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Art Credits

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Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor-in-Chief

In the face of recent global tragedies and political turmoil as well as recent personal challenges, I have again been wondering how important all my costuming, photography, writing, performing and other creative endeavors are in the whole scheme of things. It somehow seems selfish to be having fun and acting like business as usual when my Mom is going through a major health crisis, so many people have been suffering from the earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan, and the Middle East is in the midst of several uprisings (leading to higher oil prices for everyone around the globe).

I've realized that life goes on and I have to keep living my life because it doesn't help anyone if I get depressed and make myself suffer out of misplaced guilt or fear over the worst possible outcomes. Instead of feeling negative, I have chosen to feel hope and get into action. I have donated to the Red Cross for both New Zealand and Japan. I send love and compassion in my thoughts and prayers to the victims. It's probably a good time to check in on my earthquake preparedness (a good idea for anyone living in the Bay Area). Also, while the troubles in the Middle East are scary, I think it is a good direction in the long run that there is a move for more democracy and human rights in a part of the world that is still quite backwards in that respect.

My Mom, thankfully, is doing okay. Her operation late last January went fairly well and the surgeons were able to remove the cancer successfully. However, she needs to have another

operation to finalize everything. She was scheduled for another operation on the first day of the Nova Albion Steampunk Exhibition and I was torn between having to be there for her all day and then having to do the costume contest and ball all evening afterwards. I remembered I was at the hospital until 9:00 p.m. during her first operation after which I was too stressed and tired to do much else.

Then she was unexpectedly hospitalized on her 70th birthday in early March due to complications. All of this has felt surreal, like I go through the motions and everything is okay, but inside I was scared and anxious. So I would be okay during the day but then cry at unexpected moments over the smallest things at night.

So her final operation is now up in the air, which is a good thing because I can now go to Nova Albion with a clear conscience. Still, I feel selfish somehow... and guilty. It must be my Catholic upbringing coming up from deep within my psyche.

It has helped, however, that my boyfriend has been so caring, understanding and supportive. And I have a couple of friends who have told me that they know what it's like and their doing what they loved to do has actually helped them cope with their respective family member's illness. My sister and Dad have also been mostly normal about this all and we've all gotten along well through this. And my Mom has shown inner strength that I have not seen from her in a while.

Anyway, our family has not had the chance to celebrate her birthday as well as mine in mid-March. My sister's birthday is in late March and so we're just going to celebrate our three birthdays at the same time. And give thanks that we are still all alive and, well, still doing great by relative standards.

Coincidentally, I'm taking an online spiritual course by Jean Houston, one of the leaders of the human potential movement. This has helped me have a bigger picture view of the human race as a whole and our evolutionary journey as a species. She believes, as I do, that despite troubles here and there in the world, the human race is evolving into a better stage, and each of us has a role to play if we chose to fulfill our individual potential. She also says that art and creativity are necessary human expressions and are not the frills society generally thinks they are. She explains that most great works of art and literature are born from wars and other times of hardship. Her words and positive beliefs lift me up when I'm dragged down by worries and fears.

Still, it's a day-to-day struggle. I find that my anxiety is always there, just brimming below the surface, while I try to be happy and show a brave face on the outside. It's the unpredictability of it all that gets to me. I never know when something will happen with my Mom or something will happen that will prevent me from doing something I love to do that I've planned for months in advance. A lot of the things I do, like conventions, balls and the like, need a lot of pre-planning. From buying tickets, to making or buying costumes, to, well, just generally feeling excited and looking forward to them.

I know that worrying doesn't help. And I'm confident that I will make the best decision I can at the moment if things do happen (I'm one of those calm, rational and decisive people in

the midst of emergencies). I also realize that whatever will happen, will happen, and I'll just have to deal with it. At the end of the day, I'll get over missing an event if I have to. Still, it's stressful!

I suppose it's a matter of time, stress and energy management. I find that I'm just exhausted and stressed all the time trying to do everything that I normally do while fitting in all the hospital visits and such. But my parents are getting older and everyone eventually has to go through this. That's the other thing that has been on my mind. I'm entering a new stage in life where I'm faced with thoughts like these and of my own mortality. I'm thinking this new stage will get easier in time as I get more used to it. In the meantime, I will still continue to live my life to the fullest. With perhaps more thought toward prioritizing my time and energy and taking better care of myself by getting more exercise and sleep.



Gallifrey One 2011

By España Sheriff

Editor

Last year I took my roommate Palle to Gallifrey One (a *Doctor Who* convention) for the first time and he became part of the Cult that is Gallifrey One (Gally for short). Like any good acolyte, this year we needed more recruits and therefore talked my friends Anthony and Deb into coming along. Well, to be precise, I had been talking the con up to them for several years by this point and finally wore them down.

Rather like Worldcon, Gally has a lot of out-of-town members who fly in, and because of this, the festivities begin a little earlier than the official schedule would suggest in what has become known as “lobbycon.” Basically hanging out in the lobby outside the hotel sports bar Champions and nerding our little hearts out. With this in mind, we headed down on Thursday morning, the idea being to arrive by early evening and have time for a nap and some food, a bit of lobbycon and a reasonable bedtime so as to start the convention proper the next day on the right foot.

We convoyed down, stopping only at In-N-Out and managed to get to the hotel by about 5:30 p.m., allowing us to unpack, and even get our badges from early pre-reg before an evening of mingling.

Done with the minor settling in responsibilities, I took a little nap before it was time to grab a beer and hit the lobby, which was full of early arrivals including Bay Area costumers extraordinaire Bryan Little and Mette Hedin, Will York and John O’Connor from the Mutter’s Spiral podcast, and more



Peter Davison with Various Doctor Who companions at the Closing Ceremony

by Jean Martin

Amelia Pond cosplayers than is really decent. Although one of them was AnimeLA’s own Sarah Goldberg looking as chipper as ever and already sporting a ribbon train several feet long. Peter Davison and Sarah Sutton were also spotted in the bar, presaging a good con, Punxsutawney Phil-style.

Gallifrey is one of the conventions at which I care about the panels, so I was up relatively early for breakfast and am glad to report that overall the main restaurant, Latitude 33, did quite a good job over the weekend, maintaining reasonable

hours and doing their best despite being clearly overwhelmed on Saturday, on which I will take more about later.

Over the course of the weekend, I mainly attended the panels with the classic *Who* guests starting with the Matthew Waterhouse interview on Friday and including several panels with Peter Davison, Sarah Sutton and Janet Fielding, including Davison's solo panel, which Fielding crashed to defend her reputation. But the highlight of it all was Opening Ceremonies.

Again, Gally is one of the few conventions aside from Worldcon, where I bother with this event. Both Opening and Closing ceremonies are attended by just about everyone, it feels a bit cult-y but somehow it's necessary and in the past



Van Gogh Exhibit Museum Party

by Jean Martin

couple of years there have been special video messages screened. Last year, Davison was supposed to be the guest Doctor but when professional commitments prevented him from being able to attend, he sent a very amusing video instead, which can be found on YouTube now. This year, he sent a sequel, which he shot himself and has now made me a fan for life. *Who* guests really do seem to be the best guests in the world.

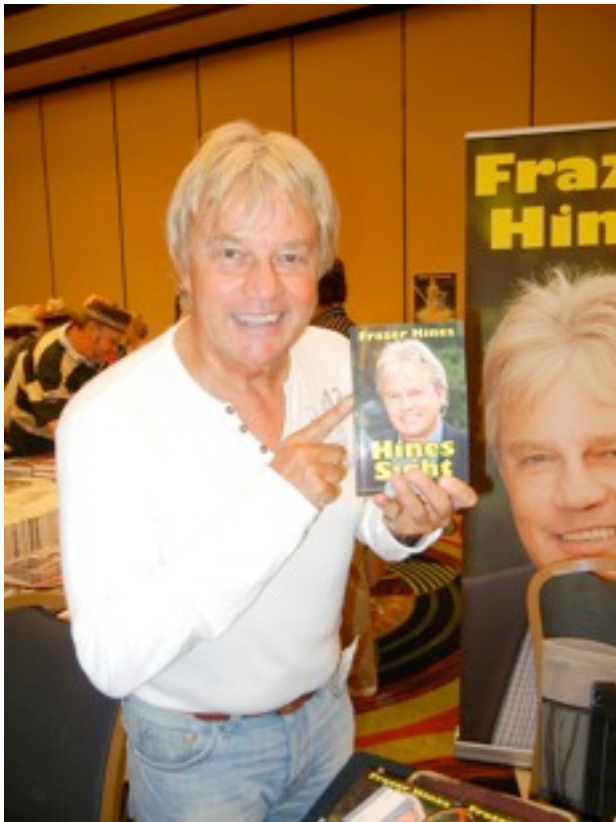
Another amazing guest, whom I credit with introducing me to the wonderful Patrick Throughton era series, is Frazer Hines who played companion Jamie McCrimmon on the show beside Throughton (the second regeneration of the Doctor). Hines has an autobiography out now, which gave me an opportunity to get his autograph since I've never gotten into simply collecting signed photos, having no use for them. He also had a one-man show on Friday evening telling stories from his run on the show, which sadly included a number of clips from lost episodes, a real tragedy given the brilliance of Throughton's performance.

And after that, finally, I got to change into my first proper costume of the weekend: Supreme Commander Servalan from the show *Blake's 7* with Palle costuming another character from the same show, Kerr Avon. Normally, I think it's a bit silly to costume from anything but *Who* at a *Who* convention, but there is some canonical support for both shows being in the same universe. And it is after all, a relatively obscure British SF show with a lot of overlap both in front of and behind the camera so I hoped it wouldn't be too far off. As it turned out, the people who recognized it loved it, there may even be some other cosplayers joining in next year.

The Friday highlight was the Torchwood 4 party, hosted by Merv and Judith, the theme was the opening of the Van Gogh

exhibit at the National Museum. Ant dressed as Van Gogh with Deb as a representation of Art. In honor of the “Christmas Carol” episode, Kevin had strung up some “singing bass” with fairy lights and the effect was really quite lovely. Even more awesome was Andy in shark footy pajamas. The convention had wisely expanded its evening entertainment and provided a dance and a pirate rum party (for the “Islands of Mystery” convention theme that year), which in addition to the lobby and bar activity, allowed for a number of options. A good thing as the convention continues to grow and expand.

Saturday was again all about panels for me. I dragged my ass down to a quick breakfast and then off to the Podcasters panel with Palle. In addition to ‘casts I already listen to, such as the aforementioned Mutter’s Spiral and Radio Free Skaro, there were representatives of The Oodcast and Little Finish, now both on my list and many shout outs to the Two Minute Time Lord who was not on the panel but that I also recommend. I had meant to stay for the next panel, which had Javier Grillo-Maurxach, the creator of the brilliant but cancelled show *The Middleman*, on it but had to attend to some business and missed it. One of my big regrets from this



Frazier Hines and his new book by Jean Martin



Servalan and Avon by Jean Martin



Romana versus Sutekh by Jean Martin

year was not seeing any of his panels and that regret was compounded when I later saw he had dressed up as The Master during the convention.

Anyway, after much running around and buying too much stuff and general tomfoolery, I decided I needed food and a nap, or perhaps a nap and food. Point being that this was the night the restaurant was overwhelmed because, as luck would have it, Craig Ferguson plugged the convention on his show on Friday night, sending Chris Hardwick from the Nerdist podcast to get some interviews. Between the already increasing numbers, the NBA Playoffs crowd and this, the seams were creaking a bit and it took forever to get dinner. Advance scouts informed us that the lines for the Masquerade were around the block, so to speak, so I decided not to bother. Although it hurt a bit since (say it with me) Gally is one of the few conventions where I bother with the Masquerade.

I did, however, change into my Romana I costume, which had caused me a lot of stress in the making but had turned out pretty decent, if I do say so myself. Moreover, as my first realio-trulio sewn-by-me costume, I am inordinately proud and simultaneously dissatisfied with the thing. There were many great creations around including Bryan Little as Sutekh the Destroyer, a Quark, another million or so Amy Ponds, and of course, as usual sporting the crowning costuming achievement of the weekend: Mette as a new series Silurian.

Unfortunately, the evening was somewhat foreshortened for me as I got myself into a drinking contest with a British writer, which says it all right there really. On the plus side, I didn't have a hangover the next day, though I certainly deserved one.

Sunday at a con is usually bittersweet but the post-convention lobbycon experience gives everyone something to

look forward to, which takes a lot of the sting out of things. As is usually the case, I spent most of the day in the main ballroom, Gally's own version of Comic-Con's Hall H, I suppose. There were two panels I was interested in before the video retrospective, in which they show all the bits and pieces of news coverage for *Who* in the UK, plus a repeat of Davison's video for those who were not at Opening Ceremonies, and the infamous Craig Ferguson 'lost' cold open from earlier this year. As with opening ceremonies, it was mostly quick and cult-y and a chance to say your goodbyes to folks not staying for lobbycon.

Dinner, a lie-down and then it was time to join the proceedings already in progress in and around the bar. The evening started somewhat civilized as people who were going home that evening had one beer and then headed into the night. The second wave dropped off as midnight approached, usually folks who had early morning flights, or who are sane. At this point, it's the die-hards who were unwilling to let the con end and started bringing out their remaining drink supplies as the bar closed. Night owls, like myself, have the advantage since we would be awake anyway at this point. In previous years, guests such as Steven Moffat and Paul Cornell seemed to be the tentpoles of this experience; however, Tony Lee and the Podcasters (the name of my Murray Gold tribute band, BTW) did a creditable job of taking up the torch this year as did the inimitable Frazer Hines.

Conversational clusters formed and reformed, the topography of the lobby allowing multiple little islands with easy navigation between them, everything from large raucous groups to intense one-on-one exchanges, and the occasional corner for other, slightly more discreet, encounters.

At some point many hours into the night, I found myself coming back into the lobby from hanging with some nicotine addicts in the smoking area only to be greeted by the sight of a line of folks waiting for the airport shuttle. A combination of early morning fans looking a little sad to see the lobbycon-ers still at it and a whole bunch of civilians, specifically air-service personnel, who looked frankly a bit appalled, not the least I realized because I was still carrying a pint-glass half full of beer at 5:30 a.m.

Realizing this, and that the beer was warm and flat after being nursed for hours, my cohorts and I were delighted to see that the light were on at Starbucks. We all got ourselves some caffeine and cupcakes and then called it a night, counterintuitive but effective.

We were among the last to leave lobbycon but it had reformed by the time we emerged from our late checkout at 2:00 p.m. Last minute podcasting and scarf unraveling by Peter Davison extended the con by a few precious hours. In fact, I spotted Melody still in the same spot we left her at six hours previously. I saluted her, and then we hit the road.

Luckily, there are YouTube vids of all the masquerade entries, which along with the evergreen #gally hashtag on Twitter help prolong the con high through the months till 2012.



Mette as a Silurian with Chris Hardwick

by Jean Martin

A Steamy Dickens

By Thad Gann

Staff Writer

On December 11, during the third weekend at the San Francisco Dickens Fair there was a Steampunk invasion. There were one or two events that set it apart from the normal run of the fair. Well, one or two events and several gorgeous costumes.

If you have never been to Dickens Fair, it is a gathering in the City that takes place perpetually on Christmas Eve in Charles Dickens' London. You can reach it through the Cow Palace on weekends between American Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. It is a wondrous affair with food and music and sweets and dancing and drinks and bawdy songs and so much more.

But I digress. The Steampunk invasion started just before opening that Saturday. Primarily distinguished by their dress, which is just the slightest bit more otherworldly than the normal Victorian attire.

La Legion Fantastique hosted the costume event. The members of the Legion are the subjects of a series of chronicles by a Monsieur Jules Verne, a French writer of some repute. Sadly the chronicles and diaries were not accurately translated from the French and were published as novels instead. Scandalous. However, since it did start the modern Science Fiction movement I stopped complaining decades ago.

But I digress. The judging for the contest was at six o'clock that evening. But the entrants descended upon the Legion



Contestant

by Thad Gann

headquarters almost as soon as they opened. To enter the contest put on by the Legion, one had to submit the biography of the character with the entry. This made the contest much jollier. There was the normal assortment of adventurers, Steam engineers, airship captains.



Contestants

by Thad Gann



Steam Man and Ryan Galiotto

by Thad Gann

One of the recent additions to Legion Fantastique is Miss Mary Grant, the new librarian for the Legion. You may know her in her current disguise as Louise Du Cray. Her report on the Ice Sphinx was truly inspiring. If you ever get a chance you must see that demonstration. It seems Phileas Fogg needed help organizing his extensive collection of maps and Miss Grant answered the advertisement.

But I digress. At two o'clock p.m. was a flash group (I so hate calling them mobs) over by Mad Sal's. By word of mouth, and a few well placed rumors, the gathering



Emma Etherington

by Thad Gann

meandered its way to Bohemian Square between the Bohemian Absinthe Bar and the headquarters for the Legion. Right on queue, and only a few minutes late, a thunderous clanking and rumbling announced the arrival of the Steam Man. The Steam Man is a mechanical marvel. A coal fired, steam operated prototype of the servant of the future.

But I digress again. At six o'clock the judging and awards for the costume contest were held in the great hall near the London Docks. The winner was a charming young lady by the name of Emma Etherington. Her explorer outfit has been a favorite of fair goers for the last couple seasons. Sadly a few photos exist but the list of contestants was said to be destroyed when the pet squid broke into the library searching for food. I'd imagine Miss Grant is rather peeved.

But I digress for the last time. What I actually meant to say was that if you knew any of noble adventurers that attended that day would you please let me know. There are many future excursions planned and I am sure they would want to be informed.

Star Trek Celebrates its 45th Anniversary in the Bay Area

Photos by Jonathan Devor

Editor's Note: This year, Creation Entertainment's *Star Trek* convention was held at the San Francisco Airport Hyatt Regency Hotel (in Burlingame) from March 11th through March 13th. It's been at least a decade since I've been to one of these and I was hoping to go to it at least for a day since it was actually going to be held in my neck of the woods and in one of my favorite hotels. However, I had too many activities that weekend. Luckily, I was able to find someone who agreed to share his photos with me when he went on the last day.



The Gorn

by Jonathan Devor



Bobby Clark

by Jonathan Devor



Odo and Major Kira

by Jonathan Devor



Rene Auberjonois and Nana Visitor

by Jonathan Devor



Vulcans in the Audience

by Jonathan Devor

Jonathan Devor is one of the members of the newly formed “The-Geek-Club-Peninsula” meetup group. It’s great to find out that there are a lot of geeks in my area thanks to organizer Stacy Renner. But so far, I haven’t had time to show up at their meetups, which range from *Doctor Who* viewing marathons, to field trips to the Computer History Museum and to my friend Pat Yulo’s Geeks vs. Geeks trivia contest.

Jonathan reported that the convention on Sunday was “smaller than I expected, but there were no shortage of things to see and do, including talks by actors, trivia, auction and video clip mashups. All in all, a good time was had by all.”

Looking at the information on the web site, it looks like this year marks the 45th anniversary of *Star Trek*. So there were several special guests in attendance including Leonard

Nimoy (Mr. Spock) and Nichelle Nichols (Lt. Uhura) from the original series. They both had panels on Saturday. But there were several notable guests on Sunday when Jonathan went. There was Bobby Clark (the Gorn) from the original series as well as Nana Visitor (Major Kira) and Rene Auberjonois (Odo) both from *Deep Space Nine*.

Other than guests who spoke and signed autographs, there was a trivia contest, a few parties, vendors selling merchandise as well as various other panels and events. And, not an official part of the convention, but a usual feature, were people in costumes.

For more information on this particular convention, visit: www.creationent.com/cal/stsan.htm



Star Trek Trivia Game

by Jonathan Devor

The Edwardian World's Faire

By Thad Gann
Staff Writer

*There once was a man
Named Ed Gorey,
Who liked a good rhyme
And loved a good story.
He told us these stories,
Short tales and tall,
Which we celebrate now
At the Edwardian Ball.*



by Thad Gann



by Thad Gann

For the last several years a group of people have descended upon San Francisco every January. They come to celebrate the life and times of one single individual.

No, not Steve Jobs.

Edward Gorey was a writer, poet, playwright, man of many talents and a great sense of humor in the macabre. His stories and plays are timeless.

The Edwardian World's Faire and Ball started out life 11 years ago as a small gathering of friends. Over the years it has outgrown many venues and branched into a two-day event of musicians, circus performers, actors and steam powered

machinery mechanics. There is now a Second Edwardian Ball in Los Angeles.

I first went to the Edwardian World's Faire when it was at the Great American Music Hall a few years ago. I haven't gone every year but loved every year I've gone.

The last two years it moved to the Regency Ballroom.

The Edwardian World's Faire was Friday Night. It had different flavor and feel than the Ball on Saturday. It was a little more playful and laid back. Not as many people were in costumes, but costumes did rule the day. This year, there was a carnival game area, which brought back memories of my wasted youth on the road. The midway was on the main floor. The vendors' area had been expanded downstairs to encompass almost the entire ground floor.

While a person could go to one spot and stand and watch the world of Edward Gorey swirl around them like a kaleidoscope, I prefer to be part of the flow. I met so many friends and made many new ones at the Faire.

The vendors' area was a wonder unto itself. There were all kinds of baubles and trinkets and fineries. Bronica, one of my favorite vendors, was selling hair fascinators and hatpins. If you see me with a feather in my cap, she probably made it. Dark Garden was there with their fabulous corsets and the living models we've all come to enjoy. There were people selling flasks. There were people selling hats. There were people selling wrist cuffs made from vintage neckties. All in all it was a fascinating and magical place. If you are anywhere near the Western Hemisphere next year you really should go.



by Thad Gann



by Thad Gann

DunDraCon

By Will La Cross

Contributing Writer

On Presidents' weekend, the Marriott in San Ramon saw an invasion of miniatures, board games, live-action roleplaying (LARP) fans and roleplaying games (RPGs), DunDraCon had come to town.

Every Presidents' weekend, gamers descend on San Ramon for the convention called DunDraCon. Just like the other two conventions I have written about, this one is a collection of games and the people who play them, getting together for fun,



by Will La Cross



by Will La Cross

no sleep and camaraderie with others who have something in common.

Imaginations are encouraged to soar, buffs of military history debate strategies and possible different outcomes if "B" had happened instead of what history tells us happened. Compared to the last con I went to, I saw a large number of families playing together, whether it was board games, RPGs or even miniatures.

If you are not sure what miniatures are, check out the games Warhammer, Flames of War, Star Fleet Battles and a plethora of games representing other genres and time periods. They use small plastic or metal models to represent ships, troops, creatures, buildings, etc. on a tabletop and go at it. Bragging rights go to the one or ones left standing.

LARP is actually big at this con compared to the other two I have written about in the past (KublaCon and Pacificon).

Groups of people get together and act out a certain role in a certain context. Some games the players might be vampires, Elizabethan nobles, or commoners in a village plagued by a werewolf. This year, they actually had a LARP game based on L5R, Legend of the 5 Rings.

L5R is a game originally based on fantasy Japan. It has expanded from a collectible card game (CCG) to an RPG, and then into LARPing. Many of the players actively research myths, ghost stories, folk lore and legends from all over Asia and Southeast Asia. If you are looking for a game other than Dungeons & Dragons (D&D), this might be the one for you.

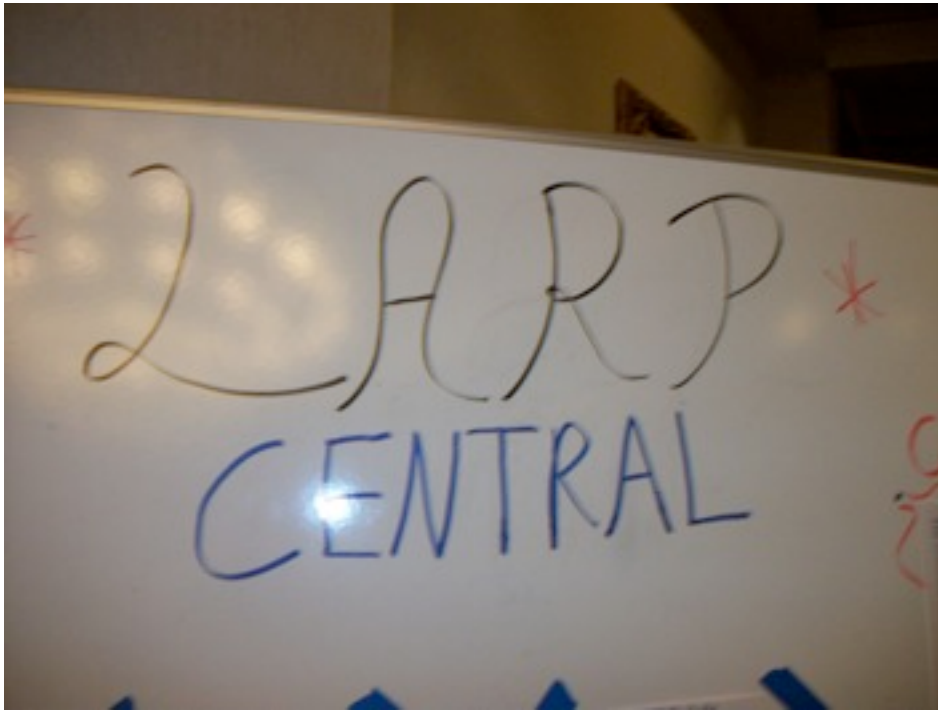
Speaking of D&D, the RPGA and Pathfinder players made their presence known, with eight sessions and multiple games each session. Fun was had by all, but the weather and

economy was definitely hampering the turnout just like last Labor Day weekend.

The next convention is ConQuest Sac in March. Yours truly cannot attend—must work to pay the rent. After that, Memorial Day weekend will see the return of KublaCon in Millbrae. The con where the favorite phrases are “KUBLA!!!” and “Nuke it From Orbit!”

If you have never heard of these games and would like to find out more, D&D is printed by Wizards of the Coast, Pathfinder is printed by Paizo Press, Warhammer is made by GDW, and so on. If you have the time, drop in and check out Kubla in May, it may surprise you how much it has of what you might be looking for.

Game on People!!!



by Will La Cross



by Will La Cross

Potlatch and FOGcon

By España Sheriff

Editor

Potlatch is a small, intimate literary convention with one track of programming based around the chosen book of honor. This year that book was *Earth Abides*, the seminal post-apocalyptic novel by George R. Stewart, which is set in the Bay Area.

I had the best intentions of reading the book again before the convention, since I've been meaning to write a column on it for years; however, life being what it is, I didn't manage to find the time and therefore arrived at the con already feeling guilty. Luckily, the panels were varied and mostly on the topic of apocalyptic fiction in general.

To be perfectly honest, though, after the intense con experience that was Gallifrey One, I was ready for a relaxacon. And that is exactly what I got, starting with the pleasant staff and nice hotel room at the Domain, which is nearly the perfect hotel for small cons. The only drawback being the lack of food/coffee options on premises. The hotel is located within a five-minute walk of any number of restaurants, so it is understandable in a way; however, it would have been nice to be able to get a proper espresso drink now and then. On the other hand, the consuite is the lifeblood of Potlatch, so having to pop in to get coffee there had its benefits as well, since the conversations were plentiful and lively.

During the weekend I had a chance to catch up with Mette Hedin and Bryan Little, who had also been at Gally but I had

managed to see mostly in passing as each of us rushed to and fro on our various hectic schedules. Kevin and Andy eventually dropped by as well, forming a quasi-*Yipe!* staff meeting. The tweets flew and joined us as well for some Gally planning. Everyone threw in some cash to the Potlatch donation jar in lieu of memberships, since no badges are sold at the con, and we retired up to the consuite for a few more hours before calling it a night.

All in all it was an enjoyable little con, as Potlatch usually is, with enough programming to feel well run and literary but a good deal of sitting around gabbing for that fannish and relaxed experience. It was apparently a return from the brink since there had been talk of this being the last year, but the website for next year in Seattle is already up and running.

The following weekend many of the same people headed over to the Holiday Inn up on Van Ness in San Francisco. I chose not to get a hotel room this time, it being in the city and all, but that may change next year since I regretted heading out each night. Despite its newness and small size, the con was very interesting and well run. There seemed to be a lot of WisCon veterans, and there were a lot of touches that made the convention feel a bit more literary and political than many of the regular cons I attend, interesting things seem to be afoot there.

Rather than having guests of honor, the convention had honored guests. I am not a hundred percent certain of the

difference, but as with Potlatch, the convention programming revolved more around a theme rather than an individual or individuals, in this case *The City in SF*. So, Jeff and Ann VanderMeer and Pat Murphy were the guests and there were discussions about Murphy's *The City Not Long After* and Jeff VanderMeer's *Ambergris* novels. Fritz Leiber was named posthumous guest based on his wonderful *Our Lady Of Darkness*, which of course is set in San Francisco. There were panels on many topics, however, and I especially enjoyed one called "your favorite book no one has ever heard of" in which the audience was able to fill out a slip of paper with the book name, author and brief description and then the panelists/moderator would call on each person to come up and talk about the book, it was a very neat idea and I came away with several interesting new titles.

The program book included accessibility, code of conduct information and a copy of the Convention Anti-Harrasment Project manifesto, which I think is vital to the growth and well

being of our community. There were several other nice touches such as the "interstitial programming," which took place during the "lost hour" of the Daylight Savings time change and a selection of homebrew beers made by Corie Ralston that included Pat Murphy's Golden Coffee Stout, Jeff and Ann VanderBeer and Fritz LeBeer. I stuck to the stout, which was delicious, except for also having one or two Flaming Rum Monkeys, which I am not certain how they related to the theme but were on fire, and also delicious.

The panels went well into the evening, allowing me to leave my house at five or six p.m. and still catch two or three panels if I wanted. The consuite was well stocked and friendly and a couple of nice local fans held an honest to goodness room party down the hall from the consuite to keep things lively. There was also karaoke and a few meetups apparently organized by fans outside of the official convention schedule

So all in all a very successfully first year for FOGcon, I look forward to seeing them top this next year.



Flowering quince

by Lucy Huntzinger

Florida: Land of Science and Fantasy

By Jean Martin

Editor-in-Chief

Recently, my vacations seem to be within the U.S. and not internationally as it had been in previous years. Last year, the only out-of-town destination I embarked on was a trip to Florida from Halloween through November 7th. Still, it had a lot to do with science, science fiction/fantasy and history like all my adventures.

I haven't been to Florida since 1989 and only once before that in 1978. So it was about time I visited the state, which I remember loving due to the nice, warm weather as well as all the magical tourist attractions that I loved as a child and a young adult. This time, there was an added bonus of the opportunity to see a space shuttle launch. I've wanted to see one since I moved to the U.S. and since I've talked to some people who have had the privilege to witness such a spectacular event.

My friend Scott and I happened to talk about this during one of our usual after-a-PEERS-ball midnight snack at Heidi's Pies in San Mateo. He said that he's been wanting to do this, as have I, especially since there were only three more launches left. So we didn't want to miss out on this experience. We decided on the Space Shuttle Discovery, which was originally slated for September 2010, but was moved to November 2010. We knew there would be risks of delays and so we booked an entire week following that just in case.

We both wanted to see the sights in the area anyway. So that would give us time to go to Kennedy Space Center as well

as the theme parks in nearby Orlando. We couldn't really have a fixed plan and revolved our daily excursions on the status of the Discovery.

Scott works at NASA and he was lucky enough to get a pass for one car to one of the official viewing sites within Kennedy Space Center. We were all set and excited to go to Florida for a historic occasion and a vacation to remember.



Jean with the Space Shuttle Discovery in the Background

courtesy of Jean Martin



Vehicle Assembly Building

by Jean Martin



Apollo Exhibit

by Jean Martin

November 1 – Kennedy Space Center

For the first few days, we stayed in the Melbourne area near Cape Canaveral. On, our first full day in Florida, we went to Kennedy Space Center (KSC). The visitor area surprisingly looked like a theme park complete with exhibits and shows. There was a new *Star Trek* educational show that I, of course, enjoyed. And we were fortunate to see it as it only opened a few months beforehand. Other attractions I enjoyed were the replica of a space shuttle, which you could walk into, and the Rocket Garden with NASA rockets displayed like they were growing out of a huge garden.

The highlight of KSC for me was the Discover KSC tour, where you board a tour bus, which takes you “behind the

scenes.” We saw the buildings where scientists work and astronauts live, the famous Vehicle Assembly Building, the Space Shuttle Discovery in its launch pad, and the viewing area where we would be for the actual launch. The Apollo/Saturn V center was quite impressive and awe-inspiring. Inside a huge hangar is the largest rocket ever built and surrounding it are decorations and exhibits (including a moon rock we could touch) commemorating the different missions. We were also taken to a mission control room where a simulation of a launch was shown. It felt real and was quite exciting! An unexpected treat was the wildlife at KSC. We saw a bald eagle and a dolphin and various other animals. I was hoping to see an alligator but didn't.



Inside the Space Shuttle

by Jean Martin



Ollivander's Wand Shop

by Jean Martin

Afterwards, we went to dinner in nearby Cocoa Beach. Coconuts, the tropical-themed restaurant on the beach we went to was having a party for NASA folks complete with a cake shaped like a space shuttle. Cocoa Beach is famous for the TV show “I Dream of Jeannie,” which I loved as a kid. And so I had to find I Dream of Jeannie Lane, which was quite easy to find even in the dark. I wish I could have seen it and the beach during the daytime though as I love the beach.

November 2 – Universal Islands of Adventure and Universal Studios

November 2nd was the planned launch date for the Discovery but due to bad weather conditions, it was postponed

to the next day. So Scott and I decided to go to Universal's new Islands of Adventure Theme Park to see the recently opened “Wizarding World of Harry Potter.” I'm not a big fan of the books but I've liked most of the movies. Still, I wanted to see this new attraction because I love anything fantasy-related that's come to life. There were other parts to the park that were wonderful but the Harry Potter one was the best one. In fact, it's probably one of the best I've ever seen. I was very impressed at the scale and detail of the recreation of the town of Hogsmeade and Hogwarts on top of a hill. Everything from the stores to the food to the décor and rides felt so real. I felt like I really was in the land of Harry Potter. That was when I realized that despite not being a true fan (like most children

and most of my fandom friends), I do enjoy the world that J.K. Rowling has built. It is quite magical and exciting to imagine that there are sorcerers and fairy-tale creatures in the real world.

I don't do rollercoasters because I get motion sickness so I couldn't do the two rollercoasters there. But I did go on the "Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey" multimedia ride, which was inside Hogwarts. The queue goes through the interior of Hogwarts complete with talking portraits, medieval tapestries and ornamentation, and important objects from the novels such as the Mirror of Erised and the Pensieve. At one point, you can see Dumbledore's image talking in his office. At another, the images of Harry, Ron and Hermione are



Honeydukes Candy Store

by Jean Martin



Hogwarts

by Jean Martin

talking to the people in line.

The ride itself was fun. Well, the parts I saw anyway. Everytime we were swooping through the air following Harry and his friends on their brooms or whenever we were jostled quickly to and fro, I closed my eyes because I got dizzy. I opened my eyes whenever there were 3-D images to look at. So I got most of the storyline and saw most of the characters and creatures.

Despite the rain, and November being low season, the place was incredibly packed. We were glad we went on a weekday, which probably didn't matter. There was a long line to get inside the main store with costumes, props and other memorabilia. We went back later in the day and it was still about a half an hour wait then. It was worth it as it looked like what it was in the movies. And I felt like I was a Hogwarts student buying my uniform and wand. We missed the little show at Ollivander's Wand Shop as the line barely budged and then it closed early. But I did manage to buy one of their wands, which I gave to my boyfriend as a present when I got back.

I also liked the candy and toy stores, which were so colorful and sold such unusual stuff straight from the books. I also imbibed some butter beer as well as pumpkin juice. We saw some students representing the Triwizard tournament doing a little dance and martial arts number. It was so awesome to see this live and made me want to costume as one of the dancing ladies from Beauxbatons.

There was more to see in the park so we went around quickly, which wasn't easy in the rain. We breezed through the Dr. Seuss, Sinbad and Jurassic Park areas. We spent a little bit more time in the Marvel area. We went inside the Daily Bugle art-deco building to experience the Spiderman ride. It was fun



Spiderman Ride

by Jean Martin

but again made me dizzy. I can't seem to do motion and 3-D at the same time very well. There were likenesses of Marvel characters on the buildings surrounding the Daily Bugle. It was a great way to exhibit the characters.

We still had time so we paid a separate admission into the old part of Universal Studios. I haven't seen this one in Florida but have seen the one in L.A. It wasn't too exciting. The only show we saw was the *Terminator* one, which I'd already seen but was still good the second-time around. I wanted to do the relatively new *Mummy* ride since I love the movies. But this looked like it was beyond my tolerance, and we were running

out of time, so I skipped it. We went back to the Harry Potter area to experience more of it with less of a crowd and were exhausted but happy at the end of the day.

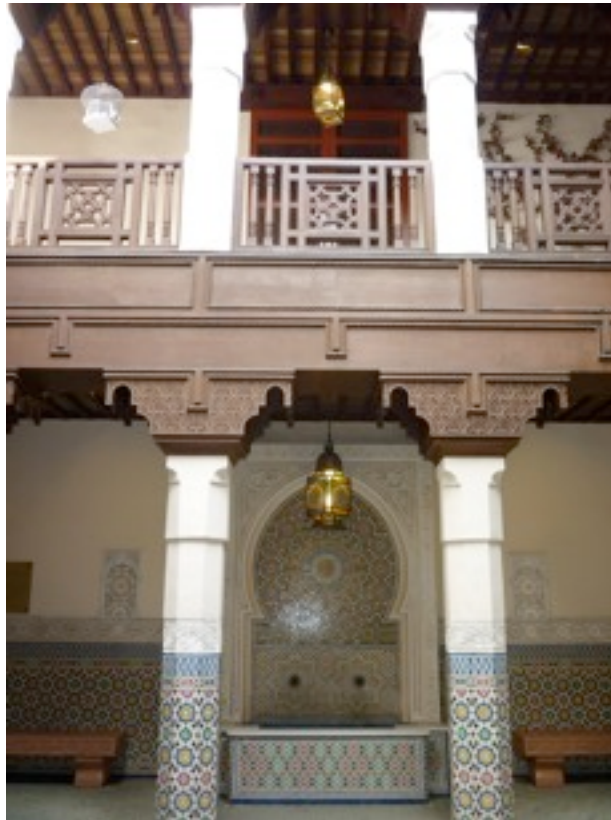
We had a relaxing dinner at a Latin American restaurant in the Universal CityWalk, which had good food and a flamenco guitar player performing.

November 3 - Epcot

Scott and I switched hotels the next day from Melbourne to Orlando where we stayed at one of the Disneyworld hotels. We picked the Caribbean Beach Resort and it was lovely! I



Jean in front of Epcot Dome
courtesy of Jean Martin



Courtyard in Epcot Morocco Pavilion
by Jean Martin



Alice in Wonderland in England Pavilion
by Jean Martin



Mission Space Simulation Ride

by Jean Martin

really felt like I was in the Caribbean with the pastel-colored low buildings surrounding a lagoon. Palm trees and tropical plants dotted the landscape and there were little beaches in between the different villages named after islands in the Caribbean.

Since the shuttle launch was delayed yet again, we opted to go to Epcot that day. We pretty much spent the entire day there as it was huge and there were several things we both wanted to do. I've been to Epcot once in 1989 but very little looked the same to me. This time, we lucked out as there was a food festival in progress. There were little booths around the World Showcase lagoon that featured cuisines from all over the world. I pretty much ate my way around the World Showcase.

Some countries had more exhibits, shows, restaurants and stores than others. I especially loved the Morocco, Italy, China and Japan pavilions the best. Morocco had an amazing bazaar, Italy had Venice and the Fountain of Trevi, China had the Terra Cotta Warriors and Japan had the Mitsukoshi shopping center. The food in France was, of course, delicious. England was fun because I got to see Alice in Wonderland and Mary Poppins (Snow White was in Germany and Mulan in China). But I didn't like it as much as when I saw it the first time before I actually was able to go to England. This time, it was a little bit disappointing.

But Epcot is not just the World Showcase. There were also the space, land and water sections in addition to the iconic silver geodesic sphere that houses Spaceship Earth, a relaxing ride exhibiting the history of human communication. I don't remember seeing this before and I was glad I saw it then. It's probably one of the best attractions I've ever seen, seeing as I'm very much into history and technology. The ride shows you mankind from the caveman days through the modern world using audio-animatronics. It was inspiring to see how much we've progressed and still continue to do so.

In the early evening, Scott and I checked out Mission: Space, which had two versions. A mild one (Green Team) and the original intense one (Orange Team). The Green Team does not use the centrifuge that the Orange Team does, which apparently has caused injuries and even death. I went for the Green Team while Scott went for the Orange Team. Even so, I was scared and nervous. Especially after we were enclosed in our little capsules and I saw that they provided sick bags. The ride is a simulation of what it would be like for astronauts to go to Mars. There are four people to a capsule and each one has a role. It was interactive and thrilling. I absolutely loved it

and it made it on my list of best ever attractions. Scott said his ride was more overwhelming than he expected and he even felt his chest being crushed from the pressure. I'm glad I didn't go on that one!

We quickly went through the land and sea sections and then I headed back to our hotel to rest and get some sleep. I wanted to wait for the fireworks but was just way too beat. The great thing about staying in a Disney hotel is the free shuttles. And so I made my way back and was dropped off right in front of our building. Scott stayed for the light show and the fireworks and he said they were both good.

November 4 – Magic Kingdom

I love Disney! And I missed going to Disneyland a few years ago around Christmastime with my family when I got very sick. I was taunted by being in a hotel a few blocks away where I could watch the fireworks from the park at night. So I didn't want to miss Disneyworld when I was literally staying in the Disney complex. Luckily, the shuttle was delayed yet again and we had time to go to one more theme park.

I was excited as I walked into Main Street. I love the train and the turn of the century atmosphere. It's very nostalgic. Scott and I had lunch at the Crystal Palace. They had a buffet that was incredibly delicious! We had to wait 30 minutes as we didn't have reservations. I found out that at Disneyworld, you have to make reservations online in advance for any of the restaurants or you'd have to wait a long time or not be able to get in at all.

The park was quite packed even though it was raining and not peak tourist season. It made going around difficult. What helped at Universal as well as Disney were the lightweight hooded raincoats that they were selling. It's hard to maneuver



Pirates of the Caribbean Ride

by Jean Martin



Disney Characters Perform at Sleeping Beauty's Castle by Jean Martin

around big crowds with umbrellas.

I've seen most of the attractions at the Magic Kingdom from the two times I've been there as well as several trips to Disneyland. But the place is aptly named as it still hasn't lost its magic. I felt like a kid again walking through the different sections.

Adventureland had the most for me to do this time around. We saw the Little Mermaid, Aladdin and Jasmine signing autographs. We rode the Pirates of the Caribbean ride that had Captain Jack Sparrow at the end. I don't mind the addition of elements from the movies because they kept most of the original scenes intact. But this one in Florida only had one pretty lame dip while the one in L.A. had two bigger ones. We

also did the Enchanted Tiki Room, which I loved as a child. This one they absolutely ruined by replacing the original soundtrack (no more Offenbach!) with modern tunes. It was horrid! They also added some annoying birds from Aladdin as the main characters.

Frontierland had the Mark Twain riverboat, which offered a great tour around the area. And, of course, the Haunted Mansion, which wasn't as good as the one in L.A. either but still fun.

Fantasyland I loved as a child as well, but it seems that now I'm much older, it didn't hold the same allure. I still enjoyed "It's a Small World." I just love all the little boys and girls dressed in costumes from all over the world singing



Entrance to Tomorrowland

by Jean Martin

together in peace and joy. Our ride got stuck for several minutes in front of, coincidentally, the one representative of the Philippines. She wasn't in the Asia part as I expected but all alone and slightly separated in the Polynesian islands section.

We couldn't walk through Sleeping Beauty's castle so we had to go around. And that's when we found out that they closed it for a show. So we went to the other side and got there just in time for a cast of Disney characters (such as Mickey, Minnie and Donald) singing and dancing. It was a lot of fun but way too short. I guess they think children have a short attention span. But it left me wanting more. Then the couple characters (Cinderella and Prince Charming, Aurora and

Prince Phillip, etc.) came toward the front and signed autographs for a little bit.

Tomorrowland has always been my favorite. The utopian view of the future from the middle part of the 20th century is just so, well, quaint but inspiring at the same time. Seeing the Peplemover was inspiring. There are a lot of newer elements in this section but it all blended well with the classics. Unfortunately, no Space Mountain for me.

There was some doubt as to whether the Main Street Electrical Parade was going to happen due to the rain. I love that parade and was glad that it did push through. I got a fairly good spot for taking photos. And the music and dancing was so infectiously cheerful. The floats with the characters were as great as I remember. I'm glad they brought this back after shelving it for a few years.

The fireworks afterwards was great as well. No trip to Disneyland is complete without them. It rained on and off during the fireworks. I was very worried about Tinkerbell, a real person who flew from the top of the castle to a building across the way via a wire, but she did it safely and with flair.

It really started to pour on our way out as the park closed. And we trudged out into the waiting shuttles exhausted. My verdict is that Disneyland is better but Disneyworld is still a wonderful way to spend a day if you're already in the area.

November 5 – Launch Day! Or Not.

Okay, Friday was our last opportunity to see the space shuttle launch. The weather was finally better and we were ready to drive over to Cape Canaveral when we got word that the mission was completely scrubbed due to technical issues. It was rescheduled for December (which was then moved to February when it ultimately launched). I was disappointed and



Main Street Electrical Parade

by Jean Martin

upset but what can you do. We tried and that's all we can do. I thought about coming back for one of the two remaining shuttles. But Discovery's last mission was probably the best of the three because it's the oldest working shuttle (it has a great history), it docked at the International Space Station and it will be at the Smithsonian once it's decommissioned.

Scott thought about going to one of the other remaining Disney theme parks that day but I was theme-parked out. I decided to relax and take a real vacation from everything. So that meant enjoying the other side of Florida away from the hustle and bustle of the major attractions. I booked a massage appointment at the Saratoga Springs Resort and Spa (a Disney timeshare facility). To get there, I had to take a water taxi from Downtown Disney.

Downtown Disney was quite a sight to see. There were lots of stores, bars, restaurants and shows. It was very modern and way too loud and busy for me. But I'm glad I saw it.

The water taxi was a lot of fun and it felt like I was gently being taken into another world as we went into a little inlet with a dock. I disembarked and made my way to the spa. The massage was heavenly and the Jacuzzi afterwards was just what I needed. I spent several hours at the spa and relaxed as I let all my stress from work before my trip and the anxieties surrounding the space shuttle launch melt away.

November 6 – Resort Vacation

On our last full day, I stayed even closer to home and spent the entire day by myself enjoying the amenities of the resort hotel I was staying at. They appropriately placed me in the Martinique village. There was a local shuttle that went from village to village and into the main area, Centertown, which had a Jamaican feel to it. At Centertown, there was a gift store, food court, restaurant, a pool with a pirate ship and slides and other recreational activities.

I just went with my whims for the day and checked out everything. Unfortunately, it was too cold and windy to use the pools or to sunbathe on the beaches. So I settled for biking around the lagoon twice. The bike I rented was one of those cruisers that are hard to maneuver and don't have any gears for speed. So you really have to just go at a leisurely pace. I got to see all the different villages, which you could tell apart from their different colors. There was also a tropical island in the middle of the lagoon, which I was able to explore.

Afterwards, I rented a mini speed boat. I've never driven a boat before and it was incredibly fun. I went around the lagoon where I could see the villages. Then I went into another connected lagoon that went into a less developed area with wildlife and plants growing naturally.

I ate lunch and dinner at the food court. One unexpected thing about Disney was how good the food was everywhere I went.

The next day, I was looking forward to coming home. The space shuttle launch was the main reason for the trip, and it was disappointing to not have seen it, but I was glad that it turned out to be a varied and interesting vacation nonetheless.

Letters of Comment

Steve Green writes:

Another great issue (gosh, I wish I was back in the Bay Area and could wash in all this SF-related enthusiasm firsthand), not least because of another powerful photograph by Lucy Huntzinger and the surprise inclusion of haunting work by Leah Jakusovszky (I understand that very image is being considered for a book cover: well spotted).

Jean Martin responds:

Hi Steve, good to hear from you. We do have such a variety and wealth of SF-related activities in the Bay Area. Keeps me busy and happy. Leah is a friend of mine and she's a great artist so we love receiving contributions from her. Yes, I believe that piece is being considered for a book cover. See my response to Brad's LOC below about Lucy's photo.

Meanwhile, TAFF's Race to Reno will be into its final stretch by the time this sees print, but folks still have until 26 April to vote. I just hope the winner has as much fun on his journey as I did, not least the Californian segment, wherein I just about survived alcohol poisoning in time to have a personal after-hours tour of the Computer History Museum. That was a ride 'n' a half, I tell you.

I'm looking forward to seeing who wins. Too bad I didn't get to see you when you came to California. Sounds like you had a great time even though you had to suffer from some after-effects. Getting a personal tour from Chris Garcia of the Computer History Museum is always a blast.

Brad Foster (www.JabberwockyGraphix.com) writes:

Looking through *SF/SF* #114 on efanazines today. I often pop in when new issues are up, though usually, while enjoy reading the goings on, not much for me to comment on. (And, unlike the guilt I feel when getting a hard-print copy through the mail, since no cost was involved, I don't feel I need to force comments in reply.)

Hi Brad, I'm glad that you read SF/SF and it's good to hear from you! I don't know who's reading our issues unless someone lets me know so it's good to get some feedback. But I understand not having anything to say unless something compelling comes up.

This is a teeny-tiny loc, because I've got to say I absolutely loved that cover photo, the joy made even greater by the wonderfully simple and evocative caption "Even the cops were happy." I'm still smiling even as I write this! What was the source of that shot? Clearly some sort of street demonstration (I particularly like how the crowds seem to be going in two different directions behind the cops). Just curious what the event was to keep the police so relaxed.

The photo by Lucy is a shot of the celebration on Market Street in San Francisco when the Giants won the World Series. That was a pretty big deal as the Giants haven't won one in a very long time. I happened to be out of town at during that time and missed out on the festivities but I understand the Bay Area was ecstatic for days after that. I did get a chance to see the trophy when it was touring and came to my place of work. We were even able to have

professional photos taken with us and the trophy. So I caught a little bit of flavor of their victory after the fact.

Lloyd Penney writes:

It's slushing outside... can't decide to rain or snow, so it's doing both. I'm inside, hiding from both, and I have a printout of SF/SF 114, and I have the time to write a letter of comment. How convenient is that?

Jean Martin responds:

Times of inclement weather are always good for staying home to write, do arts and crafts, and well, sleep and relax! Thanks for taking time out of your day to write to us.

Yes, it's the Year of the Wabbit... heheheheh... I was born in the Year of the Boar/Pig. Sounds bad for me, no matter which one you use. I nominated in the Hugos a while ago, but only nominated in the categories in which I had some experience or knowledge, which meant I nominated in the fan categories only. The important part is not how many categories you were able to nominate, but that you took part.

I still haven't gotten around to voting. I'm not up-to-date with most categories myself so I'm having a hard time with this. Not sure if I'll have time to do more research and thinking. I suppose I can just nominate for one or two categories.

The Clone Wars is shown on Teletoon here from time to time, but I never know when it's on, or what episode they're showing. I work evenings, anyway... maybe I should see if anyone has all the episodes so far on DVD, and borrow them. Same goes for the new *Doctor Who*. But then, I'd also need to find the time to watch them.

I've found my newish iPhone great for catching up on watching TV shows and movies. Especially through the Netflix Watch Instantly feature. I watch 15 minutes to a half-hour here and there during my lunch break or while waiting in lines or for anything. You'd be surprised how many shows you can watch this way! It helps that it doesn't matter to me to watch things in small chunks at a time.

Coming up in just a couple of weeks is our own furry convention in Toronto, Furnal Equinox. This year is only its second year, but I may see if there's time to race over and drop off flyers for various other conventions in town. Did that last year... only saw two fursuits, but everyone else there seemed to be having a great time.

Furry fandom seems to be gaining more popularity. Good to see that there are other places that have these types of conventions. I am a big proponent of get-togethers of like minded people and forming communities. Sharing one's interests makes it all the more fun!

It's funny we see more Soviet Communist and Chinese Communist stuff in antique shows or even thrift shops than ever before. We've got a few KGB goodies, and I purchased a Soviet-era pocket watch a few weeks ago at our big downtown antique show The Communist Party. Wonder how late the Party goes?

It's interesting to me that now Communist items are a collector's item. It wasn't so long ago that they were they "enemy" and engendered fear. I suppose it's a good thing that the ideology has been made mostly harmless and their stuff have become cool memorabilia of a different time with a somewhat romantic mystique attached to them.

The Edwardian Ball looked great... I saw on your Facebook page that you and Christopher had gone to another ball of some kind, didn't see the name. Truly, most BArea fans must have a closet devoted to costumes for the various balls they attend.

We go to a lot of balls. I can't even keep track of them anymore! Once one is over, I'm already preparing for the next one. Christopher and I only went to the Edwardian Ball, which was on a Saturday. There was an Edwardian World's Fair on the Friday before that we didn't go to but we're considering going to that one next year for some variety.

My loc... you can be the first to know that I have a line on a very short-term contract with a professional organization in Toronto. Two months, can't and won't complain.

Congratulations!

I think the main reason anime conventions are continuing to grow is that there's more anime fans than all other kinds put together, and the anime cons also embrace other interests to add to the complex mix, like Steampunk. We did attend, in costume, the opening party night of The Difference Engineers at the Ontario Science Centre, and a few hundred people showed up, far more than they expected! Great display, and an opportunity to promote the Canadian National Steampunk Exhibition, only 50 days away as I type. We only took a few photos, but I can lead you to some better photo sets.

Steampunk seems to make an appearance at any kind of con these days. Even at Renaissance Faires and Dickens Fair! As for anime's growing popularity, other than the factors you mentioned, it just occurred to me that younger people have more time to indulge in their interests and have more societal "permission" to "escape" into flights of fancy. Most of us adults are just swamped with responsibilities and don't have as much free time and it's a sad fact society discourages "grown-ups" from doing the artistic, creative and imaginative things we did as children. As if "growing up" means leaving behind "childish" things. Which is why I'm so glad that fandom exists for all of us where we can express our creativity and share our interests with other people.

Hey, I made the page! Hope this is in time. Many thanks, take care, see you with the next issue, and we must all get together in Reno! Still hoping we can be there.

Hope to see you in Reno! We've already registered and made hotel reservations. But we still have to ask our bosses for the time off. If absolutely necessary, I will bring my work laptop with me but I am definitely wanting to be there!

Join our crew!

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

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 1073-7

Meeting 1073

February 21, 2011

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 8:01 p.m. to intercept another argument over the literary merits of Friday

President and secretary absent

Vice President presiding

Treasurer absent

Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker

11 people attended

With only 11 people present, Fred decided against proposing a party jar. Glenn was present, so revenue was generated. (Hope someone remembered to pick up the money.)

Postponed the reading of minutes from 1072 until next meeting

Proxy treasurer's report is that "We have money."

The VP startled everyone when he said that was no new *Drink Tank* out that week. His computer crashed.

No President's report

The sports committee proxy reminded everybody about our baseball outing on Friday, May 6, at AT&T Park. It is an evening game to celebrate Willie Mays' 80th b-day and BASFA's name will go on the scoreboard. Tix are \$27 each by the first base line in the upper level. See Dave G. for tix.

Announcements

Glenn has read all of Patricia McKillip's published novels.

He said Condor 18 is happening this weekend, Feb. 25-28, in San Diego. condorcon.org/html/mainmenu.html

He had his gall bladder out.

He added that L.A. fan Ed Green also works as an actor and can be seen in a Rhianna video that's hilarious.

I mentioned that the complete first and second seasons of the UK version of *Being Human* is now available on On Demand, with the exception of the fourth episode of season 1. These are uncut and have scenes that were deleted from their broadcast on BBC America. Chris followed on that the one missing episode has something to do with music copyrights.

Bob said the latest issue of his fanzine, *e2PMI*, is available at www.radio-sf.com. He hopes that will help make up for having no Drink Tank this week.

Eric says *Firefly* is available on cable again. Something was said about the Science (not SyFy) Channel.

Howeird said Consonance 2011 is the first weekend in March. www.consonance.org

Chris said that Nova Albion, a steampunk convention in Santa Clara, will be the last weekend in March.
steampunkexhibition.com

Ed asked if it was worth announcing that Richard Gruen, who taught computing back in the 50s, has died.

Reviews

Glenn said that *Earth Abides*, by George Stewart, is one of the worst books he's ever read. The only reason he is making the effort to finish it is because it is the book of honor at Potlatch this year.

He also gave quick reviews of all the McKillip books he has read.

Mike Mc. saw Shaun Tan's animated short, "The Lost Thing," this weekend and loved it. It was worth tackling the parking in Downtown San Jose.

I went to marathon of seeing half the nominated movies for the best picture Oscar on Saturday. Loved seeing Buzz Lightyear in Spanish mode in *Toy Story 3*. Thought *127 Hours* was one of the most boring movies ever and walked out of it for a while to buy Mrs. Fields cookies. *The Kids Are All Right* was all right, but had very little Who music. *True Grit* was very well done and the acting was better than what I've seen of the first version. Christian Bale gave an amazing performance as a crack addict in *The Fighter*. From the six nominees I've seen so far, *The King's Speech* is my favorite to when. Chris followed on that *Inception* is his favorite.

Diane reviewed Pantheon as B+. She enjoyed seeing some of the people there and catching up on gossip. She also enjoyed *Crank*, by Ellen Hopkins, which generated a lot of comments about Timothy Leary.

Ed saw *Snatch* and thought it was excellent. He highly recommends it.

Howeird saw *The King's Speech* and that acting of some of the supporting cast was below par, even though the principals were awesome. Because of this, he doesn't believe it deserves the best picture Oscar. His favorite to win is *Inception*.

Chris saw the original *Solaris* with Russian subtitles, which he thought was awesome. He said it is the slowest movie in the history of mankind. Despite this, it is amazing and impossible to remove your eyes from the screen. Very laconic and dense with flipping lights. Well worth watching and better than the Soderbergh version.

We did auctions.

Rumor of the Week: Need a rumor? There's an app for that.

We adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Meeting 1074

February 28, 2011

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

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

Began 8pm - deciding that radiofan is not significant

26 people attended

We established a Salon Futura jar

We established a party jar

Secretary's report: the minutes from meeting 1072 were accepted as "spung" & the minutes from meeting 1073 were accepted as "there's an ape for that"

The Treasurer was not present, but a proxy treasurer's report was that at meeting 1073 we took in \$11.50 in the regular jar

The Vice President reported that he has 4 new 'zines out at efanzines.com - *Journey Planet* #8, a new *Claims Department* and 2 new *Drink Tanks* - #'s 274, 275 - with more to come & that the deadline for submission to the *Journey Planet* "Dune" issue is March 15 and that he is writing a speech

The President reported that Rob & Val Campbell - BASFAnS of long standing, sent us a check for \$25.00 to cover a decade of pun fines - and there was a general sentiment of good feeling from the club about this

The Party Committee reported that he needs help, being almost \$300 in the hole from past parties - and needing contributions if BASFA wants a party run at Westercon

Announcements

Chris announced that this weekend is Consonance at the Newark/Fremont Hilton & Lynn announced that there'll be great guests there [check the website at = www.consonance.org

Fred announced that the Contact conference has been postponed

[evil] Kevin announced that his dad is doing remarkably well

Lynn also announced that the Craig Ferguson show filmed at Gallifrey and at least 1 BASFAn was filmed - and that should be on TV tonight

Howeird & Ken announced that [evil] Kevin won for his island survival suit [the tiki dalek]

Adrienne & Mike & Lisa announced that Shaun Tan's *The Lost Thing* won an Oscar & she announced that Karel is coming back to KGO for the 7pm-10pm weekend slots & there were various follow-ons for the Oscars

Dave C announced that Potlatch will also be this weekend at the Domain & tomorrow night the Letterman show will have a musical number from the *Spiderman* musical

Chris announced that Cinequest is beginning

Bill announced that FOGcon will be in 2 weeks - Andy added "Holiday Inn Golden Gate"

Reviews

Gallifrey 1 was multiply reviewed: Andy said it was epic - bloated, insane & tremendous - with great parties; [evil] Kevin was awesome in recovering purloined vodka & the parties went until 4am, 4am and 2:30am; the tiki dalek went for a successful cruise in the halls & the drive back was ... a drive - worth full price; the live body count was over 2000; [evil] Kevin said there are videos and pictures of the tiki dalek on Facebook and elsewhere; Lisa reviewed that lobbycon started on Tuesday & it was an amazing time - it stormed outside and was ugly but they were safe inside with the robot fish & her donated handmade Dr Who scarf was auctioned off for \$400 for the con's charity; Dave C reviewed it as the Dealer's room was near double last year & "Gallifrey been bery, bery good to me"; Ken reviewed that they got to recycle their *Spamalot* costumes & were fabulously popular; Geri reviewed "best con ever!"; Ken added "go next year and get a room!"

John reviewed Oscar films showed together - *Winter's Bone*, *Black Swan*, *Inception* & *Social Network* as a great experience - 12 straight hours of film - then he watched the Oscars the next day and actually agreed with most of the top picks; Adrienne follow-on'd that she also enjoyed the movies being shown together

Dave C reviewed *The Osiris Ritual* by George Mann as steampunkish but kind of "by the numbers" and worth paperback & reviewed *Unknown* as worth full price

Howeird reviewed *Death of a Salesman* at the Pear theatre www.thepear.org as fairly well acted - worth full price & worth making reservations for

Diane reviewed the *Saffron Kitchen* by Yasmin Crowther as very well done & even better done on DVD

Carole reviewed *Conflikt* as a good time was had by all - despite sound issues & worth full price

Adrienne reviewed *Winter's Bone* as she loved it - *Inception* & *Black Swan* as not her kind of movies & *Social Network* as nice

Ken reviewed *Xanadu the musical* at the Retrodome as very funny

Bob reviewed having fun with Mentos and soda with kids watching as great fun

We did auctions: a video for \$0.50; a book for \$0.25; comic books for \$6.00 & DVDs for \$6.00

We adjourned at = 10:11 pm

The rumor of the week was: "President Trey is our beloved leader"

Meeting 1075

March 7, 2011

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 8:03 p.m. with a Freudian slip

President, vice president, and secretary absent

Treasurer was late, but took over presiding from Eric

Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker

25 people attended

We established a party jar.

The minutes for meeting 1074 were accepted as written in tiger's blood.

Treasurer reported that BASFA currently has \$11,303.51 in its general fund. The party fund has \$114.82 and Salon Futura \$38.60.

The VP proxy report was there is a new *Drink Tank* out and Cinequest rocks.

The president's proxy had nothing fannish to report.

The sports committee proxy reported it may still have a couple of tix left for our baseball outing on Friday, May 6, at AT&T Park. It is an evening game to celebrate Willie Mays' 80th b-day and BASFA's name will go on the scoreboard. See Dave G. if interested. Ride sharing will have to be organized independently.

Announcements

Ken has a job interview tomorrow morning and we wished him success.

Tom said that Potlatch 21 will be in Seattle in 2012. Jack William Bell will chair. Memberships are currently available for \$40.

Dave Berry stopped by for a while to thank BASFA for helping him out.

Glenn says FOGcon is next weekend and that Westercon 64 has opened up for hotel reservations.

Spike said Dr. Demento will open at Renovation and be at its music night.

Dave G. said that Creation will be at the Burlingame Hyatt and Spring will be selling there.

Reviews

Lisa went to two conventions last weekend, Consonance and Potlatch. She enjoyed the silliness of Consonance. She didn't have time to read the book of honor for Potlatch, but the panels were interesting regardless. She hopes it will be back in two years.

Glenn followed on that it was his first Potlatch and "Dog gone it, people like me!" He liked its coziness, met new peeps, and had a great time.

At Potlatch's auction, Ed picked up some audio books that he will donate to the library for the blind when he's finished with them.

Fred enjoyed it and will go when it's held in Seattle next year.

MO was informed she had a membership and t-shirt waiting for her at Potlatch, but was too burned out to go on Saturday.

Tom said he nominated the book of honor and the committee punished him by voting to accept it. He saw the entire program.

MO went to four cons—Gallifrey, Corflu, Games Developer Conference, and Potlatch—in three weeks and had a great time overall. Corflu intrigued her. She said hundreds of Androids and laptops were being given away at the GDC, but it is currently all about iPads. Special recognition was also given to a Craig and Cricket Fox for their past support. However, MO does not recommend four conventions back-to-back.

Jo reviewed Wikipedia politics as little different than it is in fandom. Radioman is an asshole who is insisting that the BASFA entry is deleted, along with several other science fiction fan associations. The BASFA entry will most likely be removed.

Glenn said that Daniel at It's About Time is a barber who actually shaves with a straight razor and does a great job.

We did auctions.

Rumor of the Week: "I want to go home."

We adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Meeting 1076

March 14, 2011

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

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

Began 8-ish - with opinions

24 people attended - eventually

We established a party jar

Secretary's report: the minutes from meeting 1075 were accepted as "not notable"

The Treasurer was late & reported that last week we took in \$0.50 in the club jar and "a lot more" in the party jar

The Vice President reported, "Hi!" and that no new *Drink Tank* is out & he still wants contributions for the *Journey Planet* "Dune" issue, deadline March 15

The President introduced us to Valerie Frankel, visiting us after exposure to BASFAnS at several conventions, most recently FOGcon

The Sports Committee reported that there is a waiting list at this point

The Party Committee reported that he is encouraged by our response thus far, but still needs help & contributions

Announcements

Andy announced that Eric Saade won Melodi Festivalen

Lisa announced that Seanen McGuire's book *Late Eclipses* is on the NY Times best sellers list & announced that Nova Albion is in 2 weeks - & Chris will give the keynote speech there

Chris announced that Wondercon is the 1st weekend in April

Reviews

Lisa reviewed FOGcon 2011 as a readers-con - nice, small & delightful - very well run & that there WILL BE a FOGcon 2, check fogcon.org; Ed reviewed it as the snacks were plentiful, the con was well-organized & there were hotel issues & he reviewed being a grandfather as being "cool"; Dave C reviewed it as his view from the Dealer's room was that he did okay & he'll be back there next year & Valerie reviewed it as nice - and that she sold a pile of her book there **

Andy reviewed Reno for the all hands who could show up staff meeting there for Renovation - prereg has broken 3000 - as the Reno-Sparks convention center is a good size for a worldcon & that the Peppermill is decorated in neo-classical-bordello & it was an excellent meting; [evil] Kevin follow-on'd that the walk from the Peppermill to the convention center is 15-20 minutes & shuttle service will be available & that the Peppermill staff continues to be exceptional

Adrienne reviewed Devon Monk's book *Magic to the Bone* as she's really impressed by this 1st book & it really sucked her in; highly recommended

Ed reviewed Valerie as a fan who goes to a lot of cons & that she has a book out now [**] *From Girl to Goddess, the Heroine's Journey* by Valerie Frankel; website = frankelassociates.com/calithwain; Dave C follow-on'd that when he stocks her books at his table they sell out & Valerie follow-on'd about how she plotted out her book

Bill reviewed Consonance as a nice big con, with good music & good guests; Howie'd follow-on'd that he had a good time there & learned some things & Carole follow-on'd that she enjoyed hearing Howie'd singing there

Howie'd reviewed Michael Palin's book - *Hemingway's Chair* as very enjoyable and readable & worth more than BASFA auction price

Chris reviewed Cinequest as worth attending & it had films & he reviewed *Destination Moon* as one of the best science fiction films he has seen as he makes his way thru pivotal sf films

Fred reviewed *Howl* as a really interesting movie & he highly recommends it

Sarah reviewed *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick as a wonderful story but that the artwork within it was even more wonderful

Adrienne reviewed *Winter's Bone* as she loved it - *Inception* & *Black Swan* as not her kind of movies & *Social Network* as nice

Dave G reviewed assisting Spring at Creation Con as he enjoyed himself; Diane follow-on'd that she also had fun & Dave C agreed

We did auctions: con-books for \$0.25 & \$2.00; a book for \$0.25; a jacket for \$0.50; & an old but oddly topical calendar for \$0.25

We adjourned at = 9:41 pm

The rumor of the week was: "We will not be part of any pedia that will have us as an entry"

Meeting 1077

March 21, 2011

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 8:03 - as again I endured change

20 people attended

We established a party jar

We established a Salon Futura jar

The minutes for meeting 1076 were accepted as "amen"

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$6.25 in the regular jar & that we also took in \$6.25 in the party jar

The VP was not here; but if a *Drink Tank* falls in the woods, is it really freem?

The president had nothing fannish to report

The Sports Committee reported that there has been some movement on the waiting list

Announcements

[tall] Kevin announced that he has a mild right wrist injury but that it will soon be better & he appreciates the notes of sympathy on the occasion of his grandfather's death

[evil] Kevin announced that there's a new 64 page issue of *Yipe!* out

Dave C announced that this Saturday is a Psychotronix Film Festival at Foothill college, 7:30pm but be there early as it sells out - \$5 at the door and bring \$2 in quarters for parking - bring your fez, dress in layers & he announced that *Back to Spacecon* will be showed at the Balboa Theatre in SF on April 14

Dave G [& Andy & Adrienne] announced that nominations for the Hugos close March 26

Andy announced that Nova Albion is this weekend at the Santa Clara Hyatt/Santa Clara convention center; there were comments & there will be a Westercon 64 fan table [stop by and sit the table a spell y'all]

Valerie announced that she's giving a reading of *From Girl to Goddess* next Monday night, March 28, 7-9pm at the Saratoga Library Community room

Mo announced that there's a new *Drink Tank* out and she did the cover for it

Ken announced that there'll be a Legion of Rassilon meeting at 1st and Trimble in the Carls Jr this Friday night, at 7:30

Reviews

Dave C reviewed *Drive Angry* as an action film & it provoked laughter & "if you like this sort of thing you'll like it"

Andy reviewed Red Nose Day as the BBC has some of the bits uploaded to YouTube - go there and search "Red Nose Day 2011" for film segments & he highly recommends this

Mo reviewed *Changes* by Jim Butcher - and then 2 other Dresden books on audio book as the audio books were more enjoyable - both being read by James Marsters & she recommends the audio book versions

Mike reviewed Hamilton's *Starwolf* trilogy [gathered in one paperback] as a very good read & he reviewed *Phil Ochs* as a very powerful documentary that he recommends

Ed reviewed *Adjustment Bureau* as much better than he expected it to be - slow to start but it got better by the end - worth matinee

[tall] Kevin reviewed wearing a wrist brace as a learning experience

We did auctions: books for \$1.50 & \$0.75; an ice cream squisher for \$0.25; & a box of stuff for \$0.25

We adjourned at = 9:25 pm

The rumor of the week was: "one night in Stockholm and the world's your herring" [and that Adrienne likes penguins]

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.

Through Saturday, April 17

Once Upon This Island

The Willows Theatre
1975 Diamond Blvd. Concord
www.willowstheatre.com

A calypso-flavored musical re-telling of the traditional Little Mermaid tale.

Check website for tickets and showtimes

Friday, April 1

Tim Burton Double Feature

The Castro Theater
429 Castro Street, San Francisco
www.thecastrotheatre.com

Pee-Wee's Big Adventure & Edward Scissorhands

7:30 p.m.

\$10

Friday-Saturday, April 1-2

BarBot 2011

pariSoma - 169 11th Street
San Francisco
robogames.net/barbot.php

BarBot is a celebration of cocktail culture and man-machine interface. 21+ with photo ID

9 p.m.

\$15

Friday-Sunday, April 1-3

Wondercon

Moscone Center South
San Francisco
www.comic-con.org/wc

\$40

Saturday, April 2

Jane Austen Ball

PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 North Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo
Live music by Bangers and Mash. There will be a pre-ball workshop in Regency country dance from 7 to 8pm. Regency (1811-1820) costume is admired, but not required, and modern evening dress is a perfectly acceptable alternative. The PEERS Flying CirCUS performers will be re-creating the characters from *Emma*, but our guests are invited to come as their favorite characters from the other Jane

Austen novels. Punch and a light snack buffet will be served throughout the evening (potluck contributions to the buffet will be greatly appreciated)

6:45 p.m.

\$15 (till March 26)

Tuesday, April 5

Author: Malinda Lo

Books Inc
855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
www.booksinc.net/blog/583018

Huntress book launch.

7 p.m.

Free

Saturday, April 9

EndGame 5th Anniversary Minicon

EndGame
921 Washington Street, Oakland
www.endgameoakland.com/minicon

Mini gaming convention.

Check website for details

Saturday, April 16

Midnites for Maniacs: Heavy Metal/Monster Mash

The Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street San Francisco
www.midnitesformaniacs.com
Five Film Fest! *Heavy Metal* (1981), *The Monster Squad* (1987), *This is Spinal Tap* (1984), *Trick or Treat* (1986) and a 'Secret Film' from 1984
2:30 p.m. \$13

Saturday, April 16

SFinSF: Peter Beagle and Michael Blumlein
Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org
Reading, followed by Q&A from the audience moderated by author Terry Bisson.
7 p.m. Free

Saturday-Sunday, April 16-17

Decepti-kon
Red Lion Hotel Sacramento
1401 Arden Way, Sacramento
www.decepti-kon.com
Celebrating the fusion of Japanese and American animation
\$20

April 18 through September 10

Evil Dead: The Musical
The Campbell Theatre
Martinez
www.evildeadthemusical.com
This hilarious live stage show takes all the elements of the cult classic horror films, *Evil Dead 1*, *Evil Dead 2*, and *Army of Darkness* then combines them to make one of the craziest theatrical experiences of all time.
Check website for tickets and showtimes.

Monday, April 18

Thrillville's 14th Anniversary Show
Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge
1304 Lincoln, Alameda
www.thrillville.net
Cult Movies & Cocktails, hosted by Will the Thrill. All shows free, first feature starts @ 7:30 PM, second feature @ 9:15. Free Popcorn and Trivia Prizes. Featuring Will the Thrill's 2 Favorite Horror Movies (It's a surprise!)
7:30 p.m. Free

Saturday, April 30

Calling All Maniacs: Benefit for the Red Vic
The Red Vic Movie House
1727 Haight Street, San Francisco
www.redvicmoviehouse.com
Hosted by Jesse Hawthorne Ficks. 35MM trailers, memorabilia auction and secret 1970s 35MM film screening, not available on VHS or DVD. Suggested Donation: All proceeds going to the Red Vic!
7:30 p.m. \$10-20

Saturday, April 30

Dinner in Valentino's Tent
Menara Moroccan Restaurant, San Jose
www.gbacg.org/current/valentinos-tent-dinner.html
A roaring twenties Studio Party on the set of the up-coming 1926 Rudolph Valentino film, *Son of the Sheik*. Entertainment by professional belly dancers is also included. Deadline to purchase tickets is April 20, please check website for menus and costume requirements.
7:00 p.m. \$51.50

Saturday, May 7

Abney Park in a Pirate Ball
The Oakland Metro Opera House
630 3rd St., Oakland
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/153522
Re-scheduled show from the original April 2nd Ball of Justice dates.
8 p.m. \$25

Saturday, May 7

Diversity in YA Tour
Main Library, Latino-Hispanic Room
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco
www.diversityinya.com/tour
Malinda Lo (*Huntress*), Cindy Pon (*Silver Phoenix*), Gene Luen Yang (*Level Up*), and J.A. Yang (*Exclusively Chloe*)
3 p.m. Free

Saturday, May 7

Ball of the Gods

PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 North Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo
Celebrate May Day with us at a rollicking Victorian costume ball with a Greek mythological theme inspired by Jacques Offenbach’s hysterically funny masterpiece “Orpheus in the Underworld,” famous for making the Cancan an international hit. Live music by Avalon Rising.
Suggested attire is Victorian evening dress, costumes inspired by Greek and Roman mythology, or a creative combination of the two!. Visitors from other pantheons are more than welcome. There will be a no-host (cash) bar, and a light snack buffet. Potluck contributions to the buffet will be greatly appreciated
6:45 p.m. \$15 (till April 30)

Sunday, May 8

Author: Andrea Hairston

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Meet Andrea Hairston, author of the critically-acclaimed *Mindscapes*.
3 p.m. Free

Friday, May 13

Midnites for Maniacs: Music Matters!

The Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street San Francisco
www.midnitesformaniacs.com
Rock N Roll High School (1979), *Out of the Blue* (1980) and a third TBA movie.
7:30 p.m. \$12

Thursdays-Sundays, May 13-29

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court

The Pear Avenue Theatre
1220 Pear Avenue, Unit K, Mountain View
www.thepear.org
Twain’s wisecracking hero finds himself zapped from 1880 to the Middle Ages, from industrial America to medieval England. Yankee can-do spirit enables this crafty time-traveler to drag a backward culture kicking and screaming into the modern era--but only for a while. Breathtaking, hilarious-- and shockingly relevant to 21st century America.
Check website for tickets and showtimes.

Saturday-Sunday, May 14-15

Queen Bess and the Pirates

Roeding Park,
890 W. Belmont, Fresno
www.queenbessandthepirates.com
Renaissance Faire and Pirate Festival
Check website for details

Saturday-Sunday, May 21-22

Big Wow ComicFest

San Jose Convention Center Hall 3
150 West San Carlos St. San Jose
www.bigwowcomicfest.com
Previously ‘Supercon’.
\$25

Saturday-Sunday, May 21-22

Maker Faire

San Mateo County Event Center
San Mateo
www.makerfaire.com
Come celebrate MAKE magazine’s 10th Maker Faire and sixth anniversary in the Bay Area, showcasing creative and resourceful people in the areas of science and technology, engineering, food, and arts and crafts.
\$30.00 (till May 12)

Monday, May 23

Forbidden Thrills Movie Night

Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge
1304 Lincoln, Alameda
www.thrillville.net
Cult Movies & Cocktails, hosted by Will the Thrill. All shows free, first feature starts @ 7:30 PM, second feature @ 9:15. Free Popcorn and Trivia Prizes. May is Shatfest! William Shatner stars in *Impulse* and *Incubus*
7:30 p.m. Free

Friday-Monday, May 27-30

Fanime

San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 W. San Carlos St., San Jose, CA 95113
www.fanime.com
Anime convention

Check website for pricing

Friday-Monday, May 27-30

KublaCon

Hyatt Regency
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
www.kublacon.info
Gaming convention

\$40 (till April 15)

Friday-Monday, May 27-30

Baycon

The Hyatt Regency Santa Clara
5101 Great American Parkway, Santa Clara
www.baycon.org
GOHs: John Picacio, Bobbie DuFault.
Toastmaster: Martin Young

\$70 (through March 31)

Saturday, June 4

The Pirates Ball

PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 North Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo
Bangers and Mash will play a full evening of waltzes, polkas, and dashing country dances from the 17th through the 19th century (All country dances will be briefly taught or called).
Pirate costume - both period and Hollywood

style - is admired, but not required. Come either in your finest 17th, 18th or early 19th century attire or in fantasy pirate costume from any literary universe. There will be piratical musical entertainment, a no-host bar and a light snack buffet. (As usual, potluck contributions to the buffet will be greatly appreciated.)
6:45 p.m. \$15 (till May 28)

Sunday, June 5

SACCON

Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sac-con.com
Sacramento's Toys, Comics and Anime show.
10 a.m. \$6

Saturday, June 11

SFinSF: Lisa Goldstein and Nick Mamatas

Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org
Reading, followed by Q&A from the audience moderated by author Terry Bisson.
7 p.m. Free

Thursday-Sunday, July 1-4

Westercon 64

The Fairmont
170 South Market Street, San Jose
www.westercon64.org
GOHs: Patricia A. McKillip, Kaja and Phil Folgio, Mike Willmoth
\$65

Saturday, August 6

Suffragists' Picnic Dance

PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Lincoln Park
1450 High Street, Alameda
Our guests are invited to bring their own period-style picnic lunch and to make their picnic site look as period as possible (Please note that the event is not a potluck) Suggested costume for the event is summer afternoon dress (1990 - 1910), but, as usual, costumes are admired, not required. Ladies who support the Women's Suffrage and Women's Right Movement are welcome to wear Rational dress and are more than welcome to wear their cycling bloomer costumes. Live music by Bangers & Mash.
10 a.m. Free

Saturday-Sunday, August 6-7

Hypercon

San Mateo Fairgrounds
1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo
www.wix.com/hyperbooster/hypercon
Japanese pop-culture and anime.
\$20 (till June 30)

Wednesday-Sunday, August 17-21

Worldcon: Renovation

Reno Sparks Convention Center
4590 South Virginia Avenue, Reno, NV
Reno, Nevada

www.renovationsf.org

The 69th World Science Fiction Convention.
GOH: Tim Powers, Ellen Asher, Boris Vallejo,
Charles N. Brown.

\$195 (till July 17)

Friday-Monday, September 2-5

CelestiCon

Hotel Sofitel
223 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood City
www.celesticon.com
Gaming convention

\$50

Saturday, September 3

The Space Cowboys Ball

PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
100 North Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo
Western, 19th century or neo-19th century, Civil
War or Post-Civil War costume or science
fiction/fantasy costume from any universe if
admired, but not required, and creative
blending of past and future fashions is also
encouraged. Just now, Old West, Chinese, and
Indian motifs are fashionable and, of course,
Browncoats are extremely welcome.
There will be a no-host bar and a
complimentary light buffet, your potluck
contributions to the buffet are appreciated. Live

music by Bangers & Mash.

6:45 p.m.

\$15 (till August 25)

Saturday-Sunday, September 24-25

From the Land Beyond

Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sacanime.com/fromthelandbeyond
Sacramento's Sci-Fi/Horror show
Check website for updates.

Saturday, October 1

Anime Destiny

MLK Student Union
Berkeley
www.calanimedestiny.com
Details TBA

Saturday, October 1

Steampunktoberfest Ball

PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Details TBA

Saturday, November 5

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event, www.peers.org
Details TBA

**Wednesday-Saturday,
January 12-15 and 19-22, 2012**

Machine: A Fire Opera

The Crucible
1260 7th Street, Oakland
www.thecrucible.org/events/fire-operas-ballets/
366

Conceived and staged by Mark Streshinsky
specifically for The Crucible's performance
space and capabilities, this original fire opera is
based on a sci-fi short story by Derek J.
Goodman, with original score by Clark
Suprynowicz.
Details TBA

Friday-Monday, February 17-20, 2012

Pantheacon

Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose
www.pantheacon.com
Pagan convention.
Registration opens July 2011

Ongoing

Daily

Cartoon Art Museum

655 Mission Street, San Francisco

www.cartoonart.org

Current exhibitions include: *Overture: Looney*

Tunes Behind the Scenes through May 15.

11-5 p.m.

\$6 (Closed Mondays)

San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco

www.sfgosthunt.com

Closed Tuesdays.

7-10 p.m.

\$20

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

Bad Movie Night

The Dark Room Theater

2263 Mission Street, San Francisco

www.darkroomsf.com

Featuring bad movies old and new. April is

Blaxploitation month! And in May it's

Bruuuuce (Willis) movies.

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.

SF Games

Zephyr Cafe

3643 Balboa Street, San Francisco

vax.hanford.org/dk/games

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

2 p.m.

Free

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

Coco's

1206 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale

www.basfa.org

8 p.m.

Free

Mondays and Wednesdays

Silicon Valley Boardgamers

Mountain View Community Center

201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View

www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb

Group meets regularly to play mostly German-style strategy boardgames such as Settlers of Catan; also multi-player Avalon Hill-style, historical war games, and others.

6:30 p.m.

\$2

Tuesdays

MGI Boffers & Outdoor Games

Codornices Park

1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley

mgisciaf.angelfire.com

Bad weather: we meet the same time at 33 Revolutions Record Shop & Cafe, El Cerrito for boardgames.

3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Free

Principality of Mists Fighter Practice

Twin Creeks Sports Complex
969 Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale
www.westkingdom.org/node/343
SCA event. Non-members must remember to fill out a waiver form. In case of rain, call from 3pm on to determine if the facility will be closed that day. 408-534-1169. .
7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Free

Wednesdays

Bay Area Role-Playing Society

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

East Bay Strategy Games Club

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

Fanboy Planet Podcast

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

Thursdays

CAS: NightLife

The California Academy of Sciences
55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, www.calacademy.org
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+)

Fridays

SF Games

Muddy's Coffeehouse
1304 Valencia Street, San Francisco
vax.hanford.org/dk/games
SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week.
7 p.m. to midnight Free

Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour

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

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

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

Biweekly

PenSFA Party

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions. Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending. PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first. Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Group

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco
Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jude Livingston at sfscifi@yahoo.com for more information.

Monthly

Dorkbot-SF

www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/

Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity.

Free, donations welcome

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

Geeks Vs. Geeks

San Francisco / San Mateo

www.facebook.com/geeksvsgeeks

www.geeksvsgeeks.com

Monthly pub trivia quiz. Usually takes place the first Sunday (San Mateo) and second Monday (San Francisco) of the month, please check Facebook or website for details.

7:30 p.m. Free

Silicon Gulch Browncoats

Various locations (see website for details)

www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org

Silicon Valley fans of *Firefly/Serenity* meet up on the first Saturday of the month.

Noon - 2 p.m. Free

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

QSF&F Book Club

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia, San Francisco

www.qsfandf.com

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.ebstarwars.com

Meets the second Friday of every month.

7:30 p.m. Free

Fantastic Frontiers

www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/

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

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

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

Micro Gods, Inc.

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

USS Northern Lights

Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for
specifics.
sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights
'Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International
and a swell group of science fiction fans. We
do more than *Trek*. Usually meets the third
Saturday of the month, with social event TBD.
7 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

Other Realms Book Club

Books, Inc.
1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame
www.booksinc.net/localinterest/291027
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month.
6:30 p.m. Free

Legion of Rassilon

Carl's Jr.
2551 N 1st St , San Jose
www.legionofrassilon.org
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth
Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who,
news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.
7:30 p.m. Free

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

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



The winter garden

by Lucy Huntzinger

Bay Area Fannish Calendar – April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Bad Movie Night</i> <i>Sakramento Anime</i> <i>SF Games</i>	<i>BASFA</i> <i>SV Boardgamers</i>	<i>MGI Boffers</i> <i>Fighter Practice</i>	<i>BA Role-Playing Soc</i> <i>E.Bay Strategy Games</i> <i>Fanboy Planet Podcast</i> <i>SV Boardgamers</i>	<i>CAS: NightLife</i>	<i>SF Games</i>	
27	28	29	30	31	1 <i>Wondercon (thru Sun)</i> <i>Tim Burton Double</i> <i>Feature</i> <i>BarBot 2011 (thru Sat)</i>	2 <i>Jane Austen Ball</i> <i>Rocky Horror</i> <i>Silicon Gulch Browncoats</i>
3 <i>Foothill Anime</i> <i>Geeks Vs. Geeks (SM)</i>	4	5 <i>Author: Malinda Lo</i>	6	7	8 <i>East Bay Star Wars</i>	9 <i>EndGame Minicon</i> <i>Metal/Monster Mash</i> <i>Fantastic Frontiers</i> <i>No-Name Anime</i> <i>SF Browncoats</i>
10 <i>QSF&F Book Club</i>	11 <i>Geeks Vs. Geeks (SF)</i>	12	13	14 <i>SF&F Writers' Group</i>	15 <i>USS Defiance</i>	16 <i>Peter Beagle and</i> <i>Michael Blumlein</i> <i>Decepti-kon (thru Sun)</i> <i>Micro Gods, Inc</i> <i>USS Northern Lights</i>
17 <i>SF/F Book Club</i>	18 <i>Thrillville's 14th</i> <i>Anniversary Show</i>	19	20	21	22 <i>Legion of Rassilon</i>	23 <i>USS Augusta Ada</i>
24 <i>Religion & SF</i>	25	26	27 <i>Other Realms</i>	28 <i>SF&F Writers' Group</i>	29	30 <i>Benefit for the Red Vic</i> <i>Dinner in Valentino's</i> <i>Tent</i> <i>Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</i>