do with my time and money. But I’ve definitely caught the traveling to costume events bug. Well, just traveling in general. I haven’t done much traveling in the past few years due to work. But with my going back to my previous job, it looks like I may be able to do more traveling in future.

I kind of overdid it this year, though. I went to Los Angeles for the Xena Convention and to New York City for “Hedwig and the Angry Inch” and “Macbeth.” Then it was San Diego for Comic-Con and Bath (plus London and Cardiff) for the Jane Austen Festival. I was planning on taking it easy next year but a friend of mine is moving to New Zealand for a year or so and I’ve been wanting to go see Hobbiton again and the new Weta Cave. So I may just go ahead and do that if I can.

Back in the Bay Area, I’ve been super busy with events and activities. So I haven’t had much time to write. So I’m just going to do a mega retrospective of 2014 in the next issue, which will include events that we haven’t covered in SF/SF yet or someone else might have covered but that I want to say something about from my perspective.

Also, while I don’t normally don’t do things on Halloween day itself, there are often even more costuming opportunities during the weekends before and after Halloween. With Halloween on a Friday night this year, I could have done something (there was a Steampunk open house by the Aether Brigade in Alameda) but I was too sleep deprived this past week and I also needed to work on SF/SF. I did go to the mall to buy a screen protector for my new iPhone 6 (which is great, by the way). And I saw a lot of people wearing orange and black. It seemed like it was more in honor of the San Francisco Giants World Series win but those are the colors of Halloween so it could have been for both. I did see some of the sales people wearing costumes and some kids and teens wearing costumes. But I left before the Halloween events at the mall began. The Spirit store at the mall was pretty much picked clean but there was still a long line for last-minute shoppers. We don’t usually get trick or treaters in our neighborhood but I often get chocolates just in case. I just eat them when no one shows up.
What Christopher and I did this year was go to the USS Hornet Monsters Ball. We had to miss the Gaskells Fancy Dress Ball that same evening but I’ve wanted to check out the Hornet Ball in a while and I wanted to do something different. It was a more mainstream event but there were great costumes and live bands. More on this in the next issue.

We’ve been doing a lot of teas this year too. I know there’s a bit of confusion here in the U.S. with the term “high tea,” which is really called “afternoon tea” in the U.K. But “high tea” is so commonly used here (including at the usually period-correct Dickens Fair) that I just let it slide. So far this year, we’ve done the GBACG Tea at Pemberley (based on “Pride and Prejudice”), a friend’s Time Traveler’s Tea (with vintage and country dancing) and tea with Christopher at Thyme for Tea in Fremont followed by a tour of the Silent Film Museum a few doors down. In Bath, we did tea at the Jane Austen Centre (which is surprisingly the best I’ve ever had) and at the famous Pump Room (where they had a special Jane Austen tea service). And just today I went to an Amelia Peabody Tea by a local Egypt archeology society, which I really enjoyed. I didn’t even know such events existed (I’ve been into Egyptology since I was a little girl but just recently started reading the Amelia Peabody Egyptian mystery novels) so I had to go when I found out about it. Coming up is the media tea at Dickens Fair and a holiday tea at History San Jose. Tea and costuming is just so much fun!

At home, with the fall TV season in full swing, I’ve been following the latest seasons of my favorite shows, but am running quite behind. I’m behind on Series 8 of “Doctor Who” (but I’m loving Capaldi as the 12th Doctor so far) and I haven’t even started on “Sleepy Hollow” yet (which I hear isn’t doing as well as it did last season). I’m caught up with “Arrow,” which I love and is just so addicting and “Once Upon a Time,” which is getting tiresome especially with its new “Frozen” tie-in. As far as new shows, I’m really liking “Gotham” (a Batman origin story of sorts with Sean Pertwee as Alfred) and “Forever” (a medical procedure drama with a bit of “Forever Knight” and “Highlander” thrown in with Ioan Gruffudd). I haven’t seen “The Flash” yet but I’m hoping it’s as good as “Arrow.” One show that I like that I didn’t think I would is “Selfie” with John Cho and Karen Gillan. It’s actually quite funny, sweet and cute and it’s great to see an Asian leading character.

Well, that’s all for now. I can’t believe we’re almost at the end of the year! Happy fall everyone!

---

**Join our crew!**

We are always looking for writers to cover local events, conventions, fan groups and the fannish scene in general. Contact Jean Martin at SFinSF@gmail.com
Milt Stevens writes:
I really liked the cover on SF/SF #155. Ladybugs are surprisingly photogenic. Most people don’t like most insects. However, most people make an exception for ladybugs. I don’t know where ladybugs fit into the ecology, but we like them anyway.

Christopher Erickson responds:
Ladybugs are actually a type of beetle that is a predator of garden pests such as whiteflies, blackflies and scale insects that tend to eat leaves.

In SF/SF #156, Diane Rooney’s article regarding the WWI Historical Association, reminded me of an unusual movie I’ve seen in the recent past. The title was “Oh What a Lovely War,” and it was a surrealistical musical with WWI portrayed as an amusement park. The music was from the period with music hall songs, soldier songs and even hymns.

*It seems similar to a BBC children’s show called “Horrible Histories,” which is also a book series. The show features interesting facts from The Great War in a funny tone to teach history. You could also say series four of “Blackadder” (Blackadder Goes Fourth) would be in a similar vein as it was set in the trenches of the First World War.*

The film included the Christmas truce of 1914. Some say that was the true end of the 19th century. Others think it was the end of Christian Civilization in Europe. One might be reminded of Robert E. Howard’s story “The Gray God Passes.” The Christian God may well have died on the battlefields of WWI.

*The face of war had been changing at that point in time with William Tecumseh Sherman’s March to the Sea using a scorched earth policy during the American Civil War and continued into the twentieth century being used in the Philippine-American War (1899-1902), the Second Boer War and used against Native Americans during the westward expansion of territories in the United States. That moment seems to be the last vestige of two armies respecting the rules of engagement and leaving civilians mostly unharmed.*

I must really get to the 2015 Westercon. The 1965 Westercon was both my first Westercon and my first convention. Personally, I like to talk about books. I have nothing particularly against costumes, but they don’t really interest me. At SF cons, they are around something like the furniture in a hotel lobby.

*For a number of people, the costumes are the big draw, whether it be the masquerades/costume contests, photo shoot gatherings or showing off the costume. It is nice when people wear costumes from books, which I have been seeing a bit of with some Jim Dresden outfits and characters from Discworld. There will still be discussion groups about books with dedicated reader conventions, but I think most conventions will continue to embrace the diverse parts of*
fandoms with costumers, writers and movie/television show people populating both the guests and paying customers.

Status in fandom may be a controversial topic. When I was a young fan I thought writers and editors were godlike entities. I learned better. I knew things had changed when I loaned one of my childhood idols $20 to eat on. Even as I handed him the money, I knew he was never going to repay it. John Campbell and Robert Heinlein kept the godlike quality in my eyes. The rest are a mixed bag. There are many really good people in the field. There are also some I wouldn’t let in my house and others I don’t think are fit to sleep with the hogs.

Sorry you had such a bad experience. Writers, artists and celebrities are a large group of people and you can find demons and angels in this group as you will find in most large groups.

These days, neo-pros are like the baby tortoises in the Galapagos Islands. Thousands of them are hatched every season. They all start scurrying for the ocean of established prodom. Most of them will never make it. The seagulls of oblivion will get them first. (In case this is obscure, the reference is to “Suddenly Last Summer” by Tennessee Williams. Sebastian sees God in the Galapagos Islands.)

The saying “You are only as good as your last book” is true for most authors, which can be extended to any artistic endeavor.

Lloyd Penney writes:

It is truly catch-up time. I have here two issues of SF/SF, 155 and 156. Let’s whip this up, and get it off to you asap.

155 ... the summer vacation issue. Lots of things to do, and never enough time to do them all.

Tom, great trip, but even with all the names, I still don’t know where you were. Nevada or Arizona? California, maybe? With our trip to Las Vegas a few years ago, we did go to the desert park outside of the city, and found how dry it could be there. None of had shoes that could truly stand the hot rocks and sands, and scooting lizards kept us on our toes.

Christopher Erickson responds:

The trip was along the John Muir trail which runs from Yosemite National Park to Mount Whitney in California.

Fully agree on Pinky and the Brain losing it ... haven’t laughed like that in a while. And, there’s a few IKEAs in my area, love the shelving units, and breakfast there is good as long as you get there early.

Ikea has nice stuff if you are looking for utility or decorations, not high quality furniture. Their restaurant is excellent though.

156 ... Jean and Chris return! As always, summer seemed so short, and except for a few days, we really never had any hot days. At least there are other events coming up. Just a few weeks ago, Yvonne and I were vendors at a City of Toronto-sponsored event called Suburban Steam ... did rather well, sales were good, and it was a fun day. This coming weekend is the big Grand Canadian Steampunk Exposition at Fort George at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, with Abney Park, Steam-Powered Giraffe, Jardin Méchanique and Professor Elemental ... if only we could go to some of the concerts. We will be there for the Saturday only, and we will bring our camera with us, and take in the steamy atmosphere. (Just for the record, Jardin Méchanique is from the province of Quebec, and I believe this might be their first appearance outside of their home province.)
Good to hear sales went well. I have seen Abney Park and Professor Elemental and they both had excellent shows. I have not seen Steam-Powered Giraffe or Jardin Mécanique yet.

We’d like to see the new Cirque de Soleil show, but ... we are still recovering financially, and the tickets here are not cheap. I might wait to see if the show comes out on DVD or download. We’ve got retirement to think about, too.

We will be seeing the Steampunk inspired Cirque de Soleil show Kurios in November.

So many great shows and conventions, and so much to miss, too. We are now looking at conventions not as cons we’d like to go to, but as cons where we could do well as vendors. In October, we will be going to the town of Guelph, northwest of Toronto, for Genrecon, which bills themselves as a geek fandom convention. I guess we will find out for sure once we get there.

Well, this is why we have fanzines, you can find out about the things you missed and experience it vicariously.

Thanks to all for these past two issues, and now, we’re caught up again. See you with issue 157.

John Purcell writes:

Well, it’s time to write to you fine folks again. Once in a while it’s good to stay in touch with you Bay area types.

I have to say that your latest issue is chock full of con reports and photographs of events out there. Definitely a big “wow” reaction out of me for all of this. I am a bit surprised at the complete lack of letters, but e-zines are notorious for low response in this regard. Even so, I want you people to know that I at least look at your zine whenever it’s posted to efanzines.com and enjoy it, whether or not I know the people or conventions/events involved. The way I look at it, it is always good to see what’s going on around science fiction in all of its subdivisions.

Christopher Erickson responds:

We had a fairly big issue since we had to schedule around a couple of big events. Letters are always appreciated. Thank you for reading our zine.

That San Diego Comic Con thing is huge. I will never attend it, but every year, thanks to the Internet, I follow the danged event via Facebook and other outlets. It is definitely a media frenzy that quite frankly is too big for my tastes: I cannot stand gigantic crowds, so SDCC is right out. Smaller conventions – like the recent Steampunk Invasion up in Dallas (September 12-14, 2014) – are more amenable to my tastes these days. At the end of June, we went to Apollocon, for example, which had maybe 300 at most attendees, and Valerie and I really enjoyed ourselves. Of course, it helped knowing people there, especially Barry Short, who is the husband of Apollocon’s artist GoH Theresa Mather, also Kim Kofmel was there, and others whom I’ve met at other Texas conventions. Frankly, that’s why I go to these things now: to meet friends in fandom that I have known for many a year. Sure, program items are also a lure, but I enjoy the company of the people. They make a con work for me.

Smaller conventions are nice in that you can see more of what you want and feel more involved in the experience, but it really depends on what your focus is. I like the bigger conventions because you can see more costumes (and a larger variety) than you can at the small conventions and they tend to have more resources to put into their
programming and can draw the big names. The smaller conventions are good for the more intimate experience and focus on the more artistic and technical aspects of fandom, such as writing, art, publication and costuming/cosplay.

The write up and pictures of the San Jose Renaissance Faire remind me that next week the gigantic Texas Renaissance Festival begins. It will run through Thanksgiving Weekend, so that’s eight consecutive weekends, gang. We might go one day – it’s only a 40 minute drive from home – but we’re getting excited about AetherFest III over in San Antonio on the weekend of November 21-23, 2014. Since our 25th wedding anniversary is on November 25th this year, there’s our Anniversary trip/gift to ourselves.

It is always possible to go for two days over the weekend while getting a hotel. I know several people who do that so it is easier to attend more than one day and not having to deal with the drive. The main one up here runs for five weeks in September and early October. The one I really want to visit is the Minnesota Renaissance Festival, which is for seven weeks from the middle of August until late September. It is billed as the largest ren faire (not sure if it is by total attendance, size of crew or the size of the area) and it has a huge number of entertainments. The website states that singer Jason Mraz worked there for a summer and Penn and Teller performed their first show in 1975 there.

You know, that pretty much covers it this time around. Again, I thank you for pubbing yer ish, as the saying goes, and look forward to the next edition to see what you folks are up to in California and environs.

Lloyd Penney writes:
Many thanks for SF/SF 157, and I am sure there’s lots to say about the contents. I don’t think I’ve had the chance before, but congratulations on your masquerade win at ComicCon. More to come...

Christopher responds:
Thank you. It was a lot of effort by a lot of people, similar to herding cats in a lot of ways. As with anything, it came together at the right moment.

We rarely watch “Doctor Who,” but we have seen a couple of this season’s episodes. The Capaldi Doctor seems rather grumpy, but he wouldn’t be the first. Many love this Doctor, and some seem to despise him, and nothing in between.

The Twelfth Doctor has some similar traits to the First Doctor and the Sixth Doctor, namely the brusqueness, bombast, mood swings and wit. They both eventually mellowed somewhat. We can see that he is both playful and serious at the same time. I think both the character and the fans will come to the middle.

Glad to see you’re enjoying some classic science fiction. That’s about all I read these days, and I have always enjoyed Isaac Asimov’s and Arthur C. Clarke’s works, plus many more. That’s what I’ve got on my to-be-read shelf right now, and I need to get back to it.

“I, Robot”, “2001” and “Stranger in a Strange Land” are all on my list of future reads. I will probably be working through some Charles Dickens as well.

Comic-Con ... always too big for us. Even the big pro cons here are too big, so I will read about them, but never attend them. Good to see that a Muppet-style puppeteer was there as an excellent Red from Fraggle Rock. We met Jim Henson at
Worldcon many years ago, and we asked about Fraggle Rock ... he said we must be from Canada, because Fraggle Rock was being produced and shown only in Toronto, and only Canadians would have seen it at the time.

There have been some other puppets I have seen throughout the years at Comic-Con. There was also a Fozzie the Bear and Kermit the Frog pair this year along with another puppet. I also saw a Gonzo and Reporter Kermit on separate days in 2010.

The Toronto International Film Festival has its own building in the heart of downtown Toronto, and starting with Hallowe’en is a retrospective of the films of Stanley Kubrick. We plan to tour the exhibits there, but one other event we are looking forward to is a showing of “2001: A Space Odyssey,” with none other than Gary Lockwood and Keir Dullea in attendance, commenting on their experiences in making the film.

A Stanley Kubrick retrospective would be great because you can see all of his films in a short time. I have seen about half of them. One of his underrated films is “The Killing,” which is an excellent film noir about a robbery of a race track.

Next weekend is our next convention, Genrecon 2014 in Guelph. We’ve never been to it, but we have a dealer’s table there, and we hope to have some fun, meet old friends and make a few dollars. Also, Lev Grossman’s final Magicians trilogy book has come out, and he will be attending the first annual Toronto International Book Fair, where I hope to get an autograph and maybe remind him of the great party in Reno.

Sounds like a fun event.

Done for the moment ... many thanks, and looking forward to the next issue.
By Christopher J Garcia
Editor Emeritus

It took me months to watch all the movies. More than 500 submissions from EVERYWHERE! Dozens of European films, Asian films, South American films, Middle Eastern, South African, even a couple from countries I am fairly certain no longer exist. So many films that I was overwhelmed, but made my way through them all. As often happens, there was a cut between the really good and the really bad when it comes to the technological aspects. An amazing Indonesian zombie story would have easily made the cut if not for the fact that 1/2 the film was almost unseeable due to poor lighting. Incredible Serbian movies by a young filmmaker were all marred by sound levels that meandered all across the board. The viewing to build the list of films to show is always the hardest part ... well, until you realise that there are three times as many films worth showing as you have time for!

And then it gets tough. You’ve watched 500 short films, and now you’ve got to re-watch 40 or 50 of them to decide which ones get shown. You’ll watch ‘em all and narrow it down to a simple 30, and then re-watch ‘em all again. I was lucky to have Vanessa helping out, as she made comments and points that I never would have caught, thus making it easier to say “no” to many, and “yes” to the select few.

We gathered 20 films, all of them stellar in very different ways. They were among the best Science Fiction (and Fantasy, truth be told) films I’ve ever seen. The first thing you notice when you look at the list of films is that there ain’t a lot of America on there. There’s France, Spain (which submitted something like 30 films, the most of any country), Russia, Mexico, Israel, The Netherlands, Australia, North Korea (!) and Iran, but only three US films. Part of that was I used a service called FestHome, which is far more popular in Europe than in the US, where almost every filmmaker submits to festivals through a service called WithoutABox. Still, I was expecting more, though what we got was great.

The films covered everything from travel (the wonderful “Sorry About Tomorrow”) to teleportation (“Shift”), to Aliens (“Bendito Machine V – Pull the Trigger”) to Robots. LOTS OF ROBOTS! “Requiem for a Robot” was one that I fell in love with from a Columbia student. It had the best tagline – “What’s to become of the drunken robot?” It starts off very lighthearted, but ends darker than just about any film we showed. All the Robots featured a bully robot and a group of smaller robots who stand up to it, but also don’t become the bully when they finally get the chance. “SROBOTS” is a wonderful story of what happens when you mess with a mechanical marvel.

Admittedly, I did not stay as close to the line of Science Fiction as I might have. While I did decline a few films for not being science fictional enough, one about a Yeti who trains to be an assassin particularly hurt, I did stretch things a bit for...
films like “Silence,” a “locked-in-a-haunted-house” kind of story set in a French library. The wonderful animation “The Swamp King” details a bunch of frogs and their admiration for a God-like balloon. “Dring of the Dead” is a zombie film, and “Dark Shadows” is Noir, more or less.

Of course, it wouldn’t be science fiction without documentaries, right? We’ve got one-and-a-half. “APOLLO – A 16mm Adventure” is a documentary about the moon landing that is experimental and wonderful. “The 1up Fever” is the half, as we’re never quite sure what’s real and fake in it, but at the same time, it doesn’t matter because it’s such a great story!

The winners of the awards this year are wonderful! The Best Animation went to “Bendito Machine V – Pull the Trigger,” while Best Music went to “The 1up Fever,” which also took home Best Effects. Best Direction went to “Shift,” and The Golden Marlin award for Best Film went to “Sorry About Tomorrow,” which also won the Audience Award at the first screening!
September saw the return of the Bay Area’s newest convention, Con-Volution, to the Hyatt SFO hotel in Burlingame on September 26-28, 2014. The convention has come to mark the close of the local convention circuit for the year and has established itself as a nice relaxed gathering of friends and colleagues for one last show in the fall season.

The convention changed themes to a space opera/science fiction one dubbed “Halfway Home” for this year from the previous fantasy themes the two conventions prior (which were an urban fantasy landscape and “Labyrinth” inspired theme).

As such, there was a bigger emphasis on space exploration with the décor. The registration booth was covered with

*Spaceship Backdrop* by Christopher Erickson

*Glove Box* by Christopher Erickson
posters and images of science fiction movies and shows in pinup style, vacation advertisements and safety signs. There was also a lot of props and backdrops throughout the hotel that was reminiscent of sets from 1960s and 1970s science fiction movies such as “Alien” and “2001: A Space Odyssey.” There was a hydroponic oxygen generator, a bank of control terminals similar to the classic set of “Star Trek” (complete with plastic jar lids as dials) and a glove box with specimens inside constructed out of clear plastic and PVC piping. A specimen of the last known tree on Earth could also be seen.

There was an old-fashioned chalkboard showing the arrival and departures of spaceships into dock. The main stage in the pool pavilion also featured blaster cannons on the sides as accent pieces. The backdrops behind some of the fan tables as well as the autograph table looked as if they came off the set of the Satellite of Love from “Mystery Science Theater 3000” or from “Red Dwarf.”

There was a fan photography area with backdrops where people could pose and have their picture taken by a professional photographer. One of the backdrops was an
airlock. Another was a cargo area with a number of crates and miscellaneous items such as a beach ball and space vermin.

There were a number of costumes in keeping with the new motif. There were several elegantly dressed ladies in eveningwear with sashes proclaiming which planet they were competing for in an intergalactic beauty pageant including Miss Barsoom ("John Carter of Mars"), Miss Magrathea ("Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy"), Miss Gallifrey ("Doctor Who") and Miss Grayson (Honor Harrington). There was an original series Klingon. There were a number of "Star Trek" uniforms throughout the convention as well. Members of the crew of the Serenity ship could also be seen. There were also members of the 501st Legion in costume who were helping to raise money for charity by letting people shoot at Darth Vader. A few people were in the standard issue pants and undershirt seen on the Galactica.

There were plenty of other costumes outside of the space theme such as the Dr. Hermann Gottlieb and Dr. Newton Geiszler from “Pacific Rim,” Thor and Loki, Wonder Woman, Ash Ketchum from “Pokemon,” Solid Snake from “Metal Gear Solid” and Velma from “Scooby Doo.” There were plenty of Steampunk outfits that could be found. The most
exciting cosplay were ones that were not science fiction like the Tyler Durden from “Fight Club,” the hunter who shot Bambi’s mother and Abby from “NCIS.”

There was also lots of gaming. There were three separate LARP (live action role play) sessions (Pokemon, superheroes and Firefly). A starship simulation game called Artemis was where groups of people could pilot a vessel in battle. There was also plenty of traditional gaming with card games, tabletop role playing and board games. There was a charity bingo game as well as a Texas Hold-Em Poker tournament.

The main evening program was the first ever Masquerade for the show. There were only 11 entries for the contest, but each of them was of high quality. The contestants included Tauriel from “The Hobbit” movies, Gaff from “Blade Runner,” the Amazonia version of Wonder Woman, a Twi’lek Jedi Knight done all in crotchet (including the light saber), a Plague doctor, a representation of the universe, a video game inspired set of warrior armor, Morpheus from “Sandman: The Dream Hunters,” a Daenerys Targaryen, and a gender reversal for Han and Leia. The halftime show was the popular Bards
Amazonia Wonder Woman
by Christopher Erickson

Gaff from “Blade Runner”
by Christopher Erickson

Tauriel
by Christopher Erickson

Galaxy
by Christopher Erickson
Cloak of Tales by published author M. Todd Gallowglas. He explained that he is a gleeman (an Irish wandering poet that performed at festivals and towns) and his cloak had swatches for each of his stories. He performed his ultimate story about three wishes a poor blacksmith obtained and used to trick the Devil.

The Guests of Honor list was impressive including science fiction and fantasy author Tanya Huff, artist Jeff Sturgeon, bestselling author Michael A. Stackpole and science advisor Dr. Kevin R. Grazier. The toastmistress was actor/director/artist/singer Taunya Gren. Other featured guests included critic/blogger Carrie Sessarego and author Todd McCaffrey.

There was a special Thursday night program organized by book reading group SF in SF with several of the author guests reading selections from their published works. The author reading was open to the public and benefited the Chabot Space Center.

There were plenty of panels throughout the convention. There was even some late night ones on Friday including the "Doctor Who: 50 Years and Still Going Strong" forum that I was a panelist and Jean moderated. There was also a bedtime stories session for the younger convention goers and an adult book reading entitled "Your Book is Why Daddy Drinks."

Other program tracks included science panels, discussions of gender and diversity issues, crafting and costuming, blogging, alternate sexuality in science fiction, fandom, writing and publication and fighting demonstrations. Nerdvana and
Fanboy Planet also did podcasts from the convention. There were plenty of author readings as well.

Other programming included a short film festival of science fiction and fantasy subjects. [Editor’s note: See Christopher J Garcia’s article in this issue about this festival that he organized.] There were also lots of opportunities to seek autographs from convention guests. There were activities for the young ones in designated playzones with arts and crafts activities, games and science lessons.

At the closing ceremonies, the dates and theme for 2015 were announced and so we should see the latest Bay Area convention grow further next year with all of the balanced activities focusing on comics, gaming, science fiction, fantasy and other fandoms. This has quickly become one of the events that I look forward to every year.
Loncon Calling

By Tom Becker
Member, FWA

Loncon 3, the 72nd World Science Fiction Convention, was held August 14–18 at the ExCeL Centre in London. It was the largest Worldcon ever, or the second largest, depending on how you count it. It was very well organised, not just that it ran smoothly, but that it presented a distinctly British and fannish flavour. It was a classic British fannish convention that just happened to be really big.

My spouse, Spike, was the North American agent for the London in 2014 bid. After three years of bidding, London won, and Spike moved over to a staff position as the guest of honour liaison. It was a wonderful surprise to find out that one of the guests of honour was Jeanne Gomoll, a dear friend. She also happens to be the person who got Spike into fandom, back in Madison. Among her many accomplishments, Jeanne has been a Hugo-nominated fan editor and fan artist, and she won TAFF in 1987, traveling to Conspiracy in Brighton. Jeanne has been a major influence on Spike’s involvement in fanzines and her many friendships with European fans. Indirectly, through Spike, Jeanne has been a major influence on me too.

London

Fast-forwarding to the con, we arrived in London the Sunday before Worldcon. We were met at the airport by the local fans Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer, who guided us on the train and the Underground to our hotel. Mark and Claire are extremely nice people as well as extraordinary fanneditors. When they met us they had already bought our train tickets, and Mark had gotten us local UK phone SIMs.

Our plan was to stay with Jeanne and Scott, Jeanne’s partner, for a couple of days in central London near the museums and the theatres, before moving out to Docklands for the convention. I found the Ampersand, a nice hotel in South Kensington.
Kensington that was near the Underground station, had a natural history-themed decor, and was not terribly expensive (by London standards). It was a nice neighbourhood. There was a charming statue of Béla Bartók who lived nearby.

When we arrived, Jeanne and Scott were already there. Actually, Jeanne’s luggage had already been staying there for over a week. The hotel kindly stored some of their bags while they toured around. We also found Australian fan Justin Ackroyd hanging around the hotel. Justin was staying with Mark and Claire and this seemed like a great chance to hang out with him before we all got sucked into the whirlwind of the convention. We gathered in the bar, where I endeavoured to install our new phone SIMs, in spite of my having left the special opening tool back at home. Fortunately, Claire came through with a genuine paper clip which did the trick. We reminisced about the good old days when you needed a paper clip to eject a stuck floppy disk from the Macintosh and how it was good that Apple was carrying on that tradition in its smartphones. Then we went across the street to a nice Indian restaurant where we had some unexceptional curry.

Monday started with breakfast in the hotel bar. There are few things that fill me with dread as much as a British breakfast, but we needed to eat before we set out for the day, and I figured that at least I could get some toast and coffee. It turned out that the hotel is under French management, and there was actual good food for breakfast. Jeanne and I both ordered the poached eggs with avocado and chorizo. Spike got a Turkish figs and yogurt. On a lark, she ordered the English
muffins, which everyone knows do not exist in England. Maybe they were crumpets.

First up we went to the British Library to see “Comics Unmasked – Art and Anarchy in the UK”. It showed cartoons and comics from the 1400s to the present day. I particularly liked seeing original Hogarth drawings and being able to read an original Neil Gaiman script for “Sandman” (including a charming cover letter for the artist). There were two main themes to the exhibit. One was to make a case for the vitality and relevance of the British comic artistic tradition, which it did convincingly. The other was to examine the complex and often different social and political aspects of comics. These themes came together in the way that the Guy Fawkes masks from “V for Vendetta” became the symbol of the Occupy movement. Here and there around the exhibit were mannequins in jeans and hoodies wearing Guy Fawkes masks. And if you wanted a “V for Vendetta” mask for your own, you could buy one in the gift shop.

The Victoria & Albert Museum was near our hotel (not coincidentally) and had a special exhibit that looked interesting. So there we went next. We walked for a few blocks in an underground passageway from the South Kensington Station towards the Royal Albert Hall. The V&A

www.forbiddenplanet.co.uk/blog/2014/exhibitions-james-reports-from-the-british-librarys-superb-comics-unmasked/
had a nifty sign that was also a mobile. Once in the museum, we walked quite a ways further trying to find the exhibit and where we could buy tickets. Eventually we found it just off the main lobby, and it turned out to be free. “Disobedient Objects” is an exhibit of art and design by protest and resistance movements. It included a road sign banning corrupt government officials from an Indian village, a gas mask made out of a soda bottle (from the recent Turkish protests), and many buttons, zines, posters, and cleverly designed tools. I particularly liked the large padded shields decorated to look like book covers. Nothing says non-violent resistance better than a book.

In the gift shop we ran into Tracy Benton and Bill Bodden from Madison, Wisconsin. They are editors of the very fine fanzine “Wabe”, of which I hope to see more issues some day.

www.vam.ac.uk/blog/section/disobedient-objects
collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O130818/blue-mountains-and-green-rivers-kimono-with-storage-tsuchiya-yoshinori/
Of course they were here for the Worldcon. We had a nice chat. Then, with a little bit of time left before tea, we all split up to see different areas of the museum. Walking quickly, I looked at the Arabian gallery, China, Japan, Ironwork, Renaissance England, Renaissance Europe and Medieval Europe. I particularly liked the modern Chinese and Japanese art — it’s not all old stuff.

We had High Tea at our hotel, then it was off to the theatre district. Jeanne and Scott love the theatre, and we got tickets ahead of time to see the stage production of “Shakespeare in Love”. It was great. The best acting was by David Oakes, who was superb as Christopher Marlowe, but it was fine acting by all. It was a musical, of sorts, with musicians playing and singing Renaissance-style music on stage. They had a counter-tenor with an exquisite voice. Every time he sang, time stopped.
On the way back to our hotel, I saw a poster for Robin Hobb’s latest fantasy novel.

Tuesday I had another breakfast that couldn’t be beat, with Jeanne and Scott. Then it was time for us to go our separate ways. Jeanne and Scott went off to see more museums and plays, while Spike and I checked out and moved to the ALoft hotel where we were staying for Worldcon. It was simple really. We walked to South Kensington Station, took the Piccadilly Line to Green Park, transferred to the Jubilee Line, then at Canning Town transferred to the Docklands Light Rail, which took us to the ExCeL Centre. Except we didn’t want to get off at the ExCeL stop. We got off at the Prince Regent
stop, which is at the other end of the ExCeL. Otherwise we would have had to walk a 1/2 mile, through the ExCeL, to get to the end where they were having the Worldcon. It was interesting. The centre was built for the Olympics, but construction in the area was far from finished. Here’s a view from the ExCeL Centre. On the left is a hotel. Just next to it, you can see the red cars of a DLR train, headed into town. In the centre is another hotel, then on the right is one end of the ship basin for the old Victoria Docks. Behind that is a bridge. And behind the bridge is the London City Airport. If you look closely you can see the jets parked at the terminal. The scale is mind boggling.

When we got to our hotel, I left our bags with Spike to check in, and turned around and got back on the Underground, because I had a play to catch. I wanted to see a Shakespeare play at the Globe Theatre, and there was a matinee of “Julius Caesar” that afternoon, and groundling (standing) tickets were only £5. The beauty of being a groundling at the Globe is that the standing area is in the middle of the theatre, between the seats and the stage. The mosh pit, as it were. Much of “Julius Caesar” is set on the streets of Rome. The play starts with a street festival of the feast of Lupercal. After (spoiler alert) Caesar is killed, Brutus and Mark Antony each make their famous speeches to the plebeian rabble. And I was right there. The production made good use of the theatre. For the street
scenes, the actors entered through the crowd, Caesar’s entourage elbowing us aside. During the speeches, actors would pop up from within the crowd and shout out their lines. It really gave me a good sense of the volatility of Roman politics. In the second half, the gods inflict a harsh justice on the conspirators, driving them first into confusion and then disarray, despair and death. Caesar’s Ghost was seriously badass. And then it was over. The players came out and made their bows, and then they danced a jig, and bowed again, and danced some more and then the rain started to fall and it was time to go.

I got back to the ExCeL Centre and found Spike working on guest of honour stuff. There was a question about whether some chairs would be okay for guests of honour to sit in on stage. I went up to the Green Room, found the chairs, took a picture, came back and showed it to Spike. I love living in the future. It turned out I was just in time join up with Mark and Claire who took us to a pub for craft beer tasting and fannish conversation. So it was back on the Underground yet again. Curiously, our walk from the station took us past every pub that has been a location for the fannish first Thursday gatherings, including the One Tun pub where it started.

A good online text of “Julius Caesar” is at www.folgerdigitaltexts.org/?chapter=5&play=JC&loc=p7
Eventually we got to the Craft Beer pub on Leather Lane. It was a friendly place with very interesting beers on tap. Upstairs we found Jim de Liscard, Mieke and Randy Byers, all from Croydon (temporarily for Randy). Together with Mark and Claire and Spike and myself, we managed to order one of every beer on the menu, and everyone got a taste.

On the way back, we passed through West Ham station, and I thought there has to be a place called Scary Ham somewhere in England. Although it’s probably spelled “Scarham” and pronounced “scrum”. If I ever find it I’m going to send a picture to Ellen Klages.

Wednesday I helped with convention setup. The main hall used by the convention was a split level. The art show, dealers and exhibits were up on the first floor. The fan village was at ground level. The first thing I did was move a truckload of sectional sofas from one end of the fan village, where they had been dropped off, to the other end where they needed to be. First I went upstairs to exhibits and found a spare cart. Then some other fans appeared and we started moving the chairs. Finally another fan came by and told us how to do it right,
after which things went much faster. The next thing I worked on was helping to erect the roof for the bandstand. Loncon was going to have live concerts in the fan village. A fan had built the frame for the bandstand in sections. The walls were up, and we just needed to lift the roof sections up on top and assemble them. But the roof sections kept sliding off. We tried semi-assembling the roof sections first, then lifting them up on top. But when we lifted it, there was too much shear stress on the roof sections and the wood came apart. We stacked the pieces against the wall and left the builder to figure out what to do. Later I saw the bandstand worked just fine without a roof.

My next task was to go back to South Kensington and help Jeanne and Scott move into the con hotel. Jeanne has had three hips replaced. She gets around great, but it’s tough for her to carry bags on stairs, and the Underground has a lot of stairs. Also, Jeanne has an amazing talent for missing transit connections, which makes for great stories but I didn’t want Spike to worry. So I carried Jeanne’s bags and guided them through the Underground. By that time I was feeling like an
old hand, and I could airily say “Yes, the sign says go down to platform 1 or up to platform 3 for our connection. We’re going up”. And “Yes, the train we need to catch does seem to be going back the way we came. Don’t worry about it”.

Jeanne’s art had been shipped to the con. After they checked in, we went to the art show and I helped her hang her art. Jeanne pulled out her iPad where she had PDFs showing the layout she wanted for each panel. It was brilliant. She is so organised.

Right across from Jeanne’s panel, John Coxon and España Sheriff were hanging the art for a TAFF benefit that John organised. It was nice to see them, if only for a moment.

Then I went to check on the Tiptree Quilt. The quilt was created by Madison fans to celebrate and support the Tiptree Award. It is amazingly beautiful and a priceless cultural artefact. The Loncon exhibits division had a special booth built with an extra high wall to display the quilt, and they got a special hanger. When I got there, quilt was up, and it looked pretty good, except that the hanger was attached to the top of the wall by only two little pieces of tape. I got a roll of tape and a ladder and made sure the hanger wasn’t going to come loose. Back at the art show, guest of honour Bryan Talbot was hanging his art, with Greg Pickersgill assisting. Bryan had a

![tiptree.org/support-the-award/quilt](tiptree.org/support-the-award/quilt)
lot of art in plastic sleeves, and he wanted some cardboard to hold them flat. So I found a box and cut it up, and Greg and I put a strip of the cardboard behind each piece of art. I enjoy this kind of work. It’s not terribly intellectual, but it’s problem solving. It was nice to see Greg, who has mellowed out a lot. And it was nice to see Bryan’s art up close. I adored his art from “Grandville” that Loncon 3 used for the covers of their progress reports.

That evening I dropped by the guest of honour reception, towards the end when it opened up to the plebeian rabble. It was a rather nice wine bar that was at the other end of the ExCeL Centre, out the back doors and to the right. The owner splits his time between London and Sunnyvale. I had a nice chat with the very gracious Mary Talbot, wife of Bryan, and an award-winning writer in her own right.

Thursday the Worldcon officially started. In order to impose some coherence on my running around all over the place, I am going to cover it thematically.

The programme was in a suite of meeting rooms at the top of the ExCeL Centre. There was quite a lot of meeting space, but with the huge number of members it was crowded anyway. The fire marshall’s rules were strictly enforced: If you couldn’t find a chair to sit in, you had to leave. Which meant that if you wanted to see a popular panel you needed to plan ahead and arrive early to get a seat.
I saw two great hall costumes up on the programme floor. One was a perfect Fool from Robin Hobb’s Farseers trilogy. And the other was Bay Area fan Brad Templeton trundling around in a telepresence robot. Physically he was in Idaho. I asked and yes, the robot had to wait in line to get a badge.

Jeanne Gomoll had a lovely guest of honor interview with Pat Murphy. When Pat was a guest of honour at WisCon 15, she semi-jokingly suggested the idea of the Tiptree Award. Little did she know but she started a new chapter in Jeanne’s fannish career, that includes designing a Hugo-nominated cookbook, chairing a Tiptree jury, revitalising WisCon, and many new lifelong friendships. Andy Hooper had a great comment from the audience about Jeanne introducing him to Bob Shaw, and how Jeanne got Terry Carr to be a guest of honour at WisCon. “The great secret about you, Jeanne, is that you’re a fan”.

I’m glad that I made it to a talk by David Haddock, “Iain Banks – Before The Wasp Factory”. Spike recruited David to be Iain’s guest of honour liaison. David is the publisher of “The Banksonian” and a preeminent fannish authority on
Banks and his work. Then, sadly, Iain was diagnosed with cancer and died before the con. David, together with Iain’s friends, especially Ken MacLeod, stepped up to make sure that Iain would be well represented at the con. This talk covered Iain’s early writing and what happened to it, up to and including the publication of “The Wasp Factory”. One fact I learned that is of great importance to Banks fans is what happened to the ‘M’. David also talked about how perception of “The Wasp Factory” has changed, quoting some seriously alarmed reviews from when it was published, contrasted with how it is now taught in schools.

The British Interplanetary Society gave a series of presentations and also had a big booth in the exhibits area. I saw a talk on the Daedalus and Icarus projects. These were design projects for fusion powered interstellar spaceships that

[Links]
- efanzines.com/Banksoniain/
- www.bis-space.com/what-we-do/projects/project-daedalus
could make a one-way journey to a nearby star. Lots of fun. Many of the people on the projects were also working engineers or scientists, and they were very serious about doing good designs. The Daedalus project was in the 1970s, before the Internet. Design meetings were held in a country pub where they could roll out their drawings on the tables and the floor.

The fantasy economics panel looked awesome. Too bad it was full.

I moderated a panel “Pew Pew! Where Have the Lasers Gone?” with Gillian Clinton, Rachel Erickson, Neyir Cenk Gokce and Ann Leckie. I liked the panelists. Gillian has experience as an aerospace engineer and is an information researcher. Rachel runs the London Loo Tours. Cenk is a long-time science fiction fan from Turkey, now living in Canada. And Ann is the author of the multiple award-winning novel “Ancillary Justice”. I also spotted Jon Singer, who makes his own lasers for fun, in the audience. It went okay.

I volunteered to work on the masquerade as a ninja, working for Chris O’Halloran as I usually do. It was fun. The number of entrants was smaller than at the recent US Worldcon masquerades I’ve seen, and they were mostly novices, but the quality of the costumes and the presentations was excellent.

The fan village was the social hub of the convention. It was organised by Alison Scott of the PLOKTA cabal. From the
entrance a winding path went by tents with fan tables. On the right side was a bar and an area with cafe tables. In the centre was a green carpeted area, where children (of all ages) could play. And in the back corners there was the bandstand and the library. The bar had real ale, of decent quality. And it didn’t run out, which is a miracle at a British convention. There was also a food stand with hot dogs, french fries, soft drinks and coffee. The fries were pretty good. I didn’t try the hot dogs or the sodas. One morning I came in very short on sleep and got a cup of the coffee. I could tell when it woke me up because suddenly I could taste the coffee and it was incredibly vile. The better coffee and food options were in the Boulevard running the length of the ExCeL Centre. It was essentially a half mile long linear food court. I had a curry lunch with London fanzine fans Judith Hanna & Joseph Nicholas. The food was not as great as what I can get in Milpitas, but it was good enough, and the company was delightful.

For dinner there were reasonable options within walking distance of the ExCeL Centre. The Fox Connaught was a country pub in a historic brick building with a big lawn and
extensive indoor and outdoor seating. I had dinner there with Toronto fanzine fans Murray & Mary Ellen Moore. They had real ale but it was lighter styles, not particularly strong on flavour. But the pub grub was very good, and I had a nice time. A lot of fans were there. I never made it to the other Fox pub, out the other end of the ExCel Centre, because to do so I’d have to pass the fan village with its superior real ale and nonstop conversations. Another evening I joined SF/SF photo artist Lucy Huntzinger, her husband John, and a Swedish fan (Lucy speaks fluent Swedish) at a hotel restaurant for her birthday dinner. We had a nice bottle of wine. I asked Lucy what she thought about Robin Hobb, who was sitting right behind her at the next table. I think Lucy forgave me for that.

In the evening the fan table tents hosted bid parties. It was a lively scene. The most awesome sight of the con was Mette in Dalek makeup playing table hockey with Bryan at the Helsinki in 2017 party. There were always British fans to talk to in the bar. And pretty much everyone in the convention came through. Jon Singer showed up the first night. Patrick Nielsen Hayden said to the person next to him “Do you know Jon Singer?” and cracked up. I had the pleasure of introducing Jack William Bell, of Seattle, to Doug Bell, of Cornwall. I saw Mari Kotani and Takayuki Tatsumi, of Tokyo, and Mari introduced me to other Japanese fans working on the Japan in 2017 bid. I saw my friend Scott Bobo, looking good as always. I first met him on the newszine at Magicon in 1992.
Dinner at Babur

by Tom Becker

29th Anniversary Menu

by Tom Becker
Charlie Stross walked by with a Hugo. Andy Hooper buttonholed me: “Hey, I’m going to be working on Sasquan. Randy is running the fanzine lounge”. “Cool. I already told Randy I’d work for him”. I had a nice chat with some German fans at their table and impulsively bought a copy of “Eine Reise Alter Helden” by Dirk van den Boom. It’s military SF. I’m going to try to read it.

Sunday I volunteered at the art show. There was a big crew and things went quickly. I packed up Jeanne’s art to ship back. Then we opened up for checkout and there was a big line and things went slowly. I helped one gentleman pick up all the art he had bought. He had gotten his husband’s go-ahead and bid on a lot of art and gotten most of it, good stuff. It was fun helping him and I think he made a lot of artists happy. We set aside a table for him to stack his purchases. Meanwhile the checkout line kept growing. Apparently only one of the art show laptops could be used for checkout and it could work with only one printer. A British SMOF came over and yelled at the art show staff. That sure helped make the printer run faster. Eventually everybody got checked out and it was okay.

Monday was move-out. I did a last quick tour through the exhibits before they closed, and did a double-take. Wait a minute — that luggage in the model train station has feet. Ha! Just lovely. Teardown happened fast. I took the picture of the Tiptree Quilt at 1 p.m. The room closed at noon and already most of the exhibits were down. In the art show, I stacked up pegboard, took apart light fixtures, and put connectors onto short lengths of pipe for easy transport and storage, and taped pipes into bundles. Before long the truck was loaded. I took my volunteer timesheet down to the fan village and got Alison Scott to sign it. She gave me a spiffy “Loncon Calling” volunteer t-shirt and a fistful of groats. Flush with tokens that at that point had a life measurable in hours, I went to the bar, where the convention was still in full swing.

Tuesday night, after the convention we met for a fannish dinner at Babur, an awesome Indian restaurant southeast of London. We had Mark and Claire from Croydon, Justin from Melbourne, Roman from Adelaide, Curt Phillips from Virginia, and Spike and myself from California. I went for the 29th anniversary menu.

Our last night was at a hotel in Croydon convenient to the train station, so we could catch a train to the airport first thing in the morning. Then we were off to Ireland and Shamrokon for a vacation.
My Dear Friend,

The date is 1814, and my incomparable location: the Oregon Caves Chateau. I have had an utterly joyful holiday at the Oregon Regency Society Annual Retreat. I feel quite gloomy that my visit has nearly come to an end. The company here has been above reproach; both my fellow guests and the attentive staff amiable beyond my wildest dreams.

I shall try to describe my decadent week’s end for your enjoyment, as you were unable to attend. I admit that my little time traveling jaunt did not begin as well as it has ended.

Our arrival after nightfall posed a challenge for my nerves. The heavy fog and intermittent rain obscured our road to the chateau. I experienced moments of dread … practically on the edge of a faint … as we charged up the mountain pass. For miles we could hear – every so often – the clatter and clunk from some part of our equipage knocked loose during long travel. I attribute my sanity to the company of dear Madame Cooley, and our safe arrival to the steely nerves of my friend at the reins, Madame Hamill.

At the onset of our stay, kindly porters carted incalculable stones of luggage to rooms high and low. The feats of masculine prowess we observed as our Caravan de Volkswagen was unloaded were most impressive – more so as they were off-duty and asked for not even a farthing in
consideration. Their ready assistance was extremely welcome after a full day of travel: For me, it was five hours by air, and then nearly six by coach to reach the heights of the deeply wooded Siskiyou Mountains.

The night’s trials ended well however, and I extended myself to look beyond my fatigue to gratitude that I had arrived in a place of calm. The ancient lodge comforted me, and I felt wrapped safely round with ancient stone and vast wooden beams. From my windows, the night was full of trees welcoming me with leafy whispers and breezy lullabies; settling me for an undisturbed rest.

The morning shone with promise as I dressed in a new white day gown I made for the occasion. My ensemble was
enhanced by Mrs. Bertani’s offer of a soft plaid overdress that just happened to set off a very smart cap I had fashioned years ago and had so far never had occasion to wear.

I looked forward to meeting our hostesses; those most charming of schemers who had architected so many amusements for us.

The welcoming event included supper and gambling. We ate the first of three sumptuous dinners; special menus meticulously researched and prepared by the chef and kitchen staff. Four meals were laid on the board daily: Breakfast, Lunch, Tea and Dinner. Every time we sat to eat we were met with an expanse of the most delicious foodstuffs, served by the most kindly staff.
That initial evening I was completely occupied with learning Speculation. A most enjoyable game. There is nothing so welcome as an opportunity to lose one’s fortune at cards in the best of company. There may also have been some port involved, I do not recall…

Other evenings boasted a variety of amateur theatricals, readings and singing. I never wanted for either company or solitude. The accommodations boasted private baths, comfortable furnishings and luxurious linens.

But my most high recommendation derives from the Chateau’s proximity to stunning vistas, a short ways uphill – or indeed a few steps down into the marble caves.

On our final evening, we pushed back the furniture to join hands and dance “Hole in the Wall” to especially honor our environs:

*Discover the Marble Halls of Oregon*

Nestled deep inside the Siskiyou Mountains, the caves formed as rainwater from the ancient forest above dissolved the surrounding marble and created one of the world's few marble caves. The highly complex geology found on the Monument contributes to the unusual and rare plants and animals found nowhere else but here. Experience the extensively decorated and adventurous "Marble Halls of Oregon."

–excerpted from brochure
Oregon Regency Society Retreat Participants at Oregon Caves National Monument
Madame Bessey Picnicking with Mr. and Mrs. Dean

Picnic Parasol Parking

Mr. Conoboy bravely lights the way
I was lucky enough to be among sturdy and adventuresome company, willing to venture into the cold and dark of the mysteriously beautiful caves. I was even treated to the sight of a sleeping bat! Quite exciting!

In addition to picnics walks, and forest excursions, many hours were enjoyed in the comfort of the Chateau’s Great Room. Wide windows overlooked a deep gully, letting in ample light for amusements such as water coloring, teacup painting, penmanship and quill cutting.

The most comfortable corner of the main hall was generally occupied by ladies sewing, lacemaking or sketching at all hours of the day and night.
To entertain each other and display our costume accomplishments, a Drapery-to-Dress contest was held. Yards of delicious cloth were displayed, put to a far better use dressing these warm and laughing paragons of loveliness than cold, unappreciative glass.

My deep gratitude goes out to those who sit on the board of the Oregon Regency Society. I am so thankful to them for ensuring that opportunities for visiting the past are readily available. To the Duchesse de Beaufort, Lady Jersey, Lady Parker, Countess Cunningham and Lady Heather, I extend sincere gratitude and friendship.

For all of you who could not join in this year’s festivities, I encourage you to write without delay.

www.facebook.com/groups/orregency/
orsmain.blogspot.com/

Subscribe to follow this very talented group of historians, organizers and artists so that you too may experience the joy of time travel to the Regency Era.

With Affection,
Madame Bessey
To celebrate the growing phenomenon of Steampunk and the popularity of the online webcomic “Girl Genius,” the Period Events and Entertainment Recreation Society (PEERS) produced a “Girl Genius” ball set in Mamma Gkika’s Café in Mechanicsburg celebrating the return of Agatha Heterodyne (the “Girl Genius”) to the city of her ancestors after her escape from the castle.

The ball was held at the majestic Alameda Elks Lodge on October 4, 2014. Music was provided by Avalon Rising and
there was a variety of couple and set dances including the
galop, waltzes, polkas and rock dancing.

There was a special birthday dance for Agatha Heterodyne
where she danced with a number of people including her two
suitors Gilgamesh Wulfenbach and Tarvek Strumvoraus (also
known as the Storm King), a Jägermonster that was guarding
her and several other patrons.

There was a music hall sing-along performance for the
entertainment of the customers of Mamma Gkika. The songs
included “Daisy” (with an autogyre built for two), “Boozing”
as sung by Mamma Gkika herself, “In The Cantina” which
described the conversation between Greedo and Han Solo
(with pantomime) and “When You’re Good To Mama” sung
by Mamma Gkika.

There were plenty of characters from the webcomic.
Agatha Heterodyne and her suitors, Gilgamesh Wulfenbach
and Tarvek Srumvoraus were present. Zeetha, her guard and
weapons trainer was also near her side. There were two clanks
(automatons) as well including Tinka, one of the Storm King’s
muses. There were two Jägermonsters, Maxim and Mamma
Gkika dancing and carousing, while Violetta (one of the Smoke Knights, protectors of the Storm King) was also in attendance. There were also Sparks (mad scientists) and spies about. Patrons wore lots of Steampunk, Victorian and Western finery. There were others who wore lederhosen and dirndls (traditional Bavarian outfits) and danced the night away.
Steampunk Beauty, Steampunk Lady, Cowboy and Dirndl, Lederhosen and Corset

by Christopher Erickson
By Robbie Pleasant
Staff Writer

Japan Expo is a different kind of anime convention. For starters, to just call it an “anime con” isn’t entirely accurate in two ways: firstly, it celebrates Japan and Japanese culture as a whole, rather than just anime and manga, and secondly, it’s in many ways more of a festival than a convention.

Japan Expo was held at the San Mateo Convention Center on August 22-24, using a few of the buildings and the open area in between them. Entering the main hall, one could see several booths for educating and showcasing various parts of and things from Japanese culture, such as kimonos for sale and calligraphy wall scrolls on display. Past that area was the dealer’s hall, with a fair selection of anime goods available for any interested attendees.
Outside the building was a row of food trucks, offering decently-priced meals. People could also get somewhat expensive food from the convention center’s cafeteria, but going anywhere else to eat food was easier said than done. There weren’t any nearby places to eat within walking distance, and the convention center parking cost $10 for all day parking (no in-and-out privileges), so people didn’t often head anywhere else to get food.

In the same area were two main stages, one for musical events and the cosplay contest, and one for Japanese dances and demonstrations of the arts. At some points during the day, the noise from one would drown out the other (that’s what happens when you’ve got two stages facing each other), but it still made for a good spot to sit and enjoy lunch.

The other buildings used by the convention held panels, games, and martial arts demonstrations. Unfortunately, they used the same building for both panels and martial arts, so it was often hard to hear what was going on at the panel over the sound of kiais and people being thrown. However, another panel room held a variety of game shows, such as “Anime Farkle” and a “Pokemon Trivia Contest,” which were entertaining, and a good way to get some prizes if you had the luck and know-how to win.
Japan Expo boasted a number of exceptional guests, including Gen Urobuchi, Izumi Matsumoto and Shinji Aramaki. Though they did have panels throughout the day, the best way to meet any of them would be by going to their autograph sessions. In order to do that, attendees first had to scan their badges to get a ticket from the booth, then go back at the right time to redeem it. Usually those tickets were claimed on a “first come, first served” basis, though sometimes there was a lottery system. However, because of the way the system was set up, anyone with a badge other than “attendee,” including press, other guests, volunteers, and so on, were unable to get autograph tickets.
The convention ran for three days, although the content tended to be pretty similar each day. There were different panels and autograph sessions, but aside from that, each day was just like the last. After a while, there wasn’t much left to do, bringing the convention to a rather uneventful end. Up until that point, however, there was still a fair amount of things to check out.

Japan Expo is a huge convention in France, but it’s having a little more difficulty adapting to the California convention scene; anime cons are run differently here than the staff was used to (for example, the convention last year didn’t allow daily in-and-out privileges to badge holders unless they had a VIP badge, but fan outcry soon changed that), so there’s still a learning curve. While this year did have its fair share of issues, that’s to be expected, and there’s still a chance to grow and win over attendees.
The Greater Bay Area Costumer’s Guild (GBACG) held their Steampunk Safari at the San Francisco Zoo on August 23, 2014. A good number of people turned up for the event. Everyone was wearing a steampunk inspired outfit, mixing in pith helmets with the top hats and plenty of goggles.

There were a number of areas that people stopped at to try and get pictures with the animals in the different habitats. The first one was the African Region, which featured a savannah, where you could see giraffes, zebras, kudus (a type of large antelope), duiker (small antelope-like animals), oryx (another type of antelope) and other animals. There was also an ostrich pen. There was a separate aviary where you could walk in and see the birds in the trees. There was also a gorilla preserve...
where you could see adults and young ones walking about in their daily routines.

There was a separate area for primates which featured a lemur forest, a chimpanzee dwelling, patas monkeys and mandrills.

The Cat Kingdom area featured the large felines such as tigers, lions, snow leopards and bobcats. There was a house featuring toucans and an anaconda. The area also featured anteaters, a hippopotamus, an Asian rhino, a black rhino and a penguin island.

The Bear Country section had grizzly bears, polar bears, sea lions, an eagle island and chacoan peccaries (a type of hairy pig). The South American section featured several types of birds including the Greater Rhea, an anteater and capybara (a large rodent). The Australian Outback Trail featured a koala habitat, a pelican beach, cassowary birds, kangaroos, wallabies and wallaroos. There was also a section for birds including a southern ground hornbills, parrots, macaws and flamingos.

The children's section had an insect house, meerkats, prairie dogs and the star of the zoo, the red panda.
Ape by Christopher Erickson

Chimpanzees by Christopher Erickson

Exploring the Desert by Jean Martin

Flamingos by Christopher Erickson
Washed Ashore Artwork by Christopher Erickson

Red Panda by Christopher Erickson

Polar Bear by Christopher Erickson

Penguins by Christopher Erickson
There was an art exhibit titled Washed Ashore. The gallery featuring discarded material from the ocean used to make art pieces. The refuse was used to make installations of sea life including starfish, a whale skeleton, plants, coral and a sea otter.

Some people opted for riding the steam train that went around the park, where you could get a glimpse of all of the attractions around the park.

After the trip to the zoo, Jean and I joined other Doctor Who fans in the Facebook group Doctor Whovians in SF Bay Area to watch the premiere of Series 8 of "Doctor Who" featuring Peter Capaldi's first full episode as The Doctor. The group watched the BBC America feed at Ireland 32 Pub in San Francisco. Many people opted to have fish and chips or Shepherd’s pie along with a pint of ale.

The day was a fun one with animals, goggles and Time Lords.
Meeting 1261

September 29, 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 8pm, with a vented spleen
25 people attended
The minutes of meeting 1260 were approved as “accompanied by a post-con soundtrack”
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $22.00 in the regular jar & $44.28 in the party jar
The Vice President was absent
The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements:
Dave G announced that the House of Spike will have to move soonish and they will likely need help with their move
JC commented on a text from Chuck & announced that Nerdvana Podcast, episode 33, part 1 will be out Wednesday
Ken announced that KFJC, 89.7 FM will be in fundraiser mode starting this Saturday at 9am
[evil] Kevin announced that this Saturday & Sunday is the Rock and Roll marathon: Saturday is the 5K & Sunday is the 10K
Bill announced that Roaring Camp railroad in Felton will have free displays this Sat/Sun — and you can take the steam train to there from Santa Cruz, but that will cost $.

John O announced that Stage 1 Theatre in Newark at Newark Memorial HS is running West Side Story for the next 2 weekends.

**Reviews:**

Adrienne reviewed the TV “Outlander” as disappointing but she’s still watching it & explained that computer problems kept her from publishing her Bombay Gardens review, but it is out now.

Convolution was extensively reviewed as a glorious ball of fun — with very few complaints [those being about the badges, lack of options for those who are mobility-challenged & poor signage ... due to hotel staff removing signs] — but easily a 95%+ positive convention.

Carol announced that Sasquan 2015 needs more help with programming = [sasquan.org](http://sasquan.org)

Bill reviewed the 2014 Eurocon as fun to attend.

Bradford reviewed “The Astronaut’s Wife” as bought at BASFA auction for $0.25 and that he overpaid.

Yochanan reviewed “The Strain” on FX as he’s enjoying it — and reviewed this season’s “Dr. Who” as he’s disappointed with its writing — and Carole agreed.

Chris O reviewed “Gotham” as interesting and he wants to see more of the shows & reviewed “Teenaged Mutant Ninja Turtles” as he wants his 90 minutes back and drastically overpaid — seeing it at matinee prices.

Terry reviewed “Guardians of the Galaxy” as she enjoyed it a lot and loves Groot.

Bob reviewed the fluffy pillows he bought at BASFA auction as his niece’s favorite presents.

We did auctions.

We adjourned at 9:25.

**Meeting 1263**

October 13, 2014

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began at 8pm — with hangers.

20 people attended.

A party jar motion failed.

The minutes of meeting 1262 were accepted as “proxied well”.

There was no Treasurer report.

There was no vice president report — but he “was here and buggered off”.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

**Announcements:**

Tom announced that Potlatch is coming up in Seattle, Feb 6,7,8 2015 & their Book of Honor is “Women Destroy Science Fiction” & Lightspeed magazine has a good chunk of the book online.
Fred announced that Harlan Ellison is in hospital with a stroke, but can talk, which is good news
Dave C announced that the news media has discovered gamer-gate
Brad announced that this weekend, oct 18-19 is SuperSacCon in Sacramento at the Scottish Rites Center
JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast episode 33, part 3 will be available Wednesday

Reviews:
Diana reviewed seasons 1,2,3 of “Warehouse 13”, seen on Netflix, as fun to watch
Adrienne reviewed the current season of “Dr. Who” as interesting; reviewed a “Resurrection” marathon as she recommends it & reviewed a documentary done by Shatner as recommended
Brad reviewed “Red Planet Mars” from 1952 as perfect Cold War screed & reviewed “Dracula, the untold Story” as derivative & reviewed the season 5 premiere episode of “Walking Dead” as very good zombie stuff
Dave C reviewed “Dark Harvest” by Norman Partridge as set in 1963 & written in dark noir style & reviewed Ransome Riggs “Miss Perigrin’s Home for Peculiar Children” — with photos — as okay
Tom reviewed “Exo” by Stephen Gould, the 4th in a series, as an okay series, but “Exo” is the reason to read the others in series & is extremely enjoyable & also reviewed a short story collection by Martha Wells “Tales of the Raksura” as so damn good.

JC reviewed their trip as good & reviewed “Equalizer” as entertaining, but formulaic
We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:10 pm
and the rumor of the week was: “The combine harvester was invented in 1834 by Hiram Moore”

Meeting 1264

October 20, 2014

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary
Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale
Began at 8:04pm — with zaaaaaaping
23 people attended
We established a party jar
A motion failed
The minutes of meeting 1263 were accepted as “written in the style of 1930’s noir”
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $42.50 in the regular jar & at meeting 1262 took in $11.75 in the regular jar & $13.25 in the party jar
There was no vice president report
The President pledged to use the zap-gun gavel in moderation & otherwise had nothing fannish to report
Announcements:

Adrienne announced that we may lose Marina, who needs to move & find a place for 6 for less than $2500 a month & then announced that Bay Area Ghost Hunters is now over 1200 members.

Ken announced that it’s SFJC’s 55th anniversary today & announced that the next Legion of Rassilon meeting will be at the IHOP on Stevens Creek near Lawrence, 7:30 pm.

JC announced that Nerdyana Podcast interviewed Adam Lash & they hit 500 likes on their Facebook page.

John O announced that Wyoming’s attorney general will no longer try to overturn the decision that makes gay marriage legal in Wyoming, so it’s legal in 64% of the US now & he announced that he goes in for an interview for internal IT on Wednesday so good thoughts are appreciated.

Dave G announced that they signed a lease and will gladly accept help moving this Saturday.

Carole announced that OVFF, the Ohio Valley Film Festival is this weekend and that she & Bill will be attending.

Josh announced that West Valley College is showing the play “Ghost Stories” at 8pm Thurs, Fri & Sat & at 2pm Sunday — and he made their costumes — and highly recommends the play.

Mike announced that a shop has opened, Pop Daddy — a shop full of dangerously cool things — at 1318 Lincoln Ave, SJ, #408-294-9893.

Dave C announced that “SF Daily” has closed its doors.

[evil] Kevin announced that his power suit won “most innovative design” at the Pacific International Quilt Festival this weekend.

Reviews:

Dave C reviewed “Gone Girl” as a moving experience — but he felt better once it was over.

Mike reviewed Eric Brown’s book “Jani and the Greater Game” as he bought the book because of the cover and it was a ripping yarn. Steampunk set in India and worth full price — highly recommended.

Josh reviewed taking part in the South SF Bay Area Tiki bar Crawl as an all-weekend event and he saw a LOT of tiki bars.

Bill reviewed Jack McDevitt’s book “Firebird” as an advanced physics sf mystery — a good read and a good series — recommended.

Carole reviewed “The Book of Life” as very enjoyable and visually stunning — worth full price.

Chris reviewed “Ghost Stories” [the play at West Valley College] as the costumes were great [Josh made them] and the play was enjoyable — worth full price.

We did auctions.

We adjourned at 9:11 pm.

and the rumor of the week was: “BASFA fights the outlaw wrongs on Mars”
Meeting 1265

October 27, 2014

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary
Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale
Began at 8:04pm
23 people attended
Dave Gallaher presiding
JC Acting Secretary
We established a party jar
The meeting notes of 1264 were accepted as: “Screw you all”
$20.57 Regular
$6.87 Party jar
Sports committee has a bottle of bubbly just in case.

Announcements:
   JC: The Nerdvana Podcast 34 part 1 “Poe Evermore” Wed Noon
   Dave C: 1) Hollywood costume exhibition Now through March 12, 2015, Wilshire May Company. 2) RiffTrax Live 10/30 Anaconda. 3) Rejoice, Taxi Brooklyn isn’t showing anymore episodes.
   Brad: 1) Fred is not here, he broke his shoulder, should be back soon. 2) Final conformation, 7 articles to Encyclopedia of Mars are accepted. 3) Got email from John Clute and wants articles.
   Mo: Is resigning from Sasquan due to financial issues and may have to move again. Sasquan needs a new art director.
   Marina: Found a place to live.
   Dave G: 1) New updated X-Wing & Tie Fighter games coming out. 2) Successful moving weekend but needs more help for the other 2/3s this weekend.
   (evil)Kevin: Tiki Dalek passed through US Customs.

Reviews
   Kevin S: Beautiful driving here with the light snow on the Sierra. Full price!
   Bill: Returned from the FilK Festival, people won awards, Had a great time, sang, made friends. Worth full price. Carol followed: Liked seeing all the new young people. Had lots of fun.
   Dad: “Forever” it’s *meh*. Mo followed with details. Worth watching on HULU. Yoki added: His new favorite show.
   Brad: 1) “Gone Girl” interesting film but worth while seeing. Worth regular price. 2) Loves watching baseball at AT&T park. WORTH EVERY PENNY HE SPENT. Kevin S: Added: Would have been worth driving down from Fernley for the game. Didn’t like the national anthem signer.
(evil)Kevin: Keith Hartman’s “Real Heroes Los Angeles”, not great art, funny, grew on him, major cheese, recommends it. Worth purchasing with an internet coupon.

Yokenon: 1) “Gracepoint” David Tennant’s character is unteachable. 2) “Selfie” funny and really cute. 3) Jewish film festival at Oshman family community center (JCC) will be at Camera 12 soon. 4) Read “The Strain” and liked it.

Auctions
Rumor of the Week: “And together they solve crime”
We adjourned at 9:18
Bay Area Fannish Calendar

Life is complicated; putting on an event is even more so. Please check before attending, as events are sometimes canceled or times and locations changed.

Follow the calendar on Twitter:
@sfsfcalendar

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

Thursday-Saturdays, October 9-November 22
Special Days: Tuesday & Wednesday, October 28-29
Shocktoberfest 15: The Bloody Debutante
The Hypnodrome
575 10th Street, San Francisco
thrippledlers.com
Thrillpeddlers are pleased to announce our annual Halloween Extravaganza
8 pm $30-$35

Friday, October 31
The Sun Kings-Halloween Beatles Tribute Concert
The Bal Theater
14808 East 14th Street, San Leandro
www.baltheatre.com
Halloween concert featuring local Beatles Tribute band The Sun Kings.
7: 30 p.m. $24.99-39.99

Cosplay Halloween Ball
Hotel Kabuki Japantown
1625 Post Street, San Francisco
cosplaysf.com/cosplay-halloween-ball
Come and be part of our Cosplay Halloween Ball inside at Hotel Kabuki in San Francisco Japan Town!! Dress up as one your favorite character on a Japanese Anime, Video Games, Comic Superheroes, American Cartoons, Sci-Fi Movies, Television Series and their related interests.
7 p.m. $30

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. $35

Saturday, November 8
GBACG On The Road
North Beach Area
San Francisco
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Don your 1950's best and come howl with the beatniks as we explore North Beach on a walking tour that includes the Beat Museum, City Lights Bookstore, and more.
Member price: $45, Non-member price: $50

Saturday, November 15
GBACG Workshop
Site TBA
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Join for fabulous day of workshops. Questions?
Email workshops@gbacg.org.
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

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

Friday-Sunday, January 3-5, 2015

**Sac-Anime**
Sacramento Convention Center
1400 J St, Sacramento
www.sacconventions.com
Anime show.
$35 (until November 31), $40 (until December 15), $45 (at the door)

Saturday, January 3, 2015

**PEERS 12th Night Ball**
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Ball celebrating the end of the Christmas season with guests from Charles Dickens’s novels, a reading by Charles Dickens and Victorian Era dancing and music by Bangers and Mash.
8 p.m. $20 (advance), $25 (at the door)

Sunday, January 11, 2015

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

Friday-Sunday, January 16-18

**Salute to Supernatural**
Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport
3300 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
www.creationent.com/cal/supernatural_sf.htm
Official Supernatural convention with many celebrities

Thursday-Monday, January 15-20, 2015

**Further Confusion 2015: London Fog-A Victorian Murder Mystery**
furcon.org/2014/
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose
Anthropomorphic costuming convention
$50 (pre-registration), $60 (at con)
**Saturday, January 17, 2015**

**GBACG Open House**
Site TBA
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Open house for everyone with a look at the organization’s calendar, fashion show, raffle and more
Free

---

**Saturday-Sunday, January 31-February 1, 2015**

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

---

**Saturday-Sunday, January 31-February 1, 2015**

**Walker Stalker Con**
Fort Mason Center
2 Marina Boulevard, San Francisco
walkerstalkercon.com/sanfrancisco/
Convention dedicated to “The Walking Dead” featuring stars of the show.
$70

---

**Friday-Sunday, February 6-8, 2015**

**Potlatch 23**
Hotel Deca
4507 Brooklyn Avenue NE, Seattle
potlatch-sf.org
Literary SF convention
$60 (until January 1), $65 (after January 1), $70 (at the door)

---

**Saturday, February 7, 2015**

**PEERS A Dance of Fire and Ice: A Grand Court Ball in Westeros**
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Ball inspired by the books of George R.R. Martin and the show “Game of Thrones” with music by celtic rock band Avalon Rising.
8 p.m. $20 (advance), $25 (at the door)

---

**Friday-Monday, February 13-16, 2015**

**Potlatch 23**
Hotel Deca
4507 Brooklyn Avenue NE, Seattle
potlatch-sf.org
Literary SF convention
$60 (until January 1), $65 (after January 1), $70 (at the door)

---

**Friday-Monday, February 13-16, 2015**

**Pantheacon**
San Jose Doubletree
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose
pantheacon.com
Pagan convention. This year’s theme is Pagan Visions of the Future and Building Pagan Safety and Social Nets.
$70 (till January 1), $80 (after January 1)

---

**Friday-Sunday, March 6-8, 2015**

**Consonance 2015**
Crowne Plaza San Jose/Silicon Valley
88 Bellew Drive, Milpitas
consonance.bostoncalifornia.com
$55

---

**Friday-Monday, March 6-8, 2015**

**FOGcon 2014**
Walnut Creek Marriott
2355 North Main Street, Walnut Creek
fogcon.org
Literary SF/F convention. Theme: The Traveler. Guests: Kim Stanley Robinson, Catherynne M. Valente
$70 (until Dec 31), $80 (Jan to con)
Saturday, March 7, 2015

**PEERS Dances of Mystery and Imagination: A Victorian Costume Ball in Honor of Mr. Edgar Allan Poe**
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Ball honoring the author Edgar Allan Poe set in Paris featuring 19th Century ballroom dancing and music by Baguette Quartette.
8 p.m. $20 (advance), $25 (at the door)

Friday-Sunday, March 13-15, 2015

**ConQuest Sac X**
Sacramento Red Lion Hotel Woodlake Conference Center
500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento
www.conquestsac.com
Tabletop gaming convention. $60

Friday-Sunday, March 13-15, 2015

**Rakkasah West Middle Eastern Dance Festival**
Richmond Memorial Auditorium
403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond
www.rakkasah.com/west/
Middle Eastern dance festival with performances and workshops.

Friday-Saturday, March 27-29

**Corflu 32: Tynecon III**
The Vermont Hotel
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, United Kingdom
corflu.org
Fanzine fandom convention. $85

Saturday-Sunday, March 28-29, 2015

**Twisted Terror Convention**
Sacramento Doubletree by Hilton
2001 Point West Way, Sacramento
twistedterrorconvention.com
www.facebook.com/TwistedTerrorConvention/info
Horror/Sci-fi convention. $35

**BabsCon**
SFO Hyatt Regency
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
babscon.com
Convention devoted to “My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic.” $50 (pre-registration)

Saturday, April 4, 2015

**PEERS Dance Comes to Pemberly: Pride and Prejudice 10 Years Later**
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Ball featuring the 10th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Fitzwilliam Darcy and their friends with English country dancing, quadrilles and waltzes. Music provided by Bangers and Mash.
8 p.m. $20 (advanced), $25 (at the door)

Saturday-Sunday, April 18-19, 2015

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

Saturday, May 2, 2015

**PEERS My Fair Lady Ball: A Ball at the Transylvania Embassy**
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Ball based on the popular musical where Miss Higgins is presented into public for the first time with waltzes, tangos and more. Music provided by Bangers and Mash.
8 p.m. $20 (advanced), $25 (at the door)

Saturday-Sunday, May 2-3, 2015

**Carnevale Fantasitico Italian Renaissance and Cultural Festival**
Blue Rock Springs Park
650 Columbus Parkway, Vallejo
carnevalefantastico.com
A weekend of merriment set in the birthplace of the Renaissance, Italy. Plenty of regional wines, traditional beverages, Italian cuisine, historical characters, music, dance, swordsmanship, wares and the comedy of Commedia del Arte. Pricing TBA
Saturday, May 9, 2015
60th Anniversary Screening of Japanese Version of “Godzilla”
Sundance Cinemas Kabuki
1881 Post Street, San Francisco
www.sundancecinemas.com
Prior to screening, there will be a reception in the lobby from 5:30 to 6:40 pm, offering the opportunity for attendees to obtain copies of the second edition of “Eiji Tsuburaya: Master of Monsters” (Chronicle Books), the lavishly illustrated biography of the visual effects mastermind behind Godzilla and Ultraman. Afterwards, there will be a Q & A session and an additional book signing.
7 p.m.

Wednesday-Thursday, May 13-14, 2015
60th Anniversary Screening of Japanese Version of “Godzilla”
Alameda Theaters and Cineplex
2317 Central Avenue, Alameda
www.alamedatheatres.com
Prior to screening, there will be a reception in the lobby from 5:30 to 6:40 pm, offering the opportunity for attendees to obtain copies of the second edition of “Eiji Tsuburaya: Master of Monsters” (Chronicle Books), the lavishly illustrated biography of the visual effects mastermind behind Godzilla and Ultraman.
7 p.m.

Friday-Monday, May 22-25, 2015
FanimeCon
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose
www.fanime.com
General anime convention in conjunction with Clockwork Alchemy.
7 p.m.

Saturday, May 23, 2015
31st Annual Art Deco Preservation Ball
Bimbo’s 365 Club
1025 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco
www.artdecopreservationball.com/
Art Deco ball in the grand style of the Golden Age of Hearst Castle.
Ticket packages TBA

Friday-Monday, May 22-25, 2015
Clockwork Alchemy
Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose
www.clockworkalchemy.com/#/home
Steampunk convention in conjunction with Fanime.
7 p.m.

Friday-Monday, May 22-25, 2015
KublaCon
Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
www.kublacon.com
West Coast’s largest gaming convention.
$40 (until Feb 28), $60 (at the door)

Friday-Monday, May 22-25, 2015
BayCon
Hyatt Regency Santa Clara
5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara
baycon.org/2015/
General interest science fiction/fantasy convention.
$60 (pre-registration)

Saturday, June 6, 2015
PEERS The Doctor Dances: 1756 (Time Travel with The Doctor through the Fireplace to Madame du Pompadour’s Grand Costume Ball)
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Join the Doctor and Rose at an 18th Century ball hosted by "Reinette," the beautiful Madame du Pompadour, at the Court of Louis XV for English and French country dances and waltzes. Music provided by Bangers and Mash.
8 p.m. $20 (advanced), $25 (at the door)

Friday-Monday, June 19-21, 2015
WizardWorld Sacramento Comic-Con
Sacramento Convention Center
1400 J St, Sacramento
www.wizardworld.com/home-sacramento.html
General comic book and pop culture convention $80 (advance), $90 (onsite)
Thursday-Sunday, July 2-5, 2015

Westercon 68
Town & Country Resort and Conference Center
500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego
westercon68.org
General interest science fiction/fantasy convention

Friday-Sunday, September 4-6, 2015

WizardWorld San Jose Comic-Con
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose
www.wizardworld.com/home-sanjose.html
General comic book and pop culture convention.
8 p.m. $55 (advance), $85 (at the door)

Ongoing

Saturday, August 1, 2015
PEERS Alice In Wonderland Picnic Dance
Lincoln Park
1450 High Street, Alameda
peersdance.org
A Victorian fantasy afternoon of picnic and dance with Alice, the Mad Hatter and the Queen of Hearts. Music provided by Bangers and Mash.
11 a.m. Free

Saturday-Sunday, August 1-2, 2015
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, movie room and costume contest on Saturday.

Golden Gate Knights (Lightsaber Instruction)
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

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.

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

Cartoon Art Museum
655 Mission Street, San Francisco
www.cartoonart.org
Current exhibitions: Chuck Jones, Drawing on Imagination (till May 5)
11-5 p.m. (Closed Mondays) $6

The Walt Disney Family Museum
104 Montgomery Street, San Francisco
www.waltdisney.org/
Current exhibitions: Alice in Wonderland starts May 1.
10-6 p.m. (Closed Tuesdays) $20

San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour
Begin: 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
**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.

**Bad Movie Night**
The Dark Room Theater
2263 Mission Street, San Francisco
www.darkroomsf.com
Featuring bad movies old and new.
8 p.m.

**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.

**Mondays**

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

**Sacramento Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club**
Midtown Creperville
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.

**Mondays and Wednesdays**

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

**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.

**Vintage Waltz**
Lake Merrit Dance Center
200 Grand Avenue, Oakland
vintagewaltz.com
Weekly drop-in class in Victorian Waltz. No experience or partner needed.
7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
| Weekdays |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| **Steam Federation - Bay Area Steampunk Society** |
| steam-federation.com/20cal2.html |
| www.facebook.com/groups/steamfederation/ |
| General gathering for craftwork, discussions and general fun. Free |

| Weekends - Sundays |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| **Escape From The Time Travel Lab** |
| Real Escape Room |
| 1746 Post Street, San Francisco |
| realescapegame.com/ersf2_ttlab/ |
| You are trapped in a mysterious laboratory where they study time travel and must escape in this immersive game. |
| $28 (online), $33 (at the door) |

| Thursdays |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| **CAS: NightLife** |
| The California Academy of Sciences |
| 55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco |
| www.calacademy.org/events/nightlife/ |
| Every Thursday night, the Academy opens its doors for NightLife, a chance for adults to explore the museum in a whole new light. Dance to some of San Francisco's most popular DJs, enjoy food and cocktails, and mingle while you delve into the Academy’s world-class exhibits and get up close and personal with aquarium critters. |
| 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. |
| $12 (21+) |

| Fridays |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| **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 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 |

| Fridays - Mondays |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| **Haunted Haight Walking Tour** |
| Meets at Coffee To The People |
| 1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco |
| www.hauntedhaight.com |
| Reservations required. |
| 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. |
| $20 |

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

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

**Foothill Anime**
Building 5015, Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
foothill.anime.net
Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.
12 p.m. Free, donations welcome

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

Bimonthly

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

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

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

**The Bawdy Caste Presents “The Rocky Horror Picture Show”**
The Clay, 2261 Fillmore Street San Francisco/
The Guild, 949 El Camino Real Menlo Park
www.bawdycaste.org
The Bawdy Caste presents the classic midnight movie the first Saturday of the month, alternating between the Clay in San Francisco and the Guild in Menlo Park.
Midnight
**Barely Legal Presents “The Rocky Horror Picture Show”**
Camera 3 Cinema
288 South Second Street, San Jose
barelylegal.rhps.org/
Barely Legal provides the shadow cast for the South Bay for the classic midnight movie every first Saturday of the month in Downtown San Jose.
Midnight

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

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

**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/nigh-living-book-club
Monthly book club discusses classic and contemporary selections from suspense, thriller, and horror fiction genres. Meets every third Sunday of each month. 5 p.m. Free

**USS Defiance**
5026 Don Julio Blvd, Sacramento
1566 Howe Ave, Sacramento
www.myspace.com/d2121978
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month. 7 p.m. Free
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USS Northern Lights</td>
<td>sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights</td>
<td>Contact <a href="mailto:firstjedi2000@yahoo.com">firstjedi2000@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sci-Fi Book Group with Kym</td>
<td>Barnes &amp; Noble, El Cerrito Plaza, 6050 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito</td>
<td>store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/store/2113</td>
<td>Meets the fourth Friday of the month. 7 p.m. Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legion of Rassilon</td>
<td>Carl’s Jr., 2551 N 1st St , San Jose</td>
<td><a href="http://www.legionofrassilon.org">www.legionofrassilon.org</a></td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micro Gods, Inc.</td>
<td>Berkeley Public Library, West Branch, 1125 University Ave, Berkeley</td>
<td>mgisciaf.angelfire.com/groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/</td>
<td>Family Club for fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Movie, Anime &amp; Manga. Meets every 3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for updates. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vintage Invasion (Vintage Waltz Party)</td>
<td>Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut Street, Berkeley</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vintagewaltz.com/Invasion.html">www.vintagewaltz.com/Invasion.html</a></td>
<td>Parties held each 4th Friday of the month with lessons in vintage waltz with DJs. 8 p.m - Midnight. $7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club</td>
<td>Inklings Books and Things, 1855 41st Avenue, Capitola</td>
<td><a href="http://www.inklingsbooksandthings.com/">www.inklingsbooksandthings.com/</a></td>
<td>Meets every fourth Tuesday of each month. 6 pm Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wicked Games</td>
<td>Wicked Grounds Cafe, 289 8th Street, San Francisco</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wickedgrounds.com/regular-events.html">www.wickedgrounds.com/regular-events.html</a></td>
<td>Gaming at Wicked Grounds. Meets fourth Saturday of every month. 6 pm to 10 pm Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS Augusta Ada</td>
<td>Round Table Pizza, 3567 Geary Blvd, San Francisco</td>
<td>trek.starshine.org</td>
<td>Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and *BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month. 1 p.m. Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queered Science Book Club</td>
<td>Au Coquelet Restaurant, 2000 University Avenue, Berkeley</td>
<td>queeredscience.weebly.com</td>
<td>Monthly book club that focuses on science fiction, fantasy, and magical realism that includes trans*, queer, genderqueer, and strong female protagonists and themes. Meets the last Saturday of each month. 4:30 p.m. Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE</td>
<td>Round Table Pizza, 4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento</td>
<td>916-338-2300</td>
<td>Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours. 6 p.m. Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bad Movie Night</strong></td>
<td><strong>BASFA</strong></td>
<td><strong>MGI Boffers</strong></td>
<td><strong>BA Role-Playing Soc</strong></td>
<td><strong>CAS: NightLife</strong></td>
<td><strong>SF Games</strong></td>
<td><strong>Niles Film Museum</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sakuramento Anime</strong></td>
<td><strong>SV Boardgamers</strong></td>
<td><strong>Principality of Mists</strong></td>
<td><strong>E.Bay Strategy Games</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fanboy Planet Podcast</strong></td>
<td><strong>Haunted Haight</strong></td>
<td><strong>Saturday Movies</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SF Games</strong></td>
<td><strong>Haunted Haight</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fighter Practice</strong></td>
<td><strong>SV Boardgamers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Vampire Walking</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dickens Fair (Sat &amp; Sun thru Dec 21)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Golden Gate Knights</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sacramento SF/F</strong></td>
<td><strong>Vintage Waltz</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Friday Night Waltz</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cloondara Practice</strong></td>
<td><strong>Amtgard</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shocktoberfest 15</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Shocktoberfest 15</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>The Sun Kings</strong></td>
<td><strong>Le Bal des Vampires</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Doctor Who Perv Society</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Cosplay Halloween Ball</strong></td>
<td><strong>Silicon Gulch Browncoats</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foothill Anime</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Rocky Horror (x 3)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rocky Horror (x 3)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QSF&amp;F Book Club</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>East Bay Star Wars</strong></td>
<td><strong>BAERS Second Friday</strong></td>
<td><strong>GBACG Workshop</strong></td>
<td><strong>Micro Gods, Inc</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Dance Party</strong></td>
<td><strong>BAERS Second Friday</strong></td>
<td><strong>GBACG Workshop</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SF/F Book Club</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Wicked Games</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wicked Games</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Night of the Living Book Club</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>USS Defiance</strong></td>
<td><strong>USS Augusta Ada</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>USS Northern Lights</strong></td>
<td><strong>Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>QueerEd/Science Book Club</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Religion &amp; SF</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Legion of Rassilon</strong></td>
<td><strong>Legion of Rassilon</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sci-Fi Book Group</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sci-Fi Book Group</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Vintage Invasion</strong></td>
<td><strong>Vintage Invasion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Science Fiction/San Francisco* is the monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area – www.efanzines.com.