

# SF/SF Science Fiction/San Francisco

The nothing special, sorta weekly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area.

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## eLOCs

Peter Sullivan writes:

Thanks for SF/SF #5 – I hope that the weekly frequency isn't stretching you too much. I suppose there's always your "week 13 vacation" to look forward to!

I think it's fair enough for you to extend the boundaries of "Bay Area" as you do. Firstly, there's the basic principle (dear to the heart of every fanzine editor)

of "My zine, my rules." But also, I get the impression that Americans are much more prepared to travel longer distances than we Brits, so events 100 miles away might well be of interest. As the saying goes, "In America, 100 years is a long time. In England, 100 miles is a long way." And this is before we even get to your rationale of trying to encourage similar events closer to home.

It's only just occurred to me (slow, I know) why SFSF only makes sense in its current format as an electronic zine, rather than a traditional paper effort. The first part is obvious – the weekly frequency. If you were on paper, you'd probably have to shoot for something closer to the 6 to 8 weeks frequency that Lloyd Penney is considering for his Canadian version.

But there's a more subtle reason as well. If you were on paper, you wouldn't want to keep repeating the events every issue. You'd probably need to restrict the

listings to just include events due before the next (planned) publication date. Whereas with an electronic zine, optimized for on-screen reading, you can just keep repeating events every time until they actually happen. This makes the whole thing more comprehensive – and useful.

Of course, you are probably looking at this letter now and going, "Well, duh, yes, that's how I planned it." And of course there are people like Chris Garcia who ruin your Cunning Plan(TM) by printing the thing off anyway.

Will anybody be reporting back for SFSF from the Scotty/James Doohan memorial event at the Edinburgh Castle pub? I don't know if it's made the news media in the US, but there's a bit of a spat developing over here between various Scottish municipalities over putting up a "memorial" plaque for the Montgomery Scott character. ("Memorial" is really the wrong word for someone who isn't due to be born for another 200 years and is fictional

anyway, but you know what I mean.) At the last count, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Elgin and Linlithgow were all trying to claim Scotty as a “native-to-be-born son.”

Best wishes,

*After driving more than 200 miles on Saturday to attend events and meet people, I can tell you that 100 miles is a long ways in America too. I started out by driving from Santa Rosa, which is about as far north as you can get and still be in the Bay Area, down through Marin County, across the Richmond/San Rafael bridge to El Cerito in the East Bay where I stopped off at the SCA's Pitchfork War. Then I drove further down the east side of the Bay to Castro Valley where I took some photos at the Further Confusion picnic, then down to San Jose to stop off at a book store, then back up the peninsula to attend the PenSFA party in Redwood City, then back up through San Francisco and across the Golden Gate Bridge and eventually home. I'm still tired. I had fun, but I don't think I'll try that every weekend.*

*While it doesn't cost me anything to run the complete calendar listing each issue, I've been thinking that once I finish building the calendar, I should only run the entire thing once a month or so, and only run the next few weeks' events in each issue. I wonder if the length of the thing is too unwieldy for my readers.*

*And you don't seriously think I plan anything around here do you? I'm just flying this ship by the seat of my pants. If something works, it's by accident. Far too little thought went into this thing before I launched it.*

*I think they called the Scotty event a “tribute” so that avoids the whole “memorial for somebody not yet born” issue. I hope to have a report on it next issue.*

Chris Garcia writes:

Why do your issues always look so much better than mine? I'm guessing it's some sort of Voodoo curse that's been placed on me.

To answer Peter Sullivan's question, yeah, I think there's a higher level of Fan activity in the BArea, but I think that's not for any reason other than the fact that there are so many folks that have been drawn here from around the world to work in the computer industry. I think someone once did a look and found that 50% or so of folks in BArea fandom were employed in the computer industry and an equal number were originally from somewhere else. We've got a highly active SCA scene here, two fan clubs of considerable size, two big cons, a few small cons with staying power, and more signings and screenings of stuff of fannish interest than almost

anywhere else I can think of.

I have to say to Lloyd: Yes, I CAN LoC every issue I manage to get ahold of. And if you do make your once every 6 or 8 week Canadian Newzine anytime soon, I'll be there with LoCs!

You should make SF/SF on a schedule. You do ten issues (or twelve or whatever) and then you take a week and come back with a vengeance. That's a really good idea. I take mini-vacations from *The Drink Tank*. I sometimes don't write anything for three or four hours at a time!

As far as doing an Asian Film Festival, I'm not quite ready for the task. Let me start my Short Film Festival and get that working like a machine then I'll work on it! Until then, you should try to enjoy the SF Asian Film Fest and try and catch the Asian films at SF International and Cinequest.

Genevieve was very excited with this issue since it was the first she had heard of Terry Pratchett making his BArea appearances. He's her favourite author and she's positively buzzing! I've made her promise to send a report the minute she gets back from the events.

Another great issue with that amazing calendar. You're going to end up costing a lot of us a lot of sleep due to knowing what really going on!

Chris

*Thanks for the nice compliment on my layout. Since I'm a typesetter by profession, I hope that I've learned a trick or two over the years about layout and design. In designing the zine, I tried to make my layout as simple, clean and readable as possible. I try to keep in mind that most of my readers are only going to read it on-screen. That's why I use really easy to read fonts. My body copy is in 14-point Adobe Garamond, larger than I'd use for a print zine. I use a landscape format so that people can see the whole page on their monitor at the same time and so that they don't have to scroll down and back up to read the next column. Other than the BASFA minutes, which are a special case, I try to not have jumps to other pages. The black bar I use as a header for articles is there to make it easy to tell where a new article starts when skimming through an issue.*

*I'll be glad to have something on the Pratchett tour. Coverage of book signings and author readings is one area in which I think my coverage has been weak.*

Mike Deckinger writes:

Dear Jack,

When I moved to San Fran in early 1970 I connected with a local club in Berkeley called "The Little Men". Full

name: "The Elves, Gnomes, and Little Men Science Fiction, Chowder and Marching Society". This group dated back to the 50s and perhaps even earlier, and while I saw no marching or chowder, there was plenty of enthusiasm and a good deal of informal fun. Meetings were held monthly at various members' home (Alva Rogers, Ben Stark and Poul Anderson, all gone now) and I hung around for a few years, before losing interest and detaching myself.

I don't know if they are still active.

All of which proves there has always been a solid fanbase within San Francisco and the surrounding Bay Area. Perhaps the archetype regional group is LASFS, residing in the southern part of the state. If someone wanted to go to the immense effort, I'm sure a similar core could be developed within the Bay Area.

I found the Bay Area calendar to be especially useful. I live in the Richmond district and after reading of the Asian festival, walked over to the Four Star to pick up their brochure. Are you familiar with the Balboa Theatre on Balboa and 42nd Avenue? It's been transformed into a skilled repertory house with as eclectic a programming schedule as you could wish.

It's especially welcome to have the Balboa nearby, since my neighborhood has already lost two major theatres: The

Coronet and The Alexandria, while the Four Star has a wispy lifeline at best and could be yanked any day.

*Killer Klowns From Outer Space* is really quite good, considering it was produced with a miniscule budget. Truly earnest camp is personified by a film like *Showgirls* which graced The Bridge last week. I can't wait until *Alexander* becomes a midnight movie staple, which it is clearly destined for.

Best,

Mike Deckinger

*Mike:*

*Sadly, the Little Men's seems to be no more. They haven't had a meeting in years. They just seemed to fade away, although there are a few former members, such as Rich McAllister, who are still active in Bay Area fandom.*

*I'm glad you're finding the calendar useful. I'm happy to hear that people are using it find events and groups they are interested in. I've only been to the Balboa once, for a double feature of Godzilla and Princess Mononoke. I have to say, I was not impressed. The management didn't seem to understand that patrons might actually want to watch the movie as it was advertised and couldn't understand why I was unhappy that they*

# Bay Fan Named NASFiC GOH

By Chris Garcia  
Staff Writer

*showed me a movie I did not want to pay to see instead. (They advertised that they were showing the subtitled Princess Mononoke in the original Japanese, but ran the English dub with Billy Bob Thornton stinking up the place instead.) As a result, I've decided to ban the theater from my listings, until such time as the management can convince me that they understand that misrepresenting the movie they are showing is reprehensible.*

*I dread the impending closing of the 4-Star. They were a haven for Asian film fans when the U.C. Theater in Berkeley closed down. (And how smart was that of the landlord? Raised the rent, the theater closed down, and now it's been tenantless for years.) The owner of the 4-Star recently bought the Presidio Theater, so there's still hope, but I don't know if it's viable to program things like Hong Kong Thursdays at the new theater.*

*While I'm listing the Bad Movie Night event when they are showing a movie of interest, I think their choice of "bad" movies is debatable. I know quite a few people, for example, who are quite fond of Labyrinth, which they made fun of a few weeks ago. Showgirls, on the other hand, is undeniably bad from any perspective. The Midnight Mass showing you mention was so popular that they added on a second night.*

*Thanks to all the folks who contributed to this issue or let me reprint their work.*

There were two WorldCons in Oakland/Berkeley in the 1960s. Then there wasn't another Bay Area WorldCon until Con Francisco in 1993. In that period, Bay Area fandom wasn't inactive, it was growing and changing. Cons were founded (and in the case of TimeCon, founded and folded) and fanzines were published. There were a great many fans who washed away to other parts of the country and a bunch who were deposited here after years elsewhere. One of the people who rose during those years was Kevin Standlee. At one point, THE whiz-kid, obviously the next big thing in con-running and fandom, and still an impressive force in Bay Area fandom as well as international fandom.

This year, Kevin's the Fan Guest of Honour at CascadiaCon, the NASFiC in Seattle over Labor Day Weekend. This is a rare honor, as I can't remember the last time a WorldCon/NASFiC had a BArea fan as its GoH. He's got some rare credentials that make it almost impossible to not have him as GoH. He's the second youngest GoH in BayCon History (one of the Hernandez Brothers is younger and I'm number 3 on that list) and he's also the best-known parliamentarian in fandom.

He's run a bunch of the WFSF business meetings, which is akin to allowing yourself to be stabbed with pokers from all sides while keeping a dozen plates spinning at the same time. He's been BASFA President, though I'm not sure the dates, I can only assume it was prior to the nigh-unstoppable reign of Trey Haddad. Kevin is a guy who knows Roberts' Rules inside and out.

What else has Kevin done? Well, there's a lot, including his role as head of Events at Interaction this year. He was the chair of the 2002 WorldCon bidding committee and was then brought on to serve as Co-chair with Tom Whitmore. And there are the newsletters for cons that he's done and so many other things.

And there's Kevin the Train Enthusiast. He takes trains all sorts of places where most of us would fly or drive. He's got a fine singing voice and was once working on a Faanish version of the musical 1776 (which, if he ever finishes it, I'll be forced to BEG for a small role). He's an all-around good guy and I can't think of anyone who better deserves to be a NASFiC Guest of Honour. So, if you ever find yourself at a BASFA meeting, look for the curly-haired guy in the weird shirt (that's me), then look at the head of the tables and you'll likely find Kevin there. Make sure you congratulate him.

# San Francisco LOTR Benefit Screening Draws Ringers, Raises Funds for Autism

By Diane Rooney

A *Lord of the Rings* Trilogy Thursday benefit screening, held August 18 at the Presidio Theatre in San Francisco, raised



Maureen as Arwen



more than \$2200 for Cure Autism Now. More than 150 fans, many of them in costume, attended the charity event, including fans from as far away as Texas and South Carolina.

Volunteers dressed as Frodo, Sam, Merry, and Pippin were on hand to welcome

Benefit organizer Eileen Attridge  
Volunteers dressed as Hobbits greeted attendees guests and sell raffle tickets for a range of donated *Lord of the Rings* merchandise and art. British *Lord of the Rings* artist Alan Lee created a design especially for the event, which was featured on the Trilogy Thursday t-shirts.

Benefit organizer Eileen Attridge

welcomed everyone before *The Fellowship of the Ring*, noting that one in 166 people has autism, including her own daughter Rosie. It was her desire to raise funds for research on autism that motivated her to organize the trilogy screening, which was took nearly a year to plan.

Matthew Jacobsmeyer won a Sideshow/WETA statue of Shelob, personally signed for this event by Richard Taylor and Tania Rogers. He was thrilled to add the autographed item to his already



Youth Division Winner Abbey Smith



Workmanship Division Winner Ivy Henry

large Sideshow/WETA *Lord of the Rings* collection.

“I already have about twenty of these, plus five more coming in, including Sauron and Peter Jackson as a Corsair,” Jacobsmeyer said.

Judges for the costume contest were Kathe and Philip Guste, award winning costumers and members of the Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild, and radio station KOIT personality Sean Brown. Philip

wore his King Theoden costume and Kathe was clad as Eowyn, Lady of Rohan. Judges awarded two adult prizes, one each for creativity and workmanship, and awarded a youth prize for entrants under 17.

The costume contest drew many first time entrants, including LOTR fan Jay, who exhibited his ranger character Andering Reddson.

“Andy was a soldier once, now he’s not,” Jay said.

Abbey Smith, 16, won the youth



Creativity Division Winner Teague Hansberry



Katie K as a Fourth Age Ranger

category for her presentation of hobbit Marietta Proudfoot of Hobbiton. She received a signed WETA Elrond bust. This was Abbey's first costume contest.

"I love the movies, especially the last one," said Abbey, who was attending with her older sister, whom she credits for getting her involved in *The Lord of the Rings*.

Abbey purchased the elements of her costume from thrift shops and added hobbit feet purchased online. She said her character Marietta Proudfoot "was proud

indeed." Although she was the eldest, she was the last of her family to get married, and even her father was getting worried, until Mr. Grubb came courting.

"They married and had five children who all lived very happy lives together," Abbey said.

Ivy Henry, 19, another first time contest entrant, won the workmanship prize for her elf costume, made by Suzanne Evans. Ivy, a student at University of California – Santa Cruz, has seen each of *The Lord of the Rings* films over a hundred times.

Teague Hansberry, 30, won the creativity prize, a signed print from artist Alan Lee, for his Ringwraith presentation. Teague said his character was unemployed, now that the Fourth Age has begun, and was seeking "full time employment with wraithing benefits."

Teague

showed the crowd his stuff by running up and down the theatre aisles screaming whenever the film wraiths were on screen. Teague came down from Sacramento to support the event, and when not Ringwraithing he works as an artist, voice actor, and at a plant company.

Organizer Attridge said, "The event was definitely a success. It was my first fund-raising event, and many first-timers don't make money." Donations are still being accepted at [www.sftrilogy.org](http://www.sftrilogy.org). All who donate \$50 will receive an Alan Lee designed t-shirt.



Judges Kathe Guste, Sean Brown and Phillip Guste deciding the winners

# The SF Browncoats

## From *Firefly* to *Serenity*

**By Jean P. Martin**  
Staff Writer

Not since the original “Star Trek” has such a loyal fan base achieved the



Joss Whedon at the San Diego Comic Con

astounding feat of transforming a highly regarded but canceled show into a major motion picture. Such is the case with Joss Whedon’s (creator of “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” and “Angel”) “Firefly,” a short-lived space western first shown on FOX in 2002. The fans, called Browncoats, mobilized, organized massive letter and email writing campaigns, and lapped up the DVD set when it came out. This support finally convinced Universal Studios to greenlight the movie, “Serenity,” which will come out this September.

I first found out about the SF Browncoats, a local Bay Area chapter, through a fortuitous but circuitous route. Two of my vintage dance friends, Cordelia Willis and Kelly Bolton, invited me to join their Comic-Con Masquerade Competition entry this year. Their theme was “Firefly” and they asked me to play Inara because they thought I would make a great “Companion.” In the show, “Companions” are a guild of high-class courtesans. I decided to take their invitation

as a compliment as I’m sure it was meant as such. I’ve never been to Comic-Con and there I was about to compete in the largest convention of its kind in North America!

For research, I rented the DVDs and fell in love with the “Firefly.” Surprisingly, I never heard of the show even though I’m speculative fiction fan. Apparently, FOX didn’t advertise the series well. But the rest is history as they say. I rarely watch TV nowadays and haven’t watched a show religiously since “Star Trek: The Next Generation” and “Xena.” “Firefly” for me ranks in the same category as these all-time favorites. The stories are original and well written, the scripts can be witty like a comedy or moving like a drama, the sets and special effects are colorful and detailed, and the action is brisk and exciting. But I think what makes the show so popular are the unique and lovable characters. Although set 500 years in the future where space ships are commonplace, and Eastern and Western cultures are more intertwined, the characters are real and the audience can



relate and root for one or more of them.

At Comic-Con, I got to meet more SF Browncoat members at their fan booth, and I was adopted as an honorary member since I was in the “Firefly” masquerade. Actually, two people in masquerade group, Kim Pudliner and Carolyn Staehle, are members and worked at the booth. Through them, I got a taste of what a wonderful group of people the SF Browncoats are. Intrigued, I decided to find out more about them and

became a member just as I was about to interview the founder of the SF Browncoats, Renee Balmert.

I arranged to meet Renee at a microbrewery/restaurant in downtown Burlingame. Not sure what to expect, I met an eloquent, enterprising and intelligent young woman. I can totally see how she started this organization and got it to the level it has reached in such a short time. She also echoed my views on why people

are drawn to “Firefly:”

“The wonderful thing about ‘Firefly’ is that it’s such a textured, layered show,” she said. “There’s so much stuff going on you could like it for a thousand different reasons.

“So the result is that the fan group is really hard to pin down who a Browncoat is because all kinds of different people are attracted to it. We have young people, we have older people... we’ve got professional types, college types... and even broadly on the Internet. Generally you’d have to have a really good sense of humor, love sarcasm and tend to be pretty smart. But other than that it runs the whole spectrum.”

Renee also got on the “Firefly” bandwagon after the show was canceled. She was originally a huge Joss Whedon fan and described how she “missed it when it was on the air... bought the DVDs as soon as they came out.” She then told her friends to watch it and talked to other people about it and then morphed her “Buffy” group into a “Firefly” group.

“I wanted to meet other people to talk about it,” Renee explained, “and I couldn’t find an existing group in San Francisco. That’s when I started the group. I posted on all the web sites I could find: ‘Anyone in San Francisco please come to our meetings.’ From a very humble beginning of four to



Browncoats Jen Smith, Renee Balmert, Mandisa Basarich and Ray Hill meet Joss Whedon at the San Francisco Browncoat fan table at Wondercon

eight members, it's really taken off in the past year."

The SF Browncoats usually meet at Café Murano in between Post and Sutter, near Union Square, on the second Saturdays of each month. But Renee advises to check their Yahoo Groups calendar in case the dates get moved around. Café Murano is an "adorable little café, which my husband owns, so it's a very nice arrangement. We can take over the place without the owner getting upset."

She estimates the core membership to be around 20 to 30 people that have been showing up regularly for a long time. But they're always seeing new faces and welcome new members.

So if anyone wants to get involved, Renee invites you to join the SF Browncoats Yahoo Group. There you'll get information on meetings and activities they're doing.

"It's also a very active online community with a strong presence in the Bay Area... even internationally. There are conversations happening almost all of the time!" She estimates that the Yahoo Group has about 250 members from all over the world. They also have a web site: SFBrowncoats.com.

As to what they do at meetings, Renee said, "it depends what's going on. The original plan was just to hang out and talk about the show and talk about life and

watch episodes."

However, since they started getting involved in conventions their agenda has changed. "It takes a lot of work and planning and team effort so a lot of our meetings got taken over with organizational planning type stuff."

The SF Browncoats did a fan table at WonderCon last February and Comic-Con just this past July.

"What really was the turning point for our group was when I found out that Joss Whedon was coming to WonderCon in San

Francisco,"

R e n e e m u s e d .

"I was so excited that my idol is coming right into my own backyard. I wanted to participate in the fan booth; I wanted to help in some way. I kept posting that on various web sites

and no one else was stepping forward. I realized there had never been a fan table at WonderCon... and I know that fan tables had happened at Dragon\*Con and other conventions. I couldn't understand why one wasn't happening in SF... and I finally realized if there was going to be one that I would have to start doing it. I had no idea what I'm doing. I've never participated in any fandom before. Everyone was so helpful and supportive. Answered all my really stupid and obvious questions. That's when I intensely put out a call to the



Browncoats table at the San Diego Comic Con.

community to help, who's going to come to this convention in SF, who can help with the table. The Browncoat community is such a wonderful community. These are people I'd never met before, they didn't know me. They only knew we all liked "Firefly"... and everyone showed up and they were very helpful and sweet. Always someone ready to pitch in and help. It was such a wonderful experience and brought the team together. So WonderCon was amazing and got us prepared for Comic-Con."

The SF Browncoats ran the WonderCon booth with the help of volunteers from all over the place. However, the Comic-Con fan

table "was a was a huge event... we couldn't possible have ran that all by ourselves. We built together a committee. We had help from the Sacramento Browncoats, the San Jose Browncoats, Los Angeles and San Diego. It was really a team effort."

Renee clarified that some of these Browncoat organizations existed in other cities in the U.S. before she launched her San Francisco branch. These groups' original goal "was to keep the show on the air, which didn't work. Then it was to try to get a movie made and that succeeded." So she wishes the SF Browncoats could take credit for the movie being produced but her chapter only started only about a year

ago.

"When I got into the fandom it was just announced that the movie had been greenlit. So we were just excited and anticipating and helping the movie do well."

So other than conventions, Renee and the gang are working hard to publicize "Serenity." Which she said is very enjoyable. "That's what's so exciting and fun about being a Browncoat. I guess if you're a fan of "Star Wars" or "Star Trek" at this point you just kind of hang out and talk and enjoy and reminisce. But "Firefly's" just getting started. It had a very rough start and it should be dead at this



Browncoats, including Jean Martin, portraying the crew of the Serenity at the Masquerade at the San Deigo Comic Con. Photos courtesy of [www.consplayers.com](http://www.consplayers.com)

point except the fandom would not let it die... and kept making its presence known. We really do have a mission statement that binds everyone together. We all know what we have to accomplish. Right now that the movie has been made, we want to make sure when it hits the theaters that the numbers will be huge. That everyone's aware of it. Hopefully, that will start a franchise and we'll get a second and third movie... comics and who knows what else." Quite lofty goals but seem very doable with such proactive and PR savvy fans!

Another side benefit of being a Browncoat is that Joss Whedon posts regularly to the fan boards. Renee also reveals that Adam Baldwin, who plays Jayne, is "as addicted to the forums as we are. He's there almost every day posting completely random non-"Firefly" stuff. So there's this absolute love between the creators and cast and the fans. It's so fun being a fan of "Firefly" because the people involved in the show really appreciate the fans. They're very responsive very open and warm and they love the fans back."

For instance, at Comic-Con, it was "absolutely amazing because Joss was there. It was the first screening of the actual final cut of 'Serenity.'" Ironically, the Comic-Con screening happened at the same time as the masquerade competition so not

only did I not get to see the screening, the people (including Joss) who would have appreciated our "Firefly" entry where somewhere else at the convention! Renee has seen the movie four times now because her group also organized three pre-screenings with Joss in San Francisco earlier this year. The Browncoats also raised over \$12,000 at Comic-Con for Joss's favorite charity, Equality Now, which aims to end violence and discrimination against women and girls around the world.

What's up next for the amazingly dynamic SF Browncoats? Well, there's the

premier of "Serenity" on September 30<sup>th</sup>, of course.

"We're so excited now that we're coming down to the wire with the movie and all the publicity that they're getting," Renee enthused. It's a testament to the fan movement that Entertainment Weekly mentioned the Browncoats so prominently in a recent feature article. Then there's SiliCon in San Jose in October, which they're hoping to take part in. So I'll sign off for now but I'll be sure to report back on the continuing saga of the SF Browncoats that I'm now happily a part of. Stay tuned!

## Cosplay Contest Winners

Many talented cosplayers showed up in costume for the Sunrise Mall Anime Show in late July. Winners of the costume contest conducted by RyoChan were:

1st Place - Minnie Saucedo and Kai the Pikachu in "God's Servants", cosplaying Rosette Christopher and Chrono from *Chrono Crusade*

2nd Place - Dragon Illusions Shawny Wong as Sakura Shinguji from *Sakura Wars*

3rd Place - Ellen Pevey as Sakura from *Card Captor Sakura*

Honorable Mention - Selphie and



Reiko of Final Fantasy Shiny Things in "R&R", cosplaying Rydia of Mist from *Final Fantasy 4* and Rinoa Heartily from *Final Fantasy 8*.

Many more photos of the show are available from [www.consplayers.com](http://www.consplayers.com).

# A Medieval Summer Night in the Heart of Silicon Valley

**By Jean P. Martin**  
Staff Writer

I heard of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) about a year ago while I was at a local renaissance faire. As a history buff, historical costumer, long-time *Lord of the Rings* fan and former *Dungeons and Dragons* player, I was intrigued by the concept of a worldwide medieval society that existed parallel to our “real world.” I didn’t hear about it again until in the spring of this year when I began to run into members of the SCA who are currently involved, or at one time or another, in the organization. Aside from dressing in Middle Age and Renaissance garb at events, I found out the SCA holds classes and meetings on a variety of topics such as calligraphy, cooking, dancing, singing, armored combat and the like. Cynthia, a dance friend of mine, invited me to check out the Wednesday night dance practices that she frequents. Thus began my participation in the SCA’s Kingdom of the West.

Forward to the present, just months later after I started learning Italian Renaissance dances, I found out about an SCA demo at the Palo Alto Children’s Library on August 17. Organized by Leonor La Obstinada, Seneschal of the Province of Southern Shores, the demo offered children and their parents a chance to see what the SCA is about and gave them a slice of what life was like in pre-17<sup>th</sup> century Europe. At least 80 people were in attendance. The stage

was set in a garden behind the library. It was quite a magical setting as we were surrounded by trees and bushes and behind the stage was a building with a medieval-looking wooden gate, wrought-iron balconies and turrets with red pennants.





The festivities started with a performance by our dance group, the West Kingdom College of Dance. Led by Geoffrey and Crystal, we presented six dances. The first three were lively English Country Dances (ECD): “Rufty Tufty,” “Chestnut” and “Cuckolds All in a Row.” Fortunately, I’ve been doing ECD for two years now with the Bay Area Country Dance Society (BACDS) and the Bay Area English Regency



Society (BAERS) so I felt comfortable doing these. The last three were the more elegant Italian Renaissance dances: “Fiamma d’Amore,” “Villanella” and “Contrapasso.” With the music playing in the background and all of us in costumes, I felt transported into another time and place while I was dancing.

Next up was the West Kingdom Choir, directed by Alessandro Cantori. Geoffrey and my other dance friend Na’arah were also in the choir. Among the songs they performed were three rounds: “The Great Bells of Osney,” “Hey Ho What Shall I Say” and “Three Blind Mice.” They also sang a tune composed by Henry the VIII himself entitled “Pastime with Good Company.”

Then came the heavy weights of the evening... the armored fighters! Attired in movie-quality medieval gear, they performed on the lawn as they didn’t want to fall off the stage. With helmets on, the men didn’t have very good peripheral vision. Their armor was also quite heavy. One of the knights said his whole outfit weighed 100 pounds in total! It

was amazing how they were able to move much less fight. Sir John did a play-by-play of what was going on as men fought in twos and then in fours. Each wore different colored shields, tabards and heraldry. Quite a spectacle!

I’m looking to going to a full-scale SCA event in the near future. If their demos are this much fun, their tournaments and feasts must just be awesome! If you’re interested in finding out more about the SCA, the Kingdom of the West and the West Kingdom College of Dance, go to: [www.sca.org](http://www.sca.org), <http://westkingdom.org/> and <http://westdance.org>. By the way, all the names used in this article are SCA names... mine is Francesca.



# Concord WaterWars draws Klingons, Federation

By **Mike Wilson**

Article courtesy of [www.ikvbloodlust.net](http://www.ikvbloodlust.net)

Photos courtesy of **Mike Wilson and Diane Diamond**

More photos of the Glory Days Water War VII event available at [www.ikvbloodlust.net](http://www.ikvbloodlust.net)

Klingons defeated the outnumbered Federation Saturday in Concord at the seventh annual Glory Days WaterWars event between Klingon ships from the StarFire Region of the Ring of Fire Fleet and Federation ships from Star Fleet Region Four.

This year we welcomed back the USS Augusta Ada and saw the USS Northern Lights for the first time. The Klingon ships were the IKV Black Dragon, IKV Bloodlust, IKV Midnight Dagger, IKV Silent Warrior, and the IKV Sons of Honor. It must be noted that only one member of the IKV Silent Warrior made the trek from Reno, Nevada to Concord and it makes me wonder what happen to the rest of the crew. Just one other note: None of the originally challenged Feddie ships made an appearance this year.

We had 6 complete Water War battles and each ship would earn points for participating and more for wining, plus there were points awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the Kombat Kourse and the Artillery Competition.

As in previous years we started the Kombat Kourse for those that arrived early. Targets were arranged so that using the CPS 2000 Super Soaker they were just within range. We had only six targets this year as 2 targets where not repaired from last year. We also had to change from the CPS 2500 to a CPS 2000 as the original

gun we have used for the last 5 years is not in great condition.

Now on to the Water War Battles. As usual we setup the battlefield with the River sQral dividing the two sides with only a small bridge to cross the river. Step into the river and you instantly die from the extreme cold temperature. We divided ourselves Klingon and Federation and quickly noted that the Federation was vastly out numbered so we had to assign them some Klingon help. To win you had to kill everyone on the opposing team and have a least 1 member of your own team



still standing - there was some simultaneous kills.

The first 3 battles had the Klingon side winning each time. No matter who helped the Federation they lost each and every game - this is a new record. The teams we assigned as follows:

- #1 Klingons: IKV Bloodlust, IKV Silent Warrior, IKV Sons of Honor - 5pts for each ship.  
Federation: USS Augusta Ada, USS

Northern Light, IKV Black Dragon - 3pts for each ship.

- #2 Klingons: IKV Bloodlust, Black Dragon - 5pts for each ship.  
Federation: USS Augusta Ada, USS Northern Light, IKV Silent Warrior, IKV Sons of Honor - 3pts for each ship.

- #3 Klingons: IKV Black Dragon, Silent Warrior, Sons of Honor - 5pts for

each ship.

Federation: USS Augusta Ada, USS Northern Light, IKV Bloodlust - 3pts for each ship.

Each game had the Klingons blowing the Federation apart.

Notable Kills where KataH using a grenade he was able to kill Moragh in games 1 and 3, both hits where in the chest.

Honorable Deaths: Motat who charged into the enemy lines in all 3 games and died while doing so. He does this each and every year and always takes out a number of the enemy.

It was time to break for lunch as most of us where exhausted. After lunch we opened the Kombat Kourse for those that wanted to try it for the first time or to better their previous score.

The next 3 Water War battles, numbers 4,5 and 6, had the Klingons again 'helping' the Federation and again it was to no avail.

For games 4 and 5 a target Worf was placed in the middle of the bridge and the Klingons had to capture him while the Federation had to rescue him. The objective was to grab Worf and bring him back to your side. As it has happened in the past one team or the other forgets about the object so in both games 4 and 5 it was a very easy victory for the Klingons as the





Federation was just not aggressive enough and forgot to go after Worf.

Game 6 was a little different. Seeing that this was going to be the last game we changed the rules. Still in effect was if you are killed you must exit the game however if you still had water in your gun or grenades to through you can return as a reinforcement. Once you are killed and out of water then you must leave the game. The Federation tried to use the strategy of conserving their water and making the Klingons waste their by killing the Feddies over and over again, it almost worked. It

got down to 2 players on each side exchanging shots and this went on for some time. So it was decided that they each had one life left and to end the game quickly. The Klingons did just that and had the sole survivor.

Results:

#4 Klingons:           IKV  
 Bloodlust,           IKV  
 Midnight           Dagger,  
 IKV Silent       Warrior  
 - 5pts for each  
 ship.

Federation:           USS  
 Augusta Ada, USS Northern  
 Light, IKV Black Dragon, IKV  
 Sons of Honor - 3pts for each  
 ship.

#5 Klingons:           IKV  
 Bloodlust,           IKV Midnight  
 Dagger,- 5pts for each ship.

Federation:           USS  
 Augusta Ada, USS Northern  
 Light, IKV Black Dragon, IKV  
 Sons of Honor, IKV Silent  
 Warrior - 3pts for each ship.

#6 Klingons:           IKV



Crew of the IKV Black Dragon

Bloodlust, IKV Midnight Dagger,  
 IKV Silent Warrior - 5pts for each  
 ship.

Federation: USS Augusta Ada, USS  
 Northern Light, IKV Black Dragon,  
 IKV Sons of Honor - 3pts for each  
 ship.

After Battle #6, the Artillery  
 Competition was setup. Teams of three had  
 three water balloons to hit the target. The  
 target was a Borg ship some 100 feet away.  
 It would be easy to overshoot the target so  
 you had to be careful. Many teams tried  
 and some teams alternated their personnel  
 between shots while others traded members



Crew of the USS Northern Lights

to form new teams as the competition when on. Teams could be a mix of any ship and each member of the team earning an equal set of points

After the Artillery Competition we resumed the Kombat Kourse for those that were interested.

**Battle and Competition results:**

Ship scores from the Water War Battles:

IKV Black Dragon: 22pts.

IKV Bloodlust: 28pts.

IKV Midnight Dagger: 15pts.

IKV Silent Warrior: 26pts.

IKV Sons of Honor: 22pts.



Crew of the IKV Midnight Dagger



Crew of the IKV Silent Warrior

USS Augusta Ada 18pts.

USS Northern Lights: 18pts.

**Artillery Competition:**

1st Place: Mike Wilson (IKV Bloodlust), Mitchell Johnson (IKV Midnight Dagger), and Pete Briggs (IKV Black Dragon) with a distance score of 3' 10". (5pts total for each ship) - Note: This team has now won this competition 2 years in a row.

2nd Place: Mike Wilson and Mark

Vennemeyer (IKV Bloodlust) and Karen Katich (IKV Midnight Dagger), with a distance score of 3' 11". (3pts total for each ship)

3rd Place: Place: USS Northern Lights - They did not give their individual names, with a distance of 6' 9". (1pt total for the ship)

As of 7 years of the Artillery Competition, not one team has hit the Borg Cube. There is always next year.

Ship scores from the Artillery Competition:



Crew of the USS Agusta Ada

IKV Black Dragon: 5pts.  
 IKV Bloodlust: 8pts.  
 IKV Midnight Dagger: 8pts.  
 IKV Silent Warrior: 0pts  
 IKV Sons of Honor: 0pts.  
 USS Augusta Ada 0pts.  
 USS Northern Lights: 1pt.

**Kombat Course:**

Note: This year course was rather easy so the scores were very close.

1st Place: Richard Mathis (IKV Bloodlust) with a score of 6. Perfect Score! (5pts total for the ship)

2nd Place: A four way tie! Mark Vennemeyer and Gene Paxton (IKV Bloodlust), Rachel Tumey (IKV Silent Warrior) and Celeste Miller (USS Northern Lights), with a score of 5 (1 pt total for each ship)

3rd Place: Pete Briggs (IKV Black Dagger) and Rachel Tumey (IKV Silent Warrior), with a

score of 4 (.5 pts total for the ship)



Crew of the IKV Sons of Honor



Crew of the IKV Bloodlust

USS Northern Lights: 1pt.

Ship scores from the Kombat Course:  
 IKV Black Dragon: .5pts.  
 IKV Bloodlust: 6pts.  
 IKV Midnight Dagger: 0pts.  
 IKV Silent Warrior: 1.5pts.  
 IKV Sons of Honor: 0pts.  
 USS Augusta Ada 0 pts.

**GRAND TOTALS:**

1st Place: IKV Bloodlust with 42 pts - Two years in a row!  
 2nd Place: IKV Black Dagger and IKV Silent Warrior both with 27.5 pts  
 3rd Place: IKV Midnight Dagger with 23 pts  
 4th Place: IKV Sons of Honor with 22 pts  
 5th Place: USS Northern Lights with 19 pts  
 6th Place: USS Augusta Ada with 18 pts

# BASFA Minutes: meeting 787

Meeting 787

Aug 22, 2005

Trey Haddad, President  
Nathan Slerm-r & Chris Garcia, Vice-President  
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer  
Galen Tripp, Sargent at Arms  
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began at 8:01 p.m.

22 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 786 were accepted as 'interthingy' & a motion to re-accept the minutes of meeting 784.5 failed.

Treasurer's report was that last week we took in \$9.60

VP reports: pre-eminent VP Chris was AWOL & Nathan reported that he has 3 boxes of party gear that need a new home because he's moving on Saturday.

The President commented that he had fun at the Further Confusion picnic last Saturday.

Announcements:

Carole announced that there is a Silicon programming meeting this Saturday & if anyone wants to submit panel ideas to go to the Silicon website & use their suggestion form.

Pam announced there are Silicon flyers on the back table, so take one.

Dave C. announced there is an Ultraman movie series 2 nights in SF & to check KFJC.org for more info. Then Mike suggested there might be free tickets there, too.

Nathan announced that there's a super toy show at the Santa Clara fairgrounds this Saturday.

Kevin announced that the North American premiere of 'Ready, Steady, Sew' will be at this year's Silicon.

Mike announced there is a Legion of Rasselon meeting this Friday.

Reviews:

Kevin reviewed the photo's of himself in uniform as 'the subject's no Venus'.

Dave G reviewed travel in Britain as 'we toured'. He drove more than Spring, they went to Weymouth & stayed in a new place, only 150 years old, went to Brighton & saw Dr Who, went to a lot of old places,

Oxford was cool, Stratford was wet & he doesn't know if it was worth full price yet because he hasn't gotten his credit card bills yet.

There were many driving in Britain follow-ons.

Andy reviewed Worldcon as jet-lag bites, Nemo in 2011, thank you Mark Olson, mediocre food, that Costco in Scotland is more confusing than in the US, that crisps are weird food, the parties were okay, the Swedes & Aussies had good parties, he thinks he went to panels, he skipped the Hugos but the Hugo losers party was good; that the Russians ran out of vodka and the Finns gave them more; that he slept on Monday & the Dead Dog party was great; then there were various follow-ons.

We auctioned off stuff: a kit for \$3.50, a game demo & magazine for \$0.25, 2 books on CD & booklet on CD for \$1.50, 2 books for \$0.50 & a book for \$1.25.

We adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was that Chris Garcia is now on his own enemy's list.

# The Bay Area Fannish Calendar

**While some effort (OK, OK, damn little effort) is made to verify event listings, please check on events before attending as events are sometimes cancelled or times and locations changed.**

New listings are in **red**.

**Now through Sept. 11**

*Wicked*

[www.bestofbroadway-sf.com/goldengate](http://www.bestofbroadway-sf.com/goldengate)

Golden Gate Theatre

1 Taylor St.

San Francisco

\$35-\$85

Broadway production based on the novel by Gregory Maguire.

See website for schedule.

**Wednesday, August 24**

**Bay Area Role-Playing Society**

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

Go-Getter's Pizza

1489 Beach Park Boulevard

Foster City

6pm to 10pm

Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details send email to: [GM@BayRPS.com](mailto:GM@BayRPS.com). (Not confirmed, check before attending.)

**Friday, August 26**

*Anime Style Drawing and Animation Techniques*

Frank Bette Center for the Arts

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

1601 Paru Street

Alameda, CA 94501

510-523-6957

4 p.m – 6 p.m.

\$10 teens per session

\$35 adults per session

Professional illustrator and fine artist Ken McGhee helps participants develop the skills they need to draw characters, taking the class on a journey through the process and techniques of manga. Drop-in class, all skill levels welcome. (not verified, check before attending)

**Friday, August 26**

*SF Games*

[vax.hanford.org/dk/games](http://vax.hanford.org/dk/games)

Muddy's Coffeehouse

1304 Valencia Street near 24th

San Francisco

7:00 p.m. to midnight

Free

SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week. Also has a cards night on Tuesdays at Café Macondo, 3159 16th Street between Guerrero and Valencia.

**Wednesday – Thursday, August 24-25**

*Barbarella*

Red Vic Movie House

1727 Haight Street

San Francisco

From the Red Vic website:

Who can save the universe? Cosmically-clad Barbarella can! In this kinky tale of a comic book style heroine of the future, she finds herself caught up in all kinds of space-age adventures - sexual and otherwise; a camp classic.

**More Events Next Page**

**Friday-Saturday, August 26-27**

*Ultraman Festival*

Castro Theater

www.bayareafilmevents.com

Put on by the folks who did the Godzilla Festival earlier this year. There will be dealers upstairs, a live Ultraman Stunt Show on Saturday, prize drawings, and lots of Ultraman on the screen.

**Friday, August 26**

*Sci-Fi / Fantasy Book Group*

Barnes & Noble

Weberstown Mall

4950 Pacific Avenue, Space 319

Stockton

209-472-1885

6:30 p.m.

Free

**Friday, August 26**

*Legion of Rassilon*

*Doctor Who fan group*

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

7:30 p.m.

Free

Showing episodes of the new Dr. Who series, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

This week is episodes nine and ten.

Please note: the date is corrected from earlier calendars.

Join the yahoo group at legion\_of\_rassilon for more information.

**Friday, August 26**

*Raiders of the Lost Ark*

www.cameracinemas.com

Camera 7 Pruneyard

1875 S. Bascom Avenue

Campbell

Midnight

\$7

**Saturday, August 27**

*Toy Show*

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

344 Tully Road

San Jose

Early Bird 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Admission: \$5.00

Kids Under 12: \$2.50

Early Bird: \$15.00

**Saturday, August 27 - Sunday, August 28**

*San Francisco Ren Faire*

www.sffaire.com

Speedway Meadow

Golden Gate Park

San Francisco, CA

10am-6pm Saturday

10am-5pm Sunday

\$15.00 For adults

\$10.00 for seniors, military, and ages 13-17

\$5.00 for children 6-12

under six free.

The account of Queens Jane Gray and Mary Tudor, and of the young Princess Elizabeth, of the struggle for power, for the crown and for the heritage of religion is one of the most fascinating periods of English history. The story is so captivating that it bears telling...

On August 27th and 28th in Golden Gate Park this chapter of history will come to life as premier courts and guilds of California will assemble to re-create this period of English history and lives and times of Jane, Mary and Elizabeth.

Lose yourself in the world of Renaissance Europe. Come and experience the best of live theater and shows aplenty; jousting, singing, dancing, storytelling, comedy acts, feasts, merchants and re-creations of sword fighting, and battles.

## Saturday, August 27

### *Beefbowl Anime Showing*

Albany Library Community Center

1247 Marin Ave.

Albany

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

Free

12:15 ish -4:15 ish

Scheduled shows:

Rurouni Kenshin : TV # 46

R.O.D : TV # 22

One Piece : TV # 31

Naruto : TV # 32

Prince Of Tennis : TV # 32

Hikaru No Go : TV # 32

Yakitate Japan : TV # 7

Project D : TV # 9

Fafner In The Azure : TV # 4

While this group revels in a bad-boy reputation, the showings I've attended have been much the same as those of any other group. The only downside is the regulars sometimes talk about computers in the back while the anime is being shown.

## Saturday, August 27

### *USS Augusta Ada Meeting*

### *Starfleet Chapter*

[trek.starshine.org](http://trek.starshine.org)

Round Table Pizza

5160 Geary Blvd

San Francisco

Free

1 p.m.

## Saturday, August 27

### *Blood Bucket Ballyhoo*

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

At The Hypnodrome

575 10th Street, SF

“A Grand Guignol tripple terror stage show”

8 p.m.

Tickets \$18-\$69

Held over for six more performances, each Saturday at 8 p.m. through Sept. 24.

From their website:

“The world’s only Grand Guignol triple terror stage show is back! Following the spectacular success of last fall’s wildly popular Welcome to the Hypnodrome (a Halloween treat held over till Christmas!) Thrillpeddlers, veteran purveyors of perverse stage shenanigans, return with an even more elaborate evening of hospitable horror - Blood Bucket Ballyhoo!

Also returning are the Hypnodrome’s no-

torious “Shock Boxes” - devilishly renovated - in which audience members will actually feel the effects of bizarre mind control, rat catcher’s poisonous gas and Blood Bucket Ballyhoo’s electro-magnetic lights-out finale! (Patrons who book these private “Shock Box” seats for two are advised to bring someone they enjoy clutching in terror.)”

If anybody goes to see this, I’d love a review.

## Saturday, August 27

### *Raiders of the Lost Ark*

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

Camera 12

201 South Second Street

San Jose

Midnight

\$7

## Saturday, August 27

### *Rocky Horror Picture Show*

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

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

More Events Next Page

**Monday Aug. 29**

*Bay Area Science Fiction Association*

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

**Friday-Monday, September 2-5**

*ConquestSF*

SF Airport Marriott

1800 Old Bayshore Hwy.

Burlingame

www.conquestsf.com

\$40 before Aug. 20

Gaming convention. ConQuest features many different kinds of games, including miniatures games, role playing games (RPGs), board games, collectible card games (CCGs), and live action role playing games (LARPs).

**Saturday, September 3**

*The Three Musketeers Ball*

*A 17th Century Tavern Dance*

*PEERS Event*

www.peers.org

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo

Doors Open: 6:15 p.m.

Dance Lesson: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by August 27)

At the door: \$20.00

Advance tickets may be ordered by sending a check or money order to:

PEERS

2144 B Buena Vista Ave

Alameda CA 94501

You may also purchase tickets until August 27 with a credit card using the PayPal system.

From their website:

It's One for All and All for One at this swashbuckling early 17th century ball set at the Musketeers' favorite inn, Le Cerf Agile. Bangers & Mash - the Bay Area's premiere country dance band - plays elegant and dashing English and French country dances and a number of gorgeous, if anachronistic, waltzes.

Don't know anything about 17th century dance? Never fear. All set and country dances will be briefly taught or called at the ball, and there will be a pre-ball dance class starting at 630 p.m. with Mr. Alan Winston, dance master of the Bay Area English Regency Society and a popular caller with the Bay Area English Country Dance Society. At the pre-ball class, Mr. Winston will teach the basic footwork and patterns of early English Country Dance along with several of the dances on the program. You'll be dancing these dances

with elegance, grace and confidence in no time!

17th century costume (any class) is admired, but not required, at the ball. Yes, most of your Renaissance Faire garb would also be perfectly appropriate for the ball, and generic swashbuckler costume, peasant attire, or modern evening dress is just fine (Please note that there is no dress code for the ball).

Entertainment includes displays of Baroque courtly and country dance and there will indeed be a no host (cash) bar as well as a light snack buffet. Your potluck contributions to the buffet will, as usual, be welcomed at the kitchen.

Gorgeous Baroque music and dancing, beautiful waltzes, swordplay, tight bodices, and a great bar - what mortal could ask for more?

**Saturday, September 3**

*Blood Bucket Ballyhoo*

www.hypnodrome.com

At The Hypnodrome

575 10th Street, SF

"A Grand Guignol tripple terror stage show"

8 p.m.

Tickets \$18-\$69

Held over for six more performances, each Saturday at 8 p.m. through Sept. 24.



**Sunday, September 4**

*Sacramento Comic Book Show*

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H. Street

Sacramento

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$5 (\$4 with coupon from website)

Comic book convention with anime viewing room, dealers, cosplay contest at 2 p.m. For a report on the February show, see Don't Shake Me at [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com).

**Tuesday-Thursday, September 6-8**

*Howl's Castle*

Red Vic Movie House

1727 Haight Street

San Francisco

Miyazaki's (*Spirited Away*, *My Neighbor Totoro*) latest movie is based on an English fantasy novel by Diana Winn Jones.

**Wednesday, September 7**

*Them*

*Panic in the Year Zero*

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

Castro Theater

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

Double feature as part of the cold war film series.

**September 7- September 18**

*The Werewolf*

San Francisco Fringe Theater Festival

EXIT Theater

156 Eddy Street

\$9

Denis is the last in a long line of intelligent wolves living unnoticed in woods north of Paris. But when he is bitten by a werewolf he wakes on the day of the next full moon to find that he has become human. How will he survive the world of men? Boris Vian's surreal fairy tale translated and adapted by John Rackham and performed by an international cast.

Schedule:

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 10, 10 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m.

Friday, Sept 16, 10 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 17, 4 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 18, 8:30 p.m.

**Friday- Saturday, September 9-10**

*Brazil*

Red Vic Movie House

1727 Haight Street

San Francisco

**Friday, September 9**

*USS Northern Lights Meeting*

*Starfleet Chapter*

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

Great Mall Foot Court

Great Mall

Milpitas

Free

7 p.m.

**Saturday, September 10**

*Sonoma County Book Festival*

[/www.sonomacountybookfair.org/index.html](http://www.sonomacountybookfair.org/index.html)

Courthouse Square (Mendocino Ave. between Third and Fourth Streets. Take the downtown exit off of 101 and go under the mall.)

Santa Rosa

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Free

Join Borderlands Books and dozens of other vendors in Santa Rosa's Courthouse Square for this sixth annual celebration of the literary arts. There will be author appearances, panels, readings, special events for kids, and much, much more! (Note: this is a general book festival, not genre specific)

More Events Next Page

**September 10 – Oct 16**  
(Saturdays and Sundays)  
*Northern California Ren Faire*  
<http://www.norcalrenfaire.org>  
Pacheco Pass Highway  
Hollister  
10 am. to 6 p.m.  
\$15 in advance  
\$20 at gate

**Saturday, September 10**  
*Bard of The Mists Competition*  
*Society for Creative Anachronism Event*  
[santiagosmagic.com/bardic/](http://santiagosmagic.com/bardic/)  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto  
505 East Charleston Road  
Palo Alto  
11 a.m. – 9:30  
\$15  
Feast plus a multi-round competition to determine successor as Bard of The Mists. Only 100 seats available.

**Saturday, September 10**  
*No Name Anime Showing*  
Saratoga Library  
13650 Saratoga Ave.  
Saratoga  
12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. or so  
Free

**Saturday, September 10**  
*Michael Blumlein appearance*  
Cover to Cover  
307 Castro Street  
San Francisco  
7 p.m.  
Free  
Signing by local author Michael Blumlein (*The Healer*).

**Saturday, September 10**  
*Blood Bucket Ballyhoo*  
[www.hypnodrome.com](http://www.hypnodrome.com)  
At The Hypnodrome  
575 10th Street, SF  
“A Grand Guignol tripple terror stage show”  
8 p.m.  
Tickets \$18-\$69  
Held over for six more performances, each Saturday at 8 p.m. through Sept. 24.

**Sunday, September 11**  
*Shire of Teufelberg Anniversary Tournament*  
*SCA Event*  
[www.phmoms.com/shiretourney](http://www.phmoms.com/shiretourney)  
Camp Hermes  
El Cerrito  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
\$6 - \$9  
Fighter tournament, target archery (loaner gear available), javelyn throw, games, more. Potluck lunch at 1 p.m.

**Sunday, September 11**  
*Terry Pratchett appearance*  
Kepler's Books  
1010 El Camino Real  
Menlo Park  
Noon  
Free

**Sunday, September 11**  
*Robin Hobb appearance*  
Borderlands Books  
[www.borderlands-books.com](http://www.borderlands-books.com)  
866 Valencia St.  
San Francisco  
3 p.m.  
Free

From the Borderlands newsletter:  
Borderlands is delighted to welcome the prolific and talented Robin Hobb, author of the beloved *Farseer* books. *Shaman's Crossing* is the first in a brand-new series, The Soldier Son Trilogy. *Haman's Crossing* is dedicated “To Caffeine and Sugar - my companions through many a long night of writing.” We know you're going to love Robin Hobb! Check out her thoroughly entertaining web-site here: (<http://www.robinhobb.com/>)

**More Events Next Page**

**Sunday, September 11**

*Gay Men's Science Fiction Book Club*

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

5 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Inversions* by Ian M. Banks.

Please contact the group leader, Christopher Rodriguez, at cobalt555@earthlink.net, for more information.

**Sunday, September 11**

*Speculative Fiction Book Club*

Kepler's Books

1010 El Camino Real

Menlo Park

7 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Solaris* by Stanislaw Lem.

**September 13-14**

*Spirited Away*

Red Vic Movie House

1727 Haight Street

San Francisco

**Tuesday, September 13**

*Sci-Fi Book Club Book Group*

Barnes & Noble

3501 McHenry Avenue, Suite E

Modesto

209-521-1118

7:00 p.m.

Free

**Wednesday, September 14**

*Michael Blumlein appearance*

UC Bookstore

500 Parnassus

San Francisco

Noon

Free

Local author Michael Blumlein (*The Healer*) signing.

**Wednesday, September 14**

*Rock and Roll Nightmare*

www.ybca.org

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

700 Howard Street

San Francisco

\$8

7:30 p.m.

I have no idea why anyone would want to see this movie, but wannabe Heavy Metal God Thor battles Satan in this very low budget horror movie, thus qualifying it as speculative fiction.

Showing as part of the Heavey Metal Cinema: Rock, Shock and Schlock program.

I guess this covers the Schlock portion of the program.

**Thursday, September 15, 2005**

Sci-Fi & Fantasy Book Group

Barnes & Noble

Creekside Town Center

1256 Galleria Boulevard

Roseville

916-788-4320

7:00 p.m.

Free

**September 16-18**

*Principality of the Mists Fall Coronet*

*Society for Creative Anachronism Event*

mists.westkingdom.org/2005FallCoronet.

html#party

22855 Moscow Road

Duncan Mills

Noon Friday to 4 p.m. Sunday

\$12-\$15

Tourney to determine successor for the Principality of the Mists. Camping event along the Russian River. Equestrian demonstration Saturday morning, arts and sciences competitions, archery and hurley allowed, war practice Sunday, Russian-theme party.

**Saturday, September 17**

*Pokemon Rocks America*

www.pokemon.com

San Jose McEnery Convention Center

150 San Carlos St.

San Jose

Free

**Saturday, September 17**

*Brian Keene appearance*

*Phil Nutman appearance*

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

4 p.m.

Free

From the Borderlands newsletter:

We're pleased to welcome Brian and Phil for a zombie double-header! Brian Keene (*City of the Dead, Terminal*) is the charismatic author of THE RISING, and many, many forthcoming books. Philip Nutman (*Wet Work*) is a novelist, short story writer, comic book scriptwriter, and screenwriter. Join us for a whole afternoon of the living dead!

**Saturday, September 17**

*David Morell appearance*

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Signing in support of his new novel *Creepers*.

**Saturday, September 17**

*Manga Otaku Book Group (Graphic Novel)*

Barnes & Noble Booksellers

Weberstown Mall

4950 Pacific Avenue, Space 319

Stockton

209-472-1885

6 p.m.

Free

**Saturday, September 17**

*Blood Bucket Ballyhoo*

www.hypnodrome.com

At The Hypnodrome

575 10th Street, SF

"A Grand Guignol tripple terror stage show"

8 p.m.

Tickets \$18-\$69

Held over for six more performances, each Saturday at 8 p.m. through Sept. 24.

**Sunday, September 18**

*Science Fiction Book Club*

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Red Shift* edited by Al Sarantonio. Please contact Jude at [jfeldman@borderlands-books.com](mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com) for more information.

**Sunday, September 18**

*Bad Movie Night: Sheena*

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission St.

San Francisco

Between 19th and 18th streets, between the pawn shop and the laundromat

415-401-7987

www.darkroomsf.com

8 p.m.

\$5

Note: this replaces the previously announced showing of *Battlefield Earth*.

With Patrick Simms, Stoo Odom and Jim Fourniadis. Pirate cat radio night. From their website:

More Events Next Page

We've taken all the guess work out of the age ole question, "Will this movie suck?"

It will suck.

And we'll have a slew of hosts to point that out. Every Sunday for a measly 5\$ you can put your feet up, enjoy a crummy movie, scarf down popcorn, listen to the hilarious ravings of our special guests and yes, you too can yell at the movie screen.

We will have rotating hosts chosen from the brilliant comedic flock of freaks circling our fair city. Guaranteed bad movies. Byob. Free popcorn. Feet on the furniture. What more could you ask for of a Sunday night. We promise to have you in bed by 11pm.

### Wednesday, September 21

*Terry Pratchett appearance*

Cody's

2454 Telegraph Avenue

Berkeley CA, US,

7:30 p.m.

Free

Diskworld creator Terry Pratchett (*Thud*) signing.

### September 22 - September 24

*The Werewolf*

The Dark Room Theater

8 p.m.

Denis is the last in a long line of intelligent wolves living unnoticed in woods north of Paris. But when he is bitten by a werewolf he wakes on the day of the next full moon to find that he has become human. How will he survive the world of men? Boris Vian's surreal fairy tale translated and adapted by John Rackham and performed by an international cast.

### Thursday, September 22

*Terry Pratchett Reading*

Park Branch Library

1833 Page Street

San Francisco

Booksmith-sponsored event

7 p.m.

Pratchett will read from his new Discworld novel *Thud*.

### Friday, September 23

*Legion of Rassilon*

*Doctor Who fan group*

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

7:30 p.m.

Free

Showing episodes of the new Dr. Who series, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

### Saturday, September 24

*USS Augusta Ada Meeting*

*Starfleet Chapter*

[trek.starshine.org](http://trek.starshine.org)

Round Table Pizza

5160 Geary Blvd

San Francisco

Free

1 p.m.

### Saturday, September 24

*Blood Bucket Ballyhoo*

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

At The Hypnodrome

575 10th Street, SF

"A Grand Guignol tripple terror stage show"

8 p.m.

Tickets \$18-\$69

Held over for six more performances, each Saturday at 8 p.m. through Sept. 24.

### Tuesday, September 27

*Japanimation Book Group (Graphic Novel)*

Barnes & Noble Booksellers

6111 Sunrise Blvd.

Citrus Heights

916-853-1511

7 p.m.

Free

More Events Next Page

**Tuesday, September 27**

*Mr. Cleaver*

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

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$5

Slasher movie made by local slasher fans.

**Wednesday, September 28**

*Neil Gaiman appearance*

Kepler's Books

1010 El Camino Real

Menlo Park

7:30 p.m.

Free

At this event, Gaiman will sign as many copies of *Anansi Boys* as are purchased and up to two other items per customer.

**Thursday, September 29**

*Michael Chabon and Neil Gaiman in Conversation*

Book Passage

51 Tamal Vista Blvd.

Corte Madera

7 p.m.

Free

**Friday, September 30**

*Sci-Fi / Fantasy Book Group*

Barnes & Noble Booksellers

Weberstown Mall

4950 Pacific Avenue, Space 319

Stockton

209-472-1885

6:30 p.m.

Free

**Friday, September 30**

*Neil Gaiman appearance*

First Congregational Church

Berkeley

7 p.m.

(hosted by Cody's Books; ticketed event)

Neil Gaiman (*Anansi Boys*) reads and signs.

From the Cody's Books website:

Tickets are required; they'll be available beginning September 20 with the purchase of *Anansi Boys* at any Cody's location (Berkeley and San Francisco).

**September 30, October 1-2**

*Crown Tournament*

[Westkingdom.org/calendar/OctCrown2005.php](http://Westkingdom.org/calendar/OctCrown2005.php)

OctCrown2005.php

Sonoma-Marin County Fairgrounds

Petaluma

Noon Friday – 4 p.m. Sunday

\$12-\$15

Tourney to determine successor for the Kingdom of the West.

**September 30-October 5**

*Mirrormask*

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

Rafael Film Center

1118 Fourth Street

San Rafael

415-454-1222

\$9.25

Limited engagement run of the new movie by Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean.

**Saturday, October 1**

*Ellen Steiber reading and signing*

The Other Change of Hobbit

2020 Shattuck Ave.

Berkeley

5 p.m.

Free

The author will read from and sign her first adult fantasy novel *A Rumor of Gems*.

More Events Next Page

**Saturday, October 1**

*Terry Pratchett appearance*

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Terry Pratchett (*Thud*) reads and signs.

**Tuesday, October 4**

*Stanford Newtype Anime Club*

[www.stanford.edu/group/newtype](http://www.stanford.edu/group/newtype)

Loction TBD

Palo Alto

8 p.m.

Free

**October 7-9**

*Silicon 2005*

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

Doubletree Hotel

San Jose

A small general science fiction convention. Anime track, dealers room, programing track.

**Saturday, October 8**

*Lord of the Rings Feast*

*Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild Event*

GBACG \$39.50

Non-members \$44.50

Sequoia Lodge, Oakland Hills. Come to

the House of Elrond in Rivendell, whether you like food or story-telling or singing or a pleasant mixture of them all. The evening will be filled with the faint scent of trees and flowers, as if summer still lingers in Elrond's gardens. . GBACG members may purchase tickets Aug. 12-31. Tickets go on sale to the General Public September 1.

**October 8**

*5th Annual Metreon Festival of Anime*

Metreon

101 4th Street

San Francisco

11 a.m. -

Free or ?

This is usually a small, but nice event. The price is free since most of it is held in the public areas of the Metreon, but if you want to watch the anime being shown or be eligible for a prize in the costume contest, you have to buy a membership.

**Sunday, October 9**

*Speculative Fiction Book Club*

Kepler's Books

1010 El Camino Real

Menlo Park

7 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Alphabet of Thorn* by Patricia McKillip.

**October 11**

*Sci-Fi Book Club*

Barnes & Noble Booksellers

3501 McHenry Avenue, Suite E

Modesto

209-521-1118

7 p.m.

Free

**Thursday, October 13**

*Thrillville's Horror Host Palooza 2005!*

*Dracula vs. Frankenstein*

*Astro Zombies*

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

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$10

7:30 p.m.

Will the Thrill and Tiki Gossess Monica present a double feature of *Dracula vs. Frankenstein* and *Astro Zombies* with live theremin by Robert Silverman, and guest appearances by horror hosts John Stanley, Doctor Goulfinger, Mr. Lobo, Ms. Monster, Rock 'n' Roll Ray and Son of Ghoul.

More Events Next Page

**Saturday, October 15**

*Manga Otaku Book Group*  
Barnes & Noble Booksellers  
Weberstown Mall  
4950 Pacific Avenue, Space 319  
Stockton  
209-472-1885  
6 p.m.  
Free

**Sunday, October 16**

*Science Fiction Book Club*  
Borderlands Books  
www.borderlands-books.com  
866 Valencia St.  
San Francisco  
6 p.m.  
Free

This month's book is *Bloodsucking Fiends* by Christopher Moore.

**Tuesday, October 18**

*Nightmare in Blood*  
www.picturepubpizza.com  
Parkway Speakeasy Theater  
1834 Park Blvd.  
Oakland  
\$5  
9:15 p.m.

Director and local horror host legend John Stanley will appear at this showing of a locally-filmed but rarely seen vampire movie.

**Wednesday, October 19**

*Gregory Maguire appearance*  
Books Inc.  
2275 Market Street  
San Francisco  
7:30 p.m.  
Free

Gregory Maguire, the best selling author of *Wicked*, will introduce his new book, *Son of a Witch*.

**October 20**

*Sci-Fi & Fantasy Book Group*  
Barnes & Noble Booksellers  
Creekside Town Center  
1256 Galleria Boulevard  
Roseville  
916-788-4320  
7 p.m.  
Free

**October 20**

*The Chainsaw Mafia 2005 Indie Horror Film Festival*  
www.picturepubpizza.com  
www.thechainsawmafia.com  
Parkway Speakeasy Theater  
1834 Park Blvd.  
Oakland  
\$6

The Chainsaw Mafia is now accepting entries for this festival of short horror films,

science fiction and cult films also considered if they have horror elements. Films may include nudity, gore and violence “and, please, lots of it.”

The showing will be hosted by Shannon Lark and her *Zombie Dancing Girls*.

**October 20-26**

*Zombie Honeymoon*  
Red Vic Movie House  
1727 Haight Street  
San Francisco

San Francisco premiere of this zombie movie.

**October 21**

*Futurist Salon Book Group*  
Barnes & Noble Booksellers  
Hillsdale Shopping Center  
11 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
San Mateo  
650-341-5560  
7:30 p.m.  
Free

**October 21**

*Chris Ware appearance*  
The Booksmith  
1644 Haight Street  
San Francisco  
Time: TBD  
Free



**October 22**

*Chris Ware signing*

Kepler's Books

1010 El Camino Real

Menlo Park

5 p.m.

Free

**October 22**

*Flashlight Tour*

Winchester Mystery House

www.winchestermysteryhouse.com

525 South Winchester Boulevard

San Jose

6 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

\$31

**October 22-30**

*Monster Movie Marathon*

www.castrotheater.com

Castro Theater

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

From the Castro website:

Everybody's favorites: Frankenstein, the Mummy, Wolf Man, Dracula, Night Of The Living Dead spooktacular! and dare I say, Get HAMMERED at the Castro, if you know what I mean, scares, frights, chills and thrills for nine spooky nights.

**Tuesday, October 25**

*Night of the Comet*

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

Free

9:15 p.m.

No that's not a typo, this is showing as part of their audience appreciation nights.

**Tuesday, October 25**

*The Planets*

*Dava Sobel lecture*

Mechanic's Institute

Mechanic's Institute Library

57 Post Street

San Francisco

12:30 pm

Members free; Public \$7

The best-selling author of *Longitude* and *Galileo's Daughter*, presents a luminous exploration of our solar system. Weaving cosmic history with up-to-the-minute science discoveries, Sobel describes the planets as objects of beauty, sources of legends and myths, inspirations for poems, paintings and science fiction, and the cause of social revolutions.

Dava Sobel is an award-winning former

science writer for *The New York Times*. Her work has also appeared in *Audubon*, *Discover*, *Life*, and *The New Yorker*.

**October 25**

*Japanimation Book Group (Graphic Novel)*

Barnes & Noble Booksellers

6111 Sunrise Blvd.

Citrus Heights

916-853-1511

7 p.m.

Free

**October 25**

*Clive Barker appearance*

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

Time: TBD

Free

**October 26, 2005**

*Robert Jordan appearance*

Cody's Stockton Street

2 Stockton Street

San Francisco

7:30 p.m.

Free

More Events Next Page

**October 27, 2005**

*R. A. Salvatore appearance*  
Barnes & Noble Booksellers  
3600 Stevens Creek Blvd  
San Jose  
408-984-3495  
7:00 p.m.  
Free

**October 27, 2005**

*Robert Jordan appearance*  
Bay Book Co.  
Strawflower Shopping Center  
80 F. Cabrillo Hwy.  
Half Moon Bay  
7:00 p.m.  
Free

**Tuesday, October 27**

*Lost Boys*  
[www.picturepubpizza.com](http://www.picturepubpizza.com)  
Parkway Speakeasy Theater  
1834 Park Blvd.  
Oakland  
\$6  
9:15 p.m.

Send your reviews, reports and notes  
about Bay Area fans and fan activities  
to:

**SFinSF@gmail.com.**

**October 28-30**

*Yaoicon 5*  
[www.yaoicon.com](http://www.yaoicon.com)  
The Westin San Francisco Airport  
1 Old Bayshore Highway  
Millbrae  
A celebration of male beauty and  
passion in anime and manga. Dealers  
room, programming, cosplay contest, bishi  
auction. Must be 18 years of age or older to  
attend.

**Oct 28, 2005**

*Sci-Fi / Fantasy Book Group*  
Barnes & Noble Booksellers  
Weberstown Mall  
4950 Pacific Avenue, Space 319  
Stockton, CA 95207  
209-472-1885  
6:30 p.m.

**October 28, 2005**

*Robert Jordan appearance*  
Barnes & Noble Booksellers  
3600 Stevens Creek Blvd  
San Jose  
408-984-3495  
7:00 p.m.  
Free

**Friday, October 28**

*R. A. Salvatore Q and A, signing*  
The Other Change of Hobbit  
2020 Shattuck Ave.  
Berkeley  
7 p.m.  
Free  
The author will hold a question and  
answer session and sign his latest  
forgotten Realms novel *Promise of the*  
*Witch-King.*

**Friday, October 28**

*Legion of Rassilon*  
*Doctor Who fan group*  
Carl's Junior  
2551 N. First Street  
San Jose  
7:30 p.m.  
Free

Showing episodes of the new Dr. Who  
series, news, discussion of recent movies  
and a raffle.

**October 29, 2005**

*Robert Jordan appearance*  
Borders Books & Music  
1200 Pacific Ave., Suite 100  
Santa Cruz  
4:00 p.m.  
Free

More Events Next Page

**October 29***Ghost Train*

www.roaringcamp.com

Roaring Camp

Felton

\$20 adults

\$15 Children

Ride to Bear Mountain through a haunted redwood forest as the Legend of Sleepy Hollow is portrayed. Reservations required. 1-888-25-EVENTS for tickets.

**October 29***Flashlight Tour*

Winchester Mystery House

www.winchestermysteryhouse.com

525 South Winchester Boulevard

San Jose

6 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

\$31

**October 31***Flashlight Tour*

Winchester Mystery House

www.winchestermysteryhouse.com

525 South Winchester Boulevard

San Jose

6 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

\$31

**November 4-6***BAScon*

Embassy Suites

250 Gateway Boulevard

South San Francisco

Memberships: \$70 to 10/31/05 or until sold out

Information: BASCon, P.O. Box 282197, San Francisco, CA 94128-2197

Email: info@BASCon.org

The fifth Bay Area Slash Convention. Open to those 18 years or older.

Dealers' room, art show, panels, video show, con suite.

**November 5***AnimeDestiny 2005*

www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~animage/animed/

University of California Berkeley

Berkeley

\$10 in advance, \$15 at the door

Members of Cal-Animage Alpha get in free.

9 a.m. – 11 p.m.

The second year for this very fun one-day convention sponsored by one of the oldest anime clubs in the U.S.

Anime track, programming, concert by j-rock group Beautiful Losers, cosplay contest, dealers, swap meet.

More Events Next Page

**Saturday, November 5****Le Bal Des Vampires**

**PEERS (The Period Events & Entertainments Re-Creation Society) Event**

www.peers.org

The Lake Merritt Dance Center

At The Oakland Veterans' Memorial Hall

200 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA

Waltz the night away in a romantic ballroom with the San Francisco Bay Area's most glamorous Undead at the 12th Annual Le Bal des Vampires.

The evening will, as usual, feature truly haunting 18th, 19th, and 20th century ballroom dance music by Brazen Hussey, one of the most exciting dance bands around, equally at home playing classical music, vintage dance music, Celtic fusion, Swing, blues and hard rock. While the program, as usual, has a strong waltz bias, the program includes everything from elegant 18th century country and set dances to Viennese waltzes, polkas and mazurkas, to cool blues fox trot and tango to early Swing and classic Rock at this very eclectic Gathering of Kindred. As usual, all set dances will be taught or called at the ball.

Suggested costume is evening dress or dress uniform from the century and country of your "rebirth," or modern evening dress.

While there is no dress code for the ball (and we certainly don't expect Spike to dress up for the occasion!), you will see some of the most gorgeously costumed guests of the social season at this ball.

The ball's half-time show will be another cutting edge performance by Le Theatre des Vampires, the most feared theater company on the West Coast. Not recommended for the faint of heart.

For those wishing to learn or practice the dances before the ball, there will be an optional pre-ball dance workshop (details TBA).

#### **November 7**

*Lemony Snicket appearance*

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

Time: TBD

Free

#### **November 11**

*Charles Burns appearance*

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

Time: TBD

Free

#### **Friday and Saturday, November 11-12**

*Mermaid Meat*

Eugene & Elinor Friend Center for the Arts

Kanbar Hall

Jewish Community Center of San Francisco

3200 California Street

San Francisco

Tickets: (415) 29201233, [www.jccsf.org/arts](http://www.jccsf.org/arts)

Group Discounts: (415) 346-7805

\$25

Brenda Wong Aoki and Mark Izu present *Mermaid Meat: The Secret to Immortality* and other Japanese ghost stories.

I can't recommend this highly enough. See my review in issue two of the performance of *Black Hair* at the SF Theater Festival. In addition to the title story and *Black Hair*, they will also be performing *The Bell of Dojoji*, *Dancing in California* and a new work.

Aoki is a wonderful performer, using her voice and acting skills to bring to life traditional Japanese ghost stories with Izu providing musical accompaniment.

I suspect that *Mermaid Meat* is based on the same traditional story that Rumiko Takahashi used as the basis for her *Mermaid Forest* manga so anime fans might be particularly interested in this show.

#### **Saturday – Sunday, November 12-13**

*Robot Fighting League 2005 National Championship*

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

[combots.net/index](http://combots.net/index)

Herbst Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

San Francisco

\$20

Noon – 11 p.m.

#### **November 12-13**

*Creation's Salute to Sci-Fi TV*

Wyndham San Jose

1350 N. First Street

San Jose

#### **November 13**

*Speculative Fiction Book Club*

Kepler's Books

1010 El Camino Real

Menlo Park

7 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Gun With Occasional Music* by Johnathan Lethem.

**More Events Next Page**

**November 16**

*George R. R. Martin Appearance*

Copperfield's Books

140 Kentucky St.

Petaluma

7 p.m.

Free

**November 17**

*George R. R. Martin Appearance*

Stacy's Books

581 Market Street

San Francisco

12:30 p.m.

Free

**November 18**

*George R. R. Martin Appearance*

Kepler's Books

1010 El Camino Real

Menlo Park

Noon

Free

**November 18**

*George R. R. Martin Appearance*

Bay Book Co.

Half Moon Bay

7:00 p.m.

Free

More Events Next Page

**November 20**

*Science Fiction Book Club*

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Tamsin* by Peter Beagle. The author will visit. Please contact Jude at [jfeldman@borderlands-books.com](mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com) for more information.

**Friday, November 25**

*Legion of Rassilon*

*Doctor Who fan group*

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

7:30 p.m.

Free

Showing episodes of the new Dr. Who series, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

**November 29**

*A Zathura Science Spectacular with the Mad Scientists*

Kepler's Books

1010 El Camino Real

Menlo Park

5 p.m.

**Free**

Mad Science's Zathura event offers children a spectacular exploration of space science in honor of Chris Van Allsburg's classic book and the November release of the *Zathura* movie! In this 45-minute event, Mad Science's specially trained instructors will present a host of interactive demonstrations designed to introduce young spectators to science.

**December 10**

*Wintershoppingland*

Hayward Centennial Hall

22292 Foothill Blvd.

Hayward

www.wintershoppingland.com

11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

\$2 (Free 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

This is an anime event organized by the group that puts on Yaoi Con and Tales of Anime. Costume contest, dealers room, programming to be announced.

**December 17-18**

*Japantown Anime Faire 3*

Japantown

San Francisco

www.jtaf.com

6 p.m.

Fun local anime convention with anime showings, dealer's room, costume contest, panels.

**December 18**

*Science Fiction Book Club*  
Borderlands Books  
www.borderlands-books.com  
866 Valencia St.  
San Francisco  
6 p.m.  
Free

This month's book is *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonegut. Please contact Jude at [jfeldman@borderlands-books.com](mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com) for more information.

**January 15, 2006**

*Science Fiction Book Club*  
Borderlands Books  
www.borderlands-books.com  
866 Valencia St.  
San Francisco  
6 p.m.  
Free

This month's book is *The Stars My Destination* by Alfred Bester. Please contact Jude at [jfeldman@borderlands-books.com](mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com) for more information.

**January 19-23, 2006**

*Further Confusion*  
San Jose Doubletree  
www.furtherconfusion.org  
\$40

Furry convention.

**February 10-12 2006**

*Wondercon*  
The Moscone Center  
San Francisco

Comic book convention with anime, summer movie previews, panels, dealers, costume contest, more.

**February 17-20, 2006**

*Dundracon*  
San Ramon Marriott  
2600 Bishop Drive  
San Ramon  
www.dundracon.com  
\$?

Gaming convention.

**February 17-20, 2006**

*PantheaCon*  
San Jose Doubletree

Pagan convention. Workshops, lectures, performances, rituals, vendors, drumming, dancing, costume contest.

**February 19, 2006**

*Science Fiction Book Club*  
Borderlands Books  
www.borderlands-books.com  
866 Valencia St.  
San Francisco  
6 p.m.  
Free

This month's book is *Wonderland* by Joyce Carol Oates. Please contact Jude at [jfeldman@borderlands-books.com](mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com) for more information.

**March 3-5 2006**

*Consonance 2006*  
www.consonance.org/  
Crowne Plaza Silicon Valley  
777 Bellew Drive  
Milpitas

Memberships: \$35 to 10/31/05, \$40 to 2/18/06, \$45 at door

Filk convention. Guests: Bill & Gretchen Roper, Marty Coady Fabish, Puzzlebox, Chris Conway

**Saturday, March 4, 2006**

*The Phantom of the Opera Ball*  
**PEERS Event**

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo  
Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.  
Dance lesson: 7:15 p.m.  
Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.  
Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by February 28)  
At the door: \$20.00

Don't let those wild rumors of an Opera Ghost keep you from attending the social event of the season, the Opera Ball of the Paris Opera Populaire. This is destined to be the most spectacular of all our masquerade

balls and Management assures you that “Everything is under control.”

Our special guests - Monsieur Frank Beau Davis, that American trumpet virtuoso and his brilliant Brassworks Band from San Francisco, will play an evening of opera and ballet tunes arranged for ballroom dancing and brilliant Viennese Waltzes, polkas, mazurkas, schottisches, reels, and quadrilles. All set dances will be taught or called and there will a pre-ball dance class to help you brush up on your mid-Victorian dance skills. And, of course, they will play those perennial favorites, “The Congress of Vienna Waltz” and “Sir Roger de Coverley” (with a distinctly Wagnerian edge).

Suggested costume for this gala event is Victorian evening or ball dress (circa 1860’s-80’s), period fancy dress, or modern evening dress. Masks are strongly suggested.

The fashionable young gentlemen of the Jockey Club will be pleased to know that evening’s entertainment includes operatic and ballet excerpts by the company, including the premiere of the ballet from the controversial new opera “Sappho,” choreographed by the celebrated Mme. Giry for the Peerless Ballet.

Refreshments will be served throughout the evening (Since we lack the catering budget of the Paris Opera Populaire, your potluck contributions will be deeply appreciated).

**March 19, 2006**

*Science Fiction Book Club*

Borderlands Books  
www.borderlands-books.com  
866 Valencia St.  
San Francisco  
6 p.m.  
Free

This month’s book is *Declare* by Tim Powers. Please contact Jude at [jfeldman@borderlands-books.com](mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com) for more information.

**April 16, 2006**

*Science Fiction Book Club*

Borderlands Books  
www.borderlands-books.com  
866 Valencia St.  
San Francisco  
6 p.m.  
Free

This month’s book is *Dark Beyond The Stars* by local author Frank Robinson. Author will visit. Please contact Jude at [jfeldman@borderlands-books.com](mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com) for more information.

**Sunday, April 24, 2006**

*3DB Con*

www.threedollarbill.com/3DBcon  
Three Dollar Bill Cafe 1800 Market Street  
San Francisco  
10:00 AM-10:00 PM  
\$10  
Game Convention.

**Saturday, May 6, 2006**

*The Fairy Tale Masquerade Ball*

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo  
Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.  
Dance lesson: 7:15 p.m.  
Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.  
Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by April 29, 2006)  
At the door: \$20.00

**May 11-14, 2006**

*World Horror Con 2006*

Gateway Holiday Inn  
www.whc2006.org  
The world horror con comes to the bay area.

More Events Next Page

**May 21, 2006**

*Science Fiction Book Club*

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is the graphic novel *Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons. Please contact Jude at [jfeldman@borderlands-books.com](mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com) for more information.

**May 26-29**

*Fanime Con*

San Jose Convention Center

San Jose

www.fanime.com

Price

The largest annual anime convention in the Bay Area. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, multiple tracks of anime, Asian films, J-pop concert, much more.

**May 26-29**

*Baycon*

San Jose Doubletree Inn

San Jose

www.baycon.org

\$45 until August 31

The largest annual general SF convention in the Bay area. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, anime room, much more.

**August 4-6 2006**

*Anime Overdose 2006*

www.animeod.com

San Francisco

\$30 to ?, \$45 at door

Anime convention.

**Saturday, September 2, 2006**

*Captain Morgan's Privateers (We Ain't Pirates No More) Ball*

**PEERS Event**

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo

Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.

Dance Lesson: 7:15 p.m.

Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by August 26, 2006)

Tickets: \$20.00 at the door

**Ongoing:**

*Bay Area Science Fiction Association*

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

Mondays at 8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

*Legion of Rassilon*

*Doctor Who fan group*

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

Meets every fourth Friday at 7:30 p.m.

(No December meeting)

Free

Showing episodes of the new Dr. Who series, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

**Bay Area Role-Playing Society**

www.BayRPS.com

Go-Getter's Pizza

1489 Beach Park Boulevard

Foster City

Wednesdays from 6pm to 10pm

Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details send email to: [GM@BayRPS.com](mailto:GM@BayRPS.com). (Not confirmed, check before attending.)

*SF Games*

vax.hanford.org/dk/games

Muddy's Coffeehouse

1304 Valencia Street near 24th

San Francisco

7:00 p.m. to midnight every Friday

Free

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