

Science Fiction/San Francisco

A photograph of a person in a black wetsuit standing on a sandy beach, looking down at a surfboard. A dog is jumping in the air, catching a red disc. The ocean is in the background with waves breaking.

Issue 150
March 2014

Letters of Comment
Forbidden Planet
Art and Poetry
Convolution
Star Trek
Gafia
Fur
... and more!

Science Fiction / San Francisco

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email: SFinSF@gmail.com

Editor-in-Chief: Jean Martin
Managing Editor: Christopher Erickson
Compositor: Tom Becker

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Art Credits

Cover **Beach story** by Lucy Huntzinger

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Editorial

By Christopher Erickson

Managing Editor

There hasn't been a whole lot of things happening since I last wrote an editorial. I did the season of Dickens Fair, went to the PEERS 12th Night Ball in their new location at the Elks Lodge in Alameda, attended FurCon and participated in the parade and traveled down to Los Angeles for Gallifrey One.

The big thing I have done is to read the "Twilight" saga of books. I undertook this as a personal experiment in suppressing expectations and as an analysis of the criticisms of the book that many in the fandom community have with it. I wanted be able to argue the points for or against the criticisms after actually have read the books. The upshot of this was that I found that the books aren't well written, the characters feel underdeveloped and the plots are lengthy to the point of tedium while failing to balance a love story and supernatural action. I wrote a lengthy Facebook posting on my feelings as to why the novels are horrible. The summary is that the pacing is terrible, the repetitive descriptions and use of words is grating on the ears, the characters choices are weak, the sudden plot twists feel forced and the lessons that can be drawn from how the characters treat each other are destructive. Both Edward Cullen and Jacob Black are thoroughly disrespectful to Bella Swan, her choice of becoming a vampire to be with Edward promotes a message of having to change oneself to be accepted by people is misguided, and Bella's self-loathing attitude does little to change the perception of

what people should aspire to. I read the books on their own merits, but I believe that all of the criticisms with the book are valid. I will not disparage the people who like the books, since it is important to find things that people are interested in to get them to read and think critically. (My sister is dyslexic and only started to read outside of academic need through Harry Potter.) I will conclude that Stephanie Meyer is a horrible writer with characters that are insufferable, plodding stories and repetitive word choices.

I looked forward to the Beatles tribute to the 50th Anniversary of their appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show." The tribute was amazing with plenty of wonderful performances (my favorites were Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr as well as Stevie Wonder's cover of "We Can Work It Out," which was a version he previously recorded). I would have liked to see more of the original footage used or just a whole period where we could see their musical set. I will just have to look for it on YouTube. It was a wonderful show and it seemed like all of the people had a great time that were in the Ed Sullivan Theater.

I have been watching "Marvel's Agents of SHIELD" and have been impressed by the change in scriptwriting. There finally has been more focus on the team members with individual stories for a couple of them and a nice subplot featuring one of the members as well as a main villain to fight

against. Various plot elements have been consolidated into a more cohesive story as well. There are plans to include events from the upcoming “Captain America: The Winter Solider” movie as well as a guest appearance by the Asgardian warrior Sif from the “Thor” movies.

I have also caught up with “Once Upon A Time in Wonderland.” The show has been a bit slow to develop and the plot elements seem to be created specifically for the show since there is only so much from the two stories and any other works by Lewis Carroll that could be put into a long-form storytelling format. The show has developed by providing a back-story for Jafar, The Red Queen/Anastasia, The Knave of Hearts/Will Scarlett and Alice. The different threads of the story have come together and they have managed to resolve the original character motivation (Alice to rescue her true love, the genie) and set up another interesting plotline.

I have mostly been watching WWF “Attitude Era” championship matches of Bret “The Hitman” Hart and “Stone Cold” Steve Austin and the Undertaker anthology. It seems like there has been more emphasis on long-form story telling with these old matches as they feel more natural than the recent storylines I have been hearing about in the WWE nowadays.

I attended Gallifrey One in February and got to make new friends and reconnect with old ones. I listened to an Eight Doctor audio adventure, “The Vengeance of Morbius” and some “Doctor Who” music from a 25th Anniversary disc that we picked up a while back as well as some mix compact discs that I made. Daft Punk’s “Get Lucky” was played a couple of times on the way down.

One of the developments announced at Gallifrey One was the crowdfunding for an Inspector Spacetime movie. I was excited by this prospect since Sylvester McCoy (The Doctor) and Robert Picardo (The Doctor from “Star Trek: Voyager”) will be featured in the movie as well as Chase Masterson (Dabo girl Lita on “Star Trek: Deep Space Nine”). The decision was made to move forward since a movie is easier to get financial backing than a webseries. There is also an Inspector Spacetime comic book series in the works at IDW Publishing since they lost their license to “Doctor Who.” The fundraiser for the movie is at www.indiegogo.com/projects/the-inspector-chronicles-untitled-motion-picture-about-a-space-traveler.

Jean and I also spent our Christmas vacation in Cambria at a nice hotel right on the beach and made a visit to Hearst Castle in San Simeon. I have wanted to see this place for a long time as it was the inspiration for Xanadu in “Citizen Kane” and the place did not disappoint. We also spent time at Mission San Miguel on the way back to the Bay Area (and past two other missions on the way back as well). We also took in the Rios-Caledonia Adobe directly across from the mission. It was neat seeing these structures and how they have survived and been preserved.

We have also reached our 150th issue here at Science Fiction/San Francisco. It has been a treat being able to write about my experiences at conventions, which gives me special appreciation for putting on an event, learning about the behind the scenes operations that go into running a successful function, promoting it and being able to share something you love with other people. I also get to support something that my wife has devoted her time and effort to by providing material

and managing the calendar. It has also enabled me to attend events that I would never have thought of attending, such as WorldCon when it was in Reno and Maker Faire.

It has also let me connect with other people who share my interests in photography, costuming, cosplay and improv theatrics. I have meet many more people through writing and media events and gotten more involved in the community through promoting PEERS and BAERS events, helping advertise conventions, being a panelist at conventions (which I thought I would never be) and share interests while forging deeper relationships with people in the fandom community.

SF/SF has also let me provide commentary on issues that we all like to discuss and provide my thoughts on conventions/faires and what I experience at them. It has helped me learn to

communicate with others as well as learn about some of the problems with the cosplay community (nerd privilege and the fake geek girl issue) and has made me more aware of how I treat people (both men and women) and how they would like to be treated.

It has also allowed me to connect to my wife in a way that provides an opportunity to share what we both love to do together and share it with others in a way that reaches a larger audience than the occasional LiveJournal posting or Facebook status update. Through SF/SF, we have attended shows that we might not have known about and made weekends around the outing. It has allowed us to bond over the things that we love individually and brought us closer together.

Join our crew!

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

Letters of Comment

Jean Martin writes:

This issue marks our 150th, and I myself I'm astounded that we've produced this many issues already. SF/SF has been one of my major life priorities and source of creativity and community these past nine years and I'm hoping for more milestones to come. I am so grateful to Jack Avery who founded the zine in July 2005 and who has entrusted me with the running of it (along with Christopher J. Garcia for several years) from October 2005 onwards. It was exactly the right thing I needed when I was beginning a new life and looking for something fulfilling to do. The first LOC below is from Jack and I'm very glad to hear from him.

Another person I'm thankful for is Chris Garcia who also has a message for us below (with a great summary of the history of SF/SF so far). Chris and I ran SF/SF for about four years and his energy, colorful personality and knowledge of fandom really helped the zine and myself personally. Several people have come and gone and I miss all of them including España Sheriff, David Moyce and Eva Barrows. We've also had numerous contributors in the past who have really added their voice to SF/SF and I'm glad I was able to have the zine serve as an opportunity for people to showcase their talents in writing, photography and art.

But I'm so happy to have long-time contributors still in board such as Diane B. Rooney who has since become a friend as well. Diane's LOC is below. And we don't want to forget our regular LOC writers such as Lloyd Penney. While I publish SF/SF for the joy of it, it is comforting to know that

we at least have one dedicated reader such as Lloyd who seems like a part of the staff already as he appears in pretty much every issue. And yes, Lloyd has a LOC for us below.

Lots of thanks to Tom Becker who has been doing a great job with our layout for several years now. There wouldn't be an SF/SF without Tom! And, of course, Bill Burns who generously uploads all our issues to efanazines.com for free.

I'm also grateful to all the people who have actively helped us with our content by allowing us press access and/or have provided us with information. It is one of our missions to promote events in the Bay Area but we don't want to take for granted the time and cooperation from other people that are oftentimes needed to accomplish this goal.

Lastly, my love and thanks to Christopher Erickson who has come on board not only as our most prolific contributor but also has now been helping with the running of SF/SF as my day job has become busier. He's also taken on the very time-consuming calendar of events after España left. Also, Chris's more in-depth perspective on events and general fandom issues is something that I believe adds greatly to the quality of the zine. It is also wonderful that he and I share something that we both love and can create together. Chris talks about our 150th issue eloquently in his editorial in this issue.

And now, here are the LOCs...

Jack Avery writes:

It's hard to believe that it's been 150 issues and nearly nine years of Science Fiction/San Francisco. I never would have dreamed when I put out that first issue all those years ago that it would have lasted this long or published this many editions.

I could not possibly express how pleased and impressed I am with the work you, and everyone else who has contributed over the years, have done with the zine. I knew when I started it that I was not the right editor for the project so I'm very happy that you've made it your own.

I had hoped that the zine would be both a resource and a meeting place for Bay Area fans and I think that in recent years it has become just that.

I still wish that more fans would discover (and contribute to) the zine, but I think that your personality, consistency and ability to promote SF/SF has taken it much further than I ever dreamed.

So thanks to you and Christopher Erickson and Chris Garcia and David Moyce and Lucy Huntzinger and Tom Becker and España Sheriff and Eva Kent and Diane B. Rooney and Al "Rackstraw" Megas and all of the other contributors and editors. I may have started this thing, but I certainly can't take credit for its success.

Looking forward to the next 150 issues.

Jean Martin responds:

Jack, thanks so much for writing this. It means a lot to me that you, the one who started SF/SF, recognize our efforts and longevity. Yes, I do wish more people would contribute, but despite my ongoing efforts, it seems like people are just way too busy to do so. As Chris mentioned in his current editorial, most people are happy with just sharing their stories in short formats and immediately such as with

social media. Also, not everyone wants to write, take photographs and create art. It takes a certain type of person to want to do these things and most of them have their own outlets for their creativity. However, I am still pleasantly surprised that we do keep getting enough material for each issue. I'm always worried going into each issue that we'll have nothing and always turns out okay.

Chris Garcia writes:

Wow, 150 issues of SF/SF. I can distinctly remember reading the very first issue from the great Jack Avery put up on eFanzines. The second issue had the first words from me in it; I sent a letter of comment to Jack that started like this:

Good stuff. Good to have ya back with us in the world of grumpy publishing. You should have held out, because every time I read a new Vegas Fandom Weekly, I got a step closer to doing a BArea Fandom Weekly myself. You've saved me the trouble.

Now, all these years later, having spent a little more than 90 issues either writing articles or as an editor, it's great to see how the thing has evolved in every area. I really think that what y'all've been doing in the last couple of years has been fantastic and I can't wait to see what comes next!

But this is supposed to be about the last 149 issues, right?

And so, I'll talk about my years with the zine. My first words were that LoC, and also in issue 2 was my piece called A Sorta Neo-Fan's View of BArea Fandom. That was my first piece. I think I had something in every issue until number 8, and then Issue 9, Jean Martin and I came on-board as co-editors with Jack doing the layout. It was a heady time, those days. David Moyce followed as our copy editor not long after. Those were good days, late 2005 and 2006. We put out two

issues a month, had a lot of great content, got some nice notice from folks, it was a wonderful time to be putting together the zine.

Issue 21 brought on Eva Kent doing wonderful layout, and Jack becoming officially Emeritus! That line-up was a lot of fun too, and I think we finally got all of us, every editor, in one place in 2007 at the Westercon! Issue 46 saw David move up to doing the layout (I did it once, and no I won't tell you which one because I'm not one to admit my mistakes!) and that was the core for a while.

Issues 44 & 45 were rather special to me, as it had what I consider to be the best thing I ever wrote for SF/SF - Memories of BayCons Past. I really think that it captured what I loved about BayCon and I go back and look at those pieces anytime I find myself kvetching about staff meetings and so on.

Issue 65 found España Sheriff's name on the masthead for the first time (I think her first appearance was around issue 10) and things were stabilized until issue 78, when Tom Becker came on as Compositor and gave the zine so much more color to the zine. Really, SF/SF has come fully to life with Tom coming on-board and I can not be prouder of what we managed to do.

Of course, David and I left after issue 100. I've always felt bad that I haven't been able to send as much to SF/SF over the last few years as it will always have a place near and dear to my heart. When I think of those early days, 2005-2008, when you could count on great stuff from Jean, Dr. Noe, Diane Rooney, España, and even once in a while something readable from myself, I smile and know that I was a part of something special. An interesting illustration of that was an on-line argument a bunch of folks were engaging in that fell into the

"Blogs Rules! Zines Rule!" strain of fight. I put up a link to SF/SF saying 'point me to a blog that gives this kind of coverage to Bay Area fandom.'

No one could, because no one else did.

Or does.

Jean Martin responds:

Chris, thanks so much for the SF/SF history summary. It makes me nostalgic thinking about all of the people who've been a part of SF/SF and how we all had so much fun creating the zine and hanging out together. Things have evolved and are just as fun, but yes, I definitely miss those days.

I'm glad Jack came up with SF/SF because I'm really not an ideas person. I see things people start and then a lightbulb lights up in my brain and I go: "I want to do that!" Which was definitely the case with SF/SF. And I was a newbie in fandom in 2005 so while I was willing and excited to take SF/SF on, I was also a bit daunted. So having a fandom veteran like yourself there too was a big comfort.

And I'm glad that you still think about us and appreciate the work that we do. We'd love for you to contribute when you can. It is true that SF/SF offers something special and unique to Bay Area fandom, which just has so much going on! However, our geographic concentration and our not being like a traditional fanzine (I think we're more of a news zine than anything else), does limit our audience. But I have heard from folks outside of our area as well as general fanzine readers that they enjoy SF/SF, so that is very validating.

Diane B. Rooney writes:

Congratulations on SF/SF's 150th Issue!

SF/SF was started way back in July 2005 by Jack Avery. The first issue was six pages, and included a Fannish Calendar of two pages, an article about a screening of "Faster Pussycat! Kill! Kill!" at the Bridge Theater in San Francisco (which closed in January 2013), and some photos of a cool Burning Man wooden temple sculpture built out on Octavia Boulevard in SF that didn't mention the artist's name.

By Issue 6 in August 2005 (yes, a month later!), the ezine was up to 40 pages, the Fannish Calendar was 19 pages, and there were not one but two feature articles by Jean Martin, one on Firefly/Serenity and one on an SCA event, along with a cross-posted piece by Mike Wilson on Glory Days Water Wars battle between Klingons and Federation ships from Star Fleet Region Four. And, I wrote and supplied photos for my first article for SF/SF, about a "Lord of the Rings" trilogy screening held August 18 at the Presidio Theater, organized by Eileen Attridge, that raised over \$2,200 for autism research.

Since then I've written on numerous topics, including Dickens Fair, Maker Faire, the Northern California Pirate Festival, Edwardian Ball, WonderCon, Harry Potter and numerous author events and book signings. And I continue to try to organize my life so there is time to write more.

SF/SF is, I think, a unique resource. With every issue I am reminded of the overwhelming breadth and depth of the SF Bay Area fannish scene and impressed by the enthusiasm of writers and readers and the quality of the news gathering, reporting, and opinion pieces that are delivered faithfully and enthusiastically month after month.

Lots of ezines (and other types of magazines as well, including many backed by large communications companies)

never last anywhere near 150 issues, so Jean, Chris, Tom, our inspiration Chris Garcia, and all the usual suspects who contribute to Science Fiction/San Francisco should be really proud.

Jean Martin writes:

Hi Diane! I remember your story about the LOTR trilogy like it was yesterday. I thought to myself, "who is this fellow Tolkien enthusiast and how do I meet her?" I'm so glad that you still continue to write for SF/SF as your writing is wonderful and you also take great photos. I'm also glad that we've become friends.

Lloyd Penney writes:

Thank you for issue 149 of SF/SF ... I got your message about comments about the first 149 issues for issue 150! But, first things first...

Jean Martin responds:

Hi Lloyd, thanks for writing to us!

That cover ... hmmm ... well, one thing I did think of is an old line from "Deep Space Nine," that the spots do go all the way down...

Yeah, the cover is a bit tongue-in-cheek. It's not one I would have picked myself but it was appropriate considering the issue was behind a week or so.

Hope you're feeling better. We've been well, but keeping expenses to a minimum. We've been watching the complete "Babylon 5," plus the various Farm series from the BBC. It's good to be able to overcome the lack of interesting programming on the available channels, and I think this will be the eventual future of TV, so choose exactly what you want to see when you want to see it.

I'm feeling better but am two weeks behind on life, so this issue is a bit late as well. But I'm hoping to catch up soon! As for B5, I've watched several episodes here and there. It's something that in theory I would have liked but for some reason, I just can't get into it. I didn't like the first captain and liked Bruce Boxleitner so much better. But I think by that time, I was just done with it. I think I don't like that they're on a stationary location too. Same reason why I didn't care much for "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine." It just tends to become too much of soap opera for my taste when they're always in the same place.

I believe Dante Basco is coming to our area here, a guest of one of the anime conventions northwest of Toronto. I am not planning to go, but looks like he is fairly popular now, and is taking full advantage of the convention circuit.

The Edwardian World's Fair and the Mad Hatter Ball both sound like they were fabulous affairs to be at. There may be something interesting coming up in our area ... all I know is what I found out literally minutes ago as I type ... Abney Park somewhere in the Niagara Falls area, coming up in mid-September. More as I discover it.

Abney Park is one of those bands that I can see again and again. They're very entertaining not only sonically but visually as well.

There are rarely a lot of movies I look forward to at the beginning of the year. One that we plan to see that isn't on your list is a comedy called "The Grand Budapest Hotel." It has a huge cast, which includes Ralph Fiennes, Jude Law and Bill Murray, and it could be the very first Steampunk comedy. We're going to take a risk, and go and see it; it comes out March 7.

I saw that on IMBD but I didn't know it was going to be Steampunk so I didn't even look into it. I'll have to check it out now.

Jason Burnett has discovered one reason why I've been responding to this zine since the first issue ... you discover how fandom operates in other cities, and you can borrow some ideas as inspiration to start new activities where you are.

That is indeed true. And that's why I love reading your LOCs to us because I get to see what it's like in your area.

My loc ... we certainly survived our ice storm, but now the American South is discovering them first-hand, and I don't think they've ever had that before. Climate change exists! We are still planning the idea of going to both sides of Niagara Falls to take some photos of the Tesla monuments. We have indeed taken a table at the craft show referred to at The Metropolis Factory ... the Artisans of the Metropolis bazaar takes place on February 22, and we will be selling out Steampunk wares. Jobwise, all the prospects fell through, but suddenly, I have some new ones. Hope must spring eternal; if not, that way lies depression.

I can't even imagine how you folks live through ice storms. Growing up in a country with no snow, it sounds very scary to me. It is indeed mystifying how climates have changed so drastically this past winter. In our neck of the woods, we have very little rain and we are now in a drought.

Please do let us know about your trip to Niagara Falls. I'd love to see photos of the Tesla monuments.

That's good to hear that you're keeping your hopes up. And I hope you get a job soon.

When Star Wars was still in the production stages, I think 20th Century Fox was getting the word out everywhere. Fisher, Ford and Hamill were shuttled up to Toronto for an

autograph session at Bakka Books, the big SF bookstore on Queen St W. Sounds like Toronto was just one of many stops on their promotional tour. I'll bet they thought the whole thing was a pain the butt, but did it ever pay dividends.

I wasn't here in the U.S. then so this is the first I've heard that the actors did a promo tour. That's great that 20th Century Fox marketed the movie well, but it seems like, word of mouth also was a big reason for the success of the movie.

For issue 150, you want to hear what this zine has meant to me, even if I live about as far away from you as possible and still stay on the continent. SF/SF shows me that as I might look at fandom around me, and think that it is changing or disintegrating, and my sense of community might be suffering, it is healthy in other places. The Bay area has clubs, conventions and events, more of all of those than other places, and a fannish community that blessed needs a way to keep track of it all, a way to get all pertinent information to become as involved as you wish to be, and something that all in the community can enjoy. It caters to all fandoms, and will not put one fandom down as inferior to others. It shows that the more

information is provided and spread about, and the more informed the members of the community are, the stronger that community is. As far as I can tell, SF/SF is the backbone of that strong community, and I suspect that the community has come to rely upon it to stay informed and connected. This goes with the remark I made about Jason Burnett's loc above. This zine has confirmed my own opinions about community, that the more informed it is, the stronger it is ... I produce a convention list for Toronto fandom, and it goes with Yvonne's Pubnites and Other Events e-newsletter. Most people will not come to our pubnights, but they stay with the e-list to get the convention information. I would like to see you talk to Chris Garcia and see if he had a similar mission statement in mind when he started this zine.

Jack Avery actually started the zine and Chris Garcia has summarized the history of SF/SF in his LOC above. But yes, I do believe, Jack did have those goals in mind when he started the zine.

All done for the moment. Thanks for this issue, and I think 150 will be spectacular. Looking forward to it!

Return to the Forbidden Planet Review

By Jack Avery

Editor Emeritus

Return to the Forbidden Planet isn't so much a stage sequel to the classic 1950s science fiction movie, as a mash-up between Forbidden Planet and all of Shakespeare's works used as an excuse to sing some classic rock and roll tunes.

A hit when it first played in London nearly a quarter of a decade ago, the jukebox musical received a surprisingly sprightly revival last month in Novato by The Curtain Theatre and Marin Onstage in Novato with a rollerblading Ariel/Robbie the Robot and a standout cast.

The fun started even before the play began with costumed cast members in character dispensing space-themed treats to the audience in the form of cups of Tang and Mars Bars.

Once the play was underway, I was particularly impressed by the vocal ability of the main cast.

Phillip Percy Williams is the sort of talent that is rarely seen in small regional theater productions. As Captain Tempest his powerful stage presence and his deep, rich vocals were ideal in the lead role. Williams has extensive experience as a jazz vocalist and as a musical actor and it showed.

Amy Lizardo was almost as dominating with her soulful voice as Science Officer Gloria. She was a good foil to both Captain Tempest and Prospero with a very strong performance. Unfortunately, the script called for her character to be absent for the middle of the play, which limited how much we heard her sing.





Captain Tempest (Phillip Percy Williams) and His Crew

by Jean Martin

Amanda Morando, Musical Director as well as key role Miranda, and Phillip Swanson as the Bosun, both did well with their solos with solid vocal performances. Producer and Choreographer Steve Beecroft as Cookie did a fine job on some of the do-wop numbers, but wasn't as much of a standout as some of the others. Paul Abbott certainly had the gravitas to play Prospero, but his vocals seem to be a bit

hoarse and he just couldn't belt out the rock and roll with the same power as some of the other performers.

There were quite a few other cast members, but the script didn't give them much to do. They served mostly as backup singers and dancers.

I was quite pleasantly surprised that the play was kept "pure" and few attempts were made to modernize it or make



Prospero (Paul Abbott)

by Jean Martin

too many pop culture references. They could have made this into a Star Trek in-joke quite easily but they avoided that except in a few one-off jokes centered on the auxiliary cast members.

Mark Clark as Chief Medical Officer Bonz got in an “I’m a doctor, not a ...” joke. Shari Clover as Communications Officer Siri got in a couple of iPhone jokes. Will Lamers as Security Officer “Warf” was the joke as he was a Klingon in a kilt.

The biggest Star Trek reference was in the design of Melissa Claire’s Ariel costume, which was clearly based on the Borg. As well as playing the character that serves as roller-

skating analog to both Ariel from “The Tempest” and Robby the Robot from “Forbidden Planet,” she was the costume designer.

As for the play itself, it was fun, but there just isn’t much to it. The play serves as an excuse for the main cast to break into familiar songs from the dawn of rock and roll through the 1960s. The science officer is named Gloria, for example, just so that the cast can break into a rousing rendition of the song of the same name. When the planet their on starts to break up, they sing “We Gotta Get Out Of This Place”.

The text of the play borrows liberally from the works of Shakespeare, with lines coming from many different plays.

Despite the title, the play is not a sequel so much as a watered-down distillation of the plot points of the originals. If you’ve seen “Forbidden Planet” and are familiar with “The Tempest” there won’t be any surprises in the plot. A survey ship commanded by Captain Tempest encounters a meteor storm as the cast sings “Great Balls of Fire.” The science officer abandons ship while the rest of the crew manage to land on a nearby planet and meet Prospero, who has been marooned with his daughter Miranda by his ex-wife.

Prospero has built a robot, Ariel, who is capable of amazing feats. Prospero offers to have Ariel fix the crew’s damaged craft and search for the missing science officer.

Meanwhile a love triangle has sprung up between Captain Tempest, Miranda and Cookie. The usual romantic complications ensue. While fixing the ship, Ariel reveals that Prospero has been working on a formula called The X Factor (cue a joke about the recent TV series) that can expand the mind.

Ariel locates the missing science officer, but she is being pursued by a monster that then attacks the ship. While Ariel is able to fend off the monster, it is revealed that the science officer is Prospero's ex-wife and she is placed under arrest for her crimes.

There are the usual romantic complications, plots between scheming crew members, Prospero getting mad that the Captain is getting romantically involved with his daughter, etc. It's revealed that the monster is just Prospero's id and eventually all is straightened out in time for the final song and dance numbers.

If you enjoy juke box musicals with a science fiction theme, "Return to the Forbidden Planet" is a good choice. The play itself is nothing deep or new, but it's entertaining enough. The real attraction is in the quality of the musical performances and the Novato production succeeded on the strength of the lead actor's fantastic vocals.



Miranda (Maura Tang), Ariel (Melissa Claire) and Captain Tempest (Phillip Percy Williams)

by Jean Martin

Photos by Jean Martin were taken at Curtain Theatre and Marin Onstage's June 30, 2013, production of "Return to the Forbidden Planet" in Mill Valley.

A Year Without Cons

By Thad Gann

Contributing Writer

After a couple decades of spending holiday weekends and planning vacations around science fiction conventions, I decided to skip everything for 2013. It started with the difficulties of dealing with Comic-Con International and WonderCon moving permanently to Southern California. So I decided a break was in order. No WorldCon, BayCon, WesterCon, LosCon, Clockwork Alchemy, nor any of the myriad of other conventions we are fortunate enough to have access to. It was tough, and very tempting at times, but I was able to make it through the entire year. So with this much time on my hands how did I fill my days?

Burning Man: This tribal event takes place late summer every year North East of Reno Nevada. It is at various points an exercise in survival, a multi-day party and a costume event. It also has a huge number of sci-fi fans. The kind of fans that build spaceships and airships and fantastical assortment of buildings and conveyances. It was quite an interesting week. Ask me and I'll tell you some time.

Movies: 2013 was a great year for science fiction. Some of the best (and worst) movies in years came out last year, and I was privileged enough to see many with fellow fans. From the dystopia of "Elysium" and "World War Z" to the comic book joy of "Iron Man 3" and "Thor: The Dark World," there was one science fiction movie playing in theaters almost every week of the year. And many movies made both Year's Best



© 2014 Thad Gann

Thad at Dickens Fair

courtesy of Thad Gann



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Unwoman at the Edwardian Ball by Thad Gann



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The Dark Harlequins (Ophelia Coeur de Noir, Chalyce Pay aka Charlie Duneaux, and Joshua Thompson) at the Edwardian Ball by Thad Gann



© 2014 Thad Gann

Scott Levkoff at the Edwardian Ball by Thad Gann

and Year's Worst list, which alone is pretty impressive.

Events: We are lucky in the Bay Area to be close to so many wonderful events. The Northern California Renaissance Faire is just south of San Jose. Northern California Pirate Festival is just North of the Carquinez Strait Bridge. The Dickens Fair is at the Cow Palace. These multi-day events are

not Science Fiction related but do appeal to the same sense of fantasy and adventure we enjoy. They are costume events in the loosest interpretation of the term and allow spectacles for all groups and ages. I missed the Pirate Festival last year (argh!!) because of a family event out of state, but spent many a fine hour at other festivals. Another amazing event in San

San Francisco is the Edwardian Ball, celebrating the life and times of Edward Gorey. In 2014, the Edwardian World's Faire and Ball was held last January



© 2014 Thad Gann
Young Queen Victoria and Prince Albert
 at Dickens Fair by Thad Gann

17-18 at the Regency Ballroom. Three full floors of activities crammed the ball this year. From the Vendor Bazaar on the lower floor to the Mystic Midway on the Upper Floor, every nook and cranny was filled with wonders. One of my great



© 2014 Thad Gann
Queen of Hearts and White Rabbit
 at Dickens Fair by Thad Gann

joys was watching Unwoman perform at the Upper Floor stage.

Which brings me to my last entry in this narrative. Family and Friends. During this last year I have been especially blessed to show dear friends and members of my family a glimpse into the worlds I explore on a regular basis. I was an impromptu tour guide to several first time attendees at Dickens Fair, showed a friend around the Renaissance Fair last fall, attended several costume and impromptu gatherings in the City. I also spent many hours discussing costumes and spent many an hour photographing costumes of all types. The camaraderie of friends is our best and best kept secret. While we all have different pursuits, we maintain interwoven threads of common interests that form great bonds of friendships.

Would I skip another year of sci-fi conventions? Perhaps. Give me a couple more decades and we can talk about it.

Fursuiters vs. A Convention: FurCon 2014

By Christopher Erickson

Managing Editor

Further Confusion (FurCon) was held on January 16-20, 2014, at the recently renovated San Jose McEnery Convention Center in downtown San Jose. It was rather relaxed and composed compared to a lot of the events that I attend.

The convention felt more compact and contained, especially with FurCon sharing space with a volleyball tournament in the main building and a hemp convention also happening at the South Hall. The isolated area made it feel less intrusive to the other functions and there was a better atmosphere. There was a large curtain that separated the areas and you could not have to pass through the sports tourney to get to FurCon.

The theme this year was “Further Confusion vs. The World,” a reference to the comic book series and movie “Scott Pilgrim vs. The World.” Since the inspiration was based on video games, there was a theme for retro video games and 1980s fashion. The program book featured artwork mashups with characters from “Metroid,” “Super Mario Brothers,” “Street Fighter II” and others as anthropomorphic versions and a short story about gaming. The badges featured this theme as well and the pocket guide cover art was based on “Scott Pilgrim.” There was a display of different gaming systems set up for people to play games including old Nintendo Entertainment System games “Kung-Fu” and the 1989 “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” and a version of “Scott



Balloon bumping

by Christopher Erickson



Ghostbuster Fursuiters

by Christopher Erickson



Guitar Hero

by Christopher Erickson



Asian Fursuit

by Christopher Erickson



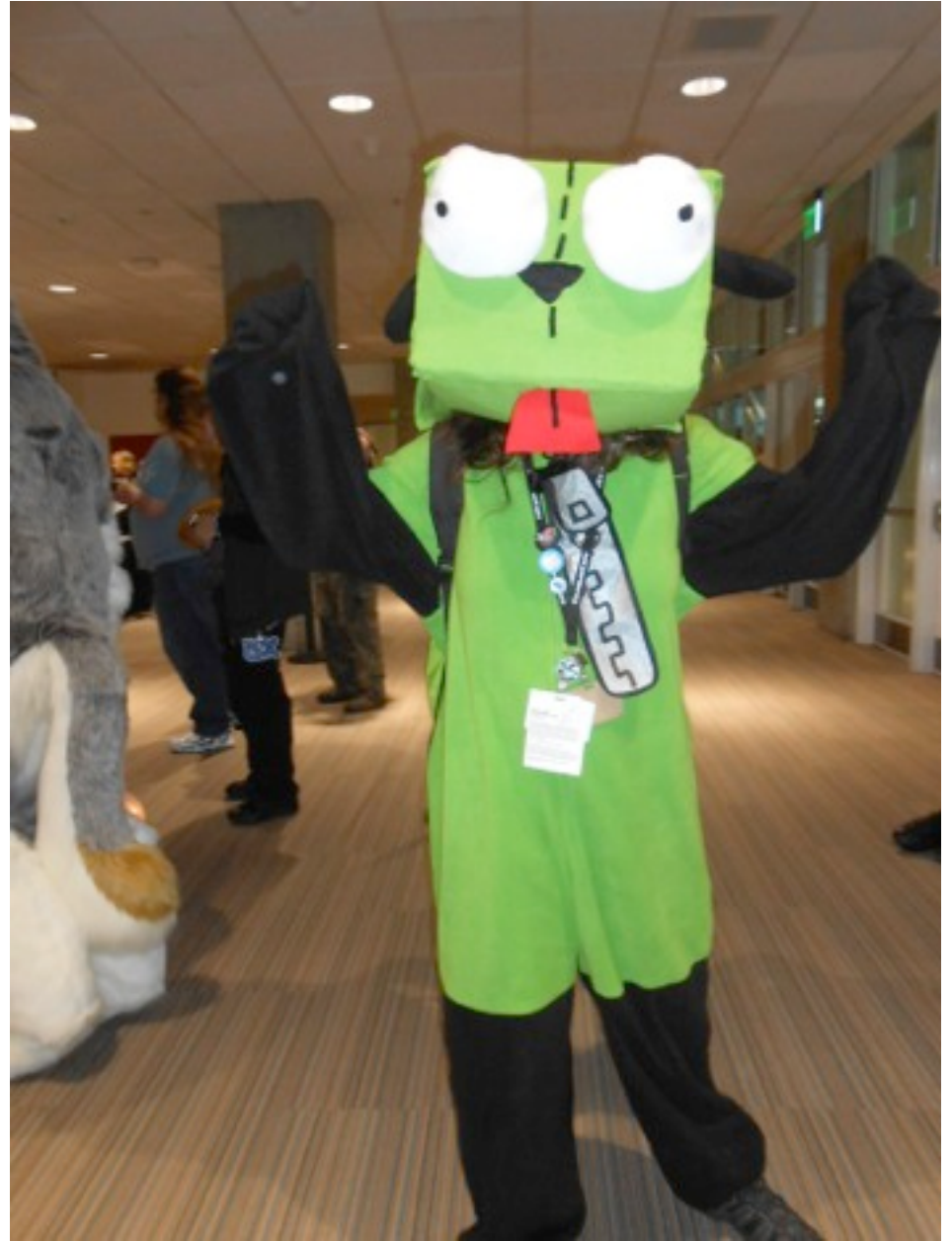
'80s

by Christopher Erickson



Minecraft

by Christopher Erickson



GIR's disguise

by Christopher Erickson



Pizza attacked by Minion and Furies

by Christopher Erickson



Velociraptor Dr. Alan Grant

by Christopher Erickson



Ramona Flowers, Master Chief, Pokemon



by Christopher Erickson

Pilgrim vs. The World: The Game.” The charity for 2014 was the Digital Game Museum located in Santa Clara, Calif., which preserves and presents the history of digital video gaming.

There were a few costumes that worked the theme in. There was a dog with a “Guitar Hero” guitar, a Ramona Flowers from “Scott Pilgrim,” a “Minecraft” costume, a Master Chief from “Halo,” a couple of “Pokémon” characters,

and some 1980s fashions. There were a few other interesting outfits as well including a Minion from the “Despicable Me” movies, a giant slice of pizza, a GIR in his green dog disguise from “Invader Zim,” a velociraptor version of Dr. Alan Grant from “Jurassic Park” and a TARDIS dress and anthropomorphic versions of fantasy characters.

The big draw for the day I went was the Fursuit Parade. The event was something that I had wanted to partake in for a while since I had first seen it. I decided to wear my Tronified Sorcerer’s Apprentice Mickey Mouse outfit for the parade. The participants began to gather outside the main room. People hung out and chatted, took photos, admired the costumes of each other and broke out into a spontaneous game of balloon volleyball while trying to keep the balloons aloft with their noises. The congregation was then let in to line up. There was a director who grouped all of the animals together and arranged them in some semblance of order and told jokes to keep everyone entertained. During that time, I found another costumer who was wearing a Minnie Mouse outfit. We hung out and gathered together during the parade.

During the congressional itself, you could see all of the people lined up along the route, which wound around the main floor of the hall, through the dealer room and back into the main event room. There were lots of people taking pictures as well as people making jokes about copyright issues with Mickey Mouse. After the parade was over, everyone gathered together for a photo in the room taken from a scissor lift. The final count of participants in the parade was 634 and everyone who was in the parade received a tag with a number on it (similar to tags when livestock is sold) that was done as the game “Pong.”



Minnie and Mickey during the parade courtesy of Christopher Erickson

People and fursuiters were able to relax in a nice area near the main hall rooms with nice lounge chairs. There was also a professional photographer in the lounge area where you could have your photo taken for free.

After the main programming and dealer room closure, there was a natural break point before the evening entertainments such as the masquerade, dance and video game tournament began. It was a good time to get food with plenty of dining options downtown within walking distance. While walking to the restaurant I ate at (Johnny Rocket's), I had a chance to admire plenty of people walking around in costume or hanging out outside of the lobby of the adjoining hotel. I also had the chance to go to Single Barrel for a drink with some friends. The only drawback to being outside of the convention was the heavy smell of cannabis in the air from HempCon.

Unfortunately, the party rooms were scarce this year. Only the Black Hole had a theme this year and the Communist Party was completely missing. The rest were more hangouts or rave style parties. Plenty of people were out on the patio having a good time.

FurCon 2014 was a good time. I am looking forward to next year with even more costuming and fun.



Fursuit Parade Tag

by Christopher Erickson

Rediscovering Creation's Star Trek Conventions

By Jean Martin
Editor-in-Chief

My first experiences with science fiction conventions were in the early to mid-1990s. If I remember correctly, they were all organized by Creation Entertainment. There was one I attended at the San Mateo Event Center for the 25th anniversary of “Star Trek” in 1991. I remember it was in one of the biggest halls and there were a lot of fans but I didn’t know anyone. William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy’s plane was delayed and so we waited for a long time for them to arrive. But it was worth the wait as they were hilarious together.

Then I went to two more. One was with Patrick Stewart (reciting lines from Shakespeare) and Marina Sirtis at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. The other was at the San Francisco Masonic Auditorium with Nana Visitor, Kate Mulgrew and Robert Duncan McNeill. Again, I didn’t know anyone at either of these and I also didn’t even line up for autographs or buy any memorabilia.

So I didn’t go to any Creation conventions for another 15 plus years. I’d seen most of the actors I’d wanted to see and there wasn’t anything else that drew me to go. Also, it seemed like I didn’t hear about these conventions again and I also started going to fan-run conventions in 2004, which I preferred because there was a sense of community and I got to make friends, party, costume, write, take photos and publish a e-zine.



Jean and Chris as Lt. Moreau and Capt. Kirk

courtesy of Jean Martin



Registration line

by Jean Martin



Marina Sirtis

by Jean Martin

However, after going to Las Vegas a few times to see the Star Trek Experience and after hearing about Creation Star Trek conventions in the Bay Area again, I got excited about rekindling my love of “Star Trek” by going to a convention.

The past few years they have been in San Francisco and on dates I couldn’t make it. I don’t recall exactly when Creation started doing this in Burlingame, near where I live, but last November, I took advantage of this proximity and made an effort to go.

The convention was for three days from November 8-10, but Chris and I only went on the last day, which was a Sunday. Unfortunately, that meant that we missed the Costume Contest on Friday night, but that was for Gold members only. The Gold weekend package is a bit pricey. There is a less

expensive Silver option, and an economical general admission weekend package. Single-day general admission tickets were also available.

We also didn’t get to see William Shatner and Lee Meriwether who appeared on Saturday. I don’t know if it was done intentionally, but it seemed like the programming for Saturday focused on Original Series guests. I would like to see William Shatner again, and hopefully we’ll come back for the convention this year. I would also like to get his autograph and maybe even a photo with him.

Sunday was for the spinoffs. We had some issues getting there early so we totally missed Jeri Ryan (7 of 9 from “Voyager”). I would have liked to see her as I thought her character was great and “Voyager” is my third favorite after a



Cindy as 7 of 9 with a couple of Borgs

by Jean Martin



Original Series and Reboot Movie Crew with Deanna Troi

by Jean Martin



Autographing with Jonathan Frakes and Gates McFadden by Jean Martin

tie between the Original Series and “The Next Generation.” Speaking of Next Gen, we were able to attend the panel with Jonathan Frakes (Commander Riker), Marina Sirtis (Counselor Troi) and Gates McFadden (Dr. Crusher). I didn’t recognize Frakes as he now has a beard. Sirtis and McFadden still looked the same... beautiful. They were very entertaining together as they all had different personalities. Frakes made a joke about a YouTube video of the Riker Maneuver where he climbs over chairs to sit down as he’s so tall. Sirtis said that she loves her fans because they know to give her dark chocolate. McFadden mentioned that the funniest question that was asked of her by a fan was from someone who thought that



Robert Beltran by Jean Martin

the characters and the ship are real. Anyway, the whole time all three were hilarious just interacting with each other and with the fans asking questions.

Later on, we watched Robert Beltran being interviewed onstage. His panel was a bit more serious and he talked about his career and acting in general. He is quite the gentleman.

In between the panels, Chris and I checked out the vendor areas, which consisted of the open area in front of the main ballroom where the panels were held and a smaller ballroom to the side. Our first stop was to say hello to Spring and Dave who had a booth called Springtime Creations for Spring’s scifi and fantasy jewelry. Then we explored both areas, which had a



Memorabilia for sale

by Jean Martin

lot of great memorabilia such as photos, toys, art, posters, t-shirts, DVDs, CDs, etc. And not just of the “Star Trek” universe but other movies and TV shows as well.

I was good and only bought one t-shirt that was pink and said Space Girls on it with several female characters spelling out the words. There were several autographed plaques I was interested in but they were expensive and I’m trying to be more frugal and practical these days. I used to buy lots of memorabilia and they wind up just gathering dust, taking up storage space or being sold on eBay for much less than I paid for.

In the main vendor room I also got to meet Max Grodenchik and Aron Eisenberg (Rom and Nog, respectively, from “Deep Space Nine”) as well as Michael Aron who made

a very memorable turn as Jack London in one of my favorite “Next Generation” episodes, the two-parter “Time’s Arrow.” This story was set in San Francisco and I found out that Aron lives in the Bay Area.

It was actually ironic that this convention was held at the same hotel a weekend after Convolution, which I’m also covering in this issue. So it was a bit of a déjà vu to be roaming the same halls, going to the same ballrooms and eating at the same restaurants. We even saw some of the same



Michael Aron

by Jean Martin



Rom and Nog

by Jean Martin

friends but this time they were in “Star Trek” scifi costumes instead of fantasy costumes.

I think that’s why I enjoyed the convention very much. Seeing the actors was great but seeing friends and people in costumes really added to the fun. Also, attendance was very good (probably because the reboot movies have brought the franchise back into the mainstream) and there were people of all ages. It was truly wonderful to see the younger generation appreciating the values that make “Star Trek” special. That of the enduring hope that mankind will evolve for the better and that we will continue to advance and explore space in the future. “Star Trek” also shows that science and technology are important as are interpersonal relations and human goodness and decency.



Captain Janeway and Commander Chakotay Look-Alikes

by Jean Martin

There were a lot of people in costumes, and with Chris and I being in costumes ourselves, we were able to connect with people because we have a common interest. Taking photos of people in costume also helped us meet new people. Some also wanted to take photos of us or with us.

The autograph lines were right in the open area and it didn't seem like the lines were very long. I wasn't interested in autographs that time, though, as I already had one from Marina Sirtis from a while back and she's the only one I would have been willing to pay extra for an autograph.

Autographs for different actors are an extra fee depending on whether you buy a package or if it's included in the package you purchase. Photos with the actors are always an additional charge.

Anyway, it was a fun-filled day and it wonderful to be back in the "Star Trek" fold. I also had a fabulous time being with fellow fans as they were warm and welcoming. I am definitely planning on going to more of these in the future. Hopefully, I'll even make it to the big one in Las Vegas someday.



1701st Fleet International Fan Association

by Jean Martin

Convolution 2013

By Jean Martin

Editor-in-Chief

Convolution had a great start in 2012 and so I was looking forward to its second year. The convention was held last November 1-3, 2013, and was again at the Hyatt Regency SFO in Burlingame, Calif. Not only is the Hyatt SFO a beautiful hotel, it's also very close to where I live, and so it's convenient and I don't have to stay at the hotel (saves money!).

The theme in 2013 was the Gates of Horn and Ivory: The Realms of Dream. The phrase comes from Virgil's "The Aeneid," one of my favorite stories of all time. The convention website correlates it with the fact that: "Authors of Science Fiction and Fantasy use our dreams of magical creatures, faraway lands, space travel and so much more to create whole new universes, which then turn around and feed the imaginations of their readers, pulling them into those worlds."

The guests of honor for the convention expound on the theme. These included Brian (artist, author, conceptual designer) and Wendy (doll maker, sculptor and puppet builder) Froud as well as Wendy and Richard Pini (creative team behind Elfquest, authors, illustrators and editors).

I was able to attend one of the panels that Brian and Wendy Froud did along with their son Toby, who was the little baby of the same name in Jim Henson's movie "Labyrinth." Brian was the conceptual designer for "Labyrinth" and "Dark Crystal," both of which were Jim Henson's movies. Wendy created the



Jareth the Goblin King and Sarah

by Jean Martin



Toby and Wendy Froud

by Jean Martin

Gelflings in “Dark Crystal” and Yoda in the “Star Wars” movies. I was able to meet all three as well as Toby’s son Sebastian who was dressed in the same costume that Toby wore in the movie.

I’d previously met Wendy and Richard Pini both unfortunately didn’t get to see them at the con at all. There was just so much to do!

Chris and I were both panelists and had three panels each. The only one we had in common was the Posing for the Camera: A Guide for both Costumers and Photographers moderated by our friend Jade Falcon. Other panelists for that one included another friend, Jean Batt (DJ Neshamah), and



The original Labyrinth baby Toby Froud now with his own baby in the same costume

by Jean Martin

another guest of honor, writer and photographer Richard Kadrey.

My other panels were Editing Your Own Work (moderated by publisher and author Jennifer Brozek) and Mythology: Basis for Modern Fantasy (moderated by faerie shaman/artist Surya O’Shea). Chris was in a 50 Years of Doctor Who panel moderated by our friend Ryan Galloto.

Other than panels, I was able to check out the dealer room, which had wonderful handmade items created by talented artists, crafters, jewelers and costume makers. There was a gaming room as well, which I just took a peek into because it was located in a former restaurant at the hotel, which used to



Steamy Tech in the Vendor Room

by Jean Martin



The First Doctor at the Klingon Black Hole Bar

by Jean Martin

be a favorite of my family's when we first moved into the area.

There were also parties, the best of which was the Klingon Black Hole.* The layout of suites at the hotel really lends itself well to parties and the Klingons really do a great setup with backdrops and a real bar.

The highlight of the convention for me was The Goblin King's Masked Ball on Saturday evening. Inspired by "Labyrinth," and funded by a successful Kickstarter campaign, the ball was amazing. It was like stepping into another world with everyone in colorful and elaborate costumes. When I

*The Loncon 3 / Potlatch party across the hall was also excellent.

looked around at one point, seeing everyone in masks, it truly was a surreal experience.

The ball had great entertainment as well. Cellist and singer Unwoman did a set, three members of Temple of Poi individually wowed the crowd with their fire dancing (using non-fire equipment like flags and globes) and Vespertine Circus had a section of the ballroom where they did aerials and other acrobatic acts.

The headliners were Tricky Pixie, which I enjoyed very much, and it seemed like the crowd did too as the dance floor was packed the entire time. The band, who style themselves as Gypsy Celtic Folk Rock for Naughty Punk Faeries played



Temple of Poi, Vespertine Circus, Tricky Pixie, and DJ Neshamah, Con Chair Kimmi Albee and MC M. Todd Gallowglass

by Jean Martin



Skeksis from Dark Crystal

by Jean Martin



Masked Revelers

by Jean Martin

several high-energy numbers and had very catchy tunes.

After the band, DJ Neshamah played goth and industrial dance music. I always enjoy the songs that she plays. They're very danceable.

So Convolution was a lot of fun and it looks like they're getting better each year. I can't wait to see what they come up with this year.

Here's a link to last year's convention: con-volution.com/2013/. And here's a link to this year's, which will be on September 26-28: con-volution.com/2014/.



Jean and España

courtesy of Jean Martin

Art and Poetry by Christopher Villa

Editor's Note: This issue we have the privilege to showcase the art and poetry Christopher Villa (aka Vlad, the Gypsy Bard). Christopher is not only an artist and poet but also a teacher, musician, re-enactor and fight director. You can see more of his work at: www.etsy.com/people/christophervilla, soundcloud.com/capriquarius and www.youtube.com/watch?v=vosS_dVyla8.



Retro rocketships sculpture collection

by Christopher Villa

ADRIFT ON THE TANAKA SEA

Just a routine mapping mission over Hell,
when suddenly...Alarms and confusion.
Bucking and shaking from explosions,
spinning helplessly out of control
we tumble down towards the crimson waves.
The roar of the ship's disintegration
drowns out even our own screams...
And then, a shower of light...and silence...

Adrift on the Tanaka Sea,
scarlet clouds swirl in a vomit colored sky.
Rain, the color and taste of blood,
drips onto our parched mouths
from the roiling chaos above.
Close lipped, we refuse the toxic kisses of the sky,
turning our faces away
from the copper taste of poison
and the fires of the dueling suns
that burns through the churning clouds.
Now, drifting aimlessly on a sea of hopelessness,
we can no longer even imagine
the soft breezes of our home planet.

There is no place to escape this madness.
Everywhere we look the terrible truth

of our desperate situation stares back at us,
stark in the harsh light of the endless day.
Visions of horrors leap upon us
from the cancerous clouds and sky.
Panic defeats reason and we shrink away
from the nightmare that assaults our senses.

Someone in the raft is sobbing,
mind blown by the images of naked fear
that sears our burning eyes.
Most of us are beyond terror, or pain, now,
exhausted from battling the constant madness
that hangs in the sky above the Tanaka Sea.
Our will to resist is gone,
burned out of us by the double suns.
The turquoise sky of Terra is but a vague memory,
too surreal to be true.
We wish only to rest our eyes one last time,
on a single yellow sun and the white clouds of Earth,
but the maelstrom above us mocks our dreams of peace,
and day by day we slip closer to the edge of oblivion.

Here, adrift on the Tanaka Sea,
we can only wait for death's sure hand to take us,
freeing our lost souls to fly in the skies
above the cool blue seas of home.

MADONNA OF THE STARS

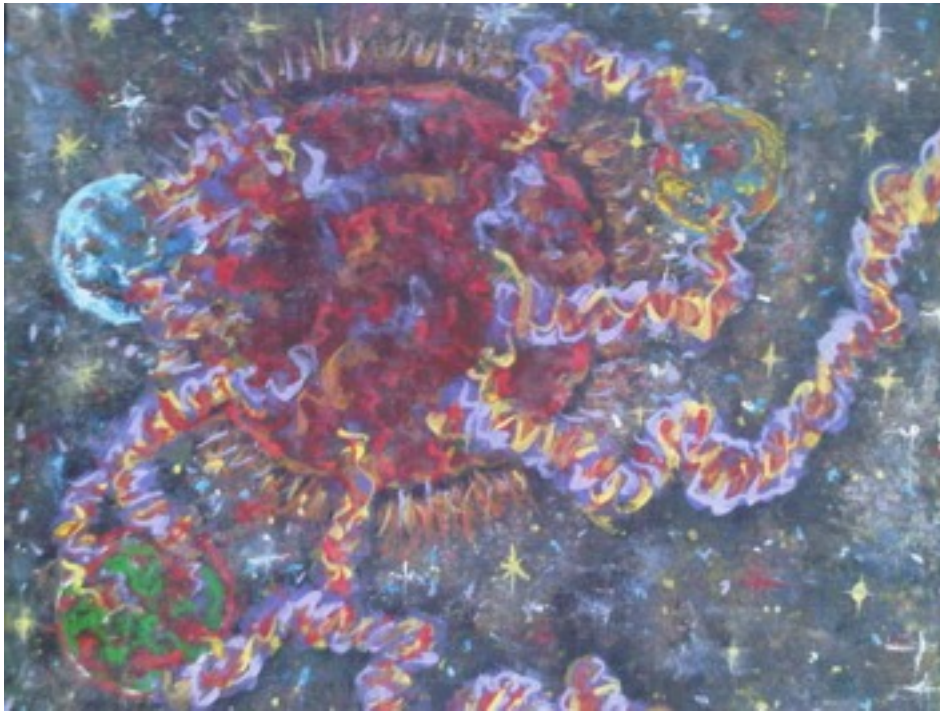
Madonna of the stars,
your child,
wrapped in silver swaddling clothes,
whirs, clicks and calls
for his heavenly father.

The father stands behind the one way glass,
his glasses shining,
jotting down cosmic notes,
glaring at his creations,
21st Century Virgin and Child.

Technology and Faith
war for control of man.
Who, or what is this new Messiah,
Man, or Metal Prophet?

THE ELECTRIC UNIVERSE

Lightning bolts arc through the heavens,
generated by the forces of the electric universe.
Solar flares shoot off of the surface of the sun,
like sparks from Vulcan's hammer and anvil.
The Venus Transit, foretold in ancient scrolls,
brings the cycle around again to the beginning of the end.
Signs and portents, passed on through time, but scorned,
now prove their truth as the warnings come to pass.
The concepts of the planets moving like cosmic clockwork,
through an ordered solar system in an average galaxy,
are dying with each new revelation come to light.
The planets tumble through space, like falling bodies.



The Electric Universe

by Christopher Villa

Sol's dark companion is spinning back into the embrace
of her long lost brother, bringing her worlds and moons,
and all of the cosmic crap she carries along through space.
Long forgotten, she was once known as the Sun's Dark Sister.
The powers that be kept it under wraps as long as possible,
ridiculing the warnings and suppressing the evidence.
Now, by the light of the full moon, the whole world can see
the meteors remaking Luna's surface, en route to Earth.
The night sky turns red with the first stream of bolides.
They come like a hail storm, a fall of fire and stone,
tearing holes in the clouds, like some celestial shotgun.
Explosions light up the landscape and the ground shakes,
knocking the stunned onlookers to their knees.
The dark red star pulses among the fading stars,
and the black and blue worlds race across her face.
Is this the twelfth planet of the ancient myths?
Or is it the planet on the other side of the world?
From an angle of thirty-three and a third cosmic degrees,
it's coming at us like an interstellar sucker punch
aimed at the unprotected underbelly of our home.
The Suits said they never saw it coming until it was too late,
but now they're hiding in their bunkers, watching it on TV.
You and I watch the world fall apart around us,
while we waltz in The Martian Lounge to the music
that comes from the depths of our hearts.
If only this song could have been heard by everyone,
we might not have fallen without a fight.

The wings of The Phoenix unfold in the night,
announcing the long awaited return to its nest.
Each second The Phoenix draws closer, bringing the fire

that will cleanse the earth, completing its cycle of rebirth.
Millions of people are on their knees, praying
to the ancient gods and goddesses that ruled the sky.
The vision I had, on the night Luna, Venus, and Jupiter
formed the celestial bow and arrow, has come true.
Here we are, hand in hand at the end of the old world.
We know the reasons why the earth and sky are burning.
The Seven Deadly Sins take their seats at the feast for Faust,
gorging themselves on the banquet Man has set for himself.
This is the way the world goes out, on its hands and knees,
bowed and broken by Jupiter's mighty lightning bolts.
The sky is falling, the sea is rising, and now the final shock
is rippling through the world on a tidal wave of tears.
Through a rent in the clouds I see what's left of the moon.
The ravaged orb, ringed in a silver cloud, still shines,
the last link to the dream of a world of beauty and love.
I remember my vision and the sweet music that played,
and hear again, Luna's lullaby for a world of woe.



Nautilus and Ironclad versus The Merrimac

by Christopher Villa

THE MAN FROM PLANET X

Out on the lonely moor
the darkness rivals that of deep space.
The fog is felt more than seen,
thick and fluid, enfolding me in its tenuous embrace.
No sooner does it have me, but it lets me go
and I wander into the next swirling mass of nothingness.
Suddenly, the globe of light appears again,
pulsing blue and green in the distance.
I can hear the low-pitched hum
and feel the steady rhythmic throb of its machinery

as I move closer and closer on trembling legs.
I walk even slower, more carefully,
now that I have tracked the strange being to its ship.
My walking stick is my only defense against the danger
of the stranger from beyond the stars.
I hold onto it like a sword, ignoring the uneven ground
and tufts of foliage and grass I traverse.
The craft is not as large as I had imagined,
but even more beautiful, with its glowing lights.
I search around the circumference for a door, or window,
and find a circle of blue crystal on the side.
I move closer, pressing my face against it,

seeking the mystery that lies inside.
A blank expressionless face looks back at me
and someone screams (that must be me, I realize.)
I'm suddenly running full speed, bad leg and all,
crashing through the fog and darkness,
tripping and stumbling over the moor.
I don't stop until I run face first into the gate
and end up on my back, looking up at the stars.
The glowing craft is hightailing it back into outer space.
I wonder who scared the other one more,
me, or the Man from Planet X?



Dont Have A Cow, Mr. Spaceman

by Christopher Villa

BASFA Meeting 1228

Meeting 1228

February 10, 2014

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 - with Trey espousing nap-aganda

32 people attended

A party jar was established

The minutes of meeting 1227 were accepted as “not the minutes you’re looking for”

No Treasurer

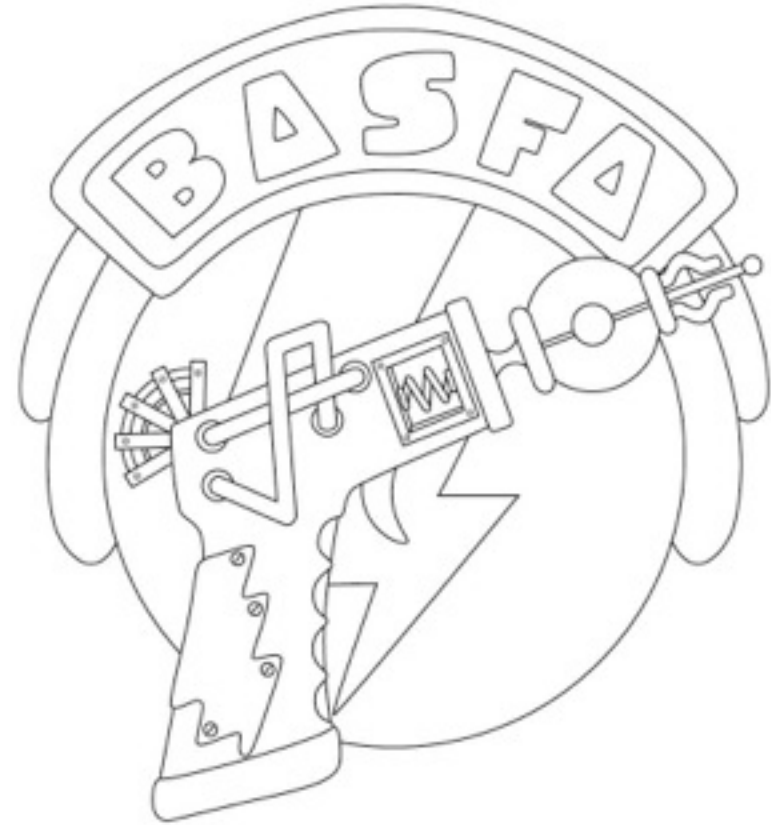
No Vice President

The President had nothing fannish to report

Reminder = there will be 2 more Hugo nomination meetings, held March 3 & 10

Announcements

Fred announced that Maker's Faire has gone international and tickets are on sale now for the San Mateo location, May 17-18



BASFA logo by Miko Simmons

[tall] Kevin showed us a picture of Cheryl [yay!] and announced that wizardstowerpress.com will publish a hardback - “Airship Shape and Bristol Fashion” - and he can take orders for it

John O announced that Pat Turner's surgery went well & announced that his collection of photos from Lonestar 3 is eligible for a Hugo nomination under "related works"

Spike announced that she is looking for information to include in a Potlatch guide to the local area

Howeird announced that he has been cast in the Sunnyvale Community Players production of "Little Shop of Horrors", April 4-27 [Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays]

Josh announced that West Valley College will have a Fashion Show, May 4th, 5pm and he will be presenting 5 pieces there

JC announced that Nerdvana episode 24 was recorded yesterday & that part 1 will be released this Wednesday & announced that Jason/Brand X is looking for a place to live

[evil] Kevin announced that this weekend is Gallifrey & they will have a party with the barbot on Friday

Ken announced that the Retrodome will be showing "Hairspray the singalong" this weekend & showing "The Spy Who Loved Me" next weekend

Bradford announced that someone died a few months ago

Jim Funaro, Chairman of Contact, announced that Contact 2014 will be held March 21-23 at the Seti Institute and the Domain Hotel in Sunnyvale and invited everyone to attend [prereg on the website is \$80 until Feb 27] - check = www.contact-conference.com ... and that they are looking for Hospitality staff

Reviews

Andy reviewed more Eurovision as interesting and worth watching for a few hours

Mo reviewed the Ed Sullivan show DVD Bradford recommended as it's impressive to watch now and reflect back on & that Cab Calloway was the "Prince" of his era

Christine reviewed watching Oscar nominated films as "Captain Phillips" was very pleasant - & JC followed, saying he was impressed by the film and loved it

Josh reviewed the Olympics opening ceremonies as technologically and artistically phenomenal & the American announcers were terrible! - and there were many other comments to that topic

Howeird reviewed "1776" at the Tabard Theatre as having an all-female cast & it closes next Sunday - as brilliant performances all the way 'round, worth full price & worth getting a front row [table] for

Adrienne reviewed the short film Oscar nominated films as interesting & Mo followed that they were well-packaged and the director commentaries really helped her appreciate them

Tom reviewed Seattle as he had fun there - Foolscap was fun and he made a pot-cap that he will wear at Potlatch

Aatheus reviewed the 30th anniversary showing of "Revenge of the Nerds" as worth full price

Dave C reviewed that he had a cold and it was punishment for having randomly picked a Superbowl team to win & reviewed "Monument Men" as worth full price - Brad agreed and thought it was a fun movie

Lisa reviewed Cirque du Soleil's production of Amaluna as having gorgeous costumes and way loud music - well done & recommended, John O also enjoyed it

We adjourned at 9:21

And the rumor of the week was: "the rumor will not be nominated"

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.

Follow the calendar on Twitter:
@sfsfcalendar

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

Saturday, March 1

PEERS Gotham City Black and White Ball

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N. Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo
peersdance.org

Ball held at Stately Wayne Manor with familiar guests in black tie featuring Swing Era dancing and music by Sarah and Swingtime.
8 p.m. \$15 (advance), \$20 (at the door)

Sunday, March 2

Sac-Con

Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sac-con.com

Comic, toy and anime show.
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$8 (Children 8 and under free)

Sunday, March 2

GBACG Costume Salon: Regency

Site TBA

www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html

Join the GBACG for potluck tea snacks, socializing, and sharing resources. Theme appropriate books, patterns, garments, or projects also welcome. Salons are free and no dress-up is required. If you'd like to attend, email costumesalons@gbacg.org.

Free

Tuesday-Sunday, March 4-16

Cinequest Film Festival

Camera 12, California Theater and San Jose Repertory Theater
Downtown San Jose
www.cinequest.org/

A dynamic 13-day international film festival engages audiences in thought-provoking dialogue, giving film artists and film lovers alike an opportunity to connect.

Check website for pricing packages

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9

Consonance 2014

Crowne Plaza San Jose/Silicon Valley
88 Bellew Drive, Milpitas
consonance.bostoncalifornia.com
Filk convention convention. Guests: Margaret Davis, Kristoph Klover, Jonathan Turner, Robin Holly, Mark Osier, Rika Koerte
\$50 (until February 14)

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9

FOGcon 2014

Walnut Creek Marriott
2355 North Main Street, Walnut Creek
fogcon.org
Literary SF/F convention. Theme: Secrets.
Guests: Seanan McGuire, Tim Powers. Ghost: James Tiptree, Jr.
\$85

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9

Wizard World Sacramento Comic Con

Sacramento Convention Center
1400 J Street, Sacramento
www.wizardworld.com/home-sacramento.html
General comic book and pop culture convention

Advance \$65, Onsite \$75

Sunday, March 15

Reflections of Old San Jose: A Historic Fashion Show

Renzel Room, History Park
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/
Costumed volunteers reenact vignettes featuring local historical characters.
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

\$25

Saturday, March 22

BAERS Cyprians Ball

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N. Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo
baers.org
Regency ball based on the Cyprians of the time period.
8 p.m. \$15 (advance), \$20 (at the door)

Saturday-Sunday, March 22-23

San Jose Super Toy & Comic Book Show

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
344 Tully Road, San Jose
www.timetunneltoys.com/toyshow.html
Toy and comic book collectables show with special guests Cindy Williams and Dee Wallace.

\$8

Friday-Sunday, March 28-30

Conquest SAC

Sacramento Red Lion Hotel Woodlake
Conference Center
500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento
www.conquestsac.com
Tabletop gaming convention.
See website for pricing packages

Saturday-Sunday, March 29-30

Twisted Terror Convention

Sacramento Doubletree by Hilton
2001 Point West Way, Sacramento
twistedterrorconvention.com
www.facebook.com/TwistedTerrorConvention/info
Horror/Sci-fi convention.

\$45

Saturday, April 5

PEERS Downton Abbey Ball

Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org
Ball (circa 1910-1920) hosted by the Earl and Countess of Grantham featuring vintage ballroom dance music performed by Bangers and Mash.
8 p.m. \$15 (advance), \$20 (at the door)

Sunday, April 6

Golden Gate Chapter Vintage Volkswagen Club Spring Meet

History Park
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/
Vintage Volkswagen cars on display.
8 p.m. - 3 p.m. Free

Saturday, April 12

GBACG Musical Interlude

Orchestria Palm Restaurant
E 27 William Street, San Jose
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html
Enjoy lunch surrounded by antique music machines and automata while wearing Edwardian or 1910's attire.
Check website for pricing

Saturday-Sunday, April 12-13

San Jose Fantasy Faire

Guadalupe River Park, Downtown San Jose
www.sjfantasy.com/
Fantasy themed faire in Downtown San Jose in the shadow of the Shark Tank (SAP Center)
\$12

Friday-Sunday, April 18-20

Bay Area Brony Spectacular (BABSCON)

SFO Hyatt Regency Hotel
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
www.babscon.com/
Convention devoted to "My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic."
\$60

Sunday, April 26

Bombs United Picnic/Car Show

History Park

635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose

historysanjose.org/wp/events/

Car and music show in the park.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$5 per person, \$25 per car

Saturday, April 26

Gaskell Spring Ball

Scottish Rite Temple

1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland

gaskellball.com

Vintage ball featuring the music of Franklin Beau Davis and the Brassworks. Formal attire required (19th to 21st century)

7: 30 p.m. \$20

Friday-Saturday, May 2-4

Corflu 31

Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center

1021 Koger Center Boulevard, Richmond, VA

corflu.org Fanzine fandom convention.

\$80

Saturday, May 3

PEERS Once Upon A Time: A Fairy Tale Masquerade Ball

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo

100 N. Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo

peersdance.org/

Fairy tale and fantasy inspired ball featuring vintage ballroom dance music performed by Bangers and Mash.

8 p.m. \$15 (advance), \$20 (at the door)

Sunday, May 4

GBACG Workshop

Site TBA

www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html

Join for fabulous day of workshops. Questions?

Email workshops@gbacg.org.

Check website for prices

Saturday, May 10

30th Annual Art Deco Preservation Ball

Bimbo's 365 Club

1025 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco

www.artdecopreservationball.com/

Art Deco ball celebrating the 75th anniversary of the 1939 World's Fair.

\$100 (Members), \$125 (Non-members), \$150 (at the door)

Saturday-Sunday, May 17-18

Big Wow! ComicFest

San Jose McEnery Convention Center

150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose

bigwowcomicfest.com

Comics convention.

\$35

Friday-Monday, May 23-26

FanimeCon

San Jose McEnery Convention Center

150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose

www.fanime.com

General anime convention in conjunction with Clockwork Alchemy.

Pricing TBA

Friday-Monday, May 23-26

Clockwork Alchemy

Doubletree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place, San Jose

www.clockworkalchemy.com/#/home

Steampunk convention in conjunction with Fanime.

\$65 (through March 31)

Friday-Monday, May 23-26

KublaCon

Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport

1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame

www.kublacon.com

West Coast's largest gaming convention.

\$40 (\$60 at the door)

Friday-Monday, May 23-26

BayCon

Hyatt Regency Santa Clara

5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara

baycon.org/2014

General interest science fiction/fantasy convention.

\$65

Thursday-Sunday, May 29-June 1

San Francisco Silent Film Festival

Castro Theater

429 Castro Street, San Francisco

www.silentfilm.org

Four days of silent film programming with live musical accompaniment.

See website for pricing

Saturday, May 31

BAERS Mansfield Park Ball

Arlington Community Church
552 Arlington Avenue, Kensington
baers.org

Regency ball celebrating the bicentennial of the publication of the Jane Austen novel..
8 p.m. \$15 (advance), \$20 (at the door)

Saturday, June 7

El Dia de San Juan Festival

History Park
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/

Celebration of Puerto Rican culture.
11 a.m. - 7 p.m. \$20 (advance), \$30 (at the door), 12 and under free

Saturday, June 7

PEERS Space Cowboy's Ball

Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org

Browncoat inspired ball featuring vintage ballroom dance music performed by Bangers and Mash.
8 p.m. \$15 (advance), \$20 (at the door)

Sunday, June 8

GBACG Tea at Pemberley

Palm Court at the Fairmont Hotel
950 Mason Street, San Francisco
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html

Join Lizzy Bennet, more properly known as Mrs. Fitzwilliam Darcy, for tea in the newly refurbished neoclassical Palm Court at the dazzling Fairmont Hotel.

Check website for prices

Sunday, March 15

Dia de Portugal

History Park
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/

Celebration of Portuguese heritage in the Bay Area.
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Friday-Sunday, June 27-29

Evolution Expo 2014

Oakland Marriott City Center
1001 Broadway, Oakland
sciencefictionentertainment.com/event-attendees/evolution-expo-overview/

Convention about hard science in science fiction \$50

Wednesday-Sunday, July 3-6

Chute-212 (Harry Potter inspired Convention)

Santa Clara Convention Center
5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara
www.chute212.org

Convention for those who love all things creative, magical and inspirational
\$150 (until March 15)

Thursday-Sunday, July 3-6

Westercon 67/CONduit 24

Marriott City Creek Hotel
75 South West Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
westercon67.org

General interest science fiction/fantasy convention \$50

Friday-Sunday, July 11-13

GaymerX

InterContinental San Francisco Hotel
888 Howard Street, San Francisco
www.gaymerx.com

Gaming convention with LBGTQ focus. \$70

Sunday, July 13

Strangers Car Show

History Park
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/

Car show of custom cars and hot rods from the 1950s and 1960s.
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$3, 12 and under free

Saturday, July 19

GBACG Workshop

Site TBA

www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html

Join for fabulous day of workshops. Questions?

Email workshops@gbacg.org.

Check website for prices

Saturday, August 2

PEERS Alameda 1902 Picnic Dance

Lincoln Park, 1450 High Street, Alameda

www.peersdance.org

Picnic and dancing to celebrate the year that

Alameda officially became an island with

music by Bangers and Mash.

11 a.m.

Free

Saturday-Sunday, August 2-3

San Jose Renaissance Faire

Guadalupe River Park , Downtown San Jose

www.sanjosefaire.com/

Renaissance faire in Downtown San Jose in the shadow of the Shark Tank (SAP Center)

\$12

Saturday, August 9

Spirit of '45

History Park

635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose

historysanjose.org/wp/events/

Salute to veterans with a World War II setting featuring vehicles and swing dancing.

12 p.m. - 5 p.m. \$5, under 10 and veterans free

Sunday, August 10

GBACG Costume Salon: 1950s

Site TBA

www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html

Join the GBACG for potluck tea snacks, socializing, and sharing resources. Theme appropriate books, patterns, garments, or projects also welcome. Salons are free and no dress-up is required. If you'd like to attend, email costumesalons@gbacg.org.

Free

Thursday-Monday, August 14-18

Loncon 3

International Conference Centre, ExCel,

London Docklands

www.loncon3.org

The 72nd World Science Fiction Convention.

Guests of Honour: Iain M Banks, John Clute, Chris Foss, Malcolm Edwards, Jeanne Gomoll, Robin Hobb, Bryan Talbot.

\$185 (until February 28)

Saturday, August 16

Gaskell Midsummer Ball

Scottish Rite Temple

1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland

gaskellball.com

Vintage ball featuring the music of Franklin Beau Davis and the Brassworks. Formal attire required (19th to 21st century)

7: 30 p.m.

\$20

Saturday, August 23

GBACG Safari at the San Francisco Zoo

San Francisco Zoo

1 Zoo Road, San Francisco

www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html

Come tour the Serengeti with our band of intrepid Steampunk / Victorian / Edwardian explorers. We'll stalk big game and picnic.

Check website for prices

Sunday, August 24

Viejitos Car Club Juvenile Diabetes Car Show Fundraiser

History Park

635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose

historysanjose.org/wp/events/

Car show to help raise funds for fighting juvenile diabetes.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$5 per p

Friday-Monday, August 29-September 1

CelestiCon

Fremont Marriott

46100 Landing Parkway, Fremont

celesticon.com

CelestiCon offers four days of family-friendly gaming in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Hundreds of game events, along with exciting special guests, sponsor prizes and gaming, gaming, gaming.

\$40 (before June 1)

Friday-Sunday, August 29-31

SacAnime

Sacramento Convention Center
1400 J St, Sacramento
www.sacconventions.com

Anime and pop culture show

\$30

Saturday, September 6

PEERS Casablanca Ball

Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org/

Ball inspired by the all-time classic film featuring swing and vintage ballroom dance music performed by The Brassworks.

8 p.m. \$15 (advance), \$20 (at the door)

Saturday, September 13

GBACG Workshop

Site TBA
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html

Join for fabulous day of workshops. Questions? Email workshops@gbacg.org.

Check website for prices

Sunday, September 14

Antique Autos in the Park

History Park
635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose
historysanjose.org/wp/events/

200 antique automobiles, fire equipment, bicycles and motorcycles from late 1800s to 1945 on display.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TBD

Sunday, September 14

Gatsby Summer Afternoon

Dunsmuir Helman Historic Estate
2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland
artdecosociety.org/gatsby.htm

Afternoon picnic party with dancing, cars and the Deco Belles inspired by “The Great Gatsby”.

Check website for prices

Saturday, September 21

GBACG Bilbo’s Birthday Bash

Holbrook Palmer Park
150 Watkins Avenue, Atherton
www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html

Celebrate Bilbo’s eleventy-first birthday at Hobbiton (Holbrook-Palmer Park). All hobbits, dwarves, elves and humans welcome.

Check website for prices

Friday-Sunday, September 26-28

Convolution 2014: Halfway Home

Hyatt Regency SFO Airport
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
con-volution.com/2014/

General science-fiction/fantasy convention

\$45 (pre-registration)

Saturday, October 4

PEERS Girl Genius European Oktoberfest Ball

Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
peersdance.org

Ball inspired by the popular webcomic “Girl Genius” and music by Avalon Rising.

8 p.m. \$15 (advance), \$20 (at the door)

Saturday, October 11

BAERS Regency Ball

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 N. Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo
baers.org/

Regency ball with English country dancing.

8 p.m. \$15 (advance), \$20 (at the door)

Saturday, October 25

Gaskell October Fancy Dress Ball

Scottish Rite Temple
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland
gaskellball.com

Vintage ball featuring the music of Franklin Beau Davis and the Brassworks. Costumes admired or formal attire required (19th to 21st century)

7: 30 p.m. \$20

Ongoing

Daily

Cartoon Art Museum

655 Mission Street, San Francisco

www.cartoonart.org

Current exhibitions: Chuck Jones, Drawing on Imagination (till May 5)

11-5 p.m. \$6 (Closed Mondays)

The Walt Disney Family Museum

104 Montgomery Street, San Francisco

www.waltdisney.org/

Current exhibitions: Alice in Wonderland starts May 1.

10-6 p.m. \$20 (Closed Tuesdays)

San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco

www.sfghosthunt.com

Closed Mondays & Tuesdays, and on November 21-22 for Thanksgiving.

7-10 p.m. \$20

Nightly Nerd Show

KCSF Radio, 90.9 FM

nightlynerdshow.tumblr.com/

Radio show covering nerdy topics

5-6 p.m.

VIZ Cinema

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.

Please check theater for showtimes and tickets.

Sundays

Golden Gate Knights (Lightsaber Instruction Class)

Studio Gracia

19 Heron Street, San Francisco

goldengateknights.com

www.facebook.com/groups/goldengatejedi

Instructor-led class on lightsaber stage combat and choreography.

12 p.m. \$10

Cloondara Fighter Practice

Golden Gate Park

47th Avenue @ Fulton, San Francisco

www.westkingdom.org

The Shire of Cloondara (San Francisco, CA) holds fighter practice Sundays at 12:00 p.m. (if there are no major SCA events and the weather permits)

12 p.m. Free

Bad Movie Night

The Dark Room Theater

2263 Mission Street, San Francisco

www.darkroomsf.com

Featuring bad movies old and new.

8 p.m. \$5

Sakramento Anime Society

Rancho Cordova Library

9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova

www.saclibrary.org

Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.

3-6 p.m.

East Bay Strategy Games Club

EndGame

921 Washington Street, Oakland

www.endgameoakland.com/event-calendar

Various games played throughout the week, check website for times and games.

Free

Fridays and Sundays

SF Games

Taqueria San Jose, 2830 Mission Street, San Francisco (Fridays, 7 p.m.)

Zephyr Cafe, 3643 Balboa Street, San Francisco (Sundays, 2 p.m.)

www.sfgames.org/

SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week. Free

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

Coco's
1206 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale
www.basfa.org
8 p.m. Free

Sacramento Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club

Midtown Crepreville
1730 L Street, Sacramento
www.sacgeeks.com
A laid-back, friendly social club for people to discuss, recommend, share and trade their favorite SF and fantasy books. NOT a book-of-the-month club.
6:30 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 board games such as Settlers of Catan; also multi-player Avalon Hill-style, historical war games, and others.
6:30 p.m. \$2

Tuesdays

Principality of Mists Fighter Practice

Twin Creeks Sports Complex
969 Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale
www.westkingdom.org/as46/mar/sunnyvale-fighter-practice
SCA event. Non-members must remember to fill out a waiver form. In case of rain, call from 3 pm on to determine if the facility will be closed that day. 408-534-1169. .
7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Free

Wednesdays

Steam Federation - Bay Area Steampunk Society

Various - check website or Facebook page for information
steam-federation.com/%20cal2.html
www.facebook.com/groups/steamfederation/
General gathering for craftwork, discussions and general fun. Free

Thursdays

CAS: NightLife

The California Academy of Sciences
55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
www.calacademy.org/events/nightlife/
Every Thursday night, the Academy opens its doors for NightLife, a chance for adults to explore the museum in a whole new light. Dance to some of San Francisco's most popular

DJs, enjoy food and cocktails, and mingle while you delve into the Academy's world-class exhibits and get up close and personal with aquarium critters.
6 p.m. - 10 p.m. \$12 (21+)

Fanboy Planet Podcast

Cafe Stritch
374 South First Street, San Jose
www.fanboyplanet.com
Live from Cafe Stritch, it's the *Fanboy Planet* Podcast with Planeteers, Derek McCaw, Ric Bretschneider and Nate Costa.
7 p.m. 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

Saturdays

Niles Film Museum Saturday Movies

Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum
37417 Niles Boulevard, Fremont
www.nilesfilmmuseum.org
www.nilesfilmmuseum.org/movies.htm
Weekly showing of selection of silent features and short subjects with live musical accompaniment. Check website for movies.
7:30 p.m. \$5

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.

Bimonthly

Gaslight LARP

289 8th Street, San Francisco
gaslight.endogaming.net
www.facebook.com/groups/gaslightlarp
www.facebook.com/gaslightlarp
Full immersion Victorian-era World of Darkness Boffer LARP bimonthly weekends in the Santa Cruz Mountains
Time and dates available on website, contact organizers for cost

Monthly

Dorkbot-SF

www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf
www.facebook.com/pages/dorkbot-SF/101954222010
Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people

doing strange things with electricity. Dates vary.

Free, donations welcome

Foothill Anime

Building 5015, Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
foothill.anime.net

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

Doctor Who Perv Society

Wicked Grounds Cafe
289 8th Street, San Francisco
www.wickedgrounds.com/regular-events.html
Gathering for Doctor Who fans to discuss the show and other topics. Meets first Sunday of every month.
4 pm Free

The Tech After Hours

The Tech Museum of Innovation
201 South Market Street, San Jose
www.thetech.org/programs/after-hours
The monthly evening event where adults 21 and older can enjoy science, technology, entertainment and cocktails together with their friends. Held on the first Thursday of the month.
7 p.m. \$10

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

The Bawdy Caste Presents "The 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

Barely Legal Presents "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"

Camera 3 Cinema
288 South Second Street, San Jose
barelylegal.rhps.org/
Barely Legal provides the shadow cast for the South Bay for the classic midnight movie every first Saturday of the month in Downtown San Jose.
Midnight

Time Warp Cartel Presents "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"

The Vine Cinema
1722 First Street, Livermore, CA
www.timewarpcartel.com/

Time Warp Cartel provides the hijinx for the East Bay and Tri-Valley area of the classic midnight movie every first Saturday of the month in Downtown Livermore.

Midnight

QSF&F Book Club

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

Meets the second Sunday of the month.
5 p.m.

Free

East Bay Star Wars Club

Central Perk
10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito
510-558-7375
www.facebook.com/groups/35116614719/

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.

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

SF Browncoats

Cafe Murano
1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco
www.sfbrowncoats.com

SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.

Noon

Free

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club

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

Meets the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

6 p.m.

Free

Night of the Living Book Club

Books, Inc.- Mountain View
301 Castro Street, Mountain View
www.booksinc.net/night-living-book-club

Monthly book club discusses classic and contemporary selections from suspense, thriller, and horror fiction genres. Meets every third Sunday of each month.

5 pm

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

sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights
Contact fristjedi2000@yahoo.com for specifics.

The 'Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International and a swell group of science fiction fans. We do more than Trek. Usually meets the third Friday of the month, with social event TBD.

7 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.

1 p.m. - 5 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

Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club

Inklings Books and Things
1855 41st Avenue, Capitola
www.inklingsbooksandthings.com/
Meets every fourth Tuesday of each month.
6 pm Free

Sci-Fi Book Group with Kym

Barnes & Noble
El Cerrito Plaza, 6050 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito
store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/store/2113
Meets the fourth Friday of the month.
7 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.
7:00 p.m. Free

Wicked Games

Wicked Grounds Cafe
289 8th Street, San Francisco
www.wickedgrounds.com/regular-events.html
Gaming at Wicked Grounds. Meets fourth Saturday of every month.
6 pm to 10 pm 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

Queered Science Book Club

Au Coquelet Restaurant
2000 University Avenue, Berkeley
queeredscience.weebly.com
www.facebook.com/groups/qsbooks/
Monthly book club that focuses on science fiction, fantasy, and magical realism that includes trans*, queer, genderqueer, and strong female protagonists and themes.
Meets the last Saturday of each month.
4:30 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

For even more events in the Bay Area, check out Bay Area Geek Guide: The San Francisco Bay Area Guide to Geek Events & Nerd Culture: bayareageekguide.com

Bay Area Fannish Calendar – March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Bad Movie Night</i> <i>Sakramento Anime</i> <i>SF Games</i> <i>Golden Gate Knights</i> <i>Cloondara Fighter</i>	<i>BASFA</i> <i>SV Boardgamers</i> <i>Haunted Haight</i> <i>Sacramento SF/F</i> <i>Book Club</i>	<i>MGI Boffers</i> <i>Principality of Mists</i> <i>Fighter Practice</i>	<i>BA Role-Playing Soc</i> <i>E.Bay Strategy Games</i> <i>SV Boardgamers</i> <i>Steam Federation</i>	<i>CAS: NightLife</i> <i>Fanboy Planet Podcast</i>	<i>SF Games</i> <i>Haunted Haight</i> <i>Vampire Walking</i>	<i>Niles Film Museum</i> <i>Saturday Movies</i>
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
						<i>PEERS Gotham City</i> <i>Black and White Ball</i> <i>Silicon Gulch Browncoats</i> <i>Rocky Horror (*2)</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>Sac-Con</i> <i>GBACG Costume</i> <i>Salon: Regency</i> <i>Doctor Who Perv</i>		<i>Cinequest Film</i> <i>Festival (thru Mar 16)</i>		<i>The Tech After Hours</i>	<i>Consonance 2014</i> <i>FOGcon 2014</i> <i>Wizard World</i> <i>(all thru Sun)</i>	<i>Fantastic Frontiers</i> <i>No-Name Anime</i> <i>SF Browncoats</i>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>QSF&F Book Club</i>					<i>East Bay Star Wars</i>	<i>Old San Jose Historic</i> <i>Fashion Show</i> <i>Micro Gods, Inc</i>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<i>SF/F Book Club</i> <i>Night of the Living</i> <i>Book Club</i>					<i>USS Defiance</i> <i>USS Northern Lights</i>	<i>BAERS Cyprians Ball</i> <i>SJ Super Toy & Comic</i> <i>Book Show (thru Sun)</i> <i>Wicked Games</i> <i>USS Augusta Ada</i>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<i>Religion & SF</i>		<i>Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book</i> <i>Club</i>			<i>Conquest SAC (thru</i> <i>Sun)</i> <i>Legion of Rassilon</i> <i>Sci-Fi Book Group</i>	<i>Twisted Terror</i> <i>Convention (thru Sun)</i> <i>Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</i> <i>Queered Science Book Club</i>
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
						<i>PEERS Downton</i> <i>Abbey Ball</i>

Science Fiction/San Francisco is the monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area – www.efanzines.com.