

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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Tea With the Black Dragon

by Lucy Huntzinger

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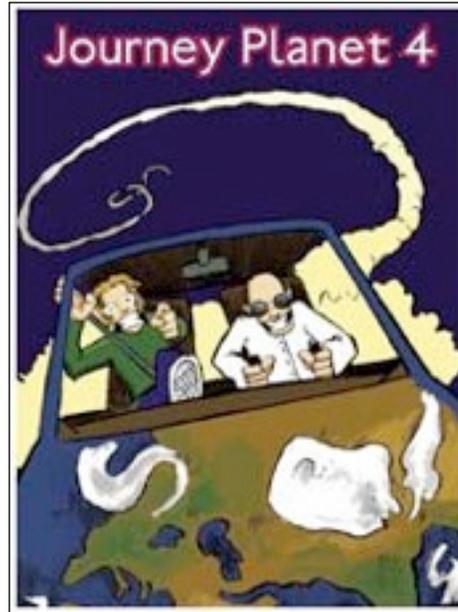
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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

Hey, I'm writing this from SFO! I'm getting ready to board my plane to Toronto which then heads fast for Montreal and Worldcon! Long-time readers of Garciazines will remember that I stumped quite a bit for Montreal following my introduction to the bid at the 2005 Norwescon, and I'm happy to say that the con should be exceptional. I'll be writing this column as we go along, so you'll find out.

Trepidation 2009 happened on Friday the 31st (and I'm sure there's more coverage in this issue) and it was a great time, though I had to leave early. As always, the Hyatt Regency was really kind to us, and the food was even better than the last time I was there. As always, it was great to see Jason Schachat, the Fan Guest of Honor, though I had to leave before Charlie Jane Anders and Annalee Newitz, the Webizens of Honor, arrived. There was all sorts of fun stuff, with the highlight for me being the costumes. Elena Herten brought her fantastic Silk Spectre II costume that she made for Comic-Con and it was a hit. We had Mette Hedin as Syndrome, Radar as Dr. Horrible and Bryan Little in his war garb. There was also Jean Martin in a costume that I recognized, but cannot for the life of me remember. There is already talk of another Bittercon for next year,



courtesy of eFanzines.com

which makes sense since the Worldcon is in Australia and so many folks will be missing it.

SFO has the loudest Passenger Call system.

Journey Planet 4 is out! It's a good issue, which features writing from good folks like John Hertz. Claire Brialey, James Bacon, Emma King, Cheryl Morgan, me, Abby Blackfox, and Paul McCauley. There's also what I believe is the first fanzine appearance of *Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me's* host, Peter Sagal. While the layout cannot approach that of *Journey Planet 3*, which I still maintain is the best single issue of any fanzine I've read this year (partly because I had very little to do with it!), it still has some charm and there's art from

folks like Brad Foster, Kurt Erichsen, Mo Starkey, and an awesome cover from Scott Aleric. The UK version, which will be laid out over the next couple of weeks, will also add some names like España Sheriff! It'll be interesting to see what folks think about it.

Still not on the flight yet. I also do not understand why Air Canada flights go in and out of the Domestic Terminal. I mean, I've always thought that we should trade the western parts of Canada for Vermont and a territory to be named later, but as far as I know, Canada is still a free and sovereign state.

The 2011 Worldcon is now officially set and the list of guests of honor is pretty awesome if you're me. First off, we've got Tim Powers, pretty much my favorite writer. If that's not enough, you've got Boris Vallejo, a masterful artist and one of the true greats. Then there's Ellen Asher, longstanding editor of the Science Fiction Book Club. Finally, Charles N. Brown. The recently-departed will be honored at the con. They asked him and he agreed to be a GoH before he passed, so he knew that he'd been honored. I think that's a good thing.

NASFiC is seated as well with another great blast of folks, including artist GoH Brad Foster!

Costume College happened the same weekend as Trepidation, and they've announced the theme for next year: Steampunk.

You hear that, Jean Martin? Costume College is Steampunk! Linda is excited that she'll be going next year, though I may well take that weekend to simply create another zine.

And on the subject of Steampunk, September 1st is the release date for *Exhibition Hall*. It'll have an interview with the good folks from The Clockwork Cabaret, an article from Mike Perschon, words from our London Bureau Chief James Bacon, and more and more! I also think it's got a great cover.

Still not boarded, but did discover beef jerky in the gift shop. I love beef jerky.

File 770 has a new issue out, which is



always a good thing. This one has a look at everything! I think the lettercol might be one of the best in Fandom right now. It's a tight gathering of fine letters. Taral has a pair of fine

pieces on both the front and back covers. He's good stuff.



The pre-Worldcon issue of *The Drink Tank*, 220, is out with a great cover from the first couple of Fan Art, Brianna and Frank Wu! Frank's also got an article, as does Taral, and I spend a lot of time explaining why *Funny People* made me so depressed. I know, it's cliché, but I'm a crying-on-the-inside clown I guess.

World Fantasy is Halloween weekend and it's going to be good. I was most happy to hear from Dick Lupoff the other day and he's gonna be there. Of all the fans gone pro, Dick is one of my favorites.

I still haven't read Jay Lake's latest book, *Green*. It's getting some decent reviews and I'd love to get a look at it.

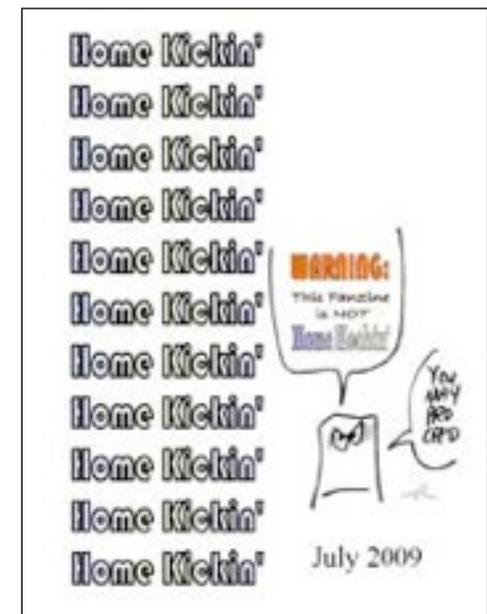
No further word on Steam-X, the Steampunk exhibition. I keep hoping for more details, though with Trepidation proving that

you can put together a good con in a week, maybe it's not that important to do things early anymore!

Currently, I'm flying towards Toronto. It's been a good flight, especially since both *Watchmen* and *Election* are on the in-flight! Plus, Keaton and Arbuckle silent pictures!

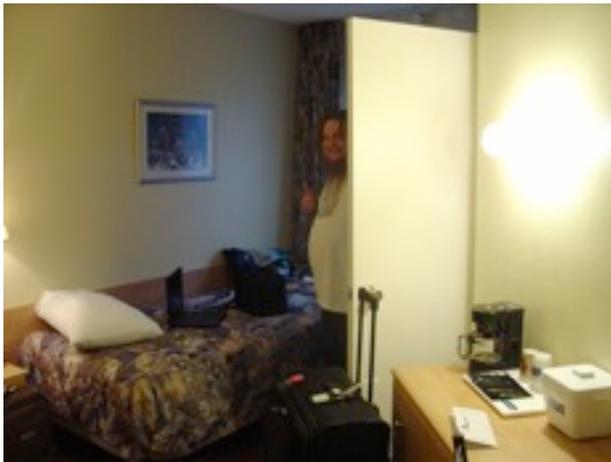
SteamCon in Seattle is looking like it'll be a big deal. The Bay Area's own Vernian Process will be there! I work with the keyboardist at the museum. Great guests of honor: Tim Powers, Abney Park as musical guests, and an artist whose name escapes me and since we can't internet in midair, I can't look it up!

If you haven't heard, there's a big picnic coming up at the Rosicrucian. You can find more out about it on Facebook, and more than likely, you've already heard.



eFanzines always has a surge around the time of the major cons, and this one's no different. Along with a *Drink Tank*, *File 770* and *Journey Planet*, there's a new Arnie Katz zine! It's called *Home Kickin'*! That kinda sounds like *Home Kookin'*, but it's not!

We've checked into our hotel in Montreal. It may actually be a slightly largish closet. I'm serious, it's about ten feet by ten feet... including the bathroom!



World's Smallest Hotel Room

by Linda Wenzelburger

I'm in here though, reading Earl Kemp's *eI*. It's another great issue, but the big deal is the cover. If you're a fan of abstract art with awesome Stilean naked dancing girls, you'll love it. It's amazing and I say it's the single best piece of art I've seen all year. It's simply amazing. And, as always, *eI* is hugely readable and brilliantly done.

First day wandering about Montreal was good, especially the two poutines I've eaten so far!

Time and Again has dropped onto eFanzines.com! It's an awesome-looking fanzine, though I got to poke through it and now I'm going to take some time to go through and read it as a way to avoid dealing with the tiny room we're booked into.

Reading...

Reading...

Reading...



Yeah, it's really good stuff. June Moffatt, Lee Anne Lavell, Dave Locke, Eric Mayer and a powerful lettercol. On the other hand, the thing that hit me hardest was a piece from Brad Foster called *Cathulhu!* It's another of his amazing pieces.

Jason Schachat has arrived, making the World's Smallest Hotel Room even smaller. He brought an air mattress; we had to stand it on its side so it could fit.

Steve Stiles, the fan artist of the century, has put out an announcement saying that he's not going to be doing fan art for a while. It sucks because he's been doing so much great stuff, but it's also interesting because I know there are a lot of editors who have his stuff that haven't run them yet.



Now in the Palais, sitting, having enjoyed a muffin from Tim Horton's. I don't know who this Horton fellow is, but I'm sure he's related to Willy.

And now I'm in the Green Room sitting at a table with Edd Vick and someone whose badge I can't see, but she's really nice. I like this con. There's some sort of rudeness distortion field which keeps the attitude out! And hey, there's Tom Becker, our masterful layout constructionist.

Another sad loss to fandom. Simons Flower, whose fanfic was exceptional, passed away suddenly. I heard through LJ and by the time I went to check it out, her Twitter feed had



Hugo Base Designer Dave Howell

by Linda Wenzelburger

a post only 11 hours old. It's a shame. I highly recommend her stuff.

Exhibition Hall debuted at the Steampunk panel. A couple of things: First, it was a Teens panel, and two, they were impressed. I was quite pleased with the reaction to the zine and can't wait to put out the first regular issue that'll end up on eFanzines.

Time has passed. There've been parties, including an awesome one thrown by James Bacon for UK and Irish fandom. I like James. There was a very fun series of panels on Fanzines that were attended by all the same

people, and the Technobabble Quiz went far better than I expected, especially with Kevin Roche, Steven Silver, Dave Howell as a late add, and James. Steven ended up winning, but he's been on *Jeopardy* before, so this must not have been that big a deal!

The Hugos have happened and there's a lot to talk about. The first thing is CONGRATS TO CHERYL MORGAN! She finally beat Langford. Maybe all we needed was one person to beat Dave to get the Hugo passed around to other folks. She said that folks should vote for other people next year. I don't know if that means she won't accept a nomination, but it's always nice to hear people wanting to spread the wealth.

In something that's so conflicting, Frank Wu won for Best Fan Artist. I love Frank, and I ran a couple of his pieces last year, but this was supposed to be Taral's year, and he came in fourth. The guy's been doing amazing work for so long, was the Guest of Honor, and he still came only fourth. I think that all the art he did for the con will help him next year, but as he said to me, he won't be there. It's disappointing. Still, I'm always happy for Frank to win one.

Best Fanzine was a waste. *Electric Velocipede* ain't a bad magazine, but it ain't no Fanzine. I'm not nearly as down on it as a fiction zine, in fact I'd love for a Fan Fiction zine to get a nomination someday, but it pays its contributors. To me the essence of fanzines is the fact that no one gets paid. Then again, since we did try to take away the Semi-pro Hugo, maybe it's fitting that two of them won

Hugos this year. I was sitting behind Guy Lillian and I could feel the waves of absolute disgust coming off him when they announced it. This was the talk of the con in the hours after the ceremony. There's talk of revising the category in the next business meeting.

In other news, I came in third for both Best Fanzine and Best Writer. I was fifth in Best Fanzine on the first vote, beating *Banana Wings* oddly. Steven Silver and I tied for the most nominations in both categories I was up for. We tied for first in nominations for Best Fanzine and tied for second in Best Fan Writer.



Best Fanwriter Cheryl Morgan

by Linda Wenzelburger



Honored Hugo Nominee Chris Garcis

by Linda Wenzelburger

Science Fiction/San Francisco, maybe you've heard of it, was 10th in the voting for Best Fanzine! I also appeared in nominations for Best Dramatic Presentation for the YouTube video of me eating the cake at the BASFA meeting. Five votes!

A huge cheer should go up for España Sheriff who had nominations in both Best Fan Writer and Best Fan Artist. It was most impressive! Mo Starkey got five noms, and Spring Schoenhuth ended up in eighth for Best Fan Artist. Other BA'ereans who showed up in the nomination lists include Frank Wu for Best

Writer, Kevin Standlee for Best Fan Writer, Nick Mamatas for Best Fan Writer, and Brianna Spacekat Wu for Best Fan Artist.

Locus, the long-standing Semi-prozine winner, didn't win. It went to *Weird Tales*, which I thought was a good thing as Ann Vander Meer and Scott Segal have done a great job with it. I was very happy for her, and happier that *Locus* didn't win for once. It was slightly sad because Charles Brown, the founder of *Locus*, passed away just a few weeks ago, but it was happy because it really showed that someone else can realistically win. I was sitting across from the *Locus* crew and they did not seem happy to have lost.

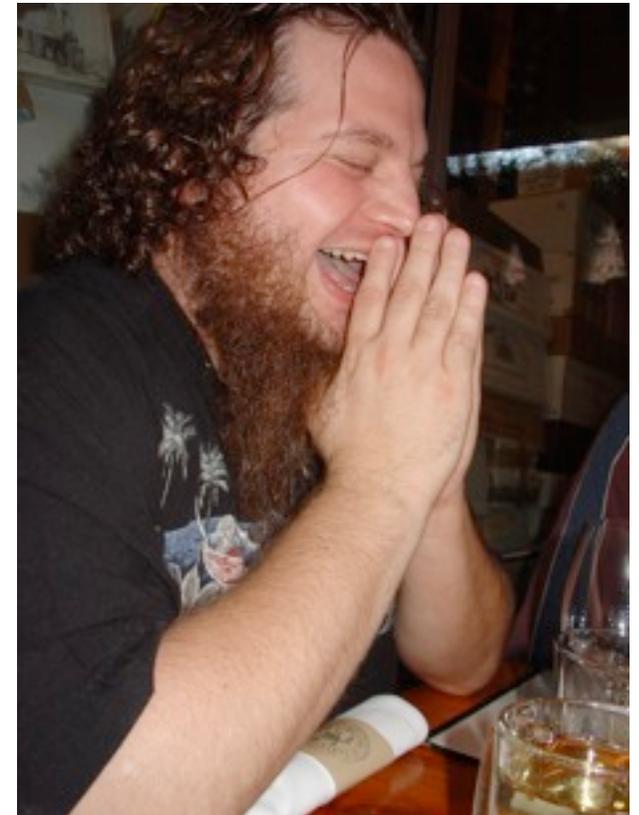
Dramatic Presentation went to *WALL-E*. *Dark Knight* came second. I can't argue with that result even though I think *Dark Knight* was a far better film.

Dramatic Presentation Short Form was *Dr. Horrible*. A total lock from day one. It helped that it was both awesome and from Joss. I'm surprised, looking over the list of nominations, that a few things did so poorly in the process. *Twilight* got only six nominations (guess who one of them was?) and *Let the Right One In* got 32 nominations, which is remarkable for a film not in English. *The Colour of Magic* also didn't do as well as I'd expected.

Short Form Editor was Ellen Datlow. Long-Form Editor was Dave Hartwell. Neither is a shock. Dave said he had enough Hugos. Good for him.

Just to break things up: Au Pied de Cochon, the restaurant which Anthony Bourdain said was the best in North America, was a delight,

though it was so rich and so amazing that we were hurting on the way back. It was an absolute mad house when we brought a group of ten there on Thursday night. Among the fannish groups were the *Locus* crew, our table featuring folks like Sharee Carton, Randy Byers, Kevin Roche, Andy Trembley, The Lovely & Talented Linda, Trepidation GoH Jason Schachat, me, the very tall Niall Harrison and his wife Nic, and Abigail Nussbaum. Right next to us were Connie Willis, George R.R. Martin, Gardner Dozois, and a couple of others.



Au Pied de Cochon

by Linda Wenzelburger

I had the Shepherd's Pie. It was a religious experience.

Pro Artist was Donato Giancola in a pretty tight race with John Picacio (and if you're reading this John, you the man!). John had more first place votes, but the Australian Ballot claims another victim! I love the work both those guys do, so I can't complain. John also won a Chesley (as did Daniel Dos Santos, who I will probably always call Danny Two Saints). Always good to see great artists getting great recognition.



TAFF Delegate Steve Green and Scarf

by Linda Wenzelburger

Controversy always abounds in every Hugo vote, and this one kinda smacks of incompetence. The winner for Best Graphic Story was Phil and Kaja Foglio's *Girl Genius* (and have I recently mentioned that they're the Artist Guests of Honor at Windycon while I'm the Fan Guest?), and that's amazing! The problem was in the nomination phase. The administrators failed to realize that as folks were nominating *Captain Britain and MI13*, some folks had used the full title and others a shortened form. This could be seen as the voter's fault, but an administrator should have caught that, combined the totals and put it on the ballot (combined, it would have knocked *Fables* off the ballot). The Best Fanzine thing, I totally get why they didn't make the call to knock off *Electric Velocipede* (though I would have made that call were I the administrator and taken the flak), but this was just wrong. It's a danger in being the administrator: you have to become an expert on every field that's being nominated so that things like this don't happen.

Steven Silver also had enough nominations to make the Campbell ballot, but didn't appear. No official explanation was given, but the word is that there was discussion as to the payrate for his sale. I only hope it doesn't cut into his years of eligibility.

Best Short Story went to "Exhalation" by Ted Chiang. He's probably the best writer at the shorter lengths. I am always happy when he wins.

Elizabeth Bear won Best Novelette for "Shoggoths in Bloom." It's a pretty good story, and I think I picked it to come second in



Elaine and Steve Stiles and Scarf

by Linda Wenzelburger

Handicapping the Hugos. I missed pretty badly on most categories this year. I'm glad she won, though I'd rather have had the extremely tall John Kessel win for his "Pride & Prometheus."

Nancy Kress won Best Novella for "The Erdmann Nexus." I was not a fan. Niall Harrison didn't think it should have won either. I like Niall; he usually tends to be right.

Anathem lost. That's the big bad news. Neil Gaiman won for a book that I actively hated. It happens. After last year, when the best novel of the year managed to win it all, this year it was the name Gaiman that won the award far more



David Kyle and Scarf

by Linda Wenzelburger

than the title *The Graveyard Book*. *Little Brother* came second. *Anthem* took third. Bummer.

All in all, not a bad list of winners other than *Electric Velocipede*.

I met Neal Stephenson. He was a really nice and pretty quiet guy. Almost no one knew that he was there and when I saw him at the Hugo reception, I pointed him out to a bunch of people. At first, no one believed me that it was him, but then when Steven Silver realized I was right, we both headed over and introduced

ourselves. He's got a noble goatee. I always pictured him with one.

I actually attended one of the business meetings, this one as a part of my participation with the Raleigh NASFiC bid. The Semi-Pro zine remains, and electronic stuff is now fully recognized. Perhaps this is the end of stuff like *Banana Wings* and *The Drink Tank* on the ballot. Time will tell.

I attended one panel that I wasn't on (FutureSport, where the coach of the US ping-pong team taught us far more than we needed to know about table tennis), and enjoyed it greatly. There was a fine newsletter done by the PLOKTA Cabal, and the Fanzine Lounges were awesome. I especially liked the after-hours lounge, which was very much like the San Mateo Marriott Lounge that really launched the legend of the BArea lounges.

John Hughes died. That sucks.

They bumped our flight, so instead of leaving Monday, we left Tuesday. It also meant that we got to be on the Fannish Direct from Montreal to San Francisco. We had Randy Smith, Dierdre and Rick Moen, Bill Humphries and various others with us, and Dave Clark was not on our flight, but was there in spirit. I always enjoy flying with friends.

BASFA met at the Hotel Intercontinental and I declared myself Lord High Chairman for the meeting. We were joined by John Hertz, Cheryl Morgan and her Hugo Trophy, Mary Robinette Kowal, and Connie Willis. It was a very good meeting.

All in all, Worldcon was good business. I enjoyed it, despite some troubles with tech for

panels. The Fanzine Cover in an Hour was a good time, especially with Marc Shirmeister being added. It was excellent. I'd say that the programming was really good for content, but support from Program Ops was lacking, perhaps due to lack of staff. The events came off with only a few hitches, which was nice. There were rarely long lines for the registration area and there were lots of authors, far more than last year it seemed. Poor Neil Gaiman was swamped all weekend. TAFF delegate Steve Green had an amazing time, as did Emma King, the DUFF delegate. The hotel had some



Lloyd and Yvonne Penney and Scarf

by Linda Wenzelburger

issues with parties and the elevators had incredibly long lines.

The 2011 Worldcon will be Renovation at Reno, and then the Reconstruction NASFiC will be the first weekend in August next year. I am doing the Fanzine Lounge there, which should be a lot of fun. I cannot wait for it to happen.

And of course, the TAFF Scarf sold for 200 bucks to Sydney of the Raleigh Bid. She was having folks come up to her all day after she bought it taking her picture and talking about it! It was amazing to see how great it went, as the profile of TAFF was raised significantly! Good stuff.



James Bacon and Scarf

by Linda Wenzelburger



Chris Garcia Admiring Hartwell's Ties

by Jason Schachat



That Looks Like Connie Willis. What is She Doing?

by Jason Schachat

Editorial

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

You may think I'll launch into a diatribe about the Hugos, about how *Electric Velocipede* didn't deserve to win Best Fanzine because it pays its contributors, about how Paul Cornell got left off the ballot and had a serious chance to win Best Graphic Story, or about how *Weird Tales* well and truly deserved to win the Best Semi-Prozine. Yeah, I could talk about any of those, but instead, I'll talk about the National Film Registry.

The National Film Registry is the Library of Congress's official list of culturally and aesthetically important films. It grows every year with 25 new films added to the list. The list dates from the 1880s to 1996 (*Fargo* is the latest film on the registry). There's everything from *Gertie the Dinosaur* to *sex, lies and videotape*. It's a great list, but I was looking at it and noting the way that Science Fiction has been both overlooked and oddly included.

The first year of the Registry featured several films that would qualify as Fantasy, including *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* from Disney, *Sunrise* from F.W. Murnau, and *The Wizard of Oz*, while there was only one certain SF film: *Star Wars* (though you can argue that *Dr. Strangelove* is SF). The next five years featured *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Fantasia*,

Meshes of the Afternoon, *King Kong*, *Frankenstein*, and others which are certainly Fantasy. There are a bunch more over the next 20 years, and I'd say that many of the most important fantasy and horror films are in, though Horror needs films like *Friday the 13th*, *The People Under the Stairs* and even *The Thing* to be in.

Science Fiction? Not so much. *Bladerunner*, *2001*, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, the *Flash Gordon* serial, *The Thing from Another World*, *E.T.*, *Alien*, *The Nutty Professor*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Back to the Future*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *The Terminator* and *The Invisible Man*. That's a good list, but it's far from what should be on the list. I know, I know, there are hundreds of films worthy, why is Science Fiction so important? Because it's turned into the dominant money-making form of film over the last thirty years. It's also driven the world of computer graphics and special effects, something that shouldn't be overlooked.

The first three that need to be on the list are easy: *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Forbidden Planet*, and *The Matrix*. The Matrix is just now eligible for the Registry, and it wouldn't surprise me to see it included this coming year. Very few films have had the impact *The Matrix*

had on the ways films are made. *The Empire Strikes Back* needs to be on the list without question, and *Forbidden Planet* is probably the most important science fiction film of the 1950s. OK, maybe *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, but it's certainly right up there.

A few older films that should be on the Registry include the first feature-length US SF film, *Just Imagine*, and the classic *Destination Moon*. The 1970s had *Westworld* and the 1980s *Tron*, which were both important steps forward for computer graphics. Add to that list *Jurassic Park* and *Terminator 2* and you've got the major films that led to what we've got in computer graphics today.

The thing is preservation. One of the key goals of the Registry is that these are the films that most need to be saved for the future. There's no question that movies like *Star Wars* and *The Day the Earth Stood Still* will be preserved, but films like *Them!*, *Raise the Titanic* and *Starman*, all of which are the next step below the ones that've been nominated, could be lost if not given the attention of preservationists. Yes, films becoming lost is still possible. It's less likely because now there's money to be made in old movies on DVD, but the original prints and elements that have been removed from subsequent releases are still in danger.

Now, if you look at the list of other films, you'll find several genres that are overlooked. I think Fantasy is OK, and I think the Western has plenty (25 films that I counted) and Noir is probably solid (with the big ones, *The Big Sleep*, *Double Indemnity*, *Chinatown*, *Laura* and *The Maltese Falcon* all on the list), and Musicals are probably slightly underrepresented (things like *1776* and *State Fair* should be up there), but Sci Fi is certainly in need of more representation.

And how does all this relate to the Hugos I was talking about earlier? You see, the Registry is much like the Hugos Long List. There's no overall Hall of Fame (the one in Seattle is as

close as it comes, and the Big Heart Award close) and the Hugo Long List keeps track of who did the best stuff, put together the important works. There's no National Fanzine Registry. There should be (OK, I might have another project for the future), but there isn't. I could make a long list of fanzines that should be long remembered and marked for preservation, but no one's doing that right now. When someone like Stanley Schmidt is overlooked year after year after year for Best Editor, it almost guarantees that he'll not be remembered over the long run. He's been at it for a few decades, and without a win, he's not nearly certain of longevity of memory.

That's why I can get so bitter when some folks, like Steve Stiles, Dan Steffan, Marc Shirmeister, Taral Wayne and Kurt Erichsen, don't win a Rocket. You can make a strong mark by simply doing great work over a long period, but winning a Rocket means that every year you have your name printed. Every year, people are reminded that you were once declared the best of the best at what you do. That's why the stakes are so high, even if there's no real reward other than the Mother of All Knick-Knacks. Permanence is its own reward.

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

Browncoat Independence Day

By Jean Martin

Editor

I never know what to do for 4th of July. Being vegetarian, I'm not really a barbecue party kind of person, and I'm also a teetotaler. For some reason, this holiday has become synonymous with drinking alcohol. Also, the 4th of July is a different day every year so sometimes it's odd to have a day off in the middle of the week.

Luckily, this year, the 4th of July fell on a Saturday. Doubly fortunate, it was on the first Saturday of the month, the regularly scheduled day for Silicon Gulch Browncoat meetups. Silicon Gulch is the *Firefly* fan group based in the South Bay. I'd never gone to a Silicon Gulch meetup since it's often on the same day as the Period Events & Entertainments Recreations Society (PEERS) balls. I invariably have lots of prep work to do and sometimes even rehearsals on the afternoon before these balls. It so happens that July is one of the months with no scheduled PEERS event, and so I was free to go to something else. Additionally, the Silicon Gulch meetup was in Palo Alto, much closer to me than their usual San Jose get-togethers.

So it seemed the stars aligned perfectly for me to be able to finally go to a meetup. I took advantage of this opportunity and went to Karla's house after lunch. There was a nice big



Alien Spaceship

photo by Jean Martin

backyard where most everyone hung out. It was a warm and sunny day and there were lots of food and drinks.



American Flag cupcakes with Aliens

photo by Jean Martin

I noticed a couple of pans of cupcakes in different colors and realized that the arrangement looked like the American flag, except the icing to represent the stripes was pink instead of red and the field of stars was sky blue instead of navy blue. Still, it was so cute and definitely delectable. What made it even more fun was the tiny aliens on top of each cupcake.

Outside on the deck, there was a huge silver spaceship that Louise had made. It looked pretty incredible. There were also fighter jet toys hanging from the lemon tree. There definitely seemed to be a theme going on that I wasn't getting. It took me a while to figure out that the theme was the movie *Independence Day*.

When that movie came out several years ago, there was so much hype about it. Frequently, when a movie is hyped up, I tend to be disappointed. However, I loved *Independence Day* and it is one of my favorite movies. Bill Pullman is such an inspiring president, Jeff Goldblum is just so cool in anything, and Will Smith is, of course, hot. It's also such a fun sci fi-action-comedy-drama and I really like movies that showcase hope for the survival of the human race, and how people band together despite their differences to help each other out during times of crisis. Also highlighted were the values of courage,

heroism, resilience, resourcefulness, intelligence, family, friendship and even romance. Every time the movie is shown on TV, during the rare times when I watch TV, I enjoy seeing it again. It was great to see it with other people, especially friends who are into sci fi.



Cory, Melissa and Karla photo by Jean Martin

There were lots of familiar faces at the meetup. There were the regular Browncoats whom I've seen at SF Browncoat meetups, joint SF Browncoat and Silicon Gulch meetups, cons and other events. Half of the guests stayed outside in the heat and barbecued and drank while half watched the movie inside. I preferred the cool and the shade and wanted to

see the movie again, so I sat on the comfy sofa in front of the big screen TV. Every house I go to now has big TVs. Am I the only one with a small old-style tube TV? It sure is awesome to watch movies on a big screen with better resolution, but I think I'll wait for a while before spending money on a new TV when my current ones are still in working order.

After the movie, it looked like people were still wanting to hang out and go watch fireworks somewhere later in the evening. I wanted to stay and be with my Browncoat friends longer but I had plans to meet my parents at Joya on University Avenue in Palo Alto. So it was off to have delicious Spanish food with my folks.

Then it was back home to Foster City. I wasn't too keen on seeing the fireworks there as I've seen them numerous times in the 15 years I've lived in the area. But this time, my parents said I could watch it at the end of the complex where they live, a small beach area with a view of the fireworks from the other side and across the water, with the pyramid-topped Metro Center Building in the background. It was quite an amazing sight and I enjoyed not only the fireworks but the company as well.

I love Foster City, and the Bay Area in general, and I am so happy and grateful that I live in this great country and have the freedom

to express my creativity and individuality. I am able to work to support myself, have a good life and be independent. These are things I would not have if I still lived in the Philippines. Despite its flaws, I still believe the U.S. is a great nation and one of the best places to live in the world. 4th of July this year reminded me of



Francis, Elizabeth and Gail photo by Jean Martin

these thoughts even more so than in past years, and it was great to celebrate the birth of the nation in such a wonderful and memorable way.

A Harry Potter, Astronomy and Hitchcock Kind of a Weekend

By Jean Martin
Editor

My weekends seem to be quite action-packed this summer, so much so that on any given weekend I've been all over the Bay Area doing various costuming, dance, sci fi/fantasy, historical and science events.

I was invited to work at Oakland's Jack London Square theater by my Black Fleet Star Pirates' Guild captain, Alex "Obi-Juan" Diaz, on July 18. This was during the opening weekend of the latest Harry Potter movie, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. I couldn't make the actual opening night as it was on a weeknight and Oakland is too far for me to drive during the week. Sometimes I would do it, but since I could work at the theater on the Saturday afterwards, I chose the easier option.

I did this a couple of years ago for the opening weekend of the previous movie, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, and I enjoyed it. I wore my Cho Chang (Harry Potter's first love interest) costume then, which I also wore last year at BayCon's masquerade competition. Our group did a *Harry Potter/High School Musical* number that won Best in Show for Presentation.

The deal at the Jack London Square theater is that we greet and entertain movie patrons for at least three hours in costume at the lobby, and



Slytherin Professor Reading Harry Potter's Runes
by Jean Martin

then we can watch the movie. *Harry Potter* movies usually have a long run time. This one was two and a half hours long.



Harry Potter with Hogwarts Teachers and Students
by Jean Martin

My friend Pat went with me and wore a Slytherin teacher outfit complete with robe, hat and wand. She also brought a bag of rune stones she'd made herself, which she read for people who were interested. She read my runes and I got the same message that I've gotten for almost a year now. I've done several readings, mostly Tarot, from different people using different cards. However, I keep getting that my recent past was about harvest and accomplishments, my present is stuck or winter, and my near future will be about change or journey. I've been happy with all my accomplishments and all the friends, experiences and activities of the past five years. I've achieved my goals and dreams and am living a life I've consciously wanted and created. But I've been feeling like I've plateaued and am just coasting, waiting and ready for a new adventure and new horizons. I know it's coming, and I can't wait!

There were lots of kids that came to see the movie, but it was the middle of the afternoon and it was somewhat slow, especially considering it was opening weekend. I had a great time hanging out with our other costumed compatriots. Liz, who organized the event, and her husband were dressed as Hogwarts teachers. Their younger son was costumed as Harry Potter. Their older son was a Ravenclaw student and his friend was a Gryffindor. My

friend Johnny arrived later and he had an amazing Lucius Malfoy ensemble. He even had a long bleached blond wig, Death Eater mask and colored contact lenses.

When we were all there and assembled, we posed for photos in front of a big standup poster of the movie. It depicted a rock island with Harry and Professor Dumbledore defending themselves with their wands. It sure made a great backdrop for our photos.

Finally, it was time to go see the movie. Pat, Johnny and I went in together. I liked the movie but I almost feel asleep at one point. But then all of the *Harry Potter* movies do make me sleepy. While they're beautifully filmed and the stories are quite interesting, I find them slow and monotonous, and I don't seem to feel the characters or the plot — like I'm watching from the outside and never really feel immersed in the world of J.K. Rowling. However, I do prefer the movies over the books because of the gorgeous sets, wonderful costumes, and excellent actors. While I enjoy the books' and movies' clever magical elements, messages of friendship and family, and fantasy adventure stories, as a whole, they're not very memorable to me.

In fact, what I was excited about and remembered in vivid detail that afternoon was seeing the trailer for the Percy Jackson movie, *The Lightning Thief*. I just started reading the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series and I am enjoying it very much. It's very derivative of *Harry Potter* but the characters are more vividly alive, the plot more exciting and fast-paced. It's intelligent and even funny at times,



View from Fremont Peak Observatory Campgrounds

by Jean Martin

and Greek mythology is interwoven into the modern setting seamlessly and uniquely. I didn't even know there was going to be a movie of the first book until I saw the trailer. It was quite thrilling to see Mount Olympus on top of the Empire State Building. I am very much looking forward to seeing the movie next year.

Then I rushed back home to drop off Pat and get my overnight bag and camping

equipment to head off to Fremont Peak Observatory for my friend Bryan's birthday party. He wanted to do an overnight astronomy campout for his birthday and I didn't want to miss it as I love astronomy and I had never been to this observatory before. I also hadn't been camping in a while and was looking forward to enjoying the outdoors this summer.

Fremont Peak is in San Juan Bautista and I got to town in about an hour and a half, which

was pretty good time. But I took the wrong fork as I approached the mountain and wound up on the other side. I couldn't turn around while I was going through the mountain passes, and there was no cell phone signal, so I kept going until I wound up in what seemed to me like the outskirts of Salinas. It was close to 10:00 p.m. when I got to Salinas and I asked someone for directions at a store but they weren't very sure about how to get to Fremont Peak either. There was no other recourse but to backtrack. I was afraid of getting stuck overnight in the mountains as I realized I was also running out of gas. It was quite surreal being all by myself in the middle of nowhere late in the evening. I knew I wasn't being smart or safe but I was determined to get to the Peak. I really wanted to go stargazing and meet up with my friends.

It was also one of those "I wish I had an iPhone" moments I've been having lately. I recently replaced my broken pink Motorola Razr with another one instead of getting an iPhone. After my experience that evening, I vowed that for my own safety, my next cell phone will be an iPhone with maps and GPS.

When I got back to the fork in the road, I luckily was able to get ahold of Bryan who told me to take the middle fork, which I didn't even see the first time. I was running out of gas for real by then, so I decided to drive to Gilroy to get gas. Gilroy was far, but the closest town with a gas station open that late, apparently. I reached Fremont Peak tired, but relieved, close to midnight! It took me four hours to get there when it should have taken maybe about half that time.

Luckily, my friend Mette, Bryan's wife, had already pitched a tent for me. I wouldn't have been able to do it since it was so late and it was very dark. As it was an astronomy camping area, campers can't use flashlights as that would disturb the stargazers. It was almost completely dark up there and lots of stars and even the Milky Way were clearly visible. Seeing the night sky like this always amazes me and I'm struck with awe at the wonders of the Universe. There were lots of people still up, not like regular camping, and most had red flashlights which do not impair night vision.

I talked with Bryan and everyone else for a little bit. We didn't realize how late it was but we still tried to go see if we could use the telescope in the observatory. The observatory supposedly closes at midnight. We got there around 12:30 a.m. and someone was still operating the huge telescope. I got to see the Ring Nebula again. I saw it sideways this time, instead of from the front like I did at Lick Observatory a few years ago. I got to see the star in the middle again even though the nebula was angled to its side. Someone right outside the observatory had a big portable telescope and I got to see Jupiter and its moons, too.

I went to bed happy and content about a day full of adventures. I didn't get to sleep much though, because it was so hot, and I got terrible nasal and throat allergies, probably from the trees or grass. Still, I woke up happy and was excited about more exploring, which I realize I've missed doing this past year.

When I drove into San Juan Bautista the day before, I noticed a sign that said that there



Mission San Juan Bautista Church

by Jean Martin

was a California Mission in the town. I like to see Missions if there's one anywhere where I'm at. They represent California history and are among the oldest settlements in the State. I'd never been to the San Juan Bautista one before and I was very impressed. It's the best one I've seen so far. The San Juan Bautista State Historic Park not only had the church and mission grounds but also a hotel, houses and stables, all surrounding a large lawn area. Everything was well-maintained and the buildings were all as they would have looked in the Victorian era. It felt like I'd stepped back in time into the Old West. Even the main street next to the park had a saloon and old-style storefronts.

Added to the historical angle, the horse stable looked familiar to me. It looked like the stable from my favorite Hitchcock film, *Vertigo*. I asked the docent at the stable, and sure enough, she confirmed that it was used in the movie. Even the paper maché horse used in



Stable from Hitchcock's Vertigo

by Jean Martin

the movie was still there! Other than the horse, there were beautiful carriages, barouches, landaus and wagons, which were in great condition and looked like they could still be used. I'd never seen these vehicles in real life before. I've only seen them in movies and read about them in Regency and Victorian novels.

But the amazing aspects of the park did not end there. The hotel and houses all had rooms recreated like they would have been in the

Victorian era with ladies' and men's clothing and accessories, various furniture, a saloon, parlor rooms and dining rooms.

The church museum, which I got into free because the nice man at the gift shop gave me free admission when I bought a bunch of memorabilia and religious items, also had rooms full of paintings, religious artifacts, statues, books, furniture and decorations. But the church's exhibits were from even earlier than the Victorian period. The priests certainly lived well in those days! I went into the church itself just in time for the Spanish mass, most of which I understood as I took Spanish classes in college and have attended Spanish masses in the past. The church was completely packed! It is quite amazing to me to see a historical site still relevant and in use by people to this day. It reminds me of the continuity of life, the longevity of mankind's constructions and the steadiness of human culture and traditions.

If you haven't been to San Juan Bautista State Historic Park, I highly recommend it. It's the best glimpse of early California history I've



Dining Room Exhibit in Plaza Hotel

by Jean Martin

ever seen. It's also interesting to see California's Spanish and Mexican history, which isn't as generally well remembered as California's Barbary Coast and Gold Rush era.

What an amazing weekend of fantasy, science and history. I'm so glad to live in an area that offers so much variety.

Trepidation: Con in Nothing Flat

By España Sheriff
Staff Writer

For some months now there has been an informal fannish meetup every Friday at the Eclipse Lounge in the Hyatt Regency in downtown San Francisco. I got tired of reading of all the fun going on outside of the city, and started it with the help of Johanna Mead, Leigh Ann Hildebrand, and Jack Avery. Originally held under the name Fidi Fandom Friday, since it was to be held in the Financial District area



Trepidation 2009 Program Schedule

cover by España Sheriff

of the city for maximum convenience to public transit, the name morphed several times until some bad jokes at the expense of the Sci Fi Channel's recent reinvention caused us to settle on FyDySyFy. And so it was at FyDySyFy on July 24th that the plans for Trepidation 2009 were hatched.

On several occasions Leigh Ann and I had looked around us at the amazing atrium lobby of the Hyatt and expressed a wish to run some sort of event in the space. But what? Well, when both of us ended up not being able to attend Anticipation, the solution was obvious: we would bring the concept of the bittercon out from the Internet and into meatspace! The original concept was to have something for people unable to attend Worldcon, but since Leigh Ann's attendance was up in the air until almost the last minute we decided to run with it on the week pre-Worldcon. She emailed me to tell me Jason Schachat would be on a plane on the 31st, and we had a week to do this thing.

When I arrived at the bar that Friday after receiving her email we had nothing but the concept, and Schachat as our fan GOH. Within



Trepidation 2009 Staff and GOHs

by Jean Martin

a few minutes Radar arrived and we assigned her Programming, then Gina who became our Webmistress, Johanna was drafted as Gaming almost before she sat down, and I called Mr. Price to tell him he would be FLAIR (ahem), which he took quite graciously. Soon we had expanded to two tables, over which a mad discussion was taking place of what we could fake most effectively with the least amount of work. Leigh Ann spoke to "Awesome" Brian Silber, the Assistant Food and Beverage Manager for the Eclipse Lounge, and he gave his okay with surprisingly little concern. He

also took us up to check out one of the suites to see if it would be suitable as a consuite. Leigh Ann and our treasurer, Leo Schwab, reserved it, and suddenly everything was official.

Gina in particular, along with Kai, stepped up to the plate — she with website expertise and he with hosting. When I arrived home near midnight after six hours of planning and scribbling notes, I registered the domain “trepidation2009” and emailed them. By the next day there was a placeholder website with our basic dates and information, and shortly thereafter we had a slick page better than many I’ve seen for real events. We declared our official hours as 3 p.m. Friday to 3 p.m. Saturday, to accommodate our fan GOH’s travel dates and to have a neat 24-hour convention concept.

Leigh Ann, the official Chair and Vice Chair, wrote up some wonderful FAQs and other official missives, and Jack put together PRs and a program book — with cover art by yours truly featuring the centerpiece of the Hyatt’s atrium, the amazing rhombicosidodecahedron (or so I’m told) sculpture from which the Eclipse Lounge gets its name, and which we refer to as the Wicker Death Star. The planning, such as it was, took place almost entirely on Twitter, either in public and sometimes quite amusing (to us at least) discussions under the hashtags #trepidation2009 and #bittercon, or in private messages coordinating various details. A Facebook group, evite, livejournal community, and Yahoo group completed the social



Costuming and Cocktails at Trepidation 2009

by Jean Martin

networking Shock and Awe Campaign to make up for the lack of time to get the word out.

Over the next couple of days I worked on getting another guest of honor. My first choice was Pat Murphy, who emailed me back promptly and graciously that she would be out of town, unfortunately. The fact that she replied at all to a random fan’s somewhat eccentric request gave me the confidence to send equally strange messages to some other pros that I knew or suspected might be game for a lark of this nature. Among those recommended to me were Annalee Newitz and Charlie Jane Anders from the io9.com website, who responded that it sounded like fun and what time should they be there, at which point I believe I may have

squeed or w00ted, judging from the look my cats gave me.

Without getting into too much detail I asked my boss if I could leave early on Friday to get to the hotel at 3 p.m. (“I’m, uh... helping run a thing”), and with a couple of stops on the way for supplies I arrived with just a couple of minutes to spare and found Leigh Ann and Schachat at our usual table. I had honestly only expected people to start arriving at the usual post-work Fydy time, around five thirty or six o’clock, but within a few minutes Jack and his friend Ed Beecher showed up, then others in short order. The waitstaff took this in stride, bless their hearts, even though their official opening time is 4:30.

We had emphasized the fact that there would be costuming, since that was really the laziest way to create a con-like atmosphere with little effort on our part; however, my suitcase and Leigh Ann’s were both still en route with Leo, so I felt downright underdressed when Mette Hedin, costumer extraordinaire, showed in her Syndrome outfit. Turns out she and Bryan had reserved a room as well, which we officially designated the “Party Floor.” A bunch of other folks were dressed up, including my roommate Palle as the Fifth Doctor and Radar as Dr. Horrible.

Johny Dakron had brought some nice steampunk sculpture pieces, and as the only entry he was designated the Art Show. I bid on a brass frog clock but Radar outbid me, alas. By this time someone had set up a Dealer’s Room on one of the side tables with some books and comics. I picked up a trade of *Astro*



FLAIR reminds a member of the weapons policy
courtesy of Jean Martin

City: The Dark Age Vol. 1. Mette added some DVDs to the vendor list and I do believe sales were brisk. Meanwhile, Lunatic had brought a backpack full of games and soon several tables on the right were a dedicated Gaming Room, which, typically, was a little world unto itself.

Having insisted that the best way to make the con look legit for posterity would be good badges, I had designed and laminated some for “pre-registered” folks and had spares for late arrivals. Thus I found myself doing more work than expected for a pseudocon, getting badges for people as they showed up. The influx of people slowed a little around 8 p.m., just in time for our Webizens of Honor to arrive. Having only met Charlie Jane for the briefest of

intervals at Denvention, I was glad to find that, as I recalled, she was charm incarnate, as was Annalee. Another io9er, Grey Area, came along with them and their friend Brian seemed pretty amused, too. After a certain amount of corralling drinks and guests into the same place, we held Opening Ceremonies, which involved a toast, a photo and a brief statement from the Chair.

The first item of actual programming was Flavor Tripping, in which Jack provided West African Miracle Fruit tablets for everyone who wanted to try the experience and the Hyatt provided a platter with lemons, limes, lemon juice, goat cheese, sour cream and other bitter and sour fruits. The experience was unique, and seeing people chomp on lemons and squirt lemon juice with evident pleasure was half the fun.

After that I was free to run up to the room and get changed, so I did. Feeling ever so much better in my uncomfortable shoes I headed back down to the lounge and enjoyed the remainder of the evening until the Eclipse closed around midnight, at which point most of those present headed up to the consuite. There the party continued with thematically appropriate drinks mixed by Leigh Ann, much oohing and aahing over the lovely balcony view of the Ferry Building, Embarcadero and California Street, and general fannishness until around 4 a.m when the last folks left and the chairs, treasurer and Fan GOH called it a night.

Morning programming involved two items, Walking to Breakfast with the Star(s) and Walking Back from Breakfast with the Star(s),

which started late but were pretty fun regardless. The weather was unseasonably lovely and the Ferry Building contains all manner of amazing food choices. In attendance where the aforementioned staff and GOH and those fans who had stayed in the hotel overnight, Mette and Brian, Lisa Marli and Harold. We all got various foods and ate in the seating area overlooking the bay, which meant we caught a glimpse of the airship *Eureka* sailing past.

Finally, after checking out, there were the traditional lingering goodbyes on the lobby sofas, Leigh Ann made a statement for Closing Ceremonies, and everyone drifted off, in my case at least to spend the rest of Saturday evening and Sunday night feeling a weird sense of displacement at having an “extra” post-con day before work on Monday.

www.trepidation2009.com



Doctor Horrible demonstrates the reason for the weapons policy
by Stacy Meyn

Dr. Aldrin and Apollo 11: T+40 years

By Mike Smithwick
Contributing Writer

Every era, every generation has its defining “moment.” Times on our mental calendars that stand out, screaming, circled in heavy red ink. The moments that are usually recalled with the remark, “I remember what I was doing when...”

What follows the “when” may be different for different generations, but the effect is usually the same: A deep sigh, shake of the head and thoughts flooding back into our neural Imax tearing us back through the years.



Aldrin poses for portrait / Armstrong's reflection in visor
NASA image

Thoughts of war, rumors of war, deaths of presidents, the ascension of terrorists. “I remember when” I first heard about the bombing of Pearl Harbor ... the death of FDR ... President Kennedy (or Bobby, or Martin Luther King) were gunned down, San Francisco was hit by an earthquake, New York was hit by madness. Newspapers are carefully folded and put away in a box as touchstones of one of time's shivers.

What typically unifies such moments is that they are all sad, wistful, making us long for the perceived innocence lost in the time preceding it. Except for one, that is. Except for one.

When someone says, “I remember where I was when I heard that they landed on the moon,” you will not hear it accompanied by sighs, but rather expressions of wonder. “*I remember when we travelled to another world.*”

Forty years ago this summer we were still in the midst of Vietnam, the Beatles were still together, and men walked on the moon. Neil Armstrong, “Buzz” Aldrin, and Michael Collins joined that pantheon of great explorers previously the domain of Magellan, Leif Erikson, Columbus, Admiral Byrd and Charles Lindbergh.

Among the Apollo astronauts, there are those who just don't care for the fame but rather play down their roles in history, and

others who thrive on it. The first man on the moon, Armstrong, belongs to the former category. A reluctant hero, some call him “reclusive” and generate the image of an aging hero living in a broken down trailer and chasing kids out of his yard with a cane. But that couldn't be further from the truth.

Armstrong doesn't need attention or mass adoration. He does what he wants to do: teach, fly airplanes and grow old gracefully. A few years ago, Armstrong gave a talk at De Anza College in Cupertino. In referencing the experiments on his flight he spoke of the laser



Buzz Aldrin Looking Presidential

by Jean Martin



USS Hornet



Navy Plane

by Jean Martin

reflector that would help scientists determine the distance to the moon to within about six inches. He said of the scientists, “They were very smart guys who designed and built this experiment. As for me, I was just the technician who deployed the equipment.” At another time, Armstrong, with his humor as dry as ever, stated, “I am, and ever will be, a white-socks, pocket-protected nerdy engineer. And I take substantial pride in the accomplishments of my profession.”

His partner on that mission, Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, belongs to the latter group in the extreme. Over the past twenty years or so, Dr. Aldrin has made a fine living with his notoriety of being “only” the second man to walk on the moon. Much has been written about his pressuring his bosses to permit him to take the

first step instead of Armstrong. Largely harkening to tradition (the commander traditionally stayed with the ship), Aldrin was ultimately persuaded to accept the number two spot due to something as mundane as the geometry of the lunar module. But these days anyone with the slightest interest in the subject finds it nearly impossible to get away from “Buzz.” With a heavy speaking schedule, autograph sessions, and related appearances, frequently accompanied by his step-daughter, one might think he is concerned with becoming a bit of a cliché. Superficially, yes. Some might accuse him of just living off of his faded glory as the aging hero, until the next “real” hero comes along. But again, that couldn’t be further from the truth, and it was no more clearly seen

then over the recent celebrations surrounding the 40th anniversary of his moon landing.

On July 25th, Aldrin stopped by the Bay Area as a part of an exhausting national tour. Forty years plus one day previously, on July 24, 1969, he and his two crewmates were plucked from the Pacific Ocean after their historic eight-day mission. The aircraft carrier USS *Hornet* served as the prime recovery ship and successfully escorted the three men back to Hawaii on the first leg of their return.

Now a wonderful floating museum and docked permanently at the old Alameda Naval Air Station, the *Hornet* serves as an impressive reminder of our naval might. Built in only 15 months, the *Hornet* headed out to the Pacific war in March of 1944 to see battles at Iwo Jima and the Philippines and to launch the first

attack directly on Japan since the famous “Doolittle Raid” on Tokyo (our first action in retaliation for Pearl Harbor, launched from the previous *Hornet*). But perhaps the *Hornet’s* most famous mission, and its last one, came in July of 1969 when it picked up Armstrong and his crew.

With thousands in attendance on July 25th, 2009, a wildly applauding crowd watched as Aldrin took his spot at the microphone. Still fit and a young-looking 79, Aldrin repeated stories that he no doubt has told thousands of times, but did so with a smile, energy, and passion as if it was the first. Covering the Apollo program, and his second and most famous mission, Dr. Aldrin went on to speak candidly of his eventual “return to Earth,” in a way that answered the question of what happens to an overachiever after he reaches the pinnacle of his profession before his fortieth birthday. In Aldrin’s case, it was alcoholism followed by a nervous breakdown and two divorces. While he didn’t dwell on these, he didn’t try to avoid the topic either. Part of getting over any serious addiction is confronting it face to face, not ignoring it. Members of Alcoholics Anonymous are given tokens to commemorate their successes day after day and week after week. Aldrin admitted with a bit of a pained grin that he had personally collected over a dozen 30-day coins. But then proudly stated, “I have a coin in my pocket that says 30 years.”

His story is indeed a compelling one. Having a father whom he could never satisfy, he would become one of the most highly educated of the early astronauts and one of the

few non test-pilots at the time. He received his Ph.D. from MIT in 1963 as a result of his pioneering development of orbital rendezvous techniques. These practices would be absolutely essential to any serious space endeavors, and are still in use today.

Part philosopher and part cheerleader, poet and academic, Aldrin is refreshingly blunt in some of his viewpoints. A number of former astronauts have spoken of gazing down upon the Earth and being unable to see any borders, frames or boundaries, lending to the notion that we should all live as one and sing “Kumbaya.” Aldrin disdainfully said that that was nonsense (his language may have been a little more colorful). Many others have over-analyzed the origins of the Apollo program looking for the deeper meanings behind the motivations that led to the lunar landings. Aldrin said it was really simple. “[We went to the moon] to beat the Russians!”

Unlike many astronauts who quietly move into corporate careers and then on to retirement after their orbital adventures, Aldrin has been anything but quiet, or retired for that matter. After conquering his demons, he remarried and



Buzz and his Stepdaughter

by Jean Martin

started a “new” career in space advocacy. Using his fame to support continued and more aggressive space exploration, Dr. Aldrin returned to his roots: the esoteric field of trajectory analysis. He tackled one of the toughest issues regarding the future exploration of Mars: the energy and therefore expense needed to send crews and materials on a regular basis to the fourth planet. And as a result, *cycler orbits* were born. Cyclers are minimum energy orbits occupied by multiple transport vehicles that would not land, or even slow up at Mars, but would just sail on by, drop off or pick up cargo, then cycle back to home. At Earth, a cargo craft would rendezvous with the cycler and return to Mars. Lather, rinse, repeat. Aldrin proposes that there be two spacecraft at any one time in identical orbits, one inbound to Earth

and one outbound to Mars. Each journey would take about five months.

Besides being known as “the second guy to walk on the moon,” Aldrin wants to be one of those who help inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers, in the same way that the early space program did for children of the 60s. According to him, “we are behind in our



Mobile Quarantine Facility

by Jean Martin

education system...without the inspiration that was there in the 60s and 70s... We need to inspire the young people as they were inspired by the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs.” With the passion of one on a new mission, Dr. Aldrin referenced NASA’s current state by saying that to go backwards “is to give away leadership in an industry that is indispensable to the security of our nation, the aerospace industry.”

Aldrin is clearly not letting the rapid approach of his ninth decade keep him back. He seemed positively gleeful about having an iPhone in one pocket “and a Blackberry in the other,” and about having not only a Facebook page but a Twitter feed as well (“therealbuzz,” where a recent entry read: *Just met w/lead singer of Supertramp. They’re doing a concert at The Byblos St Tropez tonight. Dinner & a concert. Sounds like a good night.*) A quick look at either shows that he keeps a schedule that would bury most of us.

The Constellation program that is to replace the aging Space Shuttle when it retires next year is still on track for an inaugural flight in 2014 and a return to the moon by 2019. At that time Aldrin will be 89. I suspect that he’ll still be running around giving lectures, writing books, tweeting and talking about Mars, and maybe even doing another rap song.

Not bad for a guy who was the second at something-or-other.

For more information, visit: www.uss-hornet.org/posters/splashdown/index.shtml

Editor’s note: Mike Smithwick is the author of the DistantSuns astronomy app for the iPhone and DistantSuns: Grand Tour for the 3D-iPhone. He has two astronomy blogs at: lazyastronomer.wordpress.com and distantuns.wordpress.com.



Space Suit and Capsule

by Jean Martin

Hartwell's Three Laws of Fashion

David Hartwell is famous not just as a long time SF fan, reviewer, and Hugo-winning editor, but for his (literally) brilliant sense of fashion. Anticipation, where he was Editor Guest of Honor, displayed a collection of his neckties with his essay on fashion.

By David G. Hartwell

- 1. To Dress in ignorance of Fashion is to Dress badly.**
- 2. To Dress knowingly in Fashion is to become invisible.**
- 3. To Dress knowingly in opposition to Fashion is to have your own style.**

Corollaries

One may observe in daily life people dressed out of fashion, who make it intuitively evident that to dress in ignorance of fashion is a serious aesthetic offense, tantamount to singing off-key in public alone. These people are *Clunky*. This offense is often primarily the

result of lack of money, but might just as easily result from an economic choice of another sort, such a putting all your money into extra RAM and living on pizza, coke and twinkies.

I have known *Holy Aesthetic Ignorants* who put tremendous faith in an inner light, of intelligence, or personality, or virtue, that blinds the enlightened ones to all external manifestation (except for coolth – more about this below). From a distance one of these might well be mistaken for a street person. (I know an editor who was.) Science fiction fandom has a large population of Holy Ignorants, as does physics and engineering, and of course there are Programmers...

Most of them do not believe in the existence of style in art either, just content. The worst offenders don't bathe regularly and sleep in their clothes.

One may observe in daily life a generous number of people dressed in the fashion of the season. It is intuitively evident that they have spent a certain amount of money to achieve this effect. The first one to appear in Fashion in a

season wins, exciting the admiration and envy of all other fashion watchers. This is a creative challenge, but one best left to the wealthy since first of all it costs a great deal of money, more than the annual salary of the average corporate executive, to do this four seasons a year, year after year.

Of course the other millions of people who spend nearly as much simply lose. They are thought of by their competitors as fashionable and as knowledgeable – though as I said all are losers except the first each time – but they are in fact aesthetically impoverished, their imaginations and creativity brutalized by the compulsion to imitate.

They are like all those writers who aspire to contemporary literary fashion by writing, say, about ordinary people in ordinary circumstances in the first person present tense, as certain contemporary models did. They are not much read. As Samuel R. Delany has observed, it is as if ten thousand of the finest writing talents sat simultaneously at their word processors writing the same story. We are only



photos by Tom Becker

interested in reading the five or six first and best. It is a costly but an easy competition to lose. The lottery has better odds.

One may attain the level of *Philosopher of Fashion* by noting the fashion of the season and then dressing in some other manner calculated by intention. Everyone who does this, to at least a small extent, wins. I include grunge in this category, but it is one of many options, and, since it was elevated for a time to Fashion, has pitfalls – it can be indistinguishable from Clunky.

The Way of Attainment

A) *Consistency is the enemy.*

Don't use the same solutions every fall, etc. Keep a couple of those large plastic storage bins for clothes you should put away for a couple of years until they are surprising again. Buy or construct extra closet space. Abundant supply is the foundation upon which a surprising outfit may be regularly built.

B) *Become an expert on one accessory and acquire a large supply.*

Plan your outfit for the day around that accessory. Be it stockings or neckties, hats or suspenders, make that accessory your fashion trademark. My own choice, of course, has been neckties.



C) *Never buy retail (except as in D, below).*

Clothing is made to be fashionable in a season. By removing it from its season and all the associations of that moment, it can be recreated and renewed – or boring and homely. Select your clothing cannily in after-season sales, or at best in the finest thrift shops, nearly-new stores, or church sales wherever the wealthy go to church.

Do not entirely scorn the Salvation Army stores and such, but travel on occasion to wealthy suburbs and you will be richly rewarded in fine clothing at reasonable prices. Once last winter Kathryn bought three cashmere sweaters in a weekend for a total price of \$18.00. My last Brooks Brothers jacket cost \$10.00.

I know a man who used to go to England every year and buy a used Rolls Royce for a couple of thousand dollars, then ship it back to the U.S., drive it for a year and then sell it to finance his next trip and buy another. He always had money left over and by the time I met him often bought two or more cars. It worked for years, and so I incorporated his insight into my theory.



D) *Remember to have a fashionable outfit.*

Pick a public occasion every few months and wear it to separate yourself from the Ignorants, both in their eyes, and in the eyes of the poor Fashionables. And nothing beats a tailored outfit or designer dress on those occasions when you want to look like a million dollars.

E) *Always pick another color.*

Every season has its colors. Avoid them. You are free to build an outfit from every other color and shade. (Avoid unaccompanied black 'til the 21st century. It is merely the hip color of invisibility and indistinguishable from Fashion.)

F) *Enlightened practitioners use unusual juxtapositions of color.*

Never fear to experiment with striking clashes. You will win in the eyes of most Fashionable people (who are insecure because they can never tell whether you are the next wave they might have to imitate) and be accorded the respect of your peers, who appreciate stylistic experimentation. Holy Ignorants may think you are funny, but will take pains to ignore it, or treat you like an equal. You still win.



BASFA Minutes: Meetings 992-993

Meeting 992

August 3, 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 at 8.

14 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 991 were not available.

The Treasurer is in Canada – and the proxy report is that at meeting 991 we took in \$8.65 in the regular jar and \$10.30 in the party jar.

The VP was not here – and we unanimously agreed that he is non-duplicable.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

The Website Committee reported that BASFA needs a better web-master and so Art is stepping aside and asking one to appear who wants the job.

Announcements

Lisa announced that Worldcon is this weekend.

Reviews

I reviewed *The Hangover* as surprisingly funny and amazingly stupid – worth seeing twice; reviewed the PS2 game *Persona 3* as lots of fun, challenging and a real shot in the head; and reviewed American Eagle as less annoying and unpleasant than most flights.

Stellen reviewed his new GPS tech toy as a very nice piece of equipment and he likes it quite a lot.

Lisa reviewed Trepidation 2009 – a “bittercon” for those not attending Worldcon – as organized in 7 days and amazingly fun and silly.

Dave C reviewed the score for *Danger Diabolique* as “he’s gotten better” and it’s really cheesy – “bad, BAD music” and “words fail me,” but if you like cheese, it’s worth full price – and he recommends that Chris look at the Youtube *Twilight High School Musical*.

Art reviewed ComicCon – 125,000 of his closest friends – and rode the train to get there; that it was a disaster – too large and confused and he heard there were events going on in Hall H – but he never managed to get inside and see any [BAD *Twilight* campers!] – but the train service was pretty good.

We did auctions: mystery posters for \$0.25 and magazines for \$0.25.

We adjourned at = 8:38

And the rumor of the week was: *Good thing Glenn's not here.*

Meeting 993

August 10, 2009

There was a BASFA meeting held in Montreal. See Chris's report in “News and Notes.”

Join Us at a Truly Shiny Shindig Inspired by that Most Serene of Science Fiction westerns at

The Space Cowboys' Ball

(Sponsored by The Period Events & Entertainments Re-Creation Society)

Saturday, September 5, 2009
The San Mateo Masonic Temple Ballroom
100 North Ellsworth Avenue (at Tilton)
San Mateo, California

Doors open at 6:45 pm
Dance lesson at 7:00 pm
Formal Dancing: 8:00 p.m. to Midnight

There will be a no-host (cash) bar, soft drinks for sale for temperance folk and minors, and a complimentary light buffet of Neo-Western snacks. Given local food shortages, your potluck contributions to the buffet are greatly appreciated!



Tickets: \$15.00 in advance
(by August 29)
\$20.00 at the door

The shiniest band in the 'verse
Bangers and Mash
plays an evening of 19th century dances and neo-19th century dance reconstructions in keeping with the evening's theme

Western, 19th or neo-19th century costume, or science fiction/fantasy costume from any universe is admired, not required, and creative blending of past and future styles is always encouraged (Just now, Old West, Chinese and Indian motifs are fashionable and, of course Browncoats are extremely welcome!).

Advance Tickets for The Space Cowboys' Ball are \$15 each. Payment must be received by August 29, 2009. Reservations received after that will not be processed. Tickets are available at the door the evening of the event for \$20.00 each.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone Number _____ Number of Tickets _____

Please return this ticket to us by August 29 to purchase advance tickets, or purchase them using PayPal at peers.org/space.html

Period Events & Entertainments Re-Creation Society, Inc.
P.E.E.R.S.
2144 B Buena Vista Ave
Alameda CA 94501

The Period Events & Entertainments Re-Creation Society, Inc.
is a Nonprofit Educational Organization
For More Information Please Contact us at (510) 522-1731
peers@peers.org
<http://www.peers.org/space.html>

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.

Saturday, August 22

SF in SF: Elizabeth Lynn & Marta Randall

Hobart Building

582 Market Street, San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

Bar proceeds benefit Variety Children's Charity

7 p.m. Free

Thursday, August 27

Not Your Mother's Book Club: Vampires & Zombies & Demons, Oh My!

Books Inc.

855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

www.notyourmothersbookclub.com

NYMC takes a walk on the dark side with *Vampire Academy* author Richelle Mead and *Strange Angels* author Lili St. Crow. BYO strings of garlic and silver bullets.

7 p.m. Free

Thursday, August 27

Brother From Another Planet

Pacific Film Archive

Berkeley

www.bampfa.berkeley.edu

The John Sayles film starring Joe Morton plays as part of the BAM/PFA Secrets Beyond the Door: Treasures from the UCLA Festival of Preservation film program.

8:25 p.m. \$5.50

Friday, August 28

The Phenomenauts

The Phoenix Theater

201 Washington Street, Petaluma

www.thephoenixtheater.com

All ages show, with the The Re-Volts

8 p.m. \$12

Sunday, August 30

Tachyon Publications 14th Anniversary Party

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street, San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

The Emperor Norton awards, a special Tachyon giveaway, food, refreshments, and lots of special guests!

2 p.m. Free

Sunday, August 30

SF/SF Summer Picnic

Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum & Planetarium

1664 Park Ave., San Jose

www.egyptianmuseum.org

Steampunk Picnic and Egyptian Museum Tour. Bring your own picnic food and blankets to sit on. Costume theme is Steampunk, Egyptian or 1920s Mummy movies. (Costumes admired but not required.) Prizes. Trivia contest. RSVP to sfinsf@gmail.com by August 15.

11 a.m. \$9 for museum admission

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. Date changed from October due to a scheduling conflict.

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

Thursday, September 10

Thrillville: Lucha Beach Party!

Balboa Theatre
3630 Balboa St
www.thrillville.net

Thrillville takes its show on the road and mixes Lucha with beach party mayhem. Mil Mascaras Vs. The Aztec Mummy plus STOMP! SHOUT! SCREAM!

7:30 p.m. \$12

Saturday, September 12

Writers With Drinks

The Make-Out Room
3225 22nd St., San Francisco
www.writerswithdrinks.com

Lev Grossman, Jeremy Adam Smith and John Shirley. All proceeds benefit the Center for Sex and Culture.

7:30 p.m. \$3-\$5 sliding scale.

Thursday, September 17

Thrillville: Lucha Beach Party!

Camera 3 Cinema
288 S. Second St, San Jose
www.thrillville.net

Thrillville takes its show on the road and mixes Lucha with beach party mayhem. Mil Mascaras Vs. The Aztec Mummy plus STOMP! SHOUT! SCREAM! Live surf music by Aardvark and a special appearance by the Rockabilly Models.

7:30 p.m. \$12

Saturday, September 19

The Tomorrowmen

Thee Parkside
1600 17th Street, San Francisco
www.myspace.com/tomorrowmen

All ages happy hour show
5 p.m.

Sunday, September 20

The Tomorrowmen

Hotel Utah
500 4th Street, San Francisco
www.myspace.com/tomorrowmen
Surf Sunday with Pollo Del Mar and Secret Samurai from San Diego.
8 p.m.

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.
\$20 (till September 15)

Saturday, September 26

Seelie and Unseelie Fairy Court Gathering

GBACG Event
Alana's Cafe
1020 Main Street, Redwood City
www.gbacg.org

Free 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! 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

Friday-Sunday, October 2-4

SiliCon

The Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose
www.siliconventions.com
The theme this year is Heroes and Villains. GOH are Ken Lally, Christy Marx, Sarah Clemens and Hilary Ayer. Toastmaster is Kevin Roche.

\$55 (till September 15)

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. (Date changed from September.)

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

Saturday, October 10

Writers With Drinks

The Make-Out Room

3225 22nd St., San Francisco

www.writerswithdrinks.com

Anthony Sworfford, Roz Savage, Doug Dorst, Rachel Pollack and Linda Watanabe McFerrin.

All proceeds benefit the Center for Sex and Culture.

7:30 p.m. \$3-\$5 sliding scale.

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

\$14

Thursday, October 22

Thrillville: Gorefest

Camera 3 Cinema

288 S. Second St, San Jose

www.thrillville.net

Featuring two brand new B-movie classics from Monogram Releasing and the B Movie Nation: *Poultrygeist* and Kevin Tenney's *Brain Dead*. Live music by Aardvark and Actual Rafiq.

7:30 p.m. \$12

Thursday, October 22

Thrillville: Gorefest

Balboa Theatre

3630 Balboa St

www.thrillville.net

Featuring two brand new B-movie classics from Monogram Releasing and the B Movie Nation: *Poultrygeist* and Kevin Tenney's *Brain Dead*. Live music by The Deadlies.

7:30 p.m. \$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

Wednesday, October 28

City Arts and Lectures: Jonathan Lethem

Herbst Theater

401 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

www.cityarts.net

In conversation with Paul Lancour

8 p.m. \$20

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 (till August 31)

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 (till Sep 26)

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)

Wednesday, November 9

City Arts and Lectures: Michael Chabon & Adam Gopnick

Herbst Theater
401 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco
www.cityarts.net

8 p.m. \$20

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

Saturday, January 2

Victorian 12th Night Ball

PEERS Event
Location TBD
www.peers.org

12th Night Ball hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig, live performance by Bangers and Mash. Suggested costume is evening or day dress from 1837 through 1870, any class. Modern evening dress is, as always, a completely acceptable substitute for period costume and there is no dress code for the evening

7 p.m. \$15 (till December 26)

Saturday, February 6

Le Mardi Gras des Vampires

PEERS Event
Location TBD
www.peers.org

New Orleans' most amusing hosts, Lestat de Lioncourt and Louis de Pointe du Lac, and their ward, Mlle. Claudia, invite you to a joyous Mardi Gras Ball in true Nineteenth century ante-bellum New Orleans style. Suggested attire is period costume, fantasy Mardi Gras costume, or a fanciful version of period costume. Modern evening dress is perfectly acceptable and there is no dress code for the ball. To protect your reputation, masks are strongly recommended.

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

Friday-Sunday, March 5-7

Consonance

Hilton Newark/Fremont
39900 Balentine Drive, Fremont
www.consonance.org

Filk Convention. GOH are Tricky Pixie, Chris O'Shea, Ju Honisch & Katy Droege. Toastmistress is Judi Miller.

\$40 (till October 31)

Friday-Sunday, April 2-4

Contact

NASA Ames Research Center
www.contact-conference.com
Details TBA

Ongoing

Daily

Cartoon Art Museum

655 Mission Street, San Francisco
www.cartoonart.com

Once Upon a Dream, The Art of Sleeping Beauty (through January 10, 2010)
Masters of Webcomics (through December 6, 2009)
\$6

San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel
1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco
www.sfghosthunt.com
7 p.m. – 10 p.m. \$20

VIZ Theater Schedule

1746 Post Street, San Francisco
www.newpeopleworld.com/films
VIZ Cinema is a 143-seat underground cinema inside NEW PEOPLE in San Francisco. Its programming focuses on the latest and hottest films from Japan, as well as classics, favorites, documentaries and anime.
Current and upcoming Schedule: Manga Attack! *20th Century Boys 1, 2 & 3*, *Bleach the Movie: Diamond Dust Rebellion* and *Death Note: L, Change the World*.
Please check theater for showtimes and tickets.

Sundays

MGI SF&F/Horror/Speculative fiction Writing Group

Personal Residence (email for details)
Emeryville
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGISFFWriters
7:30 p.m. Free

Sakramento Anime Society

Rancho Cordova Library
9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova
Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.
3-7 p.m.

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 TB, tentative return dates in November.
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.

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

Carl's Jr.

2551 N 1st St , San Jose

www.legionofrassilon.org

Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.

7:30 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

www.claytonbookshop.com

The book for August 19th is *The Runelords* by David Fairland. Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

7:30 p.m.

Free

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
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

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

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

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

USS Northern Lights

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



Tea With the Black Dragon

by Lucy Huntzinger

Bay Area Fannish Calendar – August 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>BA Role-Playing Soc</i> <i>E.Bay Strategy Games</i> <i>Fanboy Planet Podcast</i> <i>SV Boardgamers</i> | | <i>FyDy SyFy</i> <i>SF Games</i> | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 <i>Richard Kadrey</i> <i>Good Omens Con 3</i> <i>Endgame 8th Anniv</i> <i>River City Picnic Dance</i> <i>Silicon Browncoats</i> |
| 2 <i>Foothill Anime</i> | 3 | 4 <i>Steve Englehart</i> | 5 | 6 <i>SF&F Writers' Group</i> | 7 | 8 <i>Writers With Drinks</i> <i>Kin-Yoobi Con</i> <i>Fantastic Frontiers</i> <i>No-Name Anime</i> <i>SF Browncoats</i> |
| 9 <i>Gay Men's Book Club</i> <i>SF Santa Rosa Meetup</i> | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 <i>Tangential</i> <i>Conjectures</i> | 14 <i>East Bay Star Wars</i> <i>USS Northern Lights</i> | 15 <i>New People/J-Pop</i> <i>Center Grand Opening</i> <i>Micro Gods, Inc</i> <i>Clockwork SF</i> |
| 16 <i>SF/F Book Club</i> | 17 | 18 | 19 <i>Clayton SFF Book</i> <i>Club</i> | 20 | 21 <i>USS Defiance</i> | 22 <i>SF in SF: Elizabeth</i> <i>Lynn & Marta Randall</i> <i>USS Augusta Ada</i> |
| 23 <i>Religion & SF</i> | 24 | 25 | 26 <i>Other Realms</i> | 27 <i>Vampires & Zombies</i> <i>& Demons, Oh My!</i> <i>Brother From Another</i> <i>Planet</i> | 28 <i>The Phenomenauts</i> <i>Legion of Rassilon</i> | 29 <i>Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</i> |
| 30 <i>Tachyon Pubs 14th Anniv</i> <i>SF/SF Summer Picnic</i> | 31 | | | | | |

Bay Area Fannish Calendar – September 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>BA Role-Playing Soc</i> <i>E.Bay Strategy Games</i> <i>Fanboy Planet Podcast</i> <i>SV Boardgamers</i> | | <i>FyDy SyFy</i> <i>SF Games</i> | |
| 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 <i>Space Cowboys Ball</i> <i>Silicon Browncoats</i> <i>Rocky Horror</i> |
| 6 <i>Foothill Anime</i> | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 <i>Thrillville: Lucha</i> <i>Beach Party!</i> <i>SF&F Writers' Group</i> | 11 <i>East Bay Star Wars</i> <i>USS Northern Lights</i> | 12 <i>Writers With Drinks</i> <i>Fantastic Frontiers</i> <i>No-Name Anime</i> <i>SF Browncoats</i> |
| 13 <i>Gay Men's Book Club</i> <i>SF Santa Rosa Meetup</i> | 14 | 15 | 16 <i>Clayton SFF Book</i> <i>Club</i> | 17 <i>Thrillville: Lucha</i> <i>Beach Party!</i> <i>Tangential</i> <i>Conjectures</i> | 18 <i>USS Defiance</i> | 19 <i>The Tomorrowmen</i> <i>Micro Gods, Inc</i> <i>Clockwork SF</i> |
| 20 <i>The Tomorrowmen</i> <i>SF/F Book Club</i> | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 <i>From the Land Beyond</i> <i>(thru Sun)</i> <i>Legion of Rassilon</i> | 26 <i>Seelie and Unseelie</i> <i>Fairy Court Gathering</i> <i>USS Augusta Ada</i> <i>Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</i> |
| 27 <i>Handcar Regatta</i> <i>Religion & SF</i> | 28 | 29 | 30 <i>Other Realms</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 |