Science Fiction/San Francisco

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Gallifrey
Cherry Blossoms
Carnevale Fantastico!
Gears
1756
Comic-Con
Houston
Sasquan
...and more!
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By Christopher Erickson  
Managing Editor

Hello again everyone. It has been a time filled with excitement and fun. As such, we have been busy and will have lots to report on. We have also been contemplating some changes that we have had to make.

One of the changes is a positive for Jean and myself. She has gotten a much deserved change in job status, but with that has come extra work. Since she has been working hard as of late, she has decided to step back from the editorial side of management. She will still be contributing ideas, photos and articles when she can, but she wants to find a good balance and will return when she is able. With that change, I will be involved in the editorial side of management.

Another change will be in how we deliver our content. We have decided to start publishing our content through wordpress, which will allow us to publish our articles in an expanded format as well as post them as soon as they are available for publishing. We will still continue to publish our quarterly PDF format for those who prefer it, collecting all of our articles and the events calendar.

Recent costuming events that I attended was the Northern California Renaissance Faire, the San Jose Renaissance Faire, the BAERS Emma Ball, the PEERS Bal de Vampire, Wizard World San Jose, the Gaskell Halloween Dance, two GBCGA events (one a Doctor Who themed murder mystery and bingo game at Hiller Aviation Museum, the other a trip to Cypress Lawn Cemetery and Memorial Park as a Victorian mourning event), Con-volution, the Dickens Fair and a NorCal Cosplay Gathering in Fremont.

I also had a few trips that I managed to take for the later part of the year. One was a day trip to Mission San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo in Carmel and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. A couple of other trips were a bit closer. I took some time off of work to visit places I wanted to see and take photos of locally. One was the Shin Arboretum in Fremont. Another day I took photos of the beautiful sights around San Mateo, Foster City and Burlingame. I took another couple of days off to take advantage of the nice weather and get photos around San Francisco including the Golden Gate Bridge and History Park in San Jose.

One of our big trips was a quick weekend jaunt to New York City (which will be covered in an upcoming article) to see George Takei and Lea Salonga in “Allegiance.” We also managed to squeeze in a massive amount of sight-seeing over lower Manhattan.

Our other big trip was our annual visit to the missions over Christmas. Jean and I visited the Mission San Rafael Arcángel in San Rafael and Sonoma State Park, which includes Mission San Francisco Solano in Downtown Sonoma. Sonoma State Park also includes the Sonoma Barracks, the General Vallejo homestead, and the Bear Flag Monument.
We also visited a couple of museum exhibits. The first was a series of exhibits on the Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915. Part of the exhibit was held at the Palace of Fine Arts (which is the only remaining portion of the original layout) and highlighted the creation of the event space and the exhibits of countries and manufacturers at the expo. The other gallery was featured at the California Historical Society near Moscone Center and featured artifacts from the event such as the ceremonial groundbreaking shovel used by President Howard Taft, posters promoting the exposition and passbooks for fair goers. The Port of San Francisco building was also lit up with the number “1915” to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Pan-Pacific Expo.

The other exhibit that we saw was “Thinking Big: Ada, Countess of Lovelace” at the Computer History Museum. It showcases her life, education and work as the first recognized computer programmer including her influence on the first modern computer makers.

Jean and I also attended the wedding of my best friend (who was also the best mate at my wedding) in October. She and her husband traveled down from Oregon to be with their family and friends. Their celebration was near the beach in Half Moon Bay, so there was the smell of the sea at the outdoor ceremony. The couple included some Old World traditions like hand fasting and jumping onto a mat together. Their reception featured a Russian tradition where the couple eats salt and rice offered to them to help create a loving home and bring prosperity.

We also attended a few performances. One was a reading of “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens at the Belmont Public Library. The author (portrayed by the same performer at the Dickens Fair) read through the story in one night and held the crowd spellbound.

We saw the Lyric Theater productions of “The Sound of Music,” “The Pirates of Penzance,” and “Iolanthe.” The most interesting one was “Iolanthe,” which was about the son of a fairy mother and human father who rises to become the leader of both houses of Parliament. The musical satirizes Victorian government while mixing in fairies.

The most fun show was the Lamplighters annual fundraiser. Their production in 2015 was a Star Wars parody called “The Farce Awakens: Return of the Deadeye.” There were lots of Gilbert and Sullivan jokes and plenty other puns and jokes as well.

Jean and I spent the rest of the year watching “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” twice, the special movie theater screening of the “Doctor Who” Christmas episode “The Husbands of River Song,” and a streaming version of the “Sherlock” Christmas special “The Abominable Bride.”

My favorite event of the year was the PEERS The Doctor Dances: 1756 ball. There was a very good turnout of costumes and historical outfits at the dance.

I have been watching more television this year. I have enjoyed the new “Supergirl” immensely. “Once Upon A Time” has regained some of its wonderful storytelling with the focus on Camelot and Merlin. “The Flash” has delivered on its premise of introducing the Multiverse with the Jay Garrick version of the Fastest Man Alive and the Professor Zoom version of the Reverse-Flash. “iZombie” has further developed its story with Liv Moore investigating a potential zombie apocalypse while her former fiancé has been hunting down zombies.
“The Muppets” has been an interesting watch with their new reality show. The show runner has been replaced mid-season, so hopefully it will get better and improve its ratings.

“Gotham” has been the most satisfying show as they have focused more on the villains and introduced an old enemy of the Wayne family seeking Bruce’s destruction. “Marvel’s Agents of SHIELD” has also further developed its own place in the Marvel Cinematic Universe by continuing the fight against a depleted HYDRA and trying to contain the growing danger of the Inhumans who have started developing powers.

I am looking forward to watching “Legends of Tomorrow,” “Galavant,” and “Marvel’s Agent Carter.”

I have finished several books this year. I read the zombie/Jane Austen mashup “Pride and Prejudice and Zombies.” I also read the Gothic horror update of “Jane Slayre” based on “Jane Eyre” by Charlotte Bronte. I finished the Barsoom series with “Llana of Gathol” and “John Carter of Mars.” I also read the classic science fiction novel “The Lost World” by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and its sequel “The Poison Belt.”

I also read several classic novels. I completed “The Three Musketeers,” “Our Mutual Friend” by Charles Dickens, “The Red Badge of Courage” and “The Age of Innocence.”

One more novel that I completed was “Wayne of Gotham” by Tracy Hickman, which followed an older Bruce Wayne trying to unravel the research his father was conducting on mental treatment of criminals using a form of gene therapy. This gave a potential origin to the class of supervillains that constituted Batman’s Rogues Gallery.

I am looking forward to the new year with all of the upcoming shows and movies, including the big screen adaptation of “Pride and Prejudice and Zombies,” the upcoming Marvel movies (especially “Doctor Strange”), the new “Star Trek” movie, “Superman v Batman: Dawn of Justice,” and the spin-off “Star Wars: Rogue One” movie.

Happy new year to everyone and enjoy yourselves!
Milt Stevens writes:

Dear Jean and Christopher,

While reading SF/SF #162, I found myself thinking about Aleph. Aleph is defined as the first transfinite integer. It is the one that is more than you need. It is the one that is more than you can imagine. It is the one that is TOO DAMNED MANY.

Christopher writes: Aleph is the number one, which is the first integer, the first prime number and is the title of a Three Dog Night song. Aleph is also the first letter of many Semitic abjads, where there is an alphabet that does not have any vowel symbols.

At one time, I thought the ultimate sci fi kluge movie would be Planet of the Sequels. Then I realized I was mistaken. Planet of the Sequels would be followed by Return to the Planet of the Sequels, Beneath the Return of Planet of the Sequels, Tax Accountants Beneath the Planet of the Sequels, et cetera ad infinitum. Now I realize the ultimate sci fi kluge movie will be Reboot of the Planet of the Sequels.

As far as Planet movies, the “Planet of the Apes” series can be said to be the progenitor of the franchise movie. It had comics and toys well before “Star Wars,” “Superman,” the Marvel movies and the like.

So what do I think about reboots really. Screaming and frothing at the mouth doesn’t entirely express it. Running away isn’t a bad idea. Complete disdain has its points. Maybe I will just ignore them and hope they eventually go where the colorized movies went.

To each their own. Sometimes a good movie can be done better, like “The Maltese Falcon.”

I hadn’t known there was a Xena convention in Burbank or a Star Wars convention in Anaheim. I mentioned that at LASFS, and nobody there had heard of those cons either. I don’t think I’d fit in at such a con. The attendees would probably perceive me as a novelty zombie who shambled through the con in search of something New. I wouldn’t eat abrain that had less than 51% original content. Being offered recycled sludge and a place in line just wouldn’t do it for me.

Hopefully you won’t be bitten by a zombie. An argument can be made that there are no original stories anymore since something is always similar to other stories using genres, tropes and well-recognized plot elements (boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl back).

I have grave doubts about people who stand in line for four hours voluntarily. Years ago, most males had been in the military at one time or another. In the military, you do a lot of standing in line. There is this think called the UCMJ (Uniform Code of Military Justice). It say s (approximately) those who do not stand in line when they are told to stand in line may be shot. So you stand in line and develop a lifetime aversion to standing in line.
People still stand in line for lengthy periods of time to go on rides at amusement parks, get the latest iPhone, etc. It really depends on what the personal payoff is.

There are places in this world where guys line up in front of brothels. I’ve never tried it myself but I can be sure of one thing. They aren’t going to have an esthetically pleasing experience.

I don’t think they are going to be looking at art.

Yours truly,
Milt Stevens

Lloyd Penny writes:
Dear Jean, Christopher and Tom:
Welcome back to SF/SF, and thank you for issue 162. Comments do follow, plus some personal update.

Looks like you’ve had an extremely busy year so far. We haven’t done so badly ourselves, for a change.

Christopher writes: We have been busy and you get to read all about it. We are also going to our fifth wedding this year. We went to Hugo Award winner Christopher Garcia’s wedding, SF/SF writer Espana Sherrif’s wedding, a wedding of two of our friends on Memorial Day weekend and my sister’s wedding down in Galveston, Texas. We were able to visit Johnson Space Center in Houston while we were there. My best friend will be getting married in the end of October, and we have a trip to New York to see George Takei in the musical “Allegiance.”

No movies for us...we’ve never been comics readers, and it seems most movies that are released these days are DC or Marvel properties. We continue to enjoy Murdoch Mysteries, and have gotten our hands on all episodes of the various Farm series from the BBC.

There are a few movies that you might like. I have heard great things about “The Martian” and “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” is coming out in December. I think also “Mr. Holmes” with Ian McKellan might be worth a watch. “Guardians of the Galaxy” is also a good movie you can enjoy without needing to know superheroes. I have never heard of “The Farm.”

My loc...I’ve just passed my first full year at my job, and the same with Yvonne, and we have been the beneficiaries of such stability. Our latest convention was a steampunk one, this year’s Grand Canadian Steampunk Exposition. We purchased the big ticket, the Patron’s Pass, and so we had tea with Professor Elemental, took a paddlewheel ride with the good folks of Steam-Powered Giraffe, and had an amazing dinner with Abney Park, plus spent three days of wonderful steampunk fun within the confines of Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, just across the Niagara River from Youngstown, New York. Our Murdoch Mysteries event was a ton of fun, too. Yvonne’s appearance in Murdoch Mysteries is a walk-through in the background, but she is quite easily seen. She also appears with an elderly man having to move back as the title character comes cycling into the center square of the town. She appears in the last two episodes of Season 6.
I am glad to hear that things have stabilized for you and you can enjoy life more. I have seen Professor Elemental in concert twice and talked to him personally. He is very nice. He was wearing a Union Jack sport coat the last time I saw him. I have also seen Abney Park in concert about 3 years ago. The one group that I had to miss was Steam-Powered Giraffe when I was in Germany for work. The Grand Canadian Steampunk Exposition sounds nice, especially with the wonderful nature backdrop.

Even though I am not a comics reader, I did read online that Superman may be rebooted as a comic book, with someone other than Clark Kent behind the big red S? Is radical change to the background story the only way to make comic titles appealing to future generations?

DC Comics did a huge reboot of their entire line of superhero comics back in 2011. It was called the New 52 as they were publishing 52 new titles. It changed the origins of a lot of the heroes along with the costumes as well. The outfit used in “The Man of Steel” is based on the new Superman uniform. Part of the change is to bring in new readers as well as allow the writers to create new stories without the 20+ year continuity from the last reboot called “Crisis on Infinite Earths.” They did change Batman after the New 52 retool from Bruce Wayne (who became Batman in the New 52) to Commissioner Gordon in the storyline. The most recent comics still feature Clark Kent/Kal-El as the Man of Steel.

There’s been so many cast reunions lately…they must be lucrative to do, but it may also be an indication of how difficult it is to resume a regular acting career once you’ve enjoyed a popular iconic role on a popular iconic show.

Cast reunions are nothing new. There are plenty of specials where casts get together for a TV movie or interview. I think a lot of them happen because it is an anniversary of a beloved movie or television show and people want to have their nostalgia need fulfilled.

Hope your Hallowe’en is a blast! This past weekend, we went to a Hallowe’en-themed craft show, and we pulled out the costumes a little early. Our favorite bar may be having a Hallowe’en party too, so we won’t be staying at home this year! Two conventions will finish up the year for us, and one of them is the Canadian National convention, and we are both nominated for an Aurora Award. Wish us luck!

Good luck.

Done for now…take care. Today is our own Thanksgiving Day, so a big dinner is planned for later. We hope your own Thanksgiving is a wonderful time, and I hope there might be one more issue before the end of the year. If not, have a great Christmas, and a hopeful and enjoyable 2016.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

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
The popular “Doctor Who” convention, Gallifrey One, had its 26th edition on February 13-15, 2015 at the Los Angeles Marriott. The show was packed with celebrities, costumes, panels and fun.

Even though there was no Doctor at this year’s convention, there were still plenty of stars. The main stars were members of the “Torchwood” cast. There were also companions from the classic era including Janet Fielding (Tegan), Sophie Aldred (Ace), Carole Ann Ford (Susan Foreman), Frazer Hines (Jamie McCrimmon) and Wendy Padbury (Zoe). Dan Starkey (Commander Strax) and Nichelle Nichols were also featured guests.
The amount of panels is amazing. For a small convention, they offer a huge variety of subjects including costuming, related media like audio plays and comic books, a video room and panels on non-"Doctor Who" shows. The first panel that I attended was a read-through of the upcoming “Inspector Chronicles” movie.

The panel featured stars Travis Richey (The Inspector), Carrie Keranen (Piper Tate), Eric Loya (Boyish the Extreme), Robert Picardo and Chase Masterson. The film fundraiser was announced at a previous “Inspector Spacetime” panel. After the success of the fundraiser, the producers were able to put together a prequel episode that was shown at the panel. The cast then read through the script with the help of several other people. The panel room was packed with fans of the character that was introduced on an episode of “Community” as a “Doctor Who” homage.

Another panel that I attended was the “Torchwood” reunion panel featuring Eve Myles, Burn Gorman and Naoko Mori. They shared stories about their time on the show including pranks that they would pull on each other. One of the stories involved a prank that John Barrowman pulled involving a prop eye that he kept putting in different body parts and then used to gross out the cast. They also discussed projects they had been working on as well as future projects.

The final panel of the weekend that I attended was the John Barrowman “Anything Goes” presentation. He was alone onstage with an open microphone for people to ask him questions. No subject was off-limits but all of the fans kept their questions fairly clean. He told lively
stories about his personal life, his status as a LGBTQIA symbol, his time on “Doctor Who” and “Torchwood” and encouraged everyone to write to the BBC about bringing the show back as the network has to answer every piece of correspondence they receive.

The Masque of Mandragora was the main evening entertainment. There were many entries that delved deep into the vast history of characters from the show. Entrants ranged from different femme versions of The Doctors and Torchwood characters Jack Harkness and John Hart, interpretations of the Dalek outfits in skirt form, Clara Oswald from “Robot of Sherwood,” two Queen Elizabeths from “The Day of The Doctor,” the Minotaur creature from “The God Complex,” a Vashta Nerada from “Silence in the Library,” a Forest of Cheem tree from “The End of the World” and the Menoptera from the First Doctor serial “The Web Planet.”

Part of attending the convention is attending the Opening and Closing Ceremonies where all of the guests are introduced on stage. They all make a short speech about what they look forward to (for the Opening Ceremonies) and what they enjoyed about the convention (for Closing Ceremonies). All of the attendees pack the main panel room for both of panels. The other not-to-miss presentation is the Year in Review,
where clips of the stars and creative staff of "Doctor Who" on other British programming are shown.

The unofficial beginning and end to the convention is Lobbycon. The night before the convention, people will gather to hang out in the lobby, trade ribbons and enjoy food and beverage. The final night of the convention people will be in costume and enjoy themselves to extend the fun.

The dealer’s room has lots of "Doctor Who" centric items along with other general science-fiction merchandise. Patrons have the ability to pick up audio adventures of all of the Doctors as well as other shows like "Blake’s 7" or "Sapphire and Steel." People can also find books, lots of t-shirts, pins, toys, action figures and accessories. One booth had multiple styles of Tribbles for sale. Another booth had Jayne hats from “Firefly” and other knit headwear.
One of my two main purchases was a signed hardcover edition of the “Doctor Who”/“Star Trek: The Next Generation” crossover comic published by IDW Publishing. It featured the Eleventh Doctor and the crew of the USS Enterprise-D facing off against the Borg and the Cybermen. I also picked up the maxi-series, “Doctor Who: Prisoner of Time,” featuring all of the Doctors in the first 50 years. I was able to get both books signed by the writers and artists.

People could also get photos with their favorite celebrities. I got my photo with John Barrowman and Nichelle Nichols. When I posed with my sonic screwdriver, Nichelle Nichols saw it and wanted to keep it.

There were a few other attractions as well. People could pose with a TARDIS and have their picture taken. There was a gallery of costumes and props from “Doctor Who” and “Torchwood.” There were themed vehicles parked outside the patio area including a TARDIS chase and recovery vehicle, a TARDIS scooter and a “Star Wars” car.

The nice thing about Gallifrey One is that many people who costume don’t always wear a “Doctor Who” related outfit. The convention goers are accepting. There were plenty of other costumes including Marty McFly, Waldo, Chell from “Portal,” Carmen Sandiego, the Little Mermaid, Malory Archer and Cyril Figgis from “Archer,” John...
Constantine, Willy Wonka, “Star Trek” uniforms, Mary Poppins, Star-Lord and Gamora. There were a few Whovian mashup costumes like a Klingon-looking Time Lord, a Fifth Doctor inspired Power Girl and Regency-inspired femme Doctors.

There was a good cross section of both classic and new Doctors with several Fives, a good amount of Twos, a healthy representation of Twelves and a smattering of all the other Doctors. The most impressive one was a Second Doctor made to look like he stepped out of the original black and white broadcasts. There was a Sixth Doctor who was dressed in his alternate blue outfit that is featured on the cover of the audio adventures.

There were several femme versions of various Doctors and Captain Jack Harkness. A number of the companions were well represented. My favorite was Ace as a Time Lord after she had completed the required training. Several people did fashionable versions of the TARDIS including a 1960s style mod dress, a flapper outfit, kimono, Playboy Bunny outfit and flight attendant style uniform.

Other supporting characters were well represented. One of the bank robbers from the episode “Time Heist” was in attendance. There were a
few Madame Vastras and Jenny Flints. There were a couple of Clockwork Droids from “The Girl in the Fireplace.” There was one person dressed as the classic recurring villain The Meddling Monk. There were also villains and monsters like the Weeping Angels, the Silence and versions of The Master and Missy. There was a group that had four puppets of characters of Tegan, River Song, Commander Strax and Captain Jack Harkness.

The 2015 version of Gallifrey One had a lot to offer people. It has always been one of the conventions that I look forward to every year.
As the cherry blossoms bloomed in early April, San Francisco’s Japan Town began two weekends of festivities for the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival. Visitors flocked to the area to enjoy the festivities around the town, and the streets filled with the vendor tents and huge crowds.

The first weekend of the Cherry Blossom Festival was centered entirely in Japan Town, where the festivities were held. Through Saturday and Sunday, performances were held to showcase Japanese culture, including taiko drummers and traditional dances. Vendors were set up around the street, some selling toys or raffles, while others advertised their organizations. Lines grew long for food trucks, including a Glico truck giving out free pocky to attendees, and a Hello Kitty food truck that always had a lengthy line.

A new addition was the Sakura 360 area, a stage for cosplayers and attendees to stop by at and participate in games for prizes. There was a scavenger hunt for people to participate in, and quite frequently the hosts ran a variety of games on the stage, with anything from hot potato to trivia contests about anime. There were some great prizes available, including DVDs, video games, and even entire box sets of anime series.

Of course, the mall at Japan Town became exceedingly crowded during the event, particularly around lunchtime. The restaurants had lengthy waits, but the options were plentiful, and the outdoor activities provided plenty to see while waiting.

On the Sunday of the second weekend was the grand parade. Cosplayers showed up in droves for the traditional cosplay contest before the parade, where the winners could sit on the float, and everyone else walked along beside them. Like any cosplay gathering, there were good times to be had hanging out with friends and fellow cosplayers, but there were some high-quality costumes in the contest. NorCal cosplayers can play for keeps when they get serious.

That weekend, the timing worked out so that Big Wow! ComicFest and Star Wars Celebration were at the same time, which may have split the crowd between events. Yet in spite of that, it was still crowded the entire weekend, and there were cosplayers aplenty.

As the Cherry Blossom Festival is a yearly tradition, those who missed out this time around can look forward to the next one. Autumn may be upon us now, but when spring comes around, we can look forward to the festival coming back with the cherry blossoms.
Magnifico!:
A Review of Carnevale Fantastico!

By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

A new Renaissance-style faire was started in 2015 in Northern California, but it was completely different for all the other faires. It focused on the birthplace of the Renaissance, the city-states of Italy during the 14th to 16th centuries. This new faire was the Carnevale Fantastico! and was held on May 2 and 3, 2015 at the Blue Rock Springs Park in Vallejo, California.

Access to the park was very easy even though the adjoining parking lot was small. Parking areas were set up offsite with a shuttle bus for people to take a short ride to the venue. Once at the location, there was a sign greeting you in Italian and murals depicting famous landscapes and scenes from Italy like the Tuscan vineyards or the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Flower in Florence.

Balzare Dancing

by Jean Martin
The park was transformed into a living history set up. Each encampment represented one of the major cities like Florence, Rome and Naples. The setups each had factoids about the culture, residents or architecture of the place. There were also activities like bocce ball, lessons on the latest scientific discoveries, and local personalities to converse with in each of the tents.

There was plenty of entertainment in the main piazza and the stages located throughout the festival. The variety of acts showed off the influence of Italian culture and society throughout all of Europe. Cucina dell’Arte showed off the love of cuisine by prepared food live on stage. Balzare! musica e danza di Napoli performed athletic leaping and jumping folk dances from Naples that highlight the joys of the coming of spring. Lupo di Mare sang songs of Italian seafaring highlighting the dominance of Italian shipmasters during the Renaissance. Donne d’Archi played songs by 15th and 16th century composers on string instruments.

There was also plenty of theater as well. The Bella Donna Players performed “The Final Rose” where an
evil queen holds a ball to marry off her son to a princess. The Manly Men in Tights performed an Italian-themed rendition of their act. “Julius Caesar and His Worst Day Ever” was a comedic version of the assassination of the Roman dictator. No Parchment Needed performed improvisational comedy with suggestions from the audience. “The Seven Deadly Sins” was about the moral failings of man as presented by Roman street people. There was a condensed version of “The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus” by Christopher Marlowe with the famous Papal scene included.

The main entertainment attraction was the Gruppo Sbandieratori Sansepolcr. The group was a flag-waver, trumpet and drum troupe that travelled from Italy. They performed using hand-painted flags while wearing period costumes. The idea of the flag wavers developed from the standard-bearers having to fight in battle using blades attached to the flag poles. The flag wavers would toss flagpoles to each other, juggle them and engage in combat-style face-offs.
A good amount of food and wares were for sale at the festival. There was a variety of Italian food including Stromboli, polenta, Italian sausage, tortellini, Italian wines, Chianti, Italian sodas, crepellas, cannoli, and gelato. There was also vendor onsite that made pizza in a wood-fired oven. People could shop for housewares such as violins, wooden cups, furniture made from wine casks, handmade soap, painted porcelain coasters, hand-blown glass items and pottery. Patrons could get into disguise with face painting, hair braiding, jewelry and historical costumes. Jam and wine were also available to take home.

The faire felt actually like being in the Italian Renaissance with the living history and entertainment that was presented. It brought Italian culture and society alive so it could be experienced firsthand.
Gears of Music, Dance, Fashion and Tea: Clockwork Alchemy 2015

By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

Steampunk fans descended on the Doubletree Hotel in downtown San Jose on Memorial Day weekend for a feast of music, costuming, dancing, tea and more. The 2015 edition of Clockwork Alchemy was held from May 22 to May 25.

The convention continued to successfully mix different fan activities, which brings in a number of different fandoms. Music is one of the foremost art forms featured with three separate concerts, jam sessions and acoustic sets. Costuming and fashion are also a huge part of the draw with panels, a fashion show and items for purchase in the Artist’s Bazaar. There was plenty of dancing, with lessons for beginner and advanced students to be able to strut their stuff at the concerts as well as belly dance performances. In addition, no steampunk event would be complete without tea.
The Alchemist Tea Parlor was visited frequently by both patrons of Clockwork Alchemy and by many anime fans visiting from sister convention FanimeCon. There were many different styles of costumes in the tearoom at one time. You could see characters from “Game of Thrones” at the same time as people in Victorian garb. The parlor had four different blends that offered chemistry in a cup and cookies to consume. The servers were dressed up with tea-themed costumes. To be even more authentic, a boiler heated the water for the tea. To commemorate the tea experience, tea drinkers were given badge ribbons with different phrases for each day.

In addition to tea, people could enjoy an entire programming track dedicated to steampunk literature. An author salon was set up for a variety of panels to hear authors talk about writing, publishing, fundraising and reading their works. There were additional panels about steampunk fiction including fairies, comics and trivia. People could also meet authors and guests of honor like Harry Turtledove and Phil and Kai Foglio. There was a book release party. Many of the authors also had tables where you could purchase their books.

Along with literature, people were able to view different types of artwork at the Artist’s Gallery. There was plenty of
different pieces including a steampunk bike, armor and two studies that people could take pictures in.

Dancing was also a huge portion of the programming. People were able to take dance lessons for waltz, the Congress of Vienna Waltz, swing, blues and belly dance. People would be able to use those lessons later in the weekend at the music concerts. There was also plenty of opportunity to view belly dancers at caravan tent set up for people to see the performers shimmy, shake, wave scarves and balance objects.

Fashion was a big part of the convention. The Artist’s Bazaar had lots of items for sale including corsets, hats, jewelry, clothing for men and women and plenty of accessories. A number of the items for sale were featured in the Fashion Show.

The Fashion Show combined music, theater, dance and fashion. The program pages were bound together using different sewing stitches. Four different designers were featured. Each designer created a line of spring Victorian clothing inspired by an Unwoman song. The presentation of
the creations was accompanied by Unwoman singing. The models performed scenes like dressing up or dancing. Unwoman also gave a mini-concert during the show.

There were several panels on fashion. Several focused on building the basic wardrobe with tips on tying cravats, thrift store shopping, sewing and prop building. Other presentations focused on alternate fashions from around the world during the late 1800s. There were also several workshops where people could learn a new skill.

There were plenty of other program offerings. Several different martial arts demonstrations were presented throughout the weekend. There were several panels on the culture, manners, habits and technology of the Victorian Era. People could play games in the gaming room. There was an
Airship race tournament held throughout the weekend. There was a film room that featured steampunk movies like “Steamboy,” “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang,” “The Time Machine” and various short subjects. The Aether Brigade also gave several performances of their comedy act throughout the weekend.

Music was the main link throughout the weekend. There were multiple opportunities to hear music from different artists. Many of the performers did acoustic sets in an open foyer area. John Sprocket even did an acoustic set in the Alchemist Tea Parlor. Many of the artists performed a jam session like a steampunk supergroup. Patrons could also learn the art of song craft from the artists.

The music was center-stage at the evening concert events. Friday night featured the Wind-Up Cabaret, with belly dancing, a fashion show preview and performances by Dogwood, Frenchy and the Punk, John Sprocket and Unwoman. The main piece was the world premiere of a new musical, “Any Moment Now,” created by Nathaniel Johnston and Alyssa Rosenbloom. It told the story of a woman who was
sent back in time to stop a robot apocalypse. She meets and falls in love with a man at a train station. Together, they work to stop the creation of a mechanoid army with the help of the man’s ex-lover. The musical also featured a duet whose characters resembled Dr. Horrible and The Doctor. The play was performed by many of the musical guests.

Saturday featured Emperor Norton’s Ball. Dance music was provided by DJ Persephone and DJ JsinJ. The main performances were local favorite Lee Presson and the Nails and electro-swing band Good Company. People were able to dance swing, waltz and blues throughout the night to sounds of powerful horns and covers of modern dance hits done in swing and jazz style.

The Aural Alchemy Concert on Sunday featured an eclectic lineup. The popular Unwoman played haunting melodies on her electric cello. Jodi Ellen provided a mix of electronic dance, alternative rock and steampunk. Marquis of Vaudeville provided a psychedelic-inspired punk cabaret performance. Frenchy and The Punk provided an earthier sound. The
evening was capped off by the neo-Victorian steampunk hip-hop stylings of Professor Elemental.

Costuming was on full display at Clockwork Alchemy. There were many Victorian outfits. There were a number of historical inspired costumes with cowboys, military outfits, coal miners, a steampunk version of Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders and folk lore hero Pecos Bill. More adventurous people were mixing fashion from other countries like kimonos, choli and saris with the Victorian aesthetic.

Steampunk inspired versions of popular characters included “Star Trek” uniforms, three different versions of Wonder Woman, Superman, Starscream from “Transformers,” an outfit inspired by the Half-Life video game series and mythical creatures.

There were plenty of outfits of other popular characters including, Mad Moxxi from the “Borderlands” video game, a number of Doctors from “Doctor Who”, Alice in Wonderland characters, Doctor Horrible, Captain Malcolm Reynolds and an amazing “BioShock Infinite” Cosplay group.

Clockwork Alchemy proved itself yet again in fun and entertainment with its variety of offerings in fashion, music, dance and art. There seems to be no limit of the appeal of the convention to a broad spectrum of interests and people. It should continue to grow and hold a special place on the calendar of convention goers for years to come.
The Alameda Elks Lodge once again was transformed into another time and place as the courtiers of King Louis XV of France were joined by time travelers, aliens and automatons for the PEERS The Doctor Dances: 1756 ball held on June 6, 2015.

PEERS continued its traditions of historical recreation, entertainment and education through dance and interpretations of culturally impactful literature, film and television. The Doctor Dances: 1756 allowed for mixing critically acclaimed science fiction and historical society.

Amy Pond and Rory Williams by Jean Martin
Clockwork Droids by Jean Martin
Dalek Dress by Jean Martin
The event was immersive live theater with a brand new story based on the 2006 episode “The Girl in the Fireplace” of “Doctor Who” featuring David Tennant as the Tenth Doctor. The script of the ball picked up from the end of the episode when the time windows that allowed the clockwork droids to travel from a spaceship in the future to 1756 Paris are closing. Due to an event that alters the timeline, the Tenth Doctor is stuck in The King of France’s palace in without a way to get back to the TARDIS left on the spaceship. He then recognizes one of his past selves, the Fourth Doctor. After the two Doctors exchanging pleasantries (and enjoy jelly babies), the Eleventh Doctor and Clara Oswald arrive in the TARDIS (mistakenly thinking it is the Bahamas) while tracking a
dangerous confluence of temporal convergences in a chronometric conglomeration (time windows).

Since there was a ball already arranged, Reinette (Madame de Pompadour) decided to carry on with the dancing, much to the consternation of King Louis. The Doctors decide to join in on the dancing with many of the spacetime-displaced people who arrived through the time windows.

Later on, Captain Jack Harkness arrives to take charge of the situation but is interrupted by Agent Hox of the Time Agency. After their discussion, The Eleventh Doctor then decides to take charge and determine what is causing the time windows. He asks for volunteers and gets his first companions Ian Chesterton and Barbara Wright (now married) as well as Romana and Leela. Every one of the Doctors and the companions were running around (to the “Benny Hill” theme) trying to determine where the source of the time windows while the Louis XV haplessly looked on.

Captain Jack also managed to reunite Rose Tyler with the Tenth Doctor. Clara asked the Eleventh Doctor if he had
figured out what was causing the time windows. The Eleventh Doctor explained that all of the Doctors had figured out that the windows were programmed to open when the spaceships in the future generating the windows attempted to self-repair. Harkness admitted to creating the time windows to discover who the head of the Time Agency was after a temporal convergence created the agency but did not know exactly when it occurred. Jack decided to help things along. Unfortunately, no one came forward to take credit.

The time windows were finally fixed when The King of France discovered Ian and Barbara were from the future and set aside funds for the creation of the Time Agency. This revelation made the King of France the head of the Time Agency, much to the chagrin of Captain Jack, who then shut off the time windows.

During the ball, there was plenty of dancing with Playford/English Country Dancing set dances, waltzes and three special numbers: “The Time Warp” from “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” lead by The Doctors and Captain Jack Harkness, “Walking on Broken Glass”
by Annie Lennox after a request by Rose Tyler and “Night Fever” by The Bee Gees after a request by Jackie Tyler.

There was a variety of fashion at the ball. There were plenty of Rococo period masquerade outfits including two Clockwork droids. Several other people were dressed as Time Lords including the incarnations of the Sixth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Doctors and members of the Gallifrey High Council. There were a number of companions including the second version of Romana, Martha Jones, Soufflé Girl Oswin Oswald, Captain Jack Harkness, and Donna Noble. There were also some enemies including a couple of Daleks and a Weeping Angel. There were a handful of TARDIS-inspired dresses.

The ball also had a couple of other features for the patrons. There was a cash bar that featured drinks that were named after elements of the show such as the Clockwork Cosmo, Versailles 75, S.S. Madame de Pompadour and The Tenth Doctor. People were also able to

There was also a Roman citizen and Marty McFly to boot.

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Time Warp Dance

by Jean Martin

Marty McFly

by Christopher Erickson
take photos with the TARDIS that was used on stage during the theatrical bits.

Everyone danced the night away until the time windows finally closed and order was restored, or at least until King Louis decided that everyone had to get onto their horses (or their time machines) and return home.
By Peter Lee

Staff Writer

For a fan of science fiction and fantasy, there can be so many panels to choose from at San Diego Comic-Con 2015. This year’s San Diego Comic-Con saw the return of two of fandom’s most popular television and movie series to Hall H, “Doctor Who” and “Star Wars.”

“Doctor Who”, the long-running TV series about a mysterious alien time traveler with his companion Clara who have adventures in time and space, was absent from Hall H and San Diego Comic-Con in 2014. Fans who had hoped last year to see actor Peter Capaldi, who took over the iconic role from Matt Smith, had to wait until this year to see him make his first appearance ever at San Diego Comic-Con. In the past few years when BBC had a “Doctor Who” panel at San Diego Comic-Con, it had been held on Sunday, but this year, it was held on the first day of the convention, Thursday, in the afternoon.

The lines to get into Hall H had already started the day before on Preview Night. As a
surprise treat, Peter Capaldi came out that night to meet and take photos with the dedicated fans in line who had camped out. There was still an opportunity to get a seat in Hall H to attend the “Doctor Who” panel even if you had not waited in line the day before since the first panel of the day, Open Road Films, did not have much information about who was going to be on the panel or what film was going to be previewed (it ended up being “Rock The Kasbah” with guest Bill Murray in attendance). I happened to be walking out of the Exhibition Hall and seeing no lines in front of Hall H, just walked in and got a nice seat.

After sitting through this panel, the following “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2” panel, and the Trailer Park panel of upcoming movie trailers, the “Doctor Who” panel started with the appearance of Nerdist’s Chris Hardwick arriving on stage as the moderator. He introduced the first clip, which was a BBC clip of the highlights of Season 8, Peter Capaldi’s debut season. Then, in succession, showrunner Steven Moffat came onto the stage, followed by the guest cast members, Michelle Gomez (villainess “Missy”), Jenna Coleman (companion Clara Oswald), and Peter Capaldi.

Chris Hardwick asked some questions to the cast. Peter Capaldi shared his feelings on
what it was like to be a fan of the show, then appear as a guest cast member in David Tennant’s “Fires of Pompeii” episode, and then get the role of The Doctor, and see how the phenomenon of “Doctor Who” has spread over the world. Jenna and Peter remarked how last season Clara was still getting to know her best friend again in his new incarnation and that in the next season, their friendship was now established and this would be their glory years as they would enjoy their adventures together.

With the question on the relationship between Missy and The Doctor, Steven Moffat, Michelle Gomez, and Peter Capaldi gave their views on how Missy and The Doctor were opposed to each other, yet they had been best friends.

Before the next segment for audience questions, the audience saw for the first time, the Season 9 preview trailer. With glimpses of new aliens, an undersea base, the return of the Daleks, Missy, and the Sisterhood of Karn, The Doctor sporting some Ray-Ban sunglasses and playing guitar, the audience showed their excitement for the upcoming season, set to debut on September 19. Then, another end scene to the trailer appeared with guest star, Maisie Williams from “Game of Thrones”, and an uproar of applause filled Hall H.

Next, the audience was given their chance to ask questions. When asked what was iconic about their characters, eyebrows was attributed to Peter’s Doctor, while Steven Moffat said it was eyes for Jenna, and Michelle said lips for Missy. In another question, Jenna talked about the transition from Matt Smith to Peter Capaldi. In an amusing exchange, Michelle described Missy’s perfect day would be drinking tea, eating a croissant, and slapping Wonder
Woman in the face. When asked what they found unexpected while working on the show, Peter told of how he didn’t realize how much warmth and affection he would receive from the fans and Jenna responded by how she loved working with Peter. The panel concluded with a clip from Lego Dimensions featuring the Lego version of The Twelfth Doctor.

While this panel would have been enough to satisfy any “Doctor Who” fan, there was another “Doctor Who” event going on Saturday afternoon, BBC America’s “Doctor Who” Official Fan Meet-Up party at The House of Blues. This event was open to the public, so a Comic-Con badge was not required. Having heard the BBC America Orphan Black Clone Club Fan meet-up earlier that morning had long lines to get in, I got my place in line two hours in advance. Each fan in line got a pair of BBC America sunglasses as the entry pass to get in (as a nod to Peter Capaldi’s Ray-Bans which he wears in Season 9).

The party was held on the lower floor of The House of Blues, where there was an open floor in front of the stage where fans could congregate and get various Dr. Who themed hors d’oeuvres. A popular dessert was the “Fish Fingers and Custard” which substituted churros for the fish fingers. Non-alcoholic beverages were complimentary, including a Doctor Who themed drink, “Capaldi’s”, a refreshing concoction of Blue Curacao and Sprite.

Host Jake Roper brought on the first celebrity guests, Michelle Gomez and Jenna Coleman. It was nice to see them so close on the stage compared to Hall H. After greeting the fans, there was some music set to a mash-up of Dr. Who videos played by DJ Eclectic Method. Other entertainment during the party
included a cosplay contest and a Family Feud style Dr. Who game with questions like naming the most popular Dr. Who catch-phrases or food items associated with the show. There was an area where fans could draw on the BBC America Fan Art Wall. In another room in the back, there was a line to take photos against a green screen which would make a short video of the person and a menacing Weeping Angel. This was the same photo booth that was in the BBC America booth on the Exhibition Hall. Finally, the other celebrity guests, Steven Moffat and Peter Capaldi came out on stage to greet fans and thank them for supporting the show. The Fan Meet-Up party was quite a fun event to attend.

The Lucasfilm panel for the upcoming “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” panel was held late Friday afternoon in Hall H and was one of the most widely anticipated panels for San Diego Comic-Con 2015. While earlier reports indicated there was not going to be any new trailers, this did not stop the enthusiasm of the legion of Star Wars fans. Not to mention this panel followed some other popular panels like AMC’s “The Walking Dead” and HBO’s “Game of Thrones,” it wasn’t surprising that some people were already lining up a full day earlier. JJ Abrams also gave out donuts and coffee to some of the people who had camped out overnight.

Once again, Nerdist Chris Hardwick was the moderator for the “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” panel. He recalled watching the original series in the theatre with his dad and how it changed his life. Then, he introduced the first three panelists, producer Kathleen Kennedy, director JJ Abrams, and writer Lawrence Kasdan (“Empire Strikes Back”),
“The Force Awakens”). They told how the project got started after Lawrence Kasdan received a call from George Lucas, then JJ Abrams was brought on board, and they spent the next year writing the movie. They brought one of the characters, Bobbajo, an animatronic creature, who walked across the stage, much to the delight of the fans. It was important for them to use practical effects to allow the actors to interact with the sets and props to give the film more authenticity. There was a short question and answer period with the first panelists. JJ Abrams talked about how much “Star Wars” meant to him, and although the three of them were all fans, they couldn’t be blinded as fans while making the film and it was important to have a good story. Katherine Kennedy talked about the arc of the films for Episodes 7, 8, and 9, and how there would be the stand-alone anthology films too.

While there wasn’t any new trailer, they did bring a special treat to the fans, a short behind-the-scenes look at the making of “Star Wars: The Force Awakens”. After the footage was shown, the next group of panelists came out on stage, new cast members John Boyega (Finn), Daisy Ridley (Rey), and Oscar Isaac (Poe). There was another short question and answer session with the new cast members, who talked about how it was like to work with the legacy cast members. Chris brought out the new cast members from the Dark Side: Adam Driver (Kylo Ren), Domhnall Gleeson (General Hux), and Gwendolyn Christie (Captain Phasma). During their Q & A session, Domhnall let slip the name of the First Order Stormtrooper base, the Starkiller base, which was a tribute to original name prior to the change to Skywalker.

Next to come onto the panel was Carrie Fisher, who recalled her reaction on coming back to shoot the film with her original co-stars. Mark Hamill was the next panelist to join the group. Since seeing him at Star Wars Celebration, Mark was sporting a beard this time. He talked about how Star Wars had made so many personal connections to people all over the world. Finally, Harrison Ford came out on stage as the final panelist to a standing ovation and cheers. It was so special to see the original three members together on stage, especially since Harrison wasn’t able to attend Star Wars Celebration in April. Harrison showed his appreciation on being back to play Han Solo and that it felt great. He had said he had not thought about this coming about again, but after receiving the script, he felt it was very well written and he was delighted to be involved.

Just seeing the new and old cast together would have been an experience by itself, but JJ Abrams had one more surprise for the fans. He talked about how another major star of the films was the music, so as a special treat, everyone in the audience would be invited to a free special live Star Wars music concert from the San Diego Symphony! JJ Abrams and Kathleen Kennedy and the cast were escorted off the stage.
with a group of First Order Stormtroopers. Unlike the slow distribution of wristbands for Hall H the night before, Disney and Lucasfilms had much better organization and were able to pass out the special lanyard and pass to the thousands in attendance quickly, and we walked out of Hall H to the nearby outdoor amphitheater at Embarcadero Marina Park South.

We were also given free lightsabers for the Star Wars Concert for the Fans to light up the field as the sun was starting to set. JJ Abrams and Kathleen Kennedy came on and brought along the cast on stage with the San Diego Symphony. After a brief video introduction from composer John Williams, the concert began. There was a video screen showing scenes from the various Star Wars movies to accompany the music. The San Diego Symphony started with “The Imperial March” and included other selections such as “Princess Leia’s Theme” and “Yoda’s Theme”, and concluded with the Star Wars Main Theme and a brilliant fireworks display. As we were walking out of the amphitheater, we spotted JJ Abrams riding past us, so everyone cheered as he waved. It was one of the most amazing, memorable Comic-Con panels that I had ever been to, and well worth the wait. As Darth Vader would say in “Star Wars: A New Hope”, “This will be a day long remembered.”
Jean and I were once again fortunate enough to attend San Diego Comic-Con International this year, which was held on July 9-12, 2015 at the San Diego Convention Center. It was another huge enterprise with lots of distractions to keep everyone entertained.

Getting tickets and accommodations to the event has become frustrating over the last few years because so many people want to attend, but the system seems fair in how it is handled. For the accommodations, there is an official list of hotels that provide very competitive prices. Getting a place to stay was handled by logging onto a website and listing your places of
preference. The hotels would get back to you with availability for rooms. The hotels were about $100 to $200 less than a number of the hotels that were not part of the package deals available through Comic-Con.

We managed to get a hotel room at Town and Country Center, which is in the middle of Hotel Circle where a lot of the people stay during convention weekend. Included in our stay was a complimentary breakfast for each of the mornings that we were there. The breakfast was a buffet style with many choices for food. People would come in various states of readiness for the day from just getting out of bed wearing their pajamas to already having their costumes ready.

The convention also provided free shuttle buses to get people from different points in San Diego to the convention center. The buses made several stops along their routes and were running throughout the entire run of the convention. This made it easy for people to attend late-night programming without the struggle of finding transportation back to their hotels.

The event has spilled outside of the confines of the convention space and the adjacent hotels. There were several parties that were in the Gaslamp District that were not official events but were programmed to take
How Comics Took Over Hollywood Panel by Christopher Erickson

Iron Man vs Hulk in Lego by Christopher Erickson

Avengers Fashion Show at Marvel Booth by Christopher Erickson

Conan O'Brien Ad at San Diego Airport by Christopher Erickson
advantage of the convention. One that we looked at was the Marked Men event onboard the Star of India ship at the Maritime Museum of San Diego. It was private function that required purchase of a separate ticket. It featured a costume contest, bands, belly dancing and catered food. We elected not to go to it as it was too far from the venue to fit in with our busy schedule.

The one outside event that we did attend was the NerdHQ party. NerdHQ was running their own set of functions including celebrity interviews throughout the convention. The party that we attended was held in a building in the Gaslamp District. It had a dance floor, video game room, photo booth and bar. The bar had their own cups and napkins promoting an upcoming game show on Syfy that featured teams answering geek trivia while enjoying alcoholic beverages. Many people at the function were in costume including a Chewbacca on stilts, the velociraptors from Jurassic World and WWE Superstar Chris Jericho.

Another major event that was outside of the show was Conan O’Brien broadcasting special episodes from the Spreckels Theater in the Gaslamp District. The broadcasts featured guests from major shows and movies and geek
themed skits. The episode we watched featured the stars of “Game of Thrones” and Peter Capaldi from “Doctor Who” and a comedy skit centering on a weather report of different fantasy lands like Middle-Earth and Narnia. There was even collectible Pop! vinyl figures of Conan as different characters like Batman or a zombie that were people could win via text message contest.

A number of the businesses took advantage of the event to help drum up extra revenue during the weekend. The restaurants in the Gaslamp District converted their spaces into viral advertising for upcoming shows and movies. Many of the hotel bars and gift shops sold commemorative items like Game of Thrones themed beverages or stocked their shelves with geek merchandise. A number of the shops painted their windows with superheroes. A pedicab featured an advert for gentlemen’s club Deja Vu using sexy sci-fi women. Even the San Diego airport was taking advantage of the function with stores stocking plenty of geek merchandise and advertising of the Conan O’Brien shows.

There was plenty of convention activities outside of the building. There was an “Assassin’s Creed” parkour course, a “Game of Thrones” themed setup, a parking lot filled
with various viral promotions like a “Peanuts” Snoopy doghouse, and roving flashmob advertising groups like the line of Penguins handing out sunglasses to promote “Gotham.”

Inside the convention, there were plenty of sights and sounds to entertain people. The booths had many different diversions to help draw people in and provide things to look at. The DC Comics booth featured displays of costumes from “Arrow,” “The Flash” and “Superman v. Batman: Dawn of Justice.” The Lego booth had statues of Hulk fighting Iron Man in the Hulkbuster armor, Ninjago characters, a Stormtrooper and Owen Grady on a motorcycle from “Jurassic World.” The Weta booth featured a full display of costumes from an upcoming movie based on the “World of Warcraft” game. The Mattel booth showed off some of their collectible cars including a Superman/Batman car. The Hollywood Sci-Fi Museum had a TARDIS that people could take photos with. The Marvel booth had a fashion show of haute couture based on the Avengers characters.

There were plenty of panels in the main rooms that people lined up for. I was only able to attend a couple of small panels due to masquerade commitments. One was on how comic books came to dominate Hollywood. The other was on upcoming developments of the “Lord of the Rings”/”The Hobbit” properties.

Costuming was a huge part of the convention. Comic-Con is one of the main places where you can see a huge variety of characters portrayed. There were plenty of superheroes and characters from current shows like “iZombie,” “Game of Thrones” “The Flash,” “Outlander” and “Doctor Who” and recent movies like “Guardians of the Galaxy,” “Mad Max Fury Road,” “Minions” and “Jurassic World.” There were plenty of people portraying cartoon characters from “Steven Universe,” “Archer” and “My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic.” There were also plenty of classic characters like Sailor Moon, Lilith from “The Munsters,” Jem from 1980s cartoon series, GizmoDuck from “Duck Tales,” Xena
and Gabriel, Ripley from “Alien,” Star Trek uniforms, classic “Doctor Who” characters, Cosmo and Wanda from “The Fairly OddParents,” the main characters of “Jurassic Park” and plenty of “Star Wars” outfits.

There were plenty of more obscure characters and costumes. There was a number of people who dressed up as characters from “Mystery Science Theater 3000,” outfits based on the DC Bombshells artwork, a Supergirl based the “Justice” artwork (a line of magazine covers featuring DC Comics heroes), Freakazoid from the cartoon series, and Moist von Lipwig and Adora Belle Dearheart from the Discworld novel “Going Postal.”

There were plenty of video game characters represented with different versions of Link, Zelda, Mario, Luigi, Princess Peach, characters from “Borderlands,” Lara Croft, several Pokemon and Billy
and Jimmy Lee from “Double Dragon.” Anime had a heavy presence with Speed Racer, Sailor Moon characters, Pokemon trainers, Totoro, Princess Mononoke and pirates from “One Piece.”

There was plenty of other pop culture representation. There were several people dressed as professional wrestlers including Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan, Chris Jericho and John Cena. There were a few Daft Punk outfits. People dressed up as Roman and Egyptian gods. There were many Transformers and G.I. Joe characters as well. Other people dressed as Gomez and Morticia from “The Addams Family.” Another couple were dressed as characters from “Penny Dreadful.”

There was also plenty of mashup style costuming. There were several interpretations of Deadpool. One group did a hipster version of Marvel superheroes. Another group did redneck version of the Avengers. Two women dressed up as a Hawkeye and Black Widow Playboy Bunnies. One cosplayer mashed up the Eleventh Doctor and a Jedi. There was also a group of people who combined “Star Wars” and steampunk. There was amazing Stormtrooper mashups with a “Where’s Waldo” version and an Evel Knievel version. One person did a pirate Iron Man. The most
interesting mashup was a Wookie “Charlie’s Angels” group.

A lot of our time for Comic-Con was dedicated to the Masquerade. For Jean and me, the convention started with having to make new costumes. We were part of a masquerade group of tap-dancing X-Men. My costume, Professor Xavier, took several weeks of sewing long hours after work to complete, as it was a men’s tailored suit. There were a huge number of pieces including interfacing that was required to be hand sewn. I was sewing during my lunch breaks at one point to make progress. Jean had managed to snag a used wheelchair for free, so she had the best contribution to my costume.

We spent time rehearsing the choreography with the group for a few sessions before the convention. We all had to learn a fairly complex routine with tap dancing steps (except for me since I was in a wheelchair). We also continued to practice during the convention. During the day of the Masquerade, we had the chance to practice on a mockup stage so we could get a feel for the actual dimensions of the stage.

Later that day, we had to check in around 5 pm to start getting ready. Some groups spent the entire day putting together props and complex pieces for their entries. During the
check-in time, people were getting makeup put on and getting their costumes together. I had to have a bald cap applied to my head and get age makeup completed.

Costume judging for workmanship also took time as people lined up to have people look at their outfits and props. During this time, people would talk with other costumers that they knew in separate groups, take photos of the different entries and have their pictures taken for references for judging.

The longest part of the time was having to wait around before going on stage. A screen was provided for people to watch the entries on stage in the green room. People were also able to watch on screens in the backstage area while in line to go onstage.

Once onstage, all of the preparation, practice and hard work came down to about two minutes or less of entertainment for the thrill of the performance and the reaction of the audience. Our group got a loud reaction to our tap-dancing Wolverine and all of the other X-Men.

After our performance, we were taken to a room for photographers to take our pictures. We then returned to the green room to await announcements for the awards. Since our group was receiving an award, we lined up again to
go onstage. We were presented with the award for “Most Humorous” which included a medal. We were then taken back to the photography area for pictures with our award.

After the masquerade, we had to get out of the costumes we made and head back to the hotel. It was strangely silent as the hallway was devoid of people, making it almost eerily silent. It was hard to fathom that there could be a still moment at a place that is usually so packed with people and noise.

The convention wrapped up for Jean and me with breakfast the next morning and getting the last few pictures of costumers before we headed for the airport. Despite all of the trouble of getting tickets, securing a hotel room, sewing and packing, we still managed to have a great time.
By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

With the superhero genre dominating the box office and the small screen as well as making up a number of the nominations for dramatic presentation at the Hugo Awards in recent years, people might wonder what comics and superheroes have to do with science fiction and fantasy. From the beginning, there has been a huge intertwining between superheroes, comics and science fiction/fantasy.

Before superhero comics became a dominant form of publication, science fiction and fantasy was featured in popular newspaper comic strips of the 1930s. “Mandrake the Magician,” featuring a magician who could cast illusions to fight crime, was first published in 1934. “Prince Valiant” featured Arthurian legend and mythical creatures when it was first published in 1937. Two of the popular comic strips at the time featured 20th Century men displaced into the future, “Buck Rodgers” (first published in 1929) and “Flash Gordon” (first published in 1930).

The first science fiction concept merged with superheroes was the introduction of Superman in “Action Comics” #1 published in 1938. The story introduced an alien baby sent to live on earth as his home planet was exploding, his miraculous powers and his first exploits as a costumed hero. The story was only 13 pages but was powerful enough to be depicted on the cover. This issue also introduced John Zatara, a stage magician/crime fighter who could cast spells of real magic by speaking backwards.

Due to the popularity of Superman, many other concepts became popularized in the pages of both “Action Comics” and “Superman,” such as giant robots, energy weapons and mad scientists like Lex Luthor. These concepts became a standard tropes that are now staples of the superhero genre.

As the popularity of superhero comics exploded in the 1940s, many of the companies introduced a variety of superheroes that had either pseudo-scientific origins to their powers or were able to utilize magic in some way. National Comics and All-Star Comics (the original DC Comics companies) introduced science fiction based characters The Flash (Jay Garrik, who got his superspeed when he breathed heavy water fumes), Starman (Ted Knight, who created a cosmic rod that could manipulate a form of energy from outer space) and The Sandman (Wesley Dodds, who invented a gas gun that delivered a combination knockout gas and truth serum to help in his investigations). Fantasy characters included Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Dr. Fate (a magic wielder wearing the Helmet of Naboo), Hawkman and Hawkgirl (reincarnated spirits of Egyptian royalty), The Spectre (a dead policeman who was merged with an avenging angel of heaven), Shining Knight (a knight from the Camelot who had a magical sword and a winged horse) and Green Lantern (a railroad engineer who manipulated magic in the form of green projections from a ring he discovered).

Villains of these superheroes had fantasy and science fiction based powers as well. The best known included Solomon Grundy (a semi-sentient plant zombie), Per Degaton (time-traveling scientist), Brain Wave (a telepath and telekinetic), Ultra-Humanite (evil scientist who could mind transfer into other bodies), Vandal Savage (an immortal genius Cro-Magnon who achieved his long life and intelligence after
being exposed to a meteorite), The Thinker (a failed lawyer who gained telepathy from a helmet) and Wizard.

Other comic book companies followed suit. Marvel forerunner Timely Comics featured three popular superheroes: Captain America, Human Torch, and Namor the Sub-mariner. Captain America got his enhanced strength and athleticism from injection of the Super-Soldier formula and exposure to “Vita-rays.” The Human Torch was a synthetic human (android) who had a malfunction that allowed him to oxidize the air around him. He also had a sidekick who named Toro who was human and had the same power. Namor was a prince of Atlantis who had incredible strength. Other characters included Miss America who had super strength and could fly and super-speedster Whizzer.

Fawcett Comics was another influential company publishing several characters, chief among them Captain Marvel, whose powers of super strength and flight were magically granted by the wizard Shazam. These powers were extended to family members and confidants like his sister Mary Marvel and pet bunny Hoppy. Their enemies included mad scientist Dr. Silvana, alien worm Mister Mind, the super-soldier Captain Nazi, and former Shazam protégé Black Adam. Fawcett also published other heroes. Two were Bulletman and Bulletgirl who have chemically-induced super strength and intelligence and a special helmet that helps them fly and deflect bullets. Another was Ibis the Invincible who was an Egyptian prince brought back to life and would wield magic using his Ibistick.

The other major comics company was Quality Comics, who provided readers with Uncle Sam (the spiritual embodiment of patriotism), The Ray (a hero who could create hard-light objects and fly), Doll Man (a scientist who could shrink down while retaining his full strength) and Plastic Man (who got his stretching and shape changing powers after exposure to a chemical bath).

The popularity of superhero comics died out by the 1950s to be replaced by romance, cowboys, funny animals, monsters, war stories and space adventurers. One of the most famous comic character groups from this time was the Challengers of the Unknown, a team of adventurers who would face different threats including genies, robots and aliens.

Horror comics and crime comics were also popular until the publication of “Seduction of the Innocent” by Fredric Wertham and the Senate Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency. After this, the self-imposed Comics Code Authority (CCA) set up guidelines on publication of comics, destroying most of the horror and crime comics, leaving only “safe” ideas that were not considered dangerous to corruptible youth.

In response, comic book publishers started to publish more superheroes in the late 1950s. This allowed new characters to be introduced or other characters to be revamped. One of the first characters introduced in the post-CCA rules was DC Comics’s Martian Manhunter, an alien shapeshifter and telepath brought over from Mars by an experimental communications device.

The revitalization of comics was really kick started by the introduction of a new Flash character in Showcase #4 (October, 1956) who was a separate character from the previous Jay Garrik version. The new Flash (Barry Allen) was a police scientist who gained superspeed after exposure to chemicals hit by a lightning bolt. This led to DC Comics revamping a number of previous characters and giving them science fiction style powers. Green Lantern was reintroduced as pilot Hal Jordan who received an alien ring that allowed him to manipulate energy into anything he could think of and was inducted into a corps of protectors from various worlds. Hawkman and Hawkgirl were now alien policemen who came to earth to track down an escaped convict and then decided to stay. A new Atom character was created who had developed a shrinking device that utilized a lens made of material from a white dwarf star.

DC Comics would also introduce new several new characters. One of the most popular was magician Zatanna, the daughter of previous character John Zatara. Another lasting character was the enigmatic mage The Phantom Stranger. Other characters introduced that had science fiction origins were the Metal Men (a team of sentient robots created by
Dr. Will Magnus who had powers based on their namesake metal), the
team Doom Patrol (Robotman, a sentient robot; Elasti-Woman, who
could stretch; Negative Man, who could make a negatively charged
projection of his body; and The Chief, a wheel-chair bound supergenius),
and Adam Strange (an earthman transported to another world and
became a hero similar to Flash Gordon).

DC Comics also created several Kryptonians to expand the Superman
comics. Supergirl and the shrunken bottle city of Kandor were
introduced as well as a number of superpets like Krypto the Superdog
and Streaky the Supercat.

Villains were also added to the mix such as the super-intelligent
Gorilla Grodd, and aliens like Bizzaro, Braniac, Starro the Conqueror
and Despero. Several of the Flash’s villains had advanced technology
that gave them powers such as Captain Cold (cold gun), Heat Wave
(flame gun), Weather Wizard (weather control from a wand) and Abra
Kadabra (a man from the future who used technology that looked like
magic).

Marvel Comics followed suit in the 1960s by introducing a huge slew
of characters. A huge number of them received their powers after
exposure to some form of radiation or chemical such as the Fantastic
Four (cosmic rays in space), Daredevil (exposure to toxic chemicals),
The Hulk (gamma radiation) and Spider-Man (a bite from spider exposed
to radioactivity). Others created a new technology such as Tony Stark’s
Iron Man suit based off of transistors and Hank Pym’s discovery of Pym
Particles that allowed him shrink down as Ant-Man along with Janet Van
Dyne as The Wasp. Hank Pym also created a helmet that allowed him to
control ants. The X-Men were humans who developed their powers from
evolutionary mutation.

A number of villains also had similar sci-fi origins like the heroes. Most Iron Man foes used inventions or alien artifacts to achieve their
powers. The Hulk’s main villains of The Leader, The Abomination and
Grey Gargoyle were exposed to gamma radiation. Spider-Man enemies
utilized technology or exposure to chemicals to gain their powers.

Galactus and the Silver Surfer drew on the Power Cosmic, similar to the
cosmic radiation of the Fantastic Four.

Fantasy heroes created by Marvel included mystic Doctor Strange
and the Norse god Thor along with his allies Lady Sif and the Warriors
Three. They had many enemies that used magic such as Baron Mordo,
the demon Dormammu, the Wrecking Crew and Loki. Doctor Doom
mixed science, robotics and sorcery.

“Star Trek” became an established comic book property in the 1960s
with original stories published by Gold Key Publishing eventually
moved to other companies including DC Comics, Marvel and IDW
Publishing.

Charlton Comics created three of their best-known properties in the
1960s. Blue Beetle was an archeologist who discovered a mystical scarab
that granted him superpowers. Captain Atom was a technician working
on a rocket when it was accidentally launched and exploded, exposing
him to radiation and granting him atomic manipulation powers. The
Question used a piece of artificial skin called pseudoderm to hide his
face. All three would go on to be revamped by DC Comics after they
were purchased when Charlton Comics went out of business. The
characters served as the basis for the superheroes in Alan Moore’s
“Watchmen.”

In the 1970s, horror-based comics became popular with the loosening
of CCA restrictions on monsters. Several monster-style characters were
introduced by Marvel including antheroes Ghost Rider, Morbius the
Living Vampire and Blade. Other horror characters included Dracula,
Werewolf by Night, N’Kantu the Living Mummy and the plant monster
Man-Thing. DC Comics introduced The Demon Etrigan and Swamp
Thing in the same time period. DC also published anthology comics
“The House of Mysteries” and “The House of Secrets” hosted by
monsters.

Marvel also introduced a number of new science-fiction concepts in
the 1970s. Two of the more interesting were based on toylines: Rom the
Spaceknight and Micronauts. They would later repeat this feat in 1984
with The Transformers. They also introduced the alien races the Eternals (who Thanos is best known member), the Celestials and Captain Marvel. Marvel also published original comics stories based on the characters from “Star Wars” and “Godzilla.” DC Comics published a wide ranging group of inter-related characters created by Jack Kirby that he called the “Fourth World” featuring powerful aliens such as Darkseid and Mister Miracle that were eventually integrated into the main superhero universe.

Swamp Thing was revamped in the 1980s by Alan Moore from a science-fiction monster to a metaphysical being representing plant life. He also introduced the character of demonic exorcist John Constantine, who was later spun off into his own title “Hellblazer”. The groundbreaking comic “The Sandman” by Neil Gaiman was also published in the 1980s. This comic featured an anthropomorphic personification of the idea of dreams as the hero. These comics were aimed at mature readers with a level of sophisticated storytelling that wasn’t found in typical superhero stories. The popularity of these comics lead to the creation of the Vertigo Comics imprint, which featured a number of science fiction and fantasy titles including “Animal Man,” “iZombie,” and “Lucifer.”

As comics became a big business in the 1990s due to a speculator’s market, comics companies started cropping up and putting out a large number of titles. Fantasy and science fiction were used extensively to create new characters and titles. Valiant Comics launched titles based on previously published characters: “Magnus, Robot Fighter,” “Solar, Man of the Atom” and, “Turok: Dinosaur Hunter.” Valiant also created a new character called X-O Manowar, a Visogoth during the Roman Empire who is kidnapped by aliens and later obtains a suit of battle armor. Topps Comics published an “X-Files” series and “Xenozoic Tales” (also known as “Cadillacs and Dinosaurs”) about a post-apocalyptic land where dinosaurs have re-emerged and technology is a precious commodity. Image Comics provided readers with the demonic-powered anti-hero Spawn, the superhero team of WildC.A.T.s featuring several alien/human hybrids and green-skinned superhero cop Savage Dragon. Milestone Comics featured several minority superhero characters with science-fiction based powers like the electricity-wielding teen Static, the super powered alien Icon and the battle suit armored Hardware.

Marvel followed suit with the creation of the Infinity Watch team comprising previously introduced characters like Adam Warlok, Drax the Destroyer, Gamora and Moondragon. DC Comics introduced the Darkstars, a team of intergalactic policemen.

The creation of the Guardians of the Galaxy team featuring Star-Lord, Groot, Gamora, and Drax the Destroyer in 2008 continues to show the influence science fiction and fantasy has in comics.

Science fiction and fantasy have a long history in comics and superhero fiction. The influence of genre fiction merging into modern day mythologies helps bring science fiction and fantasy to a broader audience and gives it a greater appeal.
By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

During a trip to see my sister get married in Galveston, Texas, Jean and I were able to visit one of the most scientifically and historically important places in all of history. We explored the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center at Space Center Houston.

We were only in Texas for the weekend for the wedding and flew into Houston via the George W. Bush International Airport. After the plane landed, it taxied to the terminal by actually driving over the highway.

When we were getting the rental car, we realized that NASA was close to the airport. We decided that we would come to Johnson Space Center in the morning since the wedding was taking place in the evening.

After picking up the rental car, we drove to our hotel on the beach in Galveston. The drive was about an hour in the early evening with hardly any traffic, which is unusual for Houston. We drove around the I-45 beltway loop and finally arrived at our hotel. The weather was warm but
not hot. We ate at an open-air bar/restaurant right next to the hotel pool where people were having drinks from the bar.

The hotel room had a view of the beach. The geekiest part of the room was the brand of refrigerator: Smeg.

We drove to Space Center Houston the next morning. It is a museum and visitor complex that is adjacent to NASA Johnson Space Center. Exiting the freeway, we saw a Fry’s Electronics that had a space-themed sign. Entering into the parking lot, we passed a picnic area that had NASA jets and a mock Gemini capsule. Outside of the entrance to Space Center Houston was a space shuttle/Boeing jumbo jet mockup.

Once inside there were plenty of attractions. There was a space shuttle nose section that you enter and sit in the cockpit. There was a gallery of astronaut suits including the Apollo Lunar Suit, the Space
Shuttle Extra Vehicular Activities (EVA) suit, an Apollo-Soyuz suit, the Apollo biological isolation suit, the RX-5 space suit, and Sally Ride’s flight suit.

There were plenty of models with the International Space Station, Skylab, the Space Shuttle, a fully restored Galileo shuttlecraft prop from the original “Star Trek” series and capsules and rockets from the various early space flight and moon landing programs (Gemini, Mercury and Apollo).

There were replicas of space station areas where you could walk through it for a sense of space. The Skylab recreation had dioramas of the famous footage of crewmembers eating floating food and tumbling in zero gravity. The International Space Station featured sleeping bunks and storage galleys with draws containing food and instruments.
One gallery had displays of the moon landings, Gemini space walks and other space vehicles on display. Another gallery featured different types of moon rocks and lunar soil and a sample moon rock that could be touched.

The main attraction of Space Center Houston was the tram tour. There was the choice between the Red Tour (the astronaut training facility and modern Mission Control) and the Blue Tour. We chose the Blue Tour as it contained the Historic Mission Control facility. Before we entered the tram, we had our photos taken for security purposes as we would be going into the actual NASA facility. The security photos were also used for photo mementos that could be purchased after the tram tour.

During the tram ride, the history of the site was explained from its beginnings as cattle grazing land to development of the research/training facility after donation of land by Rice University for the purpose.

Our first stop was Historic Mission Control. The room is housed in Building 30, also known as Christopher C. Kraft, Jr. Mission Control Center. It is also the same building where the current Mission Control Center is located. Inside the lobby, there was a display all of the Apollo Mission patches and Omega watches. (Omega was selected to design
watches that would work in space.) There were also models of Saturn launch rockets and lunar modules.

After traveling through a few stairwells, we arrived at the Mission Control Room. The room was restored back to the time of the Apollo missions.

We were seated in a viewing area where VIPs such as representatives, senators and the families of the astronauts would watch the progress of the shuttle launches. The viewing room interior design felt like the late 1960s and included ashtrays on the seat backs. (The tour guide told a joke about how he had to tell kids that the ashtrays were not iPhone holders.) Through the viewing window, you could see the different command stations as they would have looked in the 1960s and 1970s. On the back wall were five different screens with video feed and a map on the central screen that tracked the progress of the space vehicles. Plaques from all of the missions were on the walls throughout the control center.

The Historic Mission Control (originally designated Mission Operation Control Room 2 or MOCR-2) was used from 1965 through 1992 to oversee the Gemini, Apollo and Space Shuttle programs. (Apollo 7, Skylab missions and the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project were controlled in MOCR-1). The Historic Mission Control was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1985 due to its historic significance in the Apollo 11 moon landing. It was eventually decommissioned in 1992 and replaced with a new Mission Control Center in the same building after an expansion.
The next stop was Rocket Park. This was a small park that contained a “Little Joe II” test rocket, a Mercury Redstone rocket, a gangway used to enter the command module of a rocket, rocket engines and the Saturn V rocket. The Saturn V rocket was kept inside a building. It is one of the few remaining rockets from the Apollo program and was built from three different vehicles.

We eventually went back to Galveston for the wedding. My sister and brother-in-law were married in a historic downtown building. The wedding was done in a Zarathusti (Zoroastrian) ceremony. The Zoroastrian religion was founded by the Prophet Zoroaster (Zarathushtra) in Iran approximately 3500 years ago. The Islamic conquest of Persia forced Zoroastrians to migrate. Many settled in India about 1200 years ago. Zoroastrianism is the world’s smallest monotheistic religion with between approximately 124,000 and 190,000 people practicing worldwide.

The ceremony required everyone to cover their heads so topis and scarfs were available for people to wear. The ceremony started with a procession of women leading the groom to the stage and carrying a
ceremonial tray of items to perform the achu michu (a blessing and protection ceremony). The bride’s mother circled items representing the Elements and good luck around the groom’s head and then smashed them to remove evil and protect him. A piece of sugar was then placed in his mouth to encourage sweet talk. The mother cracked her knuckles on her temple to further remove any ills. A red mark was then made on the groom’s forehead and rice pressed to it. The procession and achu michu was then repeated for the bride.

When the bride and groom were both seated, the Ara Antar (marriage knot) was performed to create a union. The couple was separated by a cloth signifying separation up to the point of the marriage ceremony. The priest placed the couple’s right hands together while he wrapped a multi-stranded twine around their hands seven times and recited the Ahunavar (a sort of marriage prayer) seven times. The couple was each given rice in their left hand and then the twine was wrapped around the couple seven times while the Ahunavar was recited seven times. The union is then considered complete and cannot be easily broken. The cloth was dropped and the couple threw the rice at each other. Whoever throws the rice first is said to show that they will be foremost in loving and respecting the other.

After the Ara Antar, the Ashirvad (Affirmations) were performed. The vows were recited in the ancient Persian language. A witness for each family stood behind the couple. The priest asked each of the witnesses if the families agree to the marriage. The priest then asked the couple if they each agree to the marriage. The priest repeated each question three times to be certain the families and couple agree to the union and form the marriage. While asking the questions, the priest showered rice and rose pedals at the couple and the witnesses as a sign of good luck and prosperity.

The priest then followed with Admonitions which include advice about one’s behavior in life and prayers to Ahura Mazda (God) while showering rice and rose pedals at the couple. The priest completed with a recital prayer to promote long life, health and well-being.

After the wedding, we walked along the Seawall which was constructed to help head off water pushed onto Galveston Island during hurricanes that had previously created widespread damage and flooding. We visited the Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier, an amusement park with games, rides and items for purchase.

We had to leave for the airport the next day and drove back to Houston. This time we drove through the center of Houston and saw the downtown area from the highway. We arrived at the airport and then took the plane back home.
The Secret History of Geekiness in Houston

By Christopher Erickson
Managing Editor

Nestled in the southern part of Texas near the Gulf of Mexico, Houston would seem like a very Southern city more akin to ranch and cowboy culture than a city with a history of science and science fiction. However, Space City has a prominent history of science and science fiction.

Houston’s nickname of Space City comes from the long history of Johnson Space Center, originally called the Manned Spacecraft Center. The center officially opened in September 1963. Since then it has been used to control all of the manned space flights run by NASA. The facility has been used as both a filming location and a movie setting for films including “Futureworld,” “Armageddon,” “Apollo 13,” “Space Cowboys” and “Transformers: Dark of the Moon.”

With the opening of Johnson Space Center, several things in Houston received names in connection with space. The domed stadium originally called Harris County Domed Stadium was quickly renamed the Houston Astrodome shortly after it opened in 1965. The complex around the stadium was named Astrodome. The artificial turf that was used in multi-purpose domed stadiums became known as Astroturf. The professional baseball team Houston .45s changed their team name to the Houston Astros when they moved into the Astrodome. The professional basketball team was originally called the Rockets when they were in San Diego and kept the name when the franchise was moved to Houston (since the name had a stronger association with the city).

When the Astrodome opened up, it was the first multi-purpose domed stadium in the world. This earned it the nickname “The Eighth Wonder of the World” and made Houston seem like a city of the future. The building kicked off a number of other domed stadiums such as the Pontiac Silverdome (Pontiac, Michigan), the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome (Minneapolis), the Superdome (New Orleans), the Kingdome (Seattle), the RCA Dome (Indianapolis) and the Skydome (Toronto).

The Astrodome was also the filming location and setting for “Brewster McCloud.” It featured a recluse who lived at a fallout shelter in the building who attempted to construct a pair of wings to fly with.

With the reputation of a futuristic city, several movies were filmed or set in Houston as a futuristic city. Besides “Futureworld,” the most famous of these is “Rollerball” and “Logan’s Run.” “Rollerball” was set in a futuristic Houston where corporations replaced governments as the world power and followed the exploits of a roller derby team. “Logan’s Run” was partially filmed inside the Houston Hyatt Regency Hotel.

The city was also the setting for a number of other films. “The Swarm” featured a hive of killer bees sweeping across Southern Texas. “Student Bodies” is a satire of the slasher horror movies. Horror-comedy “My Best Friend is a Vampire” was partially shot in Houston. Part of the movie “Twins” is set in Space City. “I Come in Peace” is about a Houston vice cop on the trail of an extraterrestrial drug lord. “RoboCop 2” was primarily filmed in Houston as well.

Houston has a surprising history of nerd culture. With its famous catchphrase (Houston, we have a problem!) and its strong connection to space exploration, it is not hard to see why the city has been a magnet for geek productions.
Community... That’s the word I kept hearing throughout the five days of attending Sasquan this year. This annual event gathers people from all over the world to share and celebrate speculative fiction. Here you will find the daydreamers, the stargazers, the ones who look ahead to what might be instead of what is. Here the fans stroll side-by-side with their idols, reunite with old friends and make new connections.

Worldcon tends to have a personal ambiance, more like a large family reunion than a media-driven convention such as Dragon-Con or Comic-Con. The Worldcon tradition grew out of a simple gathering of authors in 1939 under the auspices of the World Science Fiction Society and has kept that spirit throughout the years—a reunion of colleagues rather than a business convention. Worldcons are held in a different location each year, recently in San Antonio (2013) and London (2014). This year’s Sasquan hosted the site selection vote for the 2017 Worldcon among bids from Helsinki, Shizuoka, Montreal, and Washington DC. The 2016 Worldcon will be held in Kansas City, Missouri USA.

Out of over 11K memberships, representing 54 countries, about five thousand warm (or not so warm) bodies attended the event. It did not feel crowded thanks to the Spokane convention center that has a spacious floor plan. The two adjoining hotels offered additional open space so there was always somewhere to go and relax on a couch to read or chat with friends. The only time I saw big crowds was for the Hugo awards ceremony and for autographs with George R.R. Martin.

So, what was it like? If you’ve never attended a Worldcon before, I recommend doing at least one. For the lifelong sci-fi fan, it is a chance to immerse yourself in whatever aspect of fandom interests you: comics, gaming, literature, filk, science, costuming, collectible merchandise, and more. For the casual sci-fi fan or the curious muggle, it is an opportunity to open a door and explore a new world. The schedule had such a wide variety of topics and activities, it was impossible for one person to see it all. I went on a road trip with a group of friends and between us only saw a fraction of what could be seen.

Step one is preparation. Consider in advance what you’d like to get out of the experience. You could attend one day or all five days, for as much or as little participation as you’d like. The website was up and running several months ahead and kept updating as the dates came closer.

Things that you could experience:
• as a reader, you could view the list of attending authors to decide about signing up for a kaffee klatsch or a literary beer chat, or plan to listen to an author reading
• if you enjoy podcasts, a couple of them were being recorded before a live audience such as Writing Excuses with Brandon Sanderson
• as an aspiring writer, you could submit a manuscript for one of the critique workshops and professional literary agents made themselves available for speed-dating style 10 minute pitch sessions
• as an artist, you could display your work at the art gallery for silent auction or you could rent a booth in the dealer’s room to sell your wares
• as a costumer, you could attend hands-on workshops or compete in the masquerade show
• if you enjoy musical performances and ballroom dancing, you could plan to attend those events
• if you enjoy viewing independent films, the Sasquan International Film Festival showcased the best “and the strangest” film shorts and features from around the world
• if you just want to collect rare books, unusual merchandise, jewelry, T-shirts, or costumes, then you could spend hours browsing in the dealer’s room
• and, of course, the discussion panels offered a broad variety of topics

There was a mobile app for my smart phone so I did not need to carry the glossy program book in my tote bag. Even so, it is inevitable that you’ll leave with more luggage than you brought. Business cards, flyers, postcards, souvenirs, books, jewelry, T-shirts, and freebies accumulate like the sticker ribbons on your convention badge.

I am a costumer and traveled with a fellow costumer. Both of us were competing in the masquerade show, which meant that half our luggage involved over-stuffed suitcases for costumes and accessories. We joked that, when packing up the back of her SUV, “The bat’leth goes on top!”

The Opening Ceremony began with a storyteller who sang a song of blessing and then proceeded to tell a few stories from the folklore traditions of the Pacific Northwest. The guests of honor were introduced on stage. There was a video feed from a very special guest—the astronaut Kjell Lundgren who is currently on the International Space Station and is a huge fan of science fiction. He doesn’t just read it, he lives it! (Video can be found at http://sasquan.org/2015/08/kjell-lindgren-welcome/)

As I said before, the daytime activities offer endless choices of discussion panels, hands-on workshops, and free time to explore the dealer’s room. There was a display of Discworld memorabilia in honor of the late Sir Terry Pratchett. The World Science Fiction Society set up a display of all the Worldcon program books and Hugo awards of years past.

Parties were sometimes official such as the SFWA suite hosting a meet-and-greet for those participating in the writer’s workshops. Others were meet-ups of special-interest clubs or fan groups. Worldcon offers opportunities to network with professionals and star authors walking the hallways along with the rest of us.

Each morning, a Stroll with the Stars was organized to meet by the Spokane riverfront. About 100 people went on a leisurely walk and talk. All around me, I heard fans casually come alongside authors to ask questions and engage in dialogue. The guest of honor David Gerrold complimented my costume and gave me a hug!

I should say something about the wildfires because they were a concern. After years of drought, this is the worst fire season I can remember. Some flights and trains were delayed and some roads were closed because of fires. Each day, the skies over Spokane got smokier and smokier until it took on an eerie post-apocalyptic look. The sun appeared as a ruby jewel through the brown haze, and on Friday afternoon the whole city had the odor of a backyard barbecue. Signs taped on the doors of the convention center warned those with respiratory problems not to go outside. Musician guest Tom Smith, a humorous songwriter, performed a filk calling it “Smoke-ane” and the name stuck.

The Masquerade

The highlight event of Friday night was the masquerade show and costume competition held in the INB Performing Arts Center. The master of ceremonies was Kevin Roche and the director was Sharon Sbarsky. Until now, I had only participated in the smaller-size conventions in my local area and never one of this scale. I was not sure if I would be worthy of it, but my friend (the knitted Klingon) encouraged me and joined in herself. I read the guidelines on the website and decided to take the plunge.

About 45 entrants (roughly 60 people) entered the competition. They used the International Costumers’ Guild Fairness Guidelines Division
System of novice, journeyman, or master. Anyone was permitted to compete at a more difficult level if they chose. The judging looked at both workmanship and stage presentation.

Although my experience with professional costume competitions is limited, I chose to compete in the journeyman class because I had an insanely spectacular idea! I had already made a Wonder Woman costume for a local convention in my area. Now, I wanted to kick it up a notch and do a live on-stage spin change from Diana Prince in the navy uniform. Am I nuts? Possibly. It took me about two months of thinking and planning, constructing the tear-away costume with Velcro in the seams, and rehearsing the performance.

The organizers provided a checklist sheet and assigned each of us a rehearsal time. I had a chance to walk the stage the day before, and the tech crew adjusted the lights for my costume both in the bright colors of Wonder Woman and the subdued colors of the navy uniform. Backstage, there was a professional photographer to take portraits of each entry. With such a large pool of entrants, it helped to organize them into small groups under the watchful eye of a “den mother” so that everyone made it to the stage on time.

What impressed me, and humbled me, was the creativity and quality of the other entrants. Among them I saw the Weeping Angels from “Doctor Who”, a rainbow jellyfish, a steampunk time traveler, a group calling themselves the Victorian Justice League, a giant black widow spider, Chiana from “Farscape”, a 10-foot Groot, and a Klingon uniform made entirely of knitting. I’m honored to have won a ribbon for workmanship among this group of talented artists.

Again, the word community comes to mind. Backstage there was not a sense of competitiveness or jealousy even though it was technically a high stakes competition. To win a ribbon at Worldcon means you are not an amateur anymore. Yet, loitering around the green room’s buffet table of cheese, crackers and veggie sticks, we admired each other’s workmanship up close. When each group was called to go on stage, we called out war-whoops to cheer them on their way. A video screen was set up to watch the show, and we applauded backstage for each one of the acts. “You looked great,” and “You were fantastic,” kept echoing throughout the night.

Here is the official list of winners:

**Young Fan**

Best Comic: *Ms. Marvel*, Sashti Ramadorai
Best Media: *Arya Stark*, Alexis Davis
Best Young Fan: *Emma Swan*, Melinda Kilbourne

**Novice**

**Workmanship**

Honorable mention: *Red*, Megan
Best Use of Traditional Materials: *San from Princess Mononoke*, Casandra Friend
Best use of recycled materials: *Immortan Joama*, Claire Stromberg
Best exhibit of woodworking magic – *League of Legends Ashe and Lux*, Rachelle Henning, Tori Wheeler
Best accessory: *Fauntal*, Ashlee
Judge’s Choice, Tanglwyst: *Octopus Dress*, Desiree Gould
Judge’s Choice, Michelle: *Don’t Blink*, Paulina Crownhart, Julia Buragino
Best in class: WE ARE GROOT, Jason Giddings
Rising Star (novice): WE ARE GROOT, Jason Giddings

**Presentation**

Honorable Mention: *Don’t Blink*, Paulina Crownhart, Julia Buragino
Dead Ringer Award: *The Captain*, Robert Mitchell
Best (Novice) Recreation: *Immortan Joama*, Claire Stromberg
Best Novice: WE ARE GROOT, Jason Giddings. Jason will receive a free membership to Costume-Con 36, San Diego, 2018
Journeyman

Workmanship
Honorable mention: Luigi, Bevan Rogers
Honorable mention transformation: Diana Prince/Wonder Woman, Denise Tanaka
Best use of materials that hate you: Theia the Tabbybrook Mage, Natalie Rogers
Worst Infection of the Beading Disease (Tie): Victorian Justice League, Barbara Hoffert, Mark Ezell, Ellie Ezell, Ann Ezell, Zachary Brant, Kathryn Brant; and Doctor Who: Time Lords, Carol Hamill, Forrest Nelson
Best Patterning and Fitting: Marian Keiffer, 7 of Eowyn (Debi)
Best Journeyman: Blood Dragon Lord, Lesli Jones
Rising Star (Journeyman): Blood Dragon Lord, Lesli Jones

Presentation
Best Recreation: Doctor Who: Time Lords, Carol Hamill, Forrest Nelson
Most Beautiful (Journeyman): Marian Keiffer, 7 of Eowyn (Debi)
Best Journeyman: Blood Dragon Lord, Lesli Jones

Master

Workmanship
Best Use of Shower Accessories: Rainbow Jellyfish, Orchid Cavett
Best use of a sweater patterns: Knit Klingon Warrior, Shael Hawman
Best dye job: Senator Padmé Amidala, Torrey Stenmark
Go big or go home award: Princess Marshmallow, Lance Ikegawa
Best use of light refraction: Dreams of a Rainbow, Susan Torgerson, Chris Corbitt (prop)

Most skill sets in a single bound: Professor R. Miles Levell Gentleman Time Traveler, Richard Miles
Rising stars (Master): Knit Klingon Warrior, Shael Hawman; Rainbow Jellyfish, Orchid Cavett

Presentation
Honorable Mentions: Rainbow Jellyfish, Orchid Cavett; Senator Padmé Amidala, Torrey Stenmark
Best Critter: Roll for Initiative, Jonnalyhn Wolfcat, Melissa Quinn, Alita Quinn, Anita Taylor
Most Beautiful: Princess Marshmallow, Lance Ikegawa
Best Master: Professor R. Miles Levell Gentleman Time Traveler, Richard Miles

Best in Show

Workmanship: Roll for Initiative, Jonnalyhn Wolfcat, Melissa Quinn, Alita Quinn, Anita Taylor
Presentation: Victorian Justice League, Barbara Hoffert, Mark Ezell, Ellie Ezell, Ann Ezell, Zachary Brant, Kathryn Brant

The Hugo Awards
What is the Hugo award? First presented in 1953, it is given each year by the World Science Fiction Society at a ceremony during Worldcon. The selection takes place in two stages. Nomination is in the hands of anyone who held a supporting/attending membership in a previous or current Worldcon. Ballot voting is open to the members of the current Worldcon only, and members choose between the finalists in each category. Each year, the award’s base has a unique design chosen by a competition of artists. This year, Matthew Dockery’s design was selected as the base for the 2015 Hugo Award trophy.

On the night of the awards ceremony, there was limited seating in the Performing Arts theater and the line started forming hours ahead of time. People camped out in the hallways for the chance to get a seat. The
alternative was a cafe area dubbed Guinan’s Place that had a large screen with live video feed. I watched from there instead of the theater, as it was more comfortable and accessible. Another option was to view the broadcast on Ustream.net or streaming on the Hugo Awards website.

Before the show there was an hour of the “Radio Free Skaro” podcast hosted by Stephen Schapansky and Warren Frey discussing the controversy over some of the nominees leading up to this year’s awards. George R.R. Martin and John Scalzi sitting side by side offered their observations. John Scalzi said that because it’s not a judged award, it’s a fan vote, the Hugo is a gift from the community and tonight the community will have its say. George R.R. Martin said that the internet has magnified and distorted what could have been a healthy debate about the nominating process. Ann Leckie (nominated for Ancillary Sword) said that when you look at the Hugo as only a marketing tool, the means by which you pursue the prize risks damaging the very thing you desire to hold. (The podcast can be found at http://www.radiofreeskaro.com/2015/08/23/radio-free-skaro-490-smoke-on-the-water/)

The show opened with a gigantic grim reaper strolling onto the stage. A few women in classic Star Trek red miniskirt uniforms came out and fought it off with phasers. Our co-host Tananarive Due was one of them! David Gerrold started us off with a motto, “We love our science fiction fantasy community and we are going to have a party tonight!”

The author Robert Silverberg, called “Rabbi Silverberg” by David Gerrold, came up and spoke about a Worldcon in 1968 in Berkeley during all the protests over the Vietnam War when the police were hurling tear gas that sometimes leaked into that convention center. Then he led the Sasquan audience in a subdued yet inspiring rendition of the “Hari Krishna, Hari Krishna” song. He even had a tambourine.

The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund (TAFF) delegate Nina Horvath, from Austria, did a great job of presenting a couple of the early awards. She charmed the crowd with her delightful presence. At one point, David Gerrold was making side jokes to break her composure, and she got a big laugh by saying, “Now let’s get back to the topic.”

Hugo award winning author Connie Willis gave a humorous speech and handed special “medal of honor” ribbons to the co-hosts. And just like at the Oscar awards, they had a segment called In Memoriam which was a rolling slide show of names. David Gerrold choked up saying there were too many friends on that list.

Despite the entertaining elements of the show, such as Wesley Chu dropping to his knees to be crowned with a tiara for accepting the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer, an air of tension hung over the audience because of the controversy over this year’s ballot. One of the voting options in each category was “No Award” – basically, none of the above. We all braced ourselves.

The first time it happened was for Best Related Work. The envelope was opened and the result was announced, “The voters have decided that No Award should be given in this category.” There were cheers mixed with howling boos and overall a hush of shock. Then came Best Editor short form, Best Editor long form, Best Short Story, up to Best Novella at the end. David Gerrold holding a stack of envelopes at the podium said, “It’s like juggling hand grenades up here.” All in all, five categories took No Award which is kind of a sweeps. The last time No Award was presented at the Hugos was in 1977. The blogs and the Twitter-verse exploded with opinions before the night was out. In all, 5,950 valid final ballots were cast by the members of Sasquan which is a record participation. (Video of the Hugo Awards can be found at http://www.ustream.tv/hugo-awards)

Hugos awarded this year are:

**Best Novel:** “The Three Body Problem”, Cixin Liu, Ken Liu translator (Tor Books)

**Best Novelette:** “The Day the World Turned Upside Down”, Thomas Olde Heuvelt, Lia Belt translator (Lightspeed, 04-2014)

**Best Graphic Story:** “Ms. Marvel Volume 1: No Normal”, written by G. Willow Wilson, illustrated by Adrian Alphona and Jake Wyatt, (Marvel Comics)
Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form: “Guardians of the Galaxy”, written by James Gunn and Nicole Perlman, directed by James Gunn (Marvel Studios, Moving Picture Company)

Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form: “Orphan Black:” “By Means Which Have Never Yet Been Tried”, written by Graham Manson, directed by John Fawcett (Temple Street Productions, Space/BBC America)

Best Professional Artist: Julie Dillon


Best Fanzine: “Journey Planet”, edited by James Bacon, Christopher J Garcia, Colin Harris, Alissa McKersie, and Helen J. Montgomery

Best Fancast: “Galactic Suburbia Podcast”, Alisa Krasnostein, Alexandra Pierce, Tansy Rayner Roberts (Presenters) and Andrew Finch (Producer)

Best Fan Writer: Laura J. Mixon

Best Fan Artist: Elizabeth Leggett

John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer: Award for the best new professional science fiction or fantasy writer of 2012 or 2013, sponsored by Dell Magazines (not a Hugo Award): Wesley Chu

There is some talk of modifying the Hugo awards rules to minimize the disruption of small groups or individuals with an agenda. There is some lamenting that deserving nominees did not get a fair chance because of the taint of controversy, but the community did indeed have its say. I’m left with reflecting on the long history of Worldcon and Hugo awards of years gone by. I’ve come to the conclusion that even the worse of controversies will eventually pass. As Robert Silverberg said in a deep fatherly voice, after leading the crowd in song, “It’s all going to be OK.”

(official photos by Olav Rokne of Worldcon, the Hugo Awards ceremony, and the Masquerade are on the Flickr page https://www.flickr.com/photos/135602186@N03/)
Here is a look at the upcoming movies, television shows and special events for 2016.

Movies

“The Forest” – A horror movie set in the forest around Mt. Fuji. (January 8)
“Synchronicity” – A scientist played by Michael Ironsides invents a time machine and fears people might try to steal the technology. (January 22)
“Monster Hunt” – Chinese film featuring a villager pregnant with a monster baby on the run with an aspiring monster hunter from both humans and monsters. (January 22)
“The 5th Wave” – Movie based on the young adult novel about a young woman who must protect her brother from the fifth wave of alien invasion. (January 22)
“Lazer Team” – A group of friends must save the world after being linked to a battle suit on board a UFO. (January 29)
“Kung Fu Panda 3” – The martial arts master must continue training a new group while discovering his father. (January 29)
“Pride and Prejudice and Zombies” – The Jane Austen/zombie mashup novel gets the big screen treatment. (February 5)
“Southbound” – Five interlocking stories of terror on a stretch of deserted highway. (February 5)
“Deadpool” – Marvel’s Merc with a Mouth makes his onscreen debut. (February 12)
“Zoolander 2” – Derek and Hansel return for more modeling mayhem. (February 12).
“The Witch” – A 1630s New England family deals with black magic and possession. (February 19)
“Gods of Egypt” – A thief and a god join forces on a quest through Egypt. (February 26)
“Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon: Sword of Destiny” – Michelle Yeoh returns in the sequel to the popular movie. (February 26)
“Zootopia” – A rookie cop bunny and fox con artist work together to uncover a conspiracy in this Disney animated movie. (March 4)
“10 Cloverfield Lane” – A woman wakes up in the basement of a man’s house to find a world destroyed by a chemical attack in this movie related to “Cloverfield.” (March 11)
“The Brothers Grimsby” – A top spy must team up with his hooligan soccer brother on a mission in this comedy. (March 11)
“The Other Side of the Door” – A woman tries to bring back her dead son to say goodbye but upsets the balance between life and death in this horror movie. (March 11)
“The Divergent Series – Allegiant” – The first part of the final movie featuring Tris Speaker and Four as they explore the area outside of the city they have lived in. (March 18)
“The Little Prince” – The animated adaptation of the popular book. (March 18)
“Midnight Special” – A boy develops special powers and his father takes him on the run to protect him. (March 18)
“Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice” – The long awaited cinematic meetup of the
Caped Crusader and The Last Son of Krypton. (March 25)

“The Disappointments Room” – A mother and her son release horrors from the attic room of their rural home. (March 25)

“Amityville: The Awakening” – A single mother moves her family into the horror house. (April 1)

“Rings” – Samara returns in the third installment of “The Ring” series. (April 1)

“Before I Wake” – Horror movie about an adopted boy whose nightmares physically manifest. (April 1)

“Hardcore Henry” – A resurrected cyborg must save his wife from a tyrant with telekinetic powers. (April 1)

“The Jungle Book” – Live action adaptation of the classic Disney animated movie (April 15)

“The Huntsman: Winter’s War” – The sequel to “Snow White and the Huntsman” finds the title character fighting against two evil queens set to take over the land. (April 22)

“Ratchet and Clank” – The title characters fight to stop an alien from destroying the galaxy in this movie based on the popular video game series. (April 29)

“Captain America: Civil War” – Steve Rodgers and Tony Stark come to blows about their philosophies. (May 6)

“The Darkness” – A supernatural force follows home a family from the Grand Canyon. (May 13)

“The Angry Birds Movie” – The popular casual game gets its own movie. (May 20)

“Alice Through the Looking Glass” – Alice returns to Wonderland to save the Mad Hatter. (May 27)

“X-Men: Apocalypse” – The X-Men must defeat their most deadly foe with the help of new team members. (May 27)

“Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows” – The turtles return do deal with the new threat of Krang, Bebop and Rocksteady. (June 3)

“The Conjuring 2” – A couple moves in with a family to help them against malicious spirits. (June 7)

“Now You See Me 2” – The magicians return to clear their name when forced to pull off a heist by a tech magnate. (June 10)

“Warcraft” – The live-action adaptation of the popular “World of Warcraft” games. (June 10)

“Finding Dory”- The Pixar sequel to “Finding Nemo.” (June 17)

“Independence Day: Resurgence” – The aliens from the first film return as the governments of Earth use the alien technology to fight against them. (June 24)

“The BFG” – Steven Spielberg directs the adaptation of the popular Roald Dahl book about a girl befriending a giant. (July 1)

“The Legend of Tarzan” – Tarzan returns to the jungle after living in London to investigate the activities of a mining company. (July 1)

“The Purge 3” – The next installment in the series about an annual night where all crime is legal and emergency services are suspended. (July 1)

“The Secret Lives of Pets” – Animated movie about what our furry friend do when their owners aren’t watching. (July 8)

“Ghostbusters” – Remake of the classic horror comedy featuring a stellar comedic cast. (July 15)

“Ice Age: Collision Course” – The latest movie following the adventures of Manny and his pals in prehistoric times. (July 22)

“Lights Out” – A woman is haunted by a creature that only appears when the lights go out. (July 22)

“Star Trek Beyond” – The crew of the USS Enterprise struggle to stop aliens who strand the Starfleet officers on a planet. (July 22)

“The Space Between Us” – A young man who grows up on Mars returns to Earth to find his father. (July 29)

“Jason Bourne” – Matt Damon returns as the superspy Jason Bourne. (July 29)

“Nine Lives” – A business man finds he is stuck in the body of the family cat. (August 5)
“Suicide Squad” – Supervillains are recruited on a suicide mission to save the world. (August 5)
“Pete’s Dragon” – Remake of the classic Disney film about a boy who befriends a dragon. (August 12)
“Sausage Party” – Animated movie about the quest of a sausage to find out about his existence. (August 12)
“Spectral” – A special forces police unit deals with supernatural threats to New York City. (August 12)
“Kubo and the Two Strings” – A boy must find magical samurai armor worn by his legendary father to defeat monsters threatening his village. (August 19)
“Patient Zero” – A man with the ability to speak the language of infected people after a global epidemic must lead a group of survivors to the carrier of the disease and a possible cure. (September 1)
“Solace” – A psychic helps the FBI track down a serial killer. (September 1)
“A Cure for Wellness” – A supernatural horror film directed by Gore Verbinski. (September 23)
“Storks” – A stork working at a delivery company accidently creates a baby from a machine and has to deliver it before his boss realizes his mistake. (September 23)
“Delirium” – A former mental patient inherits a house he believes is haunted. (September 27)
“Gambit” – Channing Tatum stars in the movie about the popular X-Man from the Cajun Bayou. (October 7)
“A Monster Calls” – A boy seeks the help of a tree monster to cure his mother. (October 14)
“Underworld 5” – Kate Beckinsale returns for the next movie featuring the vampire/lycian war. (October 14)
“Ouija 2” – Sequel to the 2014 horror film. (October 21)
“Doctor Strange” – Benedict Cumberbatch plays the Sorcerer Supreme in his first movie. (November 4)
“Trolls” – A giant ruins the fun of the little creatures with the big hair. (November 4)
“Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” – Wizard Newt Scamander travels to the wizarding community of New York to write a book set in the “Harry Potter” movie universe. (November 18)
“Moana” – Animated movie about a Polynesian girl navigates to a fabled island with the help of her hero, the god Maui. (November 23)
“Rogue One: A Star Wars Story” – The adventure of a group of people who steal the plans to the original Death Star. (December 16)
“Assassin’s Creed” – The popular game series gets the big screen treatment with Michael Fassbender in the role of Enzio. (December 28)
“Passengers” – Two people in cryogenic sleep awake 60 years early on a colony spaceship headed to another planet. (December 28)
“Sing” – An animated movie about a singing competition created by a koala bear to save his theater. (December 28)
“Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children” – A boy finds a strange ruined school where unusual orphans were taught in this film directed by Tim Burton based on the novel of the same name. (December 28)

**Television**

“Arrow” – The second half of the fourth season starts on January 20 on the CW Network.
“The Flash” – The Scarlett Speedster resumes his second season on January 19 on the CW Network.
“IZombie” – Our favorite morgue worker/zombie returns to solve more crimes on January 12 on the CW Network.
“DC’s Legends of Tomorrow” – Time traveler Rip Hunter leads a group of superheroes and supervillains to take out Vandal Savage in this new show premiering on January 21.
“Supernatural” – The Winchester Brothers return to fight demons on January 20 on the CW Network.
“The 100” – Season 3 of the post-apocalyptic drama premiers on January 21 on the CW Network.
“The Vampire Diaries” – The vampires return to the CW Network on January 29.
“Supergirl” – The Last Daughter of Krypton returns to action on January 4 on CBS.
“Elementary” – Sherlock Holmes and Joan Watson resume investigations on CBS on January 7.
“Galavant” – The second season of the medieval musical premieres on ABC on January 3.
“Marvel’s Agent Carter” – Season 2 finds Peggy Carter and company in Los Angeles starting on January 19.
“Marvel’s Agents of SHIELD” – Agent Coulson and SHIELD return to action on March 8.
“The Muppets” – Kermit, Piggy and company resume their behind-the-scenes “scripted reality” show on February 2.
“Once Upon A Time” – The residents of Storybrooke return on March 6 on ABC.
“Battlebots” – The robot fighting series returns in May or June on ABC.
“Lucifer” – The new show about the Devil abandoning Hell to live in LA based on the comic series premiers on FOX on January 25.
“The X-Files” – The follow-up miniseries premiers on FOX on January 24.
“Gotham” – The exploits of a young Bruce Wayne and Gotham City returns on February 29.
“Blindspot” – The tattooed woman who is the key to solving crimes returns on February 29 on NBC.
“Grimm” – The fairy tale cops return to duty on February 12 on NBC.
“You, Me and the Apocalypse” – The comedy series about the end of the world debuts on NBC on January 28.
“Second Chance” – The new show about a dead sheriff brought back to life in a younger body premiers on FOX on January 13.
“Doctor Who” – There will be Christmas Special in 2016.
“Orphan Black” – Season 4 of the clone series will premiere on BBC America in April.
“Game of Thrones” – Season 6 premiers on April 24 on HBO.
“Penny Dreadful” – The famous characters of classic horror novels return for the third season on May 1 on Showtime.
“Salem” – The WGN show about the witches in Massachusetts begins production on season 3 on January 21.
“Black Sails” – The “Treasure Island” sequel series will premiere on January 23.
“Ash vs. Evil Dead” – The sequel series to the popular movie series has been renewed for season 2 to air in 2016 on Starz.
“American Horror Story” – Season 6 is in production for an airing in 2016.
“The Librarians” – The show has been renewed for season 3 for 2016.
“Daredevil” – The Netflix series about the Man without Fear premiers season 2 on March 18.
“Jessica Jones” – The Netflix series about the superpowered detective has been renewed for season 2.
“Vikings” – The History Channel series will premiere season 4 on February 18.
“Samurai Jack” – Cartoon Network announced that a new series will air in 2016.
“Star Wars Rebels” – The Disney XD show has been renewed for season 3.
“Fairly OddParents” – Season 10 will premiere on Nickelodeon on January 15.
“The Walking Dead” – The second half of season 6 premiers on February 14 on AMC.
“Fear the Walking Dead” – The second season premiers on April 10 on AMC.
“Z Nation” – The Syfy zombie series will air season 3 in 2016.
“12 Monkeys” – The time-travel series based on the movie will premiere season 2 on April 18 on Syfy.
“Dark Matter” – The amnesic space traveler series will air season 2 in 2016 on Syfy.
“Red Dwarf XI” – The British sci-fi drama will have season 11 air on the UK channel Dave in 2016.
“Killjoys” – The space bounty hunter series was renewed for a second season in 2016 on Syfy.

“The Expanse” – The UN space series was renewed for a second season for 2017 on Syfy.

“The Magicians” – The Syfy series was renewed for season 2 for 2017.

“Wynonna Earp” – The descendant of the famous lawman who fights demons for the US Marshalls premieres on Syfy on April 1.

“Hunters” – A FBI agent stumbles upon a secret government organization that fights terrorists who might be aliens. Premieres April 11 on Syfy.

**Conventions and Entertainments**

Silicon Valley Comic-Con- The Bay Area’s newest convention will be on March 18-20 at the San Jose Convention Center.

PEERS The Doctor Dances: 1912 – A ball with The Doctor(s) on the Titanic will held on April 2 at the Alameda Elks Club.

PEERS Captain America’s Star-Spangled Ball: 1944 – A USO style show and ball featuring the famous hero will be held on June 4 at the Alameda Elks Club.

**Star Trek 50th Anniversary**

The biggest science-fiction show first hit the airwaves of NBC in 1966. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the original “Star Trek” series and its other related properties, there are a huge number of events this year besides the “Star Trek Beyond” movie. San Diego Comic-Con will unveil a “Star Trek: 50 Years, 50 Artists” exhibit including one by Leonard Nimoy that will travel to other locations.

There will be a series of “Trek Talks” similar to the TED Talks held at various locations.

There will be a “Starfleet Academy Experience” at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum in Ottawa during the month of May and at Intrepid Sear, Air & Space in New York during June.

There will be a 100 city tour of “Star Trek: The Ultimate Tour,” an orchestral concert featuring music from across the franchise with accompanying video.

The United States Post Office will release a set of four stamps featuring artwork with famous symbols of the show.

The most exciting news is the creation of a new “Star Trek” television show that will premiering in 2017 as the anchor show for a CBS streaming service.
BASFA Meeting 1309

August 31, 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 lots of puns
29 people attended
The minutes of meeting 1308 were accepted as ‘*’ [asterisk]
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $0.80 in the regular jar & took in $1.33 in the Sasquan meeting
The Vice President said ‘Yike!’ and pointed out that his predecessor was in the room
The President congratulated the Hugo winners & welcomed our TAFF delegate who said ‘hi’ - as well as greeting Brett & Troy who were new to BASFA

Announcements
Tom announced that his project on Susan Wood is online at www.fanac.com/zine/susan-wood.project

Beth announced that Katlyn will be active in theatre & that she finished her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction last Saturday
Chris O announced that she was done with her chemo
Chris announced that he had had twins & announced that Sept 17 he’ll present a wearable computer talk at the next Pechacacha &
Ric followed that you’ll have to pay $5 to see it and the SJ Museum of Modern Art it’s being held at
Lynn announced that she was nominated for a Pegasus award
Ric announced that Fanboy Planet podcast 410 is now available
JC announced that the kitchen is finally done & announced that
a Nerdvana Podcast will be available on Wednesday
[evil] Kevin announced that the Bay Area Gay Rodeo will be at
the Russian River Rodeo grounds & that the Russian River Jazz
fest will also be held - all in Guernville on Sept 12-13 & announced
that Convolution is coming up the 1st weekend in October &
they’ll hold a pre-support party on Friday there for Worldcon SJ in
2018 & he’ll MC the Masquerade on Saturday; Dave G followed
that there’ll be another pre-support in New Orleans at Contraflow
Ken announced that there’ll be a mini-Maker’s fair on Sunday
from 10-6pm at History Park, SJ
Brad announced the Giant’s game score
Lisa got a Hero’s Medal at Sasquan

Reviews
Worldcon was reviewed multiple times as pretty darned good
I wanted to reviewed ‘Final Fantasy VII’ for the iPad 2 as an
excellent port of the game, but there was no time
We did auctions
We adjourned at 9.48
And the rumor of the week was: ‘Having Tolkien books will get
you laid’

BASFA Meeting 1310

September 7, 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
Brenna Silbory, acting minute taker

Began 8pm
23 people attended
The minutes of meeting 1309 were accepted as “Penguins like
cold cash.”
Congratulatory new-humans gift for the Garcias described.
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $24.75 in the
regular jar & $23.10 in the TAFF jar and $0 in the party jar. The
balance is $129.91.
Hellos to new guest Chris.

Announcements
John O. announced that his photos as an official photographer at
Sasquan are available online at facebook.com/johalloran/
photos_albums and flickr.com/photos/JohnO/albums
Josh announced he’s opening a new Tikki bar in the coming
months and is working under a Michelin star chef at BFD
(Bradley’s Fine Diner) in Menlo Park and a hotdog stand is forthcoming.

Glenn reminded everybody that September 19 is International Talk Like a Pirate Day, which is a Saturday and thus a loss to workplaces everywhere.

Ric announced Episode 411 of Fanboy Planet, “Everything’s Better With Murray.” It covers Marvel Studios, Walking Dead, Ghostbusters, and other things. Also, Episode 412 about Force Friday. Also, on Sept. 17th, the Pecha Kucha will present on surveillance in everyday life, $5 at the San Jose Museum of Art.

Lisa has asterisks available from WorldCon. People should go to Convolution.

Carole took 15 pieces of art to Sasquan and came back with 4. Chris O. is feeling better, and with Wadaiko Newark is performing at Newark Dave’s on September 19 at 11:45 or 12.

Gerald Nordley announced Carol Severance, author of “Reefsong,” passed away in February. Also, at Sasquan Gerald had a line for autographs and his dwarf planets presentation was well-attended.

Dave C. announced Yvonne Craig died, she was in “Mars Needs Women,” “Batman,” other things.

Reviews

Glenn enjoyed “Barsk: The Elephants’ Graveyard” by Lawrence Schoen. Also, he was on the Hugo base design committee and dispelled an asterisk rumor. He took a phone call from space from astronaut Dr. Kjell Lindgren. He received a statute for former WorldCon service at the Chesley Awards for art. He enjoyed a 3700-mile road trip.

Carole had fun at Sasquan and her programming went well. She had a great road trip too except for forest fires. She recommends the Warhawk Air Museum in Idaho for military research; it includes women.

Ric thought “Antman” still held up on his second viewing. “The Man From U.N.C.L.E.” is a worthy successor to the TV show although a cerebral character became thuggish. Inside Out was emotional especially for parents, great explanation of human behavior. D23 is a Disney fan organization with a beautiful magazine and is like Comicon for Disney etc.; long lines, get a 2-day ticket and see “World of Color.” “Blunt Talk” has Patrick Stewart in a comedic role, is like the movie “Network.” The latest Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles movie is the closest to the comics and early TV series. “Force Friday” went well and lines weren’t bad.

John O. loved a recent Weird Al Yankovic show at the Masonic in SF. BASFA people danced.

Dave C. reviewed “Owl and the Japanese Circus” by Kristi Charish as “urban Indiana Jones” involving a dragon and vampire hitmen. Fun and worth full price. “Fantastic Four” is problematic on multiple levels and the best part was the actors reminded him of other actors. “The Mutants” pioneer punk band gave a great show, worth full price.

Bill’s birthday party at Sasquan went well. Marsell’s bakery was great.

Brenna enjoyed Karen Joy Fowler’s “We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves” and recommends keeping a box of tissue nearby. Kim Stanley Robinson’s new book “Aurora” is one of her favorite books ever.

We did auctions.

We adjourned at 9:57.

The rumor of the week was: “The Secretary will disavow any knowledge of your intentions.”
BASFA Meeting 1311

September 14, 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 arm wiggles
28 people attended
we established a [redacted] jar
The minutes of meeting 1310 were accepted as ‘thank you Brenna’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $1.75 in the regular jar & took in $14.84 in the [redacted] jar
The Vice President asked questions and did stuff
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Sports Committee has a question out to the SJ Earthquakes that has yet to be answered

Announcements
Lisa announced that Convolution is coming up and mentioned fire rumors
JC announced more fire rumors & announced that Milpitas High will play at Levi Stadium, so go support them and ogle the stadium & announced that Nerdvana Podcast is still experiencing Windows 10 problems

Spike announced that PreReg for Convolution closes soon
Beth announced that her Donors Choose project fully funded & announced that Katlyn will be active in Opera SJ’s ‘Marriage of Figaro’ in mid-November
Steve [deWinter] announced that his book [’A Tale of Two Cities with Dragons’] is out and a copy is in the BASFA auction
Ken announced that the Cartoon Art Museum has closed

Reviews
Bill reviewed driving in the Rocky Mountains West as ‘smoky’ and that they met fans while driving around and had a nice time
Diane reviewed a book of short stories, ‘Pangaea’ as wonderful
Adrienne reviewed ‘Man from UNCLE’ as okay
Brad reviewed ‘Fear the Walking Dead’ as okay
Mo reviewed PAX Prime & Sasquan as good times, good people, good food and she had a wonderful time
We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:30pm
And the rumor of the week was: ‘More mirrors, less smoke’

BASFA Meeting 1312

September 21, 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 talk of moth vomit
31 people attended
a party jar was established
The minutes of meeting 1311 were accepted as ‘zero percent contained’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $7.50 in the regular jar & took in $27.25 in the [redacted] jar
The Vice President gave a birthday card to Chuck & said there were cassettes on the back table for free-zies or donation
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Sports Committee still has a question out to the SJ Earthquakes that has yet to be answered

Announcements
Ken announced that the new Muppets show starts tomorrow & announced that this Friday is the monthly Legion of Rasselon meeting at 7:30 at the IHOP on Steven’s Creek & the 280 [evil] Kevin announced that Convolution is coming up and that the Barbarella party is a ‘go’
JC announced that it’s the 40th anniversary of a rather awful, locally produced movie, ‘The Milpitas Monster’ and the Great Mall will have a showing of it at 7pm, Oct 30 for $10
John O announced that there is a new fire in the Carmel Valley
Bill announced that TwitchCon is in SF this weekend
Josh announced that there is a Tiki Tuesday at the SJ South bar with new tiki drinks & announced that DC will acknowledge Phil Fingers contribution to Batman
Mo announced that she’s a panelist at Convolution & will be Fan GoH at Windycon

Adrienne announced that Bay Area Ghosthunters now have more than 1500 members & announced that her folks’ place is going on the market
Lisa announced that Convolution is still looking for staff
Dave C announced that he has a SMOF relic with him & it is going up for BASFA auction

Reviews
Brad reviewed the book-on-tape version of ‘Lord of the Rings’ as highly recommended & reviewed current events as controversial
Gail reviewed Hawaii-con as very good and interesting, especially the panels on Hawaiian culture & commented that the dealer’s room was a bit questionable
John O reviewed ‘The Martian’ by Andy Weir as a quick read & really, really good & said it will soon be a movie
Dave C reviewed the Fathom event of ‘Dr Who’ as lightly attended and not worth full price, Adrienne followed, saying she & Lisa also went and she also thought it was only okay & not worth full price
JC reviewed Levi stadium as a great stadium
Old Harold reviewed ‘The Enchanted Forest Chronicle’ by Patricia Wrede, bought at BASFA auction as excellent

We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:16 pm
And the rumor of the week was: ‘We may have a fan, but it doesn’t mean we’re cool’
BASFA Meeting 1313

September 28, 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 hope springing eternal
16 people attended
It was moved and passed to rename the meeting ‘Mockingbird Lane’
The minutes of meeting 1312 were accepted as ‘where is everybody?’
The Treasurer was absent and there was no report
The Vice President had nothing fannish to report
The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements
Ken announced [redacted]
Andy & Lisa both announced that Convolution is coming up
Lisa also announced that Convolution’s schedule has been posted to their website
Dave C announced that this weekend is also the Alternative Press Expo at the SJ Convention center
[evil] Kevin announced that Tiki Tuesday at the SJ South bar is actually tomorrow, the last Tuesday of the month

Reviews
Patty reviewed ‘Arwyn and the Dragon’ by Nancy McClaren as recommended and she’d read another book by the same author & she reviewed Twitchcon as worth full price & she had fun there - a very well done 1st con
Andy reviewed ‘Gotham’ as ‘well that happened’ and reviewed the new Muppets as there were some good parts and there were some awful parts & some terrible jokes & that most of the reviewers just didn’t ‘get’ the show & he reviewed the latest ‘Dr Who’ as it kind of held together & worth watching on BBC America - and Harold the Younger liked how the Doctor replaced the sonic screwdriver
Fred reviewed the SJ Bacon Festival as fun, the baconated foods were good - that there were lines, but it was mostly worth it
Gerry reviewed [redacted] & also reviewed the lunar eclipse as very clear and good, Lisa followed that it was cloudy in her area

We did auctions
We adjourned at 8:42 pm
And the rumor of the week was: ‘the rumor is redacted’
BASFA Meeting 1314

October 5, 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 8:04 pm with munching
34 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1313 were accepted as ‘a Convoluted gathering’

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $6.25 in the regular [and only] jar
The Vice President reported that there were cassettes on the back table for free-zies or donation
The President said ‘hi’ to Dave, a fan who found us via the Meet Up site
The Party Committee reported that there was a very successful party at Convolution & a good time was had by all - and that the next BASFA party will be held at PanCon, held over Hallowe’en weekend at the Doubletree

Announcements
Mo announced [redacted]

JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast is still experiencing Windows 10 problems and he is reloading Win 7 & he announced that Nerdvana Podcast had a good time at Convolution
Beth announced that Opera SJ’s ‘Marriage of Figaro’ will be Nov 14,15,16, 22,24,29 & that Katlyn will be in it - and also in ‘Young Frankenstein’ early next year
Dave C announced that it’s the 50th anniversary of the Lamplighters & they will parody Star Wars on Sunday, Nov 8 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts & Sunday, Nov 15 at the Hearst Theatre in SF
John O announced that there is a pulp culture con on Nov 21,22 at the SJ Convention center
Bob announced that he was the holographic Adrienne & to check the Bay Area Ghost Hunters site for the ghost hunting class

Reviews
Dave G reviewed Contraflow/Deep South Con, in New Orleans as it attracted a young crowd, they had a fun time & it was a worthwhile trip
Gerry reviewed the Andy Weir book ‘The Martian’ as there were a few minor science neeps but that mostly the author nailed it & that both book and movie were highly enjoyable and recommended; then Mo, Lisa & Patty followed and all agreed; John O liked it - as ‘competency porn’ ^_^, Aatheus agreed, as did JC & Chris O
Gayle reviewed ‘The Pirates of Penzance’ production at the Montgomery Theatre as highly recommended and enjoyable
John O reviewed ‘Ready Player One’ as a real good story & well worth full price, Beth agreed & Aatheus recommended the audio book version
Pat reviewed goofing around as fun & ‘Hotel Transylvania’ as funny, Bill agreed, although he regrets that it encourages Adam Sandler to make more movies & Carole thought it worth matinee

Then lots of people reviewed Convolution as a very fun convention & recommended - altho with a few issues with programming & lighting - but the parties were great

We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:32 pm
And the rumor of the week was: ‘Upgrade to Windows 7 now!’

BASFA Meeting 1315

October 12, 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, promptly
26 people attended
We established a party jar
<there was chatter>
The minutes of meeting 1314 were accepted as ‘Squirrel!’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $1.00 in the regular jar & $35.50 in the party jar
The Vice President reported that there were cassettes on the back table for free-zies or donation

The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements
Fred announced that Brad is working on his paper
Gerry announced that people [Wally and Robin] got married in Arizona
Carole announced that there will be a filk con in Ohio in 2 weeks
Katlyn announced that they got a new black kitty named T’Challa [which should be an on-going visual pun, of course]

Reviews
Alex reviewed the Bigfoot Discovery Museum as fun, entertaining & enjoyable
Lots of us reviewed the movie version of ‘The Martian’ and we all loved it, JC added that the book is just as good and that Nerdvana Podcast, ep 35, parts 1-2 interviews the author, Andy Weir
Bill reviewed the latest Charlie Stross Laundry book - ‘The Annihilation Score’ as in keeping with the series and he enjoyed it
Dave C reviewed ‘The Intern’ as an enjoyable, refreshing movie, worth full price
Andy reviewed the Gordon Biersch brewery in SJ’s October brewfest last week as well worth the tickets and full price, but that the fest beer goes away fast

We did auctions
We adjourned at 8:40 pm
And the rumor of the week was: ‘Rumors did not get a vote’
BASFA Meeting 1316

October 19, 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, promptly
20 people attended
We established a party basket
The minutes of meeting 1315 were accepted as ‘Squirrel’ ...de ja vu anyone?
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $1.75in the regular jar & $7.50 in the party jar which is at a positive balance.
The Vice President had nothing fannish to report.
The President was not physically present but we felt his disapproval.

Announcements
Adrienne sold her parents house. 10 day turnover $110K over the asking price.
Mo sends her regards from Seattle.
JC announced there’s a new Star Wars trailer. Ken followed on that tickets are now on sale.

Dave G. announced that the house of Spike he was relocated from didn’t work out for the owners son and is now for sale for $800,000.

Evil Kevin announced that he is the final speaker at “Livermore Reads” next year. The featured book is “I Robot” and he will be talking about robots.

Ken announced the Legion of Rassilon will be meeting this Friday at 7:30 at IHOP on Lawrence Expressway at Stevens Creek
Adrienne 2.0 announced that she invited her friends to “like” the San Jose in 2018 Facebook page and encouraged everyone to do the same. Lisa followed on that San Jose airport is now offering International direct flights

Reviews
JC reviewed the new Star Wars trailer as AWESOME!!!!
Gayle reviewed The Martian as she and Terry enjoyed it. She had not read the book. Jerry had very little complaints about the science which was rare. Adrienne also liked it.

Adrienne reviewed the remake of Poldark as she wants to see what the next season is like before she makes a final decision. She also finished binge watching Medium. It’s perfect for this time of year. Writing is gritty. Not recommended for small children.

Kevin reviewed events at the Santa Clara convention center during a 49er home game as “Don’t do it! Stay home!”

Dave Clark arrived with applause and reviewed The Fifth Heart by Dan Simmons. An author meets Sherlock Holmes and Holmes invites him to solve a mystery. Very involved and complex. Worth full price.

Steve DeWinter arrived late and put his new novel “A is for Apprentice” on the auction table. It will be released in November
but you can preorder it now. It will eventually be a series with all 26 letters.

We did auctions
We adjourned at 8:57
And the rumor of the week was: ‘Look! The Goodrich blimp!”
Minutes provided by Holographic Secretary 2.0, Beth Vallacqua

**BASFA Meeting 1317**

October 26, 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, promptly
20 people attended
We established a party basket.
The minutes of meeting 1316 were accepted as ‘Welcome to the future’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $0 in the regular jar & 6.32 in the party jar which is at a positive $44.15 balance.
The Vice President announced that his friend Curtis Chen will be releasing a novel next year called “Waypoint Kangaroo”

The President was not physically present but was disappointed anyway.
There will be a party at Paw Con this weekend at the Doubletree.
Sports committee announced there will be no group outing to the Earthquakes this year as their season is over but maybe next year.

**Announcements**

Dave Clark announced that he needs help writing new slug lines for the back of Cargo Cult catalogue.

John O announced that there will be a Halloween Burlesque show at the San Jose Improv tomorrow at 7:30 night. Jean Batt nationally awarded Drag King will be performing. Many of them are geek related.

Josh announced that 55 South on first street will be having a Halloween themed night with craft cocktails.

Chris O announced that Sir John Hurt will be a guest at Gallifrey next year.

Ken announced that Legion of Rassilon will be having another meeting this Friday at 7:30 pm at the IHOP on Stevens Creek near 280 and Lawrence.

**Reviews**

Aethus reviewed the Martian as full price Neil DeGrasse Tyson was right.

Josh followed on that the f-bombs were well placed
John O it is number one in the box office for the third week
JC followed on that Andy Weir announced that they are doing a scholastic version of the Martian to be released next year

Fred enjoyed it in a reclining seat with a Guinness at The mountain view century.
Brad followed on that after 65 years he finally found a movie to follow Destination Moon

Gayle is looking forward to a space movie where the women characters do not have perfect makeup at the end

Josh reviewed the South San Francisco Tiki crawl last weekend going from home to home drinking.

Sunday night he drove to LA for Disneyland and went to a few more Tiki bar. Disneyworld is piloting a bracelet system for Fast Passes using an app.

Chefs tasting menu at the Napa Rose in the Grand Californian Hotel

John O reviewed the first episode of American Horror Story Hotel it is gruesome and bloody but the overall feel is a cool creepy vibe. Lady Gaga and Kathy Bates are amazing.

He also reviewed “Up” on the big screen as really sweet.

Reviewed the “Gentlemen Jole and the Red Queen” by Lois McMaster Bujold as not an action adventure but a romance with science fiction elements. Won’t be out until February but preorders are available.

Brad reviewed The Walking Dead as an epic season so far. Highly recommended it.

Read the second volume of the Three Body Problem by Liu Cixin. He recommends it for hard science.

He went to the Alternate Futureism conference where he presented his paper on the first two volumes of the Three Body Problem. It was well received.

Dave Clark saw Crimson Peak. It is a traditional gothic story. Worth matinee.

Reviewed the TV show Blindspot as good.

Tom reviewed “Arabella of Mars” by David D. Levine. An interstellar steampunk YA romance coming out next year. He got to read a story ARC and it’s a lot of fun. Also, for those planning travel to Finland, saw the San Francisco symphony with conductor Mällke who is now with Helsinki. Worth trying to see if you are going there in the near future. Jukka Tiensuu an avant grade composer was exciting and enjoyable.

We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:30
And the rumor of the week was: “My secretary is full of squirrels.”

Minutes provided by Holographic Secretary 2.0, Beth Vallacqua.

### BASFA Meeting 1318

November 2, 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 talk of rain
26 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1317 were accepted as ‘marginal’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $3.50 in the regular jar & $3.75 in the party jar
The Vice President said ‘yeah’
The President said ‘hi’ to Rob & Val Campbell, long-time BASFAns who live in Sacramento & were visiting us - and also said ‘hi’ to Rich, a long-time sf fan, visiting BASFA for the 1st time.

Adrienne asked the sense of the meeting, if we wanted to do a gift exchange & reported that 300 were now signed up for the Meetup group.

**Announcements**

JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast is up once more & updating, with episode 41, part 2 now up and that his computer is finally fixed.

Dave G announced that Spike the cat passed away and will be sorely missed.

Adrienne announced that a new mundane con was coming up - CampbellCon will sell tickets for admission only online for $10 & announced that Mo will be the Fan GoH at Windycon 42 & announced that she is giving away left-over Hallowe’en candy.

Dave C announced that he saw a turkey wandering around, so it is now officially fall.

**Reviews**

Bill reviewed the Ohio Valley Filk Festival as it was worth full price, including travel.

Dave C reviewed ‘Broken Homes’ by Ben Aaronovitch, urban fantasy, as it could have been more tightly written, was still a good read and worth paperback.

Adrienne reviewed a spa trip as that taking it between Sunday and Thursday is a much better deal than going on the weekend, she & Mo had a great time & she recommends it & Mo agrees, then Adrienne reviewed ‘Supergirl’ and enjoyed it, while Mo thought it was cute.

[evil] Kevin reviewed going to a party in Las Vegas, saying that the hotel it as held in, the SLS Casino is a beautiful place, smoke free & worth full price; Andy reviewed all of its restaurants that they visited as excellent.

Dave G reviewed the new ‘Ashe vs the Evil Dead’ as fun and worth full price - Dave C agreed.

We did auctions.

We adjourned at 9:18 pm.

And the rumor of the week was: ‘Dave also doubles as decorative background’.

**BASFA Meeting 1319**

November 9, 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 food
30 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1318 were accepted as ‘Hail Sagan’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $71.50 in the regular jar & $0.75 in the party jar
The Vice President had nothing fannish to report
The President had nothing fannish to report
Announcements

JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast episode 42, part 2 will be up Wednesday
Beth announced that Opera SJ’s ‘Marriage of Figaro’ will be Nov 14,15,16, 22,24,29 at the California Theatre & that Katlyn will be in it - and also in ‘Young Frankenstein’ early next year
Dave C announced that Trey is the supervising sound editor for ‘Gotham’
Lisa announced that there will be a baycon this year, details TBA
Jon announced that he saw a sign saying that Dave C is sold on the streets & announced that Don Giovanni in Mountain View will hold a benefit for the Kiwanis club, a murder mystery dinner cafe and that he will be in the cast & announced that he saw a show called the Science Show that postulated that socializations causes beneficial brain chemical changes

Reviews
[evil] Kevin reviewed the worst possible episode of the ‘Tomorrow People’ ever as worse than the TV version of Flash Gordon
Dave C reviewed the 50th anniversary gala Lamplighters show as mostly enjoyed, but he wished it had been better and he may have been the youngest one there
Josh reviewed seeing ‘The Martian’ a second time as still a very good film and worth full price
Jon reviewed a Silicon Valley Storytellers meet-up as interesting & informative
The new local ‘Campbellcon’ was reviewed as being not well run, disorganized and lacking programming

Fred reviewed the new James Bond movie, ‘Spectre’ as disappointing, worth nowhere near full price, but does recommend the Chinese restaurant Fu Lam Mum; Adrienne commented that she enjoyed the opening for ‘Spectre’ and Mo says that the Daniel Craig Bond films were presented as a franchise reboot
I reviewed the new content for Star Wars the Old Republic MMO as very good, all things considered
Ken reviewed seeing the ‘official Blues Brothers’ at the Heritage theatre as fun

We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:13 pm
And the rumor of the week was: ‘Barbara’s minutes bring the boys to the yard’

BASFA Meeting 1320

November 16, 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
19 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1319 were accepted as ‘robust’
There was no Treasurer
The Vice President had nothing fannish to report
The President observed everyone seemed to have a cold & we said ‘hi’ to Armand, visiting us, having seen the Meet-up site

**Announcements**
JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast episode 43 goes up Wednesday & announced that he & Andy Weir went to the same high school
Gayle announced that an article by Gerry Nordley was published by the British Interplanetary Society
Dave C announced that Orycon is coming up this weekend
Lisa announced that Heroes and Villain con will be this weekend at the SJ convention center & it looks like a pay as you go con

**Reviews**
Fred reviewed the Tachyon Press 20th anniversary party in SF as very pleasant and they had nice cakes
JC reviewed the SJ opera’s ‘Marriage of Figaro’ as the theatre is beautiful & the production was good, worth full price & Ken agreed
Gayle reviewed ‘Magic Flute’ at the SF opera as she enjoyed it
Jon reviewed the audience for his dinner theatre performance as the seemed to be happy

We adjourned at 8:25 pm
And the rumor of the week was: ‘short and sweet’

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**BASFA Meeting 1321**

November 23, 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 - I swear to Cat!
23 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1319 were accepted as ‘scribble scabble’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in nothing in either jar
The Vice President reported that Boris Karloff & Dr Who had birthdays today
The President had nothing fannish to report - but we did say ‘hi’ to Amber D’Ann, visiting us for the first time

**Announcements**
Ken announced that this Friday is the monthly Legion of Rasselon meeting at 7:30 at the IHOP on Steven’s Creek & the 280 - and announced that he will be on KFJC this Thursday from 10am till 2pm
Andy announced that they will host a SJ in KC party on Friday and Saturday nights at Loscon
Adrienne announced that Bat Area Ghost Hunters will do a social at Gordon Bierch in SJ, 1pm, Saturday, Dec 12 and there will be door prizes

JC announced that a Nerdvana Podcast episode goes up Wednesday

Tom announced that there will be a Potlatch in SJ next year

Bradford announced that he completed his paper & announced that his other paper has been accepted by the ICFA

Beth announced that the last 2 performances of Opera SJ’s ‘Marriage of Figaro’ will be at 8pm Tuesday & at 3pm Sunday

Reviews

Gerry reviewed Orycon as great, but there was a 1 km walk between the light rail and the hotel; others variously reviewed Orycon as good, but Dave C did have problems with the Dealers Room

Tom reviewed ‘Gene Mapper’ by Taiyo Fujii, a cyberpunk thriller about rice, as enjoyable and a kick to read

Beth reviewed Heroes and Villain con as the best possible weekend ever, with lots of pictures and she thought it was amazing & well run, there were other comments about how good it was - but it needed more seating

John O reviewed the ‘Hunger Games’ premiere as grim & dark - a good movie that stayed true to the book

Adrienne reviewed Windycon as very pleasant & Mo was fan GoH - all in all a good con

We did auctions

We adjourned at 9:10 pm

And the rumor of the week was: ‘I hope it is a pun, because otherwise it’s creepy’

BASFA Meeting 1322

November 30, 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 8:05 pm with movie talk

17 people attended

We established a party jar

The minutes of meeting 1321 were accepted as ‘where’d everybody go?’

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $6.75 in the regular jar & $4.50 in the party jar

The Vice President had nothing fannish to report

The President had nothing fannish to report, either - but commented that the secretary wanted pie

Pie!

The Sports Committee is investigating group ticket sales

Announcements

Dave G announced that Peter Jackson will be directing an episode of Dr Who, Ken followed, saying that the Dr Who Xmas special will be called ‘The Husbands of River Song’

Randy announced that various people were born this day

Valerie announced that a con, Whedonopolis, will be in LA May 13, 2016 & that tickets are on sale now online at 15% less - plus
she announced that Baycon has a time & place - 4 days over the Memorial day weekend at the San Mateo Marriott
  Chris O announced that there will be taiko drumming at the New Park Mall in Newark
  Ric announced that a new Fanboy Planet podcast is out - ‘The Dark Side is Delicious’

Reviews
  Fred reviewed Loscon as the panels were great, but con communication was poor & the restaurant was not good at all;
  Valerie followed that she had a good time
  Ric reviewed the latest Dr Who episode as amazingly good & he recommended a comic - the relaunch of Dr Strange
  Debbie reviewed the Gail Carriger ‘Finishing School’ series as she strongly recommends all of them

We did auctions
  We adjourned at 9:03 pm
  And the rumor of the week was: ‘Pie for everyone’

BASFA Meeting 1323

December 7, 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 signs of the times
25 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1322 were accepted as ‘circumference over diameter’
The Treasurer was absent & there was no report
The Vice President warned he won’t be here next week
The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements
  Jon announced that he will be in the cast of a dinner theatre at Angelica’s Restaurant, Dec 13, 7-ish, in Redwood City
  Adrienne announced that next year’s SMOFcon will be in Chicago & announced that [tall] Kevin was contacted by the producers of Orphan Black so they could use a Hugo award in an episode
  Dave C announced that there has been a DVD release of ‘Manimal’ & ‘Automan’
  Ken announced that all of last season of Dr Who will be released
  Gerry announced that Contact will be April 1-3, 2016, at the Domain hotel in Sunnyvale, check https://www.facebook.com/Contact-Conference-113833488778944/?fref=ts
  Tom announced that Potlatch has dates, the weekend of March 19
  Bradford announced that his paper was officially accepted
  Andy announced that there is a con this weekend - ‘GX3 - everyone games’ at the SJ Marriott
Reviews

SMOFcon was reviewed as a very fun con, altho Dave C did not do well in the statistics seminar
Mo reviewed ‘Trollhunters’ by Guillermo del Toro as good, enjoyable YA fiction and a fast read
JC reviewed NBC’s ‘The Wiz’ as the first, GOOD, live TV show done in a long time & reviewed an ‘Escape Room’ visit as well put together and enjoyable, then reviewed a game called ‘Telestrations’ as fun
Loscon was reviewed a lot as some good panels, some less so, a lowish attendance, no science programming, hotel remodeling making the place worse, but excellent parties
Alex reviewed ‘Marvel’s Jennifer Jones’ on Netflix as really good & Andy commented it was good but dark, dark with a side of dark
Tom reviewed a Tiptree symposium as the letters read were interesting and it was totally worth full price
Brad reviewed Robinson’s ‘Aurora’ as it impressed him
Jon reviewed a free admission day at the SF Exploratorium as worth visiting

We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:37 pm
And the rumor of the week was: ‘Never forget where your pie comes from’

BASFA Meeting 1324

December 14, 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 an order for ice cream
21 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1323 were accepted as ‘my rumor was better’
The Treasurer reported that at meeting 1322 we took in $2.25 in the regular jar & $17.00 in the party jar; then at meeting 1323 we took in $8.50 in the regular jar & $3.00 in the party jar
The Vice President was not here
The President reported that he & I won’t be here next week
The Sports Committee reported that group ticket sales for the 1st Friday in May Giants game [May 6], vs the Colorado Rockies is $28 - is there interest?

Announcements

Adrienne announced ‘Am I the only one?’, then announced that NASA is accepting astronaut applications & announced that Baycon will be at the Dunfey hotel next year & announced that her meetup group will have a mini-golf outing on Jan 2, so join them
Howeird announced that in a moment of irony the founder of Northface passed away in Chile, Patagonia [which as a label is his company’s competition]

Valerie announced that she has a book out: ‘SF/Fantasy Book of Baby Names’

**Reviews**

JC reviewed Portland as the transportation is good there, their hotel was nice & the trip was worth full price

Mo reviewed a new film, ‘Ricki and the Flash’ as she recommends it for your Netflix queue

Adrienne reviewed the TV adaptation of Dick’s ‘Man in the High Castle’ as recommended, but the ending was weak

Dave C reviewed ‘The Diamond Conspiracy’ by Pip Ballantine & Tee Morris as worth paperback

Howeird reviewed the Lovelace exhibit at the SJ Computer History Museum as very well done & that his group had fun with the art, he recommends taking a smart kid with you to the museum for maximum fun & the outing was worth full price

Carole reviewed Loscon as worth it to chat with old chums and she hopes to go again next year

Brad reviewed the latest ‘Hunger Games’ movie as a bit of a letdown

Trey reviewed ‘The Wolverine’ seen on blue ray as mostly a disappointment

We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:02 pm
And the rumor of the week was: ‘Now Beth can hang out with her peeps in the hood’

**BASFA Meeting 1325**

December 21, 2015

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

held at Round Table 1220 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale
Began 8 pm with utter confusion
26 people attended
All Star Wars: The Force Awakens reviews are moved to after adjournment.

We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1324 were accepted as ‘where to now?’

The Vice President announced that he will be doing a Norman Bates Memorial Show on KFJC on Boxing Day from 9-12

The Sports Committee reported that group tickets have been acquired for May 6 section 317 cost is $28 against the Colorado Rockies

New Business:
Coco’s closed unexpectedly on Wednesday prompting a scramble for tonight’s location. Thank you Ken for securing this location.

**Criteria for new location**
Separate meeting room
Open later than 9
Suggestions
Hickory Pit (closes at 9)
Harry’s Hoffbrau
Campbell Brewing Company
Round Table- this one
Cafe Stritch
IHOP on Great America
IHOP on Stevens Creek
Three Flames
Holders
Denny’s
Giovanny’s
Omega
Old Spaghetti Factory
Flames
Patxi pizza in Pruneyard
Elephant Bar
Meetings at Round Table through MLK
JC will arrange January 25 meeting to be held at Omega

Announcements
JC announced that after life changes 6 years ago Beth will be adopting Dara on January 11.
Adrienne announced Bay Area Ghost Hunters golf Jan 2 in Concord inside so bring on the rain
Carole announced “Fuck Cancer”

Brad finally acquired House of Secrets #10 completing his run

John O announced a friend successfully treated cancer. Fathom Events December 28 & 29 Doctor Who Jan 5 & 6 Sherlock Jan 14 Riff Trax Starship Troopers

Ken announced the next Legion of Rassilon meeting will be this Friday, yes December 25, at 7:00. The new Christmas episode will be shown. This month instead of a raffle, there will be a gift exchange. You will get a ticket for each wrapped gift you bring.

Reviews
Diane reviewed Dark Easter by Dario Ciriello. Great writing. 400 pages worth of action in 250.
Gayle reviewed today’s space launch of 11 satellites. Booster landed safely on Earth.
Dave Clark reviewed Disneyland 60th anniversary fireworks from the parking garage. Could hear and feel them. So loud car alarms went off. Also reviewed the podcast Read it and Weep which rivals Nerdvana for his affection. It reviews horribly good books.
John O reviewed So You Think You Can Dance live show. Tour is great. Top 10 plus some extras. Did all the best dances from the season. Civic center theater looks good but traffic was really bad. Worth full price.
Jerry reviewed Star Wars Holiday Special as “it still sucks”
Adrienne went on a weekend spa trip to the Claremont. People were well dressed. Gorgeous views. Preferred the spa at The Peppermill. Pricy but recommended as a treat.

We adjourned at 9:41 pm
And the rumor of the week was: ‘When Marina left, she took Coco’s with her’
Minutes compiled by Holographic Secretary 2.0, Beth Vallacqua.

**BASFA Meeting 1326**

December 28, 2015

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

held at the RT Pizza place near Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began 8 pm with signs of the season  
23 people attended  
The minutes of meeting 1325 were accepted as ‘she says she hasn’t got them’  
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $5.25 in the regular jar & $12.25 in the party jar  
The Vice President had nothing fannish to report  
The President had nothing fannish to report - but does have a kidney stone  
The Sports Committee reported that he has group tickets for $28 for the 1st Friday in May Giants game [May 6], vs the Colorado Rockies; he is also checking into tickets for the Barracudas and Ken is checking into tickets for the SJ Giants  
Ken became Chair of the Site Selection committee to find us a new meeting site officially. We meet at the RT Pizza place next to the defunct Coco’s thru Jan 18; then Jan 25 we try Omega’s

**Announcements**

Gerry Nordley announced that his new book of short stories is out on Amazon.com - ‘Prelude to Stars’ & announced that Space X will do a launch from Vandenberg on Jan 17  
Lisa announced that today is Harold’s birthday [and we cheered]  
Ken announced that he has a scheme  
[evil] Kevin announced that there will be a SJ in 2018 Baycon party room

**Reviews**

‘The Force Awakens’ was reviewed and was agreed to be really, really good

We did auctions  
We adjourned at 9:28 pm  
And the rumor of the week was: ‘It will take 2 more movies for us to learn that Rey is the love child of Obiwan and Yoda’

**BASFA Meeting 1327**

January 4, 2016

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

held at the RT Pizza place near Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Gerry Nordley announced that his new book of short stories is out on Amazon.com - ‘Prelude to Stars’ & announced that Space X will do a launch from Vandenberg on Jan 17  
Lisa announced that today is Harold’s birthday [and we cheered]  
Ken announced that he has a scheme  
[evil] Kevin announced that there will be a SJ in 2018 Baycon party room

‘The Force Awakens’ was reviewed and was agreed to be really, really good

We did auctions  
We adjourned at 9:28 pm  
And the rumor of the week was: ‘It will take 2 more movies for us to learn that Rey is the love child of Obiwan and Yoda’
Began 8 pm - thinking about my dream garage
28 people attended
We established a party basket
The minutes of meeting 1326 were accepted as ‘those notes are so 2015’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $10.75
The Vice President had nothing fannish to report
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Site Selection committee is looking for new meeting sites.
We meet at the RT Pizza place next to the defunct Coco’s thru Jan 18; then Jan 25 we try Omega’s
The Sports Committee reported that he has tickets for $28 for the 1st Friday in May Giants game [May 6], vs the Colorado Rockies in section 317
The Party Committee reports that the next BASFA party will be Jan 16, Saturday at FurCon & Aatheus formally welcomed Josh to the Party Committee as his 2nd

Announcements
Josh announced that Impact Theatre in Berkeley is closing, after 20 years & they are closing with ‘Comedy of Errors’ with a Looney Tunes slant & the finale will be a showing of ‘Plan 9 from Outer Space’
Dave C announced that Fathom Events will show ‘Sherlock’ 5-6 Jan on big screens and Rifftracks live on Jan 14, doing ‘Starship Troopers’ at the Valco AMC, among others
Gayle announced that Candy’s husband Ron fell and broke his leg & couldn’t be here this week
Beth announced that Katlyn will be in ‘Young Frankenstein’, Jan 14-15, 6pm at SC HS & on Jan 16 at 2pm & 6pm
Adrienne announced that Bay Area Ghost Hunters will have a meet & greet on Jan 30 at Fior d’Italia in SF

Reviews
‘The Force Awakens’ was reviewed and still really, really good
Diane reviewed Lawrence Schoen’s book ‘Barsk’ as very nice and worth reading
Adrienne reviewed a mini-golf place that had a ghost theme, out in Concord, as she had fun there at a meet-up
Beth reviewed a spa = Motif Spa, massage & foot at 4980 Cherry Ave, SJ, 408-267-8860 and for @20 got a 1-hour massage & it was wonderfully worth full price plus a 50% tip
Brad reviewed Baxter’s ‘Proxima’ & ‘Ultima’ as both very good reads & he commented he’d been at some sites the ‘Force Awakens’ was filmed at
Dave C reviewed seeing fun shows at the Punchline & reviewed ‘the Big Short’ as a historical document, light-hearted dystopian finance and worth full price, Brad agreed
Ashley reviewed food poisoning in LV as terrible, but Cirque de Soleil Beatles was gorgeous & worth so much, recommended

We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:05 pm
And the rumor of the week was: ‘George RR Martin produced the Beatles - Adrienne said so!’
BASFA Meeting 1328

January 11, 2016

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

held at the RT Pizza place near Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began at 8 pm with a baby shower and pink cigars
27 people attended
We established a party basket
The minutes of meeting 1327 were accepted as ‘approved by the thin white duke’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $0.25 in the regular jar and $4.00 in the party jar for a total of $107.45
The Vice President congratulated Beth on her adoption of Dara.
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Site Selection committee is looking for new meeting sites. We meet at the RT Pizza place next to the defunct Coco’s thru Jan 18; then Jan 25 we try Omega’s. February 8 meeting will be held at Black Bear Diner at 174 W Calaveras in Milpitas. February 22nd meeting will be held at Lyons 4233 Moorpark Ave San Jose near Saratoga and 280.
The Sports Committee reported that he has tickets for $28 for the 1st Friday in May Giants game [May 6], vs the Colorado Rockies in section 317

The Party Committee reports that the next BASFA party will be Jan 16, Saturday at FurCon 50’s
Dave C made a motion to repurpose the Party Jar to the Preggo Jar for our waitress.

Announcements

Chris Garcia made a surprise appearance Journey Planet will have a table at Silicon Valley Comic Con March 18-20. He can use any kind of books.
Beth announced that Katlyn will be in ‘Young Frankenstein’, Jan 14-15, 6pm at SC HS & on Jan 16 at 2pm & 6pm
JC thanked everyone for the awesome acknowledgement of the adoption of Dara and surprised Beth with a mothers ring with the birthstones of both girls
Andy announced San Jose in 2018 will be at Further Confusion this weekend.
Kevin announced that the Evil Geniuses will be having an Evil Genius party at Gallifrey One.
They will also have a SJ in 2018 suite at BayCon.
John O announced that he will be having bariatric surgery on Jan. 19. Burlesque troupe Feb 23 at San Jose improv.
Brad announced his book has been added to a reference encyclopedia.
Gayle has gall bladder surgery this morning and is doing well.
Jerry announced Adam Driver will be hosting Saturday Night Live this week.

Reviews

Terry reviewed John Sanford and Ctein’s Saturn Run as a John Clancy type space book with no scientific errors. A good fast read.
Aethuus signed up for Crashplan a data storage for $12/month. Good value. Worth full price. Went on a road trip through British Columbia as its cold, eh.

Kevin reviewed “The Muppets” as getting better and more like the ones from long ago.

Lisa read “Barsk” and enjoyed it. She liked the Jewish jokes. Also read “before the awakening” Finn, Rey and Poe before the movie. Good YA that explains where they came from and explains actions in the movie.

Ken reviewed The Force Awakens as it’s still good after the third time. JC followed on that it’s just as good the fourth.

Eric reviewed the San Jose Barracuda game as great but he got hit during the PuckAChuck by weak armed people. Recommended going as tickets are cheaper than the Sharks.

John O read the final Girl Genius. If you like the comics and graphic novel you will like the book.

Eric agreed and mentioned that they were also available on bookbub and recommended subscribing it the service.

We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:44pm

And the rumor of the week was: ‘The SPCA has a Martian spider up for adoption.’

Minutes provided by Holographic Secretary 2.0, Beth Vallacqua.

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**BASFA Meeting 1329**

January 18, 2016

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

held at the RT Pizza place near Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began 8 pm - with talk of toxic sludge
21 people attended
We established a redacted jar
The minutes of meeting 1328 were taken by Beth & read in stereo, then accepted as ‘blankety blank’

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $0.25 in the regular jar & $44.25 in the redacted jar
The Vice President had nothing fannish to report
The President had nothing fannish to report
The Site Selection committee is looking for new meeting sites.
Jan 25 we meet at Omega’s = 90 South Park Victoria Drive, Milpitas, California 95035 [Park Victoria Center];
Feb 1 back at this Round Table 1220 Oakmead Parkway;
Feb 8 at Black Bear Diner = 174 W. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas, CA 94035;
Feb 15 back at this Round Table, 1220 Oakmead Parkway;
Feb 22 at Lyons, 4233 Moorpark Ave, San Jose, CA 95129;
then March 2 at the Round Table again, 1220 Oakmead Parkway
The Sports Committee reported that he has tickets for $28 for the 1st Friday in May Giants game [May 6], vs the Colorado Rockies in section 317.

**Announcements**

Ken announced that this Friday is the Legion of Rasselon meeting at the IHoP on Stevens Creek & Lawrence, 7pm
Gayle announced that Contact will be April 1-3 at the Domain Hotel in Sunnyvale & she has flyers
Chuck announced that Nerdvana Podcast has a fundraiser on Indy Gogo with a goal of $2500, with benes for donations

**Reviews**

Lisa reviewed Chris Hatfield’s Youtube articles on ‘music in space’ as very interesting
Dave C reviewed DC & Marvel destroying their universes as his weekly cost in comics has been drastically reduced
Ken reviewed ‘Young Frankenstein the Musical’ as a high school production whose director gave poor pacing, but a fun show & recommended

We did auctions
We adjourned at 9 pm
And the rumor of the week was: ‘BASFA’s new motto is that we are the knights of the Round Table’

**BASFA Meeting 1330**

January 25, 2016

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

FEB 1 WILL BE AT: the RT Pizza place near Coco’s, 1220 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began 8 pm - TRYING OUT OMEGA’S DINER
30 people attended
We established a party jar
It was very loud here, with people yelling about basketball on the other side of a partition
The minutes of meeting 1329 were accepted as ‘alpha of Omega’

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $4.00 in the regular jar & $15.25 in the redacted jar
The Vice President had nothing fannish to report
The President had nothing fannish to report, but welcomed back Robert Sallade after a several years absence
The Sports Committee reported that he still has tickets for the 1st Friday in May Giants game [May 6], vs the Colorado Rockies in section 317 at a price of $28
The Site Selection committee is looking for new meeting sites.
Feb 1 = back at the Round Table 1220 Oakmead Parkway;
Feb 8 at Black Bear Diner = 174 W. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas, CA 94035;
Feb 15 back at the Round Table, 1220 Oakmead Parkway;  
Feb 22 at Lyons, 4233 Moorpark Ave, San Jose, CA 95129;  
Feb 29 at the Round Table again, 1220 Oakmead Parkway

Announcements
Dave C announced that there is an art exhibit of ‘My Hero - Contemporary Art & Superhero Action’ will be at the Bedford Gallery at Lesher Center for the Arts through March 20 & announced that next week begins the Hugo Nomination process, after regular meetings and that it will also cover nominations for the Retro Hugos of 1940
Bill announced that he & Carole will attend a convention
JC announced that hotel reservations are open, but tricky to book at MidAmeriCon & announced that Nerdvana
Podcast has an IndieGoGo fundraiser
Adrienne announced that Hugo nomination forms are out
Chris O announced that John O had his surgery and he is improving
Fred announced that light rail will be messed up during Superbowl week
Ken announced that Stephen Moffit has stepped down from ‘Dr Who’

Reviews
Dave C reviewed ‘Spectre’ as it had a poor premise, reviewed ‘Ride Along 2’ as being more pleasant to view & reviewed the TV series ‘Angie Tribeka’ as enjoyable
Adrienne reviewed her visit to North Dakota as nice, with lots of snow [too much snow], but she & Mo agreed that being in snow makes one appreciate heat more
Fred reviewed reading a newspaper as informative

Bill reviewed their visit to Georgia as interesting & Carole opined that the Georgia Puppet Museum is worth seeing
JC reviewed the ‘X Files’ premiere as establishing the mood of the series & interesting, but Mo thought the pacing was frantic

We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:18 pm
And the rumor of the week was: ‘Do you think that Moffit looks tired?’

BASFA Meeting 1331 - at the Round Table pizza place

February 1, 2016
Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, Vice President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary
Began 8 pm - with comments about ‘up trailer and down trailer’
28 people attended

We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1330 were accepted as ‘handed to the president’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $12.00 in the regular jar & $4.05 in the party jar
The Vice President reported that she’ll be coming in
The President had nothing fannish to report, and then we presented the redacted [gift certificate] to the waitress. The Sports Committee reported that he still has tickets for the 1st Friday in May Giants game [May 6], vs the Colorado Rockies in section 317 at a price of $28 - AND that the SJ Giants will have their Star Wars night on Saturday, May 14, mentioning that we can have the Martinelli Plaza for $49 each, if 15 buy in .. and this includes food, 2 alcoholic beverages & programs.

The Site Selection committee is looking for new meeting sites. Omega got very mixed reviews.

Feb 8 at Black Bear Diner = 174 W. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas, CA 94035;
Feb 15 back at the Round Table, 1220 Oakmead Parkway;
Feb 22 at Lyons, 4233 Moorpark Ave, San Jose, CA 95129;
Feb 29 at the Round Table again, 1220 Oakmead Parkway;
March 7 at the Old Spaghetti Factory

The Hugo Recommendation Committee reported that a preliminary list has been compiled & that those interested can wait and nominate more after the regular meeting.

Announcements
[evil] Kevin announced that he will be at Livermore Reads with Thinbot on Feb 27 at the Livermore PL
Valerie announced that she has written a pastiche about the ‘Force Awakens’, mashed with Jane Austen, called ‘Nonsensibility’

Reviews
Carole reviewed Conflict as it seemed quiet to her, but enjoyable & she reviewed Alaskan airlines as better than most.
Mo reviewed ‘Gallivant’ as very funny & recommended; Howeird agreed and added that it was written well.

Dave C reviewed ‘Lucifer’ as ‘he’s the devil, she’s a cop - together they fight crime’ & Mo commented that so far it seems fun.
Adrienne reviewed a Bay Area Ghost Hunter’s meet-up in SF at the San Remo hotel as the hotel’s Italian restaurant was pleasant.
Mike reviewed the Numu in Los Gatos, Rick Guidice NASA paintings as worth seeing & recommended.

We did auctions
We adjourned at 9:02 pm
And the rumor of the week was: ‘We who are about to SMOF salute you’

BASFA Meeting 1332 - at the Black Bear Diner

February 8, 2016

Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, Vice President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary
Began 8 pm - with many small noisy creatures in the room
28 people attended

We established a party jar
Then a motion failed
The minutes of meeting 1331 were accepted as ‘still commuting from Superbowl city’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $10.00 in the regular jar & $1.00 in the party jar & he gave the Party Committee money

The Vice President had nothing fannish to report.
The President had nothing fannish to report, and then we said hi to several folks visiting us for the first time - Melanie, who is a long-time fan; Nathan who is a longtime reader of sf & Brandon who found us because of the Meet-up site.
The Site Selection committee is looking for new meeting sites.
Omega got very mixed reviews.
Feb 8 at Black Bear Diner = 174 W. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas, CA 94035;
Feb 15 back at the Round Table, 1220 Oakmead Parkway;
Feb 22 at Lyons, 4233 Moorpark Ave, San Jose, CA 95129;
Feb 29 at the Round Table again, 1220 Oakmead Parkway
March 7 at the Old Spaghetti Factory
March 14 at the Round Table again, 1220 Oakmead Parkway
The Party Committee reported that the next BASFA party will be at Babscon [Apr 22-24], at the Hyatt Regency SFO in Burlingame on Apr 23.
The Hugo Recommendation Committee reported that they will be doing retro Hugo nominations after the regular meeting tonight.
The Sports Committee reported that he still has tickets for the 1st Friday in May Giants game [May 6], vs the Colorado Rockies in section 317 at a price of $28 - PLUS that Ken is working on getting tickets for the SJ Giants Star Wars night on Saturday, 5pm, May 14, saying that we can have the Martinelli Plaza for $49 each, if 15 buy in .. and this includes food, 2 alcoholic beverages & programs

**Announcements**

John announced that the next free admission day for the SF Exploratorium is on March 14.
Bob announced that he is moving to his first place of his own in 20 years and will be in Hayward & thus closer to us.
John O announced that Consonance will be March 4-6 at the Crown Plaza [880 & the 237], $60 for the weekend if preregistering - check for details at consonance.org.
Chuck announced that Nerdvana Podcast is still doing its fundraiser on Indy Gogo with a goal of $2500, so give the site a look.
Dave C announced that Brian Kesinger has a site and to go look at it = www.rickey.org and search for ‘Calvin’ & he announced that Gallifrey One is at the LA Marriott this weekend.
Fred announced that FogCon is March 11-13 in Walnut Creek & announced that Potlatch is March 19 at the SJ public library & is free - and there is a writer’s workshop there too.

**Reviews**

I reviewed the trout served at the diner as the best trout I have encountered in years & worth buying at least twice
Ric reviewed the TV ‘Shannara’ adaptation as ‘really it’s been kind of decent’ with good fx and he mildly recommends it
Alex reviewed ‘Hail Caesar’ as very good, solid and recommended
Gerry reviewed the Space X assembly facility as free, worth full price and very interesting, Gayle followed and agreed
Bob reviewed the free SF ‘Superbowl city’ experience as not worth full price because there was not much to see but lines and temporary buildings, he had a bear-battered sausage 

['sausage
tempura?’ Melanie suggested] & Bob really didn’t enjoy himself, even if the beer was flowing ‘if you consider that Lite is beer’
Carole reviewed the ‘East Meets West’ exhibit at the Asian Arts Museum as very good
Ken reviewed getting out of the Bay Area this last weekend was worth full price
Dave C reviewed ‘Realityland’ by David Koenig as true-life adventures in building Disneyland as interesting

We did auctions
We adjourned at 8:55 pm
And the rumor of the week was: ‘BASFA recommends the Sha-na-na Chronicles’

BASFA Meeting 1333 - at Round Table

February 15, 2016

Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, Vice President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary
Began 8 pm - with all the cool kids
17 people attended

We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1332 were accepted as ‘Beer, bear, whatever’
The Treasurer was not available

The Vice President had nothing fannish to report, but we welcomed new member Adam.
The President was not in attendance
The Site Selection committee is looking for new meeting sites.
Josh recommended Faz, the restaurant he recently began working at. Black Bear was reviewed as good food but menu may be limited.

Feb 22 at Lyons, 4233 Moorpark Ave, San Jose, CA 95129;
Feb 29 at the Round Table again, 1220 Oakmead Parkway
March 7 at the Old Spaghetti Factory
March 14 at Black Bear diner 174 W. Calaveras Ave Milpitas
March 21 Faz 181 East Tasman
March 28 Black Bear Diner
The Party Committee reported that the next BASFA party will be at Babscon [Apr 22-24], at the Hyatt Regency SFO in Burlingame on Apr 23
The Hugo Recommendation Committee reported that they will be doing Hugo nominations after the regular meeting tonight
The Sports Committee reported that Ken sent in the contract for the SJ Giants Star Wars night on Saturday, 5pm, May 14, saying that we can have the Martinelli Plaza for $49 each, if 15 buy in .. and this includes food, 2 alcoholic beverages & programs

Announcements
Chuck announced that Nerdvana Podcast is still doing its fundraiser on Indy Gogo with a goal of $2500, so give the site a look

Reviews
JC reviewed ‘Deadpool’ as romantic love story. Ranks pretty high as far as Marvel movies go. Fun movie. Humor is nonstop.
Worth full price. Beth followed on that There is a full frontal nude fight scene!

Bill reviewed Anne Leckie’s ‘Ancillary Trilogy’ as worth full price. Follow ons agree that it is excellent.

Also reviewed Faz as interesting combinations, servers and chef took care of them. Ken followed on that the food was not what he usually gets but was pleased.

Jonathan reviewed soy lentil drink as interesting. ‘Mad max fury road’ as not sure what to think. ‘show me the hero’ a six episode miniseries as fun. Haunted house opened for valentines weekend 500 people visited. Came from an debate at SJSU on Israeli/ Palestine issues as surprised that people acted like adults.

Mo and Adrienne watched ‘Last Witch Hunter’. Not recommended at all! she also said Gallifrey was amazing. Was impressed with John Hurt who read dialogue from past doctors. Got a photo with Nichelle Nichols. Got to meet the guy who played Michelangelo in the Teenage Mutants Ninja Turtles movie. Adrienne followed on, she spent the first two days sleeping off a fever.

No auctions due to Hugo business

We adjourned at 9:05 pm
And the rumor of the week was ‘There will be rumors’
Beth Vallacqua, emergency minute-taker

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**BASFA Meeting 1334 - at Lyon’s**

February 22, 2016

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

FEB 29 WILL BE AT: the RT Pizza place near Coco’s, 1220 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began 8:03 pm - with hope
29 people attended
We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1333 were accepted as ‘brought so Chuck could read ‘em’

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in nothing in the regular jar & $3.00 in the party jar, while at meeting 1332 we took in $0.25 in the regular jar & $2.25 in the party jar

The Vice President had nothing fannish to report, but said he & Geri will not be here on the 29th, because it is their anniversary

The President had nothing fannish to report, but said ‘hi’ to new people visiting us - Mark over here and Chris over there

The Party Committee reported that the next BASFA party will be at BabsCon on April 23, at the Hyatt Regency SFO in Burlingame

The Sports Committee reported that he still has tickets for the 1st Friday in May Giants game [May 6], vs the Colorado Rockies in section 317 at a price of $28. PLUS Ken has tickets for the Saturday, 5pm, May 14, SJ
Giants Star Wars night game in the Martinelli Plaza for $49 each & needs a minimum of 15 to buy in [we’re currently at 10] .. and this includes food, 2 alcoholic beverages & programs

The Site Selection committee is looking for new meeting sites. Our next meetings will be at:

- Feb 29 at the Round Table again = 1220 Oakmead Parkway
- March 7 at the Old Spaghetti Factory = 51 N San Pedro St, San Jose
- March 14 at Black Bear Diner = 174 W. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas
- March 21 at Faz = 181 E Tasman Dr, San Jose, [where Josh works]
- March 28 at Black Bear Diner = 174 W. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas

The Hugo Nomination Committee reminded us that [tall] Kevin will next be at BASFA in 2 weeks

**Announcements**

JC announced that the Nerdvana Podcast IndieGoGo fundraiser is in its final stretch & announced that he launched the website theoriginallightsaber.com

Valerie announced that ‘Adoring Outlander’ is out now, & also announced that her article ‘women in Deadpool’ has had 600 hits so far

Dave C announced that there will be nomination talk after the regular meeting & announced that today is National Margarita day

[evil] Kevin announced that he will be at Livermore Reads with Thinbot on Feb 27 at the Livermore Civic Center Public Library

Ken announced that this Friday at 7:30 is the Legion of Rasselon meeting at the IHoP on Steven’s Creek & the Lawrence Expressway & announced that the Retrodome is kind of back & will be doing sing-a-longs at the Camera 12, starting March 18 - check theretrodome.com for details

Ric announced that March 1 thru March 15 is the Cinequest Film Festival & check cinequest.org for details

Lisa announced that Consonance will be the first weekend in March at the Crown Plaza Silicon Valley in Milpitas

Gerry announced that he is working his way through ‘Raising Cane’ by Charles Gannon & is looking for others who have read it

**Reviews**

I reviewed the ‘Deadpool’ movie as lots of violent fun and not for the under 16 crowd [there were many follow-ons, pretty much agreeing] & then reviewed ‘The Big Short’ as extremely well done in explaining the subject - others agreed and recommended it

Ric reviewed the audio book of ‘The Martian’ as excellent & recommended, then reviewed Will Murray’s ‘Skull Island’ as good & reviewed ‘The Expanse’ as the best hard scifi on TV ever & reviewed ‘Legends of Tomorrow’ as very well done & recommended

Mo & Adrienne reviewed 4 Oscar nominated movies = ‘Bridge of Spies’ as very good, ‘The Big Short’ as excellent, ‘Mad Max, Fury Road’ as good, but having almost too much violence for Adrienne & ‘Room’ as uplifting [Mo] & kind of creepy [Adrienne]

John O reviewed ‘Zoolander 2’ as a triumph for the vapid, recommended at matinee prices, then reviewed ‘Pride, Prejudice and Zombies’ as thoroughly enjoyed & reviewed ‘Witches of Lichford’ by Paul Cornell as a fun romp

Dave C reviewed Gallifrey as he did well there
Kevin reviewed the Nevada caucus as interesting & his precinct had 30 attendees and was one of the larger ones & that he ended up as a delegate

We adjourned at 9:22 pm

And the rumor of the week was: ‘Ryan Reynolds has redeemed himself for the ‘Green Lantern’ movie’

BASFA Meeting 1336

February 29, 2016 - at Round Table

1220 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale
Trey Haddad, President
Ken Patterson, Vice President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary
Began 8:03 pm - with a shortage of officers
23 people attended

We established a party jar
The minutes of meeting 1335 were accepted
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $2.70 in the regular jar and $1.50 in the party jar which now has a balance of $47.36
The Vice President was not present because he was celebrating his anniversary with the missus
The President was not here and we missed him

The Sports Committee reported that he still has tickets for the 1st Friday in May Giants game [May 6], vs the Colorado Rockies in section 317 at a price of $28. PLUS Ken has tickets for the Saturday, 5pm, May 14, SJ Giants Star Wars night game in the Martinelli Plaza for $49 each & needs a minimum of 15 to buy in [we’re currently at 10] .. and this includes food, 2 alcoholic beverages & programs
The Site Selection committee is looking for new meeting sites. Our next meetings will be at:
- March 7 at the Old Spaghetti Factory = 51 N San Pedro St, San Jose
- March 14 at Black Bear Diner = 174 W. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas
- March 21 at Faz = 181 E Tasman Dr, San Jose, [where Josh works]
- March 28 at Black Bear Diner = 174 W. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas
The Hugo Nomination Committee reported that last week concluded Hugo nominations

Announcements
Dave C announced that Fogcon will be at the Walnut Creek Marriott March 11-13
Bill announced that Stat Trek: The Ultimate Voyage, a multimedia symphonic presentation will be at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts on March 30 for one night only. Tickets are $43-95 and available at ticketmaster.com
Bob Hole announced that March 19 is taxonomist appreciation day. Also Potlatch will be held that day at the Martin Luther King Library. Start time is 10 am and more information at potlatch-
Fred followed on that Book of Honor details can also be found on the website.

JC announced that Nerdvana is in its last days of their Indiegogo campaign for equipment.

Brad announced that his local comic store ‘Lee’s Comics’ in San Mateo has closed.

Gerry announced that he visited Karen Anderson and she is alive and doing well. Also, today is the last day for early bird registration for Contact which will be held April 1-3 at the Domain Hotel in Sunnyvale. More information at www.contact-conference.org

Lisa announced that Consonance will be held this weekend at the Silicon Valley Crown Plaza and memberships will be available at the door.

**Reviews**

JC reviewed the Oscars Nerdvana podcast as Chris Rock did a good job.

(New) Chris reviewed a classic – Nibelungenlied as still good but since it is translated not sure who wrote it. Wasn’t a knight but someone who knows about making clothes. Mo followed on that was possible written by a woman.

Bill reviewed San Francisco Bay Area Drone Film Festival as many short films, not much plot, worth the discount price. He also reviewed ‘Saturn Run’ by John Sandford and Ctein as worth the read. Gerry followed on that no laws of nature were harmed.

Dave C reviewed the San Jose Improv performance by Greg Proops as good and worth full price.

Brad reviewed the Walking Dead as part 2 of the season is possibly the best ever. Keeping with zombies, he reviewed ‘Pride & Prejudice & Zombies’ as he loved the first half but the second half contained too many formulaic apocalyptic battles.

Diane reviewed ‘Benti’ by Nnedi Okorafor as well worth it, good character development and she would be surprised if the novella was not expanded to a full novel.

We adjourned at 8:56 pm

And the rumor of the week was: ‘make BASFA rumors great again’

Minutes taken by Holographic Secretary 2.0, Beth Vallacqua

**BASFA Meeting 1336 - at the Old Spaghetti Factory**

March 7, 2016

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

MARCH 14 WILL BE AT: the Black Bear Diner = 174 W. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas

Began 8-ish pm - with Cthonian bellows of the birthday song
22 people attended
So .. very .. loud
The minutes of meeting 1335 were accepted as ‘what?’
The Treasurer reported that last week we took in $7.53 in the regular jar & $1.50 in the party jar.
The Vice President had nothing fannish to report, but mentioned some mooshy romantic stuff.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

The Sports Committee reported that there are 8 tickets remaining for the Giants/Rockies game on Friday, May 6, in the view reserve [section 317] at a price of $28. PLUS Ken has tickets for the Saturday, 5pm, May 14, SJ Giants Star Wars night game in the Martinelli Plaza for $49 each & needs a minimum of 15 to buy in [we’re currently at 10] .. and this includes food, 2 alcoholic beverages & programs.

The Site Selection committee is looking for new meeting sites. Our next meetings will be at:

March 14 at Black Bear Diner = 174 W. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas
March 21 at Faz = 181 E Tasman Dr, San Jose, [where Josh works]
March 28 at Black Bear Diner = 174 W. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas

Announcements

Adrienne announced that there is a Meet Up ‘Meet & Greet’ scheduled for April 2, 5pm at Trial’s Pub on 1st Street, SJ.

John announced that the Santa Clara Players have a production, ‘Picasso at the Lapin Agile’ running every weekend in March.

Reviews

Bill reviewed Consonance, held last weekend as it drew about 110 attendees, was a small but very good little convention, full of great music & a good time was had by all, worth full price; Lisa also had a wonderful time.

Chris reviewed ‘Lovecraft Country’ by Matt Ruff as surprisingly upbeat [with pride, prejudice and tentacles].

Adrienne reviewed being sick as it encouraged her to binge-watch TV shows & recommends ‘The West Wing’ and enjoyed ‘Downton Abbey’.

Debbie reviewed the Cinequest Film Festival as she enjoyed the Rita Moreno interview and tickets are still available for various events.

Ken reviewed his 2nd anniversary as being married is worth full price.

JC reviewed the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce Crab Feast as a hoot - there were buckets of crabs everywhere, the silent auction got lots of donations & all was worth full price; then he reviewed ‘Clone Wars’ the TV series as all 6 seasons are really good & it got really dark.

Dave Clark reviewed the the banshees singing the birthday song as dirge-like and worth brunch.

Diane reviewed ‘Picasso’ as a fine ensemble cast, the theatre is nice & she enjoyed the play, definitely worth full price & John followed, saying it was fun to be in the play, then Diane also reviewed ‘After the End’, apocalypse short stories, edited by Paula Guran, as a solid, nice read.

We did auctions.

We adjourned at 9:03 pm.

And the rumor of the week was: ‘What?’
Bay Area Fannish Calendar

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

Follow the calendar on Twitter: @sfsfcalendar

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

Saturday, February 20
GBACG Egyptian Expedition
Rosicrucian Museum
1660 Park Avenue, San Jose
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Journey through the Temple of Karnak and see the other Egyptian artifacts.
2 pm $15 (members), $18 (non-members)

Sunday, February 28
The African-American Heritage House’s Black History Month Celebration
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events
Celebrate Black History Month with spoken work and slam poetry/
1 p.m - 4 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, March 4-7
Consonance 2016
Crowne Plaza Silicon Valley
88 Bellew Drive, Milpitas
consonance.bostoncalifornia.com
Filk convention convention. Guests: Cheshire Moon, Jada Schmidt, Kathleen Sloan, Tim Griffin

Saturday, March 5
GBACG Costume Academy
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
A day of costuming lectures and workshops.

Saturday, March 5
PEERS Green Carnation Ball: 1895 (Oscar Wilde Celebration)
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Ball honoring the novelist, playwright and poet Oscar Wilde and the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood with 19th Century ballroom dancing and music by Bangers and Mash.
8 p.m. $20 (advanced), $25 (at the door)

Sunday, March 6
Chinese Historical and Culture Project’s Lunar New Year Celebration
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events
Celebrate the Lunar New Year with lion dancing, activities and a parade.
12 p.m - 3 p.m. Free

Friday-Sunday, March 11-13
FOGcon 2016
Walnut Creek Marriott
2355 North Main Street, Walnut Creek
fogcon.org
Literary SF/F convention. Theme: Transformations. Guests: Jo Walton, Ted Chiang, Donna Haraway
$80 (until Feb 28), $90 (at the door)

Friday-Sunday, March 11-13
Rakkasah West Middle Eastern Dance Festival
Richmond Memorial Auditorium
403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond
www.rakkasah.com/west/
Middle Eastern dance festival with performances and workshops.
$15 (Fri), $18 (Sat & Sun)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday-Sunday, March 12-13</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Sac-Con</em>&lt;br&gt;McClellan Conference Center&lt;br&gt;5411 Luce Avenue, Sacramento&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.sac-con.com">www.sac-con.com</a></td>
<td>$13</td>
<td>Comics and gaming convention.</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, March 12</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>GBACG Mad Men and Cocktails</em>&lt;br&gt;Alameda Elks Lodge&lt;br&gt;2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html">www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html</a></td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Enjoy cocktails in your best 1960s outfit. 6 pm $10 (members), $15 (non-members)</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, March 13</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>GBACG Costume Salon: San Jose</em>&lt;br&gt;Site TBA&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html">www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html</a></td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>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 <a href="mailto:costumesalons@gbacg.org">costumesalons@gbacg.org</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday-Sunday, March 18-19</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Silicon Valley Comic-Con</em>&lt;br&gt;San Jose McEnery Convention Center&lt;br&gt;150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://svcomiccon.com">svcomiccon.com</a></td>
<td>$99 (Adults) $39 (children 12 &amp; under)</td>
<td>Comics convention.</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, March 19</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Potlatch 25</em>&lt;br&gt;Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, Downtown San Jose&lt;br&gt;150 E. San Fernando Street, San Jose&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://potlatch-sf.org">potlatch-sf.org</a></td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Literary SF convention</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday-Sunday, April 1-3</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>ConQuest Sac X</em>&lt;br&gt;Crowne Plaza Sacramento&lt;br&gt;5321 Date Street, Sacramento&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.conquestssac.com">www.conquestssac.com</a></td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Tabletop gaming convention.</td>
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<td><strong>Friday-Sunday, April 1-3</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Professor Mondo’s Dangerworks Conclave: A Futuristic Victorian Experiment</em>&lt;br&gt;Crowne Plaza Sacramento&lt;br&gt;5321 Date Street, Sacramento&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.dangercon.com">www.dangercon.com</a></td>
<td>$40 (until March 1) Free</td>
<td>Sacramento’s own steampunk convention</td>
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<td><strong>Friday-Sunday, April 1-3</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>QuantumCon</em>&lt;br&gt;Crowne Plaza Sacramento&lt;br&gt;5321 Date Street, Sacramento&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.conquestsac.com">www.conquestsac.com</a> <a href="http://www.dangercon.com">www.dangercon.com</a></td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Science-fiction convention in conjunction with ConQuest Sac and Dangerworks.</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, April 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>PEERS The Doctor Dances on the Titanic 1912</em>&lt;br&gt;Alameda Elks Lodge&lt;br&gt;2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://peersdance.org">peersdance.org</a></td>
<td>$20 (advanced), $25 (at the door) $20 (advanced), $25 (at the door)</td>
<td>Join the Time Lord and his companions on the most luxurious ship ever created. Dancing will include waltzes, polkas, foxtrot, two-step and tango with music provided by Bangers and Mash. 8 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, April 9</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Bay Area Printer’s Fair and Wayzgoose</em>&lt;br&gt;History Park San Jose&lt;br&gt;635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://historysanjose.org/wp/events">historysanjose.org/wp/events</a></td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Event celebrating letterpress printing and allied arts with a yard sale of vintage books, magazines, cards, posters and more 10 a.m - 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>Saturday-Sunday, April 9-10</td>
<td><strong>San Jose Fantasy Faire</strong>&lt;br&gt;Discovery Meadow Park, Downtown San Jose&lt;br&gt;www.sjfantasy.com/&lt;br&gt;Fantasy themed faire in Downtown San Jose in the shadow of the Children’s Discovery Museum&lt;br&gt;$15 (adults), $8 (children 6-12), Free (under 6)</td>
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<td>Saturday, April 16</td>
<td><strong>SGBACG Farewell to Downton Abbey Tea</strong>&lt;br&gt;Location TBD&lt;br&gt;www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html&lt;br&gt;Tea party to send off the popular PBS show.</td>
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<td>Sunday, April 17</td>
<td><strong>Golden Gate Chapter Vintage Volkswagen Club of America Annual VW Spring Meet</strong>&lt;br&gt;History Park San Jose&lt;br&gt;635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose&lt;br&gt;historysanjose.org/wp/events&lt;br&gt;Classic VW cars and vehicles on display.&lt;br&gt;8 a.m - 3 p.m. $5</td>
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<td>Friday-Sunday, April 22-24</td>
<td><strong>BabsCon</strong>&lt;br&gt;SFO Hyatt Regency&lt;br&gt;1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame&lt;br&gt;babscon.com&lt;br&gt;Convention devoted to “My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic.” $60</td>
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<td>Sunday, April 24</td>
<td><strong>GBACG Lecture</strong>&lt;br&gt;Location TBD&lt;br&gt;www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html&lt;br&gt;A day of costuming lectures and workshops.</td>
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<td>Friday-Sunday, April 29-May 8</td>
<td><strong>West Kingdom Golden Beltane</strong>&lt;br&gt;Bar S-Z Ranch&lt;br&gt;1001 Willow Creek Road, Paicines&lt;br&gt;www.westkingdomfaire.org&lt;br&gt;10 day camping event with medieval and renaissance activities and merriment to celebrate the Society for Creative Anachronisms 50th holding of the West Kingdom Faire.&lt;br&gt;$50 (prereg), $75 (at gate)</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 7</td>
<td><strong>PEERS Young Victoria Ball: 1840</strong>&lt;br&gt;Alameda Elks Lodge&lt;br&gt;2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda&lt;br&gt;peersdance.org&lt;br&gt;Ball honoring the recently married Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Music provided by Brassworks.&lt;br&gt;8 p.m. $20 (advanced), $25 (at the door)</td>
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<td>Friday-Saturday, May 13-15</td>
<td><strong>Corflu 33: Chiflu</strong>&lt;br&gt;Club Quarters (West Adams)&lt;br&gt;Downtown Chicago, Illinois&lt;br&gt;corflu.org&lt;br&gt;Fanzine fandom convention. $100</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 14</td>
<td><strong>GBACG Workshop</strong>&lt;br&gt;Location TBD&lt;br&gt;www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html&lt;br&gt;A day of costuming lectures and workshops.</td>
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<td>Saturday-Sunday, May 14-15</td>
<td><strong>Carnevale Fantasitico Italian Renaissance and Cultural Festival</strong>&lt;br&gt;Blue Rock Springs Park&lt;br&gt;650 Columbus Parkway, Vallejo&lt;br&gt;carnevaleb Fantasitico.com&lt;br&gt;A weekend of merriment set in the birthplace of the Renaissance, Italy. Plenty of regional wines, traditional beverages, Italian cuisine, historical characters, music, dance, swordsmanship, wares and the comedy of Commedia del Arte.&lt;br&gt;$15 (adults), Free (12 and under)</td>
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<td>Sunday, May 15</td>
<td><strong>Silicon Valley Bikes Festival</strong>&lt;br&gt;History Park San Jose&lt;br&gt;635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose&lt;br&gt;historysanjose.org/wp/events&lt;br&gt;Bicycle demonstrations of BMX riders, bike polo and more.&lt;br&gt;11 a.m - 5 p.m. $5</td>
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Friday - Sunday, May 20-22
Maker Faire Bay Area
San Mateo Event Center
1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo
makerfaire.com/bay-area
The largest show of makers and hobbyists on the West Coast. $55 (Adult through Feb 29), $30 (Student and youth through Feb 29)

Saturday, May 21
Bombs United Car Show
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events
Classic cars and picnic fun.
11 a.m - 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 21
BAERS Tambora Eruption Ball
Arlington Community Church
52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington
baers.org
Ball marking the eruption of Mount Tambora on April 10, 1815.
$20 (advance), $25 (at the door)

Sunday, May 22
GBACG Costume Salon: Berkeley
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, May 22
Intergalactic Expo
West Sacramento Civic Center
1110 Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento
westsacsci.wix.com/westsacsci
General science-fiction convention and fundraiser for Make-A-Wish of Northern California and Northern Nevada.
$10 (adults), Free (12 & under)

Friday-Monday, May 27-30
FanimeCon
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose
www.fanime.com
General anime convention in conjunction with Clockwork Alchemy.
$75

Friday-Monday, May 27-30
Clockwork Alchemy
Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose
www.clockworkalchemy.com/#/home
Steampunk convention in conjunction with Fanime.
$75

Friday-Monday, May 27-30
KublaCon
Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
www.kublacon.com
West Coast’s largest gaming convention.
$60

Friday-Monday, May 27-30
BayCon
San Mateo Marriott Airport
1770 S. Amphlett Boulevard, San Mateo
baycon.org/bcwp
General interest science fiction/fantasy convention.
$65

Saturday, May 28
Movable Feast Taco Festival of Innovation
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events
Over 35 of the best taco trucks in the Bay Area and performances.
12 p.m - 8 p.m.
Thursday-Monday, June 2-5
San Francisco Silent Film Festival
Castro Theater
429 Castro Street, San Francisco
www.silentfilm.org
Classic silent films presented with live musical accompaniment.

Saturday, June 4
PEERS Captain America’s Star-Spangled Ball: 1944
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Join the Howard Stark, Peggy Carter and Steve Rodgers for an USO show sending off our fighting men with sing dance, foxtrot, rumba, tango and waltzes. Music provided by Sara & Swingtime.
8 p.m. $20 (advanced), $25 (at the door)

Sunday, June 5
GBACG V Day at the Verdi Club
Verdi Club
2424 Mariposa Street, San Francisco
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Celebrate the end of WWII at the historic Verdi Club.

Saturday, June 11
GBACG Workshop
Topic and site TBA
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Expand your skills at this hands-on workshop

Saturday, June 11
Dia De Portugal
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events
Celebration of Portuguese heritage and culture in the Bay Area.
10 a.m - 6 p.m.

Friday-Monday, June 17-19
WizardWorld Sacramento Comic-Con
Sacramento Convention Center
1400 J St, Sacramento
www.wizardworld.com/home-sacramento.html
General comic book and pop culture convention $80

Saturday, June 18
Dia de San Juan
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events
Cultural festival of Puerto Rican dance, food, music and more.
10 a.m - 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 18
Godzilla Fest 5
Bal Theater
14808 E 14th Street, San Leandro
www.baltheatre.com
Celebration of the King of Monsters with two films, prizes and more..
2 p.m $10 (adults) $5 (children) $25 (family pass)

Sunday, June 19
Hands-on-History: Transportation Day
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events
See the different modes of transportation that were used in throughout the Bay Area including horse-drawn trolley, railroad hand cars and a streetcar.
11 a.m - 3 p.m. Free

Friday-Sunday, June 24-26
Bronco Billy Silent Film Festival
Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum and Downtown Niles
37417 Niles Boulevard, Fremont
nilesfilmmuseum.org
Celebration of Bronco Billy with film festival, and more..

Saturday, June 25
GBACG Gaming Hell: A Regency Casino Night
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Join the Inner Circle of the Hellfire Club for gambling and more.
Thursday–Sunday, July 1–4

**Westercon 69**
Portland DoubleTree
1000 NE Multnomah Street, Portland, Oregon
westercon69.org
General interest science fiction/fantasy convention
$60 (through June 10), $65 (at the door)

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Sunday, July 3

**GBACG Lecture**
Location TBD
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
A day of costuming lectures and workshops.

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Sunday, July 10

**Strangers Car Show**
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events
Hot rods and custom cars from the 1950s and 1960s.
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Saturday, July 16

**GBACG Roman Holiday**
Location TBD
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Enjoy an outdoor toga party.

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Sunday, July 17

**GBACG Costume Salon: Oakland**
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.

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Saturday, July 30

**Christmas in July Fundraiser**
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events
Christmas in July fundraiser benefiting History San Jose. Check in April for tickets.
12 p.m. - 7 p.m.

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Sunday, July 31

**Shiny Side Up Bicycle Show**
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events
Custom bicycle show with music, exhibitions, food and kids zone.
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Saturday, August 6

**PEERS Room with a View Picnic: 1908**
Lincoln Park
1450 High Street, Alameda
peersdance.org
Edwardian picnic and dancing among the roses in the style of E.M. Forster’s novel.
11 a.m.  Free

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Saturday–Sunday, August 1–2

**Carnival of the Stars World Dance and Art Festival**
Finnish Hall
1970 Chestnut Street, Berkeley
www.carnivalofstars.com/home.htm
Belly dance performances, comic book artists, movie room and costume contest on Saturday.
$15

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Friday, August 12

**Spirit of ‘45 Dance**
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events
Dance under the stars and lights of History Park to the big band sounds of the 1940s.
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday, August 13

*Spirit of ‘45 Day*
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
[historysanjose.org/wp/events](http://historysanjose.org/wp/events)
Celebration honoring the men and women of World War II with parades, swing dancing, living history and more.
12 p.m - 5 p.m.

**Wednesday-Sunday, August 19-23**

*MidAmericaCon II/WorldCon 2016*
Kansas City Convention Center and Bartle Hall
Kansas City, Missouri
[midamericon2.org](http://midamericon2.org)
74th Annual World Science Fiction Convention. Guests of Honor: Kinyoko Y. Craft, Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Tamora Pierce, Michael Swanwick, Pat Cadigan
$185

**Saturday-Sunday, August 20-21**

*StocktonCon*
Stockton Arena
248 W Fremont Street, Stockton
[stocktoncon.com](http://stocktoncon.com)
Central Valley’s Comic book convention.

**Sunday, August 21**

*GBACG Bathing Beauties*
Richmond Memorial Natatorium
1 E Richmond Avenue, Richmond
[www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html](http://www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html)
Paddle and lounge in your bathing costumes in the deco-era Richmond Memorial Natatorium.

Saturday, August 27

*Italian Family Festa*
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
[historysanjose.org/wp/events](http://historysanjose.org/wp/events)
Celebrate Italian heritage in the Bay Area with food, music and more.
11 a.m - 8 p.m.

**Saturday-Sunday, August 27-28**

*Heroes and Villains Fan Fest*
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose
[heroesfanfest.com/sanjose](http://heroesfanfest.com/sanjose)
General comic book and pop culture convention.
$75

**Sunday, August 28**

*Italian Family Festa*
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
[historysanjose.org/wp/events](http://historysanjose.org/wp/events)
Celebrate Italian heritage in the Bay Area with food, music and more.
10 a.m - 6 p.m.

**Friday-Sunday, September 2-4**

*SacAnime*
Sacramento Convention Center
1400 J Street, Sacramento
[www.sacanime.com](http://www.sacanime.com)
Anime convention.
$35 (Prereg through March 6)

**Friday-Sunday, September 2-4**

*San Francisco Comic Con*
San Francisco Marriott Marquis
780 Mission Street, San Francisco
[sanfrancomiccon.com](http://sanfrancomiccon.com)
Comic book convention.
$80 (Prereg through September 1)

**Sunday, September 4**

*San Jose Mini Maker Faire*
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
[historysanjose.org/wp/events](http://historysanjose.org/wp/events)
The South Bay’s own Maker Faire.
10 a.m - 6 p.m.
Free

**Saturday-Sunday, October 22-23**

*Sac-Con*
McClellan Conference Center
5411 Luce Avenue, Sacramento
[www.sac-con.com](http://www.sac-con.com)
Comics and gaming convention.
$13
**Saturday October 29**

**Campbell Con 2016**
Campbell Community Center
1 West Campbell Avenue, Campbell
www.campbellcon.com
Comics convention.

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**Ongoing**

**Daily**

**Cartoon Art Museum**
275 5th Street, San Francisco
www.cartoonart.org
11-5 p.m. $6 (Closed Mondays)

**The Walt Disney Family Museum**
104 Montgomery Street, San Francisco
www.waltdisney.org/
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.

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**Sundays**

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

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

**Sakuramento Anime Society**
Rancho Cordova Library  
9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova  
www.saclibrary.org  
Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.  
3-6 p.m.  
Free

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

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

**Mondays**

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

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

**Silicon Valley Boardgamers**
Mountain View Community Center  
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View  
www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb  
Group meets regularly to play mostly German-style strategy board games such as Settlers of Catan; also multi-player Avalon Hill-style, historical war games, and others.  
6:30 p.m.  
$2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesdays</strong></td>
<td><strong>Principality of Mists Fighter Practice</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Twin Creeks Sports Complex</td>
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<td></td>
<td>969 Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.westkingdom.org/as46/mar/sunnyvale-fighter-practice">www.westkingdom.org/as46/mar/sunnyvale-fighter-practice</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Vintage Waltz</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lake Merrit Dance Center</td>
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<td></td>
<td>200 Grand Avenue, Oakland</td>
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<td></td>
<td>vintagewaltz.com</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Weekly drop-in class in Victorian Waltz. No experience or partner needed.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7 p.m. - 8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesdays</strong></td>
<td><strong>Steam Federation - Bay Area Steampunk Society</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Various - check website or Facebook page for information</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>steam-federation.com/%20cal2.html</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/steamfederation/">www.facebook.com/groups/steamfederation/</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>General gathering for craftwork, discussions and general fun.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesdays-Sundays</strong></td>
<td><strong>Escape From The Time Travel Lab</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Real Escape Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1746 Post Street, San Francisco</td>
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<td></td>
<td>realescapegame.com/rersf2_ttlab/</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>You are trapped in a mysterious laboratory where they study time travel and must escape in this immersive game.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Various time - check website $28 (online booking), $33 (at the door)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursdays</strong></td>
<td><strong>CAS: NightLife</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>The California Academy of Sciences</td>
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<td>55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.calacademy.org/events/nightlife/">www.calacademy.org/events/nightlife/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6 p.m. - 10 p.m. $12 (21+)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fridays</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fanboy Planet Podcast</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cafe Stritch</td>
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<td></td>
<td>374 South First Street, San Jose</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.fanboyplanet.com">www.fanboyplanet.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Live from Cafe Stritch, it’s the Fanboy Planet Podcast with Planetees, Derek McCaw, Ric Bretscheider and Nate Costa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 p.m. Free</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fridays-Sundays</strong></td>
<td><strong>Real Escape Room San Jose</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Real Escape Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>77 N. First Street #740, San Jose</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>realescapegame.com/sj-mroom/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>You are trapped in a mysterious locked room with mysterious codes and must escape in this immersive game.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Various time - check website $28 (online booking), $33 (at the door)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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

**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/gaslightlar
www.facebook.com/gaslightlar
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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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>Contact Information</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Admission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wicked Games</strong></td>
<td>Wicked Grounds Cafe</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wickedgrounds.com/regular-events.html">www.wickedgrounds.com/regular-events.html</a></td>
<td>Gaming at Wicked Grounds. Meets fourth Saturday of every month.</td>
<td>6 pm to 10 pm</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>USS Augusta Ada</strong></td>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
<td>trek.starshine.org</td>
<td>Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and *BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month.</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Queered Science Book Club</strong></td>
<td>Au Coquelet Restaurant</td>
<td>queeredscience.weebly.com</td>
<td>Monthly book club that focuses on science fiction, fantasy, and magical realism that includes trans*, queer, genderqueer, and strong female protagonists and themes.</td>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE</strong></td>
<td>Round Table Pizza</td>
<td>916-338-2300</td>
<td>Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For even more events in the Bay Area, check out Bay Area Geek Guide: The San Francisco Bay Area Guide to Geek Events & Nerd Culture: bayareageekguide.com