Science Fiction/San Francisco

Walker Stalker Con
Doctor Who Art Show
Horror Comics
Big Wow! ComicFest
The One-Ring Cycle
Star Wars Celebration
7 Stars Bar and Grill
Xena Con
Jeffrey Weissman
...and more!
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**Art Credits**

- **Cover**: Tenaya Lake, Yosemite by Lucy Huntzinger
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Editorial

By Christopher Erickson  
Managing Editor

It has been a busy few months since I last wrote an editorial in January. I have been to several conventions including Further Confusion in January, Gallifrey One in February, Big Wow! ComicFest in April and Clockwork Alchemy in May. I have also been busy with PEERS as well with their Twelfth Night Ball, Dance of Fire and Ice Ball based on “Game of Thrones,” Dances of Mystery and Imagination (tribute to Edgar Alan Poe), Dance Comes to Pemberly (sequel ball to the Jane Austen novel “Pride and Prejudice” set 10 years after the book), the My Fair Lady Ball and the Doctor Dances “Doctor Who” Ball.

I also found time to go to the Kat Robichaud and the Darling Misfits CD Release party in January, the Night of the Doctor panel at Walker Stalker Con in January, GBACG Game of Thrones event at Castello di Amorosa in February, the NorCal Spring Cosplay Gathering at Kelly Park in San Jose (also in February), the Doctor Who Art Show and TARDIS Party in March, the San Jose Fantasy Faire in April, the Carnivale Fantastico in May and celebrate my 39th birthday with a science fiction karaoke party.

I enjoyed the Cosplay Gathering. They are held usually four times a year somewhere in Northern California as the places change. There were a large number of people who came and there were a good variety of costuming. There was more than just the Fanime crowd there and a number of photographers showed up to take pictures. I came early and got a great parking spot. The event was only $5 to cover park reservations and food that was available for all of the attendees. I was able to see friends I had not seen in quite a while as well as make new friends.

Kitty with her husband Mr. Hart  
by Louise Smythe
In the middle of all of these were three weddings of dear friends of mine and one of a relative. The first one was that of Christopher J Garcia and Vanessa Applegate held at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View as a traditional wedding. The second wedding was España Sheriff and John Coxon’s low-key reception done as a version of a convention held in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero in San Francisco. People had badges with 1950s sci-fi artwork to let people know that they were with the party. Some people even came in costume. The third wedding of Louise Du Cray and Rich Medley was a more traditional wedding but the music for the ceremony and the décor for the reception had a Disneyland theme. The fourth was the wedding of my sister in Texas and so I got a mini-vacation out of that as our hotel was right on the beach in Galveston and we got to check out the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

I managed to mostly keep up with the shows that I have been watching throughout the year. I finished all of “The Flash.” I was surprised with the cliffhanger ending but enjoyed the buildup of the season to the confrontation between The Flash and the Reverse-Flash (The Man in the Yellow Suit) while mixing in plenty of Rouges Gallery like Captain Cold and Heatwave. I thought “IZombie” was really good as well. The show has quickly built an overall story arc dealing with other zombies besides the main character and how they stay alive. “Once Upon A Time” has kept interest by bringing back a previous villain as well as tying in Maleficent, Ursula and Cruella de Vil as the main antagonists. I have also been following “Mr. Selfridge” which has been engaging by tackling issues faced by the British population after the Great War including men returning to the workforce, homelessness and post-traumatic stress suffered by the soldiers and personal upheaval. “Gotham” has also been a great show balancing all of the early days of the characters in the Batman mythos while showing how the fictional city adds depth to the characters and almost a character as well. I’d been looking forward to “Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell” since I liked the book, and I enjoyed the miniseries immensely.
The one show that has gotten stronger is “Marvel’s Agents of SHIELD.” The events of the show have tied in with the larger Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) with the destruction of SHIELD at the hands of HYDRA from the events depicted in “Captain America: Winter Soldier” and leading into the events of “Avengers: Age of Ultron.” The helicarrier seen in the second “Avengers” movie was shown as the Theta Protocol in the show. There has also been a major thread showing a class of superhumans called the Inhumans that will receive a movie in 2019.

The upcoming television season is showing a lot of promise with several series being picked up for another season. Among them are “Marvel’s Agents of SHIELD,” “The Flash,” “Arrow,” “IZombie,” “Gotham” and “Once Upon A Time.” There have also been a couple of shows announced that I am interested in: the “Arrow”/“The Flash” spinoff “Legends of Tomorrow” (with established characters Captain Cold, Heatwave, Firestorm and the Atom along with new characters Hawkgirl, White Canary and time traveler Rip Hunter played by Arthur Darvill) and “Supergirl.” The more intriguing pickups for additional seasons are “Galavant” (the musical-comedy about a disgraced knight trying to get back his love) and “Marvel’s Agent Carter” since both were previously miniseries events.

The only movies that I have seen recently was “Avengers: Age of Ultron” and “The Divergent Series: Insurgent.” I enjoyed both movies. I plan on seeing the “Ant-Man” movie when it comes out later this summer. I am also looking forward to “Star Wars: The Force Unleashed” when it comes out in December.

Since I watched the movie, I picked up the three main books of the “Divergent” series by Veronica Roth. The books were very engaging and had an ending that I did not anticipate. I also read the “Hunger Games” series by Suzanne Collins. I enjoyed this series as well. I also read “Moby-Dick” by Herman Melville. I found this book to be very intriguing since it depicted a crew of culturally and racially diverse people who worked together to gain their fortune. I was not expecting to see what we consider a modern idea such as racial tolerance depicted in a
novel written in the 1800s. I was also surprised that most of the book actually had to do with depictions of whaling including how they were captured and processed and how the crew operated on the ship. I have worked through the Barsoom books “Synthetic Men of Mars,” “Llana of Gathol” and “John Carter of Mars” by Edgar Rice Burroughs to finish off the series.

I was massively busy prepping for the Comic-Con masquerade, sewing like the wind. We did an X-Men tap dancing routine and I was Professor Xavier. I will write more about this in our next issue. I was able to take a night off to go to San Francisco Silent Film Festival to watch “The Ghost Train” (1927) narrated by Paul McGann. I am also planning on visiting the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Steinbeck’s Spirit of Monterey Wax Museum since it has been revamped.

I am also looking forward to the second half of the year with both the San Jose Renaissance Faire and the Northern California Renaissance Faire, the Dickens Fair in December, and Convolution in October and a few GBACG events including a Zorro themed one in Oakland and a Doctor Who Murder Mystery. There are also the various balls by PEERS (including the Le Bal des Vampires) and BAERS (with Jean organizing the “Emma Ball” on September 19.

On the television front, we just caught up with the most recent season of “Game of Thrones” and I will have to work my way through a couple of seasons of “Archer,” all of “Arrow” and a couple of seasons of “The Walking Dead.” Mixed in with this is the later seasons of “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” and “Angel.”

I will have to catch up with movies since the new “Terminator” movie will be out along with “Jurassic World”, “Pixels,” “The Fantastic Four,” “Inside Out” from Pixar and the intriguing movie “Self/Less.” Movies out later in the year that I will want to see in the theaters are the James Bond movie “Spectre” and “The Peanuts Movie.” I will also have to catch “Ex Machina” on video later.

That pretty much catches up the last few months. Hope everyone is having a good summer and enjoys a vacation at some point.

Mary prefers a good book to the activity of dancing. Even at a ball.

by Louise Smythe
Milt Stevens writes:

In Science Fiction/San Francisco #161, you announce you are going from a monthly to a quarterly schedule. That’s not surprising. Very few fan publishers stay on a monthly schedule for very long. Having done the monthly schedule for ten years, you are far above the average. Most fanzines seem to be annual or semi-annual these days. Then there was Science Fiction Five Yearly…

Jean Martin responds:

Thanks for understanding. I wish I could keep it up on a monthly basis but I think quarterly is better than not at all.

There certainly seems to be plenty of geek TV and movies. There is so much of it, I wonder if this is some sort of a bubble. There was a time when television was entirely dominated by westerns. Then the balloon popped, and there weren’t any westerns at all. TV and movie producers seem to take their business model from lemmings. They go forward at extreme speeds until they go off a cliff. Then they stop.

Yeah, trends come and go. I’m enjoying it while it lasts. Although it would be good for it to slow down a bit as I can’t keep up!

I really liked the movie “Maleficent.” I usually don’t like revisionist fiction like the rebooted Star Trek, but I’m willing to make exceptions if the stories are good enough. If I’d seen this movie earlier, I’d have probably put it on my Hugo nominating ballot. I also liked “The Lego Movie.” It was a really different movie. If you had described it to me, I’d have probably said I wouldn’t like it. However, I did like it.

I was surprised to find that I liked “Maleficent” myself. I’ve never liked Legos in general so I don’t know if I’d like an entire movie about it.

I attended one World Fantasy Convention when it was at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles about 30 years ago. At that time, it hadn’t shifted its focus to dark fantasy. I’ve read some dark fantasy, but it really doesn’t interest me. I haven’t heard much about the convention in quite a few years.

It’s more of an industry convention than a fan convention. I enjoyed the one time I went to it as it was inspiring to see all the writers, publishers, editors and fans there. The parties were epic as some had publishing houses’ budgets funding them. I also thought it was inspiring as I’d like to be a fantasy (or sci-fi) author someday.

Unlike Denise Tanaka, I’ve never had any desire to visit past eras. Just thinking about dental work in previous centuries convinces me I wouldn’t want to go there. Then there was the lack of indoor plumbing. You also would have to be careful to avoid plagues and massacres. All in all, I like it where I am.

That’s what’s great about living in today’s world, you get modern conveniences and medicine and get to play in the better parts of past eras.
I didn’t know there were any castles in Napa Valley. One Worldcon banquet was held in a for real castle on the Rhine. Schloss Heidelberg was the onetime residence of one of the electors of the Holy Roman Empire. Holding a banquet there was impressive.

I keep hearing about how great Heidelberg is. I wish I knew that before I passed on going to it while I was in Germany a few years ago. I had one day left and had to choose between that and Rothenburg ob der Tauber, which I had visited when I was a child. Childhood nostalgia won the day and I don’t regret going to Rothenburg. I just wished I had an extra day to go to Heidelberg as well. Maybe next time. There aren’t really very many real castles in California. But I suppose Castello di Amorosa would qualify as most of what was used to build it are originals from Europe.

**Lloyd Penney writes:**

Hello! It's great to see SFSF return, so this will take a while at 109 pages, a letter of comment on issue 161.

New work? Kinda the same for me. After being where I am for seven months, I finally know all of what I will be doing, definitely not what I was expecting, but still, it’s work that pays me well.

**Jean Martin responds:**

It’s nice to have something stable and doesn’t change much. I seem to be constantly training for a new job and it’s pretty exhausting. Interesting, but exhausting.

Nichelle Nichols is a sweet lady. I've never met her, but I have certainly seen her in action, from a distance.

She’s lovely and I’m glad I got to meet her. Now if I can only meet William Shatner. I missed meeting Leonard Nimoy, unfortunately. It still feels like he’s alive, though, somehow.

Yvonne and I have been recovering financially for some years now, and now, we can travel a bit. We've done a couple of tables for Penney's Steampunk General Store, including one at Ad Astra, the local convention we've been attending for nearly 35 years. Just last weekend, we drove up to Ottawa to see the exhibition of the works of M.C. Escher at the National Art Gallery of Canada. Dinner with local fan friends ended a marvelous day, and a leisurely drive home on Sunday. We've missed this kind of travel, and we will have more ... we have decided that the late summer of 2016 is when we will travel to London, UK, to spend at least two weeks, go to the Harry Potter display in Watford, and then The Asylum in Lincoln. We can hardly wait.

Sounds like a fun trip. Can't wait to hear about it. 2016 will be here before you know it.

The BBC website is www.bbc.co.uk. Click on Radio, and then click on any of the stations. A separate window will pop up, and that is the Radio Player. Go to the search window at the top, and enter Absolute Radio, and a list of their stations will come up.

Found it! Thanks.

It is always a relaxing time when I can enjoy a full tea, high or otherwise. I may have written in the past about a tea room a five-minute drive away from where we live in Toronto's west end, the Victorian Garden. Our hostess is Michelle from Liverpool, and she knows her stuff, and on the odd occasion when we are able to go, we always enjoy ourselves. We might be able to stage our own teas.
at home, too, for there are a number of British food stores relatively close to us.

We’ve lost the chain of British stores in our area a few years ago. I found a new one in San Francisco (at least it’s new to me). But going to SF is such a pain that I don’t really foresee being able to go there often. They do deliver with free shipping over a certain amount and so I ordered a bunch of stuff ... including my favorites that are hard to find like Elderflower water, vegetarian Haggis and Garibaldis. I haven’t been to tea in a while ... gotta plan on doing that hopefully soon.

This year, we’ve been to the City of London (Ontario) Steampunk Gala, and had ourselves a great time there, and later on in August, we will be attending the 4th Annual Murdoch Mysteries Experience in Toronto. We expect it to be the last one, so we MUST be there! Yvonne will return to the MME as none other than Queen Victoria.

Oh, how fun! I still haven’t seen the episode with Yvonne in it as Netflix still doesn’t have Season 4, which I believe is where she appears. What episode is it again?

And, of course, the final news is that not long after he got married, Chris Garcia will soon be the proud father of twins! *sniff* They grow up so quickly…

Yup! I’ve been following the adventures of the Penguins on Facebook.

All done for now, and made the page. Take care, and I look forward to you resuming your regular schedule.

See you next time!

Join our crew!

We are always looking for writers to cover local events, conventions, fan groups and the fannish scene in general. Contact Jean Martin at SFinSF@gmail.com
By Kara Nagle

Staff Writer

Zombies have been a pop culture icon since 1968, when they were introduced in George Romero’s “Night of the Living Dead.” The shambling undead have enjoyed a niche cult-following until recently, thanks to the television adaptation of the comic book series “The Walking Dead.”

AMC’s adaptation of the 2003 to present comic title carved a place for zombies into weekly television. It is said the story is more about the living and less about the undead, but plenty of fans tune in because of the brain-seeking Walkers. A wider, more diverse audience clamors for interaction with cast and crew beyond what social media provides. From this desire Walker Stalker Con was born.

Walker Stalker Con drummed up support via a podcast and then a Kickstarter campaign to fund a national tour of celebrity appearances. This con has a celebrity guest list that far outstrips any other convention of similar size and niche audience draw. Cast, crew, creators and
producers of “The Walking Dead” as well as other horror-genre films, television shows and books make appearances at one or several of the convention tour stops. The San Francisco stop of Walker Stalker Con offered a guest list 48 names long, including non-zombie-genre guests from “Doctor Who.”

During the weekend of January 31–February 1, fans descended upon The Fort Mason Center along the San Francisco Bay to celebrate the horror genre and greet guests with enthusiasm. Bay weathered warehouses along the pier created a perfect atmosphere for the convention. Fans in cosplay blended in perfectly with the worn and battered buildings for perfect post-zombie-apocalypse photographs.
Three of the buildings along the pier of Fort Mason were commandeered for the convention. Each warehouse featured a different aspect of the convention, much as different rooms of a convention hall would. Vendors and a small smattering of guests were in one building, a larger portion of guests and the panel location were in another building, and paid photo ops were located in the last building. Staggered entrance provided structure to the morning rush every day of the con, with VIP ticket holders entering the venue as early as 9:00 a.m. and general admission ticket holders entering as late as 11:00 a.m.

Panels started at 11:30 a.m., and each day featured six panels from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Plenty of autograph opportunities were available, leaving photograph opportunities with celebrities scheduled tightly and at very particular intervals. The cosplay contest was held on Saturday before the half-hour special “Doctor Who” panel.

Ticket prices were on par with any other pop culture convention, with day passes as well as weekend passes available. Three tiers of VIP ticket packages were sold, and the big-draw celebrities had VIP passes built around their appearances as well, providing 11 more VIP options. General admission tickets ranged from $35-$55, depending on the day. Saturday had the
highest price, and tickets for each day were limited and sold out by the day of the con. VIP packages were still available during the weekend, and these started at $300, and ranged all the way to $1,000. These packages include weekend passes, a personal staff guide, and inclusion in green room meals, autographs, photographs, con swag and some unlisted surprises.

Parking for the Fort Mason venue is extraordinarily limited, and there was an option to reserve space at surrounding parking structures for a premium. A patient fan can find a free space with a lot of circling of the Fort Mason Center, and any fan willing to walk can find a less expensive parking option within a mile or two of the venue. Should Walker Stalker return to The Fort Mason, the parking reservation app is squirreled away on a sidebar of the website. Use that to save time and feet, or take advantage of public transit.

Food trucks were called into the venue each day to provide a narrow variety of victuals. The offerings were flavorful and not typical con fare. The trucks definitely reflected The City’s culinary curiosity. Outside food and drink was not banned, and backpacks were in abundance, so savvy attendees had snacks and drinks on hand. The food trucks did sell out of foodstuffs before the end of the convention day each afternoon, so a prepared fan was well-armed for any noshing needs.

Overall, my attendance at the con was over-burdened with off-putting experiences, but these were not necessarily the fault of the convention organizers. I did not reserve a space at a surrounding structure, and had a late start to the day because of poor time-management within my cosplay group. By the time I arrived to the venue, peak attendance time on Saturday, movement through the crowd was extremely difficult and parking took two hours. My cosplay as Carol Pelletier was well received, though, and I found a professional photographer’s booth hidden in the vendor booths to celebrate my cosplay.

I recommend this convention to fans of the horror genre. The guest list definitely plays to fans of the genre, with celebrities like Robert Englund and Greg Nicotero supporting the lifelong fans. Plenty of make-up artists were on hand to answer questions and share some techniques with curious fans. The low-key panels provided insight into motivations for each actor’s characterizations, and the cross-genre support is to be commended. Do come prepared for the crowd and venue amenities, though.
I recently attended two Gallifreyan Time-Lord themed events in the Bay Area, one a panel featuring the stars of series 5 and 6 of “Doctor Who” and the other an art show/party.

Walker Stalker Con was a very successful event, but there was one special panel that was anticipated by fans, “The Night of The Doctor.” The panel was announced through Facebook and word spread rapidly. The panel featured the first major event to have The Eleventh Doctor, Amy Pond and Rory Williams (AKA Mr. Pond) after they had all left the show. Fans of the series were able to buy a ticket just for the panel without having to pay full price for the convention.

The panel occurred on January 31, 2015. It was held inside one of the buildings at Fort Mason in San Francisco in conjunction with Walker Stalker Con. People were already lined up more than two hours before the panel began. Most people were hanging out in line taking photos of attendees dressed as characters from both “The Walking Dead” and “Doctor Who.” Several attendees were also able to take photos with Matt Smith, Karen Gillian and Arthur Darvill if they were full attendees for the convention.
While waiting in line, you could see some of the stars from “The Walking Dead” being escorted from one area to another as they were moving to their next function. People who only bought the ticket for “The Night of The Doctor” event were able to go into the hall that held the dealer’s area and autograph area for the celebrities. Local costumer 10ant Cosplay had his TARDIS set up inside for people to take photos with the time vehicle.

The entire building was full for the show. When the famous theme started to play, the crowd erupted. People were standing and cheering as the three actors took the stage. The panel host started by asking them questions about their time on the show, what they were doing after leaving the show and other behind-the-scenes information.

The audience was then allowed to ask questions and the line for the microphone built quickly. Several people asked about what the actors liked about the show, favorite monsters, and the like. One young fan said that he got the best gift as he got to see The Doctor on his birthday. At one point all three actors did a rendition of “Bohemian Rhapsody” by Queen and hit the operatic parts with precision since it was something they had done numerous times while filming episodes.

The panel ran for over an hour. When the show was over, the audience gave The Doctor and his companions a standing
Jean and I joined 10ant Cosplay and his companion for food at Lori’s Diner in nearby Ghirardelli Square. We chose that place as it was similar to the 1950s themed diner in “The Impossible Astronaut.”

The other event that I attended was the Doctor Who Art Show and TARDIS Party held at the Balancoire night club on Mission Street in San Francisco. The gathering was held on the night of March 21, 2015.

When you approached the nightclub, a functional K-9 art car was parked on the street outside of the building. The creation was one that was built for Burning Man. The car had working eye lights and there were buttons that you could push with sound effects and recorded lines of the character that were played over a loudspeaker.

Inside there was a gallery set up with a variety of artwork inspired by the television show. There were a number of oil and watercolor paintings, paper constructions of the Fourth Doctor and Romana, a TARDIS made out of melted wax, felted creations and prints. Some of the pictures were inspired by other artists like Andy Warhol and Rembrandt. One painting was based on the “Back to the Future” movie posters. Another piece was a mashup of the TARDIS in the kitchen of the Hill household from “King of the Hill,” echoing the Doctor Who/Disney princess mashup artwork of Karen Hallion. Prints as well most of the original artwork were all available for sale.
There were lots of people who were in costume. Several people came as the Doctor with the First, Fourth, Eighth, Ninth and Eleventh incarnations represented. There were a few Daleks, an Ood, Madame Vastra, a TARDIS, a couple of Weeping Angels, a dream crab from “Last Christmas” and a River Song.

For entertainment there was a kids costume contest and a DJ playing science fiction-themed dance music. The main production was a show put on by the Shadow Circus Puppet Theater featuring puppets of the Eleventh Doctor, Amy Pond and a Silence. The Doctor and Amy offstage had just stopped a bus of Cybermen-controlled people that were members of a band. Rock sensation Kat Robichaud then joined the story and said that her band was late, which turned out to
be the people on the bus the Doctor and
Amy ran into. Kat said that she was
supposed to perform but she needed a band.
The Doctor and Amy volunteered. Kat
mentioned that they still needed a bass
player. A Silence showed up and said that
he would help perform. He left to go get a
bass left in Kat’s dressing room, leading to
the Silence version of Abbott and Costello’s
“Who’s on first” routine. Kat Robichaud
then performed her single “Somebody Call
The Doctor.”

The art show had a lot of people who
attended and purchased art while seeing
awesome costumes and enjoying music.
By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

With the recent popularity of vampire and horror shows on television such as “Constantine,” “iZombie,” “The Vampire Diaries” and “The Walking Dead,” horror comics have become popular again with the ongoing “The Walking Dead” series and the inclusion of John Constantine in the main DC Comics lineup. Horror comics have been a part of the comics industry almost since the beginning and a constant staple throughout the publication history of sequential art.

Some of the first horror comics in the 1940s were adaptations of short stories by Edgar Allan Poe and novels such as “Frankenstein,” “Dracula” and “The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.” Supernatural beings were also being used in superhero stories such as werewolves and zombies fighting for the Nazis in the pages of Timely Comics (the forerunner of Marvel Comics) and the National Comics (DC Comics predecessor) characters of Doctor Occult, a magic using detective who fought the supernatural, and The Spectre, the Spirit of Vengeance who was placed in the body of policeman Jim Corrigan and would violently kill evildoers through pulp fiction style gruesome means. The Spectre proved to be so popular that he became a founding member of the Justice Society of America in the pages of “All-Star Comics” along with Doctor Fate (another magic user) and other popular superhero characters.

As the popularity of spandex clad heroes waned in the 1950s, publication houses started focusing on other genres. Horror comics
became one of the more prolific story types. Several comic book publishers created anthology titles featuring vampires and monsters with Atlas (Marvel) Comics publishing several titles including “Journey into Mystery” and “Strange Tales” and National/All-American (DC) Comics with “House of Mystery” and “House of Secrets.” EC Comics was the most popular publisher with “The Haunt of Fear,” “The Vault of Horror” and “Tales from the Crypt.” The EC Comics titles were wildly popular and helped introduce the idea of a host character in each of the books that was used in later anthology comics such as “Vampirella.” The hosts were The Old Witch in “The Haunt of Fear,” The Vault-Keeper in “The Vault of Terror” and the famous Crypt-Keeper in “Tales from the Crypt.” The three characters would often make appearances in each other’s books and would snipe back and forth amongst themselves.

Horror comics, along with crime and superhero comics suffered a decline after the publication of “Seduction of the Innocent” by Fredric Wertham in 1954 and the subsequent hearings on the influence of comic books on juvenile delinquency in the United States Senate Committee on Juvenile Delinquency held the same year. EC Comics owner William Gaines was called to testify about what he published and his testimony became front-page headline material that helped sink the comics industry. Between the vilification of sequential art by the hearings and Wertham’s book along with the morality of the McCarthyism of the era, comic publishers were forced to create a self-imposed censorship body called the Comics Code Authority (CCA) that came up with a code and set of rules about subject matter, characters and even word choice. Most of the publishers that continued in business had to submit their material for approval before publication to escape losing business. Many other publishers shifted publication schedules, changed genres in established books or canceled titles altogether. EC Comics stopped publication of their popular titles after selling horror comics for only five years. Several other publishers went out of business. EC Comics changed the title of “Mad Comics” to “Mad Magazine” to differentiate the humor magazine from comics and to avoid the self-imposed censorship of the CCA if they wanted to include monsters and supernatural elements in their satire.

Despite the shunning of horror material, macabre comic fiction continued in the late 1950s. Literary adaptations were acceptable at this time period after the CCA since it was considered classic reading material. Other comics were licensed from horror-themed shows such as “Twilight Zone,” “The Munsters” and “The Addams Family.”

The 1960s saw a revival of macabre-themed comics. First was the introduction of the character of Doctor Strange and his adversaries like Nightmare and Dormammu by Marvel Comics. Warren Publishing revived the horror anthology concept by introducing three separate comics in a quarterly magazine format with host characters Eerie, Creepy and Vampirella. Eerie Publications followed suit with a number of similar magazines. Since the Warren and Eerie story output were published as magazines, they were not considered comics and were not subject to the CCA rules.

The 1970s saw a boom of horror comics. Underground comics featured a number of titles with horror themes that were inspired by the EC Comics output from the 1950s.

In 1971, the CCA relaxed the code to include monsters as long as they were depicted in a literary tradition similar to “Dracula” and other classic horror novels. Zombies were the one exception, which lead to Marvel Comics using the word zuvembie previously created by Robert E. Howard. With this change, most of the
existing comic book companies introduced horror titles, monster characters and returned some of the still existing titles to their macabre roots.

DC Comics revamped their existing titles “House of Secrets” and “House of Mystery” back to horror anthology comics and introduced a number of others as well. These titles were hosted by Cain, Able, Eve and Destiny. These characters would later become incorporated into Neil Gaiman’s “The Sandman” series. Other characters introduced into the DC Universe with a horror bent were Swamp Thing, The Demon Etrigan and Klarion the Witch Boy.

Marvel Comics also followed suit by introducing a slew of new characters and others based on classic literature and horror movies. Titles like “Tomb of Dracula,” “The Monster of Frankenstein” and “Werewolf by Night” brought in the classic monsters. N’Kantu the Living Mummy was introduced in the pages of “Supernatural Thrillers.” Several other characters were introduced in existing superhero titles including Man-Thing, Morbius the Living Vampire, Ghost Rider and Damion Hellstrom (the son of the devil), the vampire hunter Blade and vampiric detective Hannibal King. All of these characters were part of the fabric of the larger Marvel Universe and would have dealings with superheroes like Spider-Man, the X-Men and Silver Surfer.

The 1980s saw a significant implosion of titles as most of them were canceled or publishers such as Charleston Comic going out of business. Despite this, horror comics still carried on. The major success was the introduction of occult detective John Constantine in “The Saga of the Swamp Thing” in 1984 and the character being spun off into his own comic book “Hellblazer” in 1988.

The 1990s saw a resurgence of supernatural and horror comic publications. DC Comics created the imprint Vertigo. Vertigo Comics was publishing several horror titles including “The
Sandman,” “Hellblazer” and “Swamp Thing.” Image Comics had several comics based on the popular Todd McFarlane creation Spawn, a vigilante superhero with demonic powers. Marvel Comics saw the popularity of the vampire hunter Blade lead to a solo series. Marvel eventually created a long-term crossover event featuring a supernatural team called Midnight Sons out of their existing horror-based superheroes and anti-heroes like Ghost Rider, Blade, Hannibal King, Damion Hellstrom, Morbius, Werewolf by Night and Doctor Strange.

The new millennium saw the continued popularity of macabre comic fiction. Vertigo Comics continued to publish limited and ongoing series based on horror including “Bite Club” and “iZombie.” Steve Niles became a popular horror writer with the “30 Days of Night” books and the short-lived DC Comics series “Simon Dark” among other titles. Image Comics series “The Walking Dead” became a huge success and IDW Publishing’s popular “Robots vs. Zombies” limited series was nominated for an Eisner Award.

With the rich history of horror in comics, there should be a continued influence of the supernatural and the macabre on comics and superhero fiction.
Don’t Fear the Reboot

By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

There has been a lot of buzz about movies and franchises getting the dreaded reboot, especially with Ben Affleck taking the role of Batman for the upcoming “The Man of Steel” sequel, J. J. Abrams moving over to the “Star Wars” franchise (the upcoming sequel movies have been referred to as reboots in some media outlets), the news that Spider-Man will be a part of upcoming “Avengers” movies and the recent “Godzilla” film among those that have been recently mentioned. There was also lot of fan discussion of the “X-Men: Days of Future Past,” “Dawn of the Planet of the Apes” and “Amazing Spider-Man 2” as sequels stemming from rebooted movies. There is always worry when a beloved character or franchise is recreated that it will stray form the fundamental natures of the characters or displace previous history. Since most of these media brands are worth a significant amount of money, most of the reboots should be successful in terms of staying true to the traits of the characters.

One of the best examples is the reboot/reimaging of “Battlestar Galactica.” The 1978 original series was never a massive success compared to the other major science-fiction franchises of the time (“Star Wars,” “Star Trek” and “Planet of the Apes”), but it did receive an overseas theatrical release of the first three episodes and a sequel series titled “Galactica 1980.” The series received a lot of airplay in syndication and on the Sci-Fi channel throughout the years to keep interest in the product.

Eventually, the show was recreated with a grittier feel and a lower level of weapons technology (nuclear bombs and bullets instead of lasers) but more advanced space flight technology (the new series has faster-than-light engines where the original series ship could only achieve light speed). A number of concepts remained unchanged such as the paper with the angled corners, the Pyramid sport game, the Twelve Colonies, the political system (Quorum of Twelve), the card game, character names, Starbuck having a rebellious streak and the look of the Galactica and the Vipers. The changes made gave it an expanded ability to tell stories of a political nature, explore the consequences of artificial intelligence, human interactions with technology and prejudiced views when faced with a common goal or enemy. The update also allowed for more equality in character depiction with female Viper pilots, minority representation in the military and a female President.

Another example of a successful reboot was the “Dark Knight” trilogy. Batman was considered box office poison after the disaster that was “Batman and Robin.” When Christopher Nolan was given the project of resurrecting Gotham City’s protector for the big screen, he went directly to the source material and read 20 years worth of comics including the influential “Batman: Year One” storyline by Frank Miller. From this, he built a character and a world consistent with the traits of the comic book version, even following a lot of the “origin story” parts told throughout the years.
including directly lifting parts of “Year One” such as Batman selecting Jim Gordon to partner with and the escape from the SWAT team using a flock of bats as cover.

One of the best reboots to preserve the original material has been the new “Star Trek” movies. The first J. J. Abrams movie firmly established that the motion picture was a completely separate timeline. This allowed flexibility in characterization and storytelling without replacing the previous canon established by Gene Roddenberry and others. The new movies allowed familiar situations and characters (Kirk beating the Kobayashi Maru scenario and the battle with Khan) to take place without having to completely rehash the original plots.

The recent “Godzilla” movie merged the original King of All Monsters as a destructive force of nature with his later persona as protector of the Earth in the kid-friendly movies. This Godzilla raged across cities, but did it while trying to destroy other creatures that were destructive to the earth. This version seems likely to have a sequel as opposed to the ill-fated Sony version that Toho officially renamed “Zilla” and was written specifically into a movie to die at the hands of their Godzilla.

The recent restart/reboot of “Doctor Who” is another example of preserving the past history of the franchise, with the inclusion of the familiar blue of the TARDIS, his adventures with UNIT in “Aliens of London/World War III” (including their database having his name in reference to all of his previous adventures with the military outfit), the Dalek episodes and the Ninth Doctor referring to a destroyed Cyberman head as an old “friend” in “Dalek.” The show started fresh but built on the concepts from the original show, taking them in new directions.

Other reboots have been successful in the printed form as well. The DC Universe in the post-”Crisis on Infinite Earths” lead to updated origin stories for a majority of their characters or the introduction of new characters (such as Wally West becoming The Flash as a tribute to his uncle Barry Allen). The new timeline featured a mix of old stories still in continuity such as the Justice League/Justice Society of America team-ups and new material. There were a few misfires such as the convoluted depiction of Hawkman but they were quickly abandoned and eventually fixed.

Other characters have received updated origins due to their connection to specific events, especially several of the Marvel characters. Iron Man’s origins were updated from the Vietnam War to references to the first Gulf War in the 1990s and then to the war in Afghanistan. The entire history of the Marvel Universe was rebooted in alternate universe under the Ultimate imprint. This was established as a parallel universe that eventually interacted with other universes in Marvel including the main “616” universe.

The good thing about reboots is that if they are not faithful to the character or the origin of the character, it will not be accepted by a number of the fans. This was the case for new origin story “Spider-Man: Chapter One” by John Byrne. The story received negative criticism from fans. The retelling was mostly ignored by later writers and Marvel never referenced it in their official guides. The semi-reboot movie “Superman Returns” was a mild box office success (over $200 million domestically when it came out) but was not critically well received by fans, which lead to the recent “Man of Steel” movie that has helped launch DC Comics’ foray into a shared movie universe.

With the upcoming “Fantastic Four” movie, we are seeing efforts to reboot something that was unpopular. Unfortunately, early indications are that it’s not very good. The recent news that Sony and Disney/Marvel reached an agreement where Spider-Man could be incorporated into the Marvel Cinematic Universe with
Sony being able to continue making solo movies was welcome news after the recent “Amazing Spider-Man” movies were derided by fans.

The great thing is that the originals are still around. The Christopher Reeve “Superman” movies are still available for viewing. The original “Star Trek” series will always be the images that people remember most. A number of the old comic book stories are available in books that can be found at libraries and are offered through digital subscriptions.

Even Golden Age Hollywood did reboots. The two remakes of “The Maltese Falcon” gave us the amazing Humphrey Bogart/John Huston definitive version. Most people aren’t aware of the first one starring Ricardo Cortez or the Bette Davis vehicle “Satan Met a Lady.”

Since money and Internet commentary are powerful tools, there should be nothing to fear from something getting a reboot. It can create wonderful new things that people remember and reinvigorate a franchise. If it is a failure, people will quickly dismiss it both with criticism and with not spending their money to watch it.
Silicon Valley’s answer to WonderCon has continued to make major strides this year. Big Wow! ComicFest has continued to grow in both scope and attendance. There were some significant changes this year along with the usual offerings. The convention was held on April 18 and 19, 2015.

One of the major changes was the addition of major celebrities and photo opportunities with the stars. Tom Felton (Draco Malfoy from the “Harry Potter” movies), Daniel Cudmore (Felix in the “Twilight” movies and Colossus in “X-Men 2”) and Jake Lloyd (Anakin Skywalker in “The Phantom Menace”) were available for signatures. There was also professionally run photo booth where you could have your photo taken with the actors and pick up a printout of the photo later.

Other major names were also at the show. Richard Hatch of “Battlestar Galactica” was on hand to help promote a huge fan-film production titled “Star Trek: Anaxar.” He was featured in a panel about
the fan film as well as a panel about “Battlestar Galactica.” Other celebrities included Gary Graham from the “Alien Nation” television series, wrestler Lisa Marie Varon (Victoria in the WWE), William Wisher Jr. (contributing writer to “The Terminator”), Jane Wiedlin (member of The Go-Gos) and John Stanley (host of “Creature Features”).

There were several major artists who were also on hand such as Neil Adams (legendary Batman artist in the 1970s), Adam Hughes (famed DC Comics cover and pinup artist), Tim Bradstreet (“Hellblazer” and “The Punisher”), Frank Cho (“Mighty Avengers” and “Liberty Meadows”) and Jim Steranko (“Captain America” and “The Hulk”) among others.
One of the major artist guests was Dave Gibbons, whose is renowned for his work as the artist on “Watchmen.” When I had my copy of his famous work signed, the line of people waiting was about 10 people deep 20 minutes after the convention opened on Sunday morning. When I finally was able to have my memorabilia signed, he drew a portrait of me as I was in my Rorschach outfit at the time. The line for his booth remained lengthy throughout the day.

There was an area with plenty of cosplay guests like Ani-May, Riddle, Valerie Perez, Vegas Power Girl, Meredith Placko and others. Plenty of people were in this location talking to the cosplayers and getting photographs and signatures. There
was also a TARDIS with local cosplay star 10nant Cosplay for people to have their photo taken.

Near the cosplay guest area was also a fan table area. Bay Area Ghostbusters, 501st Legion and a GI Joe fan club were all represented. There was also a “Back to the Future” fan table with a full-sized recreation of the time-traveling Delorean owned by “Doc” Paul Nigh and featured on the webseries “The Fireball Run Adventurally.” People could have their photo taken with the time machine for a donation to charity.

One of the noticeable changes was how much the convention audience has grown even from last year. On both Saturday and Sunday, the floor was filled with attendees.
Even as late as an hour before the close of the show on Sunday, there was still a large number of people in the aisles purchasing items, taking photos and getting autographs. The floor was packed with people throughout the day and it never seemed like the hall was ever empty.

There was a good offering of panels. There were spotlights on stars or artists in attendance, panels on drawing and panels on publication history of characters including Vampirella and Swamp Thing. Cosplay and costuming panels including how to cosplay on a budget, body image and sexism issues, and picking a fandom. Other panels highlighted fan films such as “Star Trek: Axanar” and “The Joker’s Ox-King and Hercule from Dragonball Z

by Christopher Erickson

Seventh and Fifth Doctor
courtesy of Christopher Erickson

DC Disco Heroes
by Christopher Erickson
Wild.” One panel focused on famed local late-night show “Creature Features” along with a live version of the show for nighttime entertainment. The most interesting panel was a breakdown of the legal issues raised by the television show “Marvel’s Agents of SHIELD.”

The featured art gallery/museum this year focused on Vampirella and Swamp Thing, especially since people who worked on both characters were in attendance. The gallery featured artwork by Richard Veitch who worked on “Saga of the Swamp Thing” and lots of Dave Stevens’ “Vampirella” works.

There was also an art auction featuring some works that had been created just for
the show, some that were made during panels and others that were donated by the artists.

The costume contest was a huge success this year as there was a large number of entries. The room was filled with audience members to the point where people were turned away or let in after people left. I unfortunately was not able to attend but heard from a couple of contestants that there many wonderful costumes.
There were plenty of other activities. There were gaming tables with scheduled tournaments, a kid zone, a Cosplay Stage with a slam poetry event, and a video game area where people could play Rock Band or 8-bit video games in arcade-style cabinets created by San Jose State students. There was also a kids costume contest on Sunday.

The big development of the convention was the announcement of a new convention called Silicon Valley Comic-Con. The new convention was created by Stan Lee and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak. There were lots of promotional material for the new convention including a video, advertisements on program guide and t-shirts. There was also a mechanical bull with the face of the comic book version of
the Green Goblin for people to ride with a banner for the new show. People were lining up to ride it all weekend. The bit of news from this announcement was that Big Wow! ComicFest would join Silicon Valley Comic-Con as sister convention, similar to San Diego Comic-Con International and WonderCon.

There was an insane amount of cosplay this year. With all of the new attendees, there was a huge variety of costumes. The level of costuming seemed like it was similar to WonderCon when it was here in the Bay Area. There were even large groups of people who were cosplaying together. There were a number of Deadpools in their innovative mashups. There was also a large number of Star-Lords from the recent “Guardians of the Galaxy” movie. There were several Doctor Who characters as well. There were a few Steampunk outfits including a Wonder Woman and Penguin couple. I even noticed a few furries running around.

John Constantine was a favorite among people. A couple of people dressed as Daredevil/Matt Murdoch from the new show. Storm was another popular choice. There were several Spider-Man characters including the Noir, 2099 and Spider-Gwen version. Other characters included She-Hulk, Supergirl, Catwoman, Death of the Endless, the latest version of Lara Croft, Hercule and Ox-King from “Dragonball Z,” and several Jubilees from X-Men.

The group cosplay included characters from “Beetlejuice,” a disco/Studio 54
version of DC Comics superheroes, “Battlestar Galactica” flight suits, “Futurama,” 1950s-style Batman outfits. The Avengers and various heroes just getting up in the morning in bathrobes with coffee cups. One group recreated the Adam Hughes “Women of DC” image with all of the characters in evening gowns. “Arrow” was another popular choice for people to group cosplay. There was even a “Bill and Ted’s Excellent Adventure” group with a Joan of Arc. The variety led to an arranged DC vs. Marvel photo shoot.

I attended a private party for fellow cosplayers that was arranged by some friends at The Continental down the street from the convention center. People had crafted cocktails, played Cards against Humanity and chatted for some evening entertainment.

Big Wow! ComicFest has become one of the premier costuming and entertainment events in the Bay Area. With all of the growth and the big names now involved it should continue to expand while catering to the fans as it has done for the last few years.
Lord of the Rings Concert

By Scott Sahlman
Contributing Writer

I’ve enjoyed the music from the “Lord of the Rings” movies almost as much as the movies themselves. I had heard about concerts featuring music from one of the movies, but unfortunately only ever after the fact so I never had the opportunity to attend one. That was until recently when I found out that Symphony Silicon Valley would be performing the soundtrack of “Lord of the Rings” live to not just one, but all three movies while the movies themselves were being projected on a screen above the orchestra. This would be one of two special performances of this type. Not only was it the only one being performed on the West Coast, the only other being in New York City, but also the first performed by an American orchestra. I decided that this time I wouldn’t miss it.

The performance was held at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts in Downtown San Jose in two cycles, each cycle being the set of all three films. Cycle 1 was a three-night event, while Cycle 2 was an afternoon performance followed by a double feature the next day. All the performances took place from April 16th to the 19th. The orchestra included sections you would normally expect such as strings, wind instruments, piano and percussion, but also a number of other specialized instruments just for these performances. These included Japanese Taiko drums, bodhrans (an Irish drum), a cimbalom (a kind of dulcimer, or stringed instrument, played with hammers), a musette (a kind of bagpipe), a hardanger (a Norwegian fiddle), and even a “distressed” piano with the strings exposed and struck with chains to create harsh sounds to represent the Orcs of Isengard. In addition to the musicians there was also a full choir for each performance with a men’s section, women’s section and boys/youth section, some with a featured soloist. Finally, there was a featured singer/soloist named Clara Sanabras who I had not heard of (but would soon learn to appreciate). The performance was conducted by Shih-Hung Young.

I’ve never really been to the symphony before so I didn’t really know what to expect, but then again this was not an ordinary symphony performance. Most people came dressed in casual to formal attire, but there were also some Hobbits, Elves and a Grey Wizard or two to be found. I didn’t notice any dwarves in attendance, but perhaps dwarves are not symphony aficionados, or perhaps a set of formal armor is a bit too cumbersome for such a performance.

I think I heard that the performances were supposed to be all sold out or at least nearly so, though I may have been mistaken. Still there were a number of vacant seats, moreso on the weeknight performances, and especially in the rear of the theater which, made for great opportunities for those in the back to freely upgrade their seats forward and to the center. My own assigned seat was in the back and on the side with a partial obstruction of the screen so I took good advantage of the vacancies.

Each movie was shown in the theatrical version with an intermission in the middle. At the start of each performance and after each break, the theater lights would go down. After a few moments Clara, if she was performing, would walk out with applause from the audience. The first time this happened I wasn’t sure why the audience was applauding as someone came out, but I would soon learn! Afterwards, the conductor would then walk out, also to applause from the audience, and take his
place in front. At the start of a movie, the orchestra would begin as the movie did, but after an intermission, the conductor would start with a brief musical lead-in. Either way, we were off!

I have seen the movies enough times to know what was going to happen, so I had decided to try to concentrate more on listening to the music. Despite my intention, it was still easy to get drawn into the on-screen journey of the Ring yet again. I thought they did a pretty good job overall with the general balancing the sound levels of the movie and the music itself. At times the music was a little soft while the on-screen dialog or sound effects dominated, but other times, the music reached a crescendo and nearly overpowered the dialog so that you could barely hear what the actors were saying (the movies were also captioned so that you could always read the dialog). I didn’t have a problem with that though as I was there more for the musical experience anyway.

During the movies I enjoyed the opportunity to look for featured instruments or singers in the orchestra during the more unique or dramatic musical parts of the movie. For example finding the hardanger playing the iconic Rohan theme, watching the string section as it played the eerie Shelob theme, or seeing the various wood instruments used for the Ents. Some parts of the movie were made even more powerful seeing and hearing the music actually performed along with it. The youth singer, Michael Sacco, performing the vocal solo as Gandalf was driving away the Nazgul during Faramir’s retreat from Osgiliath gave the scene an enhanced sense of poignancy that only a live performance could create.

The audience was clearly there for the entire experience. They cheered during Legolas’ heroic moments, when Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli emerge from the Corsair ships, and when Sam appeared to challenge Shelob. They laughed along with Gimli’s humorous lines such as how Dwarves are dangerous over short distances or how the oliphaunt still only counts as one. Another popular scene that caused the audience to cheer was when Boromir reminds everyone that “one does not simply walk into Mordor...” during the Council of Elrond. I suppose this is due to all the memes created from this line. The crowd also rewarded each of vocal solos with a generous round of applause. Finally, at the end of each movie, after the last of the credits scrolled off the screen, the audience erupted into a standing ovation, the loudest and longest of which followed the final movie.

I think my favorite performance was somewhere between the first and third movies. The first movie has the happy, carefree music for the Hobbits, the heroic and fully realized Fellowship theme, the ethereal music for the Elves and the dramatic music for the Bridge of Khazad Dum. In the final movie, all of the themes for the entire trilogy are woven together combining Hobbit themes, the remnants of the Fellowship theme, the Rohan theme and Elven themes. To that is also added the triumphant lighting of the beacons, the creepy Shelob theme, and of course “Into The West.” I think my favorite, and most iconic theme, is still the Ring theme, which is played during the title of each movie and woven throughout all them. All of the songs previously performed by artists such as Enya, Emiliana Torrini and Annie Lennox, were performed by Clara Sanabras. This included “May It Be,” “Gollum’s Song” and “Into the West.” At first I wondered whether I would like them as much being performed by someone other than the original artist, but Clara was a beautiful singer with a strong voice. I think it helped to weave the music from the three movies together better having it sung by the same voice.

All in all it was an unforgettable experience, and I’m so glad I got the chance to attend.
By Ken and Jerry Patterson

Three shows. Three gloriously long films with a full orchestra and chorus. This was the The Lord of the Rings trilogy, with Howard Shore’s score being played live by the Symphony Silicon Valley. 250 musicians, along with three choral groups (Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale, Cantabile Youth Singers, and Ragazzi Boys Chorus) taking place at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. In attendance was a cross section of people, from the regular symphony patrons to the die-hard elf and hobbit dressed fans of the Middle-Earth stories.

Our adventure began with the discovery that this event would be taking place, all the way back in November — some five months prior to the events. The full Ring trilogy would only have two runs in the United States, with the other at New York's Lincoln Center — which had already sold out! — and the Silicon Valley show. There were problems with the online ticket sales from the outset (late start & incorrect pricing) but we finally managed to get our tickets to Cycle One — the Thursday through Saturday evening set, with Cycle Two being Saturday matinee and Sunday all day — and breathed a sigh of relief. Now we wait...

April has arrived, and the anxieties of the season (aka Taxes) have been laid to rest. It was now a time to celebrate; enjoy our nights out. We set out early for the Thursday night showing - trying to ensure that there was plenty of time to travel, park, and eat prior to the show. We needn’t have worried, as the travel was swift and the parking ample and close by (which is something that can’t be said for our neighbor to the north). There it was, our destination:

The San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, a “birthday cake shaped” art deco theatre designed by William Wesley Peters (protégé and son-in-law of Frank Lloyd Wright) that opened in 1972. Vague recollections abound (and there seems to be very little history of the venue online to corroborate with) of a time that the balcony used to be able to be raised and lowered depending on the...
performance being held, but that the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake put a permanent end to that innovation. Still, at over 40 years old, a great theatre. It holds just over two and a half thousand people and every night of our performances appeared to have filled the hall. With a total of six performances of three and a half hours each, over four days, the theatre had provisions for the weary symphony/cinema goer with multiple food stands, where orders could be made at the beginning and ready for the interval with no wait. A great feat for the myriad of Middle-Earthlings used to meals like second breakfast. The only complaints would be with any facility of this age in that “the conveniences” may not entirely be convenient, leaving some with only the time to be relieved but not refueled, and there are no internal aisles to allow for ease of transit.

The performances, as mentioned earlier, seemed to bring in a cross-section of people: The serious symphony goer, the dedicated fans dressed in their Middle-Earth finest, the Silicon Valley millionaires in t-shirts and jeans and music lovers of all ages. Then there were the men, women, boys and girls who had spent the past few months rehearsing every note of Howard Shore’s award winning score — the true heroes of this grand adventure — lead by Dr. Shih-Hung Young, who had previously led the Lord of the Rings: Live to Projection and Lord of the Rings Symphony performances over the past several years. Dr. Young was equipped with not only a baton, but a monitor showing him the film with the conductor’s pop-frames and colored streamers to help keep the music in sync with the action on screen; and the orchestra was not only populated by the standard instrumentation, but with an array of specialty string and percussive devices — the distressed piano being a favorite of ours.

If you are strictly a film fan, this adventure may not be strictly your cup of tea, but as a fan of soundtrack music it is an incredible experience. Unlike in the typical cinema experience — where the score has a tendency to get lost amid the dialogue and sound effects — here, the music takes center stage (and the dialogue augmented by subtitles) and every last note can be heard. Conversely, unlike the typical symphony experience, the audience tended to give ovation based more on the action on screen as opposed to the conclusion of any section of the score (the popular meme “One does not simply walk into Mordor” got a tremendous giggle). Though you would be hard pressed to find to find a cinema audience that would rise to its feet for a thunderous acclamation at the end of any film.

There were some standouts from the performers that caught our eyes and ears. The main soloist, Clara Sanabras, stood out not just for her voice but also for her different gowns for each performance.
Though not Elvish costumes, her beautiful attire held to a theme of nature with the use of colors and accessories. Michael Sacco, of the Ragazzi Boys Chorus, stood out of the two choral soloists. The entire oboe section deserves a special shout-out, having to eschew their training to bring about the harsh sounds to accompany the orcs. With Kumiko Ito on the tympani getting our special attention as the hardest working woman (or anyone) in the orchestra, getting practically no rest throughout the whole saga.

Hardly could such a premium ticket price be described as either a waste of time or of money. People came in as complete strangers, became comrades of a rare shared experience. We eagerly await our going boldly to the San Jose Center for Performing Arts in March of 2016 for Star Trek: The Ultimate Voyage!
On April 16, 2015, there was a great disturbance in the Force as if millions of voices suddenly cried out, not in terror and suddenly silenced, but instead with joy and awe as the “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” second teaser trailer was released to the world after its debut at the Star Wars Celebration Anaheim 2015. Whether attending the Opening Ceremony at the Celebration Stage Arena after spending all night in line or watching a simulcast broadcast in one of the other rooms in the Anaheim Convention Center or standing in the Exhibition Hall line and streaming the broadcast on a mobile device, fans got to experience a collective moment of excitement with those words uttered by an older Han Solo, “Chewie, we’re home!”

As a long-time Star Wars fan, coming to a Star Wars Celebration fan convention felt like coming home to a reunion with characters from the Star Wars universe that have been such a part of pop culture since its debut 38 years ago and still inspiring
new generations of passionate fans all over the world. The first official Star Wars fan convention was held in Los Angeles from May 23 to 25, 1987, to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Star Wars. Then, the first Star Wars Celebration took place in Denver from April 30 to May 2, 1999, prior to the release of “Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace.” Since then, it’s been held in various cities like Indianapolis, Los Angeles, London, Tokyo, Orlando, and two years ago at Essen, Germany. All Star Wars Celebrations are produced in partnership with and under the authorization of Lucasfilms, Ltd. Ten years ago with Star Wars Celebration III, each of the prior Celebrations were tied to the release of one of the Star Wars films, so with the release of “Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith” and no further word from George Lucas that a final trilogy would ever be made, it looked like Star Wars Celebration III would be a final farewell celebration. However, the fan base community had been established, and they had provided a lot of the entertainment events with panels, costume events, fan film screenings, for example, so future Star Wars Celebration were planned. The Force lived on!

So, with Star Wars Celebration Anaheim 2015, there was plenty of anticipation this year, especially with the debut of the Disney’s animated series “Star Wars Rebels” last year and the upcoming release of “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.” I had thought that the four-day convention would be popular, but even I wasn’t prepared for the large crowds that numbered in the tens of thousands that came for the Celebration. There was so much to see and do, and so much I missed, but I will give you a taste of what it was like to experience this year’s special Star Wars Celebration at Anaheim.

I caught an early flight to John Wayne Airport/Orange County and drove to the Anaheim Convention Center where ample parking was available at the nearby Disneyland parking lots. There were already long lines in front of the Anaheim Convention Center entrance, but the sunny weather and occasional cool Santa Ana winds made standing in line somewhat bearable. Of course, this was a nice time to chat with other Star Wars fans from across the country and watch the creative Star Wars cosplayers in their Jedi, Imperial or alien costumes walk past.

One often heard complaint from other attendees was the lack of informed volunteers and staff handling the lines on Day 1. There were actually two lines, one to get into the Celebration Stage (Arena) for the Opening Ceremonies and one for the Convention Hall and the rest of the Exhibition Hall where other panels were being held. However, the line control staff was telling conflicting information, so many people ended up waiting in the wrong line. Since I didn’t arrive the night before to wait in line, odds of getting into the live Opening Ceremony were less than successful than navigating an asteroid field. After the announcement that the overflow rooms were also filled to capacity, I was already inside the Anaheim Convention center so I could just go wait directly in the Queue Hall line rather than go back outside to wait in the longer line to enter the Exhibition Hall.

After the doors opened to the Exhibition Area, at 11:00 am, hordes of people raced through the Exhibition Hall to try to get to those booths offering exclusive collectibles or stand in lines to get photos at one of the many incredible Star Wars set designs built by the Belgium Prop Builders Crew (such as the life-sized Rancor, Endor Speeder Bike set, Hoth Medical Bay set and the Millennium Falcon interior set), or go to the Autograph/Photo Ops area.

I started first by going to the Celebration Autograph Hall, where you could purchase autograph tickets for the cast and crew from
the Star Wars movies. On the Star Wars Celebration website, there was an opportunity to purchase autograph tickets earlier, which in retrospect, would have been the way to go since there were certain times when the signings took place, and each ticket was assigned a number with pre-orders and VIP passes getting their time slots first. Nearby was also the Photo Ops station where photo sessions could also be purchased.

I got to meet Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca) who was nice enough to allow me to take photos of him at his signing booth without charge. Though recent health issues and knee problems had limited his participation in The Force Awakens, it was
good to see him recovering well. Kenny Baker (R2-D2) also had been having health problems and his signings were limited to those people who had pre-ordered and a few others who got some released autograph tickets Saturday. I also obtained autographs and some casual photos with Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett), Tim Rose (voice of Salacious Crumb and body actor for Admiral Ackbar) that afternoon.

Later that afternoon, I watched a lightsaber demonstration from Saber Guild, a non-profit organization whose members participate in costume while performing choreographed lightsaber shows for charity. Members could choose either the Light or Dark Side to fight for. The many hours spent practicing their saber skills lead to fine performances, delighting the audiences. They had two shows daily on the Exhibition Hall from Thursday to Saturday and had an information booth at the Hall too.

As I made my way through the various vendors at the Exhibition Hall, I went to the Star Wars Celebration Show Store. I heard the line to get in earlier made some of the San Diego Comic-Con lines look short in comparison and that people had waited about three to four hours to get in and then another hour in another line to make their purchases. Since it was near the end of the day, I waited only an hour to get in, but there were fewer selections of items to purchase and limited sizes of T-shirts. The collectible pins were sold out for the day, but there were some items still available like the Star Wars Alphabet Blocks, the Pint Glass Set, the Space Slug Jack-in-a-Box, various Star Wars movie poster lithographs, the Salacious Crumb Tick-Tock Clock, various patches, and some remaining T-shirt apparel, and some of the SWC 2015 Official Program Insider’s Guides.

As the first day’s activities in the Exhibition Hall came to a close, I went upstairs to the Digital Stage Ballroom to watch the evening screenings of “Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace” and “Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones” in 3D. “The Phantom Menace” version in 3D was released in February 2013, but this was the first time “Attack of the Clones” was shown in North America in 3D. Originally, the second and third prequel films were also to be released in Fall 2013, but Lucasfilm postponed releasing these films in order to concentrate on the new trilogy of films for Episodes 7 through 9. It had been so many years since I had seen “The Phantom Menace” and “Attack of the Clones” on the large screen, but it was an unreal experience to watch this in a packed room with hundreds of excited Star Wars fans, including many who had never seen the films before on a large screen. The sound quality was a little poor at first since this was a converted ballroom and not a typical theater. The 3D effects in “The Phantom Menace” were okay, but you could really appreciate the improved stereo-conversion to 3D with “Attack of the Clones.” The following night the Digital
Stage Ballroom would broadcast the world premiere of “Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith” in 3D, followed by “Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope” in standard 2D.

Day 2 (Friday April 17) started bright and early. Although the Exhibition Hall didn’t open until 10:00 a.m., there were lines already forming around the building hours earlier, with determined fans and collectors hoping to get good positions in the vendor booth lines. Anthony Daniels (C3P0) made it a habit each morning to go up and down the lines and greet the fans who had been waiting hours. He said one of the reasons he did this for the fans was his appreciation for their dedication and that it really gave him an energetic start to the morning.

This morning when I entered the Exhibition Hall, I had more time to look around the floor and see the various vendor booths after going to the Star Wars Celebration Show Store, where I was lucky to get my hands on “A New Hope” set of collector pins, which had been restocked. There was so much frenzy from collectors trying to grab what was still in stock, that it reminded me of parents trying to fight over the Tickle-Me-Elmo doll during the Christmas holiday rush years ago.

One of the more popular exhibits at Star Wars Celebration 2015 that I really wanted to see was “The Force Awakens” exhibit on the second level of the convention center. While the line for this exhibit took two
hours to get in the previous day, this morning it took an hour and a half to enter, but it was still worth the wait to see the collection of props, models and costumes used in the upcoming “The Force Awakens” film. In clear cases, there were the costumes for Rey, Finn, Kylo Ren, the First Order Snowtrooper and Flametrooper with cards describing the details and materials used in each costume. Against a desert backdrop, there was a display of a Junkyard Thug, Desert Nomad, the new droid BB-8 and two First Order Stormtroopers. In some smaller cases, there were some models of the Millennium Falcon and an X-Wing fighter, and the hilt of Kylo Ren’s crossguard lightsaber that caused such a stir with its appearance in the first teaser trailer of “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.”

During the noon hour, I decided to check out a panel that featured another aspect of the Star Wars pop culture, which involved toys and collectible figures. If you had one of the original vintage Kenner Star Wars action figures in its packaging, it would be worth quite a lot today, but as a child, who couldn’t resist playing with those action figures and using one’s imagination to create new battles? Jamie Follis’s “Star Wars Action Figure Customization” panel introduced the audience to the hobby of action figure customization. He described how there were just some characters from the Star Wars movies that were not produced by the toy company, so he decided to create them himself using parts from other action figures and using various techniques of sculpting, painting, casting and 3-D printing to get the desired look. The artistry of his figures goes far beyond typical Star Wars canon and includes various alternate versions such as Steampunk, pirate, Old West versions for example. To see some of Jamie Follis’s work, check out his website at: sillof.com.
My autograph ticket numbers allowed me to start lining up for some of the more high-profile guest signings that afternoon. For each guest, the wait-time could be from a half hour to over an hour. Anthony Daniels (C3PO) and Ian McDiarmid (Emperor Palpatine) were very friendly and expressed how much they appreciated the fans coming out to support “Star Wars” through the years. It was such a thrill to meet Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker). I also complimented him on his voice work in other series such as “Batman: The Animated Series,” and he responded in kind with using his Joker voice and personalizing my photo saying the Force was with me (no joke!). He also made some funny faces and posed for pictures for the people standing in lines as he walked on by to get to his photo op session.

After missing out on some of the other celebrity panels earlier, I went to see Anthony Daniels’ panel at the Celebration Stage in the evening. The Celebration Stage panels were quite popular and many people started getting in a couple hours in advance to get good seating. I missed some of the earlier panels due to other scheduled activities, but other attendees I spoke with in line told me of the highlights of earlier panels such as Ray Park (Darth Maul) showing off his martial arts, ballet and saber skills; Ian McDiarmid performing “Star Wars Shakespeare” in the voice of The Emperor; and Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia) going wild kissing the host and making out with a fan.

Anthony Daniels teased the audience by coming onto stage, then returned backstage, and came on again dressed in a gold colored suit. James Arnold Taylor, the moderator, asked Anthony Daniels about his career playing C3PO and embarrassed him by showing an old commercial promoting Star Wars Underoos and an outtake from one of the prequels where he fell and crashed into a wall of the set.

Ray Park with C3PO and R2D2 by Peter P. Lee
Anthony Daniels brought more laughter to the audience by donning the C3P0 Mickey Mouse ears and later describing another poor Star Wars product tie-in where the tape from a C3P0 tape dispenser was coming out of his crotch! He also talked about his participation in the Star Wars in Concert and his feelings about being on the film set for “The Force Awakens.”

On Day 3, my early start paid off by getting into the Exhibition Hall in time to get the special-edition Hallmark Keepsake Ornament for Star Wars Celebration 2015, “An Epic Vision,” based off artist Ralph McQuarrie’s early conceptual art of Darth Vader vs. Deak Starkiller (later Luke Skywalker), along with the set of two plush Hallmark itty bittys Dengar and Bossk bounty hunters.

So, with my bounty of Hallmark collectibles put away, I went to the “New Allies and New Villains: Star Wars Rebels Season 2” panel. All the voice actors of the Rebels crew of the starship “Ghost” were present: Freddie Prinze Jr. (Kanan), Vanessa Marshall (Hera), Steven Blum (Zed), Tiya Sircar (Sabine) and Taylor Gray (Ezra). Dave Filoni, the executive producer of the “Clone Wars” and “Star Wars Rebels” animated series, came out and introduced the teaser trailer to “Star Wars Rebels Season 2.” Two more guests who were from “Clone Wars,” Ashley Eckstein (Ahsoka)
and Dee Bradley Baker (Rex) came to the stage as they were reprising their characters for “Star Wars Rebels Season 2”. Later in the day at the Digital Stage, another panel would be broadcasting the global premiere screening of “Star Wars Rebels Season 2” opening episode.

There were some other areas of the Star Wars Exhibition Hall that I missed earlier, so I went back to see the Bladez Inflatable R2-D2 Race challenge, where kids would operate a remote-controlled R2-D2 through a course and see who could complete the race the fastest. After this was over, I went over to see some of the customized cars and trucks done in a Star Wars style. I also viewed the last Saber Guild Lightsaber Demonstration. This time at the end of the show, there was a surprise wedding proposal from one of the Saber Guild Jedi to his partner, a female dressed as a red-skinned Lethan Twi’lek alien Sith. The other Saber Guild members raised their lightsabers in tribute to the couple.

Some friends who were lucky to purchase a one-day Saturday pass before it was sold out joined me later in the afternoon. With so much to see in a day, they prioritized seeing the Exhibition Hall, taking some group photos in the Star Wars Millennium Falcon set, and shopping for...
Star Wars gifts. We also caught the early evening panel, which featured James Arnold Taylor, an amazing voice actor who provided the voice of Obi-Wan Kenobi in the “Clone Wars” animated series, and then followed by another hour long panel with Mark Hamill. During James Arnold Taylor’s “Talking to Myself” panel, he got to step away from moderator duties and entertain the audience with his hundreds of celebrity impressions. By tracing his career, he also inspired others to follow their calling in life.

James returned on stage to moderate Mark Hamill’s panel. Hamill talked about how he did the voice-over for the new trailer, which combined some of the dialogue from “Return of the Jedi” and some new lines. He also discussed how he reprised his character, the Trickster from the old “Flash” series, in the new “Flash” series. He told the story of how he got the BAFTA for his voice actor work as The Joker in “Batman: The Animated Series.” He took questions from the audience and finished his panel after signing a pair of James Arnold Taylor’s shoes. After the Exhibition Hall closed for the day, there were some other evening events, including screenings of “Empire Strikes Back” and “Return of the Jedi,” both in 2-D, at the Digital Stage. Outside the Anaheim Convention Center in the Grand Plaza, there was the “Star Wars Fan Mixer” where attendees could party and dance to the music of DJ Elliot.

On the final day of Star Wars Celebration, I decided to skip some of the early panels like Conversations with Gareth Edwards and Josh Trank (directors of the two upcoming Star Wars stand-alone films) and William Shakespeare’s Star Wars on Stage in order to see more of the Exhibition Hall that I hadn’t really explored yet. There was the Sandcrawler set where you could take pictures with R2-D2, other droids and a Jawa. Nearby was the Mos Eisley Cantina.
Bar set, which was temporarily closed to the public since StarWars.com was filming a video there with Ray Park giving a lightsaber lesson to two of the hosts. After the filming was done, Ray Park was very gracious and greeted the fans who were watching.

Another area I didn’t want to miss was the Rancho Obi-Wan Experience. Steve Sansweet’s Rancho Obi-Wan has the world’s largest privately held collection of “Star Wars” memorabilia and for this year’s Celebration exhibition, Steve brought a number of items that showcased the fan’s creativity. There were all sorts of artwork, sculptures, unique action figures like the fan-made charred corpses of Uncle Owen and Aunt Beru, and a large mural “The 20th Century Space Opera” by Robert Xavier Burden that depicted characters from all six “Star Wars” films.

There was the Star Wars Tattoo Pavilion, where some of the best tattoo artists in the world were working live at the show and placing Star Wars tattoos, culminating in the Star Wars Celebration Tattoo Competition held later that afternoon at the Behind-The-Scene stage. Nearby, there was the Star Wars Celebration Art Show Pavilion showing beautiful original art work, available for viewing and purchase.

The Bespin Diorama was an area where attendees could participate with hands-on activities. This was a huge diorama where kids and adults could build and contribute a piece of the Bespin Cloud City with Kenner Star Wars action figures, sponsored by Hasbro. At the end of the Exhibition, participants could take home their portion of the Bespin diorama.

Passing through the Exhibition Hall, there were also exhibits from 501st Legion, Rebel Alliance and Mandalorian Mercs with their displays of costumes, blasters, customized armors and photo areas. These premiere non-profit costume clubs had representatives from all over the world and had information on their charity work and how to join up at their local chapters. Another example of how Star Wars fandom making a positive change in the world was Star Wars: Force For Change to benefit UNICEF Kid Power. Kids would wear an activity band that tracked their activity as they ran through an obstacle course in the exhibit. After a certain amount of steps were completed, a therapeutic package of food would be distributed to malnourished children across the world. This had the benefit of helping reduce childhood hunger as well as keeping children more active and preventing obesity in developed countries. Force For Change is planning to enroll this program to teachers and families in cities across America to distribute activity bands to children over the next couple years.

For those fans who love gaming, the Exhibition Hall also had some areas of interest. One of the most popular lines was for the new Star Wars Battlefront video game trailer, where fans got a sneak peak of the multiplayer shooter game prior to its upcoming release in November 2015. There was also an area where people were playing the Star Wars Armada table top miniatures game.

There was so much to see in the four days of Star Wars Celebration Anaheim 2015 and not enough time to take it all in. Other fan experiences that were going on during the convention included live Star Wars podcasts at the Celebration Podcast Stage, Nerd Nite Star Wars Speed Dating, the Star Wars Bounty Hunt (a puzzle race with teams of four people racing through the Convention Hall to collect clues and compete for Star Wars prizes), and the Star Wars Cosplay Contest.

Finally, I ended Star Wars Celebration by going to the Closing Ceremonies. At this panel, there was a recap of the highlights of
the four-day convention and appearances from the panel hosts like James Arnold Taylor, Jimmy Mac, Jason Swank and David Collins. Pablo Hidalgo, Lucasfilms Story Group creative executive, came on and said how Star Wars Celebration was a lot different from other conventions like Comic-Con in that the fan-based creativity and fans were what made the show. He talked about the plans for the upcoming Star Wars anthology film “Rogue 1” coming out in December 2016, which followed a rebel squadron who stole the plans for the Death Star. Next came Mary Franklin, who had helped work on Celebration events for Lucasfilms for 14 years. The show concluded with a final rebroadcast of the “The Force Awakens” trailer and announcement of the next Star Wars Celebration to be held in London at the ExCeL Center on July 15-17, 2016.

As a Star Wars fan, it’s certainly worth attending the Star Wars Celebration, and I hope this article has given you a glimpse of the experience. Tickets for next year’s Celebration are already on sale and for more information, see their website: www.starwarscelebration.com.
By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

Not far from the City College of San Jose is an unassuming strip mall building with a wonderful secret inside. Somewhat like the Mos Eisley cantina, it is a wonderful hive of nerd and geekery called the 7 Stars Bar and Grill at 398 South Bascom Avenue. The bar is a huge tribute to the “Star Wars” franchise and the people who love to celebrate it.

The restaurant is owned by Paul and Marya Cunha, massive fans of the movies. They started the bar a number of years ago and placed a few “Star Wars” memorabilia out just to have some display items. The patrons commented on how they liked the items and the collection kept growing until they finally decided to make the bar into a full “Star Wars”-themed watering hole and eatery.

The place is a wonderful place to hang out in costume. There are a number of spots for great photos such as the pillars painted to look like part of the Death Star or the Jabba the Hut model tucked into a corner. The walls are covered in action figures still
in their boxes, artwork, photos from the movies, and symbols of the Empire and the Rebel Alliance. There are ships hanging from the ceiling against a background of stars. There is a “Phantom Menace” pinball machine. The inside of the men’s room has a full 360-degree painting on the wall with the Death Star, Star Destroyers, TIE Fighters and nebulas. Chewbacca watches over you as you place your order for food and drinks.

There is a full menu of American food with burgers, corn dogs, chicken strips, chicken sandwiches, chicken wings,
pretzels, chili fries, stuffed mushrooms, sliders, guacamole and chips, chili, potato skins and more. There is also a full service bar with the usual beers on tap and in the bottle, cider, wine and a large variety of brands of hard liquor. They also have a number of specialty drinks with several named after “Star Wars” references like Blue Milk, Light Saber, Twi’lek and Stormtrooper.

They have Happy Hour specials every day from 3:00-6:00 p.m., Live Event Trivia every Monday at 8:00 p.m., Bottomless Mimosas and Recovery Burgers from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., karaoke at 8:00 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday, monthly Rock Band game sessions and Football Sundays during the NFL season. They also have pool tables, darts and big screen televisions to watch sporting events.

They can also host special events. I had my birthday party back in April 2014 and they made a special drink menu just for the occasion. The staff was very attentive. They also host an annual “May the Forth Be With You” event.

For more information on 7 Stars Bar and Grill, you can visit their website at 7starsbar.com, go to their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/7StarsBar or call them at 408-292-STAR (7827).
Inside the Men’s Room  by Christopher Erickson

Jabba the Hut Decor  by Christopher Erickson

Star Wars Symbols  by Christopher Erickson
Alalalalalalalaaaaa! Break out the battle cries, this year is the 20th Anniversary of Xena Warrior Princess! Fans turned out in force to celebrate at the last Official Xena Con, held in Burbank on February 19-21. Guests included Lucy Lawless (Xena), Renee O’Connor (Gabrielle), Hudson Leick (Callisto), Adrienne Wilkinson (Eve/Livia), David Franklin (Brutus), Jacqueline Kim (Lao Ma), Alexandra Tydings (Aphrodite), Britney Powell (Brunhilda), Katherine Fugate (wrote a fan-fave episode), Danielle Cormack (Ephiny), Claire Stansfield (Alti), Musetta Vander (iLainus), Paris Jefferson (Athena), Michael Hurst (Iolaus, Charon, who also directed several eps of Xena), Jennifer Ward-Lealand (Boadicea, Zehra), Victoria Pratt (Cyane) and Steven L. Sears (writer and co-executive producer).

It was a full house with seats sold out as well several of the photo opps. Fortunately, some last-minute general seat tickets were added to accommodate all who wanted to attend.

Highlights from this year’s con were Jacqueline Kim crowd-surfing at the Friday night Karaoke Party, the Xena Costume Contest with incredible cosplayers, Michael Hurst’s one-man play “No Holds Bard,” Katherine Fugate’s play performed by several of the cast, and Lucy Lawless surprising fans with an impromptu performance singing “The Love Of Your Love/Please Forgive Me.”

Things got off to a busy start with fans buying up tons of Xena merchandise since this was dubbed the Last Official Xena Con. That is, until someone else licenses it to call it Official. Fans are not going to let Xena fade away anytime soon. There’s a fansponsored Xenite con in Paris, France; a Xenite Retreat planned for California in 2016; and a Battle On Con in the works for Florida. Brazil fans are also in the process of trying to get a Xena con.

Mornings at con got started off with Hudson Leick hosting yoga sessions and a separate dance class for those inclined to improve their Twister skills and their mind-body connection. Hudson is always a fan-favorite because she is such a dichotomy: she owns a yoga studio and travels the world teaching yoga workshops and sharing her learnings of Buddhism. On-stage, she steps into a different persona where anything goes. She is clever and irreverent and knows how to work a crowd. Hudson wore an eye-popping dress, which she coyly pretended was just something she put on. But Xena fans know this was well-played because each year Hudson auctions off her dress and shoes at the end of her stage-time for charity. Her clothes have raised thousands of dollars for scholarship funds established by her dear friend, Anita Ellis, who she met years ago because of Xena. Hudson got a standing ovation after doing her infamous Callisto scream, which can be viewed on video from practically a front-row seat thanks to Tina Sh on Facebook: youtu.be/SEgWZEGZb6A.

Some rare guests returned this year to con! Alexandra Tydings (Aphrodite), Danielle Cormack (Ephiny) and Jacqueline Kim (Lao Ma). All were crowd-pleasers answering questions about their characters and telling stories. Alexandra is recently returning to
acting and attending cons. Danielle has had overwhelming success, most recently playing Bea in the Aussie women’s prison drama “Wentworth” for which she has won multiple Most Outstanding Actress awards. Jacqueline has a band and performed a couple of songs during her stage-time, and later that evening surprised fans by crashing the Karaoke party where she sang and dove off-stage to crowd-surf.

There were mixed feelings about the schedule this year. The beloved cabaret was dropped altogether, and Lucy and Renee, who are normally the headliners of the convention on Sunday, were moved to Saturday, leaving Sunday an anti-climactic ending for The Last Official Xena Con. Fans were upset. I am going to write this as though they were on Sunday in an effort to redeem that ending.

Brittney Powell was energetic and fun as always. She spoke about her current project that she co-wrote and co-stars in called “Trouble Is My Business.” They’re trying to finish crowd-funding it, so please check out their Facebook for info and help spread the word: www.facebook.com/TroubleIsMyBusinessMovie?fref=ts. Brittney was just in an episode of “Celebrity Wife Swap” on May 27 on ABC. She swapped with Hines Ward’s wife for a week. Back to the con, things heated up when it came time for the annual Brittney Bra auction, where the con hall divided into the left vs. the right side to compete to see which side could raise the most for charity and win the bra. After the winner was determined, the loot was combined and donated to charity.

My favorite part of Xena con this year were the cosplayers — they were incredible! Everyone put a lot of thought and detail into their costumes. It was great to see young and old fans geeking out together. Many wore their costumes in and out of the event to take pictures with fans. Xena writer and co-executive producer Steven L. Sears generously took tons of pics from Xena Con and posted them to his Facebook for fans to enjoy. His only request is to be given credit and for people to not cut out his copyright mark: www.facebook.com/steven.l.sears?fref=ts. BuzzFeed also stopped by Xena con this year and did a post featuring several of the cosplayers: “25 Kick-Ass Costumes From The Last Ever Xena Convention” at www.buzzfeed.com/maceyjforonda/25-kick-ass-costumes-from-the-last-ever-xena-convention#.meA0ZKx1B.

The next round of guests included Michael Hurst (Iolaus), Jennifer Ward-Lealand (Boadicea), Victoria Pratt (Cynne), David Franklin (Brutus), Musetta Vander (Ilainus), Paris Jefferson (Athena) and Adrienne Wilkinson (Xena’s daughter Eve/Livia). Michael and Jennifer live in New Zealand and are legendary for their work and contributions to the New Zealand entertainment industry. Michael performed his acclaimed one-man play “No Holds Bard,” which was a rare treat for fans in the U.S. to get to see. David Franklin mentioned he has been doing voice-over and game work. Musetta Vander just finished filming the movie “Selfie Shootout.” She is on a journey through South America and welcomes fans to join in her experience by following her on Facebook and Twitter.

Victoria Pratt is still in ridiculous shape and belongs on a Wheaties box. It would be insulting except she’s so inspirational about it. She said her number one must-have item is her Vitamix blender and her recommendation for fitness is for people to get out in nature and hike. She can be seen playing in a recurring role on the Canadian series “Heartland” and had a TV movie that just debuted on the USA channel on May 31 entitled “Deadly Pursuit.” She also starred in the recent DVD movie “Death Valley” and she is going to be in the new Mike Mendez film “The Last Heist.”
Adrienne Wilkinson has so many things going on that I suspect she lives in an Airstream with an IV drip while being driven from one project to the other. That is the only way it seems feasible. She was in several seasons of the award-winning “Venice The Series” and was the voice and persona of the character Maris Brood in the TV movie and videogame “Star Wars: The Force Unleashed.” She stars in a sci-fi film called “Nobility” that is on the horizon. And are you ready for this? Xena’s daughter plays a Starfleet captain! Adrienne stars as Captain Lexxa Singh in the fan-funded “Star Trek: Renegades.” It was being shopped as a TV pilot but Adrienne has recently hinted that it may be coming as a TV movie. It features returning favorite Trekkie actors with new ones and directed by Tim Russ. It has really incredible production values for a fan-funded project. Check out the trailers: www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjeX5drV9ms.

Now, for what should have been the finale at Xena Con — Renee O’Connor and Lucy Lawless! Renee came on-stage to a standing ovation. She owns and runs her production company, ROC Pictures. Renee is somewhat of an enigma. She is constantly busy but prefers to stay out of the limelight. She co-starred in the film adaption of the book “Beyond The Farthest Star,” which was shown in limited-screening and is now planning a theatrical release. I was lucky enough to see it at an event where I also got to meet Renee. She plays a preacher’s wife who lives in the shadow of her husband. This movie is a must-see for any Renee fan, but also for anyone who appreciates major plot twists and stories that make one reflect on their own life and relationships.

My first thought at seeing Renee in-person is how beautiful and incredibly fit she still is. My next impression was how Zen she always seems to be. She has an incredibly calming presence. Maybe that is part of what made Gabrielle so believable? The fact that Renee has many of those same qualities in real life.

Renee has been busy working behind and in-front of the camera. She co-starred in the short film “The Usual,” which screened at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival. She recently directed a TV movie called “Broken Things” that stars Adrienne Wilkinson, and finished co-producing and starring in an upcoming TV movie called “Last Chance.” The sizzle reel is on youtube: www.morningpersonpictures.com/last-chance.html. Renee was honored in May at the 2015 Women Making A Difference Symposium & Awards hosted by the LA Business Journal: instagram.com/p/2RkumGGSOI/.

The audience was so abuzz from Renee being on-stage that when it came time for Katherine Fugate’s play, most fans could only hear bits and pieces. That didn’t seem to matter when fans heard Lucy Lawless off-stage unknowingly doing a mic-check with a live mic. Fortunately, it was soon Xena’s time to join Gabrielle in the play and Lucy entered from the back of the room doing a quick twirl and warrior-cry on her way to the stage. The play, befittingly called “The Return,” was done while the cast were holding scripts and having a bit of a giggle that it was years later and they were still doing this. If the show was not convincing enough about Xena and Gabrielle’s relationship, the play was. It ended with Xena taking a knee to propose to Gabrielle, telling her: “Remember, no matter what happens in this lifetime or the next, I will always find you.” The play and several other segments from Xena Con can be viewed on YouTube thanks to JaredKorry: www.youtube.com/user/JaredKorry/videos.

Afterward, Lucy surprised fans by singing “Please Forgive Me/ The Love of Your Love” from “The Bitter Suite” episode, a moment that had helped Xena break the cycle of hate, hurt and lies.
so she could cross back over from Illusia to rejoin Gabrielle and return to Ancient Greece. Lucy sang this upon request, without any preparation, and it was amazing, reminding us all just how multi-talented she is. Here’s a video via ladyfalconsoccer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbZT3oQcxwU.

Lucy noted that since her children have gotten older, she decided that it was time that she could step back into acting on a regular basis. She co-starred in the six-part Aussie crime-thriller drama “The Code” that is now available on Netflix. She said she turned down “The trip of a lifetime” to India with her husband and children when the opportunity presented this past Fall to play Maleficent in the Pasadena Playhouse production of “Sleeping Beauty.” She has had two guest-starring appearances this past year as Isabelle Hartley on Agents of SHIELD. (Yes, we were all duped by the stunt they pulled).

Lucy can be seen in a recurring role in Season 2 of WGNAmerica’s “Salem: Witch Wars” as Countess Ingrid Palatine Von Marburg. The oldest of the “true witches,” Countess Marburg has returned to Salem during the Salem Witch Trials to glean the secrets of young Mary Sibley, a witch who has succeeded in performing The Grand Rite. Lucy is phenomenal in this role! On the top of her game. She says it is the first character for her that she will admit is a villain. Her stint may or may not be short-lived (for what it is worth, even the dead do not stay dead on Salem) as it has been announced that Lucy will be reuniting with Bruce Campbell to co-star in the Starz Channel “Ash vs Evil Dead” TV series premiering later this year. She will play Ruby, a mysterious figure who is set on the idea that Ash is the root of the Evil outbreaks.

While this year was by far not the best ending to a Xena con, fans still had a great time and appreciated seeing so many of the cast members. On the movie front, fans recently helped Xena win the 2015 Hitfix Heroes vs. Villains Tournament out of 64 for the second straight year. With the recent news about “The X-Files” and “Full House” returning with original cast, “Xena” fans have been relentless in their pursuit to bring “Xena” back for a mini-series or movie with Lucy Lawless and Renee O’Connor. We ask all fans of sci-fi/fantasy to please lend their signature to help us bring female heroes back! If Arnold can reprise the role of the Terminator, we believe fans deserve the same opportunity to reconnect with iconic female heroes. Lucy recently said in her HuffPost Live and Today show appearances that she is “appalled that they have not brought Xena back,” wasting this great brand and female characters.

NBCUniversal/UniversalTV has control over the rights. Keep in mind, Hercules had two new movies made by different studios last year alone. To date, Xena has not had a single movie. Fans have recently seized the opportunity to watch and tweet Xena episodes together each weekend via XenaWatch on Twitter. They welcome everyone to drop in and enjoy.

Laura Prudom, news editor for Variety, recently replied that she would not be surprised (if Xena returns) considering the current nostalgic TV climate. Chris Harnick of EOnline said he would watch a mini-series or movies with Lucy and Renee in a heartbeat. The editor of NerdReactor is a Xena fan. Maureen Ryan, TV critic for Huffington Post, listed Xena in her Netflix Guide of overlooked gems. TV Guide recently listed Xena among their 24 Greatest Action Heroes. Hitfix has written several pieces about the avid Xena fandom. It says something when TV critics and entertainment sites are even trying to pull for Xena. Netflix, are you listening? Here’s where you can sign the Xena Movie Petition: www.gopetition.com/petitions/xena-warrior-princess-movie.html.
By Jean Martin

Editor-in-Chief

Jean Martin: How did you get started in acting and what drew you into this career?

Jeffrey Weissman: I knew from a very young age I wanted to be in show biz. I had seen my babysitter get goo goo eyes when we met Omar Sharif at my Dad's club, and then when we went and saw him on the big screen, she went that way again, and I wanted to get that same response from her. I liked attention and making people laugh, and found that it was a great celebration of life. I took to the stage in 7th grade in earnest, and haven't looked back. I got onto my first movie set in '77, and loved being a part of the creative process of making movie magic.

You have been a director for theater and live venues such as Universal-Japan and the Dickens Fair here in the Bay Area. Has your experience as an actor helped you with directing other actors?

I work with seasoned pros and novices alike. Character and script development, audition piece and show construction, I've been a catalyst in most aspects of production. I call on my 40+ years of experience. I try not to step on talents' own processes, but instill confidence, encourage hard work, flexibility, team work and whatever it takes to get a great performance or show. As for the theme park, I worked in the Universal Hollywood theme park for a dozen years as Stan
Laurel, Charlie Chaplin and Groucho Marx, so I knew the ins and outs of just about any circumstance that may come up in a park. At the billion dollar theme park in Osaka, I directed two shows (Hollywood High Tops and Blues Brothers) and trained all of the Hollywood legend lookalikes. None of the execs thought to train the body suit characters, so I added them to my duties. We had only weeks, and these Japanese kids wearing fuzzy costumes had no idea about the cartoon characters they were portraying. Luckily I got them videos of their characters (Popeye, Bullwinkle, Betty Boop, etc.) with expedited shipping, and they were forever grateful.

When I was young I had imagined total immersion entertainment, and when saw the film “Westworld,” I really wanted to help make that a reality. Theme parks were a natural, and then when discovering in ’73 the “education while entertaining” concept that Phyllis and Ron Patterson had birthed at their Renaissance Pleasure Faire, I was hooked. I attended and started acting in ’78 at The Charles Dickens Christmas Faire and Pickwick Comic Annual. A great discovery, feeling it even more magic than the Ren Faire. I’ve directed Music Halls, and played characters from “Oliver Twist,” “Pickwick Papers,” “Alice in Wonderland,” ballroom danced for eight hours a day and even run amuck as a lobster.

Are you involved in any plans for the 30th anniversary of the release of “Back to the Future?”

The first “Back to the Future” cast reunion was in ’08, and the popularity of it was palpable. Especially when Michael J. Fox showed up unannounced. 500+ people went nuts. It was great to share some time with him, Chris Lloyd, Lea Thompson and about 20 others from the film franchise. Since then I have attended many trilogy screenings, fan cons and other events that celebrate the films. This year I’ve appeared at a half dozen shows and it’s always a treat to share the love of the films with fans. Ironically there are still a good 30% of folk that don’t realize that it isn’t the same actor...
playing George McFly in parts 2 and 3. (Editor’s note: Weissman plays George McFly in Back to the Futures II and III.) I will be joining Michael, Chris, Lea, Marc, Frances, Harry, Don, Claudia, Ricky and other cast members at London Film and Comic Con. As well at the “We're Going Back” event that visits original shooting locations. And I am producing a BttF theme cruise to raise awareness and monies for MjF’s Parkinson's Foundation's Team Fox, where you can cruise the western Caribbean with cast and crew members from the films. Michael is such a great person, and I think this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate the films, give to the fans, and at the same time to give to Michael's cause.

Outside of the “Back to the Future” franchise, what was your favorite movie, television show or play that you acted in?
SO many. Each play, TV show or film is often like a family, and there are relationships I cherish, and stories I loved being part of the telling. I adored working with directors George Miller (“Fury Road”), Robert Zemeckis, Clint Eastwood, Mark Rydell and actors John Lithgow, MjF, Clint, Keaton, et al. on the big budget films, and on the low and no budget projects the list goes on. Whether low or big budget, sci-fi, comedy or drama, the films that everyone is focused on doing their best, with team work and support from all departments, that is magic to me. I loved playing Igor in Mel Brooks’ musical of “Young Frankenstein” at Sprekell’s in the North Bay. I had to sing and dance in nine numbers, worked my tail off, but loved every minute of it. I had met Marty Feldman on the set while Mel was shooting the “Puttin’ on the Ritz” number and it was a magical moment of my childhood and it felt like I was paying homage to the first time I ever met a man wearing a man bag (Marty wore one).

What was it like working on a Western with screen legend Clint Eastwood in “Pale Rider?”

Even though Clint’s aura may be intimidating, he is a gentleman and a supportive director and actor. We had some amazing challenges with weather, logistics and cast incidents that Clint met with great problem solving skills. It was also first class … I recall eating steak and lobster on set in the middle of a blizzard, the first day the new caterer arrived.

You do a lot of charity work with fundraisers. Do you feel that your credits from “Pale Rider” and the ”Back to the Future” movies has helped you promote them and give back to the community?

Absolutely. People don’t know me from TV appearances on “Max Headroom,” “Dallas,” “The Man Show,” “Diagnosis Murder,” “Saved By The Bell,” “Scarecrow & Mrs. King” or film work in “Johnny Dangerously,” “For the Boys,” “Crackers,” “Twilight Zone Movie,” et al. But many know “Pale Rider,” and most know “Back to the Future.” And when I act as auctioneer or emcee at fundraisers, it builds excitement, and with my experience,
I get some pretty great response from bidders and my irreverence and comedy keeping them entertained.

You are currently working with Team Fox, which raises funds for research into Parkinson's disease. Were you approached by Michael J. Fox to work with the organization or did you approach them?

I had the idea to do the BttF fan cruise about 10+ years ago, and I contacted the producer of one of the Star Trek cruises, who at the time advised me not to do it. I couldn't see not doing one to raise money and awareness for Parkinson's, so I called him back a year ago, and said I am still interested in getting it launched, and he said he'd help in any way he could, since now his father had been diagnosed with the disease. I approached Team Fox at that time, and they were happy to show me how to set up my event with their organization.

Did Michael J. Fox ever talk to you personally about his fight with Parkinson's disease?

In the 20 minutes we had before facing the hundreds of screaming fans at the Hollywood reunion back in '08, he was happy to spend some time with me and the main half dozen of our fellow cast members. But he was plagued with discomfort that drives his body to erratic and uncontrollable movement. He still is a gracious and fun loving man, that deserves (as do all sufferers of the disease) to find a cure. Michael is very frank with how he was diagnosed and his fight with it that you can see on Letterman and other shows.

You are producer of the “Back to the Future” cruise as part of you work for Team Fox. Has your experience with Universal-Japan and Dickens Fair helped you to organize the cruise?

Cruise production is new to me, but events are not. I've wrote, directed, produced and acted in hundreds of events and shows for fairs, theme parks, corporate and private parties. And it is a big task, and my goals are far from being reached and it's scary, since I am doing this on my dime, and I am not a big money earning star that could write off a loss. So please share the news about the cruise with those you know that are fans of the BttF films,
philanthropists, people that love cruises and a good time, and want to give back to the future!

What can fans of “Back to the Future” and science fiction in general expect to see when they are on the boat?

We are re-staging the Under the Sea Dance prom, with Harry Waters Jr. (who played Marvin Berry, Chuck's cousin, in the films), and we have cast and crew Q & A with special presentations such as BttF storyboard artist Andrew Probet's amazing PowerPoint with sound of how Marty originally got back to 1985 from 1955. There are several surprises that will be very satisfying for any BttF fan. And our passengers will have access to the Star Trek Convention at Sea's events, which is sailing at the same time on Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Sea, the amazing ship we are sailing on.

Where can we find more information on the cruise and other ways to donate to Team Fox?

Our cruise website, with information, booking form and links to our Team Fox page is bttfcruise.com or backtothefuturecruisetoendparkinsons.com. (Editor’s Note: The cruise dates are Nov. 7–14, 2015.)

What do you have planned in the future as far as acting, directing and producing?

In last year's feature, “Savior of None,” I play a depressed, widowed, epileptic loner who takes an abused adolescent girl under his wing to save her, but out of peer pressure he ultimately pushes her away, which causes her suicide, he then becomes her avenging angel. A very heavy and demanding role for me that has left no dry eyes in the houses it's screened at. Look for a release soon. I shot a sci-fi short (pilot for film/TV show) called “The Traveler” where I play a sinister time traveler that kidnaps his protege's girl to lure him into a nefarious plan. I just saw the rough cut, and it is amazing fun. I am developing a few projects, one is a western feature that I hope to shoot here in the Bay Area. I play Mark Twain at Buena Vista Winery in Sonoma at their Living History Day on July 11. I am always looking for teaching, coaching and consulting opportunities for individuals or schools that want my training skills. I have taught writers, directors and actors at film and acting schools, universities, expos et al., and all get something valuable from me. As well, I train improvisation performers, Commedia dell’arte, I have helped talent create one-person shows, I speak at fan cons in panels, and I help fundraisers be a success.
BASFA Meetings 1286-1308

BASFA Meeting 1286

March 23, 2015

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 - while eating
28 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1285 were accepted as ‘did the earth move for you?’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $5.50 in the regular jar
The Vice President reported there are no new Garcia zines, except for 2 new ‘Klaus’ ones & there will be 4 ‘Journey Planets’ out soonish
The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements:
John O announced that longtime fan Peggy Rae Saprenza passed away & Lisa read a tribute to her that [tall] Kevin wrote

Dave C announced that Norwescon is coming up on April 2-5th
Chris announced that the ‘Drink Tank review of Dinosaurs’ is going to be a thing
Ric announced that his mother suffered a stroke 2 weeks ago, but is recovering & announced that Debbie had surgery last week and is recovering & announced that Fanboy Planet has Cinequest
film reviews up now & he recommends everyone learn the warning signs of a stroke

JC announced that Beth is doing just fine - it was food poisoning & announced that Nerdvana Podcast recorded last weekend with Mo in attendance & it was great & announced that Mo may be in treatment for another couple weeks & also to go visit Mo, if you’re not contagious

Ken announced that This Friday is a Legion of Rasselon meeting at the IHoP on Stevens Creek & announced that ‘Life of Brian’ will be shown at the Blue Light cinema at 7pm, check lifeofbrianmovie.eventbrite.com & Geri has made beards

Derek announced that Baycon is coming up and he has flyers

**Reviews:**

Chris reviewed Cinequest as awesome & he got an award there

Alex reviewed Super Slam Dunk Touchdown as a fun game, played at a Kickstarter event at the 7 Star Bar & Grill - and the game will be there again on Thursday; the wings and corn dog linguisa were reviewed as delicious

Ric reviewed the new line of Star Wars books as pretty good reads

JC reviewed ‘Mocking Jay’ as boring, Chris O called it a ‘bridge’ movie

Chris O reviewed ‘Insurgent’ as a movie that was a bit on rails & worth matinee

Ken reviewed the Psychotronic Film Festival as the best one in years and various folk agreed

We did auctions

We adjourned at 9:16 pm in memory of Peggy Rae & Terry Pratchett

and the rumor of the week was: ‘Hubert Garcia?’

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**BASFA Meeting 1287**

March 30, 2015

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 8:09 pm - because .. reasons

28 people attended

We established a party jar

The minutes of meeting 1286 were accepted as ‘Mo better’

There was no Treasurer & thus no report

The Vice President was missing [week 1]

The President had nothing fannish to report

The Party Committee reported that there will be a party at BabsCon this Saturday at 8pm

**Announcements:**

Ken announced that ‘Life of Brian’ will be shown at the Blue Light cinema at 7pm Thursday, April 2, check lifeofbrianmovie.eventbrite.com & Geri has made beards & announced that a ‘Thunderbirds are Go’ series will be on UK TV

JC announced that Mo is out of the hospital, but is changing passwords and all because the hospital lost her purse & he announced that Nerdvana Podcast, episode 37, part 2 will be out Wednesday & announced that his gallbladder comes out on Thursday
Ric announced that Fanboy Planet is due out & announced that there’ll be a PechaKucha at Cafe Stritch on Tuesday, 6pm+

Aatheus announced that Big Wow, a comics, media & cosplay event, will be at the SJ Convention Center, April 18-19

Bradford announced that ‘The Walking Dead’ will get a spinoff series this summer & announced that he completed getting the full run of the ‘Brave & the Bold’ comic series

[evil] Kevin announced that there is a Robogames event at the San Mateo event center this weekend & he will have 2 entries there

Reviews:

Andy reviewed Eurovision as fun & not bad

Ric reviewed the newest Humble Bundle as astonishing, reviewed the new James Bond trailer as it looks good; reviewed ‘iZombie’ as charming & reviewed ‘Kingsman’ as mostly okay

Dave C reviewed the ‘Paul Blart 2’ trailer as ‘nope nope nope’ & reviewed a horror of a book ‘Your House is on Fire’ by Stefan Kiesbye as the cover art has nothing to do with the overall creepy book

[evil] Chris reviewed Andy Duncan’s ‘The Pottawatomie Giant and other stories’ as readable & reviewed an obit for Terry Pratchett in the Economist as good

Bradford reviewed the ‘The Walking Dead’ season finale as one of their better ones & Ric stated he has trust issues, the Andy announced that Otter Pops are made from otters

Aatheus reviewed an Icelandic beer, ‘Einstok’ toasted porter as excellent & worth the imported price & reviewed ‘City Skylines’ on Steam.com as what Simcity should have been & reviewed ‘Ready Flare One’ as a wonderful homage, narrated by Wil Wheaton & worth full price

Fred reviewed audiobooks narrated by Wil Wheaton as he’s enjoyed all he’s heard & reviewed [evil] Kevin’s jacket as a stunning visual display

Dave C raved ‘Battle Creek’ as another police procedural & Andy suggests searching out commercial TV insurance fanfic because it’s the funniest stuff he’s read all day

There was nothing to auction

We adjourned at 9:18

and the rumor of the week was: ‘The next BASFA meeting will be a police procedural’

BASFA Meeting 1288

April 6, 2015

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 7:59 pm - ... early

31 people attended

We established a party jar

The minutes of meeting 1287 were accepted as ‘the Thrill is back’

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $2.50 in the regular jar & $1.00 in the party jar - and then 2 weeks ago we took in $4.95 in the regular jar & $15.00 in the party jar

The Vice President was missing [week 2]
The President greeted visitors - Matthew, who found us with Google 30 minutes before & he really likes robots & June, a long-time reader of sf & fantasy & also Sarah, visiting us from ‘one of those Carolinas’

The Sports Committee reported that it’s opening day & we’re still sold out of tickets for the BASFA baseball outing for the May 9th Giants game

Announcements:

[evil] Kevin announced that Thinbot took the gold at Robogames last weekend.

JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast, episode 37, part 3 will be out Wednesday & that this Saturday is tentatively scheduled to record episode 38.

Dave G congratulated BASFAs Hugo nominees Chris Garcia & Spring

Adrienne announced that she’s been under the weather and missed meetings.

Fred announced that APE, Alternate Press Expo will be in downtown SJ the 1st weekend in October.

Brad announced that there’s a graphic novelization of Heinlein’s ‘Citizen of the Galaxy’ & announced that ge will be giving a paper at the annual conference for the SF Research Assoc.

Lisa announced that there’s a Renaissance Festival this weekend.

Geri announced that Dan Ackroyd will be signing vodka bottles at the Cambria BevMo, Thursday 2-4pm.

Reviews:

Dave G reviewed the Science Fiction Outreach Program as giving away free books for 3 days at the Emerald City ComicCon and a good time was had & he reviewed Norwescon as a good convention.

Bradford reviewed ‘No Requiem for the Space Age’ by Matthew Tribbe as he recommends it.

Adrienne reviewed season 4 of ‘Game of Thrones’ as it held her attention & reviewed ‘Arrow’ season 1 as she really enjoyed ‘that guy taking his shirt off’ but wasn’t impressed with the storyline.

Ken reviewed ‘Thunderbirds are Go’ as fab.

Beth reviewed ‘Edge of Tomorrow’ as excellent, excellent, excellent & JC reviewed it as extremely enjoyable.

Andy reviewed Robogames as exciting and spectacular, several times; [evil] Kevin related some of the robot combat results & it sounded like fun.

Diane reviewed 3 books, Cooper’s ‘Edge of Dark’ as tight writing, well worth reading & reviewed Hodder’s ‘The Return of the Discontinued Man’ as absolute drek - avoid it & reviewed Dave Walton’s ‘Super Position’ as awesome and well-written.

We did auctions.

We adjourned at 9:17.

and the rumor of the week was: ‘Odds are I’ll try to Chuck the minutes narration next week, too’

**BASFA Meeting 1289**

April 13, 2015

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary
Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale
Began at 8pm - with the Giants 3 and 5
29 people attended
We established a complex system for a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1288 were accepted as ‘double dollar guarantee’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $3.75 in the regular jar & $15.25 in the party jar - and has appointed Chuck as assistant auctioneer
The Vice President was missing [week 3]
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Sports Committee reported that we’re still sold out of tickets for the BASFA baseball outing for the May 8th Giants game

**Announcements:**
JC announced that they did a new Nerdvana Podcast and episode 38, part 1 will be out Wednesday, featuring Mo & [tall] Kevin
Chris O & Brad announced that this Sunday Wadaiko Newark will be playing taiko drums at Morgan Hills Hanu Matsure Festival at the Buddhist Community center, April 19, 11 - 5pm & John O announced that Big Wow, a comics Fest will be at the SJ Convention Center this weekend
Adrienne announced that the new season of Orphan Black starts this week
[tall] Kevin announced that Puppygate has attracted the attention of the AP new & announced that Don Eastlake is visiting us
Gerry announced that ‘Variations on a Theme’ has gone out of business & that Brief Candle has picked up their business

**Reviews:**
JC reviewed ‘Imitation Game’ as very good, worth full price
Dave C reviewed a book, ‘Resistance’ by Samit Basu as it was fun
Mo reviewed the series ‘Archer’ as highly recommended
John O reviewed Cornell’s book ‘London Falling’ as noir-ish and entertaining & reviewed the ‘Game of Thrones’ season premiere as they hit the ground running
Bradford reviewed ‘Woman in Gold’ as recommended
Gerry reviewed Norwescon as a very good con, with especially good writing and science panels and various other folk followed on, mostly agreeing, although [tall] Kevin commented the hotel was small for the convention
[tall] Kevin reviewed gave advice about Hugo nominations & John O thanked him for his efforts
Pat reviewed the Carousel Trilogy by Sharon Lee [Carousel Sun, Tides, Sea] as all were very good
Aatheus reviewed the Hyatt Regency SFO as very hostile to the hotel in-room parties & not worth full price
We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:08
and the rumor of the week was: ‘When you lie down with mad dogs you wake up with rabies’
BASFA Meeting 1290

April 20, 2015

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale
Began at 8pm - mellowly
31 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1289 were accepted as ‘the secretary says she doesn’t have them’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $16.00 in the regular jar & $11.39 in the party jar
The Vice President reported there is a new, albeit 2 weeks old, ‘Journey Planet’ out and another will soon be released
The President greeted Nathan, visiting us for the 1st time, who is from Ohio and a long-time fan
The Sports Committee reported that we’re still sold out of tickets for the BASFA baseball outing for the May 8th Giants game

Announcements:
Brad announced that Stan Lee & Steve Wozniak will start up a new Silicon Valley convention next year
Chris announced that Art Widner died last week at age 97
Dave C announced that it’s national pot day; Ken then announced that tomorrow is national unannounced drug test day

Adrienne announced that she is still getting rid of things
JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast, episode 38, part 2 will be out Wednesday & that they’ll record episode 39 soonish
Ken announced that this Friday is the Legion of Rasselon meeting at the IHoP on Stevens Creek & Lawrence, 7:30pm & announced that on May 4th he will be doing a Star Wars music medley on KFJC
Fred announced that Book Buyers bookstore in Mountain View is having problems

Reviews:
Nathan reviewed the new ‘Star Wars’ trailer as it looks promising
Bill reviewed the ‘Star Wars’ orchestral performance as very well done; Lisa followed, saying it was great and a lot of hard work & phenomenal & Harold liked the subtitles used
Carole reviewed Big Wow as a standard comic convention, with a few good panels, as it was a lot of fun [and her Tshirt was - excellent!-]. Bill reviewed it as there was a lot of energy there and he enjoyed it a lot more than he expected to & there were other positive comments made
Diane recommended going to cons
Chris also recommended going to cons & reviewed Wrestlemania as go see it in person and the Russian tank was the best part
Adrienne reviewed the new season start of ‘Orphan Black’ as amazing & she appreciates the male nudity; Chuck agreed and found the acting amazing
Mo reviewed ‘Ancillary Justice’ & ‘Ancillary Sword’ by Ann Leckie as they really drew her in and are excellent reads
JC reviewed Disney’s ‘Monkey Kingdom’ as fun and worth full price & Beth’s opinion is that ‘monkeys are cool’
Nathan reviewed the ‘Daredevil’ series as it captured the feel of the comics and Marvel universe & Carole said the overall quality is good
We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:11
and the rumor of the week was: ‘The missing minutes have been mistaken for a brownie’

BASFA Meeting 1291

April 27, 2015

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 8-ish - with thoughts of twins
28 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1289 were accepted
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $11.75 in the regular jar & $7.40 in the party jar
The Vice President was not here BUT there were reports that he will be having double trouble & needs to step down as VP, so we will have elections for a new VP in 2 weeks; Nominees currently are = JC, Beth, Chuck, Bruce Pells & Ken Patterson
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Sports Committee reported that we’re still sold out of tickets for the BASFA baseball outing for the May 8th Giants game
The Party Committee reported that there is a BASFA Baycon party, set for May 23

Announcements:
Carole & Chris O & John O & Dave G announced that a ton of conventions are coming up: CostumeCon, Balticon, Clockwork Alchemy, Kublacon & Baycon & Conquest
Chris O announced that she & John O will have panels at Baycon & she is scheduled for surgery a week before Baycon
Adrienne announced that another Hugo nominee has withdrawn from the ballot
JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast, episode 39 was recorded over the weekend & that part 1 will be out Wednesday & announced that Free Comic Book day is May 2nd & that they’ll record episode 40 at SLG & announced that there is a BBQ festival in Milpitas over memorial Day weekend and he’ll have a booth there
Ken announced that next Monday is May 4th & announced that on May 4th he will be doing a Star Wars music medley on KFJC & announced that he has a phone interview on Thursday
[evil Kevin announced that on May 31, Monday at 10am the Penninsula Wearable art lunch is holding a Lunch & Runway Show, check penwag.org for details
Lisa announced that Galligrey 1 tickets go on sale on May 4th
Mo announced that she will need help to get to a doctor’s appointment
Aatheus announced that next year Big Wow moves to fall & that Silicon Valley

Reviews:
Beth reviewed recording the new Nerdvana Podcast as done at Brad’s place, who has a lot of comic books
[evil] Kevin reviewed an article in the Wall Street Journal last Thursday as pretty good
Carole reviewed Big Wow as she picked up an anthology there
John O reviewed cancer as it sucks
Adrienne reviewed the latest episode of ‘Orphan Black’ as no for kids
Alex reviewed ‘Ex Machina’ as a very good movie & he recommends it quality is good
We did auctions
We adjourned at 8:51
and the rumor of the week was: ‘I didn’t knw that rabies was a veneral disease’

BASFA Meeting 1292

May 4, 2015

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 8:03 pm with a history lesson
24 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1291 were accepted as ‘2 verbs short of a happy meal’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $6.75 in the regular jar & $2.25 in the party jar
The Vice President was not here BUT there will be elections for a new VP next week; Nominees currently are = JC, Beth, Chuck, Bruce Pelz & Ken Patterson
The President discussed the election & eventually said ‘hi’ to folks visiting us for the 1st time - Kate & Seg
The Sports Committee reported that we’re still sold out of tickets for the BASFA baseball outing for the May 8th Giants game & suggested folks going dress warmly

Announcements:
Brad announced that Joe Haldeman’s book, ‘Forever War’ will be a movie soon
Adrienne announced that folks trying to preregister for Gallifrey 1 broke the interwebs today & she still needs a membership there - check their website & she announced that Grace Lee Whitney died
Valerie announced that she wrote ‘The Avengers Face Their Dark Sides’ & that it may be available for free on Kindle via Amazon right now
JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast, episode 39, part 2 will be out Wednesday & announced they recorded episode 40 during Free Comic Book day
[tall] Kevin announced that SG Match Game is a casualty of Puppygate & will not be at Worldcon this year, however he was *informed* that there will be 3 Match Game SFs at this year’s San
Diego Westercon & he needs questions for the games & he announced that he may be recording a set of ‘safety how-to messages’ for the Worldcon Business Meeting, most likely at Westercon & announced that his sister is breathing on her own again

**Reviews:**

‘Age of Ultron’ was exhaustively reviewed as a good, enjoyable movie, albeit with a few flaws - with a safety advisory that if you see it in IMAX don’t sit at the very top or in the 1st 2 rows

Mo reviewed ‘Ancillary Sword’ by Leckie as it was well-written & impells the reader forward

Ric reviewed getting Sihlouette glasses as it came with 3 magnetic clipons & the 3D clipon gives a very good image & he reviewed the new GE Link Lights as costing about $15 and for a white LED bulb this is a very good price

Beth reviewed SLG’s owner as he donated the left-over comics from Free Comic Book day to her school & she got a chance to see New Kids on the Block & it was great fun

Dave C commented that a music site called ‘Groove Shark’ has gone out of business

**BASFA Meeting 1293**

May 11, 2015

Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, 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 8 pm with sad thoughts about elephants on LSD

24 people attended

We established a party basket

The minutes of meeting 1292 were accepted as ‘I’ve always depended on the kindness of Fred’

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $16.92 in the regular jar & $7.50 in the party jar

The Vice Presidential election resulted in Ken Patterson winning!

The President had nothing fannish to report

**Announcements:**

JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast, episode 39, part 3 will be out Wednesday & announced he gave his notice at Michael’s

Brad announced that Golden State is up by 20 points in the 3rd quarter

Ric announced that ‘Wayward Pines’, a 10 episode TV drama premieres Thursday & announced that the 1st volume of ‘Pines’ is on ebooks now for 99 cents & announced that Disney infinity 3.0 is

and the rumor of the week was: ‘All men may have been created equally but that doesn’t mean they should all take off their shirts’
doing a Star Wars set & announced that ‘Fanboy Planet’ episode 396 is out

Dave C announced that there’s a con coming up - CatCon LA - like ComicCon but for cat people
Mo announced that she goes in for spinal surgery tomorrow & will be in Valley med for a few days
Ken announced that KFJC has begun ‘Dirk Gently, Holistic Detective’ & that May 25th is Towel Day

Reviews:
Gail reviewed making an order with Rainbow Symphony store.com of eclipse viewers and glasses as they arrived quickly & with extras
Gerry reviewed the Space Access Conference as covering all sorts of interesting things
Brad reviewed the BASFA outing as the right team won & he thanked the Sports Committee for organizing the outing & reviewed seeing ‘Age of Ultron’ as he’s still not quite buying the 2 deus ex machina plot points & reviewed the 1941 Robert A Heinlein speech given at Worldcon as still on point & reviewed the BASFA VP election as ‘since when did BASFA get so ethical’ [because no one wanted to buy his vote]
Adrienne reviewed this week’s episode of ‘Orphan Black’ as thrilling & Mo agreed
Ric reviewed an IOS game, ‘Coup’ as multi-player & well worth the $2 cost & reviewed the ‘Wool’ omnibus & reviewed the current run of the Star Wars comics as there’s not a stinker in the bunch & recommends the digital versions
Mo reviewed the ‘Three Body Problem’ as she’s very impressed by it & Fred agreed

Ken reviewed the Palo Alto Player’s version of ‘Addams Family, the Musical’ as the cast was fantastic New Kids on the Block & it was great fun
We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:13
and the rumor of the week was: ‘We have a new president of vice’

BASFA Meeting 1294

18 May 2015

Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, Vice President
Dave Gallager, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary
Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale
President and Secretary absent
New VP presides for the first time during his term
Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker
Began promptly at 8:00 p.m. with talk of twins
17 people were present, before and during
Ken insisted on a correction for the minutes from meeting 1293. It was Beth who reviewed New Kids on the Block, not him. The minutes were then accepted as “Ken’s first public denial in office.”
I gave an update on Mo, who is improving, but will be transferred to a skilled nursing facility the next day to concentrate on physical therapy for the next couple of weeks.
Treasurer said we have money.
VP’s next show on KFJC on Monday, May 25, will be a tribute to Doug Adams.

The president had nothing fannish to report, since he was not there.

We welcomed second time visitor, Ed Moore, who liked BASFA’s attitude.

Sports committee is looking at setting up group outings at San Jose Giants and Earthquakes games and was wondering if BASFA would be interested in doing either. See Dave G. if interested.

Brad asked about the stats from VP election. They had not been prepared.

**Announcements:**

Kevin S. said the 2015 Hugo packet is now available from Sasquan.

Dave C. said the Raymond Burr Winery is closing down operations.

He also brought in a book in for auction.

NerdVana Podcast will continue talking about collecting Brad Lyau’s house with Nick Grey. The episode will be posted at: [nerdvanapodcast.com/](http://nerdvanapodcast.com/)

JC also once had a website called lightsabre.com. He sold it, but the new owners eventually let it go. He plans to revive it and will relaunch it under a new name.

Kevin R. found out that Hot Topic sells molds for lightsabre popsicles.

Ed Moore announced a new book, A Second Coming and Other Stories, he’s releasing. It will be launched at BayCon ‘15.

Ric without a k found a Kickstarter project he liked.

The second of his photogalleries from Big Wow is now available on FanboyPlanet.com.

He said there will also be new episodes of Twin Peaks and Halt & Catch Fire was renewed for another season. He’s also looking forward to Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norell.

Andy said that Steve Wozniak bought out Big Wow and is looking at putting on two shows a year.

Dave C. reminded us BayCon is coming this weekend and Ric said Fanboy Planet will be doing a podcast there and giving out prizes.

Ken said Legion of Rassilon will be meeting on the fifth Friday, May 29, this month due to the abundance of conventions this weekend.

**Reviews:**

Dave C. saw Wayward Pines and will keep watching it.

Kevin R. went to a shop called Dark Entry. It’s a clothing store on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley and he wishes it success.

Ric said he is satisfied with the series finale of Mad Men.

I reviewed either location of Yuki Sushi as the best sushi in the South Bay, if not the whole Bay Area. [yukisushi.com/](http://yukisushi.com/)

Ken had a good time cheering on bicyclists riding by his house this weekend.

We did auctions.

**Rumor of the Week:** “There be babies here.”

We adjourned 9:22 p.m.
BASFA Meeting 1295

May 25, 2015

Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, 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 8 pm with with cunning linguistics
15 people attended
We established a party basket
The minutes of meeting 1294 were accepted as ‘commissioner approved’

The Treasurer was not there, so there was no Treasurer’s report
The Vice President reported that ‘Life, the Universe & Everything’ that he broadcast on KFJC will be in the archives for the next 2 weeks - and happy Towel Day
The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements:

JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast, episode 39, part 4 will be out Wednesday & then announced for Beth that Katlyn will be involved in a Tony Awards production at Hoover Middle School June 12,13

Ken announced that the Legion of Rasselon meeting will be at the Steven’s Creek & Lawrence Expressway IHoP this Friday, starting at 7:30

Adrienne announced that Mo is doing much better now, although the ‘skilled nursing facility’ is not getting high marks

Reviews:

Gail reviewed Baycon as it happened & reviewed the Hugo voting panel as it almost convinced her not to vote on some things; others followed, saying - Brad thought it compressed and thought it odd that it ended on Sunday, then the secretary played along & the Art Show was praised, Dave C had good sales in the Dealer’s Room & he had lots of people asking about 1st books in series, Adrienne was sorry she missed it & Lisa enjoyed the panels she made it to

Adrienne reviewed ‘Avengers 2’ as she enjoyed it, despite the slow bits & reviewed ‘Tommorowland’ as she enjoyed it too, although it also had draggy bits - but that neither were as good as this week’s episode of ‘Orphan Black’ & she recommends Breyer’s ice cream = Salted Caramel, as awesome

JC reviewed the Flash series finale as the whole season has been the best he’s seen in years
We did auctions
We adjourned at 8:40
and the rumor of the week was: ‘The Warriors need their spice’
BASFA Meeting 1296

June 1, 2015

Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, 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 8 pm with so many things to do
27 people attended

We established a party vessel

The minutes of meeting 1295 were accepted as ‘works for me’

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $1.60 in the regular jar & $5 in the party basket

The Vice President spoke in past tense & reported that the Garcia twins have touched
The President had nothing fannish to report

The Party Committee reported that there was a well-attended BASFA party at Baycon & the next BASFA party will be held at Convolution - then he showed off a new, shiny vinyl BASFA banner

Announcements:

Andy announced that the latest Humble Bundle is for comics of various sorts

JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast, episode 40, will be out Wednesday & includes Fred for the 1st time

Alex announced that life has been interesting for him these last few weeks & that his wife has been diagnosed with a rare neurological disorder

Adrienne announced that she has bookmarks
Chris O announced that she is mostly recovered from her surgery

Brad announced that he has a ticket to the Warriors game on Thursday & announced that the Eaton Conference has been postponed until fall

John O announced that a pair of glasswork artists he likes, Joy & BJ have an Indiegogo fund set up to help them move their business and kitty rescue, it has a couple weeks to get funded and details are at = www.indiegogo.com/projects/a-new-art-studio-for-joy-bj-rescue-kitties

Reviews:

Wiscon was reviewed as essentially enjoyable with interesting panels & there was a recommendation to fly there via Oakland

Adrienne reviewed Spokane’s convention center as somewhat complex & that she found Spokane to be lovely & green & that she recommends Alaskan Air

John O reviewed episode 8 of Game of Thrones as the fight with giants was great & reviewed ‘Mad Max, Fury Road’ as boy it was fun and had some weird-ass cars - there were various comments and compliments for both

Dave C reviewed some comics as fun & interesting & reviewed ‘Tomorrowland’ as he wanted to enjoy it & several ‘meh’ comments agreed with him

Dave G reviewed Conquest 46, in Kansas City, as a fun & nice little con
Tom reviewed Corflu as an absolutely lovely con & reviewed Brewdog’s ‘Sink the Bizmark’, a freeze-distilled ale as a quadruple IPA with 41% alcohol content & is incredibly flavorful - 5 pounds for a tot of it & absolutely worth full price

JC reviewed the Milpitas International BBQ as wonderfully organized, recommended and he had a great time there
We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:11
and the rumor of the week was: ‘Hearing the name Wiscon makes me want to pee’

BASFA Meeting 1297

8 June 2015

Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, 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 and Secretary absent
VP presiding
Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker
Began promptly at 8:00 p.m. amidst a lot of convention trip planning
31 people were present, before and during
We established a jar for Marcia Minsky, a fellow fan who is in distress

The minutes for meeting 1296 were corrected to report that there were recommendations to fly to Sasquan in Spokane, WA, from Oakland Airport. They were then accepted as “imply that blank.”
Treasurer said that we have money, but a payment to the Party Committee put its funds in the negative.
VP had nothing fannish to report.
The president wasn’t there to say he had nothing fannish to report.
The Sports Committee is still exploring possible outings for the BASFA membership.

Announcements:
JC says NerdVana Podcast will post part 2 of its “Free Comic Book Day & Happy Hour at Slave Labor Graphics” episode on Wednesday. It can be found at nerdvanapodcast.com/
JC added that an official trailer for the new movie, The Martian, based on the novel by Andy Weir, has been released. www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ue4PCI0NamI
Dara has also graduated from middle school.
Ric without a k said the next San Jose Peekatchu will be August 11 at Café Stritch and have a “Lie to Me” theme. Doors open at 6 p.m. with a 7 o’clock preshow and the main event begins at 8.
Fanboy Planet podcast has released episode 399.1, which can be found at www.fanboyplanet.com/. Episode 400 will be recorded live at 7 Stars Bar & Grill on June 13th at 2 p.m.
He also believes the new SyFy show, Killjoys, will be worth seeing and also noticed that the network hasn’t been showing its trailer for Childhood’s End.
I announced the entry deadline for the Sasquan writers workshop is June 24. For more info, please go to: sasquan.org/program/writers-workshop/

Chris and Kathryn D. announced that their landlord of 15 years gave them notice and they decided to move to Atlanta.

Gerry N. has a new story, “Last Call,” that will be included in the forthcoming anthology How Beer Saved the World II.

Tom is on the staff for the fanzine lounge at Sasquan and says there will be plenty of kewl displays there, including memorials to Peggy Rae Sapienza and Susan Wood.

Mo announced she had some spot illustrations published in the textbook, Playing with Math, edited by Sue Vanhatten.

She is also happy to be back and busy downsizing her estate.

Kevin R. said Westercon 68 (westercon68.org/) is coming and he’ll be hosting a Worldcon bid party for Helsinki in 2017 (www.helsinki2017.org/).

Carole went to CostumeCon 33 where she won an award. She is also doing costume programming for Sasquan.

Reviews:

Carole liked the different kind of greenness on the East Coast.

Balticon was fun. George R.R. Martin will be guest of honor next year.

She also went to the All-Hands meeting in Spokane and believes things are shaping up well.

Fred attended SkeptiCal in Oakland and thought the speakers gave really good presentations. He had a great time and highly recommends it.

Ric saw Sense8, which is for mature audiences. It has very graphic sex scenes, but it is very good. He recommends it.

After seeing previous seasons of Defiance and Dark Matter, he recommends the new ones that are about to start airing.

Beth and JC visited Chris G., Vanessa and the penguins last weekend and said they looked wonderful. Chris was very paternal.

Tom went to Eastercon in the UK and visited some museums while there, including Bletchley Park, where he saw the Bombe. He also recommends the book Station X, by Michael Smith, which is about codebreaking.

Brad saw Mad Max in 3D and was mesmerized. Says it’s definitely worth full price.

He also saw Tomorrowland and believes it was made 30 years too late. There were lots of followons. Carole wanted Hugh Laurie’s coat. Dave C. wanted to like it, but thought Laurie was stereotyped as the villain with the British accent. Kevin R. loved its vision of the future as a utopia. Overall, the comments were mixed, but it is definitely worth matinee price.

Brad also went to one of the Warriors’s championship games and said it was the right one. He likes the Oracle Arena and thinks it’s a shame the team will be leaving it.

Bill said CostumeCon wasn’t his niche, but it had a lot of great costumes. He enjoyed seeing more of the East Coast and visiting an old plantation house. Overlooks were spoiled by fog while they were there. He and Carole also went to Balticon, which he called half a Worldcon. He believes Balticon is worth attending once.

Chris D. gave The Complete Cosmicomics, by Italo Calvino (translated by William Weaver, Tim Parks & Martin McLaughlin), 5 stars for his review on Goodreads. For more details, go to www.goodreads.com/book/show/18222745-the-complete-cosmicomics.

Lisa went to PEERS’s Doctor’s Dance and did “Let’s Do the TimeLord Again.” It was a lot of fun and she really recommends
PEERS’s functions. Carole said their motto is “Costumes admired, but not required.”
  Dave G. recommends Coco’s sundaes with hot fudge.
  We did auctions.
  Rumor of the Week: “Ken shot first.”
  We adjourned 9:50 p.m.

BASFA Meeting 1298

June 15, 2015

Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, 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 8 pm with railings against the patriarchy
  23 people attended
  We established a party vessel
  The minutes of meeting 1297 were accepted as ‘hashtag sleeping on the couch’
  The Treasurer was absent, thus no report
  The Vice President reported that the Treasurer has his [Ken’s] hat
  The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements:
  JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast episode 40, part 3, will be out Wednesday-ish
  John O announced that he & Chris will not be at Westercon due to health issues & scheduling, so go and have fun for them
  Howeird announced that he was here with us due to ‘Choreo-aggrivation’ with Iolanthe, but the production looks promising, for more details check www.lyrictheatre.org/
  Beth announced that Kaitlyn is doing babysitting, check out kaitysitter.weebly.com/
  Dave C announced that the Disney HD channel will be showing Dr Who, season 2 & announced that Jeb Bush is now an official candidate as ‘Jeb!’ & announced that since it was June the May Cargo Cult catalog is out now
  Gerry announced that his new publisher has finished proofs of his new book, ‘Prelude to Stars’ & it should be out by Worldcon
  Brad announced that he has his Sasquan schedule & he will be on 3 panels & moderating the ‘Medieval Science & Engineering’ panel, then [evil] Kevin followed that as part of his 13 hours of Masquerade prep ‘please print legibly’
  Chris O announced that she had her 1st chemo treatment today & is here and feels fine today

Reviews:
  Gail reviewed Berlioz’s ‘The Trojans’ as running 5 hours with intermissions as including some steampunk and was engaging & reviewed the dress rehearsal of ‘2 Women’ at the SF Opera as very good
  Gerry reviewed ‘Camp Town’, a writer’s retreat at Mount hood as very productive for him & well run & reviewed Highway 5 as ‘it’s possible to go from Portland and get back in time for a BASFA meeting in 1 day’
  John O reviewed the ‘Vegan Black Chef’ as cooking with death metal music & his style is very interesting & reviewed the charity
fundraiser that Cirque de Solei is running as repetitious with too much aerial work & reviewed ‘Jurassic World’ as dinosaurs eating people after the ‘we built them, what can go wrong’ concept & there were lots of folks who follow’d on and tried not to give spoilers

Beth reviewed the Tony Awards showcase as absolutely amazing

Mo reviewed books - the ‘Three Body Problem’ as intricate & recommended & will get her Hugo vote & ‘Border’ by Marina Fitch as entertaining magic realism

Dave C reviewed the book ‘Yellowstone Kelly’ by Peter Bowen as a mountain man kind of book & worth used bookstore price

[evil] Kevin reviewed Pride Rock at the Oasis in SF that Pepperspray was wonderful and there wasn’t a clunker in any of the shows and they’ve done a good remodel of the space; also check www.pepperspraytheband.com/

Howeird reviewed ‘As you Wish’ by Cary Elwes, the book of making ‘Princess Bride’ as a very charming book, easy to read

Joanie reviewed going home as Michigan is beautiful is lovely this time of year and nice if you are indoors when it rains & that camping is best done with 2 good knees

We did auctions

We adjourned at 9:25

and the rumor of the week was: ‘George RR Martin will be Vox Day’s wedding planner’

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**BASFA Meeting 1301**

July 6, 2015

Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, 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 8 pm with farts

20 people attended

Andy moved to have a fine of $1 imposed for farts fired during the meeting & it passed

Adrienne got a farting license for $5

We established a party basket

The minutes of meeting 1300 were accepted

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $55.05 in the regular jar & $87.25 in the party basket

The Vice President reported that he has plans

The President said ‘hi’ to new faces - to ‘Sam’ who used to work with Ric & to ‘Brad’ who found us through the Meetup site

The Outings Committee reported that this Friday is the SJ Giants Star Wars night this Friday at Municipal Stadium & they need 15 to do a package deals for it and have 12 now

**Announcements:**

Alex announced that he is going to ComicCon

Ken announced that he is doing a 44th birthday special in 3 weeks on KFJC & will playing lots of 45’s
[evil] Kevin announced that his brother will be playing loudly with the band THiTH, on stage in Pacifica at Winter’s Tavern, late Friday night about 9pm

**Reviews:**

Adrienne reviewed the Tony Bennett/Lady Gaga album ‘Cheek to Cheek’ as the music was good & Gaga has a remarkable voice

Mo reviewed a Hugo nom’d book ‘The Goblin Emperor’ by Katherine Addison as very well-written, but that some characters didn’t make a lot of sense to her; Adrienne agreed that the writing was pretty

Andy reviewed ‘Battlebots’ as the announcers are still dumb as a box of hammers, but otherwise fun to watch & reviewed more ‘Killjoys’ as still fun & reviewed Westercon as he strongly recommends against staying at the Town & Country in San Diego & that the Match Game went well, the parties were successful & [evil] Kevin pointed out that they did well at the Fannish Inquisition & actually sold pre-supports & a Friend of the bid for the Finnish bid & that all the presentations are now online

Brenna reviewed Cafe Stritch as they have amazing jazz there

We did auctions

We adjourned at 8:53

and the rumor of the week was: ‘Don’t ask about the fart license exam’

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**BASFA Meeting 1302**

July 13, 2015

Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, 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 8 pm with tiara talk
23 people attended

We established a party recepticle

The regular jar was renamed the ‘party pooper jar’ for the duration of the meeting

Another motion failed

The minutes of meeting 1300 were accepted as ‘cheaper than bailing out Goldman Sachs’

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $7.25 in the regular jar & $4.75 in the party basket

The Vice President gave a retrospective of the 10-th year 1st meeting between Ken & Geri

The President had nothing fannish to report

The Outings Committee thanked those who came out for last Friday’s SJ Giants Star Wars [who won in the 12th, despite bad refereeing]

**Announcements:**

JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast episode 41 had been recorded & that part 1 will be out Wednesday & announced that
Nerdvana Podcast will be at Kepler’s bookstore on Tuesday at 7:30pm

Carole announced that Sasquan is about to finalize their programming schedule & it’s looking really nice - and that [evil] Kevin will be the Masquerade MC; then [tall] Kevin mentioned that both the Business Meeting & the Match Game will be in room 300-B

Lisa announced that Little Harold has graduated from SJ State

Little Harold announced that Nintendo’s president died last week

Jenny announced that she brought pre-support info for the Montreal in 2017 bid & John O reminds that the Hugo ballot deadline is July 31

Reviews:

[tall] Kevin reviewed his Westercon travels as fascinating

Bill reviewed his travels as Carole was a mosquito entre’ & that it was worth mostly full price to visit relatives, even though they had to miss Westercon

Brenna reviewed ‘The Body Pirate’ by Van Aaron Hughes in F&SF’s July-Aug 2015 issue as she was delighted by it

Brad reviewed the SFRA conference as ‘these grad students are getting younger and younger’ & reviewed a visit to Metropolis Comics as it is by appointment only & reviewed Westercon as his hotel was terrible, but his panels went well & he enjoyed the con & bought stuff from Dave

Westercon was also reviewed by JC, Lisa, both Daves, [tall] Kevin, Big Harold & there was an agreement that the convention was mostly good, panels were very good, Dealers Room was sporadic, Registration had problems and the hotel was -terrible-

Beth reviewed Andy Weir’s book ‘The Martian’ as very good

John O reviewed ‘Minions’ as not much plot or characterization, but very silly & worth full price for 2D & reviewed Scalzi’s ‘Locked In’ as he enjoyed it, recommends it, but doesn’t think it will be a Hugo nominee for him next year

Lisa reviewed Disneyland as the new electric parade is gorgeous, they missed the Muppet singalong that has been replaced with a ‘Frozen’ show & she had a good time; Tall Harold praised the Scooter folk; Dave C also went & thinks the electric parade needs more floats & the fireworks display was loud

We did auctions

We adjourned at 9:33

and the rumor of the week was: ‘Learning Welsh is much harder than learning Klingon’

BASFA Meeting 1303

20 July 2015

Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, 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 and Secretary absent
VP presiding
Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker
Began promptly at 8:00 p.m.
37 people were present, both at the meeting and during the warmup

We established a party jar

The minutes for meeting 1302 were accepted as well read

Proxy treasurer’s report is that we collected $8.00 in the regular jar with an undisclosed total for the general fund and $2.95 in the party for a total of $55.71. The party jar is in the black again!

VP reports he’s doing a “45 Revolutions” theme on his show for July 27 on KFJC radio 89.7 FM. You can find it archived at www.kfjc.org/broadcast_archives/.

We missed not having a president to say he had nothing fannish to report.

Announcements:

Gerry N. said people walked on the moon.

He also added that there will be a convention in Hawaii called HawaiiCon on September 10–13, 2015. For more info, go to: www.hawaiicon.com/.

Kathryn said this is the last meeting she and her husband, Chris, will be attending for a while since they will be moving to Atlanta and are selling their furniture.

Bill talked about Puppygate.

Chris Doyle said Convolution is recruiting volunteers at a special working barbecue picnic on July 25 at Littlejohn Park in Alameda. They need staffers. For more details, go to: convolution.com/2015/.

I updated folks that Sasquan has sent tentative schedules to program participants and they have until July 25 to report any problems. We should be having it posted online soon after that.

Ric without a k said he had another Peekatchu event coming up on August 11 at Cafe Stritch. Doors open at 6 p.m., pre-show starts at 7 with the main event at 8.

Fanboy Planet has a lot of SDCC coverage on its website. www.fanboyplanet.com/

Ric also added that Sharknado 3: Oh Hell No! is set for broadcast on the SyFy Channel on Wednesday.

JC said NerdVana Podcast will post a new episode on Wednesday. It can be found at nerdvanapodcast.com/.

Mo thanked everyone for the generous giftcard she received before the meeting started.

Kevin R. announced the gay rodeo, Best Buck in the Bay, is in Guerneville the same weekend as HawaiiCon. For more details, please go to www.bayarearodeo.org/.

Dave C. is looking for a roommate at Sasquan. He has a room at the Doubletree. See him if interested.

Reviews:

Chris Duval saw Ex Machina and enjoyed it. It’s definitely worth matinée prices.

Since he won’t be back for a while, he gave a review on his unfinished reading of The Abolition of Species, by Dietmar Dath, starts out strange.

Gayle read the Hugo-nominated short stories and supports “Totaled,” by Kary English for the win. She also thought The Three-Body Problem was a page turner.

Steve listened to Wil Wheaton’s reading of Armada and said it was a showcase of his talents, but Steve thought the story, by Ernest Cline, was derivative.
Carole saw Minions and got a lot of costuming ideas from it. She thought the Easter egg was fun. There were lots of follow-ons; the general consensus was it is a fun movie.

Brad read The Secret History of Wonder Woman, by Jill Lepore, and highly recommends the book.

Ric highly recommends the Expanse series by James S.A. Corey, particularly 2012 Hugo nominee Leviathan Wakes.

He also saw Ant-Man and enjoyed it. JC followed on that it was terrific and he’ll see it again. Dave C. appreciated that the movie cleaned up Ant-Man’s history.

Ric has also been watching The Strain and is really enjoying the series.

JC said our meeting room is sucking and the a/c needs fixing.

Beth said she went to the San Jose Giants’ princess game and our team lost that night, but she had fun.

I saw Spy and enjoyed it. It’s worth at least matinée.

Sam has been watching Mr. Robot and is really enjoying it, but there’s no robots.

We did auctions.

Rumor of the Week: “Ursula K. Le Guin says it’s bad for the Pope to canonize Junípero Serra and I agree.”

We adjourned 9:54 p.m.

BASFA Meeting 1305

August 3, 2015

Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, 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 8 pm with me wanting to kill an Archie comic with FIRE

24 people attended

We established a party jar

The minutes of meeting 1304 were accepted as ‘Hugo taint’

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $10.75 in the regular jar & $17.55 in the party basket

The Vice President reported that tomorrow he has a funny thing

The President said ‘hi’ to Patty & Dave, here for the first time - along with John Michael, Loni & Amanda - and then commented we had a wonderful trip

Announcements:

Ken announced that on Sept 15-16 many theatres will be showing Doctor Who in 3D, check fathom events for details

JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast has its 3rd anniversary celebration at SLG this Saturday from noon -to 4pm & announced that he is having editing problems

Beth announced that Doners Choose is accepting donations for back to school - and if you can donate to ‘21st Century learners’ it will benefit her school and please use the code ‘spark’
Brad announced that the RA Heinlein fund made its goal to get a bust made
Carole announced the death of Adrienne Martine Barnes
Dave G announced that he has a king room in the Davenport Tower for Sasquan that he can’t use, if interested please contact him
[evil] Kevin announced that you have to be a Sasquan member to vote on the 2017 bid location & supporting memberships are $40 - plus $40 to bid on site selection, so you can bid to help the Helsinki in 2017 bid - and that will then let you vote for San Jose in 2018 next year
Geri announced that there is a new planetary system 19 light years away in Cassiopeia, Gliese 892
[tall] Kevin announced that the business meeting for Sasquan will start 4 days and likely run 4 days

Reviews:
Dave C reviewed the John Wayne airport wifi as not worth full price to endure sad puppy blather & he is sad to say that
BevMo no longer carries Jolt soda & [tall] Kevin suggested he check Ralphs
I reviewed ‘Ant Man’ as fun, good in 2-D and worth full price, possibly twice & there were follow-ons about techniques
Dave G moved that Spokane River and the Spokane falls area be annexed as ‘Spokane Gravity Challenged Bay’

We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:16
and the rumor of the week was: ‘Our long international Hugo nightmare is nearly over’

BASFA Meeting 1306

August 10, 2015
Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, 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 8 pm with tales of parrot flogging
18 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1305 were accepted as ‘3rd person view’
The Treasurer was not there, but the proxy report is that last week we took in $8.25 in the regular jar & $9.00 in the party jar
The Vice President reported that the funny thing happened, but he has not yet heard back
The President had nothing fannish to report, but did say ‘hi’ to Warren, here for the first time
The Outing Committee made an event of Andy’s birthday - they sang & there was laughter

Announcements:
Adrienne announced Sasquan rumors
Bill announced that site selection for Worldcon 2017 is open until 11:59 pm, Aug 10
Rick announced that Sense8 has been renewed
Kevin announced that the secret project has been completed.
Ken announced that the next Psychotronic Film Festival will be on Saturday, August 29 at Foothill College, room 5015, 7pm.
Gerry announced that he [G David Nordley] and C. Sanford-Lowe will give a short talk about The ‘Black Hole Project’ on Saturday, Aug 22, noon-3pm at the Los Gatos Library.

Reviews:
I reviewed SciFi channel movies in general as ‘traumas inducing’ & there were comments.
Fred reviewed the Tiptree award ceremony for Jo Walton as interesting.
Dave C reviewed an Adult Swim show, ‘Rick & Morty’ as awesome & a crazed mad science show on sunday nights. worth full price & reviewed ‘Mission Impossible, Rogue Nation’ as fun to watch & Simon Pegg is in it & worth non-regretted full price &
Bill followed, mentioning that the movie used real stunts and not CGI.
Adrienne saw ‘Pixels’ with Mo & said it’s ‘not as bad as people say’ - while Mo enjoyed it thoroughly, but worth matinee; then
Adrienne reviewed ‘Mr Holmes’ as different & worth matinee.
Mo then reviewed the new DMV office on Center Road in San Jose as really fast & practically empty.
We did auctions, but did not auction off Andy.
We adjourned at 8:54.
and the rumor of the week was: ‘Our rumors strike fear into hearts around the world’

BASFA Meeting 1307
August 17, 2015
Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, 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 7:55 pm with too much heat
11 people attended
The minutes of meeting 1306 were accepted as ‘interrupted’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $11.60 in the regular jar & $14.80 in the party basket.
The Vice President reported that the ongoing thing turned into a job at ‘The Villages’
The President had nothing fannish to report.

Announcements:
Andy announced that Sasquan is coming up & recommends getting a room for Convolution now.
Valerie announced that Wizard World Comic Con will be in San Jose on Sept 4-6.

Reviews:
Geri reviewed having had great fun this last weekend at an Earthquakes game they went to for free, that the Earthquakes scored a goal - so free tacos - and the Earthquakes won ‘taco to nil’ and rated Dara [‘DJ’] as worth full price.
We did auctions
We adjourned at 8:13
and the rumor of the week was: ‘You’re unique - you’re not a rumor’

BASFA Meeting 1308

August 24, 2015

Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, 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 8pm with snark
12 people attended
The minutes of meeting 1307 were accepted as ‘short and sweet’
The proxy Treasurer’s report was that last week we took in $0.25 in the regular jar & there was no party jar
The Vice President had nothing fannish to report

The President had nothing fannish to report - but we did say ‘hi’ to Ellen Desmond, a long-time science fiction reader, visiting us for the first time

Announcements:
Ken announced that this Friday is the Legion of Rasselon meeting at the IHoP on Stevens Creek & Lawrence, 7:30pm & announced that this Saturday is a Psychotronic Film Festival at Foothill college, 7pm in room 5015 - get there early, $5 at the door and $3 parking
Adrienne announced that she has something for next week

Reviews:
Fred reviewed Worldcon as great, albeit a little smoky & his ribbon train was long & the con ran well; Adrienne reviewed it as her Writer’s Workshop ran well & she likes that the Finland 2017 Worldcon will be called ‘Worldcon 75’, the convention center layout was generally derided & Ken watched the Hugo live feed & enjoyed it
Howeird reviewed adventures in medicine as not terrible
Fred reviewed a Hogu get-together as fun
We did auctions
We adjourned at 8:40
and the rumor of the week was: ‘The voting membership of BASFA has determined that there will be no rumor in the minutes’
Life is complicated; putting on an event is even more so. Please check before attending, as events are sometimes canceled or times and locations changed.

Follow the calendar on Twitter: @sfscalendar

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

Friday-Sunday, September 4-6
**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 (advanced), $85 (at the door)

Friday-Sunday, September 4-6
**SacAnime**
Sacramento Convention Center
1400 J St, Sacramento
www.sacconventions.com
Anime and pop culture show
$41 (before Aug 16), $45 (at the door)

Friday-Sunday, September 4-6
**Pacificon Game Expo**
Santa Clara Marriott
12700 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara
pacificongameexpo.com/
Gaming convention
$45 (before April 1)

Saturday-Sunday, September 5-7
**Great Train Robberies at Roaring Camp**
Roaring Camp Railroad
5401 Graham Hill Road, Felton
www.roaringcamp.com/events/
Witness shootouts between famed lawmen and notorious outlaws from the 1880’s aboard the Redwood Forest Train to Bear Mountain. See why the West was wild!

Saturday, September 5
**PEERS Age of Innocence Ball: An Evening in Beautiful but Ruthless New York in 1870s**
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Have an elegant time with old New York’s social elite in Edith Wharton’s “Age of Innocence” with waltzes, schottiches, contradances and more. Music provided by Bangers and Mash..
8 p.m. $20 (advanced), $25 (at the door)

Sunday, September 6
**GBACG Costume Salon: Doctor Who**
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
Sunday, September 6
San Jose Mini Maker Faire at History Park
History Park/History San José
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/
Organized and executed by History San José, this event is a family-friendly affair that celebrates and showcases makers, inventors, tinkerers, artists, builders, crafters, and many more creative individuals.
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. $10

Saturday, September 12-13
Renaissance Tudor Fayre
Cameron Park Lake
2989 Cambridge Road, Cameron Park
twofayreladies.com/
Sacramento’s own Renaissance Faire
$12 (adults), $8 (children and seniors)

Sunday, September 13
Gatsby Summer Afternoon
Dunsmuir Helman Historic Estate
2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland
artdecosociety.org/gatsby.htm
Afternoon picnic party with dancing, cars and the Deco Belles inspired by “The Great Gatsby”.

Sunday, September 13
Hands-On History: Antique Autos In The Park
Peralta Adobe at San Pedro Square
155 W Santa Clara Street, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/
Enjoy the largest Antique Auto Show on the West Coast. See cars, fire equipment, bicycles and motorcyles from the late 1800s to 1945.
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. $5 (non-members), Free (Members, Children 2 and under)

Saturday, September 19
The Emma Ball presented by BAERS
San Mateo Masonic Lodge
100 N Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo
baers.org
Ball celebrating the 200th anniversary of the publication of Jane Austen’s “Emma.”
8 p.m. $20 (advanced), $25 (at the door)

Saturday, September 19
GBACG Brighton By The Sea - A Beach Picnic
Pescadero
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
“These must all go to Brighton.” Follow Lydia Bennet’s advice from “Pride and Prejudice” and enjoy a seaside Regency-style picnic.

Saturdays-Sundays, September 19-October 18
Northern California Renaissance Faire
Casa de Fruta
10031 Pacheco Pass Highway, Hollister, CA
www.norcalrenfaire.com
Northern California’s annual Elizabethan festival.
$25

Saturday, September 26
Superhero Street Fair
1700 Indiana Street, San Francisco
superherosf.com
The co-creators of How Weird Street Fair and Burning Man Decompression present a street fair with a superhero theme to celebrate all the heroes in the community.
1 pm - 11 pm $10 (early bird)/$15 (general)/$50 (VIP)
Saturday, September 26

KrakenCon
USS Hornet Museum
707 W Hornet Avenue, Alameda
www.krakencon.com
General anime convention. Due to the location, tickets are limited.
$36 (early bird)/$40 (general)/

Saturday, September 26

GBACG Workshop
Topic and site TBA
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Expand your skills at this hands-on workshop

Saturday-Sunday, September 26-27

Much Ado About Sebastopol
Ives Park
7400 Willow Avenue, Sebastopol, CA
www.muchadoaboutsebastopol.com
Immerse yourself in life of 1578 England in this historically recreated village.
$16 (Adult), $12 (Senior/child)
Free (Children 10 and under)

Friday-Sunday, October 2-4

Convolution 2015: Legion
Hyatt Regency SFO Airport
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
con-volution.com/2014/
General science-fiction/fantasy convention
$45 (pre-registration)

Saturday, October 3

Impalas United Car Show and Picnic
History Park/History San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/
Car show and picnic featuring custom Chevy Impalas.
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday, October 3

PEERS Murder in the Ballroom 1938
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
A swinging 1930s dance party at an English country home with music and murder. Dances include swing, waltzes, tango, blues and foxtrot. Music provided by Sara and Swingtime.
8 p.m. $20 (advanced), $25 (at the door)

Friday-Sunday, October 16-18

Big Bad Con
Hilton Oakland Airport
1 Hegenberger Road, Oakland
www.bigbadcon.com
Gaming convention
$40

Saturday-Sunday, October 17-18

Folsom Renaissance Faire and Shakespeare Festival
Folsom Lions Park
403 Stafford Street, Folsom
www.folsomfaire.com
Folsom’s festival of Shakespeare and Renaissance merriment.
$16 (adults), $11 (seniors, military, children 13-17) $8 (children 6-12), Free (under 6)

Saturday, October 17

Doctor Who Who-Dunnit Murder Mystery presented by GBACG
Hiller Aviation Museum
601 Skyway Road, San Carlos
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
An evening of science fiction mystery and intrigue with photo ops and dancing.
7 p.m. $55 (members), $60 (non-members)
Saturday, October 25

Sac-Con
McClellan Conference Center
5411 Luce Avenue, McClellan
www.sac-con.com
General anime convention.
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. $10

Saturday, October 31

Haunt History Park
History Park/History San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/
Family friendly Halloween fun at History Park.
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. $5

Saturday, November 7

Campbell Con
Campbell Community Center
1 W Campbell Avenue, Campbell
www.campbellcon.com
Your neighborhood pop culture convention with artists, celebrities and cosplay.
$20

Saturday, November 7

PEERS Le Bal des Vampire
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Two floors of dancing (modern and traditional ballroom) with vampiric entertainments including a halftime play by the Theater of the Vampires featuring a new take on “My Fair Lady” and the Transylvanian Embassy.
8 p.m. $30 (until Oct 11), $35 (until Nov 6)

Sunday, November 8

GBACG Workshop: Style a High 18th Century Ladies Wig
Site TBA
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Take a modern wig and style it into a 1770s fashionable hair style.

Sunday, November 15

Picnic at Cypress Lawn presented by GBACG
Cypress Lawn Cemetery
1370 El Camino Real, Colma
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Tour the ranks of the recently departed in a horse-drawn carriage and see the largest collection of Victorian-era mourning attire.

Saturday-Sunday, November 21-22

Heroes & Villains Fan Fest
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose
heroesfanfest.com
Fan fest featuring actors from the CW hit television series “Arrow.” $65

Saturdays-Sundays, November 21-December 20

Great Dickens Christmas Fair and Victorian Holiday Party
Cow Palace Exhibition Halls
2600 Geneva Avenue, Daly City
dickensfair.com
Annual holiday celebration set in Victorian London with the creations of Charles Dickens.
$25-30 (adults), $12 (children 5-12)
Free (children under 5)

Sunday, November 22

Hands-On History Days: Happy Birthday San Jose
Peralta-Fallon Historic Site
175 W Saint John Street, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/
Celebrate the founding of San Jose on November 22, 1777 with cake and historical figures at the historic Peralta Adobe in San Pedro Square.
12 a.m. - 4 p.m. $5
Saturday, December 5

Heritage Holiday Champagne Tea at Pacific Hotel
History Park/History San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/

Holiday tea and champagne service at the Pacific Hotel inside History Park.
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, December 11-13

Gaymer X
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose
gaymerx.com

A safe and fun space for gamers and gaymers to hang out with like minded people. Focus on queer issues.
Friday-Sunday, December 11-13

Saturday, December 12

Hands-On History Days: Children’s Holiday Festival
History Park/History San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/

Holiday festival for the family with games, trolley rides and more.
12 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Ongoing

Cartoon Art Museum
655 Mission Street, San Francisco
www.cartoonaert.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)
caamtgard.com

Amtgard is a swords and sorcery styled medieval combat, culture, and sciences LARP. The Shire of Wyvern’s Spur plays Sundays at noon. We play on the main lawn or within sight of picnic areas 1 or 2. Loaner gear is available.
12 p.m. Free

Golden Gate Knights (Lightsaber Instruction Class)
Studio Gracia
19 Heron Street, San Francisco
goldengateknights.com
www.facebook.com/groups/goldengatejedi

Instructor-led class on lightsaber stage combat and choreography.
12 p.m. $10
**Cloondara Fighter Practice**
Golden Gate Park
47th Avenue @ Fulton, San Francisco
[www.westkingdom.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.saclibrary.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

**East Bay Strategy Games Club**
EndGame
921 Washington Street, Oakland
[www.endgameoakland.com/event-calendar](http://www.endgameoakland.com/event-calendar)
Various games played throughout the week, check website for times and games.
Free

**Sundays and Fridays**

**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](http://www.sfgames.org/)
SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week.
Free

**Mondays and Wednesdays**

**Silicon Valley Boardgamers**
Mountain View Community Center
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View
[www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb](http://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
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<th><strong>Tuesdays</strong></th>
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| **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 |

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<th><strong>Wednesdays-Sundays</strong></th>
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| **Escape From The Time Travel Lab**  
Real Escape Room  
1746 Post Street, San Francisco  
realescapegame.com/rersf2_ttlab/  
You are trapped in a mysterious laboratory where they study time travel and must escape in this immersive game.  
Various times  
$28 (online booking), $33 (at the door) |  
Free |

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<th><strong>Thursdays</strong></th>
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| **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+) |  
Free |

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<th><strong>Fridays-Sundays</strong></th>
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| **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 times  
$28 (online booking), $33 (at the door) |  
Free |
**Fridays-Mondays**

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

**Saturdays**

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

**Biweekly**

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

**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
foothill.anime.net
Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon. 12 p.m. Free

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No-Name Anime
Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga
www.nnanime.com
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.
Free

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vintage Invasion (Vintage Waltz Party)
Finnish Brotherhood Hall
1970 Chestnut Street, Berkeley
vintagewaltz.com/Invasion.html
Parties held each 4th Friday of the month with lessons in vintage waltz with DJs.
8 p.m - Midnight. $7
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wicked Games</strong></td>
<td>Wicked Grounds Cafe</td>
<td>6 pm to 10 pm</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>USS Augusta Ada</strong></td>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Queered Science Book Club</strong></td>
<td>Au Coquelet Restaurant</td>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE</strong></td>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Free</td>
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</tbody>
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For even more events in the Bay Area, check out Bay Area Geek Guide: The San Francisco Bay Area Guide to Geek Events & Nerd Culture: bayareageekguide.com