Science Fiction/San Francisco

Issue 160
January 2015

Geek Year 2015
History San Jose
Soiled Dove
Gaskell Ball
NorCal Cosplay
WizardWorld Reno
Theatre Reviews
Shamrokon
...and more!
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Art Credits
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By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

Vacation time and the holidays have come and gone since the last time I wrote. Since I had days off, I spent a lot of it doing some local sightseeing and taking in a few movies as well as making many trips to the Dickens Fair.

One of my ultimate travel plans is to visit each of the 21 Missions in California. Jean and I have visited most of the ones close by (Mission San Jose, Mission Santa Clara, Mission Santa Cruz and Mission Dolores) while we were in the area while doing other things. We visited the one in Santa Clara when we went to see a theatrical adaptation of “Pride and Prejudice” staged at Santa Clara University and saw Mission Dolores when we were filming the music video for Kat Robichaud’s single “Someone Call the Doctor.” We also
visited Mission San Miguel on the way back up from San Simeon.

We took our annual Christmas vacation in Solvang this year and were able to visit three different missions during our trip. We first visited Mission La Purisima Conception in Lompoc. This one is about 18 miles from Solvang and is the most complete mission. There are full gardens, animal pens, workshops for making goods and several other buildings. The mission is actually a state historic park operated by the government and is not controlled by the Catholic Church.

The second one we visited was Mission Santa Ines right in Solvang. It is within walking distance from all of the bakeries, windmills and wine tasting rooms. This one is referred to as the “Hidden Gem of the Missions” since it is a bit smaller than the others and is tucked away among the Danish smorgasbords and architecture.

We also took in Mission San Luis Obispo on the way back up from Solvang, right in the heart of the downtown area. This one was unique in that it had an L-shape for the layout instead of the usual cross. It also had a good collection of native artifacts and Spanish settler items.

I also took a few days to visit the Carmel Mission and Mission San Juan Bautista. Carmel Mission is my favorite from an architectural design standpoint as it shows a clear Arabic influence in the star and rounded arch in the façade as well as the bell tower. It is also the resting place of the founder of the Alta California missions, Father Junipero Serra.
Mission San Juan Bautista is also lovely and has a lot more to see besides the mission since it is part of the San Juan Bautista State Historic Park. In addition to the mission, there are several buildings around the plaza from the 1800s. The park was used extensively to shoot scenes from Alfred Hitchcock’s “Vertigo” featured at the end of the movie.

I also visited the USS Hornet aircraft carrier. The experience was familiar as I worked at a shipyard for six months and was onboard ships undergoing repair while in dry-dock. It was amazing to see how the ship was laid out and how the ship had to be self-reliant regarding repairs, housing, food and medical attention.

I also went to Salinas to see the National Steinbeck Center, which is dedicated to Monterey Bay’s most famous author. The museum had a nice lobby with lots of images of the agriculture and farm workers of Salinas Valley with two short movies on the life and works of Steinbeck and the agriculture of the region. The main part is a gallery of his works and life done in an interactive style, such as setups of scenes from his novels and his life. It allowed people to get a feel for the types of people and areas he was writing about in “The Grapes of Wrath,” “Of Mice and Men,” “East of Eden” and “Cannery Row.”

During December, I got caught up on movies that I wanted to see that were in the theaters at the time. I watched “Big Hero 6” and thoroughly enjoyed the film. It was a nice film about superheroes similar to “The Incredibles” even though it was adapted from Marvel characters. I also saw Christopher Nolan’s “Interstellar.” I don’t think it was his best film, but it was nice to see a return to meaningful science fiction similar to “Gravity” and “2001: A Space Odyssey” where there is more hard science and less space opera or planetary romance.

Jean and I also went to the opening weekend of “The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies” in costume with several of our friends. We saw the film in 3D and I thought this was the best use of the technology for all three movies. It had a satisfying ending and felt like it was epic. Everyone went out for food afterwards as we did for the previous two films, but unfortunately Denny’s did not have the tie-in Hobbit menu this year. Everyone is planning to do the upcoming “Star Wars” film this December.

I have reduced my reading list a bit as well. I read “Clandestine” by James Ellroy, which is set before the LA Quartet series and features Dudley Smith who is one of the
characters in “LA Confidential.” I also read Kurt Vonnegut’s “Slaughterhouse-Five.” This book was a great read and I can see why it was considered one of the best novels of the twentieth century. I saw it less as a science fiction novel since the “unstuck in time” and alien abductions were more McGuffins than required plot points. I also read “The Master Mind of Mars” by Edgar Rice Burroughs. This is one of the Barsoom novels that doesn’t feature John Carter or his offspring, but it was similar to the other novels in story and pace.

I have also been on a historical novel bent recently as I finished “Memoirs of a Geisha” and “A Thousand Splendid Suns.” “Memoirs of a Geisha” follows a young girl’s training to be a successful geisha in Kyoto during the Great Depression and World War II. This novel held my interest more for the cultural aspect than for the characterizations. “A Thousand Splendid Suns” is a novel set in Kabul, Afghanistan, during the Communist invasion and fighting between the mujahideen after the Soviet withdrawal. The story follows two women who are from different backgrounds and how their lives intersected and how the changing times shaped their experiences.

We went to a couple of Lamplighters shows in Mountain View back in October and November. We saw their production of Gilbert and Sullivan’s “The Pirates of Penzance,” which was very entertaining. When we saw it, we noticed an advertisement for their annual fundraiser which does a pop culture mashup with reworked Gilbert and Sullivan tunes. The 2014 edition was entitled “Sherlock Who,” which featured Sherlock Holmes and a female Watson in Victorian London investigating a mystery at the Savoy Theater where they cross
paths with a mysterious script “Doctor” with a long multi-colored scarf. The Doctor and Rose (both in disguise) whisk Holmes and Watson to the present to investigate a disturbance in the space-time continuum that was caused by Holmes’s investigation at the Savoy Theater. Watson and Sherlock are disguised in modern day clothes (with Holmes wearing his famous outfit from the current BBC show) while investigating a Facebook-like company that has taken over an entire country (similar the G&S musical “Utopia, Limited”). They eventually discover the time disturbance and travel back to Victorian London so the modern-clad Holmes can stop his Victorian self from creating the anomaly. The sets were great with the best one being a great rendition of the classic TARDIS console. We won a handmade TARDIS costume from the silent auction conducted as part of the fundraiser.

I also spent a good bit of time at the Dickens Fair. I went as the Fifth Doctor a couple of times and dressed in my U.S. Marshall’s outfit. I was able to show a friend around who had never attended before and caught up with a couple of friends that I have not seen in a long time.

For New Year’s Eve, we went to the Bohemian NYE at the Armory in San Francisco. It is a big Burning Man type environment with DJs, an upstairs VIP kink-themed area and a huge stage with burlesque, comedy and performances. The same people who did Soiled Dove and the Edwardian Ball performed at the show.

As far as television, I am pleased with the shows that I have started watching this season. I enjoyed the post-“Frozen” storyline on “Once Upon A Time” with the inclusion of The Sorcerer’s Apprentice from “Fantasia.” It was nice that it was not as drawn out as the Peter Pan storyline but didn’t feel as truncated as the Wicked Witch of the West plot. I am guardedly optimistic about Rumpelstiltskin teaming up with Ursula, Maleficent and Cruella De Vil since Cruella does not make sense in a world of “classic” fairy tales.

I am looking forward to the second half of “The Flash” as they start to resolve the Man in the Yellow Suit plot thread and will hopefully introduce more of the classic Rogues Gallery like the Trickster and Gorilla Grodd. I enjoyed the “Arrow” crossover episodes. It felt like a great team up similar stories in the old “Brave and the Bold” comics.

“Agents of SHEILD” ended on a baffling note about the obelisk known as “The Diviner” with the supposed change of Skye when exposed to some process initiated by it. There have
been a number of Internet hypotheses so I am interested to see where it is going.

“Doctor Who” came to a fairly good end and the Christmas special was very good. It felt properly scary and was nice to find out Clara will be returning in the next series.

Gotham has been my favorite so far as they have been developing the Bruce Wayne storyline more while balancing the mobster aspects of the show in the Penguin/Fish Mooney/Falcone and the detective stories of the Gotham City Police Department. It has balanced the supervillains with the criminal gangs that Batman fights while being able to give more life to the cops similar to the comic series “Gotham Central.”

The one show that I hope gets a second season is “Constantine.” I have not read many of the “Hellblazer” stories, but what I have seen feels like the character from the books.

Besides the new “Star Wars” movie, others that I am looking forward to in 2015 are the next “Divergent” movie, “Avengers: Age of Ultron,” “Jurassic World,” “Ant-Man,” the next “Terminator” movie, “Mad Max: Fury Road,” “The Fantastic Four” and the latest James Bond movie “SPECTRE.” The most intriguing one for me is “The Man from UNCLE” based on the 1960s spy show that I watched during one summer in high school and thought was great.

Have a Happy New Year everyone and I hope that your year is geekily enjoyable.

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**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

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courtesy of Christopher Erickson
Letters of Comment

John Purcell writes:

Before I get back to grading essays and plunking said grades into the online gradebook - yes, I’m in my office at school, and it’s lunchtime - this would be a fine time to dash off a quick letter of comment on your latest issue.

Christopher responds: I tend to do a lot of writing during lunchtime at work myself when I am not reading books.

In case you’re interested, I mention Science Fiction/San Francisco in the latest issue of my fanzine, Askance, that was just posted this past weekend at efanzines.com: the zine was mentioned in passing in the fanzine review section because I was doing a bit of an evaluation of Chris Garcia’s first 10 years of active - there’s an understatement! - fanzine publishing. You might find that interesting, from a statistical point of view, which is what I did. To sum up, it’s mind-boggling. Go there and read it to see what I mean.

His amount of work has always impressed me.

Good to see that you (Christopher Erickson, that is) have been busy. How I wish I could afford to make a jaunt across the Atlantic to vacation in Ireland and England. Glad you and Jean Martin had a grand time, even if I am jealous.

It was a fun time. I think I have seen almost everything in London and I found out there is a “Doctor Who” store with a museum of television props from the show and other programs as well.

I am not a “Doctor Who” fan, sad to say, although I have watched a handful of episodes over the years. The show has simply never appealed to me. Oh, it’s always been available to watch, so that’s not an excuse that I can fall back on, but it is just a statement of fact that I don’t like the show. I do not doubt that it has been a major influence on the science fiction genre - especially on the media side of things - and willingly give the show a deferential nod, plus I can accept its place in the pantheon of major science fiction television programmes (British spelling here, of course), and of the episodes that I have seen, one of them stands out in my mind as one of the best episodes of any SF television show I’ve seen in the past five years, “Vincent and the Doctor”: that’s the one where the Doctor and Amy (is that her name?) go back to the 1880s in France and meet Vincent Van Gogh to help the artist battle demons that only Van Gogh can see. It’s a splendid bit of writing, tackling the subject of an emotionally challenged and tortured creative mind to reveal what it’s like to live in such an anguished state. That episode was excellent. Unfortunately, not a single other episode I’ve seen sticks out in my mind. The fact that I cannot even remember any other character names - let alone the actors’ names who have played the titular character in their proper sequence - should be proof that this series is not on my To Be Watched No Matter What list. Face it: I just don’t like Doctor Who.

There are usually a couple of episodes a season that stick out such as “The Empty Child/The Doctor Dances” with Christopher Eccleston, “Human Nature/Family of Blood” and “Blink” with David Tennant and the recent “Flatline” with Peter Capaldi. As far as not liking it, it is pretty much the same argument with
people who don’t like “Star Trek” or “Star Wars” for various reasons. I myself have put off the “Twilight” series because the books were horrid in my opinion and the acting looks terrible in the movies. You are certainly allowed to not like something for your own reasons.

Someone might say, “Oh, you hate Doctor Who because of all the years their episodes have ‘hijacked’ the Best Dramatic Presentation-Short Form Hugo Award.” No, I don’t think so. If a single episode is top-notch in storyline and production values, then it deserves to win the award. Besides, now we have “Game of Thrones” copping that award two years in a row, and that series has a huge fan-base like “Doctor Who,” so the cycle repeats itself with the mass media bandwagon appeal working at full force. Here we go again, folks...

There were several decades where the was pretty much only a handful of movies and a couple of television shows were the only competition for Best Dramatic Presentation, so it was a small field. When the Hugos added a Best Dramatic Presentation-Short Form for the television shows and web series, it was at a time where there were a few shows on the air like “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,” “Angel,” “Firefly,” “Smallville,” “Stargate SG-1” and “Star Trek: Enterprise.” There was a lot more to choose from initially but most of the shows either ended or were not putting out as high quality product as before, so the competition became very thin where multiple episodes of “Doctor Who” were nominated. The same thing happened when “Star Trek” was on for two years including all of the nominated entries for Best Dramatic Presentation were “Star Trek” episodes.

So back to my train of thought, sparked by Christopher’s photos and nattering about “Doctor Who,” let’s bring my ramblings to a halt and jam them inside the wheelhouse where they belong. If you like “Doctor Who,” fine; I don’t. I have a lot of fannish friends who watch the show religiously, and that’s fine. To each their own. So there.

Most people could say that about anything. A lot of people don’t like science fiction since it is unbelievable, sports is just guys hitting each other, etc., etc.

By the way, I have never cared for Jane Austen’s novels either, nor George Eliot’s. That kind of writing has never captured my imagination. Ces’t le vie, as the bard sez. In the meanwhile, I do enjoy Steampunk stories and the costuming and music sides of that subfandom. Naturally there are people who don’t like that genre, and that’s fine by me, too. It is all personal preference, which is what all of this is about.

Everyone has their passion. For some it is only “Star Wars,” others it is fantasy football or their college team.

Hey, lots of pictures in this issue of all sorts of events you’ve attended. We didn’t make the Texas Renaissance Festival this year, and probably will next year since we seem to be in an every-other-year schedule, which works well. It seems as though something new is added every couple of years, which makes the RenFest a fun place to wander in costume. ‘Tis relaxing and enjoyable.

It is always nice to see when they have added new things. Even though I go more than once per year, I always try to see something new every year, especially since there are many shows going on at once.

Well, I have to get these grades taken care of. Many thanks for posting the zine, and I hope you didn’t mind my rambling. As always, I look forward to seeing the next issue.
Lloyd Penny writes:

Here I am, behind again. I’ve got two issues to comment on issues 158 and 159. Time to get started before the end of the year.

158...I am amazed at how much travelling you are doing, and we do what little we can. We are still saving for our own trip to London sometime in the next few years, but closer to home, we will be vendors at our own local convention Ad Astra in April, going to the London Steampunk Society’s annual Gala also in April (that’s London, Ontario), and in May, we hope to go to Dearborn, Michigan for the annual SteamTopia. That’s actually a lot of travel for us compared to the past three or four years. The only thing that might derail those plans is the Canadian dollar, which is continuing to drop in value against the US dollar.

Christopher responds: There was a lot of hard savings for those trips. The one I made to Germany was for work, so it was not really a vacation for me. Hopefully you will be able to do all you travel plans.

I like Milt Stephens’ comparison of neopros like baby tortoises. There’s about a dozen or more in the Toronto area, and there’s probably other in town I’ve never met. We try to help get the word out about them; they need as much help as they can get.

If you ever wanted to write about them, we would be glad to publish it.

My loc ... we did get to Fort George for the Grand Canadian Steampunk Exposition, and it was a great day. Lots of steamy activities, hundreds of wonderful costumes, lots to see, do and buy. And we did go to Genrecon as vendors, and another great time, and very good sales.

Glad to hear you had a good time.

We did see the Kubrick exhibit at the Toronto International Film Festival building, and we also saw Gary Lockwood and Keir Dullea show up. Keir looks like a silver fox; time has been kind to him. Gary Lockwood, though looks like he’s someone’s grandpa. They had great reminiscences. We met with Lev Grossman at the new Toronto International Book Fair, and we reminded him of the Brakebills party and the Magical University Challenge at the Reno Worldcon. We also asked him to autograph an unreleased edition of The Magicians.

Sounds like it was a good time all around. It is fun when you can get a writer or artist to sign something that is unique of theirs. I once got Neil Gaiman to sign an internal promotion artwork sheet that was used to pitch the idea of a “Sandman” movie.

159 ... I tried to read “Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell” by Susanna Clarke. Really, I did try, but it didn’t work. If I recall, I got about 200 pages in. It is a huge book. One series I wanted to see, but never had the time for it, was “The Librarians.” I may have to find it online.

I bought the book a while back, but never really picked it up. I finally listened to it on audiobook and it made it much easier. It is similar in style to both Dickens and Austen, but has lots of great footnotes that are used for world building. The Librarians is currently available on iTunes.

I often listen to the BBC via the Internet, especially to Radio 2, Radio 4 and Radio Scotland. I’ve listened to Radio Wales and Radio Ulster from time to time.

Please let me know those websites to listen to them. I would love to hear the contest for the porridge bowl.

Done for now, and I think I have said all I can say. I’ll try not to fall behind in my writing of locs, but no promises. Take care, and see you in the next issue.
Milt Stevens writes:
You have another interesting cover critter on Science Fiction/San Francisco #159. Zebras draw your eye like a magnet. This seems contradictory since a zebra’s markings are supposed to be camouflage. Military camouflage seems to have evolved from the basic zebra design.

Christopher responds: The striping works best in tall grasses where the colors blend together, making them a gray mass when moving about. It is also thought that a herd of zebras moving together make individuals more difficult to pick out, creating a motion dazzle or blur. There is also evidence that the striping makes them less attractive to flies that bite and feed off their blood. I am not sure if zebra striping is inspiration for military camouflage since it is not the same color as the terrain and most military camouflage tends to utilize colors similar to the expected terrain.

Zebra camouflage might work better if they didn’t spend most of their time hanging around in large groups on very flat plains. A near sighted gopher should be able to see them at a distance of several miles. I can’t imagine a carnivore mistaking them for a test pattern. I also doubt staring at zebra patterns would give a carnivore a headache. When our ancestors started noticing zebras they must have realized that zebra hides would make wonderful throw rugs. This is a bad thing from the zebra’s point of view.

The zebra camouflage was evolved for lions and similar predators and was meant for the whole group to survive. Humans were not a natural predator originally, especially when firearms are considered.

The photos accompanying Christopher’s UK trip report are excellent. I particularly like the ones of the Farthingale Ball and the Painted Hall.

Jean and I thank you for that. We always try to include photographs to convey the mood of what we see.

“Doctor Who” and “Gotham” are the only TV series I’ve been watching lately. The current season of “Doctor Who” has been a mixed bag. They’ve had some quite good episodes and some not so good. My reaction to “Death in Heaven” was somewhere between “Huh?” and “Say What?” I thought they might have a new and really interesting idea behind Missy and the apparent afterlife. They didn’t. I would have been more willing to accept a silly ending if it had been a new and different silly ending. It wasn’t.

Overall I enjoyed the season. It really picked up at the end and I thought the ending wrapped it up nicely.

I’ve been enjoying “Gotham.” I have my reservation about the film industry re-doing, re-booting, and otherwise mucking about with every single idea they have ever used in the past. However, “Gotham” is an interesting take on alternate Batman. I really like Penguin. He is such a delightfully sneaky little psychopath. You don’t see his type too often. Cat is also a good character. Cat Woman was never all that bad. Audiences don’t hate incredibly sexy women who go around stealing from the rich even if they don’t give to the poor. The other traditional batman characters are hanging around waiting to do something interesting.

The show has already been expanded to a full 22 episodes and it has been renewed for a second season, so we should see more character expansion. They are going to be bringing in one of the other big villains in the next season.
Upcoming Geek Year 2015

By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

We have a great year of movies, television, conventions and more for the year 2015. Here is a schedule for your upcoming weekends.

Movies:

“The Woman In Black: Angel of Death” – A sequel to the original set during the time of the London Blitz. (January 2)

“Paddington Bear” – The marmalade-loving storybook character gets a live action movie. (January 16)

“Strange Magic” – Computer animated musical movie about goblins and elves inspired by Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” from a story by George Lucas. (January 23)

“Project Almanac” – A found footage movie about a group of friends who discover designs for a time machine and build one for their own use. (January 30)

“Jupiter Rising” – A human woman discovers her powers while being targeted for assassination by the Queen of the Universe. Directed by the Wachowski brothers. (February 6)

“Seventh Son” – The adaptation of the novel “The Spook’s Apprentice” that follows the adventures of a seventh son of a seventh son who become apprentice to a fighter of the supernatural. (February 6)

“Spongebob Squarepants: Sponge Out of Water” – The latest animated motion picture of the favorite resident of Bikini Bottom. (February 6)


“Hot Tub Time Machine 2” – The further adventures of friends using a hot tub to time travel, this time to the future to undo events happening in the present day. (February 20)

“The Lazarus Effect” – A horror movie about a group of medical students who determine a way to bring the dead back to life. (February 27)

“Chappie” – An artificial intelligence robot is stolen by a group of gangsters for their own use. (March 6)

“Cinderella” – A live action version of the Disney classic with new twists. (March 13)

“Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension” – The sixth installment of the found footage horror series. (March 13)

“The Divergent Series: Insurgent” – The further adventures of Tris Prior based on the popular YA novel series. (March 20)

“Home” – Animated fare about a girl who avoid capture by aliens that settle on Earth and attempt to relocate humans to a new world. (March 27)

“The Moon and the Sun” – King Louis XIV of France attempts to obtain immortality from a captured mermaid while
the situation is complicated by his illegitimate daughter. (April 10)

“Underdogs” – Animated film from Argentina about foosball team trying to reassemble (literally) get back their former glory. (April 10)

“Ex Machina” – A computer coder wins a week at a mountain home of the company’s CEO but finds out he is participating in a new artificial intelligence experiment. (April 10)

“Unfriended” – A supernatural horror movie involving an unknown cyberstalker of a group of friends. (April 17)

“Avengers: Age of Ultron” – The sequel to the popular movie has the superhero team fighting the artificial intelligence Ultron with the help of new members Scarlet Witch, Quicksilver and Vision. (May 1)

“Mad Max: Fury Road” – Max meets a woman who wants to cross the desert. (May 15)

“Tomorrowland” – A film inspired by the Disney attraction where two men travel to a place where their actions affect the world. (May 22)

“B.O.O.: Bureau of Otherworldly Operations” – Animated movie about a ghost who has to go back to haunting school to improve his skills. (June 5)

“Insidious: Chapter 3” – Prequel to the first movie where a psychic agrees to contact the dead help a girl targeted by a supernatural entity. (June 5)

“Jurassic World” – Set 22 years after the initial events of “Jurassic Park,” the fully functioning amusement park creates a new kind of dinosaur with disastrous results. (June 12)

“Inside Out” – Pixar movie showing the emotions of a little girl inside her head. (June 19)

“The Transporter Legacy” – A reboot of the “Transporter” franchise. (June 19)

“Terminator: Genesys” – The latest installment of the “Terminator” series where Kyle Reese travels back in time to protect Sarah Connor but finds a Terminator protecting her. (July 1)

“Gallows” – A found-footage horror film following the haunting of high school students. (July 10)

“Minion” – The popular characters from “Despicable Me” get their own movie. (July 10)

“Ant-Man” – Marvel’s shrinking superhero gets the big screen treatment. (July 17)

“Pan” – A telling of a boy taken to Neverland who will become Peter Pan. (July 24)

“Pixels” – Video gamers are recruited by the military to help fight 1980s video game characters come to life. (July 24)

“Poltergeist” – Updated remake of the classic horror movie directed by Sam Rami. (July 24)

“Self/Less” – A man dying of cancer has his consciousness transferred to a younger man’s body, but a secret organization is out to protect their interest when the man investigates the origin of his new body. (July 31)

“The Fantastic Four” – A reboot of the First Family of Marvel. (August 7)

“The Man from U.N.C.L.E.” – Big screen adaptation of the popular 1960s spy series. (August 14)

“Sinister 2” – Horror movie about a mother and her twin sons move to a rural house that is marked for death. (August 21)
“Hitman: Agent 47” – Reboot movie based on the popular “Hitman” video game series where Agent 47 helps another assassin discover her legacy. (August 28)

“The Visit” – Horror movie about a woman’s family falling apart after her children visit their grandparents. (September 11)

“The Maze Runner: Scorch Trials” – The Gladers have escaped the maze but now face hardships on the open roads. (September 18)

“The Disappointments Room” – A mother and son release unimaginable horrors from the attic of their home. (September 25)

“Transylvania Hotel 2” – Animated sequel where Vlad Dracula visits for a family reunion where old school and modern cool collide. (September 25)

“Victor Frankenstein” – The story of the creator of the famous monster from the viewpoint of Igor. (October 2)

“The Jungle Book” – Adaptation of the Rudyard Kipling books starring Bill Murray, Scarlet Johansson, Ben Kingsley and Christopher Walken. (October 9)

“Jem and the Holograms” – Feature film based on the popular 1980s cartoon about a pop rock band managed by a woman who has a holographic dual identity as the lead singer of the group. (October 23)

“The Last Witch Hunter” – Vin Diesel stars as the last witch hunter fighting an uprising of witches in New York City. (October 23)

“Scouts vs. Zombies” – Three scouts help to protect their town from a zombie outbreak. (October 30)

“The Peanuts Movie” – Big screen movie featuring Charles M. Schultz’s famous comic strip characters. (November 6)

“SPECTRE” – James Bond fights the worldwide terrorist organization. (November 6)

“Friday the 13th” – New film featuring the exploits of Jason Voorhees. (November 13)

“The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2” – The final installment of the Hunger Games series featuring Katniss fighting the Capitol. (November 20)

“The Good Dinosaur” – Animated feature where an Apatosaurus befriends a young boy. (November 25)

“The Martian” – An astronaut is stranded on Mars and fights to survive. (November 25)

“Midnight Special” – A father takes his son on the run when they discover he has special powers. (November 25)

“Krampus” – A demon seeks out people to punish at Christmas time. (December 4)

“Star Wars: The Force Awakens” – The highly anticipated sequel to the original trilogy. (December 18)

“Mission Impossible 5” – The latest adventures of Ethan Hunt and the Mission Impossible team. (December 25)

**Television:**

Several shows will finish their current seasons and others will start this year:

“Agent Carter” – The secret agent gets her own miniseries based on the events of the short film “Marvel One Shot: Agent Carter” showing some of her exploits in SHIELD starting on January 6 on ABC.

“Galavant” – A musical miniseries about a knight trying to recapture his reputation and true love starts on January 4 on ABC.
“Once Upon A Time” – The second half of the series will feature Ursula, Maleficent and Cruella de Vil as the main villains starting on March 1 on ABC.

“Agents of SHIELD” – The second half of the season will start in March 3 leading up to the confrontation of Agent Coulson’s team racing against Hydra to stop mass destruction.

“Forever” – The show about the immortal detective starts the second half of the season on January 6 on ABC.

“Constantine” – The dabbler in the black arts will be fighting demons in the second half of the season on January 16.

“Sleepy Hollow” – The second half of season two will recommence the hunt for the headless horseman on January 5 on FOX.

“Arrow” – The second half of the third season about the protector of Starling City will continue in 2015 on CW.

“The Flash” – The companion series to “Arrow” starts the second half of its first season on January 20 on CW.

“Gotham” – The second half of the first season of the formative years of Gotham City’s Dark Knight starts on January 5 on FOX.

“Supernatural” – The Winchester Brothers continue their demon fighting in the second half of the tenth season starting on January 20 on CW.

“The Originals” – The second half of the second season featuring two brothers trying to regain their city while averting war between witches, werewolves and magicians starts on January 19 on CW.

“The Walking Dead” – The second half of the fifth season of the zombie series will air start on February 8 on AMC with season six confirmed.

“Heroes: Reborn” – A miniseries based on the original show will air in 2015 with related webseries content on NBC.

“Game of Thrones” – Season 5 will focus on “A Feast for Crows” and “A Dance with Dragons” in 2015 on HBO.

“Doctor Who” – Series 9 is set to start filming in January with the return of Missy with a projected air date of late 2015.

“Falling Skies” – The fifth and final season of people fighting an alien invasion outside of Boston is confirmed with a projected air date of summer 2015 on TNT.

“The Librarians” – The spinoff of the popular movies about Librarians fighting magic and the Serpent Brotherhood will finish its first season starting on January 4 on TNT.

“Sherlock” – The popular modern update of the famous consulting detective will have a special Christmas episode in 2015 leading into series 4.

“Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell” – The BBC adaptation of the magical-historical novel set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic era is expected to air during 2015.

“Poldark” – A new BBC adaptation of the “Poldark” novels set in 18th century Cornwall starring Aidan Turner (“The Hobbit,” “Being Human” as Ross Poldark.

“Elementary” – Second half of the third season of Holmes and Watson’s adventures resumes on January 3 on CBS.

**Conventions:**

Salute to Supernatural – January 16-18 – Convention about the popular show. See calendar for details.


BabsCon – April 3-5 - Convention devoted to “My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic.” See calendar for details.
Big Wow! ComicFest - April 18-19 – The Bay Area’s largest local comic book convention returns. See calendar for details.

FanimeCon/Clockwork Alchemy – May 22-25 – The fan-run conventions can both be attended on one ticket. See calendar for details.

WizardWorld San Jose – September 4-6 - The Bay Area gets a new major convention. See calendar for details.

**Balls:**

A Dance of Fire and Ice: A Grand Court Ball in Westeros – February 7 – PEERS puts on a ball based on the popular George R. R. Martin novels and HBO series. See peersdance.org for more details.

Dances of Mystery and Imagination: A Victorian Costume Ball in Honor of Mr. Edgar Allan Poe – March 7 – PEERS recreates the writings of the renowned author and poet with dancing. See peersdance.org for more details.

The Doctor Dances: 1756 – The Doctor (multiple versions) visits Madame de Pompadour’s fireplace. See peersdance.org for more details.

The Alice In Wonderland Picnic Dance – A free dance in the park in Alameda based on the writings of Lewis Carroll. See peersdance.org for more details.

**Costume events:**

GBACG Costume Salon: Game of Thrones – January 11 - Resources and help to make the perfect costume for Westeros. See gbacg.org for details.

Game of Thrones – February 28 - GBACG goes to the medieval style winery Castello di Amorosa in Napa to double as Westeros. See gbacg.org for details.

GBACG Costume Salon: Doctor Who – September 6 – Resources and help to make outfits from the television series. See gbacg.org for details.


**Pop Culture Anniversaries:**

“Back to the Future” 30th Anniversary – The popular movie will get a 30th Anniversary Re-issue to DVD and Blu-Ray along with a series of movie screenings with live accompaniment of Alan Silvestri’s music including 15 minutes of new material. There are also plans to create a musical to premiere in London in 2015.

Disneyland Diamond Anniversary – The famous amusement park will complete a number of refurbishments to its rides and has plans for the yearlong celebration starting in the spring. Currently, they are hosting a contest featuring photographs from every decade of the park’s existence on Instagram and Twitter under the hashtag #Disneyland60Contest, where the winner gets a trip to 60th Anniversary Celebration festivities.
History Park in San Jose held a Holiday Tea Party on December 6, 2014. The park was made available exclusively to the people who were attending the tea.

There were two tea sittings for people to enjoy. Carolers from the Lyric Theater were on hand to provide holiday songs as people sipped champagne in the lobby of the Pacific Hotel. The tea service was served by wait staff from Shady Shakespeare Theater Company in costume and proper English accents. The food consisted of finger sandwiches and assortment of sweets. There were three different kinds of tea provided by the Satori Tea Company; Earl Grey, Marzipan and Alice in Winterland (peppermint and white chocolate).

The park was decorated with garlands and wreaths to bring holiday cheer. A number of the historic houses were open for
tours lead by docents. The printing press shop was open demonstrating how business cards and notices were made. The trolley museum was open and one of the streetcars was available for rides through the park area.

Everyone had fun enjoying tea and history at the Heritage Holiday Champagne Tea.
A new style dinner theater debuted on December 2014 in San Francisco at InterMission. The dinner theater was based on the red light district in the old rough-and-tumble Barbary Coast days of San Francisco and was presented by the Vau de Vire as the Soiled Dove on December 4-6 and December 11-13. It was similar in atmosphere to the Edwardian Ball, which is also co-staged by Vau de Vire.

The inside of an old industrial garage-style building was converted into an Old West town in the days of the ‘49ers. The décor was similar to dive saloons of the era that you would see in Western movies and shows such as “High Noon” and “Deadwood.” There was a fully stocked bar with a sign demanding people turn in their six-shooters, a balcony decorated with saloon exteriors where the ladies performed, an “opium” den and a main stage.

All of the performers where dressed in attire inspired by the time period. Many of the ladies were in outfits that you would find in brothels, the bartender wore a cowboy hat, the
master of ceremonies was attired in a ringmaster’s outfit and one of the performers was in red long johns and dirty pants similar to a town drunk. Joshua Abraham Norton I, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico was in the Soiled Dove making proclamations.

The acts were presented throughout the evening and utilized the entire space. The Jazz Mafia provided the music from an elevated perch while performers presented on the stage. Aerialists hung over tables in the crowd. Dancers and contortionists performed on the bar at the back of the room while the bartender shot at balloons with confetti in them. Dancers performed on the balcony and there was a pole dancer who showed her stuff next to the bar.

The acts were varied and numerous. The show opened with a singer accompanied by aerialists. The master of ceremonies then performed with a line of cabaret dancers. There was a town drunk contortionist who “bathed” while being serenaded to “Singing in the Bathtub.” The next acts included a feather dancer on the main stage, a pole dancer who incorporated fans into the act and violinist who was carried out into the crowd while still playing.

The first show stopper was a burlesque artist who was followed by a song-and-dance number with the dancers in sailor uniforms. There was a vignette about Barbary Coast justice with a man being “hung” in a noose after roughing up the women. A silk rope performer with on-stage musical
accompaniment provided by Squid Inc followed along with another pole dance routine and a sword balancing act performed on the bar.

The finals acts were male and female performing strength lifts of each other, cabaret dancers and rope and ring aerialists. The closing number Emperor Norton’s proclamation for a transbay bridge from San Francisco to Oakland set to music with dancers and his funeral procession followed by can-can dancers.

There was a five-course meal that was presented throughout the night created by Work of Art Catering. The first course was champagne cocktails provided as people arrived. The appetizer was fried crab fritters. The salad was a vegetable noodle offering. The main course featured miniature
russet and purple potatoes, slices of corn-on-the-cob, broccolini and tender pot-roast. The last course was a variety of deserts including cookies, brownies, cake and pie.

There were plenty of people dressed in costume. Various Victorian, Western, Steampunk and fancy dress wear was seen.

This was a fun event celebrating the unique history of the Bay Area while presenting great artistry for a wonderful dinner theater experience. If you missed its December run, they will be doing it again in March.
The Last Gaskell Ball...For Now

By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

For more than 30 years, people have been dancing at the Gaskell Occasional Dance Society balls held in the Bay Area, the last 25 years at the Scottish Rite Temple in Oakland next to Lake Merritt. People packed the last official ball on December 13, 2014.

The Gaskell Ball has been known for staging dancing during its run including having a Winter holiday ball and an Autumn Halloween ball that were attended by many people. The Autumn ball was especially fun as the dress code of formal evening wear was relaxed a bit to allow people to come in costume to get into the spirit of Halloween.

The ball had many people attending in their finest clothing including plenty of people wearing Victorian ball gowns as they had come directly from Dickens Fair. The outfits were...
Christmas Card Photo
courtesy of Jean Martin

Christmas Tree dress
by Jean Martin
amazing. One of the participants had a dress decorated with pine tree branches and ornaments to get into the holiday spirit.

There was plenty of dancing throughout the night. Waltzes, schottisches, polkas and two-steps were danced with music provided by Brassworks. The popular Bohemian National Polka, Congress of Vienna Waltz and Sir Roger De Coverly were also on the dance list.

After all of the festivities were concluded, the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel’s “Messiah” was sung by the crowd along with “God Save the Queen” to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert who were in attendance.

Afterwards, organizing board member David Batzloff gave a speech about the wonderful memories of Gaskell Ball, thanking all of the board members, the members of Brassworks and all of the people who attended the ball throughout the years. He updated the crowd to tell them that the board was looking to secure another venue to have the balls and would welcome suggestions at facebook.com/GaskellBall and information@gaskellball.com.

It was a fun but bittersweet night for everyone involved saying goodbye to a tradition in the Bay Area that will hopefully be back soon.
By Kara Nagle

Staff Writer

The last few years a quarterly cosplay meet-up has been moving around the Bay Area public parks. This meet-up has become tremendously popular in the last year, with attendance doubling each meet-up, the latest meet-up had 650 people in attendance. The rapid growth of the cosplay hobby has created a new community in need of networking opportunities.

The NorCal Cosplay Gathers provide far more affordable networking opportunities than the average convention. Photographers and cosplayers of all skill and experience levels are drawn to these Gathers. The $5 entry fee is an unbelievable bargain. It covers food and drink, a raffle for various prizes, the fabric swap, the photographs, and the networking reach.

The Fall/Winter Cosplay Gather in Fremont Central Park held on November 22 was the first Gather I attended. Hosted by Becca Parker, of Bekalou Cosplay, these Gathers are refreshingly unstructured and held outside. The lack of structure allows for free movement of all attendees, and none of the distractions found at conventions. Outdoor lighting is far more forgiving than fluorescent or incandescent light and all of the photos that have been posted for the Gather are clear, bright, and far more flattering than those to come out of conventions. The fresh air of the park made my layered costume much more comfortable, but probably made some of the less covering costumes a little brisk. Weather is definitely a factor to consider, but the rain and chilly weather did not deter most of the attendees.
A few of the cosplayers I met were using the Gather as a place to debut in-the-works costumes. The Gather is a good place for dry runs, to get a feel for how a costume will feel over the course of a day and how well it photographs. I briefly spoke with Brozerker Cosplay and Zero Cute who were cosplaying as the Kaidanovskys from “Pacific Rim.” To my eye the costumes were spot-on, and finished, but to them the costumes still needed a lot of work before BigWow and Fanime, where they hope to debut them to a larger crowd. Such a casual environment is full of friendly people who will gladly give tips and share tricks to make the hobby cheaper, easier, and even more enjoyable.
Photographers were everywhere, some with full light and reflector set-ups, and some just relying on the natural light present. All of them were willing to share all of the photos they captured, and were working with their subjects happily. Many were practicing new techniques and building portfolios for the cosplay crowd. Just like the cosplayers, the photographers were sharing tips and tricks with anyone who asked.

The Gather crowds are still majority anime-based cosplayers, as that is how the Gathers started, but there was an assortment of other fandoms present. I was 10, again, and my friends in the small group I attended with were Sherlock, Crowley, and a Gizmonics Robot Handler with Tom Servo. In our wandering we passed a Wayne and Garth, a Lego Batman, and a Calra Oswald to name a few off the top of my head. There is no animosity between fandoms at the Gather, and my friend who was the Robot Handler was afraid no one would recognize him for what he was, but he was gladly received and recognized.

My experience at the Gather was positive, and I highly recommend attending at least one of these a year. The Spring Gather will be held on March 7, in San Jose at Kelley Park. The Summer Gather date and place will be announced at the Spring Gather. The entry fee is the same $5, covering food, drinks, raffles and fun. I made a handful of new friends, reinforced a few others, and gained a handful of new photos for my cosplay page. Everything about the Gather, even with the cool, wet weather, was enjoyable, and I hope to see more people at the Spring Gather.
By Joanna S. Dunlap  
*Contributing Writer*

This past November 21-23, Wizard World held its first official Comic Con in Reno, Nevada, at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. For the ladies in my local cosplay group, Lovelies Cosplay, this was a con full of firsts.

Reno prides itself on being known as the “Biggest Little City in the World,” and it’s true. We are filled with casinos that offer up delicious restaurants and get their share of celebrity performers, we are less than an hour away from the beautiful Lake Tahoe and some of the best skiing in the US, and our
Midtown district is growing into a bustling splendor of local businesses.

Unfortunately however, until recently, we haven’t been much of a Con City. Sure, we have a magnificent local fan-run anime convention every October: SNAFU (Sierra Nevada Anime Fans Unite), and a smattering of small tabletop gaming events and cosplay gatherings, but not much else. We were lucky enough that WorldCon came a few years ago, but that convention is hosted in different cities all around the world every year, and I doubt we’ll ever get it back here again. If there are any more conventions in our area, they haven’t been advertised well enough for our cosplay group to be made aware of it.

For us in Lovelies Cosplay, we have satisfied most of our Con Bug by traveling to California, but anyone who travels to cons knows how expensive it can get. There’s airfare or gas money, there’s the hotel rooms, there’s food; the list goes on! For years, we envied the lucky con-folk who lived in LA, San Diego, and the Bay Area, for there was simply not enough con experience to be had in Reno.

But Reno has a swiftly growing cosplay and con-going community, and Wizard World is bringing us out of the woodwork.

This is the first time that Wizard World Comic Con, a large, corporate-run fandom convention, has come to Reno. Fan-run cons are outstanding, and are some of our absolute favorite cons to attend, but there is also something to be said for a large-scale corporate con such as Wizard World. Walking into the vendor hall was like walking into another world. Immediately, you find yourself surrounded by more geek memorabilia than you knew existed outside of the Internet. Jewelry, t-shirts, comic books, reproduction weapons, photos, stunning art, and cosplay materials were only some of the magnificent wares for sale. But even that...
pales in comparison to the A-List guests they were able to acquire.

For the first time in Reno, we had the likes of William Shatner ("Star Trek"), Norman Reedus ("The Walking Dead," "Boondock Saints"), Andrew J. West ("The Walking Dead"), Michael Rooker ("The Walking Dead," "Guardians of the Galaxy"), Karen Gillan ("Doctor Who," "Guardians of the Galaxy"), Bruce Campbell ("Evil Dead," "Army of Darkness"), Jewel Staite ("Firefly," "Serenity," "Stargate: Atlantis"), Eliza Dushku ("Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Dollhouse"), Billy Dee Williams ("Star Wars"), Walter Koenig ("Star Trek"), Lou Ferrigno ("The Incredible Hulk"), Kevin Sorbo ("Hercules"), Jason David Frank ("Power Rangers"), and many other heroes of fandom all under one roof, not to mention a massive host of artists, craftsmen, and scientists. Not since the golden age of The Rat Pack has Reno seen such star power. The guest area in the vendor hall was never-empty; a perpetual site of activity for photo ops and autograph opportunities. Any long lines were worth it for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet your fandom hero, with one small exception. In order to keep the lines moving quickly, we were hustled along through our photo-op with Karen Gillan, and we barely had the opportunity to smile at her and wish her a happy birthday before they ushered us along to make way for the next in line. This was disappointing, but we will forever have a photo with one of our favorite “Doctor Who” Companions, and that can’t be taken away.

The cosplayers in attendance were celebrities in their own right, and they did not disappoint! We had no idea there were so many skilled and creative cosplayers that lived in our area! It is so encouraging to be a part of a growing community, and we quickly found a home in two Facebook groups: Reno Cosplay, and Great Basin Geeks. Wandering the halls of Wizard World Reno, you could find the Doctor, the inmates of "Orange is the New Black," the Mother of Dragons, Merida,
Maleficent, Link, Harley Quinn, Deadpool, and the cutest little Frodo Baggins you’ve ever seen. A certain Castiel cosplayer boasted an expanding and retracting wingspan - one that earned her the Best Male Hero Award in Wizard World’s official cosplay competition.

Never ones to shy away from some healthy competition, we in Lovelies Cosplay entered our Hiccup and Toothless from Dreamworks’ “How to Train Your Dragon.” This was the first cosplay that we designed fully from the ground up, including creating the sewing pattern for the elaborate dragon costume, and prosthetic foot made of Wonderflex. We had previously entered this cosplay in the masquerade at SacAnime, and got an Audience Award for our skit, but were ineligible for workmanship judging due to their rules.

The costume contest at Wizard World was the first time we had ever had an opportunity to be judged on our craftsmanship for this particular cosplay, and as it was the first we had designed completely from scratch, we were anxious to get our work assessed by professionals.

There were so many impressive cosplays in the competition! We were honored to be among over one hundred
other talented cosplayers. The creative construction we saw was outstanding, and we were certain that we would walk away with nothing more than personal pride in a job well-done. However, the judges were impressed with Hiccup’s shield and prosthetic foot, and the system of magnets used for Toothless’s folding and unfolding wings, and we happily walked away with a Judge’s Honorable Mention. Twisty the Clown from “American Horror Story: Freak Show” (a delightfully terrifying portrayal) won the cherished Audience Award. Taking home the coveted Best In Show Award was a novice cosplaying couple who made their own (seriously adorable and impressive) remote-control Pokémon. Massive congratulations went out to them, as this was their first cosplay competition ever.

Our experience at Reno Wizard World Comic Con this last November boasts a lot of firsts: the first time we with Lovelies Cosplay we were able to attend such a large-scale con, the first time we were able to be judged on our workmanship of a cosplay we designed and constructed completely from the ground up, the first time we realized just how quickly our local cosplay community is growing, and the first time Wizard World Comic Con came to The Biggest Little City in the World.

As Wizard World has already confirmed dates for Reno next year (Nov. 20-22, 2015, again at the Reno Sparks Convention Center), we know that this year of Firsts won’t be the Last. “Lovelies Cosplay” is Shawna Hafen and Joanna Dunlap and can be found on Facebook: facebook.com/LoveliesCosplay. Wizard World Comic Con is at www.wizardworld.com.
By Jean Martin

Editor-in-Chief

As I mentioned in SF/SF 156, it seems like 2014 is a year of theatre-going for me. I already reviewed nine in that issue. Here are six more for a total of 15 for the year!

The Crucible
Old Vic, London, Sep. 11

It just so happened that both Richard Armitage and Martin Freeman (Thorin Oakenshield and Bilbo Baggins in the Hobbit movies) were both going to be on stage in London during the time we were going to be there. The timing worked out that we would be able to see Armitage on our first night in and Freeman on our last night out.

It was strange seeing a famous American play being done in the U.K. but I guess we see British plays here all the time so turnabout is fair play. Kevin Spacey is the artistic director of the Old Vic so it’s not surprising I guess. The Old Vic is a historical landmark in the annals of drama so it was quite a thrill to be there. It looks Georgian on the outside and Victorian on the inside. Our seats were the first row in the balcony so we had a good view of the in-the-round stage, which really was just the main floor with a few wooden chairs scattered about. In fact, some of the audience members’ chairs were right around the small space. Very minimalistic and interactive.

Armitage was his usual brooding and commanding self. The rest of the cast was alright but Armitage was the definite highlight. The girls’ screaming while they were “possessed” got a bit tiresome and the play is very gloomy. Christopher and I literally just landed, checked into our hotel, grabbed pasties at the tube station and went to the theatre. So it’s a bit understandable that we both nodded off a few times especially with such a serious and slow plot. All in all, I’m glad I saw it for the experience of going to the Old Vic and seeing Armitage in person. I wanted to wait around to see if Armitage would come out to sign autographs, I was told he did on occasion, but I was too tired and jetlagged so we just went back to our hotel to sleep.

Richard III
Trafalgar Studios, London, Sep. 23

After having a grand time at the Jane Austen Festival and touring Kew Gardens and Greenwich, our last night in London capped our trip off nicely with elements of royalty, fantasy, sci-fi, history and literature. On our way to see “Richard III” by Shakespeare with Martin Freeman in the titular role, we saw traffic being stopped by police at Trafalgar Square and then a black sports car zipped right in front of us. The two girls next to me said it was Prince William! I didn’t get to see his face as the side and rear windows were tinted so they must
have seen him through the windshield. Then when we got to our seats in the theatre, a redheaded lady asked to pass by us to get to her seat and she looked like Catherine Tate (Donna Noble from “Doctor Who”). I looked at Christopher, and he said it’s not her, but the woman next to me said it was. I was so thrilled that Tate was sitting four seats to my left!

The play itself was a bit stark. It was set in the late 1970s so the sets and costumes were drab. I’m not a fan of Shakespeare being modernized. The actors were all pretty intense though. In fact, there were some scenes that were just downright frightening such as when Richard strangled his wife Anne to death with a telephone cord and when the Duke of Clarence was drowned in a fish tank. Both seemed very real. Also lots of gun shots and blood at the end.

Freeman was okay as Richard III. He just seemed not right for the role … not evil enough. And he recited his lines haltingly. Yet again, it was just great to see him in person. Gina McKee, who I’ve never liked in anything I’ve seen her in, was surprisingly good as Queen Elizabeth. So I’m glad I saw this production especially since we got to say hello to Catherine Tate during the intermission. It totally made up for us not being able to get into the Doctor Who Experience in Cardiff because it was closed for renovations while we were there.

Pippin

Golden Gate Theatre, San Francisco, Oct. 19

Songs from the musical “Pippin” were pretty popular while I was growing up in the Philippines and I have fond memories of singing them at events in my high school. While I was in New York, I also passed by the theatre it was being played at and I could tell from the promo photos that it was done up to be more modern and circus-themed. The snippets I heard on Amazon.com also sounded slicker than the musical that originated in the 1970s. I’ve never actually seen “Pippin” live. The only version I’ve seen is the William Katt TV broadcast that I saw recently to help me decide whether I wanted to see the San Francisco tour or not. While William Katt was great, there was one scene I really didn’t like and the ending left a lot to be desired.

Still, I thought I should reserve judgment on the new production, which won a Best Musical Revival Tony Award. Also, the original Pippin from the 70s was going to be Charlemagne, the new Pippin from Broadway was going to reprise his role and Andrea Martin (a famous Broadway star) was also going to be in it. My sister, surprisingly, wanted to go see it with me … well, she went to the same high school after all … so off we went.

I am so glad I did. It was fantastic, amazing and entertaining. Matthew James Thomas was adorable as Pippin and had a great singing voice. Sasha Allen as the Leading Player was lovely and cat-like, Andrea Martin as Berthe was a funny and then svelte grandmother, John Rubenstein as Charlemagne was regal, Sabrina Harper as the stepmother reminded me of Raquel Welch and Kristine Reese as Catherine was sweet and spunky. I suppose it was a good idea to turn the Leading Player into a woman as no one can match Ben Vereen from the original and also having a female goading Pippin on balanced it out quite nicely.

The sets were circus-like but more colorful in a vintage way, which suited the historical nature of the show and the costumes were creative and diverse. The choreography,
acrobatics and aerials were jaw-dropping especially since they had to sync with the singing and the story. And the music was just fabulous. Every single song was catchy, dramatic and inspiring. I heard the songs in my head for weeks and I had to buy the soundtrack to savor the songs for years to come. Also, the one bit that I didn’t like in the TV version didn’t bother me so much in this new staged version, and the ending was delivered in a way that made more sense and was more satisfying.

**Sherlock Who**

*Lamplighters, Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, Mountain View, Nov. 9*

We found out about the Lamplighters’ Annual Champagne Gala after seeing their rendition of “Pirates of Penzance.” Christopher and I just couldn’t pass up the chance to see a Gilbert & Sullivan mashup with two of our favorite shows “Doctor Who” and “Sherlock.”

Christopher does a great review of this show in his editorial in this issue so I won’t elaborate on the plot. Suffice it to say that I loved the costumes and the twist of having a female Watson (likely inspired by the show “Elementary,” which I also like). It was great having both the Fourth and Tenth Doctors represented as well as a traditional Sherlock and a Benedict Cumberbatch Sherlock.

The music, straight from G&S, was supplemented with witty lyrics that were written to serve the very timey wimey plotline. The lyrics were penned by the Lamplighters including a couple written by Emily Gladstone-Cole, one of our fellow PEERS actors. She was also in the show as one of the ladies in the chorus.

We got to mingle with the Lamplighters during the intermission as well as after the show. There was a lovely spread of food and, of course, champagne, and apple cider for people like me who don’t drink alcohol. There was also a raffle and silent auction, and Christopher and I bid on a TARDIS costume and we won it. It now sits in our living room as we have nowhere else to put it.

**Kurios**

*Cirque du Soleil, AT&T Park, San Francisco, Nov. 22*

This was another no-brainer for us to go see. Tickets were expensive so we bought the least expensive ones, which I didn’t think would be too bad as Cirque is in an almost-in-the-round big tent anyway. But we had to go see this as it’s Steampunk-themed!

Right as you enter the gates, you’re transported into Cirque-land. We had fun taking photos of ourselves, in Steampunk costumes of course, with the backdrops they had in the open areas and also inside the tent. They had a photo booth with a green screen so we had our photos taken there too. They had different designs that you could choose when you buy photos including one of the stage, in a hot air balloon, etc.

The sets and costumes were spectacular. And I really loved the music so I bought the soundtrack for it. The acts were all quite spectacular especially the Russian cradle duo (male and female high bar act), the female contortionists and the upside down world (a reflected dinner party scene from the ground and from the air). Probably the most nail-biting act was Rola Bola where a man dressed as an aviator balanced on cylinders
stacked sideways and upright on top of each other while on a swing going back and forth.

The invisible circus and hand puppet theatre were funny but I thought not very challenging. There was also a bit with one of the actors portraying a cat on a couch and playing with an audience member that dragged on too long.

The first half, I thought, was more coherent and kept to the theme. The second half just seemed like a regular circus act show. The music was more eclectic later on too and I missed the Steampunky flavor of the earlier numbers.

Compared with “Totem,” the most recent Cirque show I saw before “Kurios,” Kurios was better aesthetically but “Totem” had more memorable and difficult acts. So, on balance, I like them both equally.

Soiled Dove

*Vau de Vire Society, InterMission, Dec. 4*

We were fortunate enough to be invited to attend the first night of this Barbary Coast-themed acrobatic dinner theatre produced by the Vau de Vire Society who also does the very popular Edwardian Ball.

I wrote a full review in my Examiner.com column (complete with pictures... and trust me... you’ll want to see them!). And Christopher also wrote a review for this issue. So I’ll end this article here so you can check them both out.

By Tom Becker

*Compositor*

In our last report, we had just finished working on Loncon 3, had an Indian dinner that couldn’t be beat, and we were ready to start our real vacation. Our first stop was Galway, on Ireland’s scenic west coast. Galway is a centre of Gaelic culture and a great place to hear traditional Irish music, which we were hoping to do.

Galway is on the River Corrib where it comes into Galway Bay. We stayed in a residential district on the other side of the river from downtown, about a ten minute walk. The Adare Guest House is a lovely B&B with its own organic garden and authentic antique plumbing. When we crossed the bridge there was a lovely view of swans in the River Corrib and the dome of Galway Cathedral in the background.
The Galway City Museum is in a compact modern building on three levels. There was a beautiful view from the top floor looking south up the river and west towards the bay. The exhibits were excellent, including prehistoric and medieval Galway, Irish service in WWI, the renowned gaelic writer Pádraic Ó Conaire, and the big dance halls and cinemas where Galway socialized in the mid-20th century. Hanging in the three-story stairwell so you could see it from below and above and all sides was a Galway Hooker, the distinctive small working sailboat of Galway Bay and the nearby islands in the Atlantic Ocean.

Our SF Bay Area friends Ruth and Ian were also in Galway, with Christine, a friend of theirs from London. We ran into them coming out of the museum. Conveniently, the place they recommended for dinner was right across from the museum, in an old boat shed on the river bank. It looked awesome so we stuck our heads in and made reservations. It turned out to be a great meal. The Ard Bia restaurant uses locally sourced foods, which were superb as I expected. But I
was surprised by the varied flavors and culinary styles. It was not traditional Irish cooking. Galway has always been a trading port, with strong ties with the European mainland, especially Spain. It turns out that a great way to learn about Galway’s international character is through its food.

The next day we wandered around town. In medieval times Galway was a walled city. In the centre of town the medieval streets are pedestrianised and is now the main shopping district. Dungeons and Donuts sells coffee, fresh-made donuts, role-playing games and miniatures. Brilliant! Taaffes Bar was one of many pubs advertising traditional Irish music. As far as I know, it is not affiliated with TAFF. We had a cheese tasting at Sheridans Cheesemongers. They had a wide selection of French and Spanish cheeses, but we asked specifically for Irish cheeses because we just don’t see many of them in California. They were excellent.

The main post office had a plaque honoring Máirtín Ó Direáin, the “Foremost gaelic poet of his time.” He had been a clerk in that post office. It was nice to be in a town that honors its poets and writers so.

After a fabulous seafood dinner at Oscars Bistro, we made our way to the Crane Bar. According to the directions in the Maps app on my smartphone, it was several blocks away but still within walking distance. We got there and found a very
posh apartment house. That was not the Crane Bar we were looking for. We knew we were on the right street, and since we were at the end farthest from town, we decided to proceed back towards town. Eventually we found it, just around the corner from Oscars. There was a bar downstairs, and a slightly larger room upstairs where they had the music. There was no stage. The musicians sat at one of the tables near a window. The place was packed and we were lucky to get a table, as it turned out, we were right in front of the musicians. It was very informal. Whoever showed up got a chance to play. But it couldn’t have been better. They played traditional Irish tunes, some wonderful Australian folk songs written by Irish emigrants, and later, when things got a bit loose, some Dylan songs. Not bad for a Wednesday night!

The next day we had to go on to Dublin, all too soon. I would love to go back to Galway and spend more time there.

I first met James Shields on his GUFF trip in 2010. We attended Au Contraire!, the New Zealand National Science Fiction Convention, the weekend before the Worldcon in Australia. (See SF/SF #109 efanzines.com/SFSF/SFSF109.pdf for my Au Contraire! report). After experiencing how successful Au Contraire! was, James cooked up the idea of bidding for a Eurocon in Ireland the weekend after the 2014 Worldcon in London. James is a great guy and he won the bid, so we were there to attend the convention.

When we got there, we also met Brian Nisbet, the other co-chair. Shamrokon was well run, with an interesting program, a beautifully produced souvenir book, a small but high quality art show and dealers room, and a very pleasant and lively atmosphere. The convention committee and staff were highly visible in their lurid green shirts. There seemed to be a lot of
young Irish fans on the staff. It was a good show of support for the Eurocon, and also a good demonstration by Irish fandom of what they can do.

The first night, I got pulled into a dinner expedition to Farm Restaurant, a block away from the hotel. It was delightful. I would characterize the menu as modern organic comfort food.

Shamrokon was at the DoubleTree by Hilton Dublin Hotel – Burlington Road, better known under its old name, the Burlington Hotel. It is a large modern building that is starting to look a little bit worn, but it was spacious and comfortable. The most brilliant aspect of its design was that Shamrokon had its own bar, right behind registration and next to the dealers room and main program rooms. It was essentially the con suite. The bar served Guinness, some interesting Irish microbrews, coffee, soft drinks and snacks. If you didn’t want to buy anything, you could just sit at one of the big tables and chat or read a book or whatever. It was convention space, not commercial.

It was in the fan bar that James Bacon introduced me to some Irish fans. “Hey Patrick, I want you to meet Tom. He’s the one who turned me on to Daikaiju.” (Daikaiju is an amazing sci-fi surf band from Alabama.) We had a fun time hanging out and talking about weird music and various
intellectual topics. Then I had an idea that maybe we could find an unused program room and take over the sound system for a musical exploration program. The Shamrokon staff found us a room and tech director Martin Hoare lent me the critical cable. I had some music on my phone and Patrick brought his MP3 player. We alternated between sci-fi surf rock songs and moody French electronica. It was great.

Saturday night all the bid parties were in the same room. The largest program room was converted into a party room, with round tables in the middle and bid tables around the sides. There were several Eurocon bids from various countries,
and with the large number of fans coming over after LonCon, there were Worldcon bids too. It was a very lively scene.

As I said, the program was very interesting, but in my first attempt to attend a panel, I walked in just as a libertarian started lecturing Charlie Stross on how things really work. It brought back memories of when I saw Eric Raymond similarly tormenting Charlie in San Jose and I quietly stepped back out of the room.

I had better luck at the panel on the modern classics of Irish SF&F. Although there was a moment when a panelist explained how Ireland has relatively little science fiction because of its Catholicism. I didn’t say anything at the time, but it was an interesting comment, although probably wrong. France is strongly Catholic and yet has produced great works of science fiction going back as far as Cyrano de Bergerac and Jules Verne. I think that the cluster of great 20th century science fiction writers and fanzine fans in Northern Ireland was not because of Protestantism, but because the Belfast shipyards and factories created a lot of jobs in what was high tech for that time. James White worked for an airplane manufacturer. If I am right, there will be some great SF from Ireland in the future. There are a lot of young Irish people working in high tech jobs in Cork. Some of them were on Shamrokon staff.
I noticed that the Steampunk Fact - Monorails! panel had Feòrag Nic-Bhrìde on it and made sure to attend it. It turned out that she had made a three hour drive into the Irish countryside so she could see a restored monorail system that had been built in Victorian times. She had photos, and scans of old blueprints and drawings, and video of the monorail in operation. It was very interesting.

There is no doubt you know a work by Artist Guest of Honor Jim Fitzpatrick, but you might not know it is by him. He created the classic portrait of Che Guevara. His Celtic artwork is completely different, but wonderful in its own way, ornately detailed and brightly colored. I was fortunate to see some of his work up close in the art show, and to hear him interviewed about his life, work and inspirations.

Bay Area writer Seanan McGuire was also a Guest of Honor. I enjoy her writing and she is an excellent speaker, but I just didn’t make it to any of her panels this time. At least I saw her when she was a Guest of Honor at FOGcon 4 last March. I am hoping to see her again when she is a Guest of Honor at the next Eastercon.
Meeting 1270

1 December 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
Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker
Began promptly at 8:00 p.m.
23 people were there, before and during
The minutes for meeting 1269 were accepted as "Ick!"

A party jar was belatedly established
Treasurer said at meeting 1269 we took in $4.05 in the regular jar and $7.75 in the party. President and secretary are still holding onto the money collected while he was absent.

A proxy said the VP wished he could be here and will miss SMOFcon 32.

There was no President’s report.
We had a few new visitors who introduced themselves.
Sports committee gave a status on our 2015 outing plans to see the Giants play at AT&T Park. Dave G. is looking at May 1 against the Los Angeles Angels. Tix are $22 each. The comic book promo game cost over $50 per ticket to fully participate, which didn’t sound reasonable for most members. Star Wars night is not only late in the season, but it conflicts with Convolution.
San Jose Giants said it was too soon to talk to them about the Martinelli’s booth.

**Announcements:**

Ken reminded everyone Peter Pan Live will be on NBC this Thursday, starring Allison Williams and Christopher Walken.

Ken also said that Meshuga Nutcracker opens the same evening at the Marines Memorial Theater in San Francisco and runs from December 4-14. It then moves to the Heritage Theater in Campbell from December 25-28. For more details, please go to: themeshuganutcracker.com/

JC said this is Special K’s birthday.

The next installment of the Nerdvana Podcast, "Sci-Fi Day at Kepler’s, Part 2," will be posted Wednesday. Look for it at: nerdvanapodcast.com/. He added that TV Business Expert Marsha Wright included the NerdVana Podcast as one of its "10 Podcasters to Watch list for 2015."

He was also Beth’s proxy to say "Hi!"

I forgot to note who said that Sunnyvale is celebrating its 100th birthday, but I’ll guess Chris. He said the Sunnyvale Public Library will be having a party from noon to 6 p.m. on December 14 and the public is invited. For more details, please go to: sunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/SunnyvalePublicLibrary.aspx

JohnO and a couple of folks from the NerdVana Podcast rescued a dog in Ukiah. All is now well.

**Reviews:**

Gerry N. saw Interstellar and thought the deep space aircraft was wonderful. The space colony was great and liked seeing the baseball game. The acting was wonderful too. That being said, he thought the plot was full of holes with questionable world building. The lighting sources were not well thought out. He liked it was full of allusions to other science fiction movies. Definitely worth matinée.

He also read Recovering Agency: Lifting the Veil of Mormon Mind Control, by Luna Lindsey, which is non-fiction. He said it makes a good resource for anyone interested in brainwashing.

Larry said Marrow, by Robert Reed, is well worth the time to read.

Larry also believes that Predestination might be considering for Hugo nomination, if it’s eligible next year. It is an Aussie time travel movie that is well plotted and highly recommended.

JohnO said Kaiser in Fremont did a great job taking care of him for his eye surgery. Very professional and polite.

Mo read the novel The Martian, by Andy Weir, as a very good book. It had just enough science so she could keep up and highly recommends it.

Talen highly recommends "Friendship Is Optimal," which is part of series that I missed the details on.

I recommended Mockingjay, Part 1. It has a strong female protagonist and lots of good story questions throughout the movie. I thought the ending for this one was more satisfying than Catching Fire, where I felt cut short. Worth full price. Mo followed on that the cinematography was beautiful, but it was all meat with no potatoes. The acting was good, but she thought it was only worth matinée.

We did auctions.

Rumor of the Week: "The voices in Dave’s head object."

We adjourned 9:23 p.m.
Meeting 1272

December 15, 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 8:06
26 people attended

We established a Spider Robinson’s family jar
The minutes of meeting 1271 were accepted as “merry war on Christmas”

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $21.60 in the regular jar and $8.91 in the party jar.

The Vice President reported that there are new “Drink Tanks” out and there will be 2 issues of “Journey Planet” out before new Year’s.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

The Sports Committee asked opinions about interest in a BASFA outing to the Giants game and May 8, vs the Marlins, looks most promising.

Announcements:
Dave G announced for JC that Nerdvana Podcast episode 35, part 4 will be released on Wednesday.
Carole announced that she sold 10 of 14 art pieces at LosCon.

Diane announced that she has a lot of office supplies to donate to something like schools and Adrienne suggested she check out RAFT = [www.raft.net](http://www.raft.net) [a teacher resource that will send out a truck]

Bill announced that George RR Martin likes football.
Larry announced that Fireside Theatre has some of their work on Usenet and if interested, see him.
John O announced that “Ascension” is on skiffy tonight and will show parts 2 & 3 on Tuesday & Wednesday.

Reviews:
Andy reviewed “Godus” for tablets as free to play & eminently playable - and is very like the older game “Populous” - highly recommended & then reviewed gog.com as a good site to find both Populous and other older games, frequently on sale.
[evil] Kevin reviewed this year’s Santa Run in downtown SJ as much less frustrating than the Turkey Trot, but the $5 Santa suit was made of cheap felt & the beard was bad.
Adrienne reviewed a double bill of James Bond films at the Castro Theatre as hearing the James Bond theme played on organ was interesting.

Dave C reviewed an EBay feature - the out of stock option - as something to avoid & reviewed the Hollywood Costume exhibit as fascinating & worth a visit - then Carole commented that you can’t see all the way around the costumes, plus there are lighting issues & reminded visitors to look up & Bill agreed that it was worth full price.

Bill reviewed spending a week in LA between conventions as a good enough week, that LosCon was a bit of a snore &
enjoyed hat he saw of SMOFcon & reviewed 2 books of short stories by William Penn as enjoyable reads
Bradford reviewed the Cupertino library promotion as enjoyable, even with the rain & Diane also enjoyed it; plus he reviewed “The Librarians” as too cutesy for him
Trey reviewed the Stephen Colbert interview of Smaug as well-worth watching & is on Youtube
We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:33 pm
And the rumor of the week was: “Happy Hanukkah”

Meeting 1273

December 22, 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 pm with Trey in Texas & Chris officiating
29 people attended
We established a Spider Robinson’s family jar
The minutes of meeting 1272 were accepted as “pay attention to the minutes, Chris”
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $9.75 in the regular jar and $33.35 in the Spider Robinson’s family jar
The Vice President reported that there is a new “Drink Tank” out and there will be an issue of “Journey Planet” out soon
The President was in Texas
The Sports Committee reported that the next BASFA outing will be to the Giants game, May 8, vs the Marlins at 7:15pm; the ticket cost is $23 for view reserve seats

Announcements:
Dave G announced that he had his food and that Nancy was here
Brad announced that the Giant’s trophy tour schedule is now up and check their site
Ken announced that the Meshuga Nutcracker will be starting at the Campbell, Heritage Theatre starting Christmas, check www.metroactive.com/arts/The-MeshugaNutcracker-Heritage-Theatre.html for details & he announced that the Legion of Rassilon meeting will be held this Friday at the IHOP in Santa Clara & starts at 7 pm
Ric announced that he loves Amazon Prime & announced that episode 379 of Fanboy Planet is now out
JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast episode 35, part 5 will be out on Wednesday & that next week they revisit Convolution on New Year’s Eve
Adrienne announced that Craig Ferguson will be at the Warfield doing stand-up on Feb 20th
Carole announced that Latkefest was yesterday and was awesome
Beth announced that Katlyn will be in “Bring it on, the Musical”, Jan 15-17 at Santa Clara HS

Reviews:
Ken reviewed a classic car ride thru Willow Glen as fun
Dave C watched the Soup awards show & Ken equated Netflix with God, then Dave reviewed Paul Cornell’s “The
Severed Streets” as an occult police procedural & interesting & reviewed “A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night” as worth matinee

Bill reviewed making latkes as a lot of work but worth the effort & reviewed “The Imitation Game” as thought-provoking & worth full price

Debbie reviewed winning 49er tickets as worth full price, even if the 49ers lost & that using the light rail system meant having to listen to other people, many of whom were drunk

A website for making snowflakes was reviewed as good & details are =
www.anthonyherreradesigns.com/index.php/8-ahd-blog/7-star-wars-snowflakes-2012
JC reviewed “Big Hero 6” as he enjoyed it
Chris reviewed ... stuff
Ric highly recommended Mike Myers Saturday Night Live opening sequence & also recommends PeeWee’s holiday special & recommends Earth Wind & Fire’s album “Holiday” & then Mo recommended a Russian anime “Rocks in my Pocket”
We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:32 pm
And the rumor of the week was: all the suggested nominees, but the napkin they were on was somehow lost

Meeting 1274

December 29, 2014
Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary
Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale
Began at 8 pm
28 people attended
We established a Spider Robinson’s family jar
The minutes of meeting 1273 were accepted as “no more minutes this year”
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $28.25 in the regular jar and $24.00 in the Spider Robinson’s family jar
The Vice President reported that there is a new “Drink Tank” out on efanzine.com and there is also a new “Journey Planet” out
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Sports Committee reported that he has tickets available for the next BASFA outing to the Giants game, May 8, vs the Marlins at 7:15pm; ticket cost is $23 for view reserve seats

Announcements:

Chris announced that he needs content for the next 2 “Journey Planets” and the last “Drink Tank” is a month away
Ric announced that episode 380 of Fanboy Planet is now out & that he predicts much squee in the future
Ken announced that he was on KGO at noon the day before & he’s sure there’ll also be a Nerdvana Podcast out soon
Larry announced that there’s a trailer out for “Jupiter Ascending” and it looks good
Doug announced that he won a Hell’s Kitchen black jacket & he’s having it framed

Reviews:
Larry reviewed “Black Mirror” as a good British series & recommended & also reviewed seeing 5 episodes of “Halo Nightfall” as surprisingly good
Dave reviewed “The Interview” as being worth matinee
“Into the Woods” was reviewed a lot - Howeird thought it fantastic, worth full price, Ric & Chris enjoyed it pretty much, although they had parts they were not wild for
Howeird reviewed the “Dr Who” Christmas special as he appreciated the actor, Nick Frost
Chris reviewed the National Film Registry as “13 Lakes” is a case study for boredom
Adrienne reviewed “Blades of Glory” as hilarious

Barbara reviewed “Battle of 5 Armies” as worth full price, totally worth it just for Thranduil & Lisa also reports she enjoyed it but would prefer less Hong Kong action
Ric reviewed an ipad app, “Duet” as possibly the best $10 he has ever spent
[evil] Kevin reviewed the “MeshugeNutcracker” final matinee as totally worth backing it, although the Heritage soundboard was disappointing - but still remarkably enjoyable - Kirsten & Lisa agreed
Doug reviewed binge-watching “Arrow” as he has learned many remarkable things about Starling City & the fight scenes are very good
Trey reviewed a lumbar support pillow as “it’s a lumbar jack but it’s okay”
We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:35 pm
And the rumor of the week was: “someone died of hypothermia at BASFA this week”
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:**
@sfssfcalendar

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

**Wednesday, December 31, 2014**

**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, Love and Freedom with poets, performers, DJs, arielists, burlesque dancers and more.
9 p.m.

**Friday-Sunday, January 2-4, 2015**

**Sac-Anime**
Sacramento Convention Center
1400 J St, Sacramento
www.sacconventions.com
Anime show.
$45 (at the door)

**Saturday, January 3, 2015**

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

**Sunday, January 11, 2015**

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

**Friday-Sunday, January 16-18**

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

**Thursday-Monday, January 15-20, 2015**

**Further Confusion 2015: London Fog-A Victorian Murder Mystery**
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose
furcon.org/2014/
Anthropomorphic costuming convention $60 (through Jan 10)

**Friday-Sunday, January 16-25, 2015**

**Noir City Film Festival 13: ‘Til Death Do Us Part**
Castro Theater
429 Castro Street, San Francisco
www.noircity.com
10 days of classic film noirs.

**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. $48 (General Admission), $95 (VIP Balcony)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location/Details</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, January 17, 2015</td>
<td>Edwardian Vendor Bazaar Daytime Shopping</td>
<td>The Regency Sutter Room 1270 Sutter Street, San Francisco edwardianball.com</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, January 17, 2015</td>
<td>The Edwardian Ball</td>
<td>The Regency Ballroom 1300 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco edwardianball.com</td>
<td>$55 (General Admission), $100 (VIP Balcony)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, January 24, 2015</td>
<td>GBACG Open House</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html">www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html</a> Albany Veteran’s Hall 1325 Portland Avenue, Albany</td>
<td>Free for members, $5 for non-members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat-Sun, January 31-February 1, 2015</td>
<td>Animation on Display</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport 1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame <a href="http://www.aodsf.org">www.aodsf.org</a></td>
<td>$35 (at convention)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat-Sun, January 31-February 1, 2015</td>
<td>Walker Stalker Con</td>
<td>Fort Mason Center 2 Marina Boulevard, San Francisco walkerstalkercon.com/sanfrancisco/</td>
<td>$70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday-Sunday, February 6-8, 2015</td>
<td>Potlatch 23</td>
<td>Hotel Deca 4507 Brooklyn Avenue NE, Seattle, Washington potlatch-sf.org</td>
<td>$60 (advance), $70 (at the door)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 7, 2015</td>
<td>GBACG Workshop</td>
<td>Topic and site TBA <a href="http://www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html">www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html</a> Expand your skills at this hands-on workshop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 7, 2015</td>
<td>PEERS A Dance of Fire and Ice: A Grand Court Ball in Westeros</td>
<td>Alameda Elks Lodge 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda peersdance.org</td>
<td>$20 (advance), $25 (at the door)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 7, 2015</td>
<td>Game of Thrones presented by GBACG</td>
<td>Castello di Amorosa 4045 North St. Helena Highway, Calistoga</td>
<td>$35 (at convention)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday-Monday, February 13-16, 2015</td>
<td>DunDraCon</td>
<td>San Ramon Marriott 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon <a href="http://www.dundracon.com">www.dundracon.com</a> Gaming convention</td>
<td>$50 (until January 31), $60 (at the door)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday-Monday, February 13-16, 2015</td>
<td>Pantheacon</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, February 15, 2015</td>
<td>GBACG Goes to President’s Tea at the Camron-Stanford House</td>
<td>Camron-Stanford House 1418 Lakeside Drive, Oakland <a href="http://www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html">www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html</a> Have tea in one of the only examples of Victorian-era homes that once ringed Lake Merritt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 28, 2015</td>
<td>Game of Thrones presented by GBACG</td>
<td>Castello di Amorosa 4045 North St. Helena Highway, Calistoga</td>
<td>$35 (at convention)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Sunday, March 1, 2015**

**GBACG Costume Salon: Mid-19 Century**

Site TBA

[www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html](http://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.

**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](http://peersdance.org)

Ball honoring the author Edgar Allan Poe set in Paris featuring 19th Century ballroom dancing and music by Baguette Quartette.

8 p.m. $20 (advance), $25 (at the door)

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

**Consonance 2015**

Crowne Plaza San Jose/Silicon Valley
88 Bellew Drive, Milpitas
[consonance.bostoncalifornia.com](http://consonance.bostoncalifornia.com)

Filk convention convention. Guests: Wild Mercy, Gary Hanak, Jim Partridge, Phil Mills $55

**Friday-Sunday, March 13-15, 2015**

**ConQuest Sac X**

Sacramento Red Lion Hotel Woodlake Conference Center
500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento
[www.conquestsac.com](http://www.conquestsac.com)

Tabletop gaming convention. $60

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

**FOGcon 2014**

Walnut Creek Marriott
2355 North Main Street, Walnut Creek
[fogcon.org](http://fogcon.org)


**Friday-Sunday, March 13-15, 2015**

**Rakkasah West Middle Eastern Dance Festival**

Richmond Memorial Auditorium
403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond
[www.rakkasah.com/west/](http://www.rakkasah.com/west/)

Middle Eastern dance festival with performances and workshops.

$15 (Fri), $18 (Sat & Sun)

**Friday-Sunday, March 13-15, 2015**

**Professor Mondo’s Dangerworks Conclave: A Futuristic Victorian Experiment**

Sacramento Red Lion Hotel
500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento
[www.dangercon.com](http://www.dangercon.com)

Sacramento’s own steampunk convention $45, see website for additional event pricing

**Saturday, March 14, 2015**

**GBACG Costume Academy**

History Park/History San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
[www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html](http://www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html)

An epic day of enlightening lectures, hands-on workshops and shopping.

**Friday-Saturday, March 27-29**

**Corflu 32: Tynecon III**

The Vermont Hotel
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, United Kingdom
[corflu.org](http://corflu.org)

Fanzine fandom convention. $85

**Saturday-Sunday, March 28-29, 2015**

**Twisted Terror Convention**

Sacramento Doubletree by Hilton
2001 Point West Way, Sacramento

Horror/Sci-fi convention. $35
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.”

$60

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-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.
$30 (Pre-registration) $35 (at the door)

Sunday, May 3, 2015
Silicon Valley Bikes! Festival and Bicycle Show
History Park/History San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/
Celebrate Silicon Valley’s rich cycling history with demonstrations, cycling clubs, a bicycle show and more.
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. $5, Free (Children 10 and under)

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.

$30 (Pre-registration) $35 (at the door)
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.
$65 (until May 1), $75 (May 1 and after)

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

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.
$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)

Thursday-Monday, May 28-June 1, 2015
San Francisco Silent Film Festival
Castro Theater
429 Castro Street, San Francisco
www.silentfilm.org
Classic silent films presented with live musical accompaniment including the “Sherlock Holmes (1916).

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
nilesfilmmuseum.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
$80 advance, Onsite $90

Friday-Sunday, June 26-28, 2015
Broncho Billy Film Festival
Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum and Downtown Niles
37417 Niles Boulevard, Fremont
nilesfilmmuseum.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
Westcon 68
Town & Country Resort and Conference Center
500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego
westcon68.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
Belly dance performances, comic book artists, movie room and costume contest on Saturday.
$15

Wednesday-Sunday, August 19-23, 2015
Sasquan/WorldCon 2015
Spokane Convention Center and Downtown Spokane, Spokane, Washington
sasquan.org
73rd Annual World Science Fiction Convention. Guests of Honor: Brad Foster, David Gerrold, Vonda N. McIntyre, Tom Smith, Leslie Turek
$190

Friday-Sunday, September 4-6, 2015
WizardWorld San Jose Comic-Con
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose
www.wizardworld.com/home-sanjose.html
General comic book and pop culture convention.
8 p.m. $75 (advance), $85 (at the door)

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
### Ongoing

**Daily**

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

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

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

**Nightly Nerd Show**
KCSF Radio, 90.9 FM
nightlynerdshow.tumblr.com/
Radio show covering nerdy topics 5-6 p.m.

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

### Sundays

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

**Golden Gate Knights (Lightsaber Instruction Class)**
Studio Gracia
19 Heron Street, San Francisco
goldengateknights.com
www.facebook.com/groups/goldengatejedi
Instructor-led class on lightsaber stage combat and choreography.
12 p.m. $10

**Cloondara Fighter Practice**
Golden Gate Park
47th Avenue @ Fulton, San Francisco
www.westkingdom.org
The Shire of Cloondara (San Francisco, CA) holds fighter practice Sundays at 12:00 p.m. (if there are no major SCA events and the weather permits)
12 p.m. Free

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

**Bad Movie Night**
The Dark Room Theater
2263 Mission Street, San Francisco
www.darkroomsf.com
Featuring bad movies old and new.
8 p.m. $5
Sakuramento Anime Society
Rancho Cordova Library
9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova
www.saclibrary.org
Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs. 3-6 p.m.

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

SF Games
Taqueria San Jose, 2830 Mission Street, San Francisco (Fridays, 7 p.m.)
Zephyr Cafe, 3643 Balboa Street, San Francisco (Sundays, 2 p.m.)
www.sfgames.org/
SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week.

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

Sacramento Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club
Midtown Crepreville
1730 L Street, Sacramento
www.sacgeeks.com
A laid-back, friendly social club for people to discuss, recommend, share and trade their favorite SF and fantasy books. NOT a book-of-the-month club.
6:30 p.m. Free

Mondays and Wednesdays
Silicon Valley Boardgamers
Mountain View Community Center
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View
www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb
Group meets regularly to play mostly German-style strategy board games such as Settlers of Catan; also multi-player Avalon Hill-style, historical war games, and others.
6:30 p.m. $2

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

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

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

**Escape From The Time Travel Lab**  
Real Escape Room  
1746 Post Street, San Francisco  
realescapegame.com/ersf2_ttlab/  
You are trapped in a mysterious laboratory where they study time travel and must escape in this immersive game.  
Various time - check website $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/  
Every Thursday night, the Academy opens its doors for NightLife, a chance for adults to explore the museum in a whole new light. Dance to some of San Francisco’s most popular DJs, enjoy food and cocktails, and mingle while you delve into the Academy’s world-class exhibits and get up close and personal with aquarium critters.  
6 p.m. - 10 p.m. $12 (21+)

**Fridays**

**Friday Night Waltz**  
First United Methodist Church  
625 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto  
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/  
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)

**Fridays-Mondays**

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

**Saturdays**

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

**Biweekly**

**PenSFA Party**  
The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions. Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending. PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host $2. Don’t smoke in the house without checking with the host first. Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.
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.
Free, donations welcome

Foothill Anime
Building 5015, Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
foothillanime.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.

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

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

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

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

Barely Legal Presents “The Rocky Horror Picture Show”
Camera 3 Cinema
288 South Second Street, San Jose
barelylegal.rhps.org/
Barely Legal provides the shadow cast for the South Bay for the classic midnight movie every first Saturday of the month in Downtown San Jose.
Midnight
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Website/Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>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.</strong></td>
<td>Midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>QSF&amp;F Book Club</strong></td>
<td>Borderlands Books, San Francisco</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.borderlands-books.com/about_events.html">www.borderlands-books.com/about_events.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>East Bay Star Wars Club</strong></td>
<td>Central Perk</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/35116614719/">www.facebook.com/groups/35116614719/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>USS Defiance</strong></td>
<td>USS Defiance</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.myspace.com/d2121978">www.myspace.com/d2121978</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BAERS Second Friday Dance Party</strong></td>
<td>St. Mark’s Episcopal Church</td>
<td>8 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.</td>
<td>baers.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fantastic Frontiers</strong></td>
<td>Social club for Sacramento County sci fi/fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/">www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No-Name Anime</strong></td>
<td>Saratoga Library</td>
<td>noon</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nnanime.com">www.nnanime.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SF Browncoats</strong></td>
<td>Cafe Murano</td>
<td>noon</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sfbrowncoats.com">www.sfbrowncoats.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Night of the Living Book Club</strong></td>
<td>Books, Inc.- Mountain View</td>
<td>5 pm</td>
<td><a href="http://www.booksinc.net/night-living-book-club">www.booksinc.net/night-living-book-club</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club</strong></td>
<td>Borderlands Books</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com">jfeldman@borderlands-books.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club</strong></td>
<td>866 Valencia, San Francisco</td>
<td></td>
<td>Free</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Locations and times may vary.*
**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

**Wicked Games**
Wicked Grounds Cafe
289 8th Street, San Francisco
www.wickedgrounds.com/regular-events.html
Gaming at Wicked Grounds. Meets fourth Saturday of every month.
6 pm to 10 pm Free

**USS Augusta Ada**
Round Table Pizza
3567 Geary Blvd, San Francisco
trek.starshine.org
Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and *BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month.
1 p.m. Free

**Queered Science Book Club**
Au Coquelet Restaurant
2000 University Avenue, Berkeley
queeredscience.weebly.com
www.facebook.com/groups/qsbooks/
Monthly book club that focuses on science fiction, fantasy, and magical realism that includes trans*, queer, genderqueer, and strong female protagonists and themes.
Meets the last Saturday of each month.
4:30 p.m. Free

**Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE**
Round Table Pizza
4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento
916-338-2300
Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.
6 pm Free
### Bay Area Fannish Calendar – January 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bad Movie Night</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Sakuramento Anime</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>SF Games</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Golden Gate Knights</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Cloondara Practice</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Amtgard</strong></td>
<td><strong>BASFA</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>SV Boardgamers</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Haunted Haight</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Sacramento SF/F Book Club</strong></td>
<td><strong>MGI Baifers</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Principality of Mists</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Fighter Practice</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Vintage Waltz</strong></td>
<td><strong>BA Role-Playing Soc</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>E.Bay Strategy Games</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>SV Boardgamers</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Steam Federation</strong></td>
<td><strong>CAS: NightLife</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Fanboy Planet Podcast</strong></td>
<td><strong>SF Games</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Haunted Haight</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Vampire Walking</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Friday Night Waltz</strong></td>
<td><strong>Niles Film Museum</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Saturday Movies</strong></td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Doctor Who Perv Society</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Foothill Anime</strong></td>
<td><strong>Game of Thrones</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Costume Salon</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>QSF&amp;F Book Club</strong></td>
<td><strong>Further Confusion</strong>&lt;br&gt;(thru Mon)</td>
<td><strong>Salute to Supernatural</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Noir City Film Fest</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Edwardian Faire</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>USS Defiance</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>USS Northern Lights</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Edwardian Bazaar</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Edwardian Ball</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Micro Gods, Inc</strong></td>
<td><strong>GBACG Open House</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Wicked Games</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>USS Augusta Ada</strong></td>
<td><strong>Animation on Display</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Walker Stalker Con</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Queered Science Book Club</strong></td>
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