

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

BayCon's done come and gone, and I am still feelin' it. It was fun, as always, and I got to see folks I always love seein', but moreso this year than most, I got to chat with folks who I pretty much only see on Memorial Day Weekend.

There was Father John Blaker, still the most awesome Catholic priest I've ever met. He pretty much held court for an hour in the Fanzine Lounge, talking about Catholicism and the ways that readings and such are scheduled, but also about Catholic Science Fiction and about fannish history. That's always good stuff. There was John deCles, who is one of the great ties to the early days of SCA and BArea fandom. I didn't get to talk with him as much as I did last year, but it's always good to see him around. There was Milt Stevens, who may have had the funniest line of the entire weekend with his response as to what Forry's last words might have been. Milt's a supporter of the Fanzine Lounge and is one of the funniest guys in fandom. And, of course, there were Leigh Ann, and España, and Jason Schachat, and The Lovely and Talented Linda, and all those others who hang in the Lounge and make it what it is. There was also Nintendo DS Mario Cart, which Leo, Andy Trembley, Jason and myself enjoyed greatly.

There was also some really good programming, though if there was any weakness to the con, it was on the programming side because of the lateness of the schedule and the lack of communication that many participants felt along the way. It happens. The Big Hair panel, talking about making big hair and wigs, was wonderful, though I only got to see about half of it. There was Trystan Bass, in wig with awesomeness, and there was Belle Benson, and Kevin Roche and Kate Morgenstern and someone else. It was a strong panel, both entertaining and instructive. That's a big plus. The FanboyPlanet.com podcast was held in the middle of the Foyer, which was difficult, but it turned out really fine. We had some great segments and many of our good friends popped by.

The one panel I had was Hugos: So What? (not the actual title, but that's what it comes down to) which had Milt and Tom Galloway, Randy Smith and Tall Kevin Standlee. It was a good panel with differing opinions and nice debate. That one was on the Internet, and apparently there was an incident of dundermouth that annoyed Cheryl Morgan. I understand that some of it was just riffing, but Cheryl was none too happy. It happens, which is sad. The Would You Like Goggles With That panel of steampunking any costume was really

fun, had a packed room and a responsive audience. It's one of those ideas that just hit it out of the park. Leigh Ann and España were just plain perfect for that one.

I was slightly underwhelmed by the Masquerade, but that's not because of the presentations, more because of the size. Jennifer Brozak got most of the names of the contestants right (save for Jean Martin, Andy Trembley and Debbie Bretschneider) but wasn't close enough to the mic at times. This also happens. The halftime performance of *War of the Worlds* was good stuff, though a bit long for a halftime. It wouldn't have felt quite so long if the break between the Masq and the halftime wasn't so long. Apparently, the bar was doing a brisk business, so it helped the con make their numbers!

The hotel was slightly clueless and I heard a number of people who were very unhappy, particularly folks with rooms on the party floor. The hotel put down plastic on the floors, which was weird but it did allow some bubble popping, which is always fun. They messed up a number of rooms and I even got a different room than I was supposed to have. There were lots of complaints about billing as well. This needs to be addressed.

Of course, Mercedes Lackey and Larry Dixon couldn't make it, but Peter S. Beagle was there and in some ways he filled in (and

will be the Writer GoH next year). Tim Kirk was also there. That was cool, because I really like that guy! Fan GoH Fred Patton's health has not been good for a few years now, and he didn't show, but did do an interview which they showed. It was a nice gesture.

Next year will be good stuff, with Bobby Toland, my buddy from high school, as the Chair.



I'll write more about Maker Faire later, but I went and a whole bunch of folks you normally hear about in the pages of *SF/SF* and *The Drink Tank* were there.

Worldcon's still coming up, as is Westercon in Tempe. Arizona should be hot, but John Hertz is going to be running a Fanzine Lounge, so that should be good.

SteamCon is coming up in Seattle and so many folks have said that this is the replacement for the second Steam-Powered, which was cancelled. Seattle is a great town for Steampunk, and I'll be there (presenting a

couple of panels, which will be fun). It's taking place in the same hotel as the 2005 NASFiC, which is right at the airport. I love the Seattle Airport, and this should be a great con. I'm just polishing off *Those Wacky Victorians*, about the crazy inventions of Victorian England. I'm very excited. Mike Perschon will be there too!

Anyone know how to get ahold of Ed Stiner of the Science Fiction Museum? Not Paul Allen's Science Fiction Museum, but the one that's not really yet a museum but is an awesome collection? I really wanna try to put together an exhibit, but alas, have not been able to get through to him.

I'm going to Eastercon. I can not wait. It's almost a year away, but it should be awesome.

I got an article from Peter Sagal, host of "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me," for the 4th issue of *Journey Planet*. That's awesome. He was really nice about my asking and he sent a fun little article.

I've been having computer problems, so I'm holding back on *The Drink Tank* 214, and have gone out and released *The Drink Tank* 215. I'll have to catch up soon.

John Purcell also released *Askance* #14 on eFanzines.com and it's a pretty darn good issue. It has a thing from me in it!

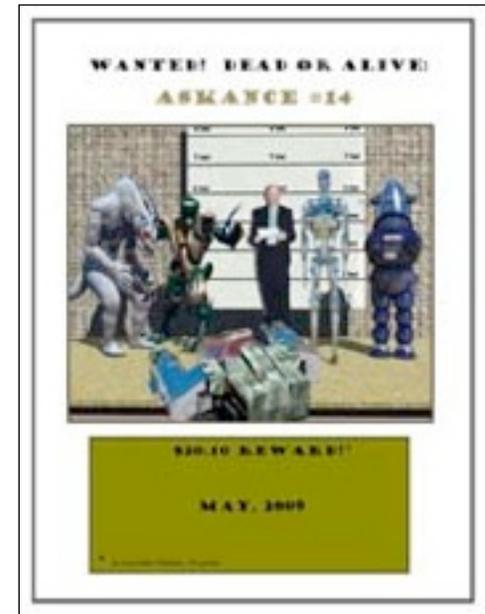
Hey, Liars, the zine from the 2009 Fanzine Lounge, was a lot of fun. There was some real surreal stuff.

Word has it that one of my all-time favorite people, Doug Englebart, isn't doing particularly well. It's sad. I've talked with him at the Museum a number of times and he's a really great dude. He invented the computer

mouse, among other things, and I believe he's said that he enjoyed SF for many years. I recently discovered that one of the true pioneers of computer graphics, Dr. Ivan Sutherland, also loved SF, specifically noting Robert Heinlein. I love it when my worlds come colliding together!

Let us remember that SiliCon still happens in October and that our good pal Kevin Roche is Toastmaster! That's good business. I'll be doing the newsletter and lounge, so I've got that going for me.

Well, for a guy who's had trouble getting back into the flow of things, I've talked about quite a lot, haven't I?



images courtesy of eFanzines.com

Letters of Comment

Let us begin with Mr. Lloyd Penney!

Dear Jean and Chris and David and España and Tom:

I am getting to respond to this issue very early because I am very caught up! The month of May has been busy locwise. So perhaps this time, I can do it right because I've got the time. Here's some commentary on SF/SF 86.

Chris Garcia replies: It's hard for us publishers to keep up with your LoCing! Slow down, son!

That Eaton Conference sounds like it was a very good time. Would have liked to have been there, especially for some of the other attendees. I've been checking my e-mail...the main reason Nic and Bobbie Farey were in Las Vegas was to find new digs. They will soon be on their way to Las Vegas to stay, and perk up the Vegrants even more.

DUFF has been decided, and the winner is Emma Hawkes. The Shane Senter problem in Boston has its counterparts in various cities...I won't mention any names but we have someone locally who probably should be in jail for the SF convention hijinks he's

carried off in the past. He's disappeared, and I hope he stays there.

Nic in Vegas! That's wonderful! Another reason to go down and visit sometime. Not like I don't love the folks down there already! Congrats to Emma. I am happy to say that I voted and I hope I get the chance to meet her in Montreal. And I know EXACTLY who you're referring to...

A shame about there not being another Steam-Powered convention. As popular as steampunk seems to be to a lot of fans, others may understand the interest, but are not convinced that the interest itself is sufficient to sustain a convention. We got that from one of the local conventions, which has promised to make steampunk a secondary, or even tertiary theme to the convention next year. We all know that interests come and go, and steampunk's been here a little while now, but who knows where it will be in a year or two?

Well, it wasn't lack of interest that kept there from being another Steam-Powered. Management seems to have been the problem. There was a lot of

Steampunk at Maker Faire this weekend.

My loc...as said above, not only were we TAFF nominators this year, but DUFF nominators. We were nominators of Alison Barton, but this year's winner is Emma Hawkes. Gotta find out more about her, and I hope we can meet. Anime North starts tomorrow, and the Full Steam Ahead fashion show is this coming Sunday at 4pm. Hope there's enough people left to come to the show. If there are photos, and I am sure someone will be taking them, I will pass them along. The anime convention asked for the show, so successful at Ad Astra, to be staged at the anime con, so we will see what happens.

Well, you backed the winner in the TAFF race, at least. I'm hoping you'll consider standing for TAFF sometime...perhaps to replace a certain administrator who lives in NorCal?

Reality television...aughhh! Sorry, can't stand it. It's so unreal. A documentary about Worldcon would be interesting though, from beginning to end, from the idea of the bid to the filing

of the final papers and the dissolution of the corporation...or the idea of a new bid? I gather the Torcon 3 corporation is completely wound down...I don't think we'll ever have to deal with the idea of a Torcon 4.

Oh, someone'll bid Toronto again. Then again, we haven't seen another Nolacon, now have we?

The *Girl Genius* event...another fine steamy fun time, with a wide variety of costumes for all. I have tried to get onto the *Girl Genius* website, but without luck. Perhaps it's too busy, or my connection may not be sufficient for the site. But I will keep trying; might just be a slow connection on my part.

Those were some great costumes. I wish I could have gone, but alas, I tend to not do their events. Linda has, as I understand it.

A great picture on page 12 of those taking part in the Starry Night of Steampunk. Looks like some of the participants are in their 50s and 60s, and I am sure they are pleased that a younger fandom is embracing something they enjoy. Combined with astronomy? We are both members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, and we would have had a blast.

Linda and I missed out on that one, which is a shame as all the photos I've seen have been great. I've never been to Chabot, though I understand that they've held space conferences there over the last several years.

Today is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 150th birthday? Not a word in the local press, and the Toronto Reference Library has a renowned collection of Doyle memorabilia and Holmesiana. We have

many of Laurie King's Holmes pastiche novels.

I love Holmes and I can't wait for Robert Downey Jr. to don the cap and coat and make a run at it this Fall.

Hey, y'all...hope you are having some serious fun at BayCon and the Anime con in San Jose. I head up the highway to Anime North tomorrow, and coming up on the 28th, Yvonne and I celebrate our 26th wedding anniversary. And finally on June 2, I turn 50. I have decided to grow old disgracefully.

BayCon was a blast. Can't wait for the next one!

Many thanks for all your good works on this ongoing boon to BArea fandom...wish we could open a portal to come and visit and join in. Take care, see you nextish.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor

For someone who used to be truly scared of vampires, I seem to be enjoying the slew of vampire fare that has been proliferating these last few years on the big screen and on the small screen, and even in print. Yes, some part of me believes that vampires are real. I grew up in the Philippines where vampires (not based on the Vlad Dracul Eastern European mythos) were generally considered to haunt the countryside and prey on the lost and unwary. Surprisingly, Stephenie Meyer mentioned Filipino vampires first when she listed examples in her best-selling young adult novel *Twilight*. I even used to have nightmares when I actually felt like there was an evil presence about to attack me and I woke up just in time, but in shock that it was all just a dream.

So why this increased fascination and even enjoyment of vampires? Probably because I love myths and legends along with my passion for the fantasy genre. However, my interest in vampires developed gradually over several decades, and didn't happen overnight. To this day, I still can't watch some vampire movies that are more horror than romance or adventure in nature. For instance, I would like to watch *Dracula 2000* because it features one of my current favorite actors, Gerard Butler. Since it's

a Wes Craven movie, however, I am reluctant to even see it. On the other hand, reviews of the movie were pretty poor, and it may not be worth watching to begin with. I probably won't ever watch the Christopher Lee or Frank Langella *Dracula* movies, either.

If I remember correctly, the first movie that broke down my fear of vampires and got me intrigued was the romantic comedy *Love at First Bite* (1979) with George Hamilton. Then there was *The Lost Boys* (1987) with Jason Patric and Kiefer Sutherland. I watched and liked that movie because the vampires looked like rock stars, the soundtrack was great, and it was set in Santa Cruz. I had just moved to the Bay Area that year and liked seeing places around the Bay Area in film. I watched the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* movie (1992), featuring the senior Sutherland (Donald), and thought it was funny but a bit silly. So I didn't bother to check out the TV series that was based on it.

In fact, I never got to see an episode of the Sarah Michelle Gellar *Buffy* until a few years ago, based on the recommendations of my Browncoat friends. Most Browncoats were *Buffy* fans before *Firefly* came out. So far I've seen the first two episodes and the musical episode "Once More With Feeling." These episodes were good, but they didn't blow me

away, and so I haven't seen any more. And I thought "Once More With Feeling" was a bit of a copy of "The Bitter Suite," the first *Xena* musical episode — *Xena* being one of my favorite TV shows of all time. Just a couple of weeks ago, I did watch the first two episodes of *Angel* and I actually liked this *Buffy* spinoff a lot.

But these movies and TV shows do not have much, if anything, to do with the most famous vampire character of them all, Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. That novel is probably what brought vampires to worldwide prominence. Francis Ford Coppola's lush and elegant movie adaptation, *Dracula* (1992), was excellent (just ignore Keanu Reeves's attempt at serious drama) and made me a fan of actor Gary Oldman. I adored the Victorian costumes and the realistic but mysterious ambience. And here, finally, was a dramatic and respectable version of the vampire legend.

There was a BBC version of *Dracula* with Sophia Myles (one of my favorite actresses) that came out in 2006, but I have not seen it yet. It didn't get very good reviews so I'm not too motivated to watch it.

Interview with the Vampire (1994) arrived a couple of years after the Gary Oldman *Dracula*. A friend of mine was a huge fan of Anne Rice's Vampire Lestat novels, and I tried

to read one of them, but I found it quite boring. Still, I enjoyed the movie (just ignore Tom Cruise in anything) — again because of the costumes and the supernatural and historical feel.

So yes, I do love vampire historical dramas. When I found out about the Period Events & Entertainments Re-creation Society's (PEERS's) annual Le Bal Des Vampires in 2003, I wanted to go, but the disclaimer, "Not recommended for the faint of heart," scared me off. But after talking with a few other patrons and going to more PEERS balls, I realized that there was nothing to be frightened about. I've tried to go every year since 2004 and I now think it's actually the most mainstream, and eclectic, of all of the PEERS events. It attracts vintage and modern ballroom dancers alike and costumers of every era. At the November 2007 ball, I wore an Anna Valerious (Kate Beckinsale) vampire slayer costume from *Van Helsing* (2004) and met someone wearing a Van Helsing (Hugh Jackman) costume who has since become a good friend.

PEERS has other vampire balls besides the November Le Bal Des Vampires. In February 2008, I wore to the PEERS Mardi Gras Des Vampires (Vampire Lestat-inspired) ball a Mina Harker (Dracula's love interest) costume based on the *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* movie (adapted from the Alan Moore graphic novel, which I just recently finished reading).

Speaking of *Van Helsing*, that didn't get good reviews either, and a lot of people didn't like it, but I absolutely enjoyed that movie. It had Hugh Jackman as the legendary vampire

hunter and David Wenham (Faramir in *Lord of the Rings*) as his monk sidekick. And Kate Beckinsale was just gorgeous and amazing in it. I became a fan of hers after this movie, even though I didn't like her at all in her previous movies, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Pearl Harbor*. Kate switched from being a Victorian vampire slayer to being a Goth vampire who hunts werewolves in the action/adventure *Underworld* (2003). She followed that up with the so-so *Underworld: Evolution* (2006). That sequel was okay enough to keep me interested in the franchise, and so I watched the latest, *Underworld: Rise of the Lycans* (2009). I didn't expect much from the latter, especially since it didn't even have Kate in it. But I was pleasantly surprised and I liked this prequel more than the first two.

Michael Sheen, whom I'd largely ignored in the first two *Underworld* movies and other movies that he's appeared in, reprised his role as the werewolf (or Lycan) Lucian. Portraying a Romeo/Spartacus-like character, Michael was just mesmerizing and compelling. I have to say he's now one of my favorite actors. He seems to do well with genre movies as well as Oscar contenders such as *Frost/Nixon*. Oh, and yes, he does look like Tony Blair, a role he played in *The Deal*, *The Queen* and the upcoming *The Special Relationship*. Interestingly, Michael is doing a switcheroo similar to his ex-girlfriend Kate. He's going to be playing a vampire (traditional enemies of werewolves) in the movie version of *New Moon*, the second novel/movie in the *Twilight* series.

Which brings me back to *Twilight*, the current phenomenon that has teenage girls squealing worldwide and has adults scratching their heads in wonder. Of course, as a journalist, it is my duty (ahem) to check out a trend this big. So I watched the movie and actually liked it a lot. The chemistry between Bella and Edward is very palpable and it really is quite romantic. The rock music soundtrack is also fantastic. Robert Pattinson is quite handsome and I can see why young gals go nuts over him, as evidenced by the mob scene several months ago in San Francisco when he showed up for a publicity stop.

I am reading the novel now and I am disappointed to report that it is quite as dismal as most people say. Bella, in the novel, is so insecure and so in awe of how she's attracted the hottest and most unattainable guy in school. And Edward, again in the novel, is so condescending toward Bella, it is quite annoying. The narrative also reads like a diary, all from Bella's point of view. So it is very simple and gets tiresome after a while. All telling and not much showing. They toned all this down for the movie and instead you get amazing views of the Pacific Northwest. For the diehard *Twilight* fans out there, a bit of trivia: I discovered, quite by accident, a line of chocolates by Dagoba (named after Yoda's swampy planet no doubt) called *Twilight*, *New Moon* and *Eclipse* (the first three novels of the series).

So it seems that vampire romances are just as popular, if not more so, than vampire comedies and action/adventures. I do like

vampire romances myself, although I never got into the vampire romance novels that were quite popular in the late 1990s and early 2000s. I did love the short-lived TV series *Moonlight* with Sophia Myles. Sophia, who played the delightful Reinette in the *Doctor Who* episode “The Girl in the Fireplace,” seems to keep showing up in vampire shows. She was a vampire in *Underworld*, a vampire victim in the BBC *Dracula*, and a vampire lover in *Moonlight*. Alex O’Loughlin plays private investigator Mick who’s a vampire. Sophia portrays journalist Beth who falls in love with Mick. It ended mid-season and now we’ll never know if they ever get together, or if Beth becomes a vampire to be with Mick.

I’ve been told that *Moonlight* is similar to a TV show from the 1980s called *Forever Knight*. Lots of people have also recommended *True Blood*, which was shown on HBO last

year. I’ll probably check both out sometime. Thank goodness for Netflix, Hulu and other such web sites!

An intriguing TV show that the BBC produced this year is *Being Human* about a rockstar-looking vampire, an obsessive-compulsive werewolf, and an insecure ghost sharing a flat in Bristol. They all try to live normal lives and they confront the difficulties of interacting with humans and dealing with their conditions in each episode. The pilot was great and I was a little disappointed when they had different actors as the vampire and the ghost in the actual series. But I got over that quickly and enjoyed all the episodes. The werewolf is played by Russell Tovey who was one of the candidates for the next Doctor in *Doctor Who* before the role was given to Matt Smith. Seeing Russell in this show has convinced me that he is a star on the rise. He’s

a wonderful actor and I wish he had been picked instead of Matt. I didn’t like Matt in the *Sally Lockhart* Victorian Mystery TV movies. But as I’ve said before, I’m willing to give him a chance. By the way, BBC America will start airing *Being Human* next month, so check it out!

So with the current resurgence of vampires in all sorts of media, are we getting to the point of oversaturation? Coincidentally, I ran into a blog online asking the same question as I was doing research for this editorial. As with any cultural fad, things get popular, reach critical mass, explode and then die down. But I think vampires will be eternal. In the meantime, maybe I’ll see you in my new custom-made vampire teeth that I got done at BayCon last month!

Join our crew!

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

Dreams of the City

A Column by España Sheriff

Ever Since the World Ended is a faux documentary set in a San Francisco virtually depopulated after a devastating plague wipes out most of humanity. Only 186 people remain in the city 12 years after the global tragedy — mostly adults who are still dealing with the emotional and logistical consequences of the Apocalypse, but also a handful of kids who can barely remember the busy old world with its millions of people, and who clearly are tired of hearing how great things were before.

The story follows two filmmakers, “Cal” and “Josh,” who are played by the producer-directors of *Ever Since the World Ended*, Calum Grant and Joshua Atesh Litle. Most of the rest of the cast also portray characters with their same first names and seem to be fictionalized versions of themselves.

The filmmakers decide that after over a decade, it's about time to get everyone to discuss their experiences with the plague and with the world they now live in. They travel through the now quiet City, finding and interviewing the sometimes reclusive remaining residents, with mixed success. Some people greet them with suspicion or disinterest, but slowly the structure of the new loosely-bound society is revealed to us. The center is a group of folks, mainly women, who live together in one extended family and home

under matriarch Mama Eva, while others seem to have embraced or perhaps surrendered to their changed environment and spend the time surfing, exploring the wilderness, and trying to find a connection with their new reality. Pain and nostalgia mingle with a fatalistic sense that things had gone too far wrong with the old world and something new had to emerge.

People being people, there are conflicts, and some people end up as outsiders even within such a small population. The most notable of these are Mark and Dave. Mark is an ex-EMT who appears to be suffering from PTSD due to his experiences in the front lines of the emergency services response to the plague, and who some in the community argue is too dangerous to live in the City, or perhaps at all. Dave is a young scavenger and trader who presents himself as an outsider by choice who fills a necessary societal niche. Clearly he's traded community for convenience in what appears to be a teenage self-protective move that he is coming to regret. But in this new world the City is a village, and reinvention, the movie hints, is no longer simple when everyone's roles have settled in such a small population.

Ed Noisecat, a local artist who makes gorgeous carvings in the Native American tradition, is also notable and has the funniest line in the film when he sighs, “Being the last

Native American sucks, man.” He goes on to bitch about the mostly white remaining survivors coming to him for wisdom and dream interpretation. Adam Savage, of *Mythbusters* fame, also shows up as a pragmatic engineer with a soon-to-be-extinct knowledge base.

The film isn't perfect. Given current demographics you would think we would see a few Asian or Hispanic folks, but most of the on-camera parts are white and tend towards apparent middle-class sensibilities. It could also have benefited from a little more attention to the visuals: the City looks empty but perfectly preserved, without decay or debris anywhere; likewise the clothes look new and everyone's hair and grooming look normal even when they've been living on the beach or hiking in the woods.

Still, it's an interesting watch at just under 80 minutes, and makes a nice entry in the ever-growing list of post-Apocalyptic San Francisco stories. It could almost have come from the world described in the excellent Pat Murphy novel *The City, Not Long After*, which I wrote about in Issue #28 of this zine.

BayCon: Would You Like Goggles With That?

By España Sheriff
Staff Writer

This year BayCon started off shaky, with scheduling problems, sudden cancellations by Guests of Honor Mercedes Lackey and Larry Dixon right before the convention, and the poorly announced absence of Fan GOH Fred Patten, also due to health reasons. Luckily it came together quite nicely and seemed to run reasonably smoothly, settling in to its second year in its new home at the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara.

I spent Friday watching posts and tweets of friends who were already at the hotel and feeling increasingly restless as I received the occasional “Are you here yet?” text message. At around 3 p.m. my boss kindly let everyone start their weekend, and I scurried out to do some Hail Mary costume shopping before heading home to finish packing. I failed utterly at getting my printer working and so, to my immense frustration, ended up with zero new pieces for the art show and none of the older but thematically appropriate Steampunk ones I had planned to hang. I did get in a short lie down, which was sorely needed after several days of late nights, and which helped my mood considerably. At around 9 p.m. Anthony and Deb Kopec pulled up outside my house in the Dadmobile and we hit the road.

When we arrived at the hotel the bar lounge



Party Floor

by David Bedno

was packed with a huge karaoke crowd, which seemed to be having a ball. I fled up to the room to unpack and get settled in until someone pointed out that registration closed in under half an hour. We rushed down to get our badges and program packets, then got changed into something more con-appropriate and headed to the party floor. hilariously the

hallways on the entire third floor were wrapped in plastic. The Hyatt was literally using “protection” to interact with BayCon.

My first stop was the Fanzine Lounge, natch. Leigh Ann Hildebrand, Jason Schachat and *mirabile dictu*, even Chris Garcia were all there as well as a bunch of other good folks. The place was pretty packed so I took the opportunity to wander the party floor a couple of times. I should probably have gone to bed a little earlier to be fresh for my 11:30 a.m. panel, but with so many people having a head start, having been on site since Thursday, I felt the need to catch up.

As people came and went I found myself moving from one spot to another in the Fanzine Lounge, and noticed a disturbing sensation: the room was vibrating. When I commented on this



Fanzines in the Fanzine Lounge by David Bedno



photo by David Bedno

several other people including Leigh Ann agreed it was kinda distracting or even downright annoying. It was mostly confined to the back right side, but it was pretty weird. Eventually, a little after 3 a.m., Leigh Ann and I arranged to meet at 10:30 to prepare for our panel and I headed off to bed.

Like all good things, the idea of the panel was born from earlier lounge discussions. We had been discussing the increasing number of Steampunk costumes over the past few cons and the pretty much rhetorical question, "Can any outfit at all be made Steampunk by slapping some goggles on it?" (Hint: pretty much.) The discussion had turned into a more elaborate game of looking at friends and passers-by and discussing what would need to be changed or added to make them Steampunk. It turned out to be a lot of fun and most people were quite into it when we explained what we were doing, so Leigh Ann suggested doing it as a panel where we would get items from dealers and collect volunteers from the audience. The panel was planned for early in the weekend, so

the ideas discussed could be implemented by the audience members if they wanted.

We went through the Dealer's Room and borrowed one of each of the following: goggles, glasses, and pith helmet from Alter Years, corset/waistcincher from Pendragon, top hat with leather hatband from Magic Velvets, rusty wrench and leather gloves from Dark Gifts, and vest and layered skirt from Kristy Smart.

When we arrived at the panel room I was surprised to find that it was intimidatingly full, and even had people hanging in the doorway. We met our fellow panelists: Karen Tully and Trystan Bass were already known to us, and our X factor panelist, Kay Tracy, also turned out to be very enthusiastic and willing to have fun. Kay had also brought a bunch of props which included some essential items which slipped our minds (pocket watch, raygun), and also some that had not occurred to us at all (telescope, cowboy hat, golden phoenix feather, and a big brass doo-dah of ornate design but no immediately apparent use). We spent the next hour getting volunteers, usually in the least Steampunky outfits we could manage, and accessorizing them up. When the audience clapped approval that signaled we were done, and they mostly kept us honest by withholding when the results were unsatisfactory. There was also a lot of shouting of requests (the top hat was the big favorite, more popular than the goggles even) and even one item loaned from a nice lady in the second row (a hair clip).

Our only (near) failure was someone who insisted no goggles or eye wear of any type,

despite the panel's name (Would You Like Goggles With That?). We gave it a game go and I think the pith helmet and telescope worked quite nicely but she seemed unsatisfied with the whole experience. Most everyone else did seem to have a good time and took both the (hopefully) successes and (sometimes ridiculous) failures in the not-terribly-serious spirit in which they were intended. I tossed my brown leather belt into the pile and it came in handy, and we even used Leigh Ann's burnt velvet scarf to create a bustle for someone. I think the crown of our achievements was probably the Jedi who ended up with a cowboy hat, belt and raygun (plus goggles, natch).

We took lots of pictures and discussed a bit about where to get certain items, and what simple ideas worked. Then as we wrapped it up, Leigh Ann gave a good closing statement about how in spite the silliness of the panel, the point was this: Have fun with it, don't be afraid to play with the genre, and don't let Serious Costumers tell you that you're doing it Wrong if you are happy with the end result.



Chris Garcia with Scarf

by Howeird

Having survived my first outing as a Real Panelist in front of a room full of people, I was able to feel less pathetic about being a Bad Artist with a Horrid Computer Who Hates Me, Clearly. I ran over to the art show and hung the pieces that I did have with me and swore to myself this would be the last time I showed up with nothing new — even if I have to have originals every time. I chatted with some folks and took a look at some of the rest of the show. Ed Monroe had two new paintings including a lovely one depicting the Golden Gate Bridge at night with a dragon perched atop one of the towers. There were some L.A. Williams prints I had not seen before, and some really neat laser etched pieces, which I almost bid on.

I then took some time to properly check out the Dealer's Room, which had clearly been selected with the Steampunk theme in mind

with more clothes and less media than usual. I bought some feathers from Realm of Regalia and beads from Don Simpson but unfortunately could not find the item I really wanted: a cowboy hat for my Sunday night costume. I eventually gave up and headed over to the Fanzine Lounge to decorate for the Saturday Night Sekrit Theme: DiscoSteam! We put up purple and gold decorations and a somewhat steamed-up disco ball and Jason had the brilliant idea of covering the lights with a pink film for atmosphere. Although I didn't have the time or resources for true excess, it was all appropriately tacky by the time I left.

I took a nap next and woke from that to see the normally stylish Joe Price wearing a blue coat over a black shirt, collar out and top buttons undone. He gave me his best Disco-Stu pose and vanished, leaving me to consider what

I had wrought. I dressed up in gold, with a sequined headband, and helped outfit my other roomies in equally appropriate gear. A flurry of gold chains, headbands and glitter later, we headed down to the Lounge. On the way we ran into Leo Schwab who had done us the honor of putting aside his normally impeccable dress sense and was sporting a gold lab coat, black ruffled shirt with open collar, and his clockwork vest. I decided I rather enjoy talking people into doing silly things; the power is heady.

We hung out in the Lounge for a while, although it was once again pretty busy. I checked out the RIP Battlestar Galactica party for a bit, and the Klingons, but both were crowded as well. I went back to the Lounge in time to see Johanna arrive in her Steamglampunk outfit she had made



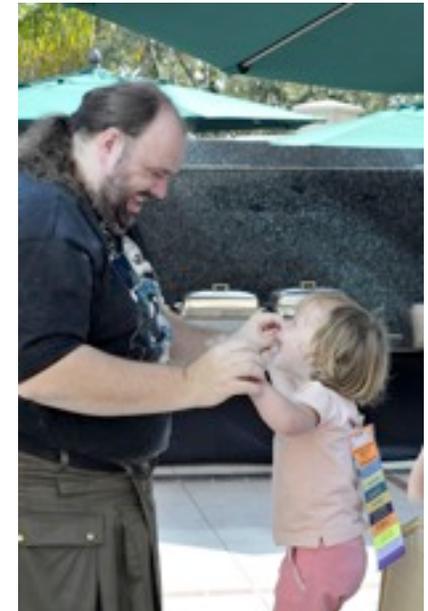
Radar as Dr. Horrible



Kevin Roche



Kaylee and Zombie



Hugh Daniels and Friend

photos by Howieird



Mette as Vashta Nerada

by Howeird

especially for the theme, complete with Union Jack top and heels and bouffant hair. It was fabulous and I do hope she continues refining it. It was still pretty crowded so I ended up heading down to the dance with the Kopecs, Bill Baronlaw and Mr. Price, meeting Jade Falcon and Eric Anderson along the way. We danced some, then left for a bit when the DJ switch made things a little too loud and thumpy for our tastes. I wandered back down a little later before eventually heading up to bed at about 3 a.m. again. When I got to the room the roomies were in their jammies watching the tail end of *The Magnificent Seven*. We watched Yul Brynner, Steve McQueen, Charles Bronson & Co. do their thing. After that, *Predator* was on so we of course had to watch that as well. KQED seems to play the best late night movies during BayCon every year.

Sunday I took advantage of my wide open schedule and woke up nice and late. The breakfast buffet was long over so I settled for lunch with the gang, then hit the clothes swap. This year the swap was confined to a room that

was being used for other programming as well. The space was small and only available for an hour, so it was not nearly as fun as the poolside event I had last gone to at the Marriott location two years ago. I got rid of a bag of random stuff, and after a quick scour through the available piles I found a petticoat and a shirt. Then I rushed over for the second half of the Hardware Costuming panel with Bryan Little, Mette Hedén and Andrew Trembley as well as our Goggles co-panelist Kay Tracy. The panel was more about finding resources than a how-to as I had hoped, but was still quite entertaining.

I had figured a nap was the next order of business but for various reasons ended up having a drink with David Moyce at the hotel bar instead. While we were chatting with the bar manager, Bill Baronlaw wandered over in his Thing #1 costume. When he left, the bar manager asked, “Wasn't he the guy dressed as a bunny earlier?” When we said yes, she commented, “I thought so. Huh — I had heard he would be dressed as a belly dancer later.” We chuckled, but a few minutes later someone said they were heading to the Belly Dance Jam to see Bill in his belly dancer costume. This being the thing that makes the Hyatt so incredible and makes up for some of the architecturally unavoidable inconvenience: the staff. They wear ribbons on their namebadges, and are more in the loop about con events involving my own friends than I am. Incredible.

I now was officially out of time for a nap so David, Leigh Ann and I grabbed a quick bite of

dinner and committed some small but satisfying bits of subversion before heading our separate ways. I got changed into something a little girlier and stopped by to join in wishing Bryan and Mette a happy anniversary. I had hoped to catch a bit of the Tempest performance as well but ended up in the Lounge instead, and soon enough it was getting into the late evening. I got a text from Anthony saying the gang was getting into their costumes for the night, this being our Travelling



“Little Y” and “Space Girl”

by David Bedno

Medicine Show Wagon group hall costume. I made it upstairs and found them mostly ready to go. Deb (The Professor) looked wonderful in the corset she had bought from Pendragon earlier in the day and sporting some nice steamy touches in her hair, Mr. Price (The Barker) was sharp in a long black Victorian coat and a bowler, and Anthony (The Wagon) had strapped on his excellent Box of Miracles which contained our Monstrum Remedium, gambling paraphernalia, and other appropriate props. I had clearly wasted a lot of my pre-con prep time but did manage to put together a decent outfit as The Enforcer. I still need a black hat to complete the look, but as a group we made a decent Medicine Show. The centerpiece was definitely Anthony and his props which also included a zombie-control headpiece that glowed green and an audio belt-piece which played some seriously creepy old Victrola music.

Looks aside, I made a terrible guard for the wagon, as it wandered off every time I turned my back for a second. But we did manage a fair amount of wandering and posing for pictures and I'd love to do it again. We stopped at the Whiskey Bros. party and I tried one of the tastings. About half of the whiskeys were not to my taste but at least two were very good and one of them was really lovely. I was having a very good time, but as the evening progressed it was weird to wander in and out of different rooms and conversations throughout the night and hear how the evening was going unhappily weird in spots for an unusually large number of my friends.

At around 3 a.m. once again things started winding down, and after some interesting (well, not really) experiments with 70s prog-rock cleared the room there were just a handful of us in the Lounge, including Leigh Ann, Jason Schachat and myself. We put on the Fanzine Lounge soundtrack, the Indigo Girls performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and that helped the mood. Anthony and later Radar joined us in their jammies, as did Jean for a little bit after being unable to sleep due to the excessive vibration of her room, which was next door to the Lounge and suffering from the same effect. Shortly after she went back to bed we were joined by some obnoxious pirates whom we had to eject from the room. We kept the door ajar after that and were joined by an off-duty Flare guy called Scott (I think) later on. We just hung out until it was 6 a.m. and time for breakfast. It was all freshly laid out, we were the first patrons there, and it was the perfect ending for an odd night.

On the way back up to the room I got a very necessary late checkout, then caught a few hours of sleep. I woke up feeling surprisingly good and while the more sensible roomies got their own breakfasts, Anthony and I cleared out of the room in plenty of time. I picked up my art from the Art Show, did a last round of the Dealer's Room, and headed back up to the Lounge for the last hour or so of goodbyes, as people trickled through and plans for upcoming cons were hatched. Seattle Steamcon is definitely a go, for starters.

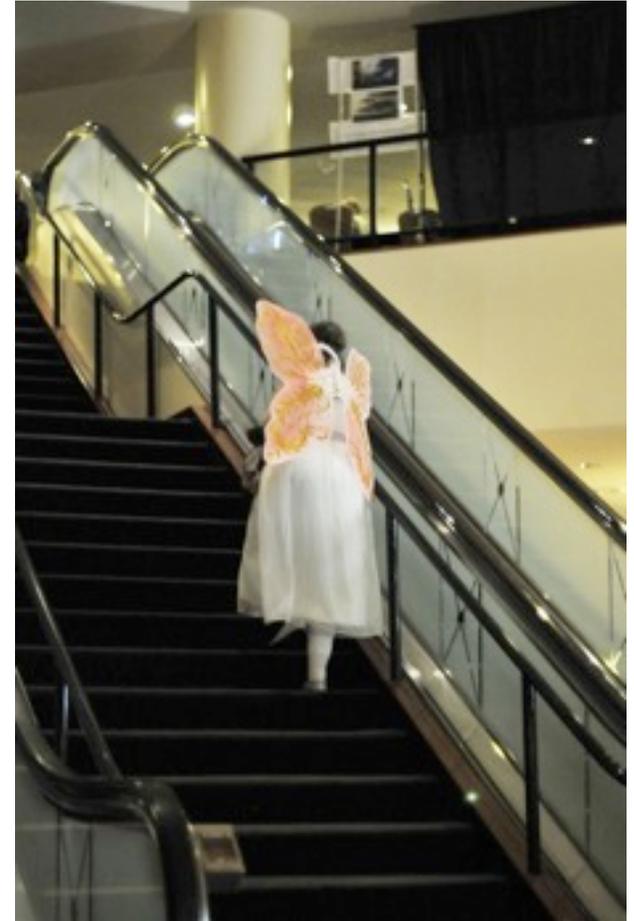


photo by Howeird

Fair Memories Revived at Maker Faire

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

The Fair is dead. That's not entirely accurate, but think back, even just fifteen years or so. The county fair was a big deal. The State Fair was a big deal. There were regular World's Fairs and other expositions, and people loved them. They started dying out in the 1990s, for all sorts of reasons, especially cost. Fairs in many parts of the world folded, and the State Fair has scaled way back (though the Computer History Museum just had me put together an exhibit for this year's fair), and I'm not sure the county fair still happens.

That said, Maker Faire is everything we think we remember from those old fairs, only

with a twist that feels like it came straight out of a Social Networking business plan. There were no prize pigs, no 4-H kids with ribbons, only pieces that people built, things that came out of Make and Craft magazine, groups that promoted all forms of expression through makin' stuff, they all came together. The memories of those fairs of our youth, the exhibits, the crowds, the presentations, they are all there, but they're so different now. These exhibits are about getting things made, though some of it is also about getting products into the minds and hands of those who'd want them.

There was an entire building of folks selling crafts, and lots of ETSY.com signs. It was quite awesome. There were rides, but they

weren't those ones that folks like my Dad would drive around the country. They were people-made, impressive homemade merry-go-rounds and flying bikes and the like. There was the Life-Sized Mousetrap game which was very impressive, though it was having difficulties when we came by. There was a lovely Steampunk section where Jake Von Slatt and folks were hanging out and showing off all sorts of neat projects. My buddy Bobby was very impressed with the stuff Von Slatt was doing.

Here are some of Linda Wenzelburger's photos of the event. I hope this'll bring back memories of those long-gone fairs.







This Old Fanzine: *Space...The Final Frontier No. 2 Souvenir Program*

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

I was going through the box of material that Mo Starkey sent my way and I turned up a zine with a color cover that I thought was brand new. It was in amazing shape, which made it even more surprising when I noted it was dated August 1976. It was the program from Space...The Final Frontier, a *Star Trek* and space science convention. I enjoyed the cover, a lovely piece from Jonesy Parrinello, an artist I've never heard of. It was a really clean little piece.

The con was chaired by Terry Terman, father of my pal Jim Terman and the son of Professor Terman, the single most important figure in the history of Silicon Valley for his work at Stanford. I had heard he used to run cons, but I was never sure which ones. This was it. There were a couple of other familiar names, including Andi Schechter, which was something of a surprise. There was also Bob Wilkins as the MC, which must have been a good thing as he was always the best master of ceremonies.

The program grid was basic, but not overly awesome. The map was well laid-out and the opening section was full of info. Really, it was a very basic program book, which is fine. There was a description of the Writer's Workshop panel which featured Robert Silverberg and

Theodore Sturgeon. I could not imagine having my work go before the eyes of Mr. Sturgeon. He was a legend and the kind of writer I'd want to be but no way could ever become. I mean, it would be like having my work today looked over by China Mieville or Tim Powers. It would just be too much.

The second part was a celebration of *Star Trek*. The opening piece in that section was about the rumors of a feature-length *Star Trek* film. I don't remember much of that time, but reading old issues of *Locus* recently, I remember there was a lot of talk about the film, which would be made after the success of *Star Wars* when all things science fiction became the hottest thing (remember *Zardoz*?). *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* was the first shot in the battle that would turn *Star Trek* into the powerhouse that it became through the 1980s and 1990s. I always liked it, though I know folks really didn't get into it.

There was a series of large photos of the various cast members that were signed to the convention. All but Nichelle Nichols and Walter Koenig were profiled, I believe because they weren't there. George Takei signed it the same way he's been signing autographs for the last few decades: "Galactic Greetings!" His bio offered the greatest tidbit: he was a member of the board of the Southern California Rapid Transit District! There was also a great photo of

the lass who played T'Pol. It was awesome.

The third part was about space stuff. I know that Terry Terman is a big space booster, I believe he worked in the industry for years. There was a write-up of the Viking series of shots to Mars. The Computer History Museum has a computer that was used with the Viking missions (a PRIME computer, in fact) and I've looked into that series of missions over the years. This was a nice look at it from the time. Col. Alfred Worden was there too. He was the command module pilot for one of the Apollo missions that went to the moon. This was only five years after the last of the missions. It's hard to understand that. I always felt that the moon landing was twenty years ago back when I was a kid, and even through to today when it's forty years after, it's always felt like twenty years back. It's sort of an inverse working AI in 25 years thing.

There was a great thing with diagrams about what it would take to put together a space colony. I've always loved reading and even drawing up what would be required for extended ship-life in space. It's an amazing number of factors, and that makes it incredibly impractical. You'd need huge amounts of space, water, a reliable air-scrubbing system coupled with an amazing amount of fuel, even if you can find a way to use space objects as gravity slings. It's good stuff, and looking over

the plans, it's doable.

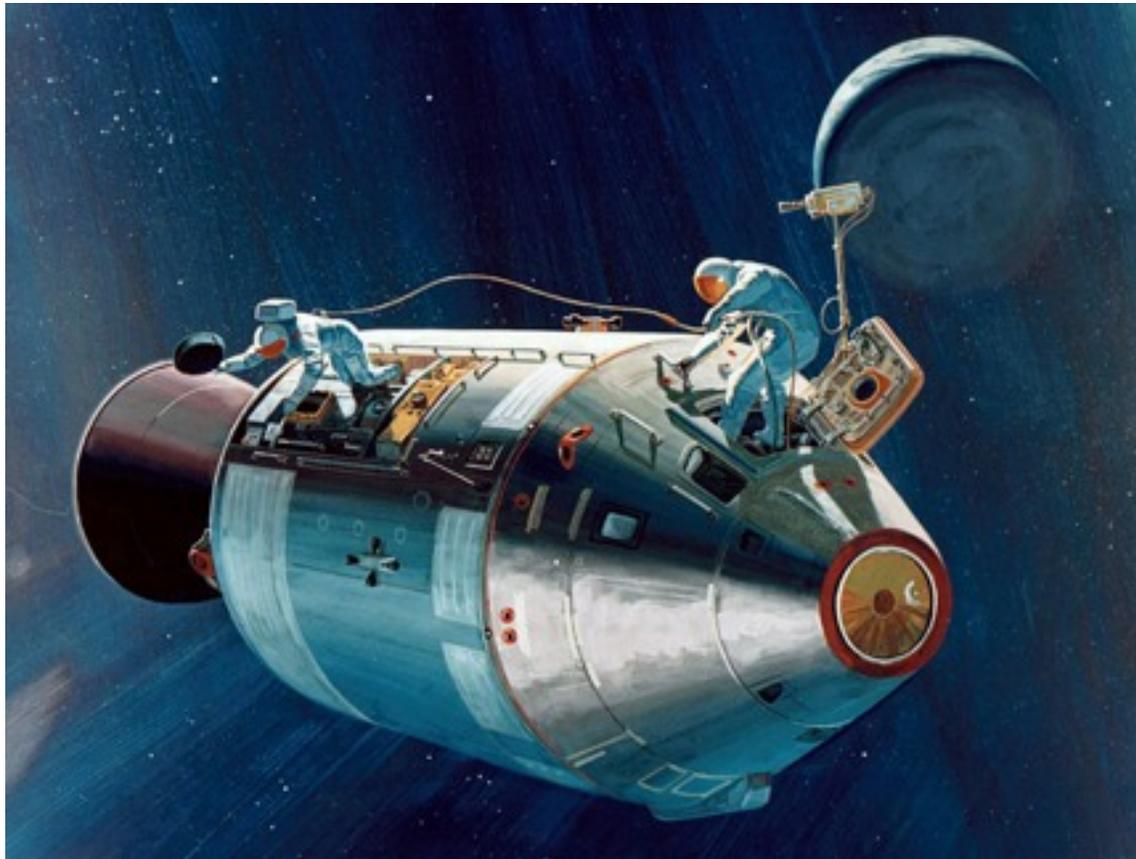
The final section is about the Space Shuttle. The Shuttle was still about five years away, though they'd been going around with the plans dating back into the late 1960s (I think they showed them at the 1970 Worldcon), and there were a lot of folks who were talking about the Space Shuttle being what would make it possible for us to have space stations and do colonization. They were folks hoping that the Space Shuttle would make much more space exploration possible. Sadly, we sorta found

ourselves stuck in our ways and let the fleet age and didn't invest in creating a new method for getting us into space. The last couple of years of the Bush Administration did see some words about the return to serious space exploration.

The con section was good stuff, but the best part was the last page: a photo of DeForest Kelley signed to Cricket Fox. That made it all worthwhile!

The average *Star Trek* con of the last couple of decades didn't look anything like this one. Creation Cons are nearly soulless money

machines and the fan-run ones tend to be kinda flat. This one sounds like a con that you might find people with interesting things to say at. The space programming was not just a tacked-on concept, but a fully-fleshed idea with a lot of participants who could support it. That's a great deal. I would love to go to this kind of con, one that recognizes that you can do a media con and also have serious, interesting content that isn't media-related. It's the best of both worlds!



Apollo 15 astronauts Alfred M. Worden and James B. Irwin

NASA

Star Trek Goes Boldly On



Red Shirt, Spock, Kirk and Marlena

courtesy of Chris Erickson

By Jean Martin

Editor

From the day I heard that a new *Star Trek* movie was truly in the works, I got very excited. I've liked all of the *Star Trek* movies to

varying degrees — even those that were generally panned by critics and fans alike. To me, anything *Star Trek* has some merit. I grew up on the original series and remember fondly watching it every Sunday night. Before *Star*

Wars, *Battlestar Galactica*, etc., there was *Star Trek*. This TV show from the 1960s broadened my horizons and ignited my imagination. The message of exploring space while spreading peace and equality among races and sexes was inspiring. Each episode was a morality tale that dealt with topics as wide and varied as fighting evil, extolling the importance of humanity, the value of friendship, acceptance of others' beliefs, etc. The series showed an optimistic view of the future complete with amazing technological advances and sexy, colorful costumes.

It's a testament to the creative mind of Gene Roddenberry that decades later, the world he made is still alive and relevant. He's tapped into our deepest human need to understand and appreciate the universe and ourselves — that despite all the apparent chaos and conflict, humanity is worth saving and even admiring.

I loved *The Next Generation* just as much as the original series because it had the same positive themes and exciting adventures. I didn't like *Deep Space Nine* as much, except for Kira and Bashir, so I didn't follow it after the first season. Most people I know, though, say that it got a lot better in later seasons. *Voyager* piqued my interest because it was the first to feature a female captain, the inimitable Captain Janeway. I enjoyed the first season, then lost track of it, but got back into watching

it when the intriguing Seven of Nine came on board. *Enterprise* was the first attempt at a prequel. It was interesting but cold and sterile.

With the movies not doing well and *Enterprise* getting cancelled early, the *Star Trek* universe seemed to be on the decline — a relic only remembered by the most ardent Trekkies, or the more PC term, Trekkers. (I proudly call myself a Trekkie, though.)

So I would have been grateful for anything new to grace the big or small screen. When I found out that J.J. Abrams was at the helm of a new movie, and it was going to be a prequel showing the original characters when they were still at Starfleet Academy, I was ecstatic. Starfleet Academy is, of course, in San Francisco. And while I wasn't very familiar with J.J. Abrams's work, I knew enough about him to know that he would inject some needed new blood and a more modern sensibility into the franchise. Meeting John Cho, who took on the role of Sulu, last year at WonderCon further whetted my appetite for the movie.

I had very high expectations for the new *Star Trek* and I couldn't wait to see it. But wait, I had to. I couldn't see it on opening night or the Friday after. I had to be patient until I could see it on Saturday, May 9th. I was hoping to get a group of friends together to see it, but the Klingons and the Black Fleet Star Pirates' Guild (well-known in the Bay Area for our *Star Trek* costumes) were planning on going on Thursday at Oakland's Jack London Square. My *Firefly* friends, the Browncoats, were seeing it on Friday night at the Kabuki in San Francisco. Thus, I was glad when my friend

Cordelia invited me and a group of her friends to see it at the Winchester 21 in San Jose on Saturday.

Winchester 21, across the street from Santana Row, is an old-style theater with a big dome, a huge screen, and wide, stadium-style seating. It was perfect for a sci fi movie and for a group viewing.

Cordelia, Nichoel and myself came from our BayCon masquerade entry rehearsal and costuming get-together that same afternoon. I brought my Marlina Moreau costume (from the episode "Mirror, Mirror") with me and that encouraged Cordelia to change into her "new" Spock uniform that she wore for her group's award-winning entry at WonderCon last February. She totally looked like Spock! Nichoel got into the spirit and borrowed a red shirt from Cordelia. Then she made an impromptu badge pin, which was quite impressive for a last-minute deal. My friend Christopher was already in line when we got there. He was dressed as Captain Kirk and he looked like Kirk! He came with lots of props including a phaser, communicator and Tribble.

While waiting in line, we entertained ourselves, our friends and other patrons by posing for photos and just acting silly. Nichoel played a "Red Shirt" victim to the hilt and we had photos of her on the ground dead and being shot by Kirk. Christopher posed for a few photos while taking aim at a *Star Wars* arcade game in the lobby.

Christopher had already seen the movie the night before but the rest of us hadn't. There were twelve of us in total. Other than

Christopher, Cordelia, Nichoel and myself, there was Cathleen, Grant, Nina, Ed, Sophia, Joe, Leah and Dave. It was so much fun to watch it with friends who love *Star Trek* as much as I do. When I was growing up, I didn't know anyone else who liked it.

Cathleen brought several bags of her delicious, fresh-from-the-oven, double chocolate chip cookies. We munched on them before the movie, and afterwards when we gathered to chat at Cordelia's home. I probably had eight of them by the time the evening was over! Someone seated behind us had a birthday and we all sang happy birthday before the lights went out. Cake was passed around and the atmosphere was festive and friendly.

Then the movie we were all eager to see began. It had a very action-packed beginning and did not let up. Everyone in the theater laughed, cheered and clapped. It was an exciting thrill ride as well as a cozy family reunion of sorts. Seeing the recognizable characters, albeit in younger visages, felt like coming home and brought a warm feeling to my heart. The acting was great and all the characters were perfect for their roles — especially Zachary Quinto as Spock. I was always a Kirk fan and had a crush on the character when I was a young girl. William Shatner was pretty hot in those days. But in this movie, I found myself gravitating toward the deep and conflicted but always stalwart and surprisingly magnetic young Spock.

While more modern and more of an action/adventure-type film, the movie still felt similar and true to the spirit of the original series. It

had several good elements of the movies and TV shows and weaved them interestingly together. There were also a lot of in-jokes that only Trekkies/Trekkers would appreciate, such as the Captain Pike story arc, the fate of the Red Shirt, and the infamous first kiss. I won't say any more to avoid spoilers, although I'm sure most of fandom has already seen it by now. And everyone I know who's seen it has enjoyed it. I would like to see it again if I

could, even though I rarely go to movies and even more rarely see anything more than once (other than the *Lord of the Rings* movies). And I would like to see a sequel as soon as possible! With the success of the movie at the box office, a sequel is most likely a done deal.

It's great how the franchise has been re-imagined and given new life, and probably gained new, younger fans who have never even seen the original. I think this movie has made it

even cool to like *Star Trek* now. Even though bits of *Star Trek* have been part of the mainstream culture for decades and some props have inspired technological advances, there's always been a nerd connotation to it. I'm glad the spirit of *Star Trek* is still going strong after all these years and I hope it will live long and prosper for generations to come.

Editor's note: I just discovered that episodes of Star Trek: The Original Series are available to view online on www.fancast.com. Including one, "The Devil in the Dark," that was aired on my exact birth date!



Shocking scene inside the movie theater

courtesy of Chris Erickson

Discworld Wizards and Witches Have a Ball

By Jean Martin

Editor

Terry Pratchett's Discworld novels are quite popular in fandom circles, but I myself have not read any of them. I read Pratchett's collaboration with Neil Gaiman, *Good Omens*, a while back. While clever and interesting, it wasn't quite my cup of tea. I tend to not prefer humor with my fantasy, although I do enjoy the occasional Douglas Adams. As far as Neil Gaiman's novels, I loved his traditional-style fantasy *Stardust* (as well as the movie) and his urban underground world of *Neverwhere* (the TV miniseries was wonderful). I gave Pratchett another chance when I watched the TV movie *Hogfather* (2006). Again, while it was clever and interesting in parts, I found it boring in general.

However, after doing more research for the PEERS Unseen University Ball, which was based on the Discworld books, I've gained an appreciation for Pratchett's universe. The exact theme of the ball was a graduation ceremony for the wizards attending the Unseen University in the city-state of Ankh-Morpork. But witches, Assassins Guild members, other Discworld citizens and even Harry Potter characters were welcomed to the festivities.

I couldn't decide what character I was going to roleplay, and was thinking of doing a student witch since females were generally not



Discworld Witches

courtesy of Jean Martin

allowed to matriculate at the Unseen University. But while watching the animated *Wyrd Sisters* (1997), the perfect role for me became evident. The New Agey maiden witch Magrat, of the Triple Goddess coven, reminded

me of myself. In addition, Magrat wore a green Celtic gown for most of the movie. I had a very similar gown in my garage that I'd never worn. I even had a blond wig similar to her hair, and a pink flower clip! This was the easiest



Archchancellor Ridcully

by Jean Martin

costuming job I've ever done for a ball. All I needed was a black rope belt and a button for a choker. (*Wyrd Sisters* was delightful and included the subplot of acting as a profession, specifically, the staging of a Macbeth-inspired play.)

I also watched *Soul Music* (1997) done by the same animation company as *Wyrd Sisters*. But I couldn't find any costume inspirations there because most of the main characters were male. The main character Imp Y Celyn was an amalgamation of Elvis, Buddy Holly and John Lennon. There were a lot of rock music

influences (and several concert scenes) in this movie, and I loved it even more than *Wyrd Sisters*.

When I got to the San Mateo Masonic Hall for the ball on May 2nd, I espied new acquaintances whom I'd met at the GBACG Starry Night of Steampunk event, which I covered in our previous issue. I was glad to see Robert and his son Jeffrey and Laura and her daughter Morgan again. I also saw some sci fi friends including Alex and his lady, Shayne. My dance friends Gloria, Dawn and Deborah were there as well, wearing beautiful and colorful gowns.

I danced the Grand March with Robert and it was great to see the parade of costumed actors and patrons. James was at the head of the line as Archchancellor of the Unseen University, with PEERS Artistic Director Cathleen as his partner. Other characters represented were Jordan as student witch Tiffany Aching and Mary as Esk, the first and only female graduate of the University. We didn't have an official Susan, the granddaughter of Death, who figures prominently in several novels including *Soul Music* and *Hogfather*, so it was great to see that one of the patrons came as Susan complete with a white wig with a black streak up the middle.

Avalon Rising was the band for the second time in a row. They were also the band for the Girl Genius Ball the month before (which I covered in our previous issue as well). They played swing, rock, Celtic, mazurka, tango, waltz and English country dance tunes. One of

the dances during the evening was the Spiral Dance, a Pagan dance that was quite appropriate for the Beltane or May Day holiday season. In fact, I wanted to see Morris Dancing at the English Country Dance in Palo Alto the night before to celebrate the first of May, but there was some trouble with the location and the performers could not do their gig. So I was glad to find out that there was going to be Morris Dancing during one of the intermissions at the PEERS ball. Better one day late than never! The Morris dancers were quite entertaining with their bells, sticks and



Susan and Cohen the Barbarian

by Jean Martin

handkerchiefs. They even made Discworld-appropriate jokes.

During another intermission, Melinda portrayed Christine from the *Phantom of the Opera* and sang “Think of Me” while Susanne, playing Agnes/Perdita Nitt (who was also in *Good Omens*) pantomimed behind her. This scene is apparently from one of the Discworld novels. Hilary as Nanny Ogg sang “The Hedgehog Song” during another intermission and we all sang along during the refrain.

There was a good turnout for the ball, considering we weren’t sure how well-known the Discworld theme would be in the dance community. But there’s quite an overlap between sci fi fandom and vintage dance, and most of the patrons at least knew of Terry Pratchett. Several people even asked me (as Magrat) where my fiancé, the King, was. I made up a story of how he got called away on kingly duties. So it turned out to be a fun evening and I even met a friendly, fellow Filipino photographer, Martin, who’s become

quite active, seemingly overnight, in the dance and sci fi communities.

The most enjoyable part of this particular ball for me, though, was the dancing. Cathleen named a polka for my character and I got to introduce it with her. I also got asked to dance a lot (I usually have to find dance partners myself) and by excellent (and handsome) dancers. It seems like I got a lot more attention because I was wearing a blond wig. Blonds do have more fun! Although when I was dancing a particularly energetic mazurka with Jesse, my wig came off. He and I had a good laugh about that. Especially since I thought he was wearing a wig as well and he told me he’d actually recently dyed his hair black.

These pleasant experiences in the Discworld universe have motivated me to check it out more thoroughly. So I’m hoping to finally read some of the Discworld novels in the future and I added the latest movie incarnation, *Color of Magic* (2008), to my Netflix queue.

For more information, visit: www.peers.org



Witch and Wizard Couple

by Jean Martin

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 981-984

Meeting 981

May 18, 2009

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco's, 1206 Oakmead Parkway
(Lawrence Expressway/101 fwy), Sunnyvale

Began 8:00

23 people attended

A party jar was established

Secretary's report: we accepted the minutes of meeting 980 as *and 12 points to Norway* - and accepted the minutes of meeting 979 as *No! Yellow!*

The Treasurer was a bit late but reported that "we have money"

The Vice president reported that Nazi ninjas stole his *Drink Tank* and this weekend is Baycon and he will be responsible for the Fanzine Lounge - room 330

The President said "hi" to Black feather, visiting BASFA for the 1st time and otherwise escaped all responsibilities

Announcements

Ken announced that the Legion of Rassilon will meet this Friday at the usual time and place

[evil] Kevin announced that Norway won the Eurovision song category - and there will be no Evil Genius party at Baycon

Dave C announced that he has a new profession - that of "comic industry professional"

Glenn announced that there'll be a Westercon 64 bid party on Saturday night at Baycon, room 343

Stellen announced that there'll be a BASFA party on Friday night at Baycon

John announced that this is his first day as an IBM property

Reviews

Andy reviewed Eurovision as best seen drunk with friends - all in all worth full price and the trouble getting it up on the screen - there were lots of follow-ons, including Chris praising the scallops - and [evil] Kevin admitting that a 14 hour party was taxing for him

I reviewed *Angels and Demons* as fun to watch if I didn't think about what was happening on the screen - and better than the

book, worth matinee; Chris follow-on'd that he loves Dan Brown and considers Tom Hanks the living incarnation of the devil; and Trey found the movie disjointed

Adrienne reviewed seeing *Star Trek* on IMAX as she didn't notice much difference, and reviewed the Melting Pot as a nice place to eat but not for large groups and reviewed *Ghosts of Girlfriends Past* as a chic flick and enjoyable

John reviewed the Asian American festival as the stage sets were good, it was hot and their Taiko group performed superbly and reviewed Supercon as a good old-fashion comic convention

Stellen reviewed a book, the *Deceivers* by Thaddeus Holt as a very good read and recommended - worth full price

Chris reviewed the 4th in the "Kitty Takes a Werewolf" series [*Kitty and the Silver Bullet*] by Carrie Vaughn sold by Cargo Cult - as a ridiculous but good book, he only saw *Twilight* on Thursday & went to a surreal birthday party - that the *Lost* season finale was great and the DVD for *Rent* is the worst transfer ever! And text-based adventure games are worth full price

Dave C reviewed the Giants playing the gNats as seen with [tall] Kevin as the game ended excellently well and worth full price and [tall] Kevin follow-on'd that the game had a storybook ending

We did auctions: Adrienne was sold for \$0.50, a “create a commie” for \$0.75, flying monkeys for \$1.50, magazines for \$0.50, DVDs for \$0.25, \$1.50 & \$0.75, books for \$0.25 & \$0.25, an eye for \$0.25, & gum for \$0.25

We adjourned at = 9:45

And the rumor of the week was: *Chris Garcia will be nominated for the Tom Hanks achievement award*

Meeting 982

May 25, 2009

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco’s, 1206 Oakmead Parkway
(Lawrence Expressway/101 fwy), Sunnyvale

Began 8:00

24 people attended

Secretary’s report: we accepted the minutes of meeting 981 as 42

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$21.42 in the regular jar [total \$11,000.14] & took in \$32.97 in the party jar [total \$947.67]

No Vice president

The President said “hi” to visitors - Terry

Terry, Mike and Julie Cole and Pat Turner

Announcements

[tall] Kevin announced that he’ll be in Oregon for the next 2 weeks

Ken announced that KTEH is splitting up the 2 part Dr Who finale to 2 different days a month apart

John announced that Baycon was this weekend and he judged Masquerade for the 1st time

Mo announced that Fanime was this weekend and she was the highest grossing artist at the con [woot!]

Lisa announced that Maker Faire is this weekend at the San Mateo Expo Center - and arrive early for parking

Dave C announced that he’ll be in New York next week for BookExpo America

Reviews

BayCon was multiply reviewed - John had a good time, is tired and stated the parties didn’t pick up until after 1am; [tall] Kevin had a good time and was amazed to be at a con where he didn’t have to work so hard; Dave C was the only new book dealer in the Dealer’s room and was in hog heaven and the parties were good; Lisa reviewed the panels and programming as sometimes confused & the con seemed less insane than last year and the plastic on the carpet on the 3rd floor was bizarre and loud; I had fun in the Fanzine Lounge, which was -excellent-; Mo now knows how a

“walking octopus” feels - in regards to the plastic covered floors and the parties were good & John added that he saw more young fans this year at-con

Mike reviewed Fanime as he really enjoyed it, tried ballroom dancing and really liked it, liked the panels & Mo reviewed that she loved it and found the younger fans nice and polite [17000+ attendees]

Lisa reviewed *Angels and Demons* as she enjoyed it and found it adorable that the director used his father as one of the cardinals and definitely worth matinee

We did birthday auctions: Terry Hickman was sold for \$7.00 to Mo & Bruce Havlin was sold for \$2.00 to Chris

We adjourned at = 9pm

And the rumor of the week was: *Hugo award: threat or menace?*

Meeting 983

June 1, 2009

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco's, 1206 Oakmead Parkway
(Lawrence Expressway/101 fwy), Sunnyvale

Began 8:02

20 people attended

We established a party jar

Secretary's report: we accepted the minutes
of meeting 982

No Treasurer or report

No Vice president

The President had nothing fannish to report

The Party Committee reported that the
BASFA party at Baycon went well and they
took in \$6.50

Announcements

Glenn announced that he donated a box of
magazines he got from a BASFA auction to the
Felton library & announced that there'll be a
party at Anticipation to announce the 2017
Nippon Worldcon bid

Adrienne announced that the Bay Area
Ghost Hunters will have a book-signing at the
Chevy's across from the Winchester Mystery
House on June 13 for Annette Martin, who will

be signing copies of her autobiography

Ken announced that the new companion for
the Doctor will be Karen Gillan & BBC
America will show the new special around
Xmas and the new season of *Torchwood* on
their HD service- and both season 3 of
Torchwood and *Planet of the Dead* will be
released on Blu-ray in July

Mo announced that her computer graphics
card died but her files were saved and
announced that Silicon will have a garage sale
at the end of June & they're looking for
donations

Reviews

Maker Faire was multiply reviewed - Glenn
had a good time and compared it to a county
fair with an emphasis on building things; Lisa
has a great time and lots of fun; Gordon
commented that as the Faire gets more popular,
it becomes more crowded and the ribs at the
Rib House were great; [evil] Kevin thinks that
the Faire has outgrown its space and mentioned
there were Lego trains and lightning
generators; Mo reviewed that it was so
crowded that it was unpleasant to try to look at
things and shop and the snail car was great and
she still had a great time

Adrienne reviewed *Night at the Museum 2*
as cute and worth matinee; reviewed the new
Terminator flick as it grabbed her and pulled
her in and was worth full price; reviewed
Wolverine as it has Hugh Jackman and he's
babe-licious and worth at least matinee -
YMMV - reviewed the Hugo nominated book

Little Brother as having jarring incongruities
and suffered from too many info dumps

Fred reviewed *North and South* - a 4-part
BBC mini-series as he recommends it

Joni reviewed *Up* - or rather the 3D tech -
as when the movie stopped, they can't fast-
forward back to where it stopped and they had
to watch the whole thing from the start, plus
ads, every time it glitched; there were follow-
on's = 'Squirrel!'; Mo asked a question about
Kevin; Trey reviewed it as nice, with Ed Asner
as comedy gold - but there are no words to
explain the plot holes in this movie - worth
matinee

We did auctions: case protectors sold for
\$0.50; stuff and film for \$0.50; DVD and
magazine for \$1.00; books and DVD for \$0.50;
CDs for \$0.25; magazines for \$0.25; candle
holders for \$5.00; graphic novel and cards for
\$2.00; jewelry box for \$2.00

We adjourned at = 9:21 pm

And the rumor of the week was: *Squirrels!*

Meeting 984

June 8, 2009

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco's, 1206 Oakmead Parkway
(Lawrence Expressway/101 fwy), Sunnyvale

Began 8-ish [and not yet buying a new PSP]

19 people attended

We established a party jar

Secretary's report: we accepted the minutes of meeting 983 as *otters and lemures and squirrels, o my!*

No Treasurer - but the proxy Treasurer report was that last week we took in \$5.75 in the regular jar and a total of \$8.00 in the party jar - which included the proceeds from the Baycon BASFA party

The Vice president reported that there is new new *Drink Tank* 'cause he lost all his art - then Mo came to the rescue and Chris said, "Nevermind".

The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements

Dave C announced that RoboGames are coming to Fort Mason this weekend

Mo announced that Silicon will have a

garage sale at the end of June & they're looking for donations

[evil] Kevin announced that Outpost Gallifrey will be closing down July 31 - but the con will continue

Glenn announced that Westercon 62 will be in Tempe, AZ in July

Chris announced that on Saturday the Silicon Valley Roller Girls will be at the SJ civic auditorium

Reviews

I reviewed Reno as the drive was pleasant, the Peppermill has been remodeled - very much for the better - the food was nice and I had a good time

Andy reviewed the Capital Crossroad High Sierra Stampede as scandal-icious, the drive was OK, the hotel was interesting in a partly-remodelled way - and the events and competitors were all impressive - and [evil] Kevin follow-on'd that it was exciting

Chris reviewed his weekend as surreal - reviewed *The Hangover* as it made him question his entire life because it was THAT funny and mind-blowingly awesome; reviewed *Night at the Museum 2* as funny-ish; that *Dance Flick* was crap; his visit to Denny's was loud - reviewed a documentary = *Helvetica* as boring, like watching a laser printer ... turned off & reviewed *YPF* as entertaining

Carole reviewed Maker Faire as she had a great time and rode the electric giraffe; reviewed *Wolverine* as Hugh Jackman eye-candy & Bill follow-on'd that the Midway lines

were -way- too long

Dave C reviewed the New York Book Expo America as smaller than usual and it was possible to see everything there; reviewed the *39 Steps* as 4 actors played all the parts and was worth almost full price; reviewed *Coraline the Musical* as he wanted to like it but could not recommend this musical

Lida reviewed *Up* as she enjoyed it, loved the ending and it was gorgeous

We did auctions: a T-shirt sold for \$10.00; a radio for \$1.00; hair stuff for \$0.50 and a bag for \$3.00

We adjourned at = 9:31 pm

And the rumor of the week was: *Big trouble for Moose and ... Oooo! Squirrels!*

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 highlighted in red.

Ongoing events are toward the back.

Through Saturday, June 19

Another Hole in the Head Film Festival

Various Locations, San Francisco

www.sfindie.com

Two weeks of Sci-Fi, Horror and Fantasy movies and music at three venues; Roxie Film Center, Cellspace and the Great Star Theater. Check website for tickets, locations and showtimes

Through Sunday, July 5

Spamalot

Golden Gate Theater

1182 Market Street, San Francisco

www.shnsf.com

Check website for tickets and showtimes

Wednesday, June 10

SF in SF Double Feature: The Quiet Earth & On the Beach

Hobart Building

582 Market Street, San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

APOCALYPSE NIGHT!!! It's the end of the world as we knew it. In 1959. Oh yes, and again in 1985. \$5 suggested donation helps raise money for Variety Children's Charity - leave a fiver at the door, or buy a drink!

7 p.m.

Free

Friday-Saturday, June 12-13

The Late Night Picture Show: Ghostbusters

The Clay

2261 Fillmore Street, San Francisco

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Midnight

\$9.50

Friday-Sunday, Jun 12-14

Robogames

Festival Pavilion

Fort Mason Center, San Francisco

The 6th Annual RoboGames. \$55 for all three days.

\$25

Sunday, June 14

Mrs. Darcy's Tea

GBACG Event

The Lobby Lounge at The Ritz-Carlton

600 Stockton St, San Francisco

www.gbacg.org/current/mrs-darcys-tea.html

Afternoon Regency Clothing, between the years 1800 to 1830.

Mrs. Darcy, formerly Miss Elizabeth Bennett, cordially invites you to join her at her home in Pemberley to an afternoon tea.

\$57.50 (non-members)

Thursday, June 18

Thrillville Tribute to Creature Features

El Cerrito Speakeasy

10070 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito

Thrillville pays tribute to the late great BOB WILKINS of "Creature Features" fame, as well as the late BOB SHAW, with a special screening of the first movie ever shown on the legendary local KTVU program "Creature Features": HORROR OF PARTY BEACH (16mm, 1964). Live surf music from The Aardvarks, and more!

9:15 p.m.

\$9

Saturday, June 20

SF in SF: The Brazen Hussies

Hobart Building

582 Market Street, San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

Reading by local authors Michaela Roessner-Herman, Lisa Goldstein and Pat Murphy. Bar proceeds benefit Variety Children's Charity

7 p.m.

Free

Tuesday, June 30

Can't Stop the Serenity 2009

Victoria Theater

2961 16th Street, San Francisco

www.cantstoptheserenity.com

San Francisco's fourth annual Can't Stop the Serenity charity movie screening of *Serenity* and for the first time on the big screen in San Francisco, *Dr Horrible's Sing Along Blog*.

7 p.m. Details TBA

Saturday, July 11

Bustles at the Beach

GBACG Event

Pescadero Beach, San Mateo

www.gbacg.org

A day at the seaside where we will enjoy the wind, waves, and a picnic with friends.

Suggested costume: 1870s-1880s afternoon attire or bathing costumes.

Noon \$10 (Non-members)

Sunday, July 12

Hayao Miyazaki Tribute Series: My Neighbor Totoro

Pacific Film Archive Theater

2575 Bancroft Way

University of California, Berkeley

www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/film/FN17788

The first of four special screenings showcasing the work of acclaimed director Hayao Miyazaki, presented in collaboration with the Center for Japanese Studies at UC Berkeley.

4 p.m. \$9.50

Tuesday, July 14

Hayao Miyazaki Tribute Series: Porco Rosso

Pacific Film Archive Theater

2575 Bancroft Way

University of California, Berkeley

www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/film/FN17789

The second of four special screenings showcasing the work of acclaimed director Hayao Miyazaki, presented in collaboration with the Center for Japanese Studies at UC Berkeley.

7 p.m. \$9.50

Wednesday, July 15

SF in SF Double Feature: Princess Mononoke & Kiki's Delivery Service

Hobart Building

582 Market Street, San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

Two Miyazaki classics! \$5 suggested donation helps raise money for Variety Children's Charity - leave a fiver at the door, or buy a drink!

7 p.m. Free

Wednesday-Saturday, July 15-18

Fire Arts Festival

The Crucible

Oakland

www.thecrucible.org/fireartsfestival

Each July The Crucible's Fire Arts Festival celebrates creativity through fire and light with a spectacular open-air exhibition of interactive fire art, performance and sculpture.

Friday-Tuesday, July 17-21

Azkatraz, A Harry Potter convention

Park 55 Hotel

55 Cyril Magnin Street, San Francisco

www.hp2009.org

\$165 (till June 30)

Sunday, July 19

Hayao Miyazaki Tribute Series: Castle in the Sky

Pacific Film Archive Theater

2575 Bancroft Way

University of California, Berkeley

www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/film/FN17790

The third of four special screenings showcasing the work of acclaimed director Hayao Miyazaki, presented in collaboration with the Center for Japanese Studies at UC Berkeley.

2:30 p.m. \$9.50

Tuesday, July 21

Hayao Miyazaki Tribute Series: Castle in the Sky

Pacific Film Archive Theater

2575 Bancroft Way

University of California, Berkeley

www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/film/FN17791

The last of four special screenings showcasing the work of acclaimed director Hayao Miyazaki, presented in collaboration with the Center for Japanese Studies at UC Berkeley.

7 p.m. \$9.50

Friday, July 24

World Premiere of Hayao Miyazaki's Ponyo

Wheeler Hall

University of California, Berkeley

ieas.berkeley.edu/cjs/miyazaki.html

World premiere of Miyazaki's new film.

6 p.m. \$12

Saturday, July 25

A Conversation with Hayao Miyazaki, Legendary Filmmaker

Zellerbach Hall

University of California, Berkeley

ieas.berkeley.edu/cjs/miyazaki.html

Miyazaki is making a rare American trip to receive the second annual Berkeley Japan Prize for lifetime achievement, presented by the Center for Japanese Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He will be presented with the award on July 25, and will participate in a talk hosted by Japanese popular culture scholar Roland Kelts (Japanimerica).

6 p.m. \$25

Saturday, August 1

The River City Picnic Dance

PEERS Event

Lincoln Park

1450 High Street, Alameda

www.peers.org

Music Man, Edwardian themed event with live music by Bangers and Mash

1 p.m. Free

Saturday, August 8

Kin-Yoobi Con

Chabot College

25555 Hesperian Boulevard, Hayward

www.gzronline.com/kin-yoobi-con09.htm

Anime convention, featuring a vendor room, cosplay contest, gaming and much more.

Guests include Robert Axelrod and Steven Savage.

9 a.m. \$12 (till August 1st)

Saturday, August 29-Sunday, August 30

Golden Gate Faire

Speedway Meadow

Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

ggfaire.com

Renaissance Faire

\$18

Saturday, September 5

The Space Cowboys Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo

www.peers.org

Firefly, Western themed event with live

performance by Bangers and Mash

7 p.m. \$15 (till August 30)

Friday-Sunday, September 25-27

From the Land Beyond

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street, Sacramento

www.sacramentocomics.com

Guests announced so far include Ray Park, Crispin Freeman, Jake Busey and more. Friday night concert by Warp 11.

\$15 (till July 15)

Saturday, September 26

Seelie and Unseelie Fairy Court Gathering

GBACG Event

Redwood City

www.gbacg.org

Are you a good fairy or a bad fairy? Pick your side at the gathering of the Seelie & Unseelie Fairy Courts in an end of summer evening garden party! Location in Redwood City.

Suggested costume: Fantasy

Details TBA

Sunday, September 27

Handcar Regatta

Railroad Square

Santa Rosa

handcar-regatta.com

The 2nd Annual 2009 Great West End & Railroad Square Handcar Regatta & Exposition of Mechanical & Artistic Wonders. Featuring live music, craft show, vendors and other entertainments. Costumes encouraged.

Free

Saturday, October 3

The Sweeney Todd Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo

www.peers.org

Victorian themed event with live performance by Bangers and Mash

7 p.m. \$15 (till September 27)

Saturday, October 17

Dark Shadows Picnic

GBACG Event

www.gbacg.org

Gather for a reunion of all the members of the Collins family (of the *Dark Shadows* TV show) from past, present, future, and parallel time.

Honor the dead and undead alike with a pleasantly vampiric picnic. Suggested costume: 1795, 1840-41, 1897, 1966-71, and 1995 ("the future"), Vampire.

Details TBA

Saturday, October 17-Sunday, October 18

Folsom Renaissance Faire

Folsom City Lions Park

403 Stafford Street, Folsom

folsomfaire.com

Renaissance Faire

\$12

Saturday, October 24-Sunday, October 25

All-Hallows Fantasy Faire

Mother Lode Fairgrounds

220 Southgate Drive, Sonora

sonoracelticfaire.com/hallowsfaire.html

Sonora Celtic Faire presents the first annual All Hallows Fantasy Faire. Details TBA

Thursday, October 29-Sunday, November 1

World Fantasy Convention

The Fairmont Hotel

170 South Market Street, San Jose

www.worldfantasy2009.org

The World Fantasy Convention is a professional networking event that regularly

attracts several hundred of the top authors in the field every year. It is the home of the World Fantasy Awards and this year will be celebrating Edgar Allen Poe's 200th birthday. Garth Nix will be the GOH.

\$125

Friday, October 30-Sunday, November 1

Yaoi-Con

San Mateo Marriott

1770 South Amphlett Blvd, San Mateo

www.yaoicon.com

A celebration of male beauty and passion in anime and manga. 18+

\$50

Saturday, November 7

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event

Alameda Elks Lodge

2255 Santa Clara Ave, Santa Clara

www.peers.org

Vampire themed event with live performance by Bangers and Mash

7 p.m.

\$20 (till September 30)

Friday, November 27-Sunday, December 20

The Great Dickens Fair

Cow Palace Exhibition Halls

2600 Geneva Ave, San Francisco

www.dickensfair.com

A holiday adventure into Victorian London.

\$22

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

MGI SF&F/Horror/Speculative fiction Writing Group

Personal Residence (email for details)

Emeryville

groups.yahoo.com/group/MGISFFWriters

7:30pm

Free

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

Dukefish

Jake's of Sunnyvale
174 E. Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale
Group meets weekly to play German-style strategy board games such as Settlers of Catan, Carcasson and other games, plus an occasional game of bridge breaks out. Meet up at 8:00 p.m., figure out who wants to play what, and typically start playing games no later than 8:30 p.m.
8 p.m. Free

Mondays and Wednesdays

Silicon Valley Boardgamers

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

Tuesdays

MGI Boffers & Outdoor Games

Codornices Park
1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley
mgisciaf.angelfire.com
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyclub
Bad weather we meet the same time at 33 Revolutions Record Shop & Cafe, El Cerrito for boardgames.
3 p.m-5:30 p.m Free

Wednesdays

Bay Area Role-Playing Society

Go-Getter's Pizza
1489 Beach Park Boulevard, Foster City
www.BayRPS.com
Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email GM@BayRPS.com
6 p.m-10 p.m. Free

East Bay Strategy Games Club

EndGame
921 Washington, Oakland
www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html
7:30 p.m.-11 p.m. Free

Fanboy Planet Podcast

Illusive Comics and Games
2725 El Camino Real, Suite 105, Santa Clara
Live from Illusive Comics and Games, it's the Fanboy Planet Podcast with your host, Derek McCaw.
6 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

FyDy SyFy

Eclipse Lounge, Hyatt Regency
5 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco
Casual meetup in the atrium lobby bar.
5:30-7:30

SF Games

Muddy's Coffeehouse
1304 Valencia Street, San Francisco
vax.hanford.org/dk/games
SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week. Also has a regular cards night at Atlas Café, 20th and Alabama Streets, Tuesday nights from 6:30-10.
7 p.m. to midnight Free

Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour

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

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

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

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

Clockwork SF

New location TBD
www.myspace.com/clubclockwork
A Steampunk Parlor: Gothic/Darkwave/
Synthpop w/DJ's MzSamantha, Fact 50,
Melting Girl and Greg. 21+
9 p.m. \$5 after 10 p.m.

Desert Island Book Club

Books Inc
1344 Park Street, Alameda
www.booksinc.net
7:30 p.m. Free

Dorkbot-SF

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

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.
7:30 p.m. Free

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

The Gay Men's Book Club

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Please contact Chris, the group leader, at

cobalt555@earthlink.net for more information.
5 p.m. Free

Legion of Rassilon

Giovanni's Pizza
1127 N Lawrence Expy, Sunnyvale
www.legionofrassilon.org
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth
Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who,
news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.
7:30 p.m. Free

Micro Gods, Inc.

Berkeley Public Library, West Branch
1125 University Ave, Berkeley
mgisciaf.angelfire.com
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/
Family Club for fans of Science Fiction,
Fantasy, Movie, Anime & Manga. Meets every
3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for
updates.
2:30 p.m-5:30 p.m. Free

No-Name Anime

Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga
www.nnanime.com
Anime screenings usually take place on the
second Saturday of the month.
Free

Other Realms Book Club

Books, Inc.
1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame
www.booksinc.net
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month.
6:30 p.m. Free

Religion & SF Book Club

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

Rocky Horror Picture Show

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

Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book Club

Clayton Books
5433 D Clayton Road, Clayton
7:30 p.m. Free

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
The book for June will be *Bad Monkeys* by
Matt Ruff. Please contact Jude at

jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more
information.
6 p.m. Free

SF Browncoats

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

Science Fiction Santa Rosa Meetup

Borders Books
2500 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa
groups.yahoo.com/group/scifisantarosa/
Regular meetup for North Bay fans on the
second Sunday of the month.
1:30 p.m. Free

Silicon Gulch Browncoats

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

**Tangential Conjectures: The Science Fiction
Book Club**

Books Inc.
301 Castro Street, Mountain View
650-428-1234
Generally meets the third Thursday of the
month.
7:30 p.m. Free

USS Augusta Ada

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

USS Defiance

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

USS Northern Lights

Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for location.
sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights
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.
7 p.m. Free

Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE

Round Table Pizza
4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento
916-338-2300
Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last
Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.
6 p.m. Free



Bay Area Fannish Calendar – June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>MGI SFF/H Writing</i> <i>Sakramento Anime</i>	<i>BASFA</i> <i>Dukefish</i> <i>SV Boardgamers</i>	<i>MGI Boffers</i>	<i>SV Boardgamers</i> <i>BA Role-Playing Soc</i> <i>E.Bay Strategy Games</i>		<i>SF Games</i>	<i>Rocky Horror</i>
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
					<i>Another Hole in the Head Film Festival (thru Jun 19)</i>	<i>Author: Rudy Rucker</i> <i>The Secret Agent Ball</i> <i>Valhalla Faire (- Sun)</i> <i>Silicon Gulch</i> <i>Browncoats</i>
7	8	9	10	11	12	12
<i>Sac-Con</i> <i>Foothill Anime</i>		<i>Author: Seth</i> <i>Grahame-Smith</i>	<i>SF in SF Double</i> <i>Feature: The Quiet</i> <i>Earth & On the Beach</i>	<i>SF&F Writers' Group</i>	<i>Robogames (thru Sun)</i> <i>Ghostbusters (- Sat)</i> <i>East Bay Star Wars</i> <i>USS Northern Lights</i>	<i>Mrs. Darcy's Tea</i> <i>Fantastic Frontiers</i> <i>No-Name Anime</i> <i>SF Browncoats</i>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>Gay Men's Book Club</i> <i>SF Santa Rosa Meetup</i>				<i>Thrillville Tribute to Creature Features</i> <i>Tangential</i> <i>Conjectures</i>	<i>USS Defiance</i>	<i>SF in SF: The Brazen Hussies</i> <i>Micro Gods, Inc</i> <i>Clockwork SF</i>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<i>SF/F Book Club</i>			<i>Other Realms</i>		<i>Legion of Rassilon</i>	<i>USS Augusta Ada</i> <i>Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</i>
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
<i>Religion & SF</i>		<i>Can't Stop the Serenity</i>				