

# Science Fiction/San Francisco

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**City by the bay**

by Lucy Huntzinger

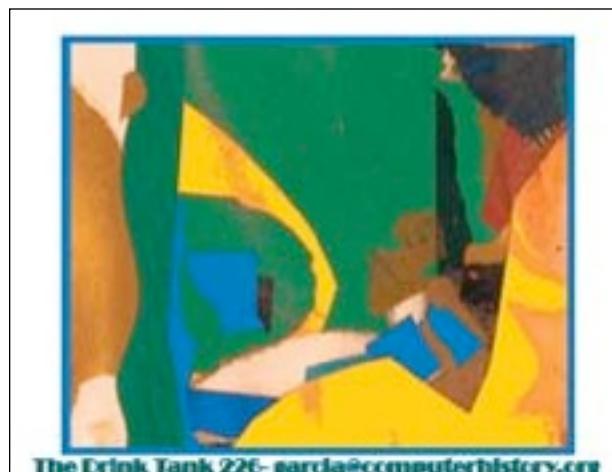
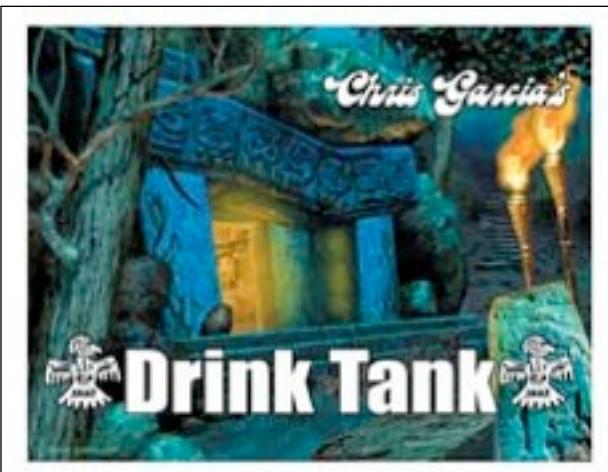
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# News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia  
Editor

It's getting to be that time again. World Fantasy and SiliCon are just around the corner as I write this, and BayCon has started its meeting process, so it's busy as always. That's one thing about the BArea: the sun never sets on our fanac.

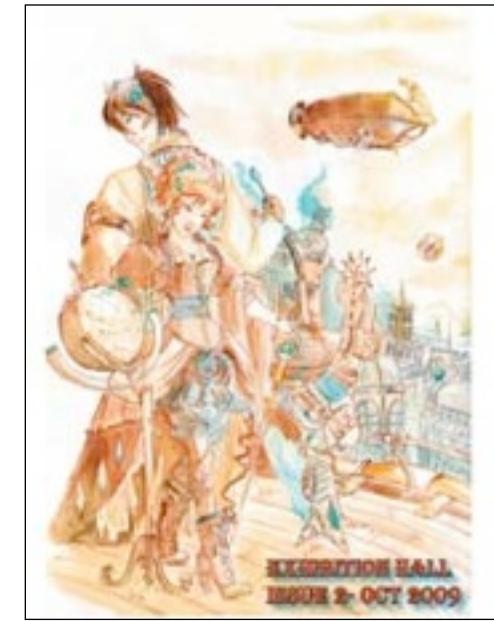
*The Drink Tank*, as always, rolls on towards infinity. The latest issues have focused on my latest obsession: *Jennifer's Body*. The first review I did of it was a long look, largely comparing it to *Scream*, and the second was all about how we've been failed by Horror Films and Teen Films alike and how *Jennifer's Body* exposes that so thoroughly. They're both fun issues which also include some Taral Wayne and more. They're decent issues.



We've got the new issue of *Exhibition Hall* featuring some excellent stuff. There's a review of the BArea's own Gail Carriger's *Soulless*, which was released on October first. There's a long look at Continuum 5: Galaxies by Gaslight, a Steampunk-themed con in Melbourne, Australia, a lovely interview from Hip-Hop's own Mr. B, Gentleman Rhymer, a fine article on Phileas Fogg from Howard V. Hendrix, and so much more. I really think it's coming together.

If you haven't read *Banana Wings* 39, you've missed out on one of the better articles about running a major con from James Bacon. It's a really good little article.

SorcererCon is coming to the DoubleTree on Thanksgiving weekend and Mo Starkey's been doing the programming and I've heard



that it's a really good little program. I'm hoping that the second year will be on a different weekend, since LosCon is so popular with BArea fans.

I've been going crazy on the Dining Guide for World Fantasy, but I really think it will be a useful document, since it covers the Downtown area so thoroughly. It's a good piece, and the day-trip articles from folks like David Bratman, Rina Weisman, Ed Stokke, M Lloyd and myself are actually very useful.

As I write this, it's just been determined that the Geelong Cats will be facing the St. Kilda Saints in the Aussie Rules Football Grand Final. The Cats are my team, and it's the

third straight appearance of the Cats in the Grand Final, having won in 2007 and lost in an upset to Hawthorne last year.

The new Pirates of the Caribbean film is called *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*, which happens to be the title of a fantastic Tim Powers novel. Is there a connection? According to my guy at Disney (Howdy, Dave!), there is, in fact, a connection, though how strong he couldn't say and you can bet that's the first thing I'll be asking Tim if I can manage to get a moment with him at Steamcon. He'll be the GoH and will also be at World Fantasy. I'm hoping that it will seriously raise Tim's profile, because he's not nearly the superstar he should be!

World Fantasy is sold out. This should be a great con, and expect serious coverage from the SF/SF folks as Jean Martin is one of the Media Relations folks, and I'm on staff too, and I think there are a couple of others who are regulars that submit this way that'll be there. I cannot wait to get a chance to sit down with Richard Lupoff and hopefully, Tim Powers. He's the ginchest!

The Emmys took place last weekend and true to form, very few awards were given to good genre shows. Kristin Chenoweth of

*Pushing Daisies* won one, which is fantastic. I already miss that show. The first season was really among the greatest seasons of any television show ever. Sadly, it was never going to make it. And, luckily for the height of bile in my throat, *Battlestar Galactica* did not win any awards. William Shatner also lost, which is a shame, though he was beaten by Bryan Cranston of *Breaking Bad*, who is a fine actor.

*Jennifer's Body* is the greatest movie ever. Just sayin' is all!

Speaking of movies, there are a ton of SF/Fantasy/Horror movies coming out towards the end of the year. We just saw *The Surrogates*, *Paranormal Activity* and *Pandorum* all come out last weekend, and there's *Zombieland*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Astro Boy*, *Saw VI* and *Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant* all coming out in October. November has *A Christmas Carol* with Jim Carey, 2012 (which is gonna suck!), *The Fantastic Mr. Fox*, and most importantly, *The Twilight Saga: New Moon*. December is all about *Avatar* and then *Sherlock Holmes* on Christmas day. I'm most excited about that one. I love Robert Downey, Jr. and I can't wait to see the film. The preview made me worry slightly when I saw it with *Harry Potter*, but I think it'll be decent.



John Theil has a new issue of *Surprising Stories*. I haven't read it yet, but you can get a look at it at [surprisingstories.dawi.com](http://surprisingstories.dawi.com).

The Nova Albion Steampunk Exhibition has dates and a location! It'll be at the Oakland Hilton Garden Inn in Emeryville. It's a good place for a con! That's March 12th to 14th, 2010. They've announced only two panelists, though I know they're putting it together as we speak. With Steamcon coming, it's a good time to be a West Coast Steampunk!

# *Editorial*

**By Jean Martin**

*Editor*

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away... well, the Philippines to be exact...a young woman named Jean Picache was into sci fi, fantasy and heavy metal. She felt different because very few people in her conservative, traditional and religious society were into these things.

After college, she spent several months in the San Francisco Bay Area and found her true home. She cried the entire time when she came back to the Philippines after a halcyon Spring and Summer. "I want my MTV!" she moaned. She got hooked on watching music videos of Bon Jovi, Whitesnake, Def Leppard, Van Halen, Dokken, Tesla, etc., which she couldn't get back home. While in the Bay Area, she also reveled being in the land of George Lucas and Skywalker Ranch.

Her dream came true as she returned to get her MBA at the University of San Francisco. And she's been here ever since.

This story is about me, of course. It took me 16 years to find sci fi/fantasy fandom and become an active, and I dare say integral, part of the community — although I did get to tour Skywalker Ranch, and see George Lucas with my own eyes, at the start of this decade. But way before discovering fandom, as some of

you may know, I was deeply involved in the early 1990s Bay Area heavy metal scene.

A lot of people who only know me now as the elegant historical dancer and performer, intrepid fandom journalist and/or award-winning Cosplayer are often surprised to find out that I am and always will be a heavy metal chick. I used to frequent all the metal clubs: The Stone, Omni, One Step Beyond, Real Rock, Mabuhay Gardens, Terminator (where Bondage A-Go-Go started). I went to most concerts by bands that came into town and, of course, interviewed and/or hung out with them. I even journeyed to L.A. for heavy metal industry conventions. These were professional conventions and I got to attend press conferences and meet rock stars like Ozzy Osbourne, Motley Crue, KISS, Aerosmith and The Scorpions. Those years are among the best in my life. I truly partied like a rock star in those days.

I was then, as now, a photographer, writer and editor. I published my own print magazine called *Nocturne*, which I did for three years until the scene completely died. My staff and I covered all the major label acts that came into town and we also promoted local bands.

The reason I'm bringing this up now is that after the metal scene disappeared, I was in limbo creatively for ten years. I tried various

avenues to recapture an active creative outlet — such as scrapbooking, singing in a church choir, competing in karaoke contests and taking various dance classes — but I couldn't seem to find the sense of community I had back then. In those days, I could walk into any club and I would know most of the people there. One of my most memorable experiences was when my friend Kristin asked the band High Wire to sing "Happy Birthday" to me from on stage at the Stone. Everyone at the club sang along and the singer Kelly handed me balloons and flowers.

Sci fi/fantasy fandom has provided me with pretty much the same things I enjoyed and felt fulfilled by back then. The dance community is an adjunct to that and there is a lot of overlap with these two communities. Then, as now, my life involves writing, photography, music, dressing up, partying, friends, doing publicity, fanzines, conventions, meeting famous people, and more. But there was just something about musicians and metal music — especially live — that touched my heart and soul and that remained elusive. I thought I'd never be able to have that again.

For some reason, fate has brought metal back to me this year. I felt it in my bones that something big was coming my way (as I've mentioned in some previous editorials) but I never expected it to come in this form. Chris

did a review of the first issue of *Nocturne* Magazine in *SF/SF* Issue 75, almost exactly a year ago. In it, he echoed my sentiments above when he concluded that “all fandoms are the same when you move away from the subject of them.” I credit Chris’s review with starting the wheels in motion for the Universe to bring my life full circle.

Because last February, Marc, the guitar player of High Wire, emailed me out of the blue to ask if his band could use some of the photos I took of them performing live for their upcoming CD. We’re talking photos from 19 years ago! The band got picked up by a record label after all these years! Their CD contains tracks they recorded in the early 1990s and their music still sounds great today. And it’s a thrill to have photos of mine on a commercially available CD.

High Wire had a reunion concert last August and they looked and sounded fantastic! A lot of people showed up and everyone enjoyed their music and had an incredible time. It was also amazing to reconnect with friends I haven’t seen in almost 17 years. It was a revelation to me that although there isn’t a metal scene to speak of anymore, there are still some who continue to play metal music and/or enjoy listening to it.

I lost touch with literally everyone after I got married in 1994. My ex-husband used to be the lead singer in a heavy metal band (his band even played at CBGB) but he was from New York and wasn’t really a part of the Bay Area

scene. Worse yet, he was defecting to jazz around the time we met.

So it was awesome to relive the metal scene and recapture my youth even for just one evening. I especially enjoyed seeing Kristin again as well as Erin (whom I actually ran into at a Neil Gaiman book signing in 2006), and Sona (who also performed that night and was responsible for organizing the concert). But I wanted more! Yeah, right: With *SF/SF*, and all the sci fi and dance groups I help promote and perform and/or participate in, how could I possibly fit another world in? But I thought the question was a moot point because as I mentioned earlier, I thought the metal scene no longer existed.

Boy, was I wrong! Apparently, I missed a Terminator one-night only comeback last July. I’m so bummed I missed that! But I didn’t miss the Guitar Player/Shrapnel Records Night on September 11. I found out about it that same day from Mike Varney, the owner of Shrapnel Records. I had sent him a Facebook friend request just the day before. Talk about perfect timing! The concert was all the way in Livermore, and I already had plans, but I unmade them as I was determined to go.

The headliner was Richie Kotzen. When he was recording his second album for Shrapnel, 19 years ago, he didn’t really know anyone in the Bay Area. Mike asked me if I could keep Richie company for one day, so I took him to see a movie. Richie went on to become one of

the guitar players for Poison and Mr. Big and to have a successful solo career of his own.

He didn’t remember who I was. Oh well, it was a long time ago so I don’t hold it against him. He was nice enough to let me in backstage and I was so happy to see Mike Varney again. He’s a charming and inspirational man and we’ve always had great conversations. This time was no exception. Mike was the emcee for the evening and guitar phenomenon Jason Becker was also there to receive a special award from *Guitar Player* Magazine named after him. Jason has Lou Gehrig’s disease and the first time I met him was in L.A. almost 20 years ago at a benefit held in his honor. There were lots of rock stars at that benefit, so I got to hang out backstage with Eric Martin (Mr. Big), Jeff Pilson (Dokken), Steve Vai, Michael Anthony (Van Halen), Danny Stag (Kingdom Come), Vivian Campbell (Whitesnake, Def Leppard), and many others.

I’d never actually seen Richie on stage until that night and I was completely blown away. He’s not only a virtuoso guitar player but he also has a soulful voice and an electric stage presence. He was completely one with the music.

Times have definitely changed, though, because after both the High Wire and *Guitar Player*/Shrapnel concerts, almost everyone left around the Cinderella hour. Being a night owl and used to fandom parties that last till dawn, and “afters” (gatherings at diners open past

midnight) after dances, I was surprised to see rockers heading home so early.

I have no idea how far this will take me. Perhaps it's just a short flashback episode, perhaps a new life path. But I'm excited about being in touch with old metal friends again. I've already heard of several metal acts releasing CDs soon and maybe even touring. The big hair is gone for the most part (sigh), but the heart and spirit of metal lives on.

Rest assured, however, that *SF/SF* is still one of my top priorities and I will definitely be seen cutting the rug at a dance floor near you. And I hope to see several of my friends and our readers at SiliCon (the first weekend of October), where I'll be a speaker at two panels on Saturday afternoon. I will even attempt to perform at (or at least be at) the PEERS Sweeney Todd Ball that same evening.

## Join our crew!

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



Noah

by Aidan Casserly

# Letters of Comment

## Let us start with a certain Mr. Joe Major!

Christopher J. Garcia and Jean Martin. Or just Chris:

Now you've made me go and do it.

Why isn't there that much SF reviewing? I began to get an idea a couple of years ago. That was, you recall, about the time we met, in Collinsville, at NASFiC.

I went into the dealers' room and surveyed Larry Smith's abundant supply of books. As I gradually evaluated the various tomes available for purchase I began to notice a certain disproportion.

It seemed that the vast majority of volumes available had a certain pattern of cover art, and presumably of topic. They featured a young woman, in tight leather trousers and a bikini top, with some sort of weapon (a stake and hammer, a futuristic handgun, or the like) viewing an urban setting. The young woman was always "buffed," a splendid physical specimen.

Her occupation was hunter of some supernatural being — usually vampires, but occasionally others. Yet the vampires would be...not all that much like the classical portrayal, aside from needing blood. You'd have an evil vampire, a rich one, and a hunky vampire stud who the vampire hunter would end up bedding.

The classical portrayal wouldn't work, not today. A vampire was a horrific creature, back then, aged, perhaps looking more than a little puffy...imagine Anna Paquin getting it on with Al Lewis. On the other hand, don't, that might burn out your brain.

It's harder to find science fiction, as opposed to "futuristic and time-travel romance." What SF there is, is all too often tie-ins, works in "the thrilling universe of" big-name author, incomprehensible tales of transcendent beings, and milSF. (That last needs another discussion; suffice it to say that the young woman in a tank top firing a squad automatic weapon from the hip to be found on the covers (and even in the pages) of such works is the equivalent of the valiant woman warrior on the fantasy cover wielding a sword wider than her arms.) We may be reaching a period similar to that around 1960, when SF had become so stuck in its ruts. Earl Kemp's survey of that malaise, the Hugo-winning *Who Killed Science Fiction?*, could identify the problem by a survey of the important people in the field. Nowadays there is no such community to draw on.

And now you know why you're more likely to find a review of a book on espionage in the pages of *Alexiad* than of, say *Buffy and the SAW* by Horatia Hackett. (Incidentally, "Nigel West" has a new book coming out on the

Cambridge Spies, and since Amazon has shipped my copy, you can about count on a review nextish. He's liked my reviews before, too.)

Namarie,

Joseph T Major

*Chris Garcia replies: Very good points, one and all. There's such a huge volume of SF available right now, but the ones that I see the most often are those Hot Chick cover type. Sadly, one of my favorite series, the Kitty Norville books by Carrie Vaughn, would probably fall into that category. That said, I think there's a few sensational novels published every year. On the other hand, there are never too few awesome espionage novels or non-fiction books, for that matter. I think Alexiad is a fantastic source for non-fiction updates. I do think that there needs to be a new version of Who Killed Science Fiction, though. You wanna co-edit it?*

*Thanks, Joe! Good to hang with ya a bit at Worldcon!*

**And now, Mr. John Purcell!**

Man, I am waaayyy out of practice in writing locs. I finally have a bit of time to rattle off a few tonight while the chicken is on the grill, and realized that it's been nearly a month since I have actually written a full-blown letter of comment. You folks are the lucky recipients.

So let's see what there is to say in your latest ish.

**Chris replies: WOOHOO! We won the temporal lottery!**

Yes, indeed, as Chris notes in his opening salvo, all three major fan funds are now open, which means I have until the end of December this year to make up my mind once and for all if I really want to stand for DUFF. The problem is not the destination nor the fundage (for once in my life), but my career that is standing in the way. I really should be writing and defending my Dissertation next summer if I am to finish my PhD next year and be done with the damned thing in December, '10. That's my goal. If I have to shunt standing for DUFF aside, so be it. In a couple more years, it will be open again, and that's good. So, stay tuned to this bat-channel for further developments.

**TAFF is sooner, leaves more time for things! Think about it...**

There has been a lot of good stuff being posted to efanzines and plonking into my snail mailbox lately, notably *Banana Wings* #39. It's another sterling publication from the fishlifters, and deserving of all intelligent fen's reading attention. Very, very good zine. AND your lovely zine is a contributing part to a fine article about loccing trends by Claire Brialey. If you haven't seen that article, go and read. Claire raises some interesting points, which likewise find their way into my latest ish, which I just shipped off to Bill Burns this morning for posting to efanzines. Some of the other zines you listed are also excellent titles: *So It Goes*, *Interstellar Ramjet Scoop*, and

*Visions of Paradise* are fun reads. It is very good of you to spread the word about these fine zines, Chris. Keep up the good work.

**I really think that most of my zines are under-LoCed, though I understand why. The Drink Tank comes out too often, Claims Department is just flat-out hard to figure out, SF/SF is pretty much a local zine, and Journey Planet gets decent response when we send out issues, though not the eFanzines version. I love Interstellar Ramjet Scoop. Bill just does great stuff.**

Just the opposite of Chris's recent reading tastes, I've been reading more science fiction lately. I also enjoy mysteries — historical mysteries, especially — but this summer I have actually read real science fiction novels! Whow, what a concept: an sf fan reading SF. Good books, all. I have finally gotten into reading the Mars trilogy by Kim Stanley Robinson, and books by S.M. Stirling, Frederik Pohl, and Joanna Russ. This all got kick-started by grabbing *Carson of Venus* off the bookshelf back in March (I think), and it's all been downhill from there. By the way, if you've ever read Burrough's Venus books, you really MUST read *The Sky People* by Stirling. It is truly a natural follow-up.

**I've got a Norman Spinrad novel that I'm going into in the next couple of days (The Iron Dream) and likely along the way I'll get myself reading Soulless by Gail Carriger.**

It is really too bad that Matt Appleton folded *Some Fantastic*; that was a wonderful zine, one of the few sercon zines that I enjoyed reading. *Emerald City*, too. We still have *Steam*

*Engine Time*, which is a top-notch zine, and hopefully Rich Coad will put out more issues of *Sense of Wonder Stories*. There is a place for well-produced sercon zines in fanzine fandom, so maybe the future will bring us more. We can always hope.

**We can, John. We really can.**

I have to agree with Kevin Standley about retroactively disqualifying *Electric Velocipede* simply for the reasons he gave. There has been a bunch of sour graping about *EV*'s winning the Best Fanzine Hugo this year, but what's done is done. If anything is to be accomplished in redefining categories and eligibility qualifications, that is up to people who are willing to sit down and work on the issue so that such controversial results can be avoided in the future. I freely admit that I am not that super-duper serious about working on Worldcon committees (never have been that kind of a con-organizing fan in my fannish career), but in my own small way it does interest me and I am willing to inject my two cents worth into the discussion. For what it's worth, Anticipation wouldn't have been a proper Worldcon without SOME kind of controversy, right? Right. Let those who have the knowledge and wherewithal sweat the details. In the meantime, back to the fun.

**I will someday get an acting gig where I have to portray sheer malice, and I'll draw on the look on Guy's face when they announced it. I'm still not happy that it won, though I may well have voted it a close second in Best Semi-Pro. It happens every year, though there**

*seems to be a significant number of things to comment on this year.*

The neat thing about fanzines — and Kevin is a good guy willing to take part in this — is that we have a means of communicating with each other about stuff like this. We share interests and passions about the science fiction community, and that is such A Good Thing. If nobody cared, then nothing substantial would ever be taken care of. That's why I respect people like Kevin Standlee, Cheryl Morgan, Steven H (no period) Silver, Joe Siclari, and all the others who are willing to dive into a pool of troubled waters and attempt to reduce the waves to mere ripples of interest. (How's that for an extended analogy? I've been working on them in the classes I teach at Blinn College.) I for one am glad that paper fanzines have begat

the electronic versions, complete with blogs, twitterings, and listservs. We live in an interesting time.

*I spent the day at a meeting sitting next to Kevin today. The two of us are very different in our philosophies of Fandom, and specifically the Hugos. The one thing I certainly share with Kevin, and a whole bunch of others in just about every area of Fandom, is a love of Fandom. I think Bart Simpson said it best: the tiny freakin' differences are nothing compared to the big stupid similarities!*

Speaking of interesting, my wife enjoyed the Steampunk Picnic article, especially the pictures. Val is getting more and more into hand-crafting Steampunk jewelry and accessories. Having the picnic at that Egyptian

museum was a brilliant idea. You all looked like you belonged there! Good write up, too. Good job, Jean.

*You should give a read to Exhibition Hall. Issue 2 has some great photos of Dragon\*Con, The Antique Auto Drive-In and some more lovely art.*

Well, the rest of this issue was fun, too, but I've been rambling too long. Time to check on the chicken again (I've been taking breaks from typing to turn and temp check the bird). Boy, is it starting to smell yummy.

All the best,

John Purcell

*I love chicken. Save some for me.*

# This Old Fanzine: Trial and Air Number 14

By Christopher J. Garcia  
*Editor*

I was a member of FAPA (the Fantasy Amateur Press Association) from the August 2005 mailing until the August 2009 mailing. Sadly, it turns out that I'm really no good at APAs, especially those that require you to print stuff. I'm just not that kind of fan, I think. I can crap out an issue of *The Drink Tank* or *Claims Department* in less time than it takes me to simply comment on a single APAzine. I don't know why that is. It's just so hard. I've gotta work on that.

One of the best things ever about FAPA is, and has been, *Trial and Air*, a wonderful fanzine from Michael W. Waite. He does these issues that rate right up there with the best zines in the world. *Trial and Air* Issue 14 (2004) was the first one I ever saw, given to me by Jan Stinson. It was the first issue of the zine after the passing of both Australian fan John Foyster and the single greatest fan who ever lived: Harry Warner. They were both members of FAPA at the time of their deaths. Harry had the honor of having produced the longest-running fanzine of all time. Foyster's *EFNAC* was one of the most important early electronic zines.

*Trial and Air* reprints many things, which is part of the charm. There are two pieces from *Horizons*, the aforementioned longest-running

fanzine of all time. One of the pieces is Harry talking about what he does in a regular day at work. He points out that this will require him to use the first person pronoun a lot. I once counted all the Is I use. It was 1/17th of my total word count. I think that number may be too low. I would do it for this article, but I'm not sure I want to know. Harry follows that with a piece about another fan moving into Hagerstown. Now, Harry was famous for being the Hermit of Hagerstown and so having another fan in town would have been a big thing.

Michael then talks about scanning his zines. He doesn't remove the staples, which is the single most important thing someone who is interested in preservation can do: remove the staples and put the zine in an individual folder. That's the best way to keep them in the best shape. Replacing with new stainless steel staples is OK, but actually removing them and leaving them unstapled is what's best for them. It also makes scanning easier, and he noted that he unstapled the issue of *Horizons*, the only time he'd done that. I should send him a mail to see if that's still his SOP.

That section's followed by a great piece of fan history. It's one of the early letters Harry Warner sent off to *Astounding*, along with an obit. It's an awesome piece of history and I'm glad I got to read it.

The presentation here is pretty much amazing. The thing is in color, that's a big thing, and the material he has access to is rare. He has featured many scans of covers and zines and photos and the way he prints them makes the entire thing look just fantastic. Of all the FAPA zines, *Trial and Air* is the one that I come back to again and again.

There's a lot of great Harry Warner material, including Harry's fanzine review column from an issue of *Riverside Review*. There's also his bio from the Noreascon where Harry was the Fan Guest of Honor.

The section dedicated to John Foyster made me even madder that I really wasn't around fanzines much when he was doing his best stuff. The opening of the Foyster tribute is an obit from John Baxter. It really captures Foyster, though I was more moved by the remembrances of Dick Jenssen (Ditmar) and Bruce Gillespie. There are a couple of scans of *Satura*, issues 8 and 9, and they show why he was such an important part of fandom. It's always a bit sad for me to read about those folks whose work I wasn't very aware of after they've passed.

There are some nice reviews, and Michael is nothing if not a serious list guy. He lists the credits for *Terminator: Salvation*, *Matrix Reloaded* and *X-2*. It's serious business to spend that much space on credits.

One of the best parts of this issue is the great section looking at the fanzines of the time. Of those listed, not all that many are still around. *Twink* is gone, and so is *Burstzine*, and on and on. *Challenger* and *Trap Door* are still around. He includes scans of the covers, which

is a really nice touch. I applauded Bill Burns when he did the same thing on eFanzines.

It's a great little zine, brilliantly produced and well worth reading. *Trial and Air* is the best of the FAPAzines, in my eyes, and being

the best in an Amateur Press Association that's been around for almost 70 years is a big deal.



The TomorrowMen at the Hotel Utah – Featuring Ferenc of Pollo Del Mar on Guitar

by Tom Becker

# Dreams of the City

## A Column by España Sheriff

I first heard about Richard Kadrey on Twitter, probably during #followfriday. I like to keep track of Bay Area writers so when I found out he had a book out through local independent publisher Night Shade books, I added it to my library wishlist right away.

The first thing I noticed about *Butcher Bird* was that it had a classic Night Shade cover; perfect Dan Dos Santos art to match the story inside and a lovely design to frame it. The author's picture on the inside flap was a little less promising: Kadrey posing in leather with black nail polish and a cigarette, trying a little too hard maybe, and unfortunately looking like it was taken in 1995. Which to be fair, it probably was.

Kadrey apparently started his writing career in cyberpunk with some well-received novels, and certainly his interests on and off the page seem firmly planted amongst the tattoo, fetish and transgressive subcultures with which San Francisco is so well populated. *Butcher Bird*, however, is a change of pace from his previous books — it's a modern urban fantasy steeped in mythology and theologies.

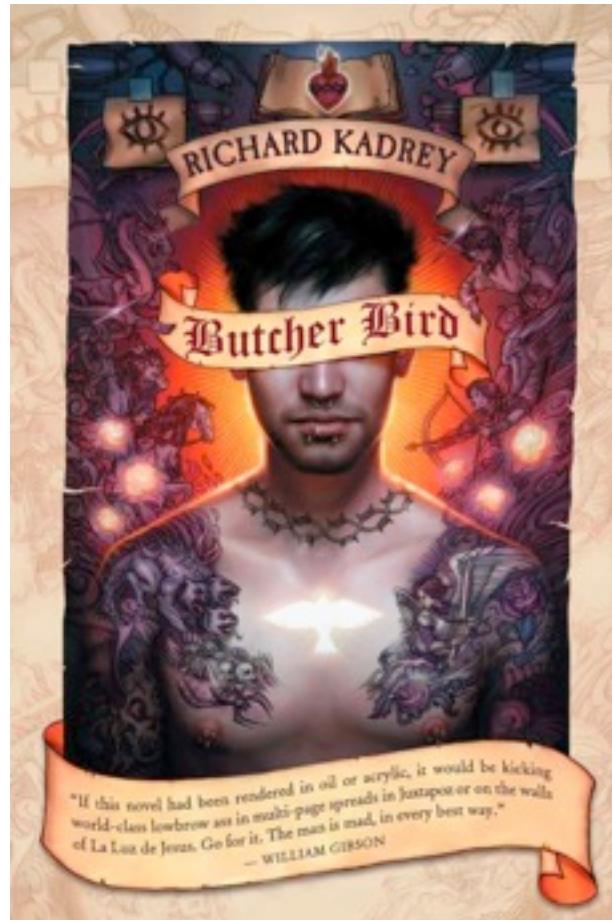
The story opens with our protagonist, Spyder, a tattoo artist with a shop in the Haight, drinking in a bar in the Mission with Lulu, who runs her piercing studio out of the same storefront. The language and characters feel

pretty fun right off the bat, but the real story begins when Spyder has a run-in with a Demon outside a bar and suddenly starts seeing things no one else around him seems to notice. Harpies, Demons and Gargoyles roam the streets, giant airships and balloons float

overhead, and uncanny men dressed all in black steal the very flesh off of hapless souls as the general population goes about their daily business blissfully unaware of any reality but their own.

It turns out there are four spheres of reality that exist independent from the human world and which contain Demons, Angels and all manner of mythological beasties. Although we cannot see them, they can see us just fine and their spheres interact at all points with our world and affect our daily lives. Once the scales have fallen from his eyes, poor Spyder's existence quickly becomes bewildering and nearly unbearable. He cannot unsee the madness around him, and in turn it starts taking an unhealthy interest in him as well.

Aside from the bar in the Mission and the shop in the Haight, the other stop in the San Francisco tour is an altered version of Fisherman's Wharf which exists out of time and reality and is a gateway which Spyder eventually and reluctantly uses to travel all the way to Hell in order to resolve his new situation. He tries to enlist the help of the title character, Blind Shrike known also as the Butcher Bird, but instead he becomes involved in conflicts and battles far beyond the scope of his own fairly straightforward quest for normalcy.



courtesy of Night Shade Books

One of the nice things about the story is that Spyder is a believably reluctant hero. His acts of gallantry and courage are drawn equally from bravado and lust, and at the outset he is utterly uninterested in anything but becoming blind again and forgetting all about the things he has seen. And although he does eventually develop into a useful and competent member of the party that travels to Hell, the progress is limited and believable. His travelling companions are all equally interesting and feel distinct and real, with some nice surprises

along the way. Likewise the villains don't feel generic, and their various motivations make *Butcher Bird*'s world feel large and complex.

But most of all, the world that Kadrey has constructed, particularly his vision of Hell, is surreal and wonderful. Someplace between a Bosch triptych and a Vertigo comic, it's grotesque and organic and quite funny in places. Kadrey's Hell is not the familiar Victorian fire and brimstone but an ugly and alien landscape, at once Medieval and industrial, that feels both surreal and familiar.

Although there is no indication that the book is part of a series other than the subtitle "A Novel of the Dominion," it feels as though it could very well be, and I certainly wouldn't mind seeing a sequel or even something focusing on another character within the same universe.



Daikaiju at the Hotel Utah

by Tom Becker

# *The PEERS Space Cowboys Ball: A Might Fine Firefly Shindig*

By Jean Martin

*Editor*

The short-lived but much-loved TV series *Firefly* is mostly responsible for establishing my place, contributions and participation in fandom today. Although I discovered fandom through the Bay Area English Regency Society (BAERS) in 2003, it wasn't until I got involved in the *Firefly* 'Verse in 2005 that everything took off for me. The first article I ever wrote for *SF/SF* in 2005, when our founder Jack Avery was still running this zine, was an interview with SF Browncoats founder Renee Balmert. The SF Browncoats is one of the two *Firefly* fan groups in the Bay Area. The other is the Silicon Gulch Browncoats. The first masquerade I ever did was a *Firefly*-inspired song and dance number at Comic-Con in 2005 where I portrayed Inara the Companion.

Looking back these last four years, several other memorable *Firefly*-related events and activities come to mind. There was the *Serenity* premiere at the Metreon in 2005 where I reprised my role as Inara and met fellow fans who continue to be friends to this day. One of them was our very own España Sheriff. In 2006, our masquerade group won Best Performance at WonderCon for our *Firefly* routine. Also that year was the incredibly fun and diverse Browncoat Ball weekend in September 2006 where I wore a costume that I



**Almost Full Cast of Firefly Characters**

by Stacy Meyn

bought from Shawna Trpcic, the costume designer for the show. The turquoise and fuchsia sari was worn by one of the extras in the episode "Heart of Gold" and it fit me perfectly not just size-wise but color- and style-

wise as well. At SiliCon in 2007, Dr. Noe as Captain Mal and myself as Inara did a short skit to introduce my favorite dance, "The Congress of Vienna," at the HalloWhedon Hootenanny Ball. Last year, there was the



Me as Nandi

by Alex Diaz

incredibly fun Browncoat Christmas party at the Kona Club in Oakland. This year, I finally got to go to the annual “Can’t Stop the Serenity” fundraising screening in San Francisco. I was again costumed as Inara and did a promo announcement for the upcoming Period Events and Entertainments Re-creation Society (PEERS) Space Cowboys Ball, a *Firefly*-themed ball.

PEERS did a Space Cowboys Ball in 2007 but I missed that one as I was doing my own *Lord of the Rings* and *Doctor Who* tour of the UK at the time. So I was glad that PEERS

decided to hold one again. This re-run was held last September 5th at the usual location, the San Mateo Masonic Hall.

Emily, who looks the part and is a great actress, was cast as the official Inara. This left me with the conundrum of picking another character to play because I never saw myself as anyone but Inara. I went to a cast rehearsal and screening get-together the Saturday before and I still didn’t have my role locked down. A few days preceding the ball, I watched the episodes “Shindig,” which has a ball scene, and “Heart of Gold,” which has the extra who wore my



Lady and Sir Warrick Harrow

by Jean Martin



The Lovely Inara

by Jean Martin

sari. I was thinking of playing her, but she was just a generic whore in the Heart of Gold whorehouse. That’s when I got the idea of portraying the Madam herself, Nandi. Nandi is a former Companion and friend of Inara’s. She is a strong, caring and accomplished woman and has a romantic interlude with Mal. So I was excited to portray her! Nandi wears an outfit similar to my sari but in a different color so I thought it would work. All I needed was a red wig, which I literally bought the day before the ball. I even practiced saying “ain’t,” which I



**Zoe and Wash**

by Jean Martin

catch myself saying more often nowadays in real life.

The specific scenario for the ball was a supposed sequel to "Shindig"... a ball held by Sir Warrick to celebrate the successful delivery of his cows by the *Serenity* crew. I arrived at the hall early for the last cast rehearsal. Then the ball was on.

Bubbly Arielle played the official Kaylee, and she was wearing her ship's mechanic outfit and holding a parasol as she greeted guests outside the main doors. She changed into her pink layer-cake ball gown later in the evening.



**Simon stopping River from attacking Mal**

by Jean Martin

There weren't a lot of people for the pre-ball dancing class so I was a little worried. I had done a tremendous amount of publicity for the ball, so I was hoping my efforts would pay off! But once the ball actually started at 8:00 p.m., more people showed up. And by mid-ball, the place was so crowded it was actually difficult to dance without bumping into people.

Several of my sci fi convention friends were there, including Tom, Ancilla, Alex, Shayne, Radar, Stacy and Tracy, Glenn, Corli, Cathleen, Sophia and Joe, Leigh Ann, J.P.,

Stephanie and Thad. Lots of my regular dance friends were there too, of course.

The dancing was a lot of fun because there was more than the usual Victorian fare. Inara's Cotillion was one of the special dances of the evening, which we had rehearsed the weekend before. It was first done at the Browncoat Ball, and is based on one of my favorite Regency dances, the Duke of Kent's Waltz. Bangers and Mash was the band that night and they're always great. Everyone loves them. They played the Bohemian National Polka (BNP), which is rarely played at PEERS. The BNP is a

choreographed, pattern dance and is my second favorite. I tend to like more complicated dances that have a lot of style and energy. Redowas, skipping rotary waltzes, were also on the dance card for the evening. I don't remember them being done at PEERS before. Redowas are so much fun to dance and lovely to see.

There was also a demo folk dance during one of the intermissions by Remington, Mackenzie, Charles and Laurie. More entertainment was provided by the hilarious Vivianne and Buck who belted out "The Ballad of Jayne" in a faux-inebriated manner. They both wore Jayne costumes and instead of singing the word "Jayne," they changed it to "me."

As usual, there were skits and dance introductions by the official cast during the intermissions. I did a few dance intros and mingled with the patrons and other cast members in character. The audience really enjoyed the skits and paid attention. Two of the highlights were a dramatic scene with Charles as Mal and Emily as Inara, and an action scene with Vanessa as River going berserk on Mal, until David (as Simon) said the safe word, which made River go unconscious. Other skits involved James and Cathleen as the hosts Sir Warrick and Lady Harrow and the rest of the *Firefly* crew: Ron as Jayne, Glen as Wash and Tiffany as Zoe. The only one not represented



Three Layer Cake Kaylees

by Jean Martin

was Shepherd Book. I don't think I've ever seen anyone take on this role.

Everyone had great costumes. There were some cowboys and space men; some dressed in impressive Steampunk garb; and, of course, lots of people in *Firefly* costumes. Other than Arielle, there were two other women in the Kaylee layer cake dress including my friend Pat and another lady. We had a great time

photographing the three of them together as they posed and ate strawberries just like the real Kaylee did.

It truly was a mighty fine shindig in the *Firefly* 'Verse. And it's always great whenever my costuming, dancing and fandom worlds all come together.

For more information, visit: [www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org).

# The Eighth Annual Bay Area Hobbit Picnic

## Introduction by Jean Martin

*Editor*

I've known about this yearly event for six years and I still have not been able to go to it for one reason or another. I'm hoping to go next year as *The Lord of the Rings* has been one

of my main passions for over 25 years now! And this particular picnic, organized by Ar-Zimrahil II, looks like a fun one.

Luckily, several of my friends go to this every year and this time was no exception. So here are some photos from this year's Hobbit

Picnic that was held last September 26 at Pine Lake in Stern Grove. Everyone comes in costume and there are skits, dances, readings, recitals, a raffle and a trivia contest in addition to the potluck picnic. What a great way to celebrate Bilbo and Frodo Baggins' birthdays!



**Eowyn, Lady of Rohan**

by Cordelia Willis



**Legolas and Legolas**

by Cordelia Willis



**Arwen**

by Jeannette Peters



**The Picnic**



**LOTR Tourist and Skeptical Hobbit**

by Cordelia Willis



**Hobbit Jonas Brother Barbecuing**

by Cordelia Willis

# BASFA Minutes:

## Meetings 998- "formerly known as 1000"

### Meeting 998

September 14, 2009

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

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

Began 8-ish - with mention of bad manners and Kanye West.

We established a party jar - and the pun tax was expanded to include rude interruptions.

24 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 996 were accepted as *clueless* & the minutes of meeting 997 were accepted as *I'm talking here*.

The Treasurer reported that the club had money.

The VP reported that there is a new *Drink Tank* out - no joke!

The President had nothing fannish to report.

The Millennium Bug Committee reported "we don't know yet."

The Party Committee reported that there should be a BASFA party on Friday night at SiliCon - and that if anyone has a room to offer on Saturday night that there could be a BASFA party part 2 then as well; contact Ed.

[tall] Kevin is the acting BASFA webmaster, but is looking for someone to help him out.

Dave C resolved something very funny - that was postponed indefinitely - and then given to Mo, so she could turn it into a cartoon.

### Announcements

Glenn announced "Go Raiders!" and that World Fantasy Con is Oct 31-Nov 1 and memberships are going fast.

Andy announced that he'll be running the Reno Worldcon Masquerade in 2011 & announced that *Evil Robot Monkey* has been translated into Middle English & announced that one of the leads for World Fantasy Con, Oct 31-Nov 1, needs a room for the con - please contact him.

Linda announced that she and the Bella Donna Courtesans will be part of the Ashland Oregon Shakespeare Festival this Friday and Sunday as the Green Show at 6:45pm.

Adrienne announced that Quartrecon is Jan 8-10, 2010, that Bouchercon will be October 2010 in San Francisco and she needs a ride home tonight.

Dave G announced go buy your memberships for World Fantasy Con.

Chris announced that the next issue of *Journey Planet* will have an alternate history theme and he wants content mailto:garcia@computerhistory.org & that he will be speaking at Nova Albion Steampunk Exhibition, March 12-14, 2010.

Mo announced that she needs program participants for SorcererCon, held over Thanksgiving - and SiliCon is coming up Oct 2-4 and she's running Art Show.

[tall] Kevin announced that there will be a *Match Game SF*, Sunday at 11:30am at SiliCon & that next NorWesCon will also have a *Match Game SF*.

We did auctions: birthday auctioned off [evil] Kevin for \$20.00 to Andy; then a water bottle for \$1.00; CDs and a lunchbox for \$0.10; a bag for \$2.25; art for \$0.25; furry art for \$1.00; books for \$3.25; toys and magazines for \$1.00

## Reviews

Ed reviewed *District 9* as excellent and worth full price.

Jo reviewed *9* as a visual delight and fun - worth full price; reviewed *Push* as they left out a lot of necessary plot & reviewed Ardenwood Faire as charming and neat.

[Tall] Kevin reviewed jury duty for Alameda County as he managed to escape from Department 13 and the waiting room doesn't have wifi.

Dave C reviewed DiscworldCon as it went pretty well and the dealers were all happy there & worth going to Tempe to attend & reviewed Glen Cook's *Dread Brass Shadows* as worth airplane.

Mo reviewed -her- airplane book by Adam Castro *Emissaries from the Dead* as an entertaining sf mystery; reviewed *9* as visually stunning and almost had a good story & reviewed *Man with the Screaming Brain* as bad - but with funny dialogue and the specials on the DVD are excellent.

Chris reviewed *Lonely Island*, a comedy CD, as hilarious and worth borrowing from a friend; reviewed History San Jose at Kelly Park as very cool and worth full price [free] plus the \$6 parking - and he had a stale pink donut, also worth it [oddly, I missed him giving a *Twilight* review]

Lisa reviewed Disneyland as they're doing renovations there but that it was still fun.

We adjourned at = 9:55

And the rumor of the week was: *We'll never get to reviews now*

## Meeting 999

September 21, 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 8pm.

We established a party jar.

21 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 998 were accepted as *technically correct*.

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$10.50 in the regular jar and \$24.00 in the party jar.

The VP reported that he was filmed, secretly, at work as part of a Bigfoot documentary - and there is a new *Drink Tank & Claims Department* on efanzines.com.

The President reminded us that SiliCon was coming up and said "hi" to Matthew Taylor, visiting us from Vacaville.

The Millennium Bug Committee reported that he still doesn't know - but thinks that the meeting should best be done on SiliCon Sunday, in the quiet bar at 6pm & moved/ passed that the Sunday SiliCon meeting be #1000 & next week's meeting will be named "the meeting formerly known as 1000."

## Announcements

Glenn announced "Happy New Year" and that *South Pacific* has opened at the Golden Gate theater & that memberships for World Fantasy Con = Oct 31-Nov 1 - have sold out.

Dave G announced that there is a 2nd room at SiliCon - nope, it's gone now.

Matthew announced that there's going to be a prehistoric shark film out soon and it was filmed in Monterey Bay.

Jo announced that he's now employed by Skype.

Ken announced that this Friday is the Legion of Rassilon meeting at 7pm, 1st and Trimble.

Various people announced that various people died.

Andy announced that Tim Powers' book *On Stranger Tides* is now confirmed to be the basis for *Pirates 4*.

Fred announced that he has a membership for World Fantasy Con for sale.

## Reviews

[evil] Kevin reviewed the Knights of the Log Table's outing to see *Spamalot* as a complete success and definitely worth full price; Andy followed-on that it was an absolute blast; Ken follow-on'd, agreeing that it was worth full price and that the performance was great; Glenn commented about being misfiled, but he was able to rejoin the group after intermission. [tall] Kevin had a good time & was amused by how many people there got the maths joke.

Harold reviewed that the undercard fight was really very good but that the main fight was not worth full price & reviewed Showtime's *Full Color Football* as quite good.

Chris reviewed *Jennifer's Body* as a source for society's downfall - that he saw twice - and the screenplay is wholly incidental to the movie & there's a hot girl/girl makeout scene - it's his generation's *Twilight* -> then comments got surreal - & it was worth full price.

Mo reviewed *7 Samurai* as an excellent film and advises everyone to go see it again.

We did auctions: Batman shower curtain rings for \$1.25; postcards & a pen for \$0.50; videos for \$0.50, \$0.50, \$1.00; a bag for \$10.00 & a poster for \$0.25.

We adjourned at 9:08

And the rumor of the week was: *I've got livers - low mileage*

## Meeting "formerly known as 1000"

September 28, 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 8pm.

We established a party jar.

29 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 999 were accepted as *xjy5\$#no carrier*.

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$24.25 in the regular jar and \$1.75 in the party jar.

The VP reported that there is a new *Drink Tank* out, he didn't watch *Twilight* and he has the best girlfriend in the world!

The President had nothing fannish to report - except that hockey season was opening soon.

The Party Committee reported that there will be a BASFA party at SiliCon on Friday night & there will also be a BASFA party at SorcererCon over Thanksgiving.

The Millennium Bug Committee reported that meeting #1000 will be done at SiliCon Sunday, in the quiet bar at 8pm.

Glenn asked the sense of the meeting about buying old con Tshirts and got the general response of "sure, why not."

### Announcements

[tall] Kevin announced that he's doing Match Game at SiliCon on Sunday at noon.

Dave C announced that Book Expo America will be in NYC until 2012.

Galen announced that Stephen Straus will be doing live music at Nabolom Bakery in Berkeley on Saturday mornings.

Radar announced that she's doing SiliCon programming, so if you have questions, come see her.

Jo announced that audible.com is having a sale & since he's now employed by Skype - in SF - he's likely to miss meetings.

Mike announced that KFJC is going into fund-raising mode.

Andy announced that he'll be attending a Saturday morning [early!] meeting of PenSWAG & if you're attending SiliCon invited others to be driven there by him [3-4 others] - contact him.

Ken announced that he's running SiliCon TV, channel 37.

Glenn announced that memberships for World Fantasy Con = Oct 31-Nov 1 - are STILL sold out - really.

Chris announced that Gail Carriger's book *Soulless* is already out at Borders.

Stellen announced that he'd like to read the Oct 2008 Analog.

### Reviews

I reviewed direct2drive.com - a site where computer games can be bought and downloaded - as a great site - and they are having a \$5 per game sale right now; Chris agreed.

Ken reviewed the re-opened Retro Dome [where the Winchester 25 theatre was] as he saw *Schoolhouse Rock Live* there & he had a great time.

[evil] Kevin reviewed Hooters - as a restaurant review - as the food was so-so and the company was worth more than full price; there were comments.

Harold reviewed *Inglourious Basterds* as go see it - and don't buy pay-for-TV fights -

because they'll be on peasant TV the next week & said that the "big-bad" for this season's *Dexter* will be played by John Lithgow.

Chris reviewed *Nashville* as the best film from the 70's - absolutely worth full price - reviewed *Into the Aether* as the most pretentious comic made in the US and *Baby Got Back* is the perfect wedding song.

Dave C reviewed SFX's *Comic Heroes* as comprehensive.

Jo reviewed his bike ride as having a tire blow was bad, but having it blow out in front of a repair shop was "priceless."

[tall] Kevin reviewed radio ads for the Fox animated block as <<there were many shouted comments then for several minutes>>.

Stellan reviewed seeing a Microsoft ad for having install parties for Windows 7 - with suggestive bleeps added - as greatly naughty.

Chris reviewed the DVD set of *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century* as she very much recommends it.

Ed reviewed a picnic as there was lots of sun, hot weather and he had fun.

We did auctions: birthday auctioned off Linda for \$20.00 to Chris; birthday auctioned off Geri for \$10.00 to Ken; then video & a Marvin watch for \$8.00; ponies for \$1.00; videos for \$0.50, \$1.50, \$4.00; & brass cranes for \$2.00.

We adjourned at = 9:58.

And the rumor of the week was: *there was tongue*

# Bay Area Fannish Calendar

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

New listings are highlighted in red.

Ongoing events are toward the back.

## Through January 19, 2010

### *There's a Mystery There: Sendak on Sendak*

The Contemporary Jewish Museum

736 Mission St., San Francisco

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

The exhibit will feature more than 100 watercolors, drawings and sketches by Sendak — including many that have never before been displayed, along with video footage of interviews with the author and will include a space for young visitors to enjoy Sendak's work. In addition to several Sendak-themed classes and lectures for adults, there will be a number of events for children, including a *Wild Things*-inspired costume-making day and a preschool hour on Oct. 11 and Nov. 8

\$5-10

## Wednesday, October 7

### *The Phenomenauts*

Lost on Main

319 Main St., Chico

West Coast Tour with Go Jimmy Go. 21+

9:45 p.m.

\$5

## Fridays & Saturdays, October 9-31

### *The Texas Chainsaw Musical*

The Campbell Theatre

636 Ward Street, Martinez

Direct from the 2009 San Francisco Fringe Festival: A coming-of-age story about a handsome serial killer, his overly affectionate momma, the woman he loves, and the pantywaist runt that ruins everything.

\$25.

## Saturday, October 10

### *Writers With Drinks*

The Make-Out Room

3225 22nd St., San Francisco

[www.writerswithdrinks.com](http://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-Sunday, October 10-11

### *Carnival of Stars*

Richmond Auditorium

403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond

Belly dance and comic book convention

\$15

## Tuesday, October 13

### *Litquake: Doug Dorst*

100 Larkin Street

Market Street, San Francisco

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

The author of this year's One City One Book selection, *Alive in Necropolis*, in conversation with Adam Johnson

6 p.m.

Free

## Saturday, October 17

### *Dark Shadows Picnic*

GBACG Event

Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland

[www.gbacg.org](http://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.

Noon - 4 p.m.

\$10 (members \$5)

## Saturday, October 17-Sunday, October 18

### *Folsom Renaissance Faire*

Folsom City Lions Park

403 Stafford Street, Folsom

[folsomfaire.com](http://folsomfaire.com)

Renaissance Faire

\$14

**Thursday, October 22**

**Thrillville's Halloween Gore 'n' Snorefest!**

Camera 3 Cinema

288 S. Second St, San Jose

[www.thrillville.net](http://www.thrillville.net)

Featuring 2 super sleazy sexy spooky exploitation classics! Tantalizing torsos, lascivious limbs, sexy slashers and prickly prostitutes splatter the screen in Fred Olen Ray's outrageous cult masterpiece, *Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers* (1988)! plus Larry Buchanan's unbelievable remake of Roger Corman's *It Conquered the World* starring John Agar as a scientist harboring a "special relationship" with a goofy alien invader, *Zontar, The Thing From Venus* (1966)! Live music by San Jose's own Aardvark and Actual Rafiq!

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](http://sonoracelticfaire.com/hallowsfaire.html)

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

\$50



**Thursday, October 29**

**Thrillville's Halloween Gore 'n' Snorefest!**

Balboa Theatre

3630 Balboa St

[www.thrillville.net](http://www.thrillville.net)

*Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers* (1988) plus *Zontar, The Thing From Venus* (1966)! With live music by The Deadlies and live tassel tossin' by Lady Monster.

7:30 p.m. \$12

**Wednesday, October 28**

**City Arts and Lectures: Jonathan Lethem**

Herbst Theater

401 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

[www.cityarts.net](http://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](http://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 Allan Poe's 200th birthday. Garth Nix will be the GOH.

SOLD OUT

**Friday, October 30-Sunday, November 1**

**Yaoi-Con**

San Mateo Marriott

1770 South Amphlett Blvd, San Mateo

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

GOH is Minami Haruka. YaoiCon is a celebration of male beauty and passion in anime and manga. 18+.

\$60

### **Thursday, November 5**

#### **Author: Chris Lane**

Diesel, A Bookstore  
5433 College Ave., Oakland  
[www.dieselbookstore.com](http://www.dieselbookstore.com)

Local illustrator Chris Lane signs his new book, *Zombies: A Record of the Year of Infection*

7 p.m. Free

### **Saturday, November 7**

#### ***Le Bal des Vampires***

PEERS Event, Alameda Elks Lodge  
2255 Santa Clara Ave, Santa Clara  
[www.peers.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.dickensfair.com)  
A holiday adventure into Victorian London.

\$22

### **Saturday, December 5th**

#### ***Time Tunnel Super Toy, Comic and Record Show***

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
344 Tully Road, San Jose  
[www.timetunneltoys.com](http://www.timetunneltoys.com)  
240 tables of vintage to modern toys and collectibles.

11 a.m. \$5

### **Saturday, January 2, 2010**

#### ***Victorian 12th Night Ball***

PEERS Event, Location TBD  
[www.peers.org](http://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-Sunday, January 30-31, 2010**

#### ***Animation on Display***

Hotel Kabuki  
1625 Post St., San Francisco  
Animation on Display (AOD) is a convention that features Japanese animation, (relatively recent) cartoons, and their related interests.

\$21 (till October 10)

### **Saturday, February 6, 2010**

#### ***Le Mardi Gras des Vampires***

PEERS Event, Location TBD  
[www.peers.org](http://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, 2010**

#### ***Consonance***

Hilton Newark/Fremont  
39900 Balentine Drive, Fremont  
[www.consonance.org](http://www.consonance.org)  
Filk Convention. GOH are Tricky Pixie, Chris O'Shea, Ju Honisch & Katy Droege. Toastmistress is Judi Miller.  
\$40 (till October 31)

## **Saturday, March 6, 2010**

### ***An Evening at Cabaret***

PEERS Event, Location TBD

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

Spend a swinging evening in the most decadent cabaret in 1930's Berlin. Guest band for the evening is the brilliant and notorious Lee Presson and the Nails. Suggested costume is 1930's costume or vintage or modern evening dress. Theatrical costume, including showgirl attire, is also welcome. Just about anything goes at Cabaret, as long as it's acceptable to the local police, who are among Cabaret's clients, after all!

7 p.m. \$15 in advance

## **Friday-Sunday, March 26-28, 2010**

### ***Contact***

NASA Ames Research Center

[www.contact-conference.com](http://www.contact-conference.com)

Details TBA

## **Saturday, April 3, 2010**

### ***La Legion Fantastique: A Victorian Steampunk Ball***

PEERS Event, Location TBD

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

Guests are invited to dress in either conventional mid-to-late Victorian evening dress (1850s – 1900) or Victorian Steampunk attire, complete with goggles and gadgets. (Note: Costumes, as always, are admired, not required, at PEERS balls, and modern evening dress is a perfectly acceptable substitute for period costume). Live music provided by Bangers & Mash. Punch and a light snack

buffet will be served. As usual, the Legion appreciates your potluck contributions to the buffet.

7 p.m. \$15 in advance

## **Saturday, May 1, 2010**

### ***The Courts of Faerie Ball***

PEERS Event, Location TBD

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

The Unseelie King and Queen of the Fae honour May Day and resign their crowns for six months to the blessed Seelie King and Queen.

Fantasy, fairy, or fairy tale costume from any tradition is admired, not required. Period costume (authentic or creatively "mixed"), vintage evening dress, or modern evening dress is also welcome, as are perfectly normal mortals. Masks, either worn or hand-held, are strongly recommended. While wings are very welcome on our Faerie creatures, be sure to wear wings you can dance in (this is probably not the best night to sport a giant wingspan!). Live music by Avalon Rising. Intermission entertainment includes dance performances and romantic DJ dance music for the insatiable dancers. Complimentary light refreshments will be served throughout the evening and, as usual, your potluck contributions are very welcome.

7 p.m. \$15 in advance

## **Saturday, June 5, 2010**

### ***The Golden Anniversary Victorian Ball***

PEERS Event, Location TBD

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

Please join us in celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of

Mr. Fezziwig, the most gracious party host in all of Dickens' London. Live music by Bangers & Mash. Late Georgian Regency, Victorian, or modern evening dress is admired but not required. Punch, cake and a light Old English buffet will be served (Potluck contributions to Mrs. Fezziwig's kitchen would be most welcome).

7 p.m. \$15 in advance

## **Saturday, August 7, 2010**

### ***Jane Austen Picnic Dance***

PEERS Event, Lincoln Park

1450 High Street, Alameda (Near the Rose Garden)

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

Our guests are invited to bring their own period-style picnic lunch and to make their picnic site look as period as possible (Please note that the event is not a potluck. Our hard-working catering staff will be taking a well-deserved holiday!). Suggested costume for the event is late 18<sup>th</sup> century or Regency summer afternoon dress (1780-1818), but, as usual, costumes are admired, not required. Live music will be provided by Bangers & Mash. This event is a thank you to all of our devoted fans, and we will not be charging a fee for admission. Donations for our brilliant and hard-working musicians will be gratefully accepted, however, both before and during the event.

11 a.m. Free

**Saturday, September 4, 2010*****The Gilbert and Sullivan Ball***

PEERS Event, Location TBD

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

Mr. and Mrs. William S. Gilbert request the honour of your presence at a fancy dress ball honouring the musical achievements of their colleague, the recently knighted Sir Arthur Sullivan. Guests are welcome to attend either in “normal” evening dress of the late 19th century (1860-1900) or in costumes inspired by the operas of Gilbert and Sullivan (Costumes are, as usual, admired but not required, at the ball). Live music by Bangers and Mash and intermission entertainment includes a performance of song and dance excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan’s operettas. As usual, punch and a light snack buffet will be served throughout the evening (Mrs. Gilbert will gratefully welcomes your potluck contributions to the buffet).

7 p.m. \$15 in advance

**Saturday, October 2, 2010*****The Evil League of Evil Villains’ Ball***

PEERS Event, Location TBD

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

Guests are invited to attend as their favorite Evil character – historical, fictional, or original. Live music by Avalon Rising. Costumes may be historical, science fiction/fantasy, modern evening dress. The event includes musical performances, a no-host (cash) bar, and a light snack buffet. Potluck contributions to the buffet will be greatly appreciated.

7 p.m. \$15 in advance

**Ongoing****Daily*****Cartoon Art Museum***

655 Mission Street, San Francisco

[www.cartoonart.com](http://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](http://www.sfghosthunt.com)

7 p.m. – 10 p.m. \$20

***VIZ Cinema***

1746 Post Street, San Francisco

[www.newpeopleworld.com/films](http://www.newpeopleworld.com/films)

VIZ Cinema is a 143-seat underground cinema inside NEW PEOPLE in San Francisco. Its programming focuses on the latest and hottest films from Japan, as well as classics, favorites, documentaries and anime.

Please check theater for showtimes and tickets.

**Sundays*****MGI SF&F/Horror/Speculative fiction Writing Group***

Personal Residence (email for details)

Emeryville

[groups.yahoo.com/group/MGISFFWriters](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MGISFFWriters)

7:30 p.m. Free

***Sakuramento 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](http://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, Carcassonne 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

<b>Mondays and Wednesdays</b>		
<b>Silicon Valley Boardgamers</b> Mountain View Community Center 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View <a href="http://www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb">www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb</a> 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	<b>East Bay Strategy Games Club</b> EndGame 921 Washington, Oakland <a href="http://www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html">www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html</a> 7:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. Free
<b>Tuesdays</b>		
<b>MGI Boffers &amp; Outdoor Games</b> Codornices Park 1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley <a href="http://mgisciaf.angelfire.com">mgisciaf.angelfire.com</a> <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyclub">groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyclub</a> 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	<b>Fanboy Planet Podcast</b> 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
<b>Wednesdays</b>		
<b>Bay Area Role-Playing Society</b> Go-Getter's Pizza 1489 Beach Park Boulevard, Foster City <a href="http://www.BayRPS.com">www.BayRPS.com</a> Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email <a href="mailto:GM@BayRPS.com">GM@BayRPS.com</a> 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.	Free	<b>Wednesdays and Saturdays</b> <b>Hayward Collectibles Show</b> 22300 Hathaway Ave (rear bldg), Hayward <a href="http://www.toysandbaseballcards.com">www.toysandbaseballcards.com</a> Wednesdays 3 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free
		<b>Fridays</b>
		<b>FyDy SyFy</b> Eclipse Lounge, Hyatt Regency 5 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco Casual meetup in the atrium lobby bar. 5:30-7:30
		<b>SF Games</b> Muddy's Coffeehouse 1304 Valencia Street, San Francisco <a href="http://vax.hanford.org/dk/games">vax.hanford.org/dk/games</a> 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
		<b>Fridays-Mondays</b>
		<b>Haunted Haight Walking Tour</b> Meets at Coffee To The People 1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco <a href="http://www.hauntedhaight.com">www.hauntedhaight.com</a> Reservations required. 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. \$20
		<b>Fridays and Saturdays</b>
		<b>Vampire Walking Tour</b> Meets corner of California and Taylor, San Francisco <a href="http://www.sfvampiretour.com">www.sfvampiretour.com</a> 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](mailto:commander@pensfa.org) for information on attending.

PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first. Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

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

Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco  
Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jade Livingston at [sfscifi@yahoo.com](mailto:sfscifi@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Monthly

### ***Clockwork SF***

New location TB, tentative return dates in November.  
[www.myspace.com/clubclockwork](http://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/](http://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](http://www.ebstarwars.com)  
Meets the second Friday of every month.  
7:30 p.m.   Free

### ***Fantastic Frontiers***

[www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/](http://www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/)  
Social club for Sacramento County sci fi/ fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.

### ***Foothill Anime***

Building 5015, Foothill College  
Los Altos Hills  
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](http://www.borderlands-books.com)  
Please contact Chris, the group leader, at [cobalt555@earthlink.net](mailto: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](http://www.legionofrassilon.org)  
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.  
7:30 p.m.   Free

### ***Micro Gods, Inc.***

Berkeley Public Library, West Branch  
1125 University Ave, Berkeley  
[mgisciaf.angelfire.com](http://mgisciaf.angelfire.com)  
[groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.claytonbookshop.com)  
The book for October 21st is *A Princess of Mars* by Edgar Rice Burroughs. 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](http://www.borderlands-books.com)  
The book for October is *Faerie Tale* by Raymond Feist. Please contact Jude at [jfeldman@borderlands-books.com](mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com) for more information.

6 p.m. Free

***SF Browncoats***

Cafe Murano  
1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco  
[www.sfbrowncoats.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:firstjedi2000@yahoo.com) for location.  
[sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights](http://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



City by the bay

by Lucy Huntzinger

# Bay Area Fannish Calendar – October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>MGI SFF/H Writing Sakuramento Anime</i>	<i>BASFA Dukefish SV Boardgamers</i>	<i>MGI Boffers</i>	<i>BA Role-Playing Soc E.Bay Strategy Games Fanboy Planet Podcast SV Boardgamers</i>		<i>FyDy SyFy SF Games</i>	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 <i>Silicon Browncoats Rocky Horror</i>
4 <i>Foothill Anime</i>	5	6	7 <i>The Phenomenauts</i>	8 <i>SF&amp;F Writers' Group</i>	9 <i>The Texas Chainsaw Musical East Bay Star Wars USS Northern Lights</i>	10 <i>Writers With Drinks Carnival of Stars Fantastic Frontiers No-Name Anime SF Browncoats</i>
11 <i>Carnival of Stars Gay Men's Book Club SF Santa Rosa Meetup</i>	12	13 <i>Litquake: Doug Dorst</i>	14	15 <i>Tangential Conjectures</i>	16 <i>USS Defiance</i>	17 <i>Dark Shadows Picnic Folsom Ren Faire (thru Sun) Micro Gods, Inc Clockwork SF</i>
18 <i>SF/F Book Club</i>	19	20	21 <i>Clayton SFF Book Club</i>	22 <i>Thrillville's Halloween Gore 'n' Snorefest!</i>	23 <i>Legion of Rassilon</i>	24 <i>All-Hallows Fantasy Faire (thru Sun) USS Augusta Ada</i>
25 <i>Religion &amp; SF</i>	26	27	28 <i>Jonathan Lethem Other Realms</i>	29 <i>World Fantasy Convention (thru Sun) Thrillville's Halloween Gore 'n' Snorefest!</i>	30 <i>Yaoi-Con (thru Sun)</i>	31 <i>Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</i> 

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