Jane Austen
Vampires
Monsters
Renaissance
Kraken
Quantum
...and more!
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By Christopher Erickson  
Managing Editor

It has been an exciting couple of months since the last time that I wrote. Jean and I had a long vacation/trip to the United Kingdom where we mostly stayed in Bath for the Jane Austen Festival. For a relatively small town (around 90,000 residents) that is extremely walkable, there is a lot of history and culture in the city. Besides the major attractions of the Roman Baths, Bath Abbey and Royal Crescent, there are a number of museums and art galleries that a person could spend a few days viewing. We were not able to see them all, especially Beckford’s Tower, the Victoria Art Museum, The Museum of East Asian Art and the Holburne Museum of Art. We did manage to get to a good number of them.

We also spent a few days in London. We stayed initially in Paddington, right across from St. Mary’s Hospital where penicillin was discovered before traveling to Bath. After coming back to London, we stayed in Paddington again, but across the street from what was once a residence of Charles Dickens.

Between all of the sites that we visited in Bath, London, Cardiff, Winchester, Chawton and Steventon, there were plenty of photos to edit and post. The one thing that we were disappointed that we couldn’t see was the Doctor Who Experience. Since Peter Capaldi is now The Doctor, the main attraction for the Experience had to be updated. We unfortunately caught the time when the changeover/renovations were being done, so we did not get to see the inside.

One of the fun things that I kept look out for was the different names on the “Share a Coke with...” ad campaign. Some of the normal names were there, but there were some more uniquely British names and words like Stuart, “mum,” “bloke” and “mate.”
With the recent trip to England, I finally read “Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell” by Susanna Clarke. It is set during the time of the Regency from 1806 to 1816 and encompasses the Napoleonic wars with the two title magicians meeting Lord Byron, the Duke of Wellington, Prime Minister Lord Liverpool, King George III and other prominent members of society at the time. The book moves between London, Bath, York and other English towns. It was a great read as an alternative historical-fantasy fiction set during the Napoleonic Era. (Editor’s Note: This is soon coming out as a BBC TV series.)

Other books that I have read recently have been the Gothic horror novel “The Picture of Dorian Gray” and the epic tale of “Taras Bulba” by Nikolai Gogol. Oscar Wilde’s novel is still relevant today given the Internet culture of instant satisfaction, trolling and other behaviors where people can perform actions without the balancing factors of consequences and respect.

For Halloween, we went to the Monster’s Ball at the USS Hornet in Alameda. The ball had two bands playing and haunted tours of the ship. The costumes that were at the ball ranged from cheap store-bought outfits to elaborate recreations of characters to original creations that could have been entered into a masquerade at a convention. The ship also had some items from NASA such as the isolation booth from one of the Apollo missions where the astronauts were housed while being observed for space bacteria.

My work also had a Halloween lunch party with a costume contest, pumpkin carving and pot luck. I dressed as a sheriff. One of the better costumes was a Jack from Jack-In-The-Box commercials based on a San Francisco 49er antenna ball. Another co-worker was dressed as a special ops force of

Share a Coke with Stuart

by Christopher Erickson
Umbrella Corporation from the “Resident Evil” video games. The winner of the costume contest was dressed as Elsa from “Frozen.”

The new season ”Doctor Who” has been very good. We have seen the character start to develop for the Twelfth Doctor who is a bit edgier and a bit more snarky, similar to the member of your family that everybody likes but has to give a bit of room. The character development where he is making hard choices and has to live with the pain and regret of it has added a new dimension to the character, where he actually stops running for a second to reflect on his life. Some of the episodes have been heavily serious, especially “Flatline,” “Mummy on the Orient Express” and “Kill the Moon,” but there also has been a good sense of fun as well with “Robots of Sherwood,” “Time Heist” and “In the Forest of the Night.”

We spent a little time catching up on movies and finally watched “Divergent.” It was better than I expected, as it created a nice world that was simple to understand and explored issues of free will, individuality and society.

Television has become something that I am starting to watch on a weekly basis with a slew of good shows based on comics, science fiction and fantasy properties. ABC has been delivering with “Marvel’s Agents of SHIELD” and “Once Upon A Time.” “Agents of SHIELD” has started to develop a longer storyline since the inclusion of HYDRA and is starting to build on the end of last season. “Once Upon A Time” has been interesting with the story of the “Frozen” characters after the movie and the inclusion of Will Scarlet/The Knave of Hearts from “Once Upon A Time in Wonderland” after he had his happily ever after with Anastasia.
DC Comics has made a huge step forward on the small screen with the CW series “The Flash,” “Constantine” on NBC, and “Gotham” on Fox. I have especially been enjoying “The Flash” as I was a fan of the 1990s series with John Wesley Shipp who portrays Barry Allen’s father in the new series and all of the Easter eggs/name dropping that they have been doing in this show. They have also been developing the background characters to help build a bit of continuity in the show to make it more compelling than just individual episodes that can be watched randomly. “Gotham” has similarly been great. I initially had reservations about showing younger versions of Batman’s Rouges Gallery, but it has been handled well with the focus more on Detectives James Gordon and Harvey Bullock and the Gotham City Police Department and letting the villains develop organically as well as Bruce Wayne’s eventual transformation into Batman. It has reminded me of the excellent comic book series “Gotham Central,” which focused on the lives of GCPD officers and their cases without having Batman as the main character.

Dickens Fair is coming up soon, and I am looking forward to visiting Victorian London and meeting my friends again there and enjoying the holiday spirit. I also have a number of days off in the next two months, so there are a few places I want to see include the Carmel Mission, the San Francisco Mint and New Almaden Mine Site in San Jose.

With the holiday season coming upon us, movies are going to be piling up that want to see. The top of my list is Christopher Nolan’s “Interstellar,” the Disney adaption of Marvel Comics property “Big Hero 6” and “The Hobbit: The Battle of Five Armies.” “Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1” and “Into the Woods” are others I want to see as they come out in the theater.

Have a great holiday season, don’t fall asleep from too much tryptophan and enjoy your peppermint-flavored treats.

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:

In Science Fiction/San Francisco #158, the con report on Convolution sent my thoughts off in several different directions. Convolution is a new convention. I have no idea why the world needs another SF-related convention, but there it is. I’ve long thought the field was overpopulated and due for what the Wall Street types would call a Serious Readjustment. Of course, I remember the time when I could have counted all the SF cons in North America on one hand presuming I had six fingers on one hand. Today, you couldn’t count all the cons on a centipede’s toes. Somewhere along the line, things got out of hand.

Jean Martin responds:

Yes, there are a lot more conventions nowadays but there are also more people interested in the genre. So the more the merrier! And those that people like and are popular become stronger every year and those that aren’t getting as much interest get smaller or fall by the wayside. It’s the nature of things as well that things boom and yes, perhaps, bust in the future. But in the meantime, fans old and new are having fun at conventions new and old.

In the beginning, there was Worldcon. We started fighting about Worldcons as soon as Worldcons were invented. We also fought about the idea of having more than one convention in a year. That was right before we started fighting about religions that didn’t exist but after the time we had fought about wire staples in science fiction magazines.

I’m not sure why people have to fight about conventions and I suspect that’s a minority at most of them. For the most part, things seem to run smoothly or at least get done or they wouldn’t be happening and people wouldn’t be going! The problem with Worldcon is that it is a bit hard for most people to go to since it travels every year. Not everyone can afford the time and money to go to another state or even country to go to a convention. That’s where local conventions come in.

Then there was “Star Trek,” and things really went to the devil. Money raised her lovely head. Fans who had previously been fighting for free realized they could now fight about money. Money proved to be so popular that there soon were “Star Trek” conventions everywhere, and Trekkies proliferated as if they were really reproducing.

Well, if people don’t want to spend money they don’t have to but they do! If people want to go to a commercially run “Star Trek” convention and they have fun, then that’s fine for them. I didn’t go to one for a long time because it wasn’t fun for me after a while but now that I know more people and I come in costume, it’s become fun again. It’s about community, I think, before the money. Oh, well, and seeing the people involved in making these things we love and being inspired by them even more when we see them in person and even meet them.
Conventions went through an evolutionary process from minnows to T-Rexes. The T-Rex is big but always want to be bigger. In order to grow, it eats everything in its path. Couch potatoes are its favorite food, but it will eat most anything. Some foods cause growth and mutation. This sometimes produces huge gatherings of indeterminate subject matter. It’s as if there had been a lemming migration, and somebody moved the ocean.

*Evolution is natural as I mentioned earlier.*

As I said, the con report on Convolution sent my thoughts off in several different directions. I must have run into an analogy that got the better of me. I’m now thinking of a small con that sneaks along the jungle floor and eats the eggs of larger conventions. The concept could lead to something.

*It doesn’t have to eat larger conventions, there are 52 weekends in a year after all. It’s nice to see fans be more social and form communities rather than just staying at home and enjoying things alone. Although that’s fine too. I’ve actually been doing a lot more of the latter and haven’t gone to too many conventions lately as I’m a bit burned out on them. But I do have fun when I go and will continue to go especially to the newer ones as they feel fresh and exciting to me. And to the smaller ones as they’re more intimate and friendly.*
Jean and I went on a much anticipated trip to the United Kingdom for the Jane Austen Festival, which is held every year in Bath. This was a city that we got to spend a few hours in during our honeymoon in 2014 but did not really get the chance to get a full experience. During that time we saw the city from the bus (hard to take pictures) and toured the Roman Baths. We were able to see some of the city while walking back to our hotel, but were not able to go very far and we did not have the opportunity to go to the Jane Austen Centre. This trip was centered around being in Bath for more than a week and fully experiencing the city.

Day 1 (September 11) – Traveling to London and Watching a Play

Our first “day” was mostly spent in an airplane and wandering about London until we found our hotel. The plane ride was less dramatic than the last time when we had a woman with a baby in our row who wanted us to move. Unfortunately, I got less sleep than that last plane trip. Also, the selection of music was much more limited this time as they only had streaming stations to listen to instead of whole albums available where you could make a playlist of songs. The movie selection was still available where you could watch any of the available movies on your own personal screen. I watched “Appleseed Alpha” (animated movie based on the manga “Appleseed”), the latest version of “Robocop” (I thought this was an interesting update but lacked the coolness factor of the original) and the latest version of “Godzilla” (I really liked this one where it felt like the very first movie and portrayed him as a protector of the Earth similar to the later movies).

When we finally arrived, we traveled to Paddington. We had trouble navigating to our hotel but eventually found it. It was a converted flat, so there was no elevator to bring up several heavy suitcases we were lugging with all of our costumes. It required several trips up about four flights of narrow stairs, but we finally managed to get there.

After settling in, we went to find dinner and saw St. Mary’s Hospital where the discovery of penicillin was made. We recognized it from having watched a segment “Horrible Histories” did about the discovery.

The night was finished off by traveling by the London Underground to Waterloo Station to see “The Crucible” by Arthur Miller at the Old Vic Theater. The play was about the Salem Witch Trials and the subjectivity of truth. The big star was Richard Armitage, who looked nothing like him as Thorin Oakenshield from “The Hobbit.” The theater was wonderful, with the stage done in theater-in-the-round style.
Day 2 (September 12) – Paddington Station and Bath

We spent most of this day getting from London to Bath and then settling in. We had time before our train departed Paddington Station to Bath so we wandered around for a bit. We had to stop at the Paddington Bear Store. The store had books, stuffed bears, magnets, pins, pencils and more with the famous bear. Unfortunately, there were no jars of marmalade for sale. The station also had a statue of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, who helped build the Great Western Railway, which was the train line of National Rail that runs from London to Wales through Bath. We finally boarded the train and were in Bath 90 minutes later.

After disembarking, we took a taxi to The Admiral’s House on The Paragon. It is a standalone house with a front garden/porch area that was in direct contrast to the connected flat-style buildings running the length of the street. We were the first to arrive and had time to get some takeaway from Wagamama for lunch. After most of the other people we were housing with arrived and moved in, some of us retired to the local pub, the Star Inn to have a drink. The beer served was a
local brew called Bellringers in honor of Bath Abbey. The pub was the quintessential British pub that you would see in movies and television shows.

There were a lot more people in town for the weekend than what is normal as there was not only the Jane Austen Festival, but also a rugby game, the start of the new school year for the University of Bath and students moving in, the British Beard and Moustache Championships, and one leg of the Tour of Britain cycling race coming through the day before.

For dinner, everyone headed down to The Saracen’s Head Tavern, which is reputed to be the oldest pub in Bath. The name comes from a word used by the Crusaders for the Arabs they were fighting against. It is also where Charles Dickens stayed while he was writing the “Pickwick Papers” (part of which is set in Bath). The pub even had a Charles Dickens lending library. I had a dinner of fish and chips and beer.

Day 3 (September 13) – Jane Austen Promenade

Everyone was up early and excited for the festival to begin. We all had breakfast together and got dressed for the Promenade. Everyone in the house was dressed in their best day outfit. We walked to the Assembly Rooms (made famous in “Persuasion” and “Northanger Abbey”) and found that there was already a crowd of people outside, both costumers and regular people taking photographs. It felt like you were back
The House Ready For Promenade

by Christopher Erickson
in the time of Jane Austen with all of the Empire waist dresses, military outfits and tailcoats.

Everyone made their way into the Tea Room and the Octagon Room. People had to sign in to attempt to break the world record for most people in Regency outfits in one place. While we were waiting, a group of children dancers performed country dances for the entertainment of people gathered. Others talked and took pictures. It was announced that the record had been broken and we had reached 550 people.

Adrian Lukis, who played George Wickham in the 1995 BBC adaptation of “Pride and Prejudice,” officially opened the festival. Pictures were then taken of everyone in the room.

Everyone then lined up for the Promenade. We paraded around the city through The Circus, the Royal Crescent, Milsom Street, past Bath Abbey and the Roman Baths, and finished at the Parade Grounds near Pulteney Bridge. People took pictures near the little falls near the bridge and around the park. Others set up a picnic lunch.

Jean and I then had lunch at a Moroccan restaurant with friends from the Admiral’s House. The owner chatted with us and took pictures of us in costume.

Jean and I then visited Bath Abbey, looking at the wonderful architecture, especially the ceiling, which was done in ornate carvings. We also got to hear the band rehearse for the concert that was to be held later that night.
We went back to the Admiral’s House and had dinner while most of the others were getting ready to head out for the concert.

**Day 4 (September 14) – Jane Austen Centre and Royal Crescent No. 1**

We were up again and had breakfast with everyone in the house. Our plan was to go around to all of the major places to get photographs in costume and have tea at the Jane Austen Centre.

The Jane Austen Centre was a few doors down from 25 Gay Street, one of Austen’s residences while she lived in Bath. The center had a nice little gift shop and was done up to
resemble a house of the era. Each room had a small plaque describing the use of the room, such as the bedroom, where Jane and her sister would have shared a bed even as adults, which was common during the Georgian period.

We had tea and then took a tour of a museum showing the life and times of Jane Austen. There was a short introduction by a docent about Jane’s family and her life before she lived in Bath. The gallery had outfits that were in fashion during the Regency period, different artist renditions of Jane Austen, and displays about life at the time including interesting facts like men would turn their jackets inside out while gambling for luck and 400 pounds per year was the minimum that was needed to purchase a library card. There was also a wax figure of Jane Austen based on a forensic reconstruction.

I also wrote a note using a quill pen and blotter. It was a chore to write even a sentence as I had to dip the pen into the inkstand several times and press hard on the paper to get any ink to come out. The pen made the tell-tale scratching noise that you sometimes hear in historical movies when people are writing.
Before we left, we met the Jane Austen Greeter who knew some of our housemates. We stayed at the door for several minutes while visitors took pictures of all three of us.

We then went from there to The Circus and Royal Crescent. We took photos at both locations. It was a short walk but took a little bit of time as we were stopped by people for photos since we were in costume.

While we were at the Royal Crescent, we visited the museum at No. 1, set up to look like the time that Henry Sanford owned the house, with recreations of carpeting and wall paper. The house contained several of his belongings including books on law, history, art and warfare. There were also several scientific instruments in his study. It also contained his cabinet of curiosities collected from various “exotic” cultures such as Native American arrowheads and African tools.

The downstairs area was also set up to show how the servants lived and worked. The housekeeper was the head servant at the time and had a decent sized room for her living quarters while the scullery maid slept in the same room where
she worked. The kitchen was filled with lots of interesting tools and artifacts like the turnspit where a dog would be placed in a wheel to turn a spit that meat was cooked on and a spider and fly trap made of glass.

The museum also had an exhibition on Georgian women of the time called “Portrait of a Lady? Ruin and Reputation in the Georgian Era.” It was about the different stations of women at the time and how they could rise or fall. It focused on how women could become mistresses to society men or how maids and working women might earn extra money as prostitutes, along with the type of women who were in the “trade.” There was also information on mezzotint pictures created through the intaglio printing process used to reproduce images. This process was used often to sell images of women that had posed for pictures or of fashionable society ladies as a racy-style printing of the day. Often reputable women posed for artists and the mezzotints were sold as pictures of salacious ladies.

Afterwards, we stopped at the Guildhall to do some shopping. There were several vendors who were selling clothing and millenary for the festival. One gentleman was doing silhouette cutouts of people while they posed.

We then travelled to the square at the front entrance of Bath Abbey adjacent to the Roman Baths and the Pump Rooms. We had our photo taken there and I purchased a few items with the Union Jack on it at the KC Exchange store since the Scottish devolution vote was looming.

**Day 5 (September 15) – Bath Fashion Museum in Assembly Rooms and Pump Rooms**

This was one of the only days that we were not in costume for any period of the day. We ventured to the Assembly
Early Georgian Fashion
by Christopher Erickson

Regency Fashion
by Christopher Erickson

Princess Di Dresses
by Christopher Erickson

Dress of the Year 2013
by Christopher Erickson
Rooms, which is also home to the Bath Fashion Museum. The museum featured an extensive display of Georgian Era fashion. It covered the entire time period from the flamboyant embroidered fashion of 1714 to the muted waistcoats/jackets and dresses of the Regency period to the emergence of belled skirts with puffed sleeves in the 1830s at the end of the period. The gallery also featured a display of modern-day Georgian inspired fashion.

Another display showed men’s and women’s gloves from the 17th century. The gloves were all delicately embroidered with fine threads and jewels. They were also decorated with patterns, flowers and animals.

The archives of the museum were on display and featured the evolution of fashion from 1800-1900. This collection showed how the fashion changed in shape, color and material. One of the displays included a Queen Victoria mourning gown she wore later in her life.

Another display showed the rapid change of fashion in the 20th century. You could see how some of the looks were repeated throughout the decades and how people would mix
pieces that were a few years out of fashion with the current styles. Another display focused on bespoke haute couture and included a three of Princess Diana’s iconic dresses.

There was also a display of the Bath Fashion Museum Dress of the Year for 2013 along with several of the past dresses of the year. The last display was of men’s semi-formal fashion throughout the late 20th century.

We stopped for stamps at the post office and visited the Bath Postal Museum in the basement. It was a nice little museum with lots of displays and interactive multimedia exhibits. It traced the history of the postal system from 2000 BCE to current day with special emphasis on Bath residents Ralph Allen (he created the “signed-for-delivery” system and saved the post office money by not having all mail routed through London), John Palmer (who started the use of designated mail coaches to move the post between towns and was portrayed by Paul McGann’s brother Mark McGann) and Thomas Moore Musgrave (who helped to create the first mail stamp now known as the Penny Black). There were also displays of a Victorian mail sorting room with a delivery boy explaining his work day and examples of mail coach trumpeting signals. There were plenty of examples of mailboxes and stamp dispensers as well as some of the earliest stamps. They even had a model replica of the mail office from town of Ankh-Morpork in Terry Prachett’s “Going Postal.” Jean was even able to buy Ankh-Morpork stamps.
After that, we went to the Pump Room for a Jane Austen Tea. The tea consisted of jellied meat and toast, scones and pastries with a pot of tea and champagne. We also tasted the famous Bath water from the fountain that is in the Pump Room. The restaurant was packed with people having meals and there was a pianist playing to entertain everyone.

Jean finished her day with a two-hour spa session at Thermae Bath Spa, while I took pictures of North Parade Square and the Great Pulteney Bridge.

During the evening, our house held a party with many guests in Regency evening wear. There was lots of spirits and many entertainments including singing, conversation, food and games.

Day 6 (September 16) – Day Trip to Cardiff

We took the train into Cardiff for the day. After a 90-minute commute on the Great Western Railway, we disembarked at Cardiff Central station. All of the signs and advertising were in both English and Welsh.

We walked down Westgate Avenue towards Cardiff Castle, right in the center of downtown Cardiff and directly adjacent to Millennium Stadium. The street was lined with Welsh flags and buildings mostly from the late Victorian period consisting of arcades. One arcade had a shop with a Dalek outside its door.

We then went into Cardiff Castle. We toured the grounds and the three main features, the Norman shell keep, the main
lodgings and the World War II bomb shelter. The castle was founded during the reign of William the Conqueror with the creation of the Norman shell keep, which was a fortified tower residence where the garrison lived. It was built upon the same sight as a Roman fortification, and there were Roman era stones that could still be seen in one of the castle walls (designated by a red line) and inside the interpretive center. A reconstructed Roman gate was a main feature near the Norman shell keep.

The main lodgings was the gothic house built by the Bute family who owned the castle during the Georgian period. The house had a wonderful banqueting hall, an Arab Room and a sumptuous library that was used as the TARDIS library in the “Doctor Who” episode “Journey to the Centre of the TARDIS.” We were following a school tour that had mentioned that the recent NATO summit was held in the Main Line and President Obama sat in the banqueting hall and the tidbit about “Doctor Who.”
The bomb shelter was in one of the castle walls between the interpretive center and the Roman gate. It was very dark and narrow with minimal lighting. There were posters of the era admonishing “make do and mend,” to eat potatoes for victory and to watch out for spies. The bunker had a canteen and bunk beds on display as a soundtrack played with songs, air raid sirens and speeches by Winston Churchill played. The entrance to the shelter showed a poster with instructions on how to wear a gas mask.

We then went to the BBC Cymru Wales Broadcasting House. The site gave tours of their broadcast buildings. Both radio and some television production are done at the building. We toured one of the radio studios, seeing how small the booth actually is and how the board operators and producers are right through a window. Local on-air personality Jason Mohammad stopped by to say hello. He hosts a midday show with a quiz segment where people compete for the limited edition Jason Mohammad umbrella, pen or porridge bowl. We also got to see the broadcast control room for news shows as well as one of the studios used for news broadcasts. There was also another room where a broadcast monitor viewed a live stream of the on-air content for anything that violated broadcast standards and makes sure that all of the content is synchronized. We also passed by one of the old TV filming studios and the old backlot for “Pobol y Cwm,” the longest running BBC Television soap opera.
The tour finished with a photo opportunity area with a TARDIS, Dalek and Weeping Angel. There was also a green screen where you could be digitally inserted into a photo from “Doctor Who,” “Sherlock” and others and a camera set up to be a news correspondent.

We then took a taxi to Roath Lock, the filming studios for BBC Cymru Wales. Our taxi driver was an actor who worked as an extra in Series 8 of “Doctor Who” and in “Casualty.” We walked from Roath Lock to the Doctor Who Experience and stopped to visit the Norwegian Church. From there, we walked past the Senedd (National Wales Assembly building) to Roald Dahl Plass and the Millennium Centre, made famous by “Torchwood” and “Doctor Who.” We also walked around Mermaid Quay, which served as the backdrop for episodes of “Torchwood” and found the Ianto Jones memorial.

We boarded the train back to Bath and ended the night with dinner at Sally Lunn’s House, the oldest house in Bath and known for its famous Sally Lunn buns. There was a kitchen museum in the basement where you could see all of the different foundations of the building going back to Roman times and kitchen implements from the 1600s. We dined in the Jane Austen room. The restaurant had quotes from people who had tried the buns, including Charles Dickens and Tom Baker.
Day 7 (September 17) – Lyme Regis Day Trip

All of the members of Admiral’s House took a trip to the coastal town of Lyme Regis, which Jane Austen visited in 1803 and 1804. She used the town as the setting for a pivotal scene in “Persuasion” where Louisa Musgrove leaps off the Cobb and suffers a concussion.

We had a personal tour of the town given by Jane Austen scholar Natalie Manifold. She took us to spots that were described in “Persuasion” and went through the history of the town that influenced Jane Austen’s descriptions in the book.

We saw one of the lodging houses she stayed in and a building which had the oldest known mailbox in the United Kingdom. We then went on a little river walk through the town.
The Group on The Cobb
courtesy of Jean Martin
where people had beautiful homes.

We then walked along the beach to a beautiful garden area dedicated to Jane Austen and were joined by a professional photographer who was vacationing there for the day and took photos of us. We continued on to the Cobb, the harbor wall of the town. We found the staircase that was made famous by Jane Austen. The Cobb was also used as the setting for film version of John Fowles “The French Lieutenant’s Woman.” We stopped for lunch at a charming little restaurant next to an old mill that was still in operation.

After lunch, we visited the Lyme Regis Museum, which featured lots of exhibits on the local history of the town. There were exhibits on the Jurassic Coast showing local fossils and the contributions of paleontologists Mary Anning and Elizabeth Philpot, local geology, maritime history, local history and its role in the English Civil War and World War II and the city’s connection to arts and literature including authors J.R.R. Tolkien, G. K. Chesterton, PG Wodehouse, Beatrix Potter, Colin Dexter (author of the “Inspector Morse” novels), Tracy Chevalier (author of “Girl with a Pearl Earring” and patron of the museum) and painters James McNeil Whistler and J. M. W. Turner.

We finished off the day by walking through the town and enjoying the beach. The best part of the beach was a row of colorfully painted huts that people could rent out for the day where they could sit and read, cook food and enjoy the sounds of the ocean.
Day 8 (September 18) – Jane Austen Field Trip

This day was a full-day trip to places associated with Jane Austen. The trip was conducted by the Jane Austen Centre as part of the Jane Austen Festival. We met outside of the Jane Austen Centre with several others, some of whom were also in costume.

We departed from Bath and made our way to Steventon, the first stop of the trip. The small town featured the Church of St. Nicholas, the parish church where Jane Austen was baptized and worshiped and her father was rector. The church was in the middle of a field, tucked away from center of the town. There were memorial plaques inside dedicated to Jane Austen and her relatives as well as a prayer written by Jane and an Austen family tree. The rectory buildings where she wrote “Sense and Sensibility,” “Pride and Prejudice” and “Northanger Abbey” no longer exist.

The next place we visited was the Jane Austen’s House Museum in Chawton. It was the house that Jane and her mother and sisters moved to after their time in Bath and the death of Jane’s father. The house was furnished to look like it was occupied by the family with many of their belongings on display including Jane Austen’s writing desk. They also had examples of her letters and manuscripts, personal items of her naval brothers (including a ceremonial sword given to Rear Admiral Charles Austen by Simon Bolivar) and costumes from the ITV production of “Mansfield Park” with Billie Piper. The house was where Austen wrote “Mansfield Park,” “Persuasion” and “Emma.”

The museum also featured a setup of the kitchen, which was small and compact compared to the one featured at No. 1 Royal Crescent. The grounds also featured a garden with herbs
that were grown for use in the kitchen and beautiful flowers. Many people stopped for pictures with the house and garden.

We then went to the grounds of nearby Chawton House, which was owned by her brother Edward Austen Knight. The manor house and buildings are now a library with an education center dedicated to early English female writers.

After Chawton, we made our way to Winchester, where Jane Austen spent her final days. We saw the house that she lived in when she became ill and died. The house was directly next to Winchester Cathedral where she is buried.

We also visited Winchester Cathedral itself, where she was buried inside of the building. Her gravestone did not make any mention of her being the author of two popular books, as they were anonymously published and attributed to “a Lady.” A memorial was also placed near her grave acknowledging her as the writer of her famous novels.

We also ventured on the main street flanked by Tudor buildings, where there was a street market that day, on the way to the Great Hall of Winchester Castle. The Great Hall is where the Round Table of Arthurian legend is housed. The
table itself dates to the 1275 and the current design was commissioned by Henry VIII, featuring himself sitting at Arthur’s position with a Tudor Rose in the center. We then walked back to our transport, which was parked near the statue of King Alfred the Great.

We then finished at Beechen Cliff, which gave great views of Bath and was the setting for conversations between Catherine Moreland and Henry Tilney in “Northanger Abbey.” We could also see Solsbury Hill, which gave the inspiration for the Peter Gabriel song.

Day 9 (September 19) – Dancing lessons and Masked Ball

This day started with everyone looking at their phones for news of the Scottish devolution vote. The “No” vote won with approximately 55%, defeating the independence movement. The Union Jack was secure.

We went to a dance workshop that was held at a local gym and sports center near the cricket grounds. The workshop was held as part of the Jane Austen Festival before the official Costumed Masked Ball. The practice featured three country dances that were going to be featured at the ball.
The Masked Ball was held later that night. Everyone was dressed in their finest evening wear and masks. The opening reception was held in the Roman Baths with champagne and juice available for drinks. There was singing with musical accompaniment in the bath area, which provided a mysterious air to the place with everyone having their face obscured and the spa lit by torches to brighten the nighttime. People were announced as they entered the hot spring area.

Everyone then moved upstairs to the Pump Room, which was set up for a grand ball. The ball was opened by an official Master of Ceremonies similar to Richard “Beau” Nash. There were three sets of dancing with a live band providing the music and with Diana Campbell as the caller. Rows of dancers lined the entire length of the Grand Pump Room.

A three-course dinner was served between two of the sets for everyone to enjoy. More dancing was conducted through the night until the evening was closed by the Master of Ceremonies.
Day 10 (September 20) – William Herschel Museum and Farthingale Ball

We had another packed day for our last full day in Bath. We went to the William Herschel Museum, which was inside one of the residential buildings in an unassuming neighborhood on New King Street. The museum was his residence in Bath where he lived and worked along with his sister Caroline.

The museum featured a film of his work on double stars, his discovery of Uranus and two moons of Uranus and Saturn, his work on astronomical spectrophotometry, seasonal variation of Martian polar ice caps and telescopes, and his survey of the night sky as well as his musical background as a professional organist and musical tutor.

The museum featured a replica of the telescope he used in Bath before becoming the Court Astronomer for George III, his workshop where he made polished mirrors for his telescopes (the floor still bore the cracks where he spilled molten silver), some of the musical instruments that he played and various scientific equipment including a globe with a proposed constellation named after him.

We spent the afternoon walking around the Pulteney Bridge area. We crossed over the bridge, which had shops on both sides of the street. We walked to a street that overlooks the Recreation Ground, where the Bath Rugby team plays. A
match was played that afternoon, so there were plenty of people in the team colors of blue and black walking to the stadium.

On the way back to the Admiral’s House, we stopped at the Building of Bath Museum, which was housed in the old Countess of Huntingdon’s Chapel, which was a private place of worship built exclusively for her use. The building showed how the stone was mined and worked, how the homes were built during and decorated the Georgian period and how they were maintained. The centerpiece was a wooden model of the entire town of Bath.

The evening was filled with a major unofficial function, the Farthingale Ball. This is the one event that was not sponsored
by the Jane Austen Festival. It was a much more intimate ball that was held at the Assembly Rooms where dances were held during the Regency era. All of the dancers were still in costume, but it was much more informal as there was no Master of Ceremonies. Dinner was served in the Tea Room and dancing commenced afterwards inside the Georgian Ballroom. The dance was called and there was a live band as well.

Day 11 (September 21) – Back to London

On this day, we traveled back to London, staying in Paddington again. We stayed in a different hotel that had a much more modern interior than the previous hotel we stayed in on our first night. This hotel was also converted out of several residential buildings as were most of the buildings around the square, including one that Charles Dickens lived in before becoming a writing celebrity.

After we checked into the hotel, we traveled down to Piccadilly Circus. The place was packed with people hanging out and taking pictures of the famous Eros statue and advertising board.

From there we went to Fortnum & Mason where Jean did some shopping and bought tea and chocolate. Next door was Hatchards, the oldest book store in the United Kingdom and which Jane Austen visited. It was a wonderful bookseller, with
many titles and sections. Booklovers could spend an entire day at this store.

A short distance from Piccadilly Circus was Trafalgar Square, with the famed Lord Nelson’s Column and his lions. The square was packed with people climbing on the bronze cats at the base of the column, throwing coins into the fountains, and watching the street magicians in front of the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery. We were able to see the Elizabeth Tower (where Big Ben is housed) of the Houses of Parliament looming over the skyline.

Afterwards, we went to the Earl’s Court Tube Station, which is a pilgrimage for fans of “Doctor Who” as there is a replica police box outside of the station used as a closed-
circuit television camera viewpoint. We met another couple who were visiting from Finland who were also fans of the Time Lord and we all took pictures of the TARDIS.

Day 12 (September 22) – Westminster, Kew Gardens and Selfridges

Our first full day in London was spent visiting some of the major landmarks in the city. Our first stop was the district of Westminster. We took pictures of the Elizabeth Tower (the name of the clock tower that houses Big Ben) and the Palace of Westminster.

We then visited Westminster Abbey. The church had a tangible air of history with all of the famous people and
monarchs buried within the building. Even though there were large crowds of people when we went, you could still feel the years of the place with all of the coronations and royal weddings that took place there. It was amazing being able to see the burial effigies and sarcophagi of royalty as such Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Mary I, Mary Stuart and Henry V, scientists like Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Lord Kelvin and J.J. Thompson, poets, writers and musicians like Geoffrey Chaucer, Charles Darwin, Rudyard Kipling, Alfred Tennyson, George Frederick Handel and actor Laurence Olivier and political luminaries like Neville Chamberlain. The abbey also had King Edward’s Chair, which has been used in every coronation since 1308.

We also visited the smaller St. Margaret’s Church right next to Westminster Abbey. This also had a number of important people buried inside such as William Caxton (Britain’s first printer), Sir Walter Raleigh, John Milton and Admiral Robert Blake.

We then took pictures of the Houses of Parliament from Parliament Square and looked at the memorial statues of Nelson Mandela, Abraham Lincoln, Sir Robert Peel and Winston Churchill.

We spent the rest of the day at Kew Gardens, the large park that is home to several conservatories and Kew Palace. The first place we visited was the Palm House. It is the model of plant conservatories around the world including the
Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park. It had a large collection of trees from around the world. This was also one of the main filming places for the original “Cosmos” hosted by Carl Sagan.

We then visited the Waterlily House, which housed a lovely collection of Victoria amazonica lilies and other flowers. We also walked through the Princess of Wales Conservatory, which housed plants in ten different microclimates including cacti, water lilies, carnivorous plants and orchids. There was also an exhibition about plants that are used for addictive substances such as tea, coffee and marijuana.

We also visited Kew Palace, which the gardens take its name from. It was a smaller royal residence that was still a large house originally known as the Dutch House. George III and his family lived in the palace while he was convalescing. There was an extensive collection of George III’s personal items including an ornate microscope.

We then went to Oxford Street, famous for its trendy shops and the Marble Arch designed by John Nash as the state entrance to Buckingham Palace but was relocated when the palace was expanded for Queen Victoria’s growing family.

We traveled down Oxford Street to Selfridges. The outside of the store is the same as it was when it was founded in 1909, but the inside was very modern. The opulence of the store is still the same as depicted in the television series “Mr. Selfridge.” The store had a large food court with sushi, deli,
burger stand, ice cream shop and pastry stand. Some of the pastries even had Mr. Selfridge’s name on them.

The shop also had numerous displays throughout the six expansive floors of the building. The toy department had Lego statues and a replica Tom V8 Gold Roadster. The Christmas decorations were out with a display of Father Christmas inside a telephone booth. A number of other displays throughout the shop focused on a theme called “The Masters,” mixing fashion and film. One display featured a control room of a fashion show with a fashion show displayed on the screens. Another display had two mannequins with a taxi while a film played on the backdrop and smaller displays showed movie cameras on other mannequins.
The famous Selfridge window displays also continued the theme. The windows were set up from different scenes of movies, ranging from Jazz Age party with flapper fashion, a Bugsby Berkeley musical theme, a cyberpunk-themed window similar to “Blade Runner,” a 1960s sci-fi-themed window, a street scene and many more.

**Day 13 (September 23) – Harry Potter, Charles Dickens, Lord Nelson and Shakespeare**

Our last full day in London and Great Britain was one of our busiest. We took the London Underground to King’s Cross and went to the train station, which was home to Platform 9¼ and the luggage cart stuck in the wall with Hedwig. People were able to wear one of the Hogwarts house scarves and have their picture taken with the cart by professional photographers. Nearby was the Platform 9¼ Harry Potter Store. The inside was set up to look like a shop in Diagon Alley, complete with a wall of Olivander wands.

We next walked down to the Charles Dickens Museum. The museum was the house that he first purchased after the success of “The Pickwick Papers” and “Nicholas Nickleby.” We were going to visit this site on our first trip in 2012, the 200th anniversary of his birth, but it was closed due to renovations that had to be completed due to grant money stipulations. The house was on 48 Doughty Street in a Georgian townhouse building in the middle of the
The house was set up to look like it did when it was occupied by the Dickens family when they lived there. The dining room was dedicated to the story of Mr. Pickwick and his club with artwork and playbills adjoining the walls. The study housed his writing desk (which was much larger than Jane Austen’s) and several of his published works. Another room had his speech podium where he practiced reading his novels and developed his animated presentation style. The podium was mostly open so he could be seen using his whole body. Another room was a representation of his childhood room, showing how he lived in relative poverty, displaying his pet raven that became a character in one of his books and
bottles similar to what he labeled in his youth to help support his family while his father was in debtor’s prison.

Our next place to visit was Maritime Greenwich. The site consisted of a number of attractions including the Royal Observatory, the Old Royal Naval College (also called the University of Greenwich), the National Maritime Museum and the Cutty Sark.

We took the Docklands Light Railway to Canary Wharf and walked to the visitor center near the Cutty Sark.

Our first place to visit was the Royal Observatory. The building is located at the top of a hill in the middle of a huge park that overlooks the National Maritime Museum, the Old Royal Naval College and Canary Wharf. The building held
The Observatory grounds’ main attraction is the Prime Meridian. People stood with one foot on each side of the line so they could be standing on two separate halves of the world. There was a Prime Remnant Lander in the courtyard as part of the Steampunk’d exhibition.

We then went to the National Maritime Museum. There was an amazing gallery dedicated the history of accurately determining longitude and the impact that it would have on mapmaking, shipping and trade. There were several other exhibits on the impact of maritime trade, including how the slave trade helped shape Africa and an exhibit on the depiction
of sailors in Britain moving from national heroes to comedic figures like that of Deadeye Dick in “HMS Pinafore.”

There was an exhibit dedicated to Lord Nelson and his crew. The uniform he was wearing when he died at the Battle of Trafalgar was on display. You could clearly see the hole in his jacket where a bullet ripped through him, along with articles of clothing still bearing his blood.

We then made our way to the Old Royal Naval College. The buildings were directly on the River Thames and had the Painted Hall, a room painted from floor to ceiling in dazzling murals. This area was featured in “Thor: The Dark World.”

The last area of our visit in Greenwich was the Cutty Sark. The ship was originally used to ship cargo from England including wool to Asia and bringing back tea. There were lots of artifacts in the cargo hold highlighting the trade of the ship including a mockup of a piano that was shipped to Australia. The deck was also open for people to explore including the crew quarters. The ship is permanently suspended and enclosed creating an underneath café and exhibit area where
you can see the bottom of the ship including the rudder and waterline markers. This area also included an exhibit on Steampunk art focusing on tea and an area with a variety of colorful figureheads.

We then went back to Piccadilly Circus to see it at nighttime and travelled down to Trafalgar Square. While we were standing across from the column, the police stopped traffic on the roundabout and a sports car with tinted windows sped by. Two girls next to us said that they saw a glimpse of Prince William through the windshield.

We finished our day by taking in “Richard III” at Trafalgar Studios with Martin Freeman in the title role of the reviled monarch. We had good seats that were made even better when
we had to stand up to let Catherine Tate by so she could sit in the same row as us. The play was staged as happening in a defense department office circa the early 1970s, with clothing and uniforms from the era. The staging was intense as one of the characters was drowned and a gunfight scene was staged near the end for the Battle of Bosworth Field. During the intermission of the play, we went up to Catherine Tate and talked with her for a few minutes.

After the play, we walked back to Piccadilly Circus, which still had people hanging out even late at night. We also walked into a store called Cool Britannia, which sold all sorts of British-themed merchandise. The store had a Union Jack Mini Cooper that people could take photos with.

**Day 14 (September 24) – Traveling back to the United States**

Finally, after two whole weeks of experiencing the culture and sites of England, we had to board a plane and go back to the United States. On the plane back I watched “Muppets Most Wanted,” “G.I. Joe: Retaliation” and “Rise of the Planet of the Apes.” We arrived without any incident and were able to finally return home after a wonderful vacation.
Night of the Bloodsuckers: 
PEERS Les Bal des Vampires 2014

By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

Halloween is always a wonderful time to dress up and spend a night on the town, but sometimes people want to keep that feeling going for just one more day. PEERS always has the special solution for those who want some more action in their Halloween weekend with the annual Les Bal des Vampires. The event was held last November 1, 2014 for the 21st edition of this tradition. The ball provided lots of...
entertainment on three levels of the Alameda Elks Lodge, which was packed due to the ball selling out again this year.

As always, there was a lot of dancing for everyone. The Les Bal des Vampires is the one ball where multiple eras of dance come together and can be enjoyed by everyone. Country set dances, Viennese waltzes, mazurka waltzes, traditional waltzes, polkas, foxtrot, tango and two step are all on the set list for patrons to enjoy along with the popular Bohemian National Polka, Sir Roger de Coverley and the Congress of Vienna waltz.

There was also another floor for dancing for the creatures of the night in the Ratskeller with modern dance music spun by DJs Dark Moon and Persephone. This floor also had an elegant and fully stocked bar for people to enjoy beverages even if they never drink … wine.

There was also a parlor set up for people to seek other entertainments and light snacks. Attendees could enjoy a capella cover songs with vampire-inspired lyrics (such as a reworked version of “Royals” by Lorde changed to “Immortals”) sung by local sirens The Belladonnas. Patrons
were also able to have their fortunes told by different tarot card readers or sit and converse or take photos.

The main entertainment of the evening was this year’s edition of the Theater of the Vampires. Unlike the other balls that are done by PEERS, the play is done as a halftime show rather than theater performed throughout the night. This year’s exhibition was “Sherlock Holmes and the Vampire Hunter.” The performance opened up with a scene at the Victoria and Albert Music Hall where Irene Adler-Norton was performing “Ta-ra-ra Boom-de-ay” with the Peerless Beauties (including Jean). Irene stole backstage and we heard a bloodcurdling scream. Meanwhile, Sherlock Holmes and John Watson were discussing the inconsistencies of Bram Stroker’s “Dracula” at 221B Baker Street. They both came to the conclusion that he might still be alive. Miss Mina Murray called on the two gentlemen to ask for their help in locating the missing Miss Adler-Norton, but not before Holmes and Murray performed some deductive reasoning on each other. Holmes noted that
Murray was recently divorced and was a vampire hunter, and she surmised that he was a skilled violinist and spoilt child (to which Watson replied he still was).

Holmes, Murray and Watson go to the theater to try to identify who kidnapped Irene. They were able to get information out from the dance hall ladies about two admirers of Irene, Prince Vlad and John Clay. Clay was then shown talking to Irene at a house in Mayfair. She attempted to escape, but was stopped by the mesmerizing powers of Dracula. The trio of detectives arrived at the house to confront the King of Vampires. Vlad offered a trade of Irene for Mina, which Sherlock accepted. Irene was released, but Sherlock tricked Dracula and held off the vampire while Watson and the ladies escaped. Holmes and Vlad fought, with Sherlock proving a match to the prowess of Dracula, but ultimately was forced to his knees. Watson and the women returned and Mina accepted Dracula’s offer of protection and love, but tricked him and shot him with silver bullets. Mycroft Homes arrived to take
custody of the Prince of Wallachia and delivered him to the Transylvanian Embassy and provided John Clay a way to escape from Professor Moriarty by offering him a job serving his country. Sherlock and Irene then reconciled.

As this particular ball is a “theme without a theme,” there was no specific time period for suggested costumes. There were many different fashions from Ancient Rome, medieval, Renaissance, early Georgian era, Regency Period, Victorian era, Western, Steampunk, 1940s, punk, Lolita, goth and modern day evening dress. There were also plenty of characters on hand as well. Vampire slayers including Buffy Summers, wizard Harry Dresden and necromancer John Constantine, were all characters that were seen at the ball. There were plenty of vampires as well including Lestat from Lolita by Christopher Erickson and Thranduil by Christopher Erickson.
“Interview with the Vampire,” Max Shrek from “Nosferatu” and The Count from “Sesame Street.” One woman dressed in an ensemble inspired by Dia de los Muertos. Two women wore fashion inspired by the web comic “Homestuck.” The Belladonnas all wore outfits inspired by 1930s horror movies such as “King Kong,” “The Mummy” and “The Bride of Frankenstein.” There were also plenty of other characters including Thranduil from “The Hobbit,” The Twelfth Doctor, Dread Pirate Roberts from “The Princess Bride,” Dorothy Gale from “The Wizard of Oz,” a vampire version of Elsa from “Frozen,” Mr. Tumnus and the White Witch from “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,” the Killer Rabbit of Caerbannog from “Monty Python and the Holy Grail” and “My Neighbor Totoro.”

The ball was an amazing mix of otherworldly fun, dancing, music and amazing costumes. Everyone had a fang-tastic time with their fellow denizens of the dark.
By Christopher Erickson

Managing Editor

The U.S.S Hornet in Alameda was the site of a really cool bash on October 25 for Halloween. The Monster’s Ball was a benefit for the continued maintenance of the ship as a museum and was sponsored by 107.7 The Bone.

The ball featured two bands on stage, RockSkool providing covers of classic rock and The Cocktail Monkeys doing covers...
of 1970s-90s dance music. Both bands provided lots of entertainment for the crowd. People also had the chance to meet their favorite disc jockeys from the station. Jean got to meet one of her favorite DJs, Steven Seaweed.

The ship was also on display as there were paranormal investigation tours of the forecastle (or fo’c’sle) and haunted tours of the sick bay. A children’s entertainment area was also provided with a costume contest for the little ones. People were also able to enjoy beverages from two separate bars as well as a concession stand.

People were also able to see some of the planes and NASA-related items on the hangar deck including a lunar
module and the Mobile Quarantine Facility trailer used for the decontamination of the crew of Apollo 14.

There was also a costume contest for the adults. There were a lot of great entries and the winner was voted on by the crowd. One of the winners was a female in an amazing peacock outfit that worked the crowd. She won a signed guitar and the adulation of the masses.

The rest of the costumes were absolutely outstanding. Even though most of the people were only likely to go to a costuming event once a year, the quality and originality of the outfits were amazing. There were a good number of costumes that would look at home at a convention. There were several Disney-themed characters including Gaston and Belle, a Captain Hook that could be at an amusement park, a Big Bad Wolf with Little Red Riding Hood, Jack Skellington and Sally,
There were plenty of other characters including a couple of sets of Gomez and Morticia Addams, The Lone Ranger and Tonto, Chucky and Tiffany from “Bride of Chucky,” Sailor Moon, Glinda the Good Witch, The Wicked Witch of the West with the flying monkeys, Angela Chase from “My So-called Life,” John Snow and Daenerys Targaryen, two hobbits, Linguini and Remy from “Ratatouille,” and Alice when she grows big and her body is sticking out of the house. There were plenty of celebrity costumes with an awesome Hulk Hogan, Amy Winehouse, Freddie Mercury, James Dean and Marilyn Monroe.
Regan and Father Damien from “The Exorcist” and characters from the board game Clue. There were plenty of comic book characters with Star-Lord and Gamora from “Guardians of the Galaxy,” Death from “The Sandman,” Batgirl, Joker and Harley Quinn and Captain America in a simpler uniform.

There were also a couple of sports-themed costumes with Sourdough Sam of the 49ers and a warrior-like outfit in Giants colors and a blue skull with a crown representing the Kansas City Royals. The Giants fan was happy when it was announced that the team had won that evening.

The bash was amazing with all of the music, costumes and artifacts on the ship.
Hulk Hogan
by Christopher Erickson

Death and Angela Chase
by Christopher Erickson

Regan and The Exorcist
by Christopher Erickson
A Faire Place To Be: 
The Northern California Ren Faire 2014

By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

With all the business that was going on this September and October, I still managed to find time to slip away to the Northern California Renaissance Faire a couple of times this year. It is always fun to visit as there are so many familiar things, but at the same time always something new to see every year, whether they change or it is something you were not able to see before.
All of the familiar sounds and sites were there with lots of familiar faces who have become friends over the years. The familiar booths with their wares on display meant that you could pick up that one piece that you had your eye on for a while but never got around to purchasing, trying the food that you had meant to eat for years and enjoy new beverages. It also meant that you could see friends again and enjoy new times together and reminisce about the old ones.

One of the new places this year was a very subtle one. It was a library guild with a booth near the Royal Garden stage. They had antique books on hand published in the old English style used during the Elizabethan Age, where the letter “f” could be an “s,” the word “ye” is actually “the” and so forth. The books ranged in topic including a history of the town of
Kent published in 1576. People could pick up and look at the books and see the words and the picture reproductions of fine wood carvings.

One of the new shows was “Manly Men in Tights” where three gentleman and two gentlewomen taught the crowd how to be manly men in the fine English way of the age. They taught the men how to pose, fight and “thrust” with swords to make the women swoon, and demonstrated how to woo women. The women were taught how to swoon in response to the advances of the Manly Men. One of the gentlemen was named Rocky Johnston as a reference to the wrestler The Rock and sounded just like him. One of the gentleman disappeared and came back as the famous Spaniard Inigo Montoya as “The Most Interesting Man in The World” along with his puppet servant.

Another of the new shows was the Arcane Dance and Music troupe. The group was the new belly dance group this year on the Romany Camp Stage, which also had a new look to make it more Arabic. The group started out coming through the market streets and going through the audience to the stage. The dancers did a mix of solo performances and choreographed group dances with props including the zills (finger cymbals), cane dancing and balancing objects such as swords, jars and wooden crescents. The dancers were all
coordinated in their outfits, bringing the group together as one. The troupe ended with the band on stage playing for the crowd as the dancers went through the audience.

One of the updated shows was “Suspended Reality,” an aerial performance telling the story of the romance between Oberon and Titania from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” in iambic pentameter as related by Puck. The show had all of the wonderful acrobatic artistry on the suspended hoop and the silk. The show had a wonderful bit with fairy children in pink and blue frolicking around the lovers and performing a graceful dance for the onlookers.
Unicorn
by Christopher Erickson

Warriors Four
by Christopher Erickson
Daenerys Targaryen

by Christopher Erickson

Furrie Dragons

by Christopher Erickson
Another great show that I caught was Bosch the Conjurer on the Jack O’ Tales Storybook Stage. Bosch performed many magic tricks with cards, color changing rabbits, scarves and liquids. One of the best tricks was done changing a scarf into an egg. He showed how the trick was done by surreptitiously pushing a silk scarf into a hollowed-out, egg-shape device, but then he cracked open the egg to show that it was real. His final trick was done by suspending a volunteer from the audience in the air on a platform while passing a hoop around the platform and volunteer.

The Royal Court of Gloriana was also another place where people could find many varieties of entertainment. Queen Elizabeth held court and many of her subjects could enjoy the entertainments offered to Her Majesty. Musicians played for her. Yeoman professed their love for the ladies of the court. The best entertainment was the Earl of Exeter trying to put on a play for the Queen about the story of St. George slaying the dragon. Unfortunately, the dragon and St. George were both reluctant participants and most of the fun was when Exeter tried to direct. He eventually was slain by St. George and the Queen herself.

While we were visiting the Queen under the guise of the Fifth Doctor and his companion, I bestowed a gift on the Queen of an embroidered ornament version of herself that we picked up while in London at Westminster Abbey. She was very pleased with the gift.

There is always an amazing amount of pageantry at the faire. The Queen can be seen on her procession throughout the town greeting her subjects. The bell ringers, Hessian
mercenaries and Dance Macabre all had parades throughout the day. There was also plenty of entertainment from the various guilds, such as the Puritans always trying to convert people over, especially the court jesters. The peasants and washerwomen always had interesting things for sale. The closing weekend of the faire is also one of the best times to catch the closing parade of the day. The people working the fair get to dress up in wild outfits and have a little fun of their own.

Food is always one of the things that people travel to the faire for. One of the treats that I had was a fruit ice, which was very refreshing on the hot day that Jean and I were there. It was a hollowed-out piece of fruit that was frozen to make a cup for frozen pureed juice of the same type of fruit. It came in several different flavors including mango, peach and strawberry.

Another wonderful tradition is the tea with the Queen. The tea is always interesting both for the food and the entertainment. The food was excellent as there are plenty of sandwiches and treats along with lots of tea for refreshment. They even had herbal tea for those who chose it. The Queen even came out and interacted with the people enjoying their food while encouraging the young females to develop their intellect. She also explained about the real meaning behind “Romeo and Juliet” being an admonishment for the young ladies to listen to their parents since not doing so only brings death and disaster to their families. The fathers and mothers were seen reinforcing this lesson with their own children.
As usual, there were plenty of amazing costumes. The weekend of Michaelmas was a time for people to come out in flowers and painted masks, and there were a number of creatures such as satyrs and satyresses, unicorns, a White Rabbit in period clothing and fairies. There were plenty of fellow time travelers including Doctor Emmett L. Brown who seemingly lost his flux capacitor. Patrons also dressed like characters from “Game of Thrones,” “Assassins’ Creed” and “Xena.” A few of the furries braved the heat and dust to come out and play. There were plenty of knights and belly dancers as well. Conan the Barbarian came from Cimmeria. Death followed the plague doctor around after he returned from the Crusades. Even Captain Jack Sparrow turned up.

The Northern California Renaissance Faire was a fun retreat this year with lots of entertainment and plenty of food and sights for all.
Kraken Con 2014

By Robbie Pleasant
Staff Writer

Kraken Con is a quickly-growing convention in Oakland, held in spring and autumn. The recent one, in October, was the first time Kraken Con became a two-day event, and brought in some big guests to show for it. In return, the attendees gave it the highest attendance yet, filling the Oakland Convention Center with fans of anime and manga.

The con took up the ground floor of the convention center, with most of it being held in a single large room. That area was divided into a dealer’s hall, gaming area and several smaller panel rooms for industry guests and fan-hosted panels. Also off to the sides was a Maid Cafe, featuring volunteers in maid and butler uniforms attending to the guests’ needs, as well as a large screening area for watching anime.
For those in need of passing some time, the convention offered a scavenger hunt, where they’d decipher clues to get stamps from various vendors and artists. Anyone completing the scavenger hunt would receive little bags of candy. Not only did that provide a nice diversion, it also brought in more traffic to the various fan artists who were selling their creations.

As for guests, Kraken Con had several of note, but the three headliners were Eric Stuart, Matthew Mercer and Caitlin Glass. Their presence was undoubtedly the reason the con had so many attendees cosplaying from “Attack on Titan,” “Fullmetal Alchemist,” “Pokemon” and “Yu-Gi-Oh.” While the other guests had tables they were at the entire day, those three had autograph sessions for an hour or so a day, with lines reaching out the doors.

Speaking of cosplay, there were a good variety of cosplayers at the con. While many went for a more casual, easy to wear sort of thing, that didn’t stop others from breaking out fursuits, body armor and even a Xenomorph costume.
There was a cosplay contest at Kraken Con, held on Saturday in the afternoon, although the contest was craftsmanship-judging only, no performances or skits. On Sunday there was a talent show, which was something of a substitute, although it consisted of an even split of dance and singing performances, and only a few people attempted anything else.

In spite of being larger than expected, Kraken Con remained well organized, with a staff that remained on top of everything. It went smoothly, with minimal issues, and ended well. The next Kraken Con will be coming in spring, and I look forward to seeing how it continues to grow.
By Kara Nagle  
Contributing Writer

Every convention has humble beginnings. Many start as just small fan gatherings, exchanging ideas and collectibles, sharing the joy of common interests. Quantum Con is no different. Quantum Con is a humble convention, initially billed as a Doctor Who convention, but is ultimately a science-fiction convention, celebrating the diversity of the genre with games, fan groups, and cosplay.

Quantum Con may be humble, but it is a labor of love for Vivianne Viggar, a Sacramento State University student. As part of her major, Recreation and Event Planning, Vivianne was required to plan, organize and host an event within a two-month time frame. Quantum Con was planned and organized in just five weeks, and was expertly organized in that short time frame. Plenty of activities were available, vendors were present, and fan groups even made a showing of support.

Despite the short time frame to promote the convention, attendance was double the expected projection and vendors were clamoring for the opportunity to sell wares to attendees. A little over 200 individual attendees passed through the West Sacramento Community Center doors, paying an insignificant fee for entrance. The entrance fee was on par with a daily coffee fulfillment cost. Cosplayers, advanced reservists and attendees with a public transportation voucher paid $5. Any other attendees paid $10. Any regular convention attendee knows these kinds of entrance fees don’t exist, even within the toy show circuit.

Fourth Doctors Sharing Jelly Babies  by Kara Nagle
The West Sacramento Community Center is a small building, but 200 people, eight vendors, and a full-size David Tennant-era TARDIS filled the Center to max capacity from 11:00 am to 5:00 p.m. Good Day Sacramento’s Cody Stark made a quick appearance in the first hour of the convention. Barber Pole Films made sure to interview all the vendors, and the TARDIS builder Steven Cavanaugh, as well as the organizer and hostess Vivianne. Sacramento con scene regulars 10nant Cosplay, Thymehadder Photography and J Ravenson Productions were also on hand to celebrate.
Madam Fandom and Nerdy Nibbles were highlights in the vendor rooms with geeky wearables and nerdy confections for the peckish crowd.

Steven Cavanaugh’s freshly built TARDIS made her first appearance at Quantum Con, and she was a major draw. Every time I took a break from my vendor table to go see the beautifully crafted, screen-accurate police box, the room was bursting with cosplayers and photographers angling for a prime shot. I managed to get myself into a few of the photos as the appropriate Doctor for that generation of TARDIS.

As a vendor I encountered many, if not all, of the attendees, thanks to a scavenger hunt that encouraged attendee movement. All of the attendees were overjoyed at the appearance of a science-fiction convention in the Central Valley area. Many were glad to have a far more accessible competitor for the beloved, but distant, Gallifrey One. Everyone was excited and generated a very positive experience, and being a first year convention, the positive experience was the key to success.

When attendees were not in awe of the TARDIS, or checking out wares in the vendors’ room, there was a lounge in which attendees could relax, play board games and watch an appropriately themed movie. The lounge was the hangout of the Sac-Geeks and Sac-Who fan groups, with the Star Trek fan group the U.S.S Independence manning a table right outside the lounge. Another appropriately themed movie was playing in the darkened movie room. Adjacent to the movie room was a table-top game room where there were two RPG campaigns in progress. One of the games was geared towards beginners to encourage the inclusive atmosphere of Quantum Con. Karaoke was also available, but it was in a room on the second floor of the Community Center, so as not to disturb any of the other activities on the main floor.

Quantum Con was a roaring success for the organizers and for the community that supported the first year. The one-time event page was moved to a permanent event page on Facebook, garnering 100 likes in four days. Already, ideas for panels, activities and guests are pouring in for next year’s Quantum Con. It is an open page and will be used for announcements and planning for subsequent conventions. November 9, 2014, was Quantum Con’s first showing, but with the positive reception and support it received it will be the first of many years.

Nerdy Nibbles for Sale
courtesy of Kara Nagle
By Tom Becker

*Compositor*

Stu Shiffman, Hugo and Rotlsler award winning fan artist, TAFF delegate, brilliantly talented fan of many interests, and the nicest guy you could ever meet in fandom, passed away on November 26th, 2014, in Seattle. Stu was in precarious health since he suffered a stroke in June 2012. I am glad that I managed to visit him in the hospital and the rehabilitation center whenever I was in Seattle. Even though he had difficulty speaking, his alert intelligence, personality and great sense of humor were still there.

Stu personified the virtues of the fannish deity Roscoe; he was kind, generous, friendly and hard-working. He will be much missed by his many friends.

Even if you never had a chance to meet Stu, you can still get to know him through his wonderful art and writing, and through the great fan-writing about him. Here are a few examples that I particularly liked:

When Stu had his stroke, Taral Wayne put together a one-shot fanzine as an appreciation and get-well card for Stu. “The Slan of Baker Street” features articles by Taral, Andy Hooper and Rob Hansen, and art by Brad Foster, Steve Stiles, Taral and Stu himself. It is available at efanzines.com.

“Chunga” featured a series of brilliant and hilarious articles by Stu about the greatest movies that were never made, at least not in our timeline. The series is: “Celluloid Fantasia 2003” in “Chunga #4”, “Again, Celluloid Fantasia 2003” in “Chunga #6”, “The Calls of Cthulhu (All-Talking! All-Singing!)” in “Chunga #9”, “Take the Hokum and Run (Celluloid Fantasia reprints)” and “Woody Guthrie, the Singing Sidekick” in “Chunga #13”.

“Chunga” also published a fascinating non-fiction article by Stu on the Jewish Superman (literally, his address was “Superman – New York”) who may have inspired the comic book hero. “Return of the Man of Steel: Breaking the Chains” is in “Chunga #15”. All issues of “Chunga” are available at efanzines.com.

Mike Glyer has an excellent obituary for Stu on “File 770” with much more about Stu and links to more of his work file770.com/?p=19827.
Meeting 1266

November 3, 2014
Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary
Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale
Began at 8pm - with talk about voting
20 people eventually attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1265 were accepted as “a Giant celebration for my birthday”
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $2.46 in the regular jar & $3.79 in the party jar
There was no vice president report
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Party Committee reported that there will be a Sunday BASFA party at Furcon in January
Adrienne moved that she set up a meet-up.com BASFA site and it passed

Announcements:
JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast episode 34, part2 will be released on Wednesday & announced that Nerdvana Podcast will be recording at Kepler Books, noonish Nov 15
Ken announced that KFJC’s fundraising ends soon & announced that the election is tomorrow, so go out and vote
Aatheus announced that a very new furry convention, PawCon, will be at the SJ airport garden hotel Nov 14,15,16 - sort of a year 0, beta con & announced that his housemates work for a company [Avalon Transportation] desperately looking for drivers

Josh announced that Nov 14-23 West Valley College Theatre is putting on “Epic Proportions” - a laugh riot of a play & announced that he is looking for a seamstress to craft prototypes for him

Adrienne announced that she has Hallowe’en candy to give away

Dave G announced that they are still moving and will gladly accept help

[evil] Kevin announced that things are going on at Renegades Bar this Saturday and that he will be performing

Yochanan announced that the Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival runs through Nov 16

Reviews:

Jerry reviewed TusCon in Tuscon as nice & reviewed the launch failure that Virgin Galactic had & then reviewed that the Antares launch may have been an engine failure

Dave G reviewed that champagne is tastier when the Giants won the World Series than when they won the pennant

Dave C reviewed “John Wick” as having lots of fight scenes, but he dozed off during the movie, it was worth matinee & then reviewed a video, “The 7th Victim” & was disappointed by it, as nothing really happens in it - & Mo followed, saying that “it was a quaalude.”

Josh reviewed a restaurant in Morgan Hill, The Good Fork, as amazing and marvelous & way worth full price

Yochanan reviewed a film, “Hunting Elephants” as amazing & he loved it - it’s an aging heist film & a hoot

Adrienne reviewed 2 episodes of “Dr Who” as kinda disappointing

We did auctions

We adjourned at 9:34 pm

And the rumor of the week was: “Everything looks different when you are looking through Adrienne”

Meeting 1267

November 10, 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 walking fish food
19 people eventually attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1266 were accepted as “pronounced luxury yacht”
The Treasurer was missing
The Vice President was missing
The President had nothing fannish to report ... and then mentioned that we had brought in a ghastly soda to give away
Adrienne reported for the Meet-up Committee that there is a BASFA site on meet-up.com now
Announcements:
Fred announced that there are rumors of Asimov’s “Foundation” series being made into an HBO mini-series
Carole announced that she will be in the LosCon art show
Bill announced that SMOFcon and LosCon are coming up
Bradford announced that his friend, George Slusser, had passed away
Adrienne announced that Bay Area Ghost Hunters now has more than 1500 members
JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast episode 34, part 3 will be released on Wednesday & announced that Nerdvana Podcast will be recording at Kepler Books, noonish Nov 15
Lisa announced that SJ in 2018 will have a party, Friday night at LosCon

Reviews:
[evil] Kevin reviewed “Interstellar” as absolutely worth full price & Brad agreed
Adrienne reviewed the season finale of “Dr Who” as bittersweet & Andy had mixed feelings about it
Bill reviewed “Box Trolls” as worth seeing & Mike agreed
Carole reviewed “Big Hero 6” as American anime and enjoyed it
Bradford reviewed “Nightcrawler” as recommended & reviewed the “Walking Dead” eps 1-2 as great and eps 3-4 as okay
Diane reviewed Renegades Bar as it was her first time there and she found it exciting
Andy reviewed “Circus” as it exceeded a certain level of trashiness, was well-rehearsed and recommended

We did auctions

We adjourned at 9:07 pm
And the rumor of the week was: “Adrienne keeps objectifying the party jar”

Meeting 1268

November 17, 2014
Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary
Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale
Began at 8:01
30 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1267 were accepted as “fortunately rule 34 does not apply to the minutes”
The Treasurer was missing, but last week we took in $7.50 in the regular jar and $7.05 in the party jar
The Vice President was missing
The President had nothing fannish to report ... but did say “hi” to 2 people visiting us for the first time, attracted to us by the meetup.com site = Paul Mendoza and “Howard”
Adrienne reported for the Meet-up Committee that the BASFA / meet-up.com site is now caught up

Announcements:
Josh announced that Impact Theatre in Berkeley will be putting on the Dragon Play through Dec 14
Dave C announced that Cargo Cult will not be at some Star Wars con in Anaheim, but that he WILL be at LosCon

Bill announced that Symphony Silicon Valley will perform the “Lord of the Rings” sound tracks with the movies showing April 16-18, 2015 for $50 per show

Bradford announced that his deceased friend, George Slusser, established a research center/archive that is causing a controversy

Debbie announced that her department for the city of Saratoga will decorate itself in a Star Wars motif and is looking for loaner decorations

JC announced that Beth says “hi” and announced that Nerdvana Podcast episode 34, part 4 will be released on Wednesday & that the Nerdvana Podcast recorded at Kepler Books went off splendidly

Mo announced that she has been invited to be Fan Artist GoH at Windycon, Nov 13,14,15, 2015

Andy announced that there is a new social media tool = Super! - for smartphones only & announced that there will be an SJ in 2018 bid party at LosCon & its email addy = parties@sjin2018.org

John O announced that his cataract surgery is in 2 weeks

Reviews:

Josh reviewed the Dragon Play as highly recommended and worth full price

Ken reviewed Atticcare as not worth the time spent with them & reviewed the Batman blueray boxed set as uneven

I reviewed “Birdman” as the story is okay, but the action behind stage is dead-on for accurately protraying the crazy - worth full price & Ric followed, saying that film is shot as one long tracking shot, visually stunning & highly recommended, then Trey reviewed it as worth matinee, but he’s not theatre people

Andy reviewed “Big Hero Six” as fun, with perhaps the “only realistic car-chase ever done in San Francisco”, that the 3D was great and the short before it was excellent

Mo reviewed the Nerdvana Podcast at Kepler’s as she had a great time

John O reviewed “Interstellar” as absolutely amazing; Carole agreed, Bill enjoyed it, then reviewed “Big Hero Six” as aimed at the tween audience, but still good

Tom reviewed the “Stone Boatman” by Sarah Tolmie as a well-written, good story that may become a classic

We did auctions

We adjourned at 9:34 pm

And the rumor of the week was: “That’s why we kept the rats”

[Trey added: “The Treasurer is going to see this and say THAT’S why we kept the rats!”]
Meeting 1269

24 November 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
President, Vice President and Secretary absent
Treasurer presiding, with Dave Clark starting the show
Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker
Began around 8:03 p.m. with the usual hubbub
32 people were there, but as usual, some left before the meeting started
A party jar was established
The minutes for meeting 1268 were accepted as Ew!
Treasurer said we have money, but since he’s been away a couple of weeks, he needs to catch up to provide specifics.
There was no VP report.
There was no proxy for the president to say he had nothing fannish to report.
We reviewed the Numismatic Responsibility Act and a few new attendees introduced themselves.
I reported that the BASFA Meetup group is up to 62 members and would like to add Aatheus to the committee so we can add details for our room parties at conventions.
Party committee announced plans for a party at Further Confusion on January 18. He has also made arrangements for another convention and is currently consulting BayCon 2015.

Sports committee reported it is considering either May 1 (vs. the Angels) or May 8 (vs. the Marlins) for our annual outing to see our World Series champion San Francisco Giants play next year. There was also talk of reserving the Martinelli’s booth for a San Jose Giants game too.

Announcements:
Ken said today was the 50th anniversary for the Century 21 theatre.
He also reminded everyone that the Legion of Rassilon will be held this Friday at the IHOP in Santa Clara and that it will start at 7 p.m., a half hour earlier than usual. For more details, please see the LOR web page: www.legionofrassilon.com
Andy said San Jose in 2018 is throwing a bid party at Loscon 41 in Los Angeles on Friday, November 28. Although he and Kevin R. will not be there, others are covering the party and a table. If interested, they could use more volunteers for both. The bid has also requested a fan table for Further Confusion 2015.
Beth said episode 35 of the Nerdvana Podcast will be available on Wednesday. You’ll find that at: nerdvanapodcast.com
She also added that she and her students turned in all of the Box Tops required to earn her class a pizza party.
Bob said he did the cover for Quantum Vision 3, an anthology that will be available at Loscon 41.
JohnO said George R.R. Martin was recently in town and toured Kepler’s, Barnes & Noble at Stevens Creek & San Tomas, and Hickleberry’s to autograph every copy of his books they had. Although he never mentioned it, a newscast
reported his true motivation for coming here was to visit a child for the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Dave C. says we’re facing rising prices of chocolate.

Reviews:

I reviewed the movie St. Vincent as touching and worth full price. Mo enjoyed it as well and was disappointed it had been promoted like a Bad Santa/Bad Teacher type of movie.

Kevin R. reviewed the 1969 movie Satyricon as a series of fragmented stories about sex. It is a movie worth taking the time to see without any children around. Andy said it was strange, but Mo added it is film history.

Bob recently had a busy birthday month where he pushed his personal and professional boundaries and recommends other people do it too.

JohnO did a “Hunger Games” marathon with Chris O. and really enjoyed the movie. He believes they are worth full price, although he’d reconsider doing another marathon again. The only negative he had against “Mockingjay” is that it’s only half the movie. He insists Oscar-winning Jennifer Lawrence is a great actress.

He also saw the trailer for “Insurgent” and rated it as WTF?

Dave C. read “Alf the Unseen”, by G. Willow Wilson, as sort of a Romeo & Juliet story where the girl gives Alf a book instead of them both dying. Very good and readable and available at Cargo Cult Books.

Brad said he watched a TMC “Planet of the Apes” marathon as white noise while working on something and thought the fourth one was pretty good. Of the series, he says 1 and 4 are the best.

Chris D. gave the stage production of “Testament” at ACT a thumbs down.

He gave another stage production of “La Bohème” a thumbs up.

Lisa saw “Big Hero 6” and enjoyed it. It was worth sticking through the credits for the cookie. Aatheus says it’s bad form to leave a movie before the credits are over.

Diane recommends a clip on YouTube. I missed the title.

Larry recommends Steven Moffat’s “Jekyll” as absolutely top notch television.

Chris K. encourages everyone to read “The Dresden Files”.

Dave G. saw a play, “The Old Woman”, at U.C. Berkeley, found it interesting and recommends it, but someone said it closed already.

We did auctions.

Rumor of the Week: “When in doubt, Chris.”

We adjourned 9:44 p.m.
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.

Saturdays-Sundays, Through December 21
The Great Dickens Christmas Fair and Victorian Holiday Party
Historic Cow Palace
2600 Geneva Avenue, Daly City
dickensfair.com
The annual Victorian Holiday season celebration featuring Victorian London populated by celebrities and Dickensian characters. Weekends 1-3: $25, Weekends 4-5: $30; Children 5-12, $12, under 5 free

Saturday, December 3
Gaskell Festive Holiday Ball
Scottish Rite Temple
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland
gaskellball.com/
Holiday ball featuring the music of Franklin Beau Davis and the Brassworks. Formal attire required (19th to 21st century)
7:30 p.m. $20

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

Thursdays-Saturdays, December 4-6 and December 11-13
The Soiled Dove presented by the Vau de Vire Society
InnerMission
633 Florida Street, San Francisco
vaudeviresociety.com/the-soiled-dove/
Titillate your every sense at a circus-infused dinner theater set in the Barbary Coast’s Red Light District
8 p.m. $120 includes 5-course dinner

Saturday, December 27
New York Society Holiday Tea
Golden Court, Palace Hotel
2 New Market Street, San Francisco
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.
1:30 p.m. $90 (members), $110 (non-members)

Wednesday, December 31
New Bohemia NYE
The Armory
1800 Mission Street, San Francisco
newbohemianye.com
Celebrate New Year’s Eve with a SF twist on those timeless bohemian values of Truth, Beauty, and Freedom with poets, performers, DJs, aerialists, burlesque dancers and more.
9 p.m.

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 12
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
Friday-Sunday, January 2-4, 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 (advanced), $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.

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
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose
furcon.org/2014/
Anthropomorphic costuming convention
$50 (pre-registration), $60 (at con)

Friday, January 16, 2015

The Edwardian World’s Faire
The Regency Ballroom
1300 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco
edwardianball.com
Fair inspired by the artwork of Edward Gorey.
8 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Saturday, January 17, 2015

Edwardian Vendor Bazaar Daytime Shopping
The Regency Sutter Room
1270 Sutter Street, San Francisco
edwardianball.com
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, January 17, 2015

The Edwardian Ball
The Regency Ballroom
1300 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco
edwardianball.com
Ball inspired by the artwork of Edward Gorey.
8 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Saturday, January 17, 2015

GBACG Open House
Site TBA
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.aodsfo.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 (advanced), $25 (at the door)

Friday-Monday, February 13-16, 2015
DunDraCon
San Ramon Marriott
2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon
www.dundracon.com
Gaming convention
$50 (until January 31), $60 (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
Filk convention. Guests: Wild Mercy, Gary Hanak, Jim Partridge, Phil Mills
$55

Friday-Sunday, 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 (advanced), $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.

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.

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.
Friday-Sunday, April 3-5, 2015

**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 (advance), $25 (at the door)

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 (advance), $25 (at the door)

Saturday-Sunday, April 11-12, 2015

**San Jose Fantasy Faire**
Guadalupe River Park, Downtown San Jose
www.sjfantasy.com/
Fantasy themed faire in Downtown San Jose in the shadow of the Shark Tank (SAP Center)

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.

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.

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.
$55 (until December 31), $65 (until May 1), $75 (May 1 and after)
Saturday, May 23, 2015
31th 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.

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. $55 (until December 31), $65 (until May 1), $75 (May 1 and after)

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 (advance), $25 (at the door)

Saturday-Sunday, June 6-7, 2015
Charlie Chaplin Days
Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum and Downtown Niles
37417 Niles Boulevard, Fremont
nilesfilmuseum.org
Celebration of Charlie Chaplin with film festival, games, a lookalike contest on Sunday and activities at the local stores in the neighborhood.

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. Advance $80, Onsite $90

Friday-Monday, June 26-28, 2015
Bronco Billy Film Festival
Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum and Downtown Niles
37417 Niles Boulevard, Fremont
nilesfilmuseum.org/
Silent film festival with panels on silent film history and screenings of silent movies including ones featuring famous cowboy actor Bronco Billy.

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 $55

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](http://www.carnivalofstars.com/home.htm)  
Belly dance performances, comic book artists, movie room and costume contest on Saturday.  
$15

**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](http://www.wizardworld.com/home-sanjose.html)  
General comic book and pop culture convention.  
8 p.m. $75 (advance), $85 (at the door)

### Ongoing

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

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

#### San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour
Begins: Queen Anne Hotel  
1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco  
[www.sfghosthunt.com](http://www.sfghosthunt.com)  
Closed Mondays & Tuesdays, and on November 21-22 for Thanksgiving.  
7-10 p.m. $20

#### Nightly Nerd Show
KCSF Radio, 90.9 FM  
[nightlynerdshow.tumblr.com/](http://nightlynerdshow.tumblr.com/)  
Radio show covering nerdy topics  
5-6 p.m.

### Daily

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

#### Sundays

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

#### Golden Gate Knights (Lightsaber Instruction Class)
Studio Gracia  
19 Heron Street, San Francisco  
[www.facebook.com/groups/goldengatejedi](http://www.facebook.com/groups/goldengatejedi)  
Instructor-led class on lightsaber stage combat and choreography.  
12 p.m. $10
### Cloondara Fighter Practice
Golden Gate Park  
47th Avenue @ Fulton, San Francisco  
www.westkingdom.org  
The Shire of Cloondara (San Francisco, CA) holds fighter practice Sundays at 12:00 p.m. (if there are no major SCA events and the weather permits)  
12 p.m. Free

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

### Bad Movie Night
The Dark Room Theater  
2263 Mission Street, San Francisco  
www.darkroomsf.com  
Featuring bad movies old and new.  
8 p.m. $5

### Sakuramento Anime Society
Rancho Cordova Library  
9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova  
www.saclibrary.org  
The Shire of Cloondara (Sacramento, CA) meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.  
3-6 p.m.

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

### Sundays and Fridays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SF Games</td>
<td>Taqueria San Jose, 2830 Mission Street, San Francisco (Fridays, 7 p.m.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zephyr Cafe, 3643 Balboa Street, San Francisco (Sundays, 2 p.m.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.sfgames.org/">www.sfgames.org/</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week.</td>
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<td>Free</td>
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### Mondays

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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Bay Area Science Fiction Association</td>
<td>Coco’s</td>
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<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1206 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.basfa.org">www.basfa.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacramento Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club</td>
<td>Midtown Creperville</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>1730 L Street, Sacramento</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.sacgeeks.com">www.sacgeeks.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Silicon Valley Boardgamers</td>
<td>Mountain View Community Center</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>$2</td>
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<td>201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb">www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Tuesdays

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

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

### Wednesdays

**Steam Federation - Bay Area Steampunk Society**  
Various - check website or Facebook page for information  
[steam-federation.com/%20cal2.html](http://steam-federation.com/%20cal2.html)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/steamfederation/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/steamfederation/)  
General gathering for craftwork, discussions and general fun.

**Escape From The Time Travel Lab**  
Real Escape Room  
1746 Post Street, San Francisco  
[realescapegame.com/rersf2_ttlab/](http://realescapegame.com/rersf2_ttlab/)  
You are trapped in a mysterious laboratory where they study time travel and must escape in this immersive game. $28 (online booking), $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/](http://www.calacademy.org/events/nightlife/)  
Every Thursday night, the Academy opens its doors for NightLife, a chance for adults to explore the museum in a whole new light. Dance to some of San Francisco's most popular DJs, enjoy food and cocktails, and mingle while you delve into the Academy’s world-class exhibits and get up close and personal with aquarium critters.  
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
$12 (21+)

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

### Fridays

**Friday Night Waltz**  
First United Methodist Church  
625 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto  
[www.fridaynightwaltz.com](http://www.fridaynightwaltz.com)  
High energy dance featuring waltzes and other dances with 2 classes before the dance.  
7 p.m. - Midnight  
$12 for dance and class, $8 class only

### Fridays-Sundays

**Real Escape Room San Jose**  
Real Escape Room  
77 N. First Street #740, San Jose  
[realescapegame.com/sj-mroom/](http://realescapegame.com/sj-mroom/)  
You are trapped in a mysterious locked room with mysterious codes and must escape in this immersive game.  
Various time - check website  
$28 (online booking), $33 (at the door)

**Haunted Haight Walking Tour**  
Meets at Coffee To The People  
1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco  
[www.hauntedhaight.com](http://www.hauntedhaight.com)  
Reservations required.  
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
$20
Saturdays

Niles Film Museum Saturday Movies
Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum
37417 Niles Boulevard, Fremont
www.nilesfilmmuseum.org
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.

Bimonthly

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

Electric Swing Set
Balancoire
2565 Mission Street, San Francisco
electricswingset.com
Learn to swing dance to an eclectic mix of House and Swing music. Held on first and third Thursday of each month. 6 p.m. $10 for entry, $5 for dance lesson.

Monthly

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

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

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

The Tech After Hours
The Tech Museum of Innovation
201 South Market Street, San Jose
www.thetech.org/programs/after-hours
The monthly evening event where adults 21 and older can enjoy science, technology, entertainment and cocktails together with their friends. Held on the first Thursday of the month. 7 p.m. $10
Silicon Gulch Browncoats
Various locations (see website for details)
www.silicon gulchbrowncoats.org
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.
Noon - 2 p.m. Free

The Bawdy Caste Presents “The Rocky Horror Picture Show”
The Clay, 2261 Fillmore Street San Francisco/
The Guild, 949 El Camino Real Menlo Park
www.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

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

BAERS Second Friday Dance Party
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
600 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto
baers.org
Learn Regency dances in a 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

S F Browncoats
Cafe Murano
1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco
www.sfbrowncoats.com
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.
Noon Free
Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Meets the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.
6 p.m. Free

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

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

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

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

Religion & SF Book Club
First United Methodist Church
1183 “B” Street, Hayward
Meets the 4th Sunday of the month. Please contact Rev. Randy Smith at RSmith2678@aol.com for more information.
7 p.m. Free

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

Sci-Fi Book Group with Kym
Barnes & Noble
El Cerrito Plaza, 6050 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito
store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/store/2113
Meets the fourth Friday of the month.
7 p.m. Free

Legion of Rassilon
Carl’s Jr.
2551 N 1st St , San Jose
www.legionofrassilon.org
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle. 7:00 p.m. Free

Vintage Invasion (Vintage Waltz Party)
Finnish Brotherhood Hall
1970 Chestnut Street, Berkeley
vintagewaltz.com/Invasion.html
Parties held each 4th Friday of the month with lessons in vintage waltz with DJs.
8 p.m - Midnight. $7
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Wicked Games</strong></th>
<th><strong>Queered Science Book Club</strong></th>
<th><strong>Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wicked Grounds Cafe</td>
<td>Au Coquelet Restaurant</td>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
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<tr>
<td>289 8th Street, San Francisco</td>
<td>2000 University Avenue, Berkeley</td>
<td>4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.wickedgrounds.com/regular-events.html">www.wickedgrounds.com/regular-events.html</a></td>
<td><a href="http://queeredscience.weebly.com">queeredscience.weebly.com</a></td>
<td><a href="">916-338-2300</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaming at Wicked Grounds. Meets fourth Saturday of every month.</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.</td>
<td>Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 pm to 10 pm Free</td>
<td>4:30 p.m. Free</td>
<td>6 p.m. Free</td>
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For even more events in the Bay Area, check out Bay Area Geek Guide: The San Francisco Bay Area Guide to Geek Events & Nerd Culture: [bayareageekguide.com](http://bayareageekguide.com)
### Bay Area Fannish Calendar – December 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bad Movie Night</td>
<td>BASFA</td>
<td>MGI Baffers</td>
<td>BA Role-Playing Soc</td>
<td>CAS: NightLife</td>
<td>SF Games</td>
<td>Niles Film Museum</td>
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<td>Sakuramento Anime</td>
<td>SV Boardgamers</td>
<td>Principle of Mists</td>
<td>E.Bay Strategy Games</td>
<td>Fanboy Planet Podcast</td>
<td>Haunted Haight</td>
<td>Saturday Movies</td>
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<tr>
<td>SF Games</td>
<td>Haunted Haight</td>
<td>Fighter Practice</td>
<td>SV Boardgamers</td>
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<td>Vampire Walking</td>
<td>Dickens Fair (Sat &amp; Sun thru Dec 21)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Gate Knights</td>
<td>Sacramento SF/F</td>
<td>Vintage Waltz</td>
<td>Steam Federation</td>
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<td>Friday Night Waltz</td>
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<td>Cloondara Practice</td>
<td>Amtgard</td>
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<td><strong>Gaskell Holiday Ball</strong></td>
<td><strong>Soiled Dove (thru Sat)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Star Trek Convention</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fantastic Frontiers</strong></td>
<td><strong>Silicon Gulch Browncoats</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Doctor Who Perv Society</strong></td>
<td><strong>Foothill Anime</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sac-Con</strong></td>
<td><strong>QSF &amp; F Book Club</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>USS Defiance</strong></td>
<td><strong>SF Browncoats</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SF/F Book Club</strong></td>
<td><strong>Night of the Living Book Club</strong></td>
<td><strong>Legion of Rassilon</strong></td>
<td><strong>NY Society Tea</strong></td>
<td><strong>Queered Science Book Club</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Science Fiction/San Francisco</strong></td>
<td><strong>is the monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area – <a href="http://www.efanzines.com">www.efanzines.com</a>.</strong></td>
<td><strong>USS Augusta Ada</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wicked Games</strong></td>
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