

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

I can't believe it's come and gone, rode off into the sunset leaving years and years of anticipation and planning behind it. Costume-Con 26 was a giant success; not perfect, but it never was going to be. The best part was the fact that today's BArea fandom got to interact with folks that we never normally see. There were folks from all over Fandom and it was great to get to party with them.

And the parties were great, especially the Manhattan Party thrown by Merv and Judith. A very good time was had by all. The Pretty Pretty Princess Party was also a huge success on Friday and what really gave that away to me was the fact that there were girls singing disco tunes jumping on the bed when I left around 1 a.m. Let us not forget the wonderful time with the Klingons on Saturday night, nor the Consuite, which was hopping the whole time.

Local folks won several of the major awards: Phil and Kathe Gust won Best in Show/Workmanship for the *Lord of the Rings* costumes in the Fantasy and Science Fiction Masquerade (which I MC'ed), and a bunch of folks who I think are all Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild members won Best in Show for the Historical Masq. They were all so stoked. You wouldn't expect that kind of pop from the winners of a Historical Masq, but the girls screamed!

I am also happy to report that I did not

die while doing the MCing. It was a fun time, with a few hang-ups, but mostly it was stretch and vamp and vamp and stretch. I could not have done it without Tadao to eat up time with his brilliant stories. The Guy had the place in stitches.

Also I should say that Tom Becker is a genius. He and Jean did a great Con Newsletter

(called *My Evil Plan*), and they had a lot of fun with it. Especially with the layout. It was so much fun to see how Tom would make every issue a different size and shape and folded weird. It was so great.

And speaking of newsletters, CorFlu was also held this past weekend in Las Vegas. There were a few BArea folks there (like Robert

Letters Of Comment

Let us hear from my man near Birmingham, Mr. Steve Green!

It's a pity you plan to remain within the confines of the M25 during your future visits to these shores, Jean; as Chris will no doubt confirm from his brief tour, there's a lot more to savour in the UK than that single city.

Chris Garcia replies: I will certainly say that Wales was pretty freakin' awesome, but I also understand how some places simply suck when you think of the other attachments to them. I'll never go to the steps of the New York Public Library again, even though it's been fifteen years since I had a certain moment there.

The "traditional quick meal of Wales"

you enjoyed, Chris, was most likely no generic corned-beef pasty, but an "oggie." Curiously, the Original Welsh Oddie Company (www.welshoggie.co.uk) is based over the border in Banbury, Oxfordshire. As for Welsh speakers, you'll find far more of those in Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlill antysiliogogoch (North Wales) than Cardiff (South Wales).

That was the place where I got it! I see, it is different! I did, in fact, soak up some local color! I wonder what has longer words: Welsh or German?

All best,

Steve

Thanks Steve!

Lichtman, Lenny Bailes and others) and sadly I didn't go. But...drum roll please...I'll be holding the 2011 CorFlu in San Jose! There's some thought going on at the moment about where and when (The Dream: DoubleTree in late April/Early May), and there's a chance that it might also get to be a big party leading into another big touring con. We'll have to see.

There's talk that Mr. Tom Whitmore will be doing some very special programming when he's the Fan Guest of Honor at Worldcon. I'll just say this: it could be incredible.

I'm looking for more info on Con-X-Treme 2. Anyone got any?

I've recently started the database of my Fanzine Holdings. Well, it's my second database since it's on a new computer. I'm hoping to have it available by the end of the year. I'm hoping that I can also scan a few zines and have them out there for folks who would like to read examples. I'm hoping Eric Mayer will say OK to a few *Groggys* going up.

Sadly, life has interrupted Genevieve Collonge, and the Sonoma Valley Film Festival Report will have to wait until next issue. I'm doing a brief bit about the shorts in this issue, but the bigger picture review will be forthcoming.

BayCon is a few weeks away and the *SF/SF* team will be there! I'm running the fanzine lounge and I've got a lot of TAFF stuff for folks, too. Don't forget the half-time "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me" show that I'll be doing. Should be a lot of fun.



Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor

Is it just me, or are conventions just getting better every time? Every convention I go to is more fun than the last. SiliCon last October was fantastic, WonderCon this past February exceeded my expectations, and Costume-Con two weekends ago was a total blast! I'm hoping BayCon later this month will be even better.

Maybe it's because I know more people and am also exploring even more avenues of creativity. In fandom, I started out with dancing, then singing, then writing and now acting! I always wanted to be an actress when I was a little girl and dreamed of receiving an Oscar. However, my talent in that area didn't quite measure up. Or maybe I was never given a chance.

I was only in one school play where I was the lead actress in high school and that was in my senior year. I was usually the scriptwriter, director, sound/music tech, props/scenery master or lighting operator. I was always behind the scenes. Granted I was shy and quite nerdy in high school. For some reason, though, I landed the lead in *War and Peace* as Natasha Rostov. I was also the writer for the play, which I wrote based on the movie with Audrey Hepburn and the Leo Tolstoy novel, which to this day I have not finished reading. I still have it on my bookshelf and I literally stopped 10 pages short of the end in high school and have not made any

progress since. (On a side note, the Bay Area English Regency Society will be holding a *War and Peace* Ball on October 11th in Kensington; visit www.baers.org for more details.) I think I got the role because I was a lot like the ingénue Natasha. I remember my classmates remarking how surprised they were that I could act!

But that's as far as my acting went. I took some classes in improv and scene study at a local community theater but I wasn't very good. Maybe I'm so used to things coming easily to me that I gave up before I really got better. Dancing, singing, writing, photography are so natural to me that I barely have any instruction or schooling in these fields (except for singing, in which I had two years of private lessons from a great vocal coach).

So imagine my surprise when an acting gig just fell in my lap a few weeks ago. I met Maimone Attia at the Period Events & Entertainments Re-creation Society (PEERS) Bal des Vampires last November when I was wearing my Anna Valerious costume and he just happened to be wearing a Van Helsing costume. That was a photo opportunity not to be missed. I didn't run into him again until the Spring Gaskell Ball the weekend before Costume-Con. I was literally on my way out when he came in and my intuition told me to say hello. I have learned to trust my intuition as it never fails me. We quickly fell into a conversation about Costume-Con and how he was looking to cast

someone as the female lead in a short play he was planning to do. He said he'd done it with some success at Dickens Fair last year. I told him that I perform with PEERS and even performed a very successful routine with his sister Maya three years ago. And the rest, as they say, is history.

I was a little bit nervous about it as it was all last minute and I didn't get a script until a few days before the con. Fortunately, most of my lines were filmed in advance. I don't want to give away the story as we might do this again at BayCon. All I can say is that it's quite unique, entertaining and exciting with lots of suspense and mystery. We wound up doing the play once on Saturday and again on Sunday and got lots of positive feedback from people. I had to do heavy PR for it because we were a last minute addition and weren't even on the program. I managed to get several official con photographers as well as a cable access TV producer to show up. My PR experience and skills come in handy quite often.

So anyway, Costume-Con was fun because of this new creative outlet I've opened up for myself. This was actually my acting debut in fandom. I've done smaller roles before but not like this one. The con was also fun because it was an event that brought my dance friends and my sci fi friends together. There is some overlap between these two groups of friends but there are

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Short Take on Sonoma Valley Film Fest

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

There wasn't a lot in genre this year at the Sonoma Valley Film Festival, but there was one of the most exciting selection of shorts I've seen at any festival.

There was one program that was something of a drag because they put all the down-note shorts together, even though each and every one of the shorts in that program was fantastic. There was one live-action science fiction short, one live-action fantasy, and an animation program that had several films that fit.

The live-action fantasy short was a doozy that had one of those switches that I love. It was called *Driftwood* and the premise was a group that goes around granting wishes to people. Some are the ones you'd expect: the sick, dying, indigent, etc. Others are those who you would not expect. The story centers on one of the granters who wants a wish of her own and doesn't care how the Board of Directors feels about it. I seriously didn't see the final note coming and when it hit, I did a weird gasp-y thing. A very strong short.

The live-action science fiction film was called *High Maintenance*. It's a German/American film where a woman is having a problem with her companion in a future where

companions are much easier to come by. There's a customer support exchange which is both funny and strange. It also breaks down relationships in a way that only skims the surface but makes so much sense.

The animation program was so much fun I saw it twice. The highlight was the animated version of the 1880s book *Flatland*. They've even re-released *Flatland* with illustrations from the cartoon. I was shocked when I saw it at Barnes & Noble. It's gorgeous, as should be expected, but the story is sweet and fun and a bit terrifying if you think about it. The voices of Martin Sheen and his brother Joe Estevez, Kristen Bell (of *Veronica Mars* fame) and Michael York are all well-performed and smart. I thought that it made full use of the 31 minutes it ran. There's also a genius brief voice cameo from *Arrested Development's* Tony Hale as the king of Pointland.

Zoologic, a hand-drawn piece of fun, is about a zoo keeper who is a total control freak. A penguin decides to teach the dude a lesson in true Bugs Bunny-Elmer Fudd fashion. It's very much the feel of a 1980s French or Eastern Bloc cartoon with the comedic sense of a Warner Brothers cartoon from the 1950s.

Another hilarious, and slightly twisted short was *Fantaisie in Bubblewrap*. It's a look at how bubbles on a roll of bubblewrap live...and

die. There's a really twisted exchange between two bubbles who totally know they're going to be popped and which one of them is going first. It's so funny, even at the end when a lone bubble, obviously a baby, sits crying in the garbage can. It's just my type of humor.

The Toll is a short that played at Cinequest a year ago and was a fun one about a troll being interviewed. I laughed a lot, and I've used it to show kids how to criticize shorts. They loved it too.

Bare was a lovely story of a bear who shaves and a minor mistake. It was hand-drawn and water colored and it showed. I wish it were longer: I think it was just 4 minutes, and the story is very cute. In a way, it got me thinking about *The Bear Comes Home* by Rafi Zabor. OK, not fully, but the idea was there. It also brought to mind the "Bear City" skits from Saturday Night Live. Go figure.

Solid selections one and all. The Sonoma Valley Film Festival is one of the best that I've ever been to and I can't wait for next year's edition.

This Old Fanzine

The Pacificon Program Book

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

I was talking with Tom Whitmore, this year's Worldcon Fan Guest of Honor, and the subject of Old Time LA Fandom came up. We talked Coventry, LASFS in the 1950s, names like Andersen, Ellison, Degler, and so on. We had a grand old time, eventually being joined by Mr. Christian McGuire, and we talked a little bit about Worldcons. I started thinking about all the Worldcons of the past and particularly about their program books. I headed over to FANAC.org, my source for scans of ancient zines, and discovered that the first West Coast Worldcon has had its program book scanned.

Pacificon was a big deal in 1946, and sadly it's not one of the cons that's widely talked about. The stories include Art Widner (and doesn't it seem like I mention him a lot?) hitchhiking to the con, which is not nearly as often heard as the story of the legendary caravan from Pittsburgh to Denver. Sometimes I wonder what we value...

The program book has one of those great iconic covers. (When I think of the great Worldcon covers, I think of Harlan on the cover of the Iguacon edition, or the Chicon

One cover.) Pacificon's is an awesome cover, very 1940s constructionist. That's followed by a members list featuring names that I've met (Forry Ackerman, Len Moffatt, James Rusty Hevelin, Jack Speer and that Widner fellow) and a bunch that I've heard millions of stories about (Francis Tower Laney, Fritz Lang, Robert Bloch, EE Evans and Elmer Purdue).

All these early Worldcons had tons of important names. Percentage-wise, probably more significant names showed up in those days than do today, but the size matters and costs are far different.

There are some wishes from folks like Edgar Rice Burroughs and Fritz Lang and some wonderful ads. There's an ad for Bradbury's *Dark Carnival* and other Arkham House releases, and another for pulps *Thrilling Wonder Stories* and *Startling Stories*. It's always fun to see what people were advertising.

One of my favorite things is an ad for *VOM: Voice of Imagi-nation*, a zine from Forry. It's a cute little ad with VOMs all over the place. It's really well done and makes me think that they were well ahead of the curve in advertising. It's a simplistic thing that's reminiscent of the kinds of ads we'd see in the 1970s.

The first day's schedule was pretty easy. It was held on July Fourth, just like the first Worldcon. There was a special session with Forry and Laney talking. There's no note about what they were talking about, but you gotta

believe that it must have been something. Of course, this is pre-*Ah, Sweet Idiocy* Laney so it might not have been as entertaining as it would have been a decade or so later. There was also a radio play called *Satan's Phonograph* from Robert Bloch. I really wonder what that was and if there are any copies around. I know a lot of folks loved recording in those days, so you have to wonder what might be stuck in people's attics.

The second day opened with a morning session called Open House at Ackerman's. That's a great thing. I saw Forry's joint a couple of times as a kid and it was amazing. I can only wonder what it was like in the olden days, when the stuff I saw around his place was new. That was followed by the business session. I can't imagine what it would be like having one track and there being a business session. I'd probably be bored out of my mind. There was another recorded entertainment thingee, which is something that's mostly fallen out of favor with fandom. We must bring that back, somehow!

There was a big In Memory of Paul Freehafer ad, which wasn't surprising as I believe he was killed in the war. Freehafer Hall, one part of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society's Clubhouse, is named for him...or someone else named Freehafer I guess. Not a very common name, but it could happen.

The A.E. Van Vogt and Edna Mayne Hull Guest of Honor bios were nice and short. I know

Best of Luck to the first major post-war Science Fiction gathering

THE PACIFICON

from

SERGEANT SATURN

Chief Astrogator of

**THRILLING WONDER
STORIES**

and

**STARTLING
STORIES**



The good companion magazines which cover every aspect of the science fiction field—from pseudo-science to fantasy. Suite 1400, 10 E. 40th St., New York 16, N.Y.

Tadao and I were the impromptu entertainment. Go figure!

There was a History of Science Fiction speech by Donald Day on the final day, which would have been really entertaining. I'd like to see what would have been considered significant then and how much of it is still thought of highly. I love reading SF of the 19th Century, but much of it is only considered important due to its influence on early 20th Century SF or some sort of "classic" American writing which doesn't deal with the piece as genre. I remember hating that section in my junior year of high school. I really wanted them to talk about *Rappaccini's Daughter* as science fiction and instead I got the mainstream. Go figure.

The program book itself doesn't feel like the ones we get today. There's far less about what's going on and far more about people sending best wishes. There was also a lot less

very little about the Van Vogt history, but I know that by that point in time, he was already one of the biggest names in SF. I love the list of people who were Guests of Honor in those early days. The first was an artist: Willy Ley, who never wrote fiction, was also a GoH in those heady days.

The third day's schedule was interesting. The morning session was listed as Relaxation in Westlake Park. Wow, they built in relaxation time. I'm shocked! They followed that with an afternoon session including a National Fantasy

Fan Federation session with EE Evans presiding. I'm glad that got dropped as time went on because I really wouldn't have wanted to go through that at LACon in 2006 when I was president. It's amazing how integrated the N3F was into the mainstream of fandom at that point.

That was followed by a dinner break and an evening session with a Masquerade Ball and Impromptu Entertainment before the awards were presented. That is exactly the same structure as we had at Costume-Con when The Great Morgani, The Giant Brine Shrimp and

going on at these things back in the day, so you can't really compare, but the program books of today speak much more to the growth of fandom not only in numbers but in interest and organization.

It's a concept I'd like to see explored. I'd love to do a comparison of the amount and types of programming that could be found over the years at different Worldcons. Taking it from this one, where two full sessions were really off-sites, I'm fairly certain that we'd be in for a very skewed graph.

Costume-Con: I Don't Actually Sew

By España Sheriff
Staff Writer

I had no idea what to expect of Costume-Con, held April 25-28 at the San Jose Doubletree. Although I very much enjoy dressing up and wearing costumes, I don't actually know how to sew, so I mostly assemble stuff from thrift store finds. Last year I decided to make a better effort at wearing costumes during the evenings at conventions, since I think it adds to the connish vibe, so I've expanded my skill set a bit. But in a fandom that just locally includes PEERS, BAERS, the SCA and the GBACG, with some incredibly talented folk, I was frankly a little concerned that my creations would not pass muster. Additionally I had heard stories of some historical costumers being a little snooty towards science fiction costumers and cosplayers and those of us who don't know a farthingale from a busk.

However, a convention at the Doubletree run by the League of Evil Geniuses was too good to miss, and I figured I would at the very least enjoy seeing all the other lovely creations and hanging out with the gang and plotting for BayCon.

I spent the weeks before the con working on costuming so that by Thursday pre-con my room was a mess of feathers and ribbon and ecstatic cats. Friday I packed one suitcase of clothes, one of shoes, and a bag of random things that I didn't want crushed and piled them



Empress Eugenie Surrounded by Her Ladies in Waiting.

Photo by Jean Martin

into Tadao's car and we hit the road, stopping at a BevMo to pick up a bottle of Tito's Handmade Vodka, which I had been hearing lots of good things about.

We arrived at the Doubletree at around three in the afternoon having mostly missed the

commute, but absolutely famished. The check-in cookies helped a little but after dropping off the suitcases the first order of business was definitely getting some grub. I arrived at the Coffee Garden and ran into Mette Hedin and Bryan Little who were just wrapping up their meal. I got my own

table and Tadao arrived shortly, followed by Chris Garcia, Baronlaw, The Lovely and Talented Linda and Joe Price in a rotation schedule that kept the table full throughout the next hour or so. While we sat I was able to observe the passing costumes, which were already varied and impressive, considering that the convention had barely started. Commenting on this, I found out that for some folks the convention had started the previous day, with a rocking party the night before.

I got my badge, hit the Dealer's Room, and then headed to my room to get ready for the Friday Night Victorian Underwear Social. I had repurposed bits and pieces of a previous steampunk ensemble and added a kimono and a petticoat into something that ended up being more 1920s than Victorian, but was pretty successful nonetheless. As I tried to decide whether to nap first, I got a call saying I was missing an *SF/SF* staff meeting. I scurried down to the bar and found myself disappointed — this meeting was actually in the Coffee Garden. Regardless, I had a nice glass of wine with the crew, we took some pictures and plotted a little before going our separate ways to prepare for the evening.

I had fully intended to make it down early for a change, since there was a performance scheduled by the Twilight Vixen Revue, who are just great. Of course I ended up getting done by around 10 p.m., which is still relatively early by my standards. The halls were filled with gorgeous costumes including a lot of themed ones with all sorts of ruffled undergarments and bare crinolines in evidence, as well as boxer shorts, slips and other variations. Naturally

the percentage of attendees in costume was significantly higher than at any other convention I've attended, and the effect was just spectacular. Some of the costumes were just fun or whimsical whereas others were amazing creations that quite clearly took a high degree of expertise to create.

I wandered over to the ballroom area and found Tadao, who was wrapping up his house manager duties, as well as Baronlaw. The hall was not yet set up for dancing but outside the photography areas were jumping. Jade Falcon was snapping away while dressed in a lovely red corset over white flowing undergarments and was kind enough to take a few photos of my costume, joined shortly afterwards by Richard Man. Both of them seemed to enjoy bossing me around; however, they're both very good at it and the results are invariably excellent.

Leaving Richard and Jade to their work, we tramped over to the party floor where the Pretty Pretty Princess Party was in full swing. After a little socializing we ended up in Chris and Linda's room drinking Baronlaw's very fine whiskey and singing some rather random tunes. Alas, I cannot carry a tune in a bucket, but I do enjoy dancing, so we headed back down to check out the dance. It was sparsely populated but had the DJ I had so enjoyed from SiliCon, so we caroused for a while and then wandered over to check on Richard who was still plugging away in the photography area. He was printing up nifty little photobadges so I got myself one and hung out for a bit.

Eventually I got hungry and Baronlaw and I went to see if the Coffee Garden was open. It was not, so I asked if I could get room service for take-out. After brief confusion and a wait

while the sandwiches were made I escaped with food back to the photography area. We ate, and the boys tried to teach me some basic Tai Chi which was almost entirely unsuccessful until someone pointed out that removing my waist-cinching bustier might help with my breathing exercises. Eventually we abandoned Richard to his work when we found out there was a small gathering in Kevin and Andy's palatial 10th floor digs. Up we went to find a pleasant gathering of folks. There was sake and some frighteningly delicious Japanese cheesy-poufs as well as lively conversation for the next hour or so as people wandered in and out. Eventually, around two or three a.m., we called it a night.

Saturday I awoke hung over, as is always the case when I drink whiskey. I made it in time for the buffet, which is key for a full convention experience. Compared to Friday's madness it was a pretty chill day. I wandered the Dealer's Room to get last minute costuming bits, and took a nap. Eventually I got into the latest version of my Spacegirl costume, figuring it was the appropriate one for the evening, and headed down to the SF&F Masquerade. I was earlier than on the previous evening, arriving at around 9ish as the last few entries wrapped up. I hung out with Baronlaw and JP and we watched Chris and Tadao do their thing onstage while the judges did theirs backstage. Eventually the results came in and I was able to see some of the entries I missed, including Mette Hedin and Bryan Little with a World of Warcraft entry, a truly amazing Orc and Warg team called "We Lost," and of course the fan favorite "Space Girls" (now available on YouTube).

The parties were more crowded on



The Daleks have taken Manhattan; might as well have a drink.

Photo by Jean Martin

Saturday, with the Black Hole full of rowdy Klingons and Merv hosting his Daleks Take Manhattan party. At some point Baronlaw mentioned pizza, so we called for delivery to my room. His roommate Dorothy pointed out she had a cooler full of snacks and Tadao mentioned he knew how to cook using the hotel room coffee maker, so eventually we were joined by Leigh Ann, Jean Martin and at least one other person whose name I don't know, if I ever knew, and had a veritable banquet of pizza, prosciutto, cheese, olives, bagels, osembe and ochazuke.

Revitalized, I headed back to the Daleks in Manhattan party where I had some lovely absinthe as well as my dear old friend the Mandarin Napoleon liqueur. At some point Karisu asked if anyone was willing to take her husband Richard some champagne since he was still (!) over at the photo area. I volunteered and ended up spending most of the next few hours until around 5 a.m. shooting the breeze and looking at the amazing photographs of the entries I had missed. I badgered him unsuccessfully to wrap it up and get some sleep, until he finally took pity on me realizing I wouldn't make it to sleep either unless he packed it in. We closed up shop and headed over the outside walkway to the elevators, passing the consuite where a tipsy crew that included Leigh Ann Hildebrand and Andy Trembley was still going strong.

Sunday I woke up feeling fine, or possibly still drunk, and once again made the buffet my friend. I hit the Dealer's Room for another wander and then headed for the Future Fashion Folio which had just started. The

entries were varied and it was really neat to see the designs brought to life. The two audience pleasers were Baronlaw's Future Airline Security which came pretty close to the "No Costume is No Costume" rule while still remaining hilarious, and the Fae Warrior which was a lovely costume and a great stage presence combined. The clown entries kinda creeped me out, but even I will admit that they were extremely creative.

I wandered through the consuite to find JP in absolute heaven at finding himself in the middle of a 1950s tea party, with many ladies in hats enjoying vintage tunes, tea and cookies. I hung out a little enjoying the scene but had agreed to cover a couple of hours at the Mad Science Fair exhibit room so I made my excuses. However, when I arrived the doors were locked, and a note stated that the exhibit was temporarily closed. I was informed that it had been that way for quite some time, but since I was about fifteen minutes early I figured I'd wait.

Jean Martin and Dr. Noe had just finished their Time Travel Demonstration in an adjacent room, which I was very sorry to have missed, so I hung out for about half an hour or so chatting. Eventually I decided to head to the volunteer desk to see what I should do, but they had a sign saying the volunteer desk was temporarily up in ConOps. I went up to ConOps and was told that it had moved back downstairs. I went downstairs, removed the now-obsolete signs, and asked about the Mad Science Fair. No one knew anything. By now it was 4:30 and I was cranky, so I walked by the Fair one more time, hung out for a few minutes and then gave up and decided to take a nap instead.

I felt a little guilty going to sleep but

much better once I woke up. I put on a very casual steampunk outfit and grabbed some food, took a stroll through the "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" exhibit which had some astonishing costumes on display, and finally went to change for the evening. I added a veil to the hat I'd been working on, which was a \$5 wool thing I'd found at Goodwill and mangled into a sorta-riding hat with ribbons and feathers and other doodahs. I had some trouble with the not-really-a-corset, which will hopefully get fixed at BayCon by the addition of boning, but that was mostly hidden by the jacket anyway so

I had some trouble with the not-really-a-corset.

I left it at that and went down to the Historical Masquerade, arriving once more in time for the last handful of entries. The final entry was an amazing Midsummer Night's Dream group that started out "Oh, cute fairies" but ended up stunning.

I hung out and watched the awards being given out to see what I had missed, and was duly impressed. Baronlaw, Erik and Dorothy won an award for their "CSI Fallriver" group. Other standouts included a Loie Fuller Serpentine Dance recreation, the "Cotton Club," and the "Evil Satin Worshippers." Best in Show deservedly went to the "Empress Eugenie Surrounded by her Ladies in Waiting" painting recreation.

Tadao got released from his house

manager duties and we headed up to the party floor, first hanging in the consuite for a while chatting with Johanna who was on bartending duty, and afterwards back to the Dalek's party which was truly hopping by now. Sara Bruce and friends were dressed as Winelords and having a ball, Colleen Crosby was Giant Alice in Wonderland, house and all, and the puns flowed freely. Mette and Bryan and their friend Beth helped us take over one corner of the room and pretty soon I had the chance to sink another knife into poor innocent Baronlaw's back, this time with accomplices. Feeling quite accomplished I decided to go ditch the less comfy bits of costuming and naturally I never made it back downstairs.

Monday Baronlaw called at 9:08 precisely. I know this because he made a point of mentioning it when I made pathetic gurgling noises into the phone. I admit I had agreed that we would need to be up by nine if we wanted to make the buffet before it shut down, I just forgot who I was talking to. Ironically I ended up getting a lox bagel instead of the buffet, but it was probably worth it anyway.

We had called for a 1:30 check out, and needed every minute of it, having packed twice as much stuff as I actually wore. I was glad to have the options, though. Eventually every last feather and sequin was packed up and shoved in the car.

The Dealer's Room was still open so we wandered through that saying goodbye to folks who were taking off. I was in no particular rush, and Tadao was also interested in staying for Dead Dog, so we took a little nap by the pool enjoying the sunshine. Once it started to get a little chilly

Costume-Con: I Am Your Host

we decided that non-Coffee Garden food of some sort was in order and checked with the concierge for nearby places. He recommended a family run restaurant a block down Skyport called Vito's Trattoria which was really quite nice despite having the music turned up a bit loud for my taste. I had some Fusili alla Funghi that was very tasty, and the veal was good too.

We returned to the hotel to a flurry of activity as the remaining attendees and staff took over the sushi bar to create entries for the Mousekerade. The surrounding businessmen looked a little horrified at the proceedings, probably due at least in part to Leigh Ann's needle placement on that poor, poor innocent pony. Not having any plush toys to abuse, I helped Richard and Karisu finish clearing out their gear from the photography room and arrived back just in time for the start of the show. Tadao and Sandra Childress were managing the main bar closer to the stage and the room was packed, so in my infinite altruism I squeezed in and started to tend the second bar which also happened to be the only clear space in the room.

I don't know what I expected from the Mousekerade, but it ended up with 23 entries most of which were hilarious and a few of which were disturbing (I'm looking at you again, Leigh Ann), and a judging process that encouraged bribery.

Much fun was had by all and there were a few speeches and congratulations, membership totals were announced, and when Johanna came back dressed in her infamous latex fanboy service costume a very lively photoshoot ensued. At close to one a.m. I remembered that I had to work the next day and we took off into the night, leaving the stalwart CC26 crew still at it.

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

At first I was afraid, I was petrified. I was going to be up there, MCing the Costume-Con 26 Fantasy & Science Fiction Masquerade, with dozens of the world's best costumers really depending on me to make sure that I got everything out. I was scared — what if I blew it all, what if it all went wrong and I was the reason the whole situation stunk up the joint?

Actually, the problem was worse than that. What if I let down one of the people I admired most, Mr. Kevin Roche, by not doing a good job? That would suck worse than boring 500 people to tears or forcing 100 costumers to deal with a terrible MC. More than anything, I couldn't let Kevin down.

There were some problems leading up that led me to have some great anxiety. The first was timing. The way it was supposed to go was the rehearsals would wrap up around 4:30 or 5 and then I'd go and get dressed, eat dinner with the judges and then go back and get some time to go over the list of entries with every contestant, make sure I had their names right, and go over the tech notes, making sure I knew what was going on. I'd done it before at BayCon and it went pretty well.

This was not the case.

There were technical issues. Contestants had written out directions and scripts and the

credits for their entries and emailed them in. These were stored in a database and, as I understand it, there were issues with getting those things out. That's understandable, these things happen. So, when we were rehearsing, we practiced the same basic opening every time: "Entry Number X, X Division, Name of Entry." Just like that, since I didn't have any of the stuff to go off of. We also didn't practice the outros, where the credits for each of the entries would be given, making sure that everyone was mentioned. There wasn't time, as we found ourselves an hour and a half behind in pretty short order. That's bad, but it happens, and we dealt with it by working as hard as we could. John and Chris O'Halloran worked incredibly hard, and the entrants all worked with us as best they could, though obviously there was some serious stress going on.

After a while, it became obvious that things were going to run late. I know Kevin hates nothing more than being late, but sometimes it happens. We managed to get a list of entries about an hour before things started, but I couldn't use that to get names because we were still rehearsing. With minutes to go before the Masq started, they started printing the list of each entry. It was going to be tight, but we'd make it.

Except that the list of credits wasn't there. That was OK. It was a fast list to get ahold of. But it meant I had to stall.

And stall I did.

I got up and basically worked a little, did a few bits, and had Tadao and Kevin say a few things so I wouldn't get over-exposed. After a while, I got up and using the laptop I had set up on the podium, did a rare public reading of my review of Costume-Con so far. It was kinda funny and it got a few laughs, especially the Mrs. Dalloway section.

Oddly, I somehow managed to erase the document, and now I can't find it. That reading, the video of that reading, is the only proof that I ever wrote that piece.

Now, I should say this: I had no time to review the names of the contestants, so it was obvious that I was going to be rough. I told the crowd that any resemblance between my pronunciation and the actual names was purely coincidental. I made sure to have the Masq Director, Jennifer Tiff, apologize to the contestants backstage. That was important.

Things started off a little rough. There were issues with the sound. Multi-track CDs meant there was search time and so on. That's bad. Tech did what they could, but there wasn't a lot they could do with some of it. The first entrant, a four-year-old who did Edna Mode from *The Incredibles*, was cute as could be, but the sound did take a toll on the thing. She was very cute, and when her sound was on, she was great.

The second entry was my fave for the whole night, a Toronto-area costumer who did a magnificent Queen of Hearts costume. She looked amazing and played the part with a suitable amount of attitude. She walked onstage, waved, and it was my job to hand her a bouquet

of flowers. I explained that they weren't roses and she then attacked me, beating the podium with the bouquet, sending flowers flying everywhere while I cowered behind the podium. After she stormed off, I slowly made my way up and whimpered into the mic, "Is she gone?" It was first-class stuff made even better by the fact that she'd worked in a great costume.

Many more came across the stage. 47 in all. There was Bryan and Mette doing a take on World of Warcraft which was hi-larious. They do the best costumes, including "Spy vs. Spy" and "Lego Star Wars." These were right in line with those and won a couple of awards. A group of

I had no time to review the names of the contestants.

girls who had been one half of "Project L-11" at BayCon 2007 were back and did a piece called the "Space Girls," which was a take-off on the Spice Girls. This led to one of my better post-entry comments: "When that reaches YouTube, many a geek-boy will become a geek-man." That got a good laugh. You can see the routine at <http://youtube.com/watch?v=ywCB7x1CHr0>.

Phil and Kathe Gust, two friends who are also volunteers at the Computer History Museum where I work, won Best In Show-Workmanship for their awesome *Lord of the Rings* outfits. I was blown away, but it also presented a real challenge. They had written on their sheet that they wanted the announcement of their entry

and the short piece of text that went with it to be ultra-serious and grave. When I think of Ultra-Serious, I'm not thinking about me. I basically delivered it as best I could, and it seemed to work.

There were a couple of technical hiccoughs that I dealt with as well as I could. There was the Rorschach character from *Watchmen*. He had given me a hand-written script, but it hadn't made it to the transcriber, so I had to improv it. I remembered a lot of it, but with the confusion, the timing was off. I felt bad, but apparently it went OK for the entrant. The other one was rougher. There was a Time-Traveler costume, a really neat piece, and there was a recorded portion with a tiny bit of live interaction with me. So, he gave me a script, even though only one word of it was live. When he came up, there were audio problems and he walked the stage waiting, waiting, waiting for the sound to come up. I thought it would hit any second, but after about 10 seconds, I just read both parts of the script and he lip-synched along with me. It was a tad confusing, but better than waiting for audio for ten more seconds. I'm always proudest of the saves I can make on stage (like the time the Quadium Bomb got dropped while I was doing "The Mouse That Roared" and I was forced to make the save). There was also a script I hadn't seen in rehearsal that was pretty long, and I had to read it cold. I managed to make my way through it. That was a miracle.

There were some freeze-ups on my side too. I had been asked to improv some thoughts on the Rare and Elusive Firecat. She walked on stage and the mind went mostly blank. I tried to play it like a nature documentary, with longish

pauses, but really, I was searching for what to say. Luckily, I gave her a good spot for her punchline of a little meow.

I blew the timing on a couple of scripts, which is rough. I also seriously mispronounced a few names.

My faves? Well, there was the Queen of Hearts, which was my personal Best in Show, and there was a touching and very cute one called “We Lost.” It consisted of a gorgeous huge dog, largely made out of latex, and a girl in an orc suit sitting on a rock. They were on the losing side of the battle in *Lord of the Rings*. The dog brought out a human head and dropped it at the feet of the orc, who was moping. She then picked it up and threw it for the dog to go and fetch. The only problem was that the dog fell off the side of the stage when he went to fetch, but Erik Anderson caught him and all was well. It was a beautiful little piece that brought a tear to my eye the first time I saw it. It was lovely. I also really enjoyed the Firecat, and the most entertaining one was a fake Travelocity commercial where I got to close it by making my own Roaming Gnome pun: “Roam, Gnome on the Stage, in the middle of our Masquerade!” It made me smile.

Halftime was an accordion player who did a crazy costume that even covered his accordion, a couple of videos, and Tadao doing his stand-up bits with me for a while. He’s so damn funny and his stories, though I’m sure I’ve heard them at least twice each, are so well-told that you just want to hear them again and again.

Would I do it all over? Sure! There was some fun in that terror, and I was glad to see how it built. I just need to learn some Vampire Sheep jokes and I’ll be all set!

Costume-Con: I’m On The Beat

By Jean Martin
Editor

Editor’s note: This review of Costume-Con 26 is a compilation of articles that Jean wrote as “ace reporter” for the con newsletter; My Evil Plan. Shortened due to newsletter space limitations, they are presented here in their entirety, slightly revised for continuity.

I almost didn’t make it to Costume-Con. I was a little bit intimidated about going since this is a national convention whose attendees are probably professional-level costumers. Although I love costuming and go to costumed events at least once a month, and even perform in costume, my costumes are not all very accurate. Most are reasonable facsimiles of historical periods or fantasy and sci fi themes. I also don’t sew much. I’m a beginner and my sewing skills are passable at best. My talents lie elsewhere.

I do sew costumes when I’m part of a masquerade group entry. The groups I’ve been with have won awards at local conventions. I’ve also garnered a couple of hall costume awards. I’m as much into costuming as I am into performing. I’m not an expert in either, but am good enough at both together at the same time. I just love to dance, sing and act in costume, and to see other people in costume too.

There was some talk with some friends

of mine a year ago about my taking part in both the historical masquerade competition as well as the sci fi and fantasy masquerade, but neither panned out. So I had decided, with BayCon coming up a month after, to take a break and skip Costume-Con.

But at SiliCon last October, Carole Parker convinced me to go. She said most of the people I know and love to hang out with at science fiction cons were going and would actually be in charge of the con. Then Costume-Con 26 Chair, Kevin Roche, personally asked me if I would be interested in joining the newsletter staff. I was very flattered. Kevin and Andy Trembley ran the masquerade at BayCon last year and they were so efficient and organized, so I thought that Costume-Con would be a well-run convention. I’ve also enjoyed their League of Evil Geniuses Costume-Con bid parties. So I changed my mind. I figured, since this national convention is going to be in my area, I might as well attend. Oh, and I love the San Jose Doubletree and their chocolate chip cookies.

I didn’t know quite what to expect but I was excited about seeing how creative people could be in the field of costuming. I’m always amazed at the creations people come up with. I love being around talented people who are passionate about what they do. I’m so grateful to be able to be a part of all this.

Friday

I was hoping to get to Costume-Con around noon so that I could check into the hotel and check out what was going on during the afternoon. However, I didn't finish packing until late afternoon and so I didn't get to the hotel until past 6:00 p.m. Such is life.

But as soon as I drove into the hotel parking lot, I felt at home like I always do at cons at this particular hotel. I felt relaxed and told myself that I would just wind up where and when I wind up and not worry about what I've missed. The only lecture I would have wanted to attend during the afternoon was the one on Dance Manners, as I go to a lot of vintage balls and dance parties.

Fortuitously my friend and *SF/SF* layout editor David arrived at the same time I did and he helped me with my luggage. He remarked on how much I had with me and my answer was: "It's a costume convention!" I think I packed five outfits for this weekend, most of which were Victorian steampunk or futuristic in nature. I figured that's what seems to be the underlying theme for this convention and I was more than happy to oblige. I did bring one 1930s costume for the "Daleks in Manhattan" *Doctor Who* party Saturday, and a "special" costume for the Time Travel Demonstration I was going to participate in on Saturday afternoon.

After I checked in, I basically just dropped my bags in my room and went to pick up my badge at the registration desk. My co-editor for the news zine *Science Fiction/San Francisco*, Chris Garcia, was in the Coffee Garden by himself and so David and I joined him for an impromptu dinner and staff meeting.

Our regular columnist España Sheriff joined us a little later. What a fun way to begin the con!

I had already run into a lot of people I knew. It seemed like a third of the people were those who go to the same science fiction



Evil Geniuses Kevin and Andy

Photo by Jean Martin

conventions I go to, and another third were from the Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild (GBACG) or Period Events and Entertainments Re-creation Society (PEERS) events that I frequent. The other third I assumed were people from out of town who were here for this national convention.

So far, the con seemed like other cons I've been to where people hang out to have fun, show off their costumes, and learn new things.

I dashed off after dinner to change for the highlight of Friday night, the Friday night social in the big ballroom. I found out a few days before that Cathleen and James Myers from PEERS were going to be the hosts of the event, and that they would be calling several Victorian and Regency dances. I love both styles of dancing so I was very happy to find that out. Additionally, James Langdell of the Divertimento Dance Orchestra was going to play piano.

The theme for the evening was Victorian underwear with a slight emphasis on steampunk. My costume, which included a black top hat with goggles, a necklace made of watch parts, a black and red corset and black Victorian boots, was among the most steampunk of all the costumes. Most women were wearing an amazing variety of mostly white Victorian undergarments. It was quite an amazing sight to see so many women in period underclothing.

There were a lot of people already in the ballroom when I got there. I saw several familiar faces and chatted with a few people in the hallway while a blues band played inside the ballroom. Apparently, I missed Kevin Roche's opening remarks and him singing some songs. I also missed a set of Victorian and Regency dancing. But I got a lot of chances to dance as there were several sets of vintage dancing in between different acts on stage.

It felt quite amazing to be dancing these types of dances at a con. It was almost like we were doing a performance for people who have never seen these dances other than in movies.

The reactions of people were quite gratifying. I discovered these dances five years ago and they have absolutely changed my life. They've opened the doors to several avenues of creative expression for me, not just in dancing but in costuming, writing, performing, etc. I am so passionate about these dances and it was nice to see other people become interested in them as well. It was also great that my sci fi friends finally got to see my dancing side.

We did several set dances as well as waltz mixers. I missed dancing the Congress of Vienna, my favorite dance, as I went outside and several people wanted to take my photo and I chatted with several friends. When I came in, the dance was already in progress. I could have joined in but I couldn't find anyone else who knew how to dance this romantic and beautiful choreographed dance.

I did, however, participate in an impromptu promotional demonstration for PEERS of the Bohemian National Polka. I literally just learned this elaborately patterned dance a month ago. I'm glad my partner was my friend Jim Bull who is such a fabulous dancer and leads very well. I love this dance too, and I'm glad to have been able to be a part of this for PEERS. I did have trouble doing the numerous pivot turns and polkas as my corset was laced too tight around my diaphragm (I laced it myself) and I couldn't breathe very well. These steps are quite energetic and aerobic! But I managed to make it through the dance.

The Twilight Vixen Revue, a burlesque troupe, did a couple of numbers interspersed with the vintage dancing. They were quite entertaining and fun to watch. Kevin came back on stage as

well and introduced H.G. Wells (Steve George of PEERS) whom he introduced as the man who made it possible for all of us (through time travel) to be at the con that evening.

The last dance I did was a set dance called



Sir Roger de Coverley with my friend Dr. Noe, who is one of *SF/SF's* staff writers. He's also one of the people involved in the Time Travel Demo on Saturday. The creative genius behind the Time Travel Demo is writer, director and actor Maimone Attia whom I met at a PEERS ball last year.

After the Friday night social ended, most of us went to the party rooms on the second floor. There was only one party that was going strong. It was the Pretty Pretty Princess party, which was

put on by members of the GBACG. The room was full of women in 18th century underclothes and tiaras on their heads. It was quite a sight. It was like an erotic, but tasteful, fairy tale come true.

Everyone looked so beautiful and elegant but naughty and liberated at the same time. When I walked in, the women were dancing and singing on the beds to tunes that were all a celebration of being strong, independent and fun females. There were drawings of pretty princesses on the walls and someone handed me a Pretty Pretty Princess pink ribbon for my badge. Yeay, I'm a pretty pretty princess and I'm proud of it! Too bad I left my tiara at home. If I knew they were doing this, I would have brought

mine to wear as well. There were some men in the room and they seemed to be enjoying themselves.

I went around to look for other parties after that. There were a lot of people in the con suite as well but it was a quieter affair. There were the familiar-looking League of Evil Geniuses photos on the wall and there was actually food being served. Other than these two rooms, it was a quiet night as far as parties went.

I went back to the Pretty Pretty Princess

party room afterwards but I was starting to get tired. And it wasn't even midnight! But I still had a long and eventful weekend ahead of me and I still had articles to write for the con newsletter. So I headed back to my room and went to work for a few hours.

Saturday

I was excited about experiencing my first full day at Costume-Con on Saturday. The day for me started at Jade Falcon and Erik Anderson's "Costumes of Venice's Carnivale"



Jade and Erik in Carnivale Attire

Photo by Jean Martin

lecture. I would like to go to Venice one day to experience this event and I gained some helpful hints from Jade and Erik, who were wearing fabulous 18th century costumes. For instance, I learned that you can actually rent costumes there, but they are expensive and you have to book them in advance. Jade also mentioned that there are probably more photographers than costumed folk, and it's quite a mob scene. So it's best to show up as early as possible to get better photos.

Then I went over to the Mad Science Fair exhibit. There were different kinds of props and costumes on display including the familiar equipment that Phil Gust used as Boushh Leia for the award-winning Leia 11 routine that we did with several friends at BayCon last year. And the Lady Cassandra stretched face over a frame that Bryan Little and Mette Hedin created for SiliCon last year, and which has won awards as well. There were some *Girl Genius* mad science weapons as well as other steampunk guns to be admired. I took a photo of Chris and Christy Bertani (with baby Matteo) who were the curators of the exhibit and looked convincing in their lab coats and goggles.

I walked around after that to the Dealer's Room and thankfully didn't have my credit cards on me as there were so many beautiful costumes to buy. But then again, I already have a Kristi Smart pirate coat, a custom-made Dark Garden corset, and a Ruby Raven gothic top hat, so there wasn't much to entice me that I didn't have already.

I was supposed to do four performances of a "Time Travel Demonstration" in the City Foyer, next to the Mad Science Fair, every hour



Your Guides to the Mad Science Fair

Photo by Jean Martin

on the hour from noon to 3:00 p.m. However, due to technical difficulties, we were only able to do one show at 3:00 p.m. In the meantime, I had to go back and forth between the location and enjoying myself around the con to tell people we were running late.

I was already wearing my futuristic, anime-inspired costume for the Time Travel Demo and several official and amateur photographers asked to take my photo. For something I just threw together at the last minute, I was surprised my outfit got so many positive responses. There were so many more official photographers at this con than I've seen at other conventions other than Comic-Con. I

suppose that's because they knew there would be lots of great costumes to photograph.

I also took a lot of photos myself, mostly of friends in fabulous costumes but also of people I don't know who just blew me away with their creations.

I attended the Spacesuits panel with my friends Mike Smithwick, Phil and Kathe Gust and Raven O'Neill. Raven had some amusing stories about making spacesuits and going to spacesuit manufacturers' conventions. Mike did an entertaining talk on the history of spacesuits as well as spacesuits in science fiction. He followed it up with his own experience wearing a spacesuit for the Mars Desert Research Station simulation in Utah that he was at for two weeks earlier this year (featured in *SF/SF* #62).

I went to the Living As A Dandy Lecture by Greg Seeley who always looks dapper in his dandy costumes. He was talking about what to wear during the different seasons when I dropped by.

Sally Norton was giving an informal lecture in the Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil costume exhibit when I walked in. She pointed out a costume from the *Dune* miniseries on SciFi, which I loved. The exhibit looked like something out of a museum. I was very impressed. There were several pieces for sale but I didn't even want to be tempted so I didn't look at which ones they were or how

much they cost. There were costumes on display from different eras and different fantasy and sci fi movies and shows.

I went back to the City Foyer and we finally did our Time Travel Demo multimedia short play. It went quite well for a last-minute deal, with no rehearsals. The folks whom I

friend Oscar Chang and we ate and had a great time chatting. The masquerade was slated to start soon and I still had to change into my costume for the evening so I dashed off to my room soon afterwards.

The masquerade started an hour late and went on for several hours. My co-editor Chris Garcia was the emcee and kept everyone entertained. Major kudos to him for filling in the wait with witty banter and clever humor.

There were 47 entries and I was very impressed at everyone's efforts. There were some that were serious, some that were funny. Some were conceptual, some were recognizable with their media references. The *Van Helsing* group was one of my favorites, as they were when I first saw them at Comic-Con three years ago. Their costumes looked just like in the movie and the dancing, drama and humor were excellent. The "Space Girls" routine, with my Leia 11 and Firefly masquerade friends, was my other favorite. The combination of the Spice Girls with one female role from each of the *Star Trek* incarnations was very clever and their song and dance routine was



dragged, I mean encouraged, to show up seemed to enjoy it. We decided to do it again at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday so that more people could see it.

After that, I took a break in the Coffee Garden for a meal, which had to serve as both lunch and dinner. I ran into my photographer

sexy, charming and funny.

There was a long break for the judging, so I decided to roam the party floor to see what was in store for the evening. There were only two parties of note, Klingon Admiral KataH's Black Hole bar, which is always fantastic, and

the Daleks in Manhattan bar, put on by Merv and Judith of the Legion of Rassilon.

The Manhattan bar, based on two episodes from the third season of the new *Doctor Who*, was a very relaxed and sophisticated affair. There were lots of appropriately named drinks and photos and artwork on the walls. There were also lots of props, and of course, a Dalek. I was quite blown away by the level of organization and attention to detail that Judith and Merv put into the party. There were even Dalek cookies and Bubble Shock bottled soda. I wore a 1930s flapper outfit in honor of the party. The Black Hole was a stark contrast, with the rough and rugged Klingons behind the bar and the dark, industrial look with metal-looking beams and paintings of Birds of Prey on the walls. Drinks included Blood Wine, Romulan Ale and Warp Core Coolant.

Back at the masquerade, several special awards were being handed out when I walked in. Then, the major awards were announced. The workmanship awards were given first.

In the novice category, the *Enchanted*-inspired True Love entry won best in class. In the journeyman division, the alien-looking flower with globe lights won best in class. Best in Class in the master category was “We Lost,” a touching and funny skit with an orc and a warg who were quite amazing as they accepted their defeat and played fetch. Best in Show for Workmanship went to Philip and Kathe Gust for their Comrades in Arms re-creation of Theoden and Gamling preparing to ride out to do battle with the orcs.

For presentation, best in class for novice went to Boriel, the female Boromir. For the

journeyman category it was “Best Foes Forever” by Bryan and Mette, and for the master category, it was the Victorian dragonfly catchers running after a beautiful dragonfly entry entitled “Devil’s Darning Needle.” Best in Show for Presentation went to the “Space Girls.” (So friends of mine from the “Leia 11” group were in groups that won Best in Show in two different categories.)

After the masquerade, I just went back and forth to the only two happening parties, so I pretty much hung out with friends at both until the wee hours of the morning. I didn’t really want to leave but I was getting tired and I still needed to do my reporting duties.

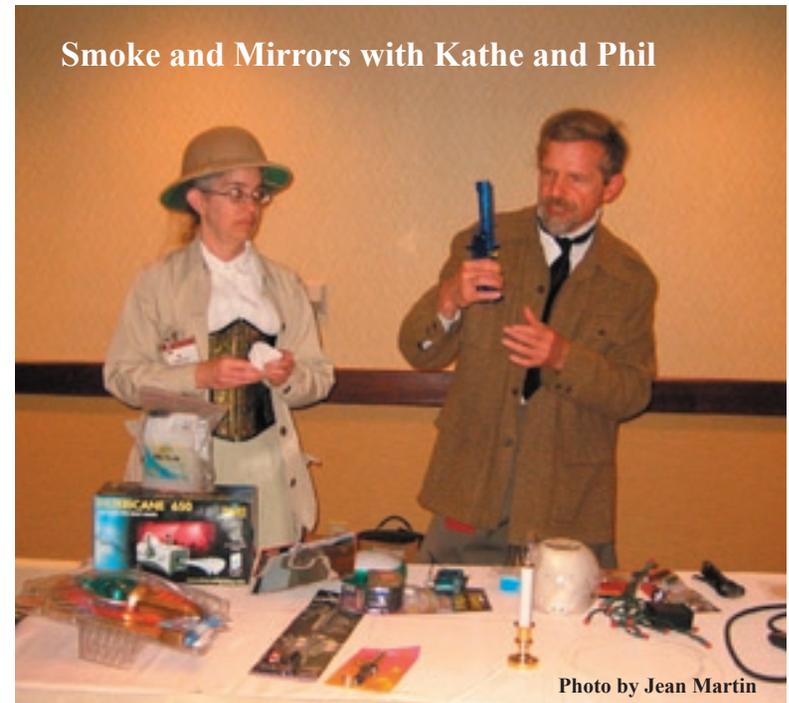
Sunday

I somewhat expected Sunday at Costume-Con to be quieter than Saturday, and so I only booked a hotel room until Sunday at noon. I also had to go back to work on Monday. I wasn’t even sure if I would stay the entire day. Now I wish I had just asked for Monday off and stayed another night.

Sunday actually turned out to be more fun than Saturday! The day began late as I was up until 6:00 a.m. partying and writing an article. I didn’t go downstairs until I actually had to check out. I completely missed the Parallel Dimensions in Design fashion show, which I had wanted to see. I figured I would decide whether to stay for the Historical Masquerade depending on whether I still had enough energy and if I found friends to hang out with. I had lunch at the sushi bar and couldn’t find anyone to

socialize with, so the prospects didn’t look good. I then went to Stacy Meyn’s lecture on Getting Props on a Plane. I actually haven’t had to do this yet but it was very informative for future reference. Then I started running into people I knew and lots of folks in fabulous costumes. I was finally starting to have fun.

After a reprise of the Time Travel Demo, which went even better than the day before, and which surprisingly had more attendees and photographers than Saturday despite less publicity, I went to Phil and Kathe Gust’s Smoke and Mirrors lecture. Phil had some cool gadgets and helpful hints on how to add more pizzazz to a costume using special effects. I was particularly impressed by a small portable bottle that shoots out puffs of smoke. Chris Bertani and Johanna Mead’s panel on Sci Fi Militaria was also very



Smoke and Mirrors with Kathe and Phil

Photo by Jean Martin

interesting. They both mentioned stores and web sites to buy military surplus uniforms, especially the more distinctive East German ones, that you can modify to make them look more futuristic.

I ran into a couple of friends, Scendan and Howie, and had drinks with them at the coffee bar, and that's when the Furrries did their parade. I'd never seen Furrries en masse before. They are quite funny and cute.

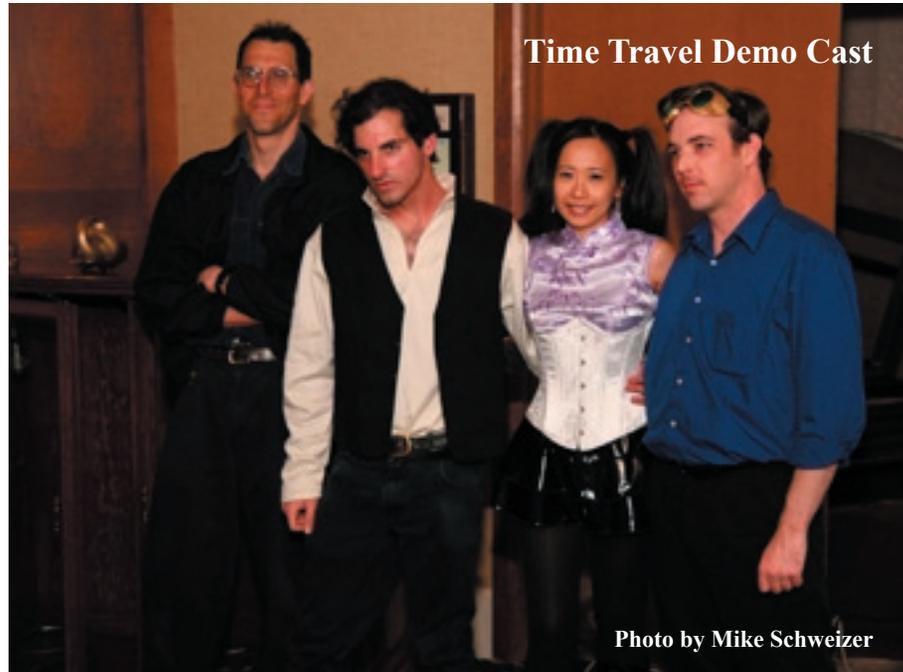
After roaming around for a bit, I wound up at the Coffee Garden again, this time for dinner with my Time Travel Demo cast mates. We were enjoying dinner and feeling relaxed and comfortable, and tired as well. So I was debating in my head whether to hang out or go to the Historical Masquerade competition, or maybe even go home.

However, my friend Jeffrey walked by and inspired our group to go to the masquerade. I had somewhat had my fill of masquerades after Saturday's amazing but lengthy Fantasy and Science Fiction Masquerade, but I was glad I went to the Historical Masquerade as well.

There were fewer entries and so the run time was shorter. The array of costumes was quite a treat, as I also love to do historical costuming for my vintage dances. For masquerades, however, I mostly do fantasy and science fiction themes.

I missed the first five entries, but the ones I saw ranged from funny to serious, and from using just words to music, props and dancing. All of the entries that I liked won major awards. In the novice division, Lizzy Borden-inspired

"Fall River CSI" won best presentation, while a Neo-Edwardian Aviatrix steampunk costume won best in class. In the journeyman division, a flowing dance with yards of fabric that was a tribute to Loie Fuller won best presentation, while the 1920s "Cotton Club" dance skit won best in class. In the master division, the historical version of *The Wizard of Oz*, as represented by



the very green Ozmopolitans, won best in class. The biggest award of the evening went to my favorite entry, "Empress Eugenie Surrounded by Her Ladies in Waiting." This was a group of women in Victorian attire and the premise was that they were all posing for a painting.

During the intermission when the judges left to make their decisions, Cathleen and James Myers performed a sensual and elegant tango to the theme song of the HBO series *Rome*. Their

dance represented the battle of good and evil in line with the *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* exhibit competition. Celtic rock band Avalon Rising also performed. I didn't get to actually see them but I heard them from outside as I socialized with friends old and new. I've seen the band before and I do like them a lot but I was enjoying talking with people too much.

After the masquerade, everyone went to the parties on the party floor. There were only three that night but they were all quite well attended and very lively. They were also a lot of fun because I knew most of the people. The con suite had some snacks but they were all gone by the time I got there. Merv and Judith's Daleks in Manhattan party was open once more to serve Doctor Who-themed sweets and drinks. There was a Renaissance/Baroque party by Chris and Lisa that I didn't get to spend much time at Saturday but did so on Sunday. They had elegant pictures of topiaries, candles and chandeliers around the room and they were serving fruit and sangria.

It was very hard for me to tear myself away and leave to go back to the real world. Wait a second, fandom *is* my real world and I'm merely going to an alternate reality for a while. I'm consoled by the fact that BayCon is only weeks away and I can soon do this all over again.

For more information and links to official and unofficial photos, as well as the con newsletters, visit www.cc26.org

Radical Space Party at NASA Ames



Capacitor Aerial Acrobats

Story and Photos by Jean Martin

Editor

Yuri's Night is an annual, worldwide celebration of space exploration. In particular, it commemorates Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin's landmark journey on April 12, 1961, to become the first human being in space. I've always been

happy to note that I have the same birthday as Yuri Gagarin as well as another well-known explorer, Amerigo Vespucci (March 9th). I am a bit of an explorer myself as I love traveling to new places and experiencing new things.

Yuri's Night is quite a unique experience. There's probably nothing like it outside of the

Burning Man festival and the post-Burning Man Decompression block parties. In a way, Yuri's Night is like a small Burning Man, without the Playa dust and extremes in temperature (as I noted in my coverage of this event last year). Last year was the first time that the Bay Area got to celebrate Yuri's Night, which is quite surprising to me because this has been happening every year in other parts of the globe since 2001. I would have thought that with NASA Ames Research Center in the vicinity, and with all the science and technology professionals, amateurs and dabblers in the area, we would have been involved in this thing much earlier. However, the Bay Area knows how to make a big splash and outdo everyone. Although 2007 was the first year for us, it was right away the biggest in attendance. This year was no different: The Yuri's Night web site touted that 8,000 people were expected to attend.

It helped that this time April 12th fell on a Saturday. The event was also a great tie-in with NASA's 50th anniversary and the April 12, 1981, launch of the first U.S. space shuttle mission.

The Bay Area's celebration of Yuri's Night 2008 was held in the same hangar at NASA Ames in Mountain View as last year. The festivities started at 2 p.m. and were slated to end at 2 a.m. the next day. I obviously could not be there for 12 hours so I chose to go at 6 p.m., in time to catch some of the exhibits and events while it was still light out. But the excitement doesn't really build until the sun sets and all

the colorful lights and light effects are turned on. The main acts also don't start until darkness descends. That's when it really begins to feel like Burning Man.

Although Yuri's Night is not officially a Burning Man event and is not promoted as such, the costuming, entertainment, art installations, and even the theme smack of Burning Man. This year's theme was "Radical Technology for a Sustainable Future," which is very reminiscent of the Burning Man tenets that all start with the word "radical." Unsurprisingly, the attendees were mostly part of the local rave culture.

I always thought of NASA Ames as a high security zone, so it has been quite interesting to see how they've opened their gates for this event two years running. I suppose it's to get the youth of today excited about science, and specifically, space exploration. I was quite gratified to see so many young people who seemed to be as interested in these fields of study as they were there to party. While the event looks back at mankind's accomplishments in space, it also encourages new technology for the future. Hopefully, Generation Y and succeeding generations will continue the amazing progress that has been made in just the last several decades.

I've had a fascination for NASA since I was a little girl, and even driving through the gates at ARC gives me a huge thrill every single time. I met up with my vintage dance friend Scott (who works at NASA Ames) at around six. It was a very warm, almost summer-like day, so I wore an appropriate 1960s mini floral dress. I didn't even need a jacket during the later hours of the evening. Last year, I remember I was



“I.T.” (left background) and the Tasseograph Teahouse

bundled up in my jacket the entire time.

As I walked from the parking lot to the media tent to register and meet up with Scott, I saw several people already leaving, mostly parents with young children. I also was just in time to see, in the cloudless sky above me, the aerobatics show by Aeronautica. Three planes took to the sky one at a time to do thrilling loops and various other stunts. I'd never seen an air show before, so it was quite exciting.

There were so many other things to do and see! The array of offerings was quite

overwhelming, and most everything looked different than last year. For one thing, there were more stages and the attractions were more spread out. The program that we were handed included a list, schedule and map. It said that there were 71 art, science and technology exhibits this time. The first order of the day, however, was liquid and solid sustenance. The food and beverage concession stands were outside instead of inside the hangar. There was a handful of stands right next to a big old NASA plane, and (new this year) several tents with tables and chairs. This

was a big improvement from last year when the lines got in the way of the exhibits inside the hangar and there was nowhere to sit and eat.

The lines were still quite long and slow. It took us at least 30 minutes to get served, but the food was fabulous! I had a vegan, raw, organic lime pie and a hibiscus cooler: Healthy and delicious.

While I was waiting in line, I tried to figure out what types of people were in attendance. There seemed to be a mixture of regular folk, science enthusiasts, and ravers. The ravers started pouring in later. A lot of them wore rave or Playa wear but not as many as I expected. I kept my eye out for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and actor Brad Pitt. The lady that escorted Scott and me to the Press Room mentioned that they were on the V.I.P. guest list. I don't think I would have missed seeing such extraordinarily good-looking and well-known personages if they had been there, so I assume they did not make an appearance.

Scott and I concentrated on the attractions outside the hangar while the sun was still out so we could take photos before it got too dark. There were huge banners leading out from the hangar onto the air strip. Each had a famous space explorer on it. We watched the Aeronautica planes as they landed and left the airstrip. We also saw several art installations that I recognized from photos of last year's Burning Man. One was the *War of the Worlds* alien-looking metal sculpture called "I.T." that towered as high as the nearby building. At night,

the eyes actually glowed.

There were several different types of airplane prototypes, including one that I had



Mutopia Pod #7

seen before at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos. There was a robot demo area with different types of robots, and also a 2008 Tesla roadster. It was the first time I'd seen this brand

of electric car in person. It was a flashy silver sports car with a huge cord and the biggest three-pin power plug I've ever seen. I laughed and wondered where one could plug that in. There was also a couple of surreal carnival rides by Cyclecide called Bumble Bee and Cyclefuge. The Bumble Bee was a carousel with bicycles that was appropriate for children, while the Cyclefuge was two bikes that go around in a centrifuge, which was more for adults. There was also an East Indian-looking Tasseograph tea house. It was peaceful to gaze at and enter into, but it also felt a little bit dark, desolate and disturbing.

The most popular art installation was the Mutopia by the Flaming Lotus Girls. Their latest sculpture, "Mutopia Pod #7," made its debut at Yuri's Night. A lot smaller than their humungous sculptures at Burning Man, it looked like a beautiful, alien flower. It wasn't until later that evening that we saw the flower's arms move around and shoot flames into the air, as the Flaming Lotus Girls' creations are known to do. People were naturally drawn to the spectacle. Another elaborate and fun art installation involving fire that didn't show its full potential until nighttime was a big glass enclosure filled with methane gas. This one was interactive and participants could poke electric rods into soap bubbles and the bubbles would explode with a loud pop and a big ball of flame. I have never seen anything like it before. It was quite clever and marvelously shocking.

The main stage this year was outside

next to the banners, rather than inside the hangar. It was a big proper stage, like a smaller version of the stage at the Shoreline Amphitheater in Mountain View. There was a white tent-like structure above the stage. Several local and international musicians performed during the day, but it didn't get interesting for me until later that evening. We did, however, have a very interesting conversation with Yuri Gagarin. Well, he was an actor in costume portraying the role, but he was quite convincing and entertaining.

As night fell, Scott and I moved into the main hangar. Inside, lots of companies involved in science and technology were showcasing their work. A couple of notable ones included a "SPORE Demo and Astrobiology Project" sponsored by Electronic Arts and the NASA Astrobiology Institute, and NeuroSky, a brainwave reading technology for consumer applications. I was amazed by the latter, in which attendees hooked up to computers via wires on their heads seemingly could command what was

happening on screen by just thinking about what they wanted the computer to do.

There was a space photo booth run by the Coalition for Space Exploration where you could have your photo taken with various space backgrounds. I got two photos taken, one with me looking like I was wearing a spacesuit and doing a space walk next the International Space Station, and another full photo in what I was wearing with a view of space behind me and the ISS less prominently displayed.

Astronaut Yvonne D. Cagle, MD, also had a booth, where she wore a flight suit and signed autographed prints of her official NASA photograph.

There were two stages in the main hangar, a big one right at the entrance and a smaller one next to a small plane further in. Lots of spectacular forms of entertainment were presented in the big stage, most of which I had seen at Burning Man. One was a live acrobatic and modern dance troupe called Capacitor, which did several shows. For one set, there were three women who climbed up long bolts of cloth hung from metal supports. They did acrobatic moves suspended in space with just their arms and legs entwined around the cloths. The second time I saw them, they had added a three-piece chamber music group and a couple of ballet dancers on the stage. They even had a Buddha-like person within a white lotus structure that went up in the air.

There was also a space- and future-fashion costume contest where attendees in great costumes participated. The winner was a woman in a bird outfit completely covered with feathers. The costume was quite gorgeous and impressive



but I'm not sure what it had to do with space or the future.

At the smaller stage were lectures, and I caught one by Carter Emmart from the Hayden Planetarium. I also listened in a little bit to a talk by Pascal Lee of the Mars Institute. He had a small Mars rover robot onstage and talked about preparing for Mars exploration here on earth. Legendary astronaut Buzz Aldrin was front and center in the audience listening to the talk. I was so thrilled to see him! I wish I could have met him but it just didn't seem appropriate to walk up to him in the middle of the presentation.

Next to the plane near the small stage was some ambient music played by guest DJs including Saturnia, whom I like. Lots of people were lounging around on pillows on the ground listening to the hypnotic music and viewing colored and laser lights.

New this year was the annex stage, inside a smaller hangar attached to the right of the big hangar. This was where the big DJ stage from last year was placed, and techno music was played the entire time by DJs from all over the world. Most of the music was good, but it was loud! I only actually ventured in once to see Scuba from the U.K. There were lots of young people dancing, and a lot of smoke and light effects. I wish I could have danced there but I was too busy, and I wasn't with someone who liked to dance to this kind of music.

Later in the evening, Scott and I went back outside to the main stage. NASA

astrobiologist Jonathan Trent spoke on the topic of "The Cosmic Context: Past, Present and Future of Sustainability." It was a fascinating talk but a little bit gloomy for a festival-type event. He basically said that life on Earth will survive, but human civilization is in jeopardy.



Phil Lesh jams

Next was a musical act that I had been looking forward to: "Telstar" featuring Phil Lesh of The Grateful Dead. I'm not really into The Dead but I love rock music in general and am partial to bass players in particular.

"Telstar" was a space jam session that made a special debut at Yuri's Night. It featured Phil on bass, Steve Molitz on keyboard, John

Molo on drums and Willie Waldman on trumpet. For a jam session, they sounded very tight and coordinated. I loved their music! It was spacey with no vocals, just pure instrumental music flowing over the audience.

The sound of real instruments is so much richer and touches the soul deeper than the pounding rhythms and catchy recorded riffs that DJs mix together. I was in the photo pit right in front of the stage with other people with special passes, just like in my old heavy metal photographer days, which was great because I could hear the music and see the musicians unadulterated by distance and other people in front of me.

Scott and I left around 11:00 p.m. so we missed the rest of the evening's entertainment. I didn't really want to stay, though, as the night became more and more like a rave scene, which is not my kind of crowd anyway. I probably would have enjoyed seeing Boulevard, as I had enjoyed dancing to their music at Burning Man a few years ago. However, I had already had my fill of varied forms of entertainment as well as intelligence-enhancing experiences, so I went home happy.

For more information, visit www.yurisnightbayarea.net.

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 925-926

Meeting 925

April 21, 2008

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

Began 8:00 - [with thingies]

24 people attended
A party jar was established
A TAFF jar was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 924 were accepted as 'porn chowder'

Treasurer's report was that last week we took in \$11.73 in the regular jar [and there were no other jars]

VP Report - a new 'Drink Tank' is out - issue 166-ish, maybe, a thing happened, he went to England and wrote 50,000 words on it for TAFF and the chicken strips are excellent

The President had nothing fannish to report - but did say 'hi' to visitors from afar, Teddy and Tom, here for Costume-Con

A motion passed to name Teddy and Tom BASFA's ambassador to the Far Isles & since

Teddy is currently their dead monarch, Teddy was named ambassador to the dead, while Tom is the ambassador for the living. And then Andy paid for BASFA memberships for both Teddy & Tom

Note - if there is a BASFA meeting at CC26 the meeting number will be 'CC26'

Announcements:

Frank Wu announced that he found a pile of BASFA t-shirts and brought a bag of them for us to paw through. ['Swag!']

Glenn announced that the SJ Museum of Art is showing robot art [about robots, not by robots] through Oct 19

[evil] Kevin announced that Costume-Con 26 will be this weekend & the pre-reg numbers are 650 and they only have 800 program books [there were follow-ons about the con]

Reviews:

Fred reviewed Cheryl's podcast as pretty good, informative and worth full price

Glenn reviewed 'Freedom & Necessity' by Steven Brust and Emma Bull as a novel written in journal form and he enjoyed it & reviewed that old punch cards make good bookmarks

Chris reviewed shipping a difference engine as don't use DHL - they dropped it - and they'll still have the party May 10th at the Computer

History Museum, and he reviewed the Sonoma Film Festival as great - with free food and free drink before each film and worth full price since he volunteered, and reviewed England as he got pictures of a swarm of paparazzi stalking a celebrity as ironic and reviewed wandering around and getting lost in the streets of London as worth full price [35 pounds] to take the taxi back to his hotel

Andy reviewed the Little Sheep Mongolian Hot Pot in San Mateo as difficult to find parking for and nice, with scary Chinese liquor and was worth full price & reviewed Blue Ginger in Milpitas as the food was good, it had the world's worst signage, was expensive and almost worth full price & reviewed trying to install Windows XP on an old machine as -not- worth full price

Frank reviewed seeing movies as research as fun; 'Street Kings' was worth matinee, but he paid full price for it; 'Forbidden Kingdom' was worth matinee, but he paid full price for it again; '21' [silence ... we stared at Frank] was reviewed as not very good, '10,000 BC' as he liked it and it was a mindless spectacular and he walked out of 'Prom Night' and rated it as not worth sneaking into

Dave G reviewed live netcasts as a wonder of modern technology

[tall] Kevin reviewed Indian cricket and Indian commercials as fun and entertaining

Lisa reviewed the CC26 program book as well done and produced very quickly

We then did auctions: Mo's lemon curd for \$5.00; squirrel gum for \$0.50; licorice Altoids for \$2.00; a booklet of Japanese recipes for \$1.00; then birthday auctioned off Cheryl for \$35.00 to [tall] Kevin & birthday auctioned off Cricket for \$10.00 to Dave C

We adjourned at = 9:39

And the rumor of the week was: 'your corflu is strong, but mine is stronger'

Meeting 926

April 28, 2008

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

Began 8:00 - [lightly]

12 people attended

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 925 were accepted as 'mad as sticks'

No Treasurer or Treasurer's report

No VP or VP Report

The President had nothing fannish

The Sports Committee reported he still has 2 sets of 2 tickets each for Giants games that he'd like to try selling

Announcements:

Eric announced that Chris Garcia won his bid to run Corflu in 2011 [site TBA]

Stellan announced that the Maker Fair will be this weekend, May 3-4 at the San Mateo fairgrounds

[tall] Kevin announced that Cheryl is en-route back to England

Reviews:

Joni reviewed 'Devil Inside' by Jenna Black as it had an interesting premise that was not well-realized and rated it as 'there are other things to read in this world'

[tall] Kevin reviewed CC26 as worth full price - at the door - and possibly the most fun con he has ever attended and it reminded him why he likes conventions; I follow-on'd that the costumes were wonderful & I had a marvelous time; Eric follow-on'd that more than 20,000 photos had already been downloaded to Chaz's 1 terabyte drive [then there was a bit of SMOF smackdown site selection neepery]

Trey reviewed 'Lego Star Wars 2' as he reached 100% and was continually amused to see an X-wing wearing a Groucho Marx nose and glasses - that the game was a great deal of fun

We adjourned at = 8:33

And the rumor of the week was: 'As overheard from [evil] Kevin - Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty, I'm free at last!'

Editorial

From Page 4

some people who just dance and some people who just do sci fi. It was a rare treat to have my dance friends see me in sci fi costumes and my sci fi friends finally see me dancing! There weren't a lot of parties but the ones that were there were fantastic. And I just spontaneously hung out with people for drinks, food, watching the competitions, sitting in on panels, roaming the hallways and dealer's room, and posing for photographers.

This con was also different for me in that I wasn't in any of the competitions. Writing for the con newsletter was a different experience and also opened up my schedule for something unexpected such as the Time Travel Demo

Speaking of the unexpected, Chris Garcia suprised me while acting as the emcee for the fantasy and science fiction masquerade. He did a great job and I think he has a future hosting the Oscars. Yes, the same Oscars at which I will someday win an award. One can dream, right? Well, he made me famous for something else that evening. Stretching for time, he made lots of jokes and also pointed out people in the audience. He asked me to stand and be recognized, then told me to stand up several times when I was already on my feet. I suppose that was a quip about my height. Well, it was funny. I'm not sensitive about my height. The interesting thing is, most people thought I was actually being acknowledged for something, and they missed the joke. So I suppose that's a good thing too!

Bay Area Fannish Calendar

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

New listings are in red.

Ongoing events are toward the back.

Wednesday, May 7

SF in SF Double Feature: Silent Running & Outland

**Variety Preview Room in the Hobart Building
582 Market Street**

San Francisco

sffilmvariety@yahoo.com

Free

Lounge and cash bar open at 6:30PM - first come, first seated.

1st film starts at 7PM - there will be a 15 min. intermission between films.

Saturday, May 10

Charles Babbage's Difference Engine No. 2

Exhibit Launch & Open House

Computer History Museum

1401 N. Shoreline Boulevard

Mountain View

www.computerhistory.org

12-5 p.m.

Free

Babbage's Engine demonstrations throughout the afternoon. 1:00 & 3:30 p.m. screening of "To Dream Tomorrow" film about Ada

Lovelace. Victorian themed event, period costume encouraged.

Monday-Tuesday, May 12-13

Author: Brandon Mull

Clayton Books

5433 Clayton Road

Clayton

www.claytonbookshop.com

3-5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14

Author: Michael Chabon

Diesel Books

5433 College Avenue

Oakland

7:30 p.m.

Signing for The Yiddish Policemen's Union.

Wednesday, May 17

SF in SF: Don Shirley and Daniel Marcus

Variety Preview Room in the Hobart Building

582 Market Street

San Francisco

Free

7 p.m.

Ongoing reading and discussion series sponsored by Tachyon Publications and moderated by Terry Bisson. There is a cash bar that opens at 6 p.m. and books will be provided for sale by Borderlands Books.

Saturday, May 17

Anime Street Pavilion

Japantown

San Francisco

www.eigomanga.com/ahsc/

Free

11-6 p.m.

eigoMANGA proudly produces the Anime Street Pavillion, featuring J-rock bands and cosplay, at the Fourth Annual Asian Heritage Street Celebration.

Wednesday, May 21

Luna Philosophie: Open Source at NASA

Yahoo! Brickhouse

500 3rd Street

San Francisco

colab.arc.nasa.gov/luna

6 p.m.

The eighth Luna Philosophie will feature Patrick Hogan, Project Manager and Randy Kim, UI, Data and Graphics Lead for NASA World Wind, an open source 3D interactive world viewer. Together, they will be discussing "Open Source at NASA: 3D Visualization with NASA World Wind." Space is limited, so please RSVP.

Friday-Monday, May 23-26

BayCon

Hyatt Regency Santa Clara

5101 Great America Parkway

Santa Clara
www.baycon.org/2008
\$80

Northern California's largest annual general SF convention is on the move again. Diverse panels, dealer's room, art show, masquerade, anime room, hall costumes, gaming, much more.

Friday-Monday, May 23-26

FanimeCon
San Jose Convention Center
435 South Market Street
San Jose
www.fanime.com
\$55

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

Friday-Monday, May 23-26

KublaCon
Burlingame Hyatt Regency
1333 Bayshore Highway
Burlingame
www.kublacon.com
\$50

Annual gaming convention returns with panels, dealer's room, game demos, flea market, more.

Friday, June 6

Warp 11
G Street Pub
228 G Street
Davis
www.warp11.com

Star Trek-themed band Warp 11 returns to

Davis for a special summer Starfleet Academy Graduation Party at the legendary G Street Pub. Special guests TBA.

Saturday, June 7

Gone with the Wind Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until May 31), \$20 at the door. Inspired by the Charity Ball In Atlanta from the first part of *Gone with the Wind*. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8 p.m.

Thursday-Sunday, June 12-15

RoboGames
Fort Mason Festival Pavillion
San Francisco
www.robogames.com
\$55

Saturday-Sunday, June 14-15

Northern California Pirate Festival
Vallejo Waterfront
Vallejo
www.norcalpiratefestival.com
Details to follow

Saturday, June 21

The Great Regency Shipwreck Ball
Arlington Community Church
52 Arlington Avenue
Kensington
www.baers.org
8 p.m.

\$15 advance, \$20 at the door

Saturday, July 5

The Emerald City Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until June 28), \$20 at the door. Come join us in honoring the singular courage of Dorothy Gale and her intrepid companions. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday, August 2

The Impressionists Picnic
PEERS Event
Lincoln Park
1450 High Street
Alameda
www.peers.org
Free
Le Salon des Refusés invites painters, models, artistic subjects and interested members of the public to join us for an outdoor picnic, fete and dance. Picnic begins at 11:30 a.m. Formal dancing 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 9

Kin-Yoobi Con
Chabot College
25555 Esperian Blvd
Hayward
www.gzronline.com
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
\$15

Saturday-Sunday, August 16-17

Golden Gate Renaissance Festival
Speedway Meadow
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco
www.sffaire.com
10 a.m-6 p.m. Saturday/10am-5pm Sunday
\$15

Friday-Sunday, August 29-31

Sac-Anime
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
www.sacanime.com
Details to follow

Saturday, September 6

Northern California Renaissance Faire
Casa de Fruta
10031 Pacheco Pass Hwy
Hollister
<http://www.norcalrenfaire.org/>
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat-Sun
\$25 (starting May)

Saturday, September 6

Space 1889: The Adventure of Le Cirque de Venus
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until August 30), \$20 at the door.
Steampunk event: Space 1899 - a Victorian Ball

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

Friday, September 19

Book Release Party for Christopher Paolini's *Brisingr*
Clayton Books
5433 Clayton Road
Clayton
www.claytonbookshop.com
Midnight party to celebrate the release of *Brisingr*, Book #3 of the *Eragon/Inheritance* series by Christopher Paolini
12 a.m.

Friday-Sunday, September 26-28

Yaoi-Con
San Mateo Marriott
1770 South Amphlett Blvd
San Mateo
www.yaoicon.com
\$40 until May 31st
18+

Friday-Sunday, October 3-5

Silicon 2008: A Salute to FanAc
DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
www.siliconconventions.com
Details to follow.

Saturday, October 4th

Swingin' in the Rain
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until September 27), \$20 at the door.
An evening in 1929 Hollywood at a ball inspired by that most joyous of musicals! Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Friday-Sunday, October 10-12

Con-x-Treme
San Mateo Marriott
1770 S. Amphlett Blvd
San Mateo
www.con-x-treme.org
Con-x-Treme returns for a second year. (No, really.) Details to follow.

Saturday, October 11

The War and Peace Ball
Arlington Community Church
52 Arlington Avenue
Kensington
www.baers.org
\$15 advance, \$20 door
Natasha and Prince Andrei dance at the 1812 ball from Tolstoy's classic. Russian nobility, Russian military, and civilians and military from friendly countries (English welcome; Frenchmen at their own risk). Set dances and waltzes led by Alan Winston. 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 1

Le Bal des Vampires
PEERS Event
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Ave
Alameda

www.peers.org.

\$17.50 in advance (until October 25), \$25 at the door.

Waltz the night away in a beautiful candlelit ballroom with SF Bay Area's most glamorous Undead at the 15th Annual Le Bal des Vampires. Dancing on two separate floors: Bangers and Mash performing live in the upstairs ballroom 7:45-Midnight and free-style dancing downstairs in the Dracula's Daughters Discotheque 6:30-Midnight.

Saturday-Sunday, November 1-2

Alternative Press Expo
The Concourse
620 7th Street
San Francisco
Details to follow.

Ongoing:

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour
Begins: Queen Anne Hotel
1590 Sutter at Octavia
San Francisco
www.sfgghosthunt.com
7 p.m. – 10 p.m.
\$20

Sundays

Sakramento Anime Society
Rancho Cordova Library
9845 Folsom Boulevard
Rancho Cordova
3-7 p.m.
Meets every Sunday to watch old and new

anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.

Mondays

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

Mondays

Dukefish
Jake's of Sunnyvale
174 E. Fremont Avenue
Sunnyvale
8 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
Mountain View Community Center
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue
Mountain View
www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb/
6:30 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
www.BayRPS.com
6 p.m-10 p.m.
Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email GM@BayRPS.com.

Wednesdays

East Bay Strategy Games Club
EndGame
921 Washington
Oakland
www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html
7:30 p.m.-11 p.m.
Free

Wednesdays and Saturdays

Hayward Collectibles Show
22300 Hathaway Ave (rear bldg)
Hayward
www.toysandbaseballcards.com
Wednesdays 3 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Free

Fridays

SF Games
Muddy's Coffeehouse
1304 Valencia Street
San Francisco
vax.hanford.org/dk/games
7 p.m. to midnight
Free
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 regular cards night at Atlas Café, 20th and Alabama Streets, Tuesday nights from 6:30-10.

Fridays-Mondays

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

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour
Meets corner of California and Taylor
San Francisco
www.sfvampiretour.com
8 p.m.
\$20
Led by Mina Harker. Tour is cancelled if there is heavy rain.

Saturdays

Rocky Horror Picture Show
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
www.parkway-speakeasy.com
Midnight
\$7
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 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 for more information.

Monthly

Dorkbot-SF
Free, donations welcome
www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/
Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity.

East Bay Star Wars Club
Central Perk
10086 San Pablo Ave.
El Cerrito
510-558-7375
www.ebstarwars.com
Meets the second Friday of every month at 7:30

p.m.

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

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.

The Gay Men's Book Club
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
Free
5:00 p.m.
Please contact the group leader, Christopher Rodriguez at cobalt555@earthlink.net for more information.

Legion of Rassilon
Carl's Junior
2551 N. First Street
San Jose
www.legionofrassilon.org
7:30 p.m.
Free
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
www.nnanime.com

Free
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.

Other Realms Book Club
Books, Inc.
1375 Burlingame Ave.
Burlingame
Free
www.booksinc.net
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
6:00 p.m.
Free
Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

SF Browncoats
Cafe Murano
1777 Steiner Street
San Francisco
www.sfbrowncoats.com
Noon
Free
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.

SF/SF Meetup
Mysterious Future Bookstore
531 Fifth Street
Santa Rosa
groups.yahoo.com/group/scifisantarosa/
Regular meetup for North Bay fans on the second Sunday of the month.

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

Tangential Conjectures: The Science Fiction Book Club
Books Inc.
301 Castro Street
Mountain View
650-428-1234
7:30 p.m.
Free
Generally meets the third Thursday of the month.

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

month.

USS Defiance
Round Table Pizza
1566 Howe Ave.
Sacramento
www.ussdefiance.org
7 p.m.
Free
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.

USS Northern Lights
The Claim Jumper
43330 Pacific Commons Blvd.
Fremont
firstjedi2000@yahoo.com
7 p.m.
Free
The 'Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International and a swell group of science fiction fans. We do more than Trek. Usually meets the second Friday of the month, with social event TBD. Next meeting is May 9th.

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.