

# Science Fiction/San Francisco

Issue 33

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# News and Notes

**By Christopher J. Garcia**

*Editor*

BayCon is moving along with plans for a big twenty-fifth anniversary edition. It's the first to take place anywhere other than the DoubleTree San Jose, and the plans on how to use the San Mateo Marriott are coming together. The staff also announced that a site for the 2008 through 2010 BayCons has been found. We can look forward to three years at the Santa Clara Hyatt, right across the street from Great America! The Guests of Honor for the 2007 edition have still not been confirmed except for Kitty Crowe, last year's ChairPurple, who will serve as Fan GoH.

There's been some activity on eFanzines.com that folks should look into. The various projects to preserve fannish heritage have managed to get several important pieces of that seven-decade-old puzzle into plain sight. The program book from NyCon III, the late New York WorldCon, has been scanned and put up. It's a very interesting read, especially if you've been to a recent WorldCon and want to see how things have changed. Another very interesting read is Mike Glycer's *File 770*

#7. It's an issue that'll really show a great view of what's out there back in the 1970s! There's also a fine collection of Ken Slater's reviews for *Nebula* up too.

Other than those, you might want to give Ned Brooks' always dependable *It Goes On The Shelf* a read, or David Burton's *Pixel* #7. *Pixel* features not only another damned Chris Garcia article, but wonderful pieces from folks like Ted White, Eric Mayer and Peter Sullivan. Peter might actually be the best Fanzine Reviewer out there at the moment.

Of course, it wouldn't be an eFanzines update without mentioning that issue 102 of *The Drink Tank* is up and having a good gander. Some special guests for the Computer-themed issue include Frank Wu, Arnie Katz and Grant Kruger plus LoCs from, you guessed it, Eric Mayer, John Purcell, Lloyd Penney and more.

Speaking of John Purcell, his zine *and furthermore...*, the addendum to *In A Prior Lifetime*, has been released and is another in a long line of good reads from Texas. There's a lot of talk about an article that appeared in the last *Prior Lifetime* going on on LJ, mostly around Ted White's Best Fan Writer/Artist Hugo column. It's

an interesting article, and the debate that is going to show up in the next issue will probably be most entertaining, as folks like Kevin Standlee and Andy Trembley are making it a point to comment.

Cheryl Morgan is back in the BArea for a few weeks!

## On TAFF

**By Christopher J. Garcia**

*Editor*

I've been running this TAFF race now for several months and it's been a bit exhausting. I've taken a bit of a different route than most who have run before me and I've had a lot of fun with it. The battlecry of "Chris for TAFF!" can be heard at BASFA meetings and at the various cons I go to. I have no idea if I'll win, but I'm sure folks will remember the guy who walked around with the signs and had the t-shirts made.

DUFF, the Down Under Fan Fund, has also had several Bay Area connections. I believe Lucy Hunziger lived out here when she won in the 1980s. I know she was running against Tom Whitmore, who

would be another one. Art Widner also won in the 1990s and was a very popular delegate over to Australia. Janice Gelb won in 1999 and even offered to work on programming at the 1999 WorldCon where she was the delegate. It must have been a good trip because she married an Aussie and moved down there!

There's a long tradition connecting TAFF and the BArea, and as far as I can tell, it started with Terry Carr running in 1959. Carr, a fannish legend for his writing and for inventing hoaxfan Carl Brandon, ran in 1959 against Bjo Wells (later Bjo Trimble) and Don Ford. Ford won by a comfortable margin, but Terry ran again in 1965 and won, making the trip to the UK. Carr would go on to a long career as a pro, but he was always a fan too.

One of Carr's cohorts in the Brandon hoax was Ron Ellik, who was the first BArea to win TAFF, in 1961. Sadly, he passed away in 1968. I'm not sure Marion Zimmer Bradley was living in the BArea when she ran in 1963 (I don't think she made the move until she graduated, which would have been 1965 or so), but she was a major part of BArea fandom for years. Charlie Brown, I mean Charles Brown, ran in 1970. He hadn't come to the Bay yet, but he also would eventually come out here and make an impact with his zine *Locus*.

The 1965 race that Terry Carr won also featured a very important name in the history of SF fandom: Bill Donaho. He is a legendary figure who lived a long, fannish life. He didn't win, losing to his fellow Bay Area runner, but he is still very well-

remembered.

Robert Lichtman ran in 1987 and won in 1989. He came in third in a crowded field in 1987 which included Mike Glicksohn among others. His win in 1989 was impressive too, over Luke McGuff. His 'Report in Progress' is at <http://taff.org.uk/reports/rl0.html>

I'm the first BArea TAFF candidate since 1989, far as I can tell, though Mary Kay also has strong ties to the BArea and was on the committee for ConJose. This is the first race with two people of such strong BArea connection since both Terry Carr and Bill Donaho were up against each other. It'll be interesting to see how things break down in the final voting, as vote splitting is almost certain to happen because of the physical location of both of us.

# Letters Of Comment

## ***Kevin Standlee: You're up first!***

Thanks for another issue of *SF/SF*, and for the convention reports. These are among my favorite bits of fanwriting, as I've said before, and not just for the egoboo of seeing myself in a photo in my WSFS Captain's uniform.

**Chris Garcia** responds: *You look good in the suit. I love con reports myself, and I write a lot of them, often three or four different ones for the same con, taking on small aspects for a couple and doing one big one for SF/SF on the entire events. I think España's view was a wonderful one, and I'm hoping that she'll give us one of LosCon as well.*

Re: España getting stuck at San Jose Caltrain: I despair of people who work for a transit agency (the Amtrak/Caltrain employees at San Jose Diridon Station) who have no idea how to use transit. If she should ever be in that situation again, the solution is to walk to the light rail station (adjacent to the train station—it connects to the subways that lead to the passenger platforms) and take a light rail train (destination Mountain View) to the Metro/Airport stop. From there, you can either wait for the free #10 bus (the same one that

connects to Santa Clara Caltrain) or walk to the Doubletree (which you can see from the Metro/Airport station) if walking half a mile or so doesn't trouble you. That ticket agent at Diridon Station should have known that. I certainly did. But then, I'm a transit geek.

*I've discovered that a lot of transit folks know a lot about the area and how to get from where to where. Sadly, I've also been misled by these same officials at times when I've asked for directions. More than once they've given me a detailed recitation of how to get somewhere, and they'll always be 100% on the money as to where the place is, but the directions will not match up and I'll get lost. It happened to me getting from the Arena to Harry's Hi-Life a few months ago. Terrible directions.*

Chris for TAFF!

*Damn right!*

Kevin

*Thanks much, Kev.*

## ***John Purcell: you're the next contestant with an eLoC!***

Oh, no... Another hoax bid? What you folks could do is make it semi-serious that you're bidding for the 2009 WesterCon, then pull out of the race six months before

the site selection happens, then turn your bidding parties into a reason to host an annual relaxacon a couple months before/after WesterCon weekend. Minn-stf is still holding Minneapolis in '73 Parties at worldcons, and they are usually a ton of fun. It's up to you folks, though. Do what you will.

*It's not a hoax bid, since that would mean we'd be expected to put on a hoax con. It's an "educational exercise/party excuse!" This one'll be a little different from Hollister in 2008. Trust me, you'll be amused.*

The "Fanzines Published" section should be much fuller next time around. Lots of good stuff has been posted to efanazines in the last week, which explains why I'm a bit behind in my loccing. Oh, well. This is, to me, a happy situation; I'd rather have something fun to read to get away from the heavy reading I do for my school work than nothing at all.

*You've got a mention, as well as the few others that have come along. I'm hoping for at least one more Vegas Fandom Weekly in the next couple of weeks. The only zine that I regularly LoC that I haven't recently is and furthermore..., which I'll do as soon as I'm*

*done commenting on your LoC!*

Yes, Bob Tucker was a seminal figure in fandom. According to his own stories, Bob discovered fandom somewhere around 1934 (I think, but don't quote me on this; it may have been as early as 1932), which would make his length in fandom something like 72 years! Phenomenal. He will be sorely missed. Already next year's NaSFic has been dedicated in his honor.

*I read that, and I'm very pleased by the choice to honor him like that. I'll be there and hope to Smoooooooooth with a few folks.*

Jean Martin, I wouldn't go so far as saying that I'm "well-respected in the fanzine world." Yeah, I've been involved with fanzine fandom off and on for 30 years now, but I am in no way, shape, or form an \*expert\* on things fannish. I keep forgetting things that I used to know very well 20-some years ago. My current incarnation in fanac has been a re-learning experience, and I have had to re-read books and old zines to refresh my memory banks.

*You're just being modest, Johnny-boy. Why else would I choose you to nominate me for TAFF? Everyone in fandom knows that John Purcell is the only one who knows what's going on! Fans fall at your feet and kiss the hem of your robes! Or at least that's what I heard...I think...*

However, Jean, you are so right

about something that does not need to be researched: there is, indeed, "something special going on here" in fanzine fandom. It is called Community. This is very unique in a hobby group, and it makes being a science fiction and fantasy fan so much fun. Over the years I was involved in Minnstf and in fanzine fandom the first time around (1973-1992), I made a lot of great friends. This is one reason why I can't wait for Corflu Quire; people I haven't seen in person since the early and mid-80s will be there, and some I have never met at all, yet I've corresponded with them since the mid-70s. It will be fun, and a very special time, too.

*I'm very excited for CorFlu, and the fact that there's something special here is really more evident there than anywhere else. If you get a chance, Jean, you should try and make it to a CorFlu. It's a very different con experience and a lot of fun. You'd also get to see folks like Ted White and Art Widner in their natural habitats.*

Hmm. Lloyd Penney wonders if we're in the midst of another fanzine resurgence. Personally, I think we're riding a wave of fanzine activity that hasn't crested yet. Eventually it will break on the shore and recede, but that may not happen for awhile. In the meantime, I'm enjoying it. Like Lloyd, I seem to be writing more and

more locs each month, and may have to curtail my loccing a bit to accommodate my other present needs. Until then, it's fun.

*Damn straight! We're just seeing what can happen in the eZining world. It started with Foyster showing us all how it's did, and then Arnie really letting us know the full potential of eZining. I'd say the explosion of 2005 really pushed us towards the future of fanzines in a way that I'm most excited about.*

Tilly the Wonderdog?!? Okay; provide a picture, please.

*Yeah, I wanna see one too!*

Well, well. Page 7 has the SF/SF rogues gallery. Now I can put more faces to names. Thank you for including this. Why does Andy look like he's about to hit the photographer, and Kevin Standlee resembles Captain Steubing from *The Love Boat*? Quite the motley crew you've got here.

*That's Kevin's outfit from when he was the Captain of the WSFS Armadillo during WorldCon 2005. It's a great little suit, too! We're a motley crew, indeed, but our hearts are in the right places.*

I am really enjoying España Sherriff's column. Already, her writing has improved a great deal since she's begun writing this column. Last week she locced my zine, and if she ever decides to write a fan arkle and

# Editorial

submit it to me, I would be honored to read and pub said fan arkle. Keep it up, España; this is good stuph, and I'm gaining insights into what makes you fannishly tick.

*Well, when that happens (and it will!), remember that it was Jean and I that brought her into the Fan Writing world. (Also remember that you're not allowed to ask her for an article unless she's already finished hers for SF/SF! We got Dibs!)*

Nice con reports and all to round this issue out. It certainly sounds like the Bay Area is a hotbed of fannish activity, and I'm getting a bit jealous.

*You could always move out here! Sky-high rents and an often strained job market are calling!*

And with that, I'll wrap this up. I need to get into the toolbox in the garage to find a socket wrench to fix my son's skateboard wheels. Two don't spin properly, so it's time to play "dad the mechanic," a limited role that I play once in a while. Maybe it's more like a cameo or a walk-on. I dunno. Either way, my abilities as a mechanic are quite limited.

*There's another reason why I shouldn't have kids of my own: I'd have no idea how to fix things that broke. If your abilities are quite limited, mine would be nearly criminal.*

All the best,  
John Purcell

**By Jean Martin**  
*Editor*

Wow, SiliCon was a lot of fun this year. It's a much smaller convention but it packs a wallop. I remember I enjoyed it last year as well. So I wanted to experience as much of it as I could, even though I had rehearsals for a performance at a PEERS Dickens Ball, and the actual performance and the ball itself, all on that weekend. So I decided I'd go to SiliCon, at the San Jose Doubletree Hotel, on Friday evening and all day on Sunday. My articles on both events are in this issue.

As Chris and España stated in our last issue, it was great to hang out with our staff, and our first ever panel was quite a success as well. It really is a good feeling to know that there are so many wonderful people who contribute to and not only read our eZine. I finally got to meet one of our regular LOCers, Kevin Standlee. And I echo Chris's sentiment that little did we know a year ago when we took over *SF/SF* that we'd be filling a room full of people at a convention!

I also got to go to the L.A. Burning Man Decompression block party recently. It made me feel like kicking myself for not going to Burning Man this past Labor Day weekend. On the other hand, going to Decompression more than compensated for it. And I didn't have to plan, pack, camp, or drive to it. Not to mention having to brave the heat, cold and Playa dust. Although the latter is part of the experience and I don't mind it at all. But you have to be in a good mental, physical and emotional state to do well in those conditions and I wasn't at that time. My article on Decompression is in this issue as well.

Lastly, as I mentioned in my response to Lloyd Penney's LOC in our last issue, I'm actually in much better spirits now and am looking forward to the coming holiday season. I've always dreaded colder weather and darker and shorter evenings since I moved here to the U.S. in 1987. Being from the Philippines, I'm used to almost the same amount of light and darkness year round, and of course, much warmer temperatures and humid conditions. But I love all the holidays and I think this time, for the first

time in a long time, I'm not too worried about the weather and the darkness.

Halloween is one of my favorite holidays. We didn't have that in the Philippines and the opportunity to dress up and party is just such an awesome concept to me! I got an early start with Halloween as one of the costuming groups I belong to, the Black Fleet Star Pirates' Guild, had their party early—two weekends before Halloween itself. Then I went to three Halloween parties the weekend before Halloween. My coverage of these events are in this issue. Dickens Fair is another costuming opportunity. Got a taste of that beforehand as well with the PEERS Dickens Ball.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming up too. And, now that most of my family has moved into the area, it will be nice to spend Christmas with them. There's nothing like Christmas with family! Christmas is my favorite holiday.

Also, since Thanksgiving is coming up and I won't be writing another editorial until December, I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in *SF/SF*. Everyone's so nice and easy to work with! I really love being part of *SF/SF*. Specifically, David has been so professional with his editing and proofreading, turning things around immediately. And of course,

he spends a lot of time putting the calendar together, which a lot of people find useful. Eva has really made the eZine a lot more colorful, with more style and flair, and with more robust functionality. And she has been so awesome about getting us published on time! España adds more depth with her column. It's great to have someone write about books and other topics of interest to fandom and not just reviews of events. Last but not the least, it's such a pleasure

to work with Chris, and as I've said in the past, our interests match up so we cover a much wider range of fandom than either of us could do separately.

Hope you all enjoyed Halloween and have a great Thanksgiving!

## Join our crew:

We are looking for writers to  
cover local events,  
conventions, fan groups and the  
fannish scene in general.

Contact Jean Martin and Chris Garcia

at:

[SFinSF@gmail.com](mailto:SFinSF@gmail.com)

# Dreams of the City

- a column

By España Sheriff

As I write this Halloween is just a few days away; the air has turned cold, pumpkins decorate front yards, and everyone I know is discussing their costumes. And while I love Halloween more than any other celebration, I've suddenly found myself feeling a little wistful as I realize there is nothing out there to scare me right now. The torture-horror genre that's suddenly re-emerged with the *Saw* series and movies like *Hostel* doesn't do anything for me, and while the j-horror remakes can be fun, the ones currently available aren't setting my pulse pounding. This got me to thinking about the last time I was truly scared at the movies.

I've always been afraid of zombies, ever since I saw *Night of the Living Dead*. While there are a handful of non-zombie movies that have scared me to some degree—*Silence of the Lambs*, *The Others*, *Alien*—and plenty of movies that have had scares in them, the ones that literally keep me awake at night are almost all zombie flicks. And the last one to haunt my dreams was the remake of *Dawn of the Dead*. I wasn't just scared... I was terrified. I watched it in the theater when it came out and it scared me badly enough to make me wonder why I was putting myself through the experience. I've been afraid to rewatch it alone. It was fantastic.

Unless you've been living under a rock for the last couple of years, you probably already know: zombies are massive. Everywhere you look, there they are. The videogame industry seemed to be the first to embrace this new wave with the *Resident Evil* series, quickly followed by a slew of others. In film, *Shaun of the Dead*, *28 Days Later*, *Land of the Dead* and *Dawn of the Dead* were all big-budget flicks in a genre that used to be decidedly B. Not that the indie and direct-to-DVD shelves aren't well stocked with the undead as well. In comics, several titles including *The Walking Dead* and the disturbing and

occasionally hilarious *Marvel Zombies* have recently graced the shelves. And last month marked the release of *World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie Wars* from the creator of *The Zombie Survival Guide*, Max Brooks.

And now they've managed to break the fourth wall. In the past few years over a dozen cities including Calgary, DC, Pittsburgh and even our own beloved San Francisco have been

host to Zombie Walks (or Shambles) where hordes of the undead infest the streets and infect passersby.

But shambling decaying hordes aren't the only face of zombiedom. Although for centuries vampires have cornered the market on undead glamour, in recent years zombies have begun to reclaim their place on the stage, thanks to people like San Francisco's own Monique Motil who until 2005 hosted Zombie Pinups; simply the best place for hot zombie flesh. Although Motil has moved on from flesh to bone creating Sartorial Creatures, the site carries on under new management.

And if you prefer your sexy undead "live," San Francisco will not let you down even there. Creepshow Peepshow has put on a couple of shows where the acts included more zombie burlesque than any one person ought to see in a lifetime, and we even have our own all-dead burlesque troupe: The Living Dead Girlz, who will steal your heart, and brain and other organs, if you venture too close to the stage.

[www.zombiepinups.com](http://www.zombiepinups.com)  
[www.livingdeadgirlz.com](http://www.livingdeadgirlz.com)



# Communiqué From Costume-Con 26

**By Lance Moore**  
*Contributing Writer*

Costume-Con 26 in Silicon Valley will be the place to share, compete, and celebrate your costumes (or your doll's costumes, or your kid's, or your design for a costume)! Space cadets, living history reenactors, textile designers, theater designers, furry mascots, cosplayers, fantasy costumers, pro or hall costumers: CC26 looks forward to mixing it up with all types of costumers (and those who appreciate costumes, such as photographers and artists). Costume-Con will feature a wild Friday social, three different staged costume shows, and a full weekend of classes, workshops, seminars and social activities... all revolving around the art and craft of costume.

The dates: April 25-28, 2008.

The place: The DoubleTree Hotel San Jose ([www.DoubletreeSanJose.com](http://www.DoubletreeSanJose.com)) (yep you read that right!)

The cost: As of November 1, the adult attending rate is \$75. Kids' rates: 5 and under may attend for free (when accompanying a paid adult) with a Kid in Tow membership, youth memberships

(ages 6-12 inclusive) are available for \$30. (Age determined as of April 20, 2008.)

We at CC26 think San Jose is just the place for Costume-Con, as the San Francisco Bay Area is home to a large community of professional and hobbyist costumers and their resources. Local costumers vary in interests from theatrical, fantasy and science fiction costume, to historical and living history costumers working in a wide variety of periods. There are many textile-arts groups and specialty fabric shops. Jewelry designers and manufacturers abound. The area is rich in educational and fun locations of interest, such as the Quilt and Technology Museums.

And... We like to party! Socialize. Have fun!

Many *SF/SF* readers are no doubt familiar with the League of Evil Geniuses party, hosted

by Andy Trembley and Kevin Roche (and a cadre of worthy minions). Perhaps you are a lab rat yourself? In any case, the LoEG parties are all about CC26—so you know you want to make it to the BIG party. <evil LOL>

If you'd like more information (or to volunteer!), visit us at [www.CC26.org](http://www.CC26.org) (click on the 'Register' link in the menu bar to register), or write us at: [info@cc26.info](mailto:info@cc26.info). Join us for the first Costume-Con to return to California in fourteen years!



**Last Night in Lava Lounge (LA Con IV)**  
**Kevin Roche (CC26 Con Chair), Bruce Mac Dermott, Dana Mac Dermott, Yvette Keller, Anne Davenport, Zelda Gilbert**

Andrew Trembley

# SiliCon: A Gathering of Friends

**Article and Photos By Jean Martin**  
*Editor*

This year, SiliCon was held from October 6 through 8, at Bay Area fandom's usual haunt, the San Jose Doubletree Hotel. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend the entire convention due to rehearsals for the PEERS Dickens Preview Ball and the actual performance and ball itself that Saturday. (My coverage of this ball is in this issue as well.)

Rushing from work on Friday evening, I got to the con in time for the opening event, Meet the Guests. This year, it was short and sweet, with SiliCon owner Dann Lopez introducing this year's president, Chris Knight. Chris then introduced the guests for the con including Media Guest of Honor (GOH) Robert Meyer Burnett, and Artist GOH Mark Bode. Both Robert and Mark were very entertaining.

After Meet the Guests, which was held in the main ballroom, I hung out with my co-editor Chris Garcia and copy editor David Moyce in the Doubletree's bar/sushi bar. I ordered dinner—they have really good food at the Doubletree (especially their chocolate chip cookies!)—while my co-

hosts ordered drinks. There were several SiliCon participants in the bar but so far, attendance seemed light. But this is SiliCon, and last year, there weren't that many people there on Friday night either.

Which is great because it's a more relaxing start to a con. You actually get to talk with people. And what I love most about SiliCon is that it feels a lot like a family reunion. Attendance is probably half that of BayCon, but those that are there are the core group of fandom. So I walk around saying hello to almost everyone as I pass by because I know them all.

David called España Sheriff, our



**Artist GOH Mark Bode with Chris Garcia**

regular columnist, to see if she was around. She had just checked into the hotel and he jokingly told her that she was missing our staff meeting. She rushed to join us but I don't think we ever told her that we really weren't having a staff meeting. It was more of an opportunity to get together, as we'd never been in the same room at the same time ever! We get along great, and as Chris said in our previous issue, we're like family,



**Klingon at Mara's Bar**

but we hardly ever see each other. So it was great to just chat and catch up and get to know each other better.

While we were there, artist Phil Yeh, whom I met last year and was last year's Artist GOH, stopped by and dropped off his buddy, current artist GOH Mark Bode. Phil asked us to entertain Mark, who just moved back to the Bay Area after being away for a long time. We heartily agreed. It was quite an honor to converse

with Mark who regaled us with stories of growing up and being inspired by his father, legendary cartoonist Vaughn Bode. Mark has succeeded on his own merits, creating popular cartoon characters and working for *Heavy Metal* magazine, among other things.

Mark then proceeded to draw a voluptuous lady on Chris's huge *Chris for Taff* sign—the same woman, I realized, that he drew as part of the cover for the SiliCon program. Chris is running for the chance to become the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund (TAFF) representative from the Bay Area to be sent to the U.K. next year.

After dinner and drinks, Chris wandered off to who knows where, and David, España and I sauntered toward the party floor on the second floor of the Doubletree. It was still pretty quiet but we did have a great time. We stayed for a bit at Mara's Bar, the old standby Klingon party room. I discovered a new party room called the CrossTime Cantina put together by Johanna, Radar, et al. Johanna and Radar are fellow *Doctor Who* fans and costumers. The theme was that it was a meeting place for pilots from all over the sci fi universe. Most of the guests were wearing some sort of army gear and I was told that Johanna posted an invitation on LiveJournal with the theme for the party. I feel so out of the loop

because I'm not active on LiveJournal. But I had fun there anyway and ran into fellow BAERS organizers, Chris and Christy, who were involved with the party as well.

I partied for a bit in my friend Sir Lance's party room. But as mentioned, there weren't that many people partying. Almost everyone was in the Browncoat party room, where they were playing the first episode of the third season of *Battlestar Galactica* on a big projection screen that filled one wall. I said hello to my fellow Browncoats earlier



**CrossTime Cantina**



**Jean at Super Powers panel**

but I missed being able to get into the room later on because the room was too full and they weren't letting people in anymore.

I don't know where the time went but I met some new people and just had fantastic conversations with them about life, the universe and everything. España and David were a lot of fun. I'd never partied with them before. We decided not to go to *Rocky Horror* but wound up at an impromptu screening of producer Robert Meyer Burnett's DVD extra for *Superman Returns* in the main ballroom. It was past 2:00 a.m. at that point and I only stayed for a bit as I was tired and still needed to drive home. I think I got home at around 3:00 a.m.!

I didn't get to go back to the con until Sunday. Saturday is the big day as far as cons

go. There was the masquerade, which I missed, as well as the evening parties on the party floor. I also missed some panels on costuming I was interested in attending. But for me, Sunday was the big day.

On Sunday, I wore a nice Japanese kimono and got to the con in time for the first of two panels I was going to be part of at 11:30 a.m. in the main ballroom. Last year, it was a thrill to be a panelist with my mug and bio in the program. It made me feel like I've arrived in fandom! This year, I was in two panels as well and it felt great to be a part of the con in that capacity again.

This first panel was called "Super Powers - Adaptation from the

Non-Super." The moderator was Matthew Joseph Harrington, and the other panelist was Kathleen Hunt. Matthew is a writer and Kathleen a lawyer. I wasn't sure what I could contribute to the panel but the panel organizer thought it would be a fun one for me. And so it was, in a nerve-wracking way! The topic dealt with what our culture would be like if there were people with superhuman abilities. We discussed the legal issues that would be involved and who would protect non-superhumans from the superhumans. Matthew suggested that society would inevitably turn into a more feudalistic one with superhumans at the top. Kathleen talked about civil liberties



**Serenity Tea**

that would get violated and how to police and punish superhumans who commit crimes. I put my two cents in as much as I could and held my own. Matthew, who has a genius I.Q., told me toward the end that I had something interesting to say every time he gave me time to say something. That was quite a compliment!

I then rushed to the next event, the SerenityTea get together at 1:00 p.m. It was held in a small conference room where tea and Doubletree's delicious chocolate chip cookies were served. As I hadn't had breakfast or lunch at that point, the cookies tided me over until I had lunch at the Doubletree's café. I enjoyed chatting with my fellow Browncoats, most of whom were wearing their *Firefly* costumes. It was a lovely afternoon of food, drinks and good company.

Next, I ventured into the dealers' room, which was bigger than last year's. I enjoyed browsing through vendors' booths that sold costumes, books, videos, collectibles and other sci fi and fantasy-related items. I splurged on a beautiful miniature Victorian red and black hat by Ruby Raven that actually went well with the Japanese kimono I was wearing.

With not much time to spare, I had a quick lunch and walked to the conference room where our *SF/SF* panel was going to



**SF/SF panel**

be held. I ran into España on the way there, so we went to the room together. I was a little bit nervous about the panel. This was to be our own panel, our very first one, and I was hoping people would show up. There were about half a dozen people at the first panel I had had that day. Last year, there were fewer than that at each of the panels I did.

I walked past some of the hallway tables. One of them was Black Market

Beagles, which sold *Firefly*-related merchandise. There was a group of Browncoats there and I said hello and asked them to go to the *SF/SF* panel. They said hello but none of them seemed interested.

However, I was surprised when I got to the room that there were at least half a dozen folks there! Chris, David and staff writer Dr. Noe were there, as well as a lot of other people that have contributed to or been featured in the e-zine at one time

or another. It was, again, like a family reunion.

I put together a short agenda beforehand, which we stuck to for the most part. My nervousness disappeared as I became the de facto moderator. The panel became more of a fun conversation among the editorial staff, contributors and our guests. Chris was very funny and David brought his laptop to show our latest issue. He also brought some CDs with several issues to give away to the people. We started with doing a brief introduction on how the e-zine got started and how we all got involved in the e-zine. Then we just talked about Bay Area fandom in general.

I was happy to see contributing artist John Barrows who brought some of his artist friends. Merv and Judith from the Legion of Rassilon were also there. I finally got to meet Kevin Standlee. We were taped for SiTV and I would love to get a copy of that tape.

At the end of our panel, all the staff and contributors that were there posed for

a group photo. Our first *SF/SF* panel went really well and I enjoyed it very much. I think the attendees did as well. As Chris said in the last issue, who would have thought a year ago when we took over *SF/SF* that we would fill a room with people to talk about our e-zine!

Afterwards, I wandered around and ran into a group of Browncoats who were sitting around a table at the bar with Robert Meyer Burnett. I joined in as it turned out that Dr. Noe was actually interviewing him for *SF/SF*. Robert, who produced *Free Enterprise*, a *Star Trek*-inspired movie, was very engaging and entertaining. Dr. Noe's article on Robert is in this issue. We all listened to him with rapt attention. Then during a lull in the conversation, he asked me what my story was and I explained to him that I dance and am one of the editors of *SF/SF*.

He seemed genuinely interested in all of us as individuals. He noted that most of us got into fandom and met each other at BayCon. Most of us told him also how

*Firefly* has changed our lives. It certainly changed mine and brought me to *SF/SF* as well as masquerade competitions—and let me meet and make new friends along the way. We stayed there till late and I really didn't want to leave.

SiliCon was small but a lot of fun, and not as overwhelming as BayCon with multiple activities going on at the same time. I actually had the chance to just hang out and chat with old friends and new acquaintances. When I finally left at around 9:00 p.m., my only consolation was that there are other conventions coming up and other get-togethers coming up even sooner.

<http://www.siliconventions.com/>

<http://www.markbode.com/site/markbode.html>

<http://www.chrisfortaff.org/>

<http://www.ludovicotechnique.com/>

# Robert Meyer Burnett at SiliCon

By Dr. Noe  
Staff Writer

Robert Meyer Burnett, the recent media guest of honor at SiliCon, is a fan's fan. The kind of people you long and hope to meet at a con, who not only share a plethora of common interests, but can also hold down a conversation in the real world.

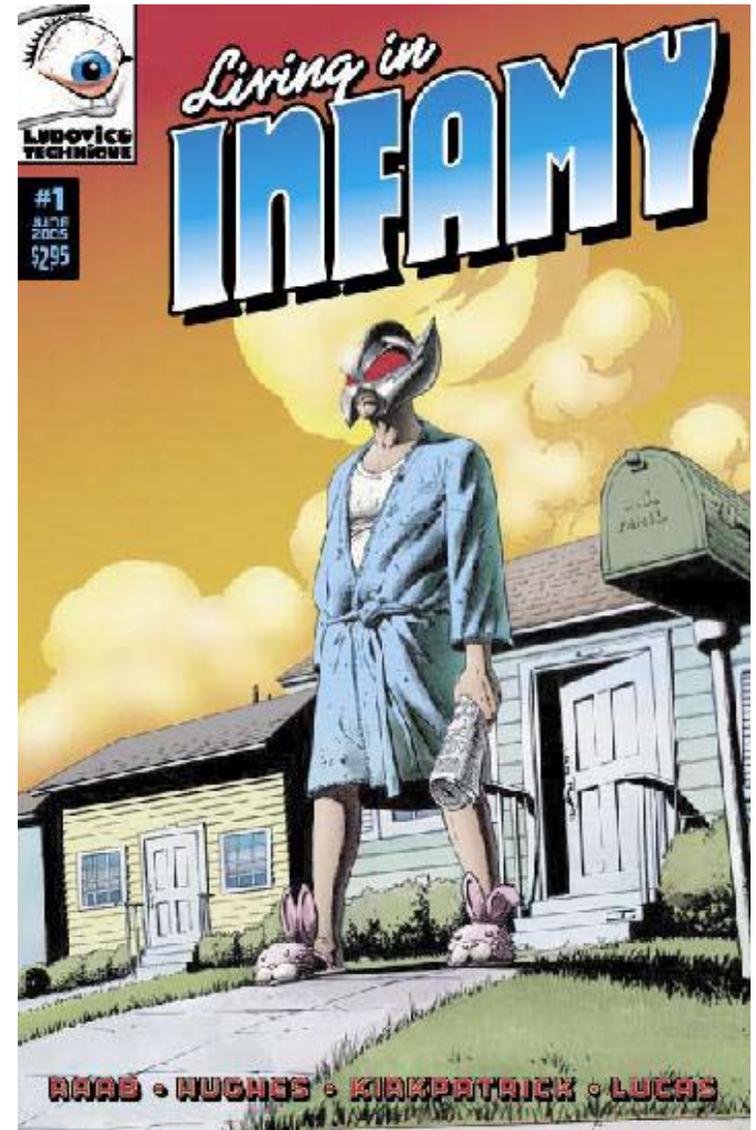
Burnett has been making the convention rounds for quite some time, including such favorites as WonderCon, Comic-Con, and more recently SiliCon. He loves getting out to meet and talk with fans. Probably most noted for the geek-love movie *Free Enterprise*, Burnett has had quite a life in the movie industry.

He was born May 15, 1967 in Seattle, and uses his middle name in the professional world to avoid being confused with Rob Burnett, the television producer responsible for *Late Night with David Letterman*. Burnett immediately began a life-long love affair with all forms of media and popular culture. In 1980, after becoming a man at the tender age of 13,

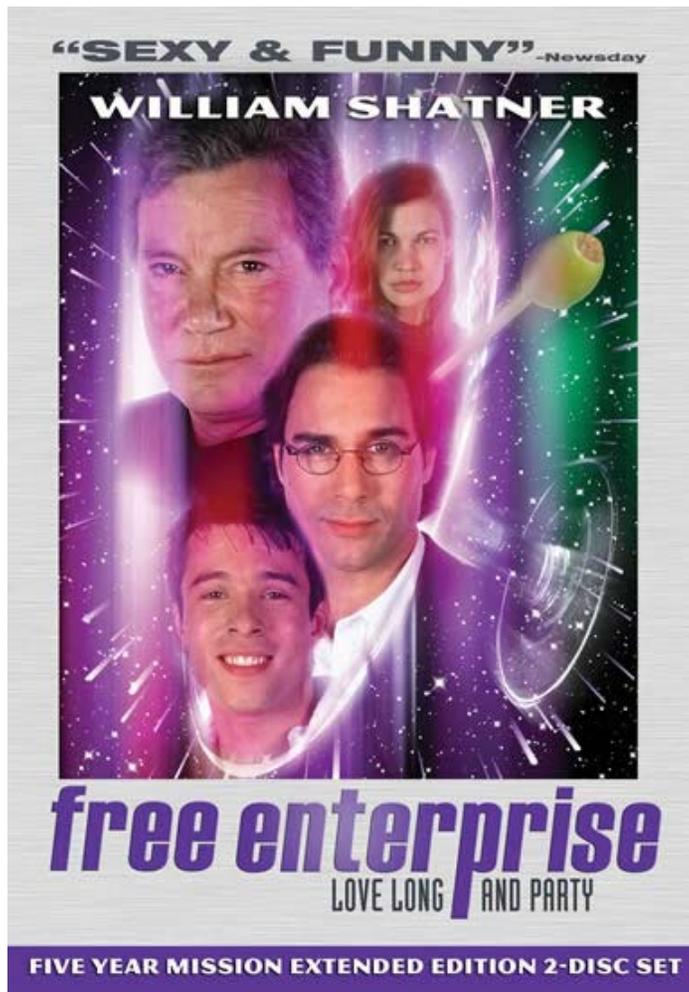
he began working in Bellevue, Washington's VIDEOSPACE, the nation's second video store, where he quickly began devouring just about every title ever released on home video, even the films released by Allied Artists.

In 1985 he spent three years at Washington's Evergreen State College before finishing off his collegiate career at USC's School of Cinema/Television.

His first screen credit came in 1990 when he was art department assistant for New Line Cinema's *Leatherface: The Texas Chainsaw Massacre III*. Then he had a management trainee position in the Warner Brothers feature production department where he worked on the production of such films as *Nothing But Trouble*, *The Rookie*, *The Bonfire of the Vanities* and *Free Willy*. After Warner Bros., he was briefly a story analyst for Silver Pictures. It only took



The Cover to Ludovico Technique's *Living in Infamy* #1



### Free Enterprise 5-year-mission edition DVD

Burnett a year to become fed up with story development, and he went back to production, where he assisted the makeup-effects coordinator for Tony Gardner's Alterian Studios on *Cast a Deadly Spell*, *Sleepwalkers*, *Super Mario Brothers*, *Army of Darkness*, and the *Swamp Thing* television series. Next was his role as staff editor and

segment producer for Full Moon Entertainment.

After that life seemed to imitate art as Burnett worked as a freelance *Star Trek* consultant for Viacom Interactive, then moved on to edit multi-media film displays for Landmark Entertainment and Paramount Parks' *Star Trek: The Experience*, which opened in January of 1998 at the Las Vegas Hilton.

Also during this time, he was Critic-at-Large for Larry Flynt's non-pornographic *Sci-Fi Universe Magazine*, and a recurring on-air guest commentator on the Sci Fi Channel series, *SF Vortex*.

It was at Comic-Con where Burnett met Mark Altman, and not long after came *Free Enterprise*: a great film about two *Star Trek* fans looking for love (the soundtrack is also worth checking out).

"You think that when you've made a movie, you graduate," Burnett says.

"It's so hard to get a movie made, and when you make one you think, 'Wow! I'm a film-maker.' I've wanted to make movies my whole life. And then you figure, you get one made, it's like: 'I've arrived. I'm going to be able to go do anything I want.' And unfortunately that's not the case."

Despite its many accolades and

praises, *Free Enterprise* was not what would be called a smash success. But it did have enough clout to spawn a potential sequel. There is a script for *FE 2*. (The premise focuses on Mark, Robert, and Leonard Nimoy on a road trip to find Shatner who has disappeared after getting fired from Mel Brooks' Broadway production of

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***"I just wonder if we do Free Enterprise 2, is the (Star Trek) joke played out?"***

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*Fiddler on the Moon*.) However, Burnett has trepidations about doing it, with the new wave of alternate Trek view that is coming out. Cited as an example is G4's *Trek 2.0* (if he gets Morgan Webb, would it be possible?), which runs little tidbits and funny side gags with the original Trek episodes they show.

"If people are reliving it in a ripping and burning, cutting and pasting remixed culture," he says, "where you look at everything now getting remixed and rebuilt, I think it (the original message/story) is getting lost. People don't realize why they're cutting and mixing and changing things

around.” (This could be analyzed as people not knowing what they’re getting their hands on, just messing around with some cool old-fashioned things that they can package to the new ADD world.)

“I just wonder if we do *Free Enterprise 2*, is the (*Star Trek*) joke played out?”

Burnett himself is very personal and approachable, which he finds easier now that he’s made things that people want to talk about. “Why do you go to conventions if not to sit around and talk to people about common things?”

Although he loves talking sci fi, he also likes to find well-rounded people. (Some of Burnett’s favorite movies are *The Godfather*, *All About Eve*, *A Clockwork Orange*, and the list goes on.) Which is where he feels many people missed the point about what he and Altman were trying to do in *Free Enterprise*:

“*Star Trek* was a gateway drug. It led me to reading science fiction novels. And all the great authors.” Which is why the characters in the movie are, themselves, very well rounded, outside of being huge sci fi geeks.

It’s not all wine and roses in Burnett’s life, mostly due to dealing with the larger studios. There are times where he has considered moving to the Bay Area to get a high-paying tech job or directing cut scenes

for video games. The pressure is always there about how he’s going to pay his employees, and other amenities: “I’ve got rent to pay, and I’ve got action figures to buy.”

He has 400 Master Grade Gundam model kits—unbuilt because he’s hiding them from the wife, and is very busy. So, yes, he opens and displays his figures. As should we all.

“Anyone who’s keeping their toys in the box is an idiot,” says Burnett. “Because what they’re doing is saying, one day I’m going to sell these to somebody else and make

money. If you think you’re going to make money on your toys you’re in the wrong business: real estate is the money market.” He quotes Lex Luthor from the original *Superman*

movie to prove his point: “People are always going to need land and they’re going to pay through the nose to get it.”

His favorite is six-scale action figures with the nice cloth uniforms. Lots of Japanese action figures and Sideshow toys terrify him with their amount of accuracy.

His idea for MacFarlane’s action figures for *Lost*: “A button playset where you need to press the button every 108 minutes. If you don’t, it explodes.”

As a producer of DVD extras and so forth, Burnett says it’s not what us geek-



Robert holding court at SiliCon

Jean Martin

types want, because believe it or not, we're not the majority. The so-called "normal" group doesn't want the bells and whistles on their DVDs. He feels that what gets put on a DVD stems from polling: you ask what you want but you expect people to give you the answer you're searching for.

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***What I want to be able to do is put every single DC figure on the same plane and look like they exist in the same world.***

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To prove this point, Burnett recalls a story regarding the Disney DVD release of *Tron*. Burnett pushed for the 88-minute making-of-*Tron* documentary because he was interested. Disney "could have cared less. They polled mothers of children five and under, 'Are you excited about the upcoming 20th Anniversary of *Tron*?' And these mothers were like: 'What? What's *Tron*?'"

"So the studio decided nobody cares about *Tron*, let's not spend any money. So, it comes out and it's their top-selling, old live-action catalogue title of the year." Disney, needless to say, was shocked and thought

their polling information was incorrect. "I haven't seen anything designed by a poll or a focus group that was worth a crap."

His love of *Tron* helped it to become successful, but there are pitfalls to being an uber-fan and being in the biz. Burnett's double life of making movies and being a fan of everything makes it more difficult to do his job because he sits on both sides of the fence.

"It's frustrating because I'm as much a consumer of this material, and my opinions are discounted because of that. On the other hand, I know that going in, and it helps me (to pitch ideas)."

He realized this when he was looking at turning *Living in Infamy* (his comic book which simultaneously became a movie script) into a movie. He knows no one will let him helm the \$40-\$50 million picture as director, which is why he's producing it, so that he has some control, sounds professional, and won't seem like a geeky fan.

His geeky consumerism came to light with DC Direct because of all the variations of their figures; he got into a conversation with a friend at the company regarding the various story-line figures they're making. Burnett doesn't like the fact that they look like their comic inspiration:

"I liked it more when all the figures

looked realistic. Now with the various styles you can't have your normal Superman sitting next to the Batman from *The Dark Knight Returns*. They're the wrong scale. What I want to be able to do is put every single DC figure on the same plane and look like they exist in the same world."

His friend asked Burnett if he was out of his mind. "No, I want to have the Legion of Superheroes be able to interact with the Justice League. I want them to look like the same scale, like they exist in the real world." He was dismissed as just a geeky fanboy. This could be good and bad.

Burnett laments the severe lack of good movies being made today, especially the lack of worthwhile sci fi movies. "If you go back and look at the early 70s, even things that were goofy like *Omega Man*, or *The Last Days of Man on Earth*, it was interesting stuff getting made. Even the original *Rollerball* is a fascinating movie about corporate culture and the corporate wars. Now all science fiction movies are synonymous with action. I want to see more movies like *Gattica*."

Part of the reason these films may be made only as blockbusters is Hollywood knows the fans will see them. It's the mother of three that somehow has to be convinced to spend \$100 on a family outing to go see these movies.

According to Burnett, if anything has proved that sci fi fans don't really matter to Hollywood it is that the fans will go to anything, and the Internet buzz means nothing. "The Internet proved that there are not enough fans to make something successful. *Snakes on a Plane* is the case in point."

Two dream projects that he would love to make films of are Dan Simmons's *Hyperion*, which he describes as "Canterbury Tales in Space," and *The Harvest* by Robert Charles Wilson.

Burnett gets just as riled up about what's good and not on TV. He finds issues with *Lost* and *24*. In fact, he likes to watch them on TiVo so he can get all the pertinent information about the shows without the 90% filler.

"*Lost* is the most maddening... *Lost* is basically a 2-hour movie that they're stretching out into three frickin' years. Very

few things happen. It barely moves along... Nobody wants to wait around that long to find out what's going on. I watch because I'm intrigued about what's going on, but it's maddening.

"Those characters aren't doing enough. They don't even interact. You watch the flashback stories that aren't about the characters on the show interacting with one another. It's one or two minutes of really interesting stuff and then all this filler."

But he doesn't feel all modern shows are horrible. Burnett feels the most underrated show on TV today is *Veronica Mars*. For a great story (beginning, middle and end), he loved the *X-Files*...until the movie. Problems: Conspirators dealing with aliens since WWII, the eugenics thing, the black oil that was never explained, now causes alien gestation, what's with the space ship that has created more problems. The conspirators apparently knew nothing

about what was going on inside the alien ship. So, how did Gillian Anderson's Scully get there? How did they know Mulder had rescued her? And the list goes on.

It's not just these popular TV shows that get Burnett riled up. However, his extreme dislike for a few more recent blockbusters, including the *Star Wars* prequels and the sequels to the *Matrix*, may be better left for another time—or, next time you see him at a con, you can ask him yourself.

For more information on Robert Meyer Burnett, visit his web site at: <http://ludovicotechnique.com/ludovicohome.html>

# Halloween Costuming Around the Bay

**Article and Photos By Jean Martin**  
*Editor*

Halloween, with its pagan roots, has now become mainstream. But it is still a fun holiday that encourages everyone to let their hair down. So costuming is naturally a part of enjoying Halloween. You'd think that with all the costuming opportunities I have on an ongoing basis that Halloween would be old hat to me. However, I still look forward to it because it is the biggest and best costuming event of the year! And everyone, costumers and regular folk alike, gets into the spirit of things.

Speaking of spirits, Halloween also ties in with the paranormal and otherworldly interests. So sci fi and fantasy go well with it. And history too, since Halloween has been celebrated in lots of cultures around the world for millennia. Though the holiday began when people believed that spirits from the non-material world come into ours for one night, the point is now lost to most, but still appears in the form of horror movies, Halloween décor, and scary costumes of every kind.

This year, it seems like with all the new people I know in fandom, Halloween has mushroomed from a one-day event to a three-week event! The festivities for me began with the Black Fleet Star Pirates' Guild party in the city two Saturdays before Halloween. It was hosted by one of its members, Debbie. I'm also a member of Black Fleet and enjoyed hanging out with the group. Debbie's house is an old Victorian and she decorated each room elaborately. The music was 80s as well as some Middle Eastern music, as some BF-SPG members are belly dance performers as well. One lady, Ozlum, actually performed. She was amazingly fun to watch as



**Imperious Leader**



Wizards



Jayne and River



**Kel and Corli**



**Joan and Richard**

she sensuously sashayed around the living room.

The night had its scary moments as well when some of us were lounging in the front parlor and several people recounted their encounters with ghosts and other spectral phenomena. And apropos for the occasion, I was told that Debbie's sewing room in the basement has a ghost. So our Imperious Leader, Obi-Juan, showed me the room and told me that the ghost is quite harmless and actually quite nice.

I wore a Batgirl costume I bought at a Halloween store. But it looked good and didn't look cheap, and most people liked it. Lots of people wore their own creations or custom-made costumes. BF-SPG is a costuming group so the



The Dread Pirate Roberts caresses Elvira

level of costuming was quite high.

On the Saturday before Halloween, I went to three parties in one evening—all in San Jose, fortunately. The first one was at the home of one of my friends whom I do masquerade competitions with. It was nice to see most of the folks I do masquerades with. Everyone was in costume, of course. And it was nice to see that we were all dressed up in real outfits as opposed to store-bought costumes. Several were dressed up as pirates and characters from *Firefly*. I was dressed as Boomer from *Battlestar Galactica* for the evening.

After that first party, which was more of a mellow get-together of friends, I went to a bigger party that was still quite relaxed, almost elegant, but with more people. It was at the home of a Browncoat



Bat Girl with an Elf

couple I recently became acquainted with, Joan and Richard. Joan decorated each and every room with Department 56 Halloween décor. I was so impressed with the level of detail with which she decorated her beautiful townhouse! There were trees with ornaments, bat sconces, candles, table-top villages, skeletons at the dining room table, serving dishes, candelabras, wreaths,



**Pirate who lost a round of poker to a skeleton crowd**



**Belly Dancing**



**Boomer, Ren Gal and Pirate Wench**

knick knacks, etc. Even the bathroom and staircase were decorated! It was a lovely party and I was quite happy to run into a lot of Browncoats whom I knew. Several of them were wearing Harry Potter outfits though. I don't think I saw anyone wearing a *Firefly* costume at the party! They liked my Boomer outfit as most of them are also now *BSG* fans.

The last party was not with any of my sci fi, dance or costuming friends and it was a totally different kind of Halloween party than the first two. I'm glad I went

to this last, as this one would have tired me out right away! There was loud Heavy Metal music coming out of the stereo and the guests were more spirited, if you know what I mean. The costumes were store-bought but more wild and crazy. I saw lots of afros, boas and short skirts. I did run into someone dressed as a Crazy 88 and he was glad that I recognized his costume. The party was a lot of fun and reminded me of my old Heavy Metal partying days.

On Halloween night itself, I went to the Foster City safe streets again with

my family. As I already covered this last year, I'm not going to repeat myself. But I highly recommend it for those who enjoy the actual act of Trick-or-Treating with children. which is a big tradition here in the U.S. that I didn't get to experience when I was a kid. The houses in that one entire neighborhood that's blocked off for the evening are very nicely decorated—and there's lots of candy being given away too! What a full experience of Halloween I've had this year. Now on to Thanksgiving and Christmas!

# A Castro Street Halloween

**Article and Photos By Sasha Nealand**  
*Staff Writer*

Once again, the lights were on late into the evening of October 31 on Castro Street, and despite the heavy police presence, a Halloween spirit prevailed.



**Super Bunny and Beaker**

Riding the Metro was a treat, with the cars full of antennaed and winged creatures and super-heroes of all varieties, all heading towards Castro Street. The Incredibles and a Rosie the Riveter, along with a dinosaur and a turtle, fought to get into the cars before the Metro doors slid closed. After that it was easy to find your way by just following the flow of the costumed crowd. Once there, the famous street was jam-packed with costumed people dancing to the beat of the provided music and happily snapping photos and exclaiming over each other's costumes.

A guy dressed as a bathroom shower ran around the street capturing people in his shower curtain, a group of people-sized Fandango bag puppets posed often for photos, Castro Street residents threw candy down to the crowd from the apartments above. A party atmosphere of hilarity and high spirits permeated the crowd. The signature Castro Street men-dressed-as-



**Man in the Shower**

women made appearances as glam queens and cheerleaders with beards.

One red-haired, costumed participant, Stannie Holt, carefully balancing a tray of cookies (an accessory to her costume character, Bree from the TV show *Desperate Housewives*), had these remarks on the reported murder and mayhem that later appeared in the evening



Castro Street Girls



Desperate Housewife and Alan Wei



Girl with a Pearl Earring



Fandango Women

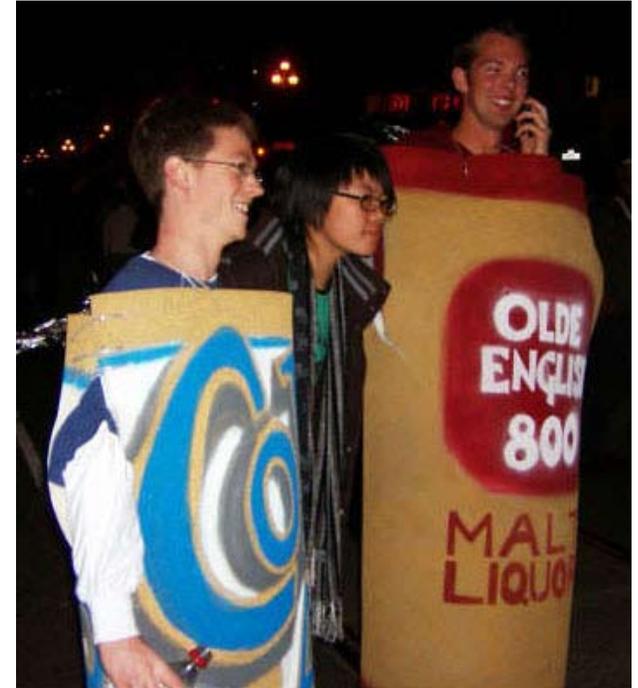
news: “I knew something was going on when we heard all those sirens about 10:45, but I had no idea it was so bad! On the other hand, I was getting a bad vibe from the crowd.... Anyway, we got away safely, and a fine time was had by all.”

Another participant, San Francisco resident Alan Wei, had this to say: “I had a grand time at the (Castro) street party. My head was still spinning once I lay down (to sleep). Sad to hear what happened around us.”

At the close of the evening just about around 11:30, the SF cops began chanting, “Go home...Go home...”, the street cleaners showed up, clearing the streets of bottles and other debris, and the crowd dispersed at the end of another historic Halloween evening in the Castro.



**Dinosaur**



**Beer Can Dudes**

# Ushering in the Dickens Fair Season

Article and Photos By Jean Martin

Editor

On October 7, the Period Events and Entertainments Re-Creation Society (PEERS), a nonprofit organization dedicated to historical dance, theatre and the performing arts, held its annual Dickens Ball. This event ushers in the season of the Dickens Fair, which starts the day after Thanksgiving and goes to the day before Christmas Eve.

I got to bed around 4:00 a.m. that morning from SiliCon (see article in this same issue). So I took it easy and decided to just skip SiliCon the entire Saturday. I woke up late, watched some of season one of *BSG*, and drove to the San Mateo Masonic Hall for rehearsals at around 5 p.m.

There always is a Victorian Music Hall at the Dickens-themed PEERS

events. The next one after the Fair will be the Dickens Reunion ball in January. I'm part of the Peerless Beauties chorus girl group and our shows, during the intermissions, are a lot of fun. Bawdy and raucous, but funny and sweet at the same time.

For the ball itself, I wore a Victorian ensemble

I bought at the Dickens Fair a couple of years ago. The top is a violet off-the-shoulder bodice and the bottom a black Can Can skirt. For the performance, I had on Victorian tasteful and colorful



Beautiful ladies all in a row

undergarments. For this ball, we just did one 30-minute set. It included a song I really like entitled *The Boy I Love*, which involves us pointing out into the audience for the boys we love (well, in theory anyway), and the guys in the audience waving their handkerchiefs at us. It's a flirty and delightful tune that I enjoy singing.

We also learned two new songs for



Doctor Who



**Peerless Beauties doing the Can Can**

the evening: *Artificial Flowers*, a sad story about a young street girl who sells artificial flowers to rich women, and *The Wassail Song*, which is a very Christmasy song. Artistic director and lead singer Cathleen Meyers changed the lyrics to some of the verses to say a little something about the members of the cast. The line she sang for me was to “Jean with her fans,” as I waved my two Chinese fans that I used as props for a photo shoot I did for a promotional piece for a future ball. The ball is “The Red Carpet Ball” in April 2007. I portrayed Anna May Wong, the first Asian Hollywood film star, who had her heyday in the 1930s. PEERS

produced a calendar from these photos, in which six other Peerless Beauties other than myself posed as Old Hollywood film stars. Our finale was our usual Can Can number where we danced the Can Can off the stage to the song *Don't Have Any More Mrs. More*. Performing with the Peerless Music Hall is a lot of fun. The audience seemed to enjoy our show as well. And it gives the musicians (this evening it was Bangers and Mash) a well-deserved break.

As far as the actual dancing, there were the usual waltzes, polkas, mazurkas, schottisches, the *Grand March* and the popular *Congress of Vienna*. I got to dance



**Bangers and Mash**

the latter with someone I met at the Browncoat Ball. It's always great that I meet people everywhere and run into them at other places. There were also set dances such as *Sir Roger de Coverley* and *Strip the Willow*.

Most people were wearing Victorian attire, but I was wondering what Doctor Who was doing there. Someone was dressed in a Peter Davison *Doctor Who* outfit. Perhaps the Doctor was in Victorian England at some point? Christopher Eccleston did have one episode in Victorian England where he got to meet Charles Dickens. It would have been awesome if someone had

come as the Christopher Eccleston Doctor Who. And I could have been Rose. One of these days, I'm going to go to an event in a Rose costume. I'm working on it!

I left before midnight to go to Heidi's Pies with some friends, who I also had dinner with after rehearsals. I love hanging out with friends before and after balls. I toyed with the idea of going to SiliCon for the nighttime parties but thought that I wouldn't get there in time, so I just drove home, content with the fact that I was having a full weekend of dancing, costuming and science fiction.

For more information on future PEERS events, go to:

[www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org)

For the PEERS 2007 Hollywood Pre-Code Photographs Calendar and various other merchandise, go to:

<http://www.cafepress.com/peers>

For more information on the Dickens Fair, go to:

<http://www.dickensfair.com/>



**Grand March**



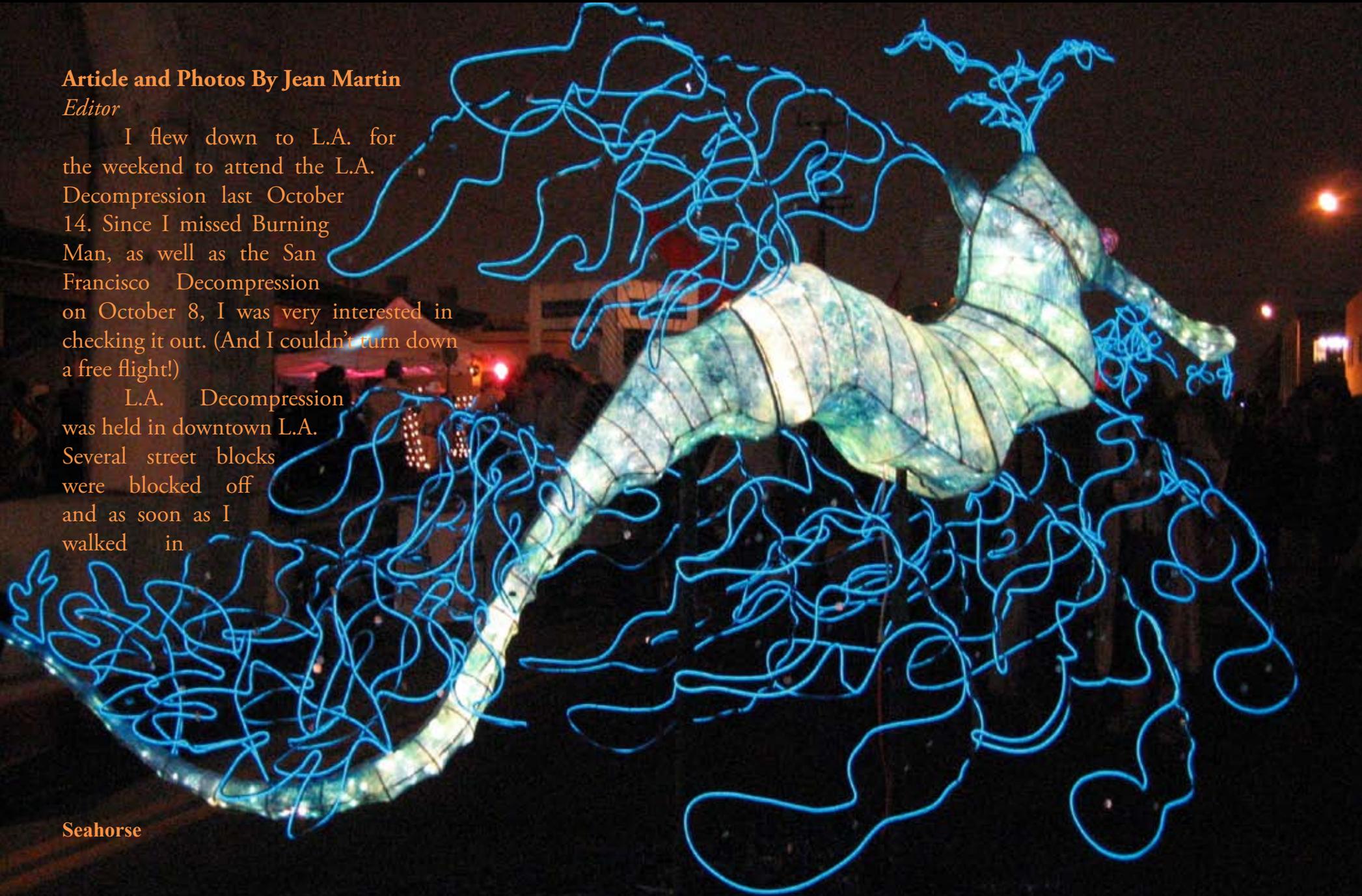
**Sir Roger de Coverley**

# LA Decompression

**Article and Photos By Jean Martin**  
*Editor*

I flew down to L.A. for the weekend to attend the L.A. Decompression last October 14. Since I missed Burning Man, as well as the San Francisco Decompression on October 8, I was very interested in checking it out. (And I couldn't turn down a free flight!)

L.A. Decompression was held in downtown L.A. Several street blocks were blocked off and as soon as I walked in



**Seahorse**



### **DJ Dance Stage**

through the entrance, I knew I was going to have a good time. The girl that gave me a wristband, with the Burning Man logo on it, said, “Welcome home” with a cheerful and welcoming smile. I only realized at that point that this was an extension of Burning Man and not just any ordinary block party.

I was immediately struck by how

relaxed and colorful the place was. You wouldn't have thought you were in the middle of one of the most famous urban jungles of them all. I really felt like I was at Burning Man. There was one long street that stretched to my left and right. There were big art installations right at the intersection. And further down on each side, I could see various theme camps set

up. There were even art cars!

There was a dance floor across the entrance that was playing techno music. Not my cup of tea, but the DJ was ensconced in a grass hut and surrounded by real tropical trees. I wasn't in the mood to dance yet so my group decided to wander around a bit first.

The first art I saw was the big dragon we featured in our Burning Man coverage a few issues ago. I missed seeing that at Burning Man so it was great to see it in L.A. At night, it was lit from within and had an orange glow. What I didn't know was that it had a partner, a sea horse which glowed neon blue, that was just as awesome. I got to see that there as well.

Further down to the right was a big stage with a ringmaster as an emcee. On that stage were fashion shows and other interesting performances. There were other dance stages as well. One played a new form of techno, called break-beat, which I actually enjoyed as it didn't sound too repetitive. There was a camp with a pole and several talented pole dancers in skimpy outfits performed amazing feats of dancing on it.

One of my favorites was the AlterVision: Black Light Lounge. You walked in with 3-D glasses and all these neon artworks were jumping out of the walls at you.



Jean and Art Car

Quite spectacular.

There were also camps set up that were giving away free food. One was giving away pancakes, another waffles, and one theme camp, that also had Indian chanting, gave away kitcheree, a delicious warm rice and lentil dish.

As night went on, things became even more surreal. It really didn't feel like I was in L.A. at all. With hardly any lights, I could be forgiven for mistakenly believing I was actually at the Playa. I should have brought my head lamp.

At the end of the right wing of the street was another huge stage. On this stage were performances by fire dancers. I didn't expect any of this at all! The performances were quite professional and they reminded me of the performances during the night of the Burn last year before the Man was actually burned. I spent the rest of the evening watching these performances by several groups. Each had their own theme, costuming, music, colors and fire paraphernalia. Some had regular poi, one guy had a flaming whip, and another had a mace. Several women had fans or hula hoops of flame. And some had staffs on fire that they fought each other with. There were also several fire blowers. And while they did all this, they were all dancing in time to music! Very impressive.



Black Light Lounge

Well, even the non-performers were quite a treat for the eyes. Everyone, male and female, looked so gorgeous, fit, tanned, well-coiffed and smiling. Lots of people were in movie-quality theatrical costumes, hair and makeup. I guess this is Hollywoodland after all. But everyone was also so nice and friendly. People would just come up to me and talk. They were more down-to-earth than they looked.

On the left extension of the street were more dance stages. There were also two art cars that were based on ships. One was a Viking ship with a dragon head and another was modern, like a big cruise ship. There was also a big screen where they were showing footage from this year's Burning Man. So I got to see the Man burn, which was quite a magnificent sight with lots more fireworks than last year.

The festivities ended at midnight but there was a club right next door, which we stayed at until closing time. I didn't enjoy the club as much as it was too hot and loud. I danced there for a little while but it just reminded me of being in a crowded city when I was just enjoying the fresh air, relaxing spaciousness and beautiful surroundings outside. The difference was quite jarring.

I certainly enjoyed L.A. Decompression a whole lot. And between



**Fire Blower**

that and my Fourth of July Playa adventure, I got my fill of Burning Man this year, so I don't feel too bad about missing the real deal. In fact, I actually preferred L.A. Decompression because it was like Burning Man but smaller and less overwhelming. I didn't have to deal with the sandy Playa floor, stale food, dry air, extreme heat and cold, dust storms, and 24-hour techno music coming from all sides. But I definitely will be going to Burning Man again next year. There is still something special about living in a fantasy city and artistic community for a week where you can just exist and be, and do whatever you want with several thousands of people doing the same thing.



# BASFA Minutes: meeting 848

October 23, 2006

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

Began 8:00.

18 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 847 were accepted as 'reading glasses won't help.'

There was no Treasurer or treasurer's report.

VP report: there's a new 'Drink Tank' on efanzines.com, there'll be a new SF/SF Tuesday or Wednesday & the next 'Drink Tank' will be about computers.

The President had nothing to report.

The Party Committee will order BASFA badge ribbons.

The AhwaneeCon committee reported an

LJ community has been created, a logo has been crafted & a mascot is being designed.

It was moved to refer to Carole Parker as 'bionic woman' for the duration of the meeting.

## Announcements

[Bill Laubenheimer] announced that Pacific NW fandom is trying to organize a filk convention for Jan 2008.

[evil] Kevin announced Andy's present arrived & CostumeCon 26 has a kids membership.

Dave C announced that there's a new Cargo Cult out & that SFState is holding a battle of left and right.

Andy announced that Nov 5th Alameda Hangar One will have an open house, featuring scary drinks & that Baycon has a 3 year deal with the Santa Clara Hyatt & Convention Center starting in 2008.

Chris announced 'Chris for TAFF' and that he is organizing the LosCon TAFF auction.

Carole announced that the stitches have been removed and she'll show the scar if asked.

Frank announced that Jane Wyatt had died.

## Reviews:

Joni reviewed Mark Janson's 'Apers' as it addressed animal rights topics and guarantees teens will read it, the prose is stilted and the cover is iffy at best.

Dave C reviewed 'The Prestige' as magicians feuding in Edwardian England; worth full price.

Dave G reported there's a big tent over Howard Street for Oracle World.

Chris reviewed '100 years of Horror Films' as worth sitting through, the 2nd season of Harvey Birdman Attorney at Law as brilliant, that Sealab 2021 was equally funny & he's not quite sure he gets 'Lost'; there were many follow-ons.

Carole reviewed bicycle accidents with teenagers as it sucks, that Stanford Hospital was unimpressive and Warren King is an

[\*excellent\*] sports surgeon.

pretty good writing.

We auctioned off stuff - books for \$0.25, \$3.00, \$0.25 & \$1.00; a stamp for \$2.00 & birthday auctioned Chris off for \$25.00.

Andy said 'he has seen the future at the San Mateo Marriott' and says Baycon will be 'cozy,' that Westercon will probably be OK & he reviewed the 1st episode of 'Torchwood' as worth breaking the law for, not Dr. Who, not CSI Cardiff, nicely shot,

[evil] Kevin reviewed [tall] Kevin's lessons in parliamentary procedures were well worth it.

We adjourned at 9:27 pm.

An unnamed person reviewed Bujold's newest novel as quite good.

And the rumor of the week was: 'Evil Kevin will lead us to distilled water.'

## ***BASFA Minutes: meeting 849***

October 30, 2006

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

Began 8:10.

20 people attended.

Big Announcement: next week BASFA will meet at the Newark Round Table at Thornton Ave and Cedar.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 848 were accepted as 'full of veiled references.'

Treasurer's report: we took in \$5.12 in the regular jar & \$30.00 in the party jar.

VP report: 'Chris for TAFF' & there's a new 'Drink Tank' on efanazines.com, there'll be a new SF/SF soon.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

The AhwaneeCon committee reported that Robert Hole has done the logo, registration forms have been printed & a progress report is being assembled.

Announcements

Dave C announced that there's a convention coming up at the Embassy Suites in South SF, BasCon, a slash fiction convention.

Andy announced a death in the BayCon extended family & that Con-X-treme has moved from March to July 27-29.

Lynn announced that she will be performing at Java on Ocean in SF at 7 pm & that Warren now works at the Titanic exhibit.

Chris announced that he wants a review of Yaoi-con [from someone who attended it].

[evil] Kevin announced that CostumeCon's rates go up on Wednesday.

Art announced that the annual DevNul tournament begins tomorrow at midnight.

Reviews:

Howeird reviewed community theatre - the

Mission City Center for the Performing Arts in Santa Clara's showing of 'Gilligan's Island, the Musical' as much, MUCH better than it sounds and every part was nailed solid, well worth full price and attending twice.

Chris said he lost lots of money at Tahoe and reviewed the worst haunted house ever made as not worth the \$5.00 donation & he reviewed DVDs - 'Velvet Vampire' as not as bad as it could have been, with beautiful cinematography and the storyline was crap, worth \$3.86 & reviewed 'Homo Promo' as really entertaining and worth adding to your Netflix queue - but see it with a computer nearby so you can do searches for obscure actors.

Cheryl reviewed England as wet and she's glad to be back & reviewed darkest Somerset as the newspapers there have progressed to moveable type & there's an article about Kim Newman that she passed around & while England doesn't do much with Hallowe'en there IS a fun costume event to celebrate - Guy Fawkes Day - 'costumes and explosives, who can ask for anything more?' & she had photos from that too; Andy follow-on'd that he'd seen Kim Newman on TV during 100 Years of Horror.

Bob reviewed books, Peter Watts 'Blindsight' as interesting science & Charlie Stross's 'Glasshouse' as a terrific use of teleportation.

Dave C reviewed the great debate [radio DJs debating] as free & worth full price & warns that the 75th anniversary edition of 'Dracula' has had a new musical score attached to it.

Andy reviewed episodes 2 & 3 of 'Torchwood' as it's getting weirder - not for kids - still worth breaking the law for.

Dave G reviewed skin cancer surgery as 'wear sunscreen.'

Then we established a party jar.

And Dave C reviewed 'Man of the Year' as fun, cute - not really deep - & without a lot of thought & worth matinee & reviewed 'Well of Lost Plots' by Fforde as a bit of a place-holder, worth paperback.

We auctioned off stuff: books for \$0.25, \$5.00, \$2.00, \$3.00, \$2.50, \$3.50, \$5.50, \$4.50, & birthday auctioned Barbara off for \$12.00 to Trey.

We adjourned at 9:15 pm.

And the rumor of the week was 'that Cheryl Morgan will win the Hugo for fan artist.'

# Bay Area Fannish Calendar

While some effort (OK, OK, damn little effort) is made to verify event listings, please check before attending, as events are sometimes cancelled or times and locations changed.

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

## Wednesday, November 8

*Transit of Mercury*

Chabot Space Science Center  
10000 Skyline Blvd.  
Oakland  
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Free with museum admission

[www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)

View this relatively rare journey by Mercury across the face of the Sun, as viewed from Earth (it won't happen again for another 10 years). Visitors can see the progress on the Center's TV monitors and participate in hands-on activities.

## Wednesday, November 8

*YLEM Forum: "How Techies Have Fun"*

RX Gallery and Bar

132 Eddy Street

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$10 donation

A show-and-tell evening presented by YLEM:

Artists Using Science and Technology, featuring moving light sculptures, a digital lava lamp, glowing necklaces, and more.

## Wednesday, November 8

*The Smart Vehicle*

SAP Labs

Building D, 3410 Hillview Avenue

Palo Alto

6-9 p.m.

\$40 at the door

650-386-5015

A panel of experts from DaimlerChrysler, Bosch, SAP and others discuss current and future uses of electronics and software in cars.

## Thursday, November 9

*Thrillville: Shatfest*

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$6

Thrillville's tribute to William Shatner, including a screening of *Impulse* (1974).

## Thursday, November 9

*Purple Rain: When Ukes Cry*

The Rickshaw Stop

155 Fell Street

San Francisco

9 p.m.

\$10

[www.ukeapocalypse.com](http://www.ukeapocalypse.com)

From the creators of *Ukey Stardust* and *the Spiders from Mars* comes something far more ridiculous: Prince's 80s masterpiece, in its entirety, on ukulele. (Is this Fannish? *Ukey Stardust* made the list because it was at the Chabot Space Center, and Bowie was kinda sci fi-ish in his *Ziggy Stardust-Diamond Dogs* period, plus people were encouraged to show up in Bowie-glam attire, so there was the costuming angle. Now we seem to be on a slippery slope. One lined with ukulele players.)

## Thursday-Saturday, November 9-11

*Shocktoberfest*

The Hypnodrome

575 10th Street

San Francisco

Thursdays-Saturdays 8 p.m.

\$20-\$60

[www.hypnodrome.com](http://www.hypnodrome.com)

The Thrillpeddlers wrap up their seventh annual Halloween season revue, with three tales of terror and taboo inspired by the notorious Theatre du Grand Guignol.

## Thursday-Sunday, November 9-12

*Bat Boy: The Musical*

School of the Arts Theatre

555 Portola Drive  
San Francisco  
\$26-\$36  
8 p.m. (Sunday at 3 p.m.)  
roltheatre.com

Musical comedy explores what happens when some teenagers in a small town in West Virginia discover a half-bat, half-human creature.

**Friday, November 10**

*Late Night Picture Show:  
The Toxic Avenger (1985)*

Clay Theatre  
2261 Fillmore  
San Francisco  
Midnight  
\$9.75  
www.landmarkafterdark.com

**Friday and Saturday, November 10-11**

*Midnight Special:  
A Clockwork Orange (1971)*  
Shattuck Cinemas  
2230 Shattuck Ave.  
Berkeley  
\$8  
www.landmarkafterdark.com

**November 10-18**

*The Curse of the Goddamned Ship*  
Dark Room Theatre  
2263 Mission Street  
San Francisco  
Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.  
\$10  
www.darkroomsf.com/goddamned/  
An evening of absurd theater, dark comedy and

music of the sea aboard a ship of damned fools.

**Saturday, November 11**

*Mob of Waldos*  
Ferry Building  
San Francisco

Noon

Free

waldo.castlepeakstudios.com

Those interested in participating in a re-creation of the most difficult “Where’s Waldo” puzzle ever are encouraged to come out to the square across from the San Francisco Ferry Building at noon in a red-and-white-striped shirt and blue pants.

**Saturday, November 11**

*Author: Ellen Klages*  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia Street  
San Francisco  
3 p.m.  
Free  
www.borderlands-books.com

**Saturday, November 11**

*For Crying Out Loud:  
A Reading by Lemony Snicket*  
Book Passage  
51 Tamal Vista Blvd.  
Corte Madera  
11 a.m.  
415-927-0960  
With music by The Gothic Archies featuring Lemony Snicket on percussion. Customers will receive a ticket with purchase of a copy of *The End* (\$12.99), the final installment in the *Series*

of *Unfortunate Events* books.

**Saturday, November 11**

*Vegas in Space (1991)*  
Clay Theatre  
2261 Fillmore  
San Francisco  
Midnight  
\$12  
www.landmarkafterdark.com  
A midnight screening of the first all-drag-queen Sci-Fi musical ever – with host Peaches Christ and guests.

**Saturday, November 11**

*Warp 11: “A 23rd Century Thanksgiving”*  
Old Ironsides  
1901 10th Street  
Sacramento  
9 pm  
Sacramento’s Star Trek-themed rock band performs such hits as “She Make It So” and “Boldly Go Down on Me.”

**Saturday, November 11**

*Other Magazine Presents  
Writers with Drinks*  
The Make-Out Room  
3225 22nd Street  
San Francisco  
7:30 p.m.  
\$3-\$5 sliding scale  
Writers: K.E. Silva, Madeleine Robins, Katie Hafner and Spring Opara.

**Saturday and Sunday, November 11-12**  
*Carnival of Stars*

Centennial Hall  
22292 Foothill Blvd.  
Hayward  
10 a.m.-9 p.m.

\$12  
[www.carnivalofstars.com](http://www.carnivalofstars.com)  
A belly dance and comic book festival with  
dance performances, cartoon artists, gift  
shopping, costume contest.

**November 11-December 10**

*Edward Scissorhands*  
Orpheum Theatre  
1192 Market Street  
San Francisco  
\$35-\$90  
[www.bestofbroadway-sf.com](http://www.bestofbroadway-sf.com)  
Choreographer Matthew Bourne's dance  
adaptation of the 1990 Tim Burton movie.

**Sunday, November 12**

*Author: Deborah Grabien*  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia Street  
San Francisco  
1 p.m.  
Free  
[www.borderlands-books.com](http://www.borderlands-books.com)

**Sunday, November 12**

*Authors: Tim Pratt and Heather Shaw*  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia Street  
San Francisco  
3 p.m.  
Free  
[www.borderlands-books.com](http://www.borderlands-books.com)

The authors will read their works from *Year's Best Fantasy 6*.

**Sunday, November 12**

*Ask a Scientist:  
Why Do We Study Monkeys?*  
The Canvas Gallery  
1200 9th Avenue  
San Francisco  
7 p.m.  
Free  
With Prof. Alexander "Sandy" Harcourt, UC  
Davis Dept. of Anthropology; presented in  
association with the Leakey Foundation.

**Sunday, November 12**

*For Crying Out Loud:  
A Reading by Lemony Snicket*  
First Congregational Church  
2345 Channing Way  
Berkeley  
3 p.m.  
\$3  
510-559-9500  
With music by The Gothic Archies featuring  
Lemony Snicket on percussion. Presented by  
Cody's Books; tickets for sale at Cody's stores.

**Sunday, November 12**

*Blind Guardian*  
The Fillmore  
1805 Geary Boulevard  
San Francisco  
German progressive rock band tours "A  
Twist in the Myth," their new album. "They  
previously did an entire album, 'Nightside on  
Middle Earth' based on Tolkien's Silmarillion

and a song called 'The Lord of the Rings' is  
on an earlier album. Definitely a band heavily  
influenced by fantasy themes."— Jack Avery.

**Friday, November 17**

*Bioethics and Beyond: Nature vs.  
Nanotechnology*  
Mechanics' Institute  
57 Post Street  
San Francisco  
Noon  
\$12  
[www.milibrary.org/events.html](http://www.milibrary.org/events.html)  
Mark Routhier in conversation with Dr. Alan  
Goldstein; part of the Institute's "Science  
Salon" series.

**Friday and Saturday, November 17-18**

*Late Night Picture Show:  
Godzilla, Mothra and King Ghidorah Giant  
Monsters All-Out Attack (2001)*  
Clay Theatre  
2261 Fillmore  
San Francisco  
Midnight  
\$9.75  
[www.landmarkafterdark.com](http://www.landmarkafterdark.com)

**Saturday, November 18**

*Borderlands Ninth Anniversary Sale*  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia Street  
San Francisco  
Noon-8 p.m.  
[www.borderlands-books.com](http://www.borderlands-books.com)

**Saturday, November 18**

*Pas D'Armes*

Society for Creative Anachronism Event

Elk Glen

Golden Gate Park

San Francisco

Opening ceremonies 11 a.m.

Site fee \$5 (\$10 family), repast \$10, non-members +\$3 (The Hospitallers of St. Bahb the Martyr will subsidize the non-members fee).

[www.cloondara.org](http://www.cloondara.org)

**Friday and Saturday, November 24-25**

*Late Night Picture Show: Brazil (1985)*

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore

San Francisco

Midnight

\$9.75

[www.landmarkafterdark.com](http://www.landmarkafterdark.com)

**Friday-Sunday, November 24-26**

*J-Rock Connection*

Santa Clara Marriott

2700 Mission College Blvd.

Santa Clara

[www.j-rock.info](http://www.j-rock.info)

Weekend-long celebration of J-rock, cosplay, and Japanese street fashion; live acts include Kama Shenjing, Hagakure, Serafilia, and Mars.

**November 24-December 23**

*Dickens Christmas Fair*

Exhibition Hall

The Cow Palace

Daly City

11 a.m.-7 p.m.

\$20

[www.dickensfair.com](http://www.dickensfair.com)

An appallingly exciting experience of no ordinary cleverness. Dickens' London opens for business the Friday after Thanksgiving and continues weekends through Dec. 23 with gifts, food, costumes, dance parties, etc. (Free admission during opening weekend for "timeplayers" who have submitted their Victorian personae in advance and arrive in period costume — see website for details.)

**Saturday, November 25**

*Toys for Tots Toy Drive*

Toys R Us

1660 Commercial Way

Santa Cruz

11 a.m.-4 p.m.

831-479-4296

Costumed fans turn out in force for a good cause; sponsored by the Golden Gate Garrison-501st Stormtrooper Legion.

**Saturday, November 25**

*Kaiju! Giant Monsters Attack!*

ATA Gallery

992 Valencia Street

San Francisco

8:30 p.m.

\$5

Other Cinema presents Japanese monster film enthusiasts Patrick Macias and David Cox discussing and sharing clips of Godzilla, Mothra, Gamera, Rodan, and the rest.

**Monday, November 27**

*The Face of Another (1966)*

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

7 and 9:30 p.m.

\$9

[www.thecastrotheatre.com](http://www.thecastrotheatre.com)

Directed by Hiroshi Teshigahara, in Japanese with English subtitles.

**Tuesday, November 28**

*American Scary (2006)*

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$5

[www.americanscary.com](http://www.americanscary.com)

Local premiere of a new documentary film about television horror hosts, including local legends Bob Wilkins, John Stanley and Mr. Lobo; with filmmaker Sandy Clark and other guests.

**Saturday, December 2**

*Super Toy, Comic Book, Record and Collectible Show*

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

344 Tully Road

San Jose

\$5 (early bird admission \$15)

[www.timetunneltoys.com/toyshow.html](http://www.timetunneltoys.com/toyshow.html)

**Saturday, December 2**

*Jingles Feast*

SCA Event

Unitarian Universalist Church

505 East Charleston Road

Palo Alto

10 a.m.-10 p.m.

\$15

[mists.westkingdom.org/JinglesFeast.shtml](http://mists.westkingdom.org/JinglesFeast.shtml)  
Annual Yule revels include a feast, bell ringing competition, and silent auction.

### **Saturday, December 2**

*Silly Symphonies*

Castro Theatre  
429 Castro Street  
San Francisco  
1:30 p.m.

\$13

[www.silentfilm.org](http://www.silentfilm.org)

Rare screening of eight of Walt Disney's pioneering short animated features from 1929-35, followed by a panel discussion led by film historian Russell Merritt.

### **Monday, December 4**

*Ask a Scientist: E=mc<sup>2</sup>*

The Canvas Gallery  
1200 9th Avenue  
San Francisco  
7 p.m.

Free

UC Berkeley Physics Prof Hitoshi Murayama talks about the meaning of the world's most famous equation.

### **Thursday, December 7**

*Thrillville: The Giant Claw (1957)*

Parkway Speakeasy Theater  
1834 Park Blvd.  
Oakland  
9:15 p.m.  
\$7

Hosted by Speakeasy Theaters programmer and local lounge lizard Will "the Thrill" Viharo and his lovely wife and stage assistant, Monica, Tiki Goddess. With the Twilight Vixen Revue live on stage.

### **Saturday, December 9**

*Other Magazine Presents*

*Writers with Drinks*  
The Make-Out Room  
3225 22nd Street  
San Francisco  
7:30 p.m.

\$3-\$5 sliding scale

With writers Lolly Winston, Stephen Elliott, Indigo Moor, Laura Moriarty, and Kevin Avery.

### **Sunday, December 10**

*Sac-Con*

Scottish Rite Center  
6151 H Street  
Sacramento  
10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
\$6

[www.sacanime.com](http://www.sacanime.com)

Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest. Guests include *ST: TNG*'s Denise Crosby (Tasha Yar) and Tony Todd (Kurn).

### **Saturday, December 16**

*Otaku Bowl*

Details to follow  
Winter edition of the event where bowling, anime and cosplay meet. Video room, costume contest, artist alley/swap meet and random bowling fun.

### **Tuesday, December 19**

*Ask a Scientist's Holiday Trivia Party*

The Bazaar Café  
5927 California Street  
San Francisco  
7 p.m.

Free

A rollicking night of science trivia, hosted by the Exploratorium's Robin Marks.

### **Saturday, December 23**

*The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)*

*The Two Towers (2002)*

*The Return of the King (2003)*

Castro Theatre  
429 Castro Street  
San Francisco  
1:30-11:30 p.m.

\$10

The entire *Lord of the Rings* cycle on the Castro's big screen—all for ten bucks.

### **Friday-Sunday, January 5-7**

*Fangoria's Weekend of Horrors*

DoubleTree Hotel  
2050 Gateway Place  
San Jose  
\$49-\$169, single-day tickets available  
[www.creationent.com](http://www.creationent.com)

A Creation Convention. Costume contest, indy film room, dealer's room; guests include George Romero (*Night of the Living Dead*, *Dawn of the Dead*).

### **Saturday, January 6**

*Victorian 12th Night Ball*

PEERS Event  
Masonic Lodge  
100 N. Ellsworth  
San Mateo  
\$15 in advance (by December 20), \$20 at the door  
www.peers.org  
A.k.a. The Dickens Fair Reunion Ball. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

### **Sunday, January 7**

*Bad Movie Night:  
Snakes on a Plane (2006)*  
The Dark Room Theatre  
2263 Mission Street  
San Francisco  
8 p.m.  
\$5

www.darkroomsf.com  
With your hosts Sherilyn Connelly, Mikl Em, Geekboy and Jim Fourniadis.

### **Saturday-Sunday, January 13-14**

*Sac-Anime*  
Scottish Rite Center  
6151 H Street  
Sacramento  
\$6 - \$10  
www.sacanime.com  
Anime convention featuring viewing room, art contest, vendor's room, costume ball, J-pop concert, more.

### **January 18-22**

*Further Confusion 2007*  
DoubleTree Hotel  
2050 Gateway Place

San Jose  
\$45  
www.furtherconfusion.org  
The Bay Area's major Furry con. Art show, dealer's room, costume contest, more.

### **Saturday, February 3**

*Gotham City Black and White Ball*  
PEERS Event  
Masonic Lodge  
100 N. Ellsworth  
San Mateo  
\$15 in advance (by January 27), \$20 at the door  
www.peers.org  
Bruce Wayne requests the pleasure of your company. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

### **Friday-Saturday, February 9-10**

*ComBots Cup*  
The Crucible  
1260 7th Street  
Oakland  
Noon-11 p.m.  
\$20, discounts for kids and active-duty military  
Fighting robots duke it out at the Crucible.  
www.combots.net

### **February 16-19**

*Pantheacon*  
DoubleTree Hotel  
2050 Gateway Place  
San Jose  
www.ancientways.com/pantheacon  
Annual Pagan gathering with workshops, lectures, performances, rituals, drumming, dancing, costume contests, and crafts.

### **February 16-19**

*DunDraCon*  
San Ramon Marriott  
2600 Bishop Drive  
San Ramon  
\$50 at the door (\$40 until February 1)  
www.dundracon.com  
Annual gaming con, with RPGs, board and card games, miniatures and more.

### **Tuesday, February 27**

*Author: China Mieville*  
Booksmith  
1644 Haight Street  
San Francisco  
415-863-8688  
7 p.m.  
Free

### **Friday-Sunday, March 2-4**

*WonderCon*  
Moscone Center South  
747 Howard Street  
San Francisco  
www.comic-con.org/wc/  
Comic book/media convention with panels, dealers, summer movie previews, anime, costume contest, more.

### **Friday-Sunday, March 2-4**

*Consonance*  
Crowne Plaza Silicon Valley  
777 Bellew Drive  
Milpitas  
\$45 at the door (\$40 until February 17)  
www.consonance.org

The annual Bay Area filk convention.

**Saturday, March 3**

*Merry Widow Waltz Ball*

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by February 24), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

**Sunday, March 11**

*Sac-Con*

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$6

Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest.

**Friday-Sunday, March 16-18**

*Rakkasah West*

Richmond Auditorium

403 Civic Center Plaza

Richmond

www.rakkasah.com

Billed as the largest bellydance festival and fantasy bazaar in the world. Details to follow.

**Saturday, April 7**

*Red Carpet Ball*

*(1930s Hollywood Academy Award Ball)*

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by March 31), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

(There's a glamorous calendar available at

www.cafepress.com/peers.75762076)

**Saturday-Sunday, April 21-22**

*APE (Alternative Press Expo)*

Concourse Exhibition Center

620 7th Street

San Francisco

www.comic-con.org/ape/

Billed as the nation's largest show devoted to alternative and self-published comics; announced guests include Art Spiegelman (*Maus*).

**Saturday, May 5**

*Sleeping Beauty's Christening Fantasy Ball*

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by April 28), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

**Friday-Monday, May 25-28**

*BayCon*

Marriott San Mateo

1770 South Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo

www.baycon.org

\$75 at the door (\$50 until December 31)

25th Anniversary Edition of the largest annual

general SF convention in Northern California.

Diverse panels, dealer's room, art show, masquerade, anime room, hall costumes, gaming, much more.

**Friday-Monday, May 25-28**

*FanimeCon*

San Jose Convention Center

San Jose

www.fanime.com

The Bay Area's largest annual anime convention returns. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, J-pop concert, more.

**Friday-Sunday, June 1-3**

*Dollectable*

Clarion Hotel SFO

401 E. Millbrae Ave.

Millbrae

www.bjdcon.com

\$65 at the door (\$40 until December 1)

A convention for enthusiasts and collectors of Asian-style ball-jointed dolls.

**Saturday, June 2**

*Space Cowboys' Ball*

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by May 26), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

Browncoats, take note. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

**Saturday-Tuesday, June 30-July 3**

*Westercon 60: Gnomeward Bound*

Marriott San Mateo  
1770 South Amphlett Blvd.  
San Mateo  
spfii.org/westercon60/  
Guests of Honor: Tad Williams, Theresa  
Mather, Christian McGuire  
Toastmaster: Jay Lake

**Friday-Sunday, July 27-29**

*Con-X-treme*

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

[www.con-x-treme.com](http://www.con-x-treme.com)

New dates for this con, about which few other details are yet known. (Apparently it will be at the DoubleTree, and there will be a Klingon bar. What more do you need to know?)

**Friday-Monday, August 3-6**

*MythCon 38*

Clark Kerr Center

2601 Warring Street

Berkeley

[www.mythsoc.org](http://www.mythsoc.org)

\$60, \$50 for Mythopoeic Society members

The annual Mythopoeic Conference returns to Berkeley with Guests of Honor Ellen Kushner and Delia Sherman.

**Saturday, August 4**

*Pride & Prejudice Picnic*

PEERS Event

Location TBA

Noon-5 p.m.

[www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org)

An afternoon picnic and dance set in Jane

Austen's England during the late 1790s.

**September 1, 2007**

*Mikado Ball*

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by August 25), \$20 at the door

[www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org)

A Gilbert and Sullivan cast party. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

**September 28-30, 2007**

*Creation's Salute to Star Trek*

DoubleTree Hotel

2001 Point West Way

Sacramento

A Creation con to celebrate the 20th

Anniversary of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

Details to follow.

**October 6, 2007**

*Edwardian Gothic Ball*

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by September 29), \$20 at the door

[www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org)

Edwardian as in macabre illustrator Edward Gorey. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

**November 3, 2007**

*Le Bal des Vampires*

PEERS Event

Gotta love a group that plans this far in advance, particularly since they have a good track record of actually holding their events as scheduled. No further details available yet. [www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org)

**April 25-28, 2008**

*CostumeCon 26*

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

[www.cc26.info](http://www.cc26.info)

CostumeCon will be coming to Silicon Valley in 2008. Further details to follow.

**Ongoing:**

**Daily**

*San Francisco Ghost Hunt*

Walking Tour

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia

San Francisco

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

\$20

[www.sfgghosthunt.com](http://www.sfgghosthunt.com)

**Mondays**

*Bay Area Science Fiction Association*

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

[www.basfa.org](http://www.basfa.org)

## **Mondays**

### *Dukefish*

Jake's of Sunnyvale  
174 E. Fremont Avenue  
Sunnyvale

Gather: 8 p.m, games: 8:30 p.m.

Dukefish is a bunch of people who get together to play board games and, sometimes, bridge every week.

## **Mondays and Wednesdays**

### *Silicon Valley Boardgamers*

#### Match Play

San Antonio Shopping Center  
Mountain View

7 p.m.

\$2

Group meets regularly to play mostly German-style strategy boardgames such as Settlers of Catan; also multiplayer Avalon Hill-style, historical wargames, and others.

## **Wednesdays**

### *Bay Area Role-Playing Society*

#### Go-Getter's Pizza

1489 Beach Park Boulevard  
Foster City

6 p.m-10 p.m.

[www.BayRPS.com](http://www.BayRPS.com)

Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email [GM@BayRPS.com](mailto:GM@BayRPS.com).

## **Wednesdays**

### *East Bay Strategy Games Club*

#### EndGame

921 Washington  
Oakland

7:30 p.m.-11 p.m.

Free

[www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html](http://www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html)

## **Fridays**

### *SF Games*

#### Muddy's Coffeehouse

1304 Valencia Street near 24th  
San Francisco

7 p.m. to midnight

Free

[vax.hanford.org/dk/games](http://vax.hanford.org/dk/games)

SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week. Also has a cards night on Tuesdays at Café Macondo, 3159 16th Street between Guerrero and Valencia.

## **Fridays-Mondays**

### *Haunted Haight Walking Tour*

Meets at PlanetWeavers/Genesis Store  
1573 Haight Street (at Clayton)

San Francisco

7 p.m.-9 p.m.

\$20

[www.hauntedhaight.com](http://www.hauntedhaight.com)

Reservations required.

## **Fridays and Saturdays**

### *Vampire Walking Tour*

Meets corner of California and Taylor  
San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$20

[www.sfvampiretour.com](http://www.sfvampiretour.com)

Led by Mina Harker. Tour is cancelled if there

is heavy rain.

## **Saturdays**

### *Rocky Horror Picture Show*

Parkway Speakeasy Theater  
1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

Midnight

\$6

[www.picturepubpizza.com](http://www.picturepubpizza.com)

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

## **Biweekly**

### *PenSFA Party*

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions. Email [commander@pensfa.org](mailto: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.

### *Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Group*

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jade Livingston at [sfscifi@yahoo.com](mailto:sfscifi@yahoo.com) for more information.

## **Monthly**

### *Dorkbot-SF*

Free, donations welcome  
[www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/](http://www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/)  
Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity.

*Fantastic Frontiers*

[www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/](http://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.

*Foothill Anime*

Building 5015, Foothill College  
Los Altos Hills  
Free  
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.

*Legion of Rassilon*

Carl's Junior  
2551 N. First Street  
San Jose  
7:30 p.m.  
Free  
[www.legionofrassilon.org](http://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.

*No-Name Anime*

Saratoga Library  
13650 Saratoga Avenue  
Saratoga

Free  
[www.nnanime.com](http://www.nnanime.com)  
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.

*SF Browncoats*

Cafe Murano  
1777 Steiner Street  
San Francisco  
Noon  
Free  
[www.sfbrowncoats.com](http://www.sfbrowncoats.com)  
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.

*Silicon Gulch Browncoats*

Tied House  
954 Villa Street  
Mountain View  
Noon - 2 p.m.  
Free  
[www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org](http://www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org)  
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.

*USS Defiance Meeting*

Round Table Pizza  
Howe Ave. (Near Howe and Arden Ave.)  
7 p.m.-10 p.m.  
Free  
Sacramento's oldest science fiction group meets the third Friday of the month. Info at [www.usdefiance.org](http://www.usdefiance.org).

*Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE*

Round Table Pizza  
4403 Elkhorn Blvd

Sacramento  
916-338-2300  
Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours (but this month's meeting is on Nov. 18).