

SF/SF Science Fiction/San Francisco

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

Issue 8

email: SFinSF@gmail.com

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eLOCs

Lloyd Penney writes:

Dear Jack

Just saw this morning that issue 7 of SF/SF was on eFanzines.com, and I checked my IN box... issues 5 and 6 were there, so it's time to catch up with a letter.

5...A question that Peter Sullivan's

loc brings to mind...do you post SF/SF on eFanzines.com only, or do you send it directly to a Bay Area mailing list of fans? Do you have anyone keeping you informed of these events, a list of contributors? Or, are you left to do the research yourself? I am planning a newsletter myself, but I'm not just looking at Toronto...I'm looking at the whole country, so I am going to need help. I am working on issue 0 of the *CanFan Rocket* right now, and now that it is officially September, I am looking at a November publishing date.

6...Yes, I am planning a newsletter, and I came up with the 6 to 8 week schedule because there are only so many items going on, and if I can find out about them from fans across Canada, I can keep everyone informed, and build a little community that's been lacking. Chris, loc the *CanFan Rocket* all you like, and you're welcome. Might get other Canadian fans to give this letter writing

a try, who knows? I expect I'm going to follow Cheryl Morgan's format, with a masthead and two columns, but I have some changes in mind. I need to set up a Hotmail account for this, and I also need to get in touch with Bill Burns to see if he can store .pdfed issues on eFanzines.com.

There is a big *Lord of the Rings* convention coming to Toronto next year. It was held in Toronto in 2003, and the reprise is next year. *The Gathering of the Fellowship 2006* should, as did its predecessor, attract people from around the world, and most of them are connected with one Tolkien website or another. They do some advertising in Toronto, but for the most part, Tolkien fandom seems to be online, and this convention is publicized online more than anywhere else. I was at the 2003 event, and had a great time, but the 2006 event is priced much higher, and is right out of my budget. Also, as of the Labour

Continued next page

Day weekend, a new renaissance fair winds up for the summer. After the Ontario Renaissance Fair went out of business last summer, the Royal Abingdon Faire took place at the Royal Botanical Gardens in the Hamilton area, near the western end of Lake Ontario. I was supposed to go last weekend, but couldn't with a fever and general case of the galloping crud, but Yvonne did, and reported, as did many other people, that it was pretty good for a first-year faire. She made some comments in an e-mail to the Faire, and I hope I can join her at an improved event next summer.

7...Well, I am an old Trek fan going away back, and I was sorry to see Jimmy Doohan pass away. But...I think four Scottish municipalities vying for the right to call themselves Scotty's birthplace is a bit much. But then, you should check out the website for Vulcan, Alberta, which has become an island of Trek in a very rural part of western Canada. (I saw a photo of the town council decked out as Federation admirals. Took a while for that image to fade...)

That's all for now, and I'm getting things ready to go to one of our monthly fannish pubnights, the First Thursday. Should be a fine time, and we get as many as 50 of the fannish locals to the Duke of York pub, just north of the University of Toronto, to chow

down together and network. Better than a club, IMHO. Take care, and see you next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

You ask about the distribution of SF/SF. The only distribution was through efanzines. Bill Burns maintains a mailing list that sends out notices of new fanzines that have been posted, but SF/SF itself didn't have a mailing list of its own.

This just shows why I wasn't the right person to be editing this zine. I do fine when it comes to layout and writing an occasional article, but I'm terrible at promotion and the sort of people wrangling that an editor needs to excell at.

First off, this zine shouldn't have been a zine at all, it should be done as a web page, complete with an interactive calendar, hotlinks to other websites, a user forum and other bells and whistles. But I have no HTML experience at all, nor any desire to learn.

I should have been out there shouting from the rooftops about the zine, volunteering for panels at local conventions, talking to promoters and public relations folks, getting on distribution lists, networking with club organizers and giving presentations to any group that would let me. However, I hate public speaking and in person I tend to

apologize for bothering people with my zine, instead of insisting that my zine was a product that one just couldn't live without. There's a reason I'm not in sales.

I'm also no good at recruiting, which brings up my response to your next question. I didn't have anybody sending me stuff for the calendar on a regular basis. Staff writer Jean Martin has helped with some items, for the rest I spent hours each week surfing the web, signing up for email lists, checking local newspapers and looking for flyers at local events. Even that wasn't enough, I couldn't get through all of the local newspaper listings across the bay area each week, so I skimmed the easiest ones to find here in the North Bay. My coverage of the East Bay and South Bay was therefore much spottier than it should have been.

Jean, Chris Garcia, Dr. Noe, Diane Rooney and the other folk who have contributed were a big help, but I would have needed to recruit a staff at least three or four times as large to really make this work. I needed a Sacramento Bureau Chief, a SCA correspondent, a South Bay Bureau Chief, somebody who is interested in going to book signings and book groups and interviewing authors, and so many more.

What I really needed was somebody to handle the people tasks while I handled the layout tasks.

I gained Diane as a staff writer by a fluke,

I wasn't able to recruit anybody to cover the Lord of the Rings trilogy showing and in desperation I contacted the PR person for the event who put me in touch with her. Chris just showed up, he's involved in every zine on the planet. He put me in touch with Jean who put me in touch with Dr. Noe. So Chris has done a better job of recruiting talent than I have.

I think it's great that you're thinking of doing a local news zine for Canada. I obviously think that something of the sort is needed by local fandoms to help "gather the tribes" and encourage the fan scene. But my advice is not to tie yourself down with a regular schedule. When I first started, I thought I'd want to cover events within the week they happened, but it was just too hard to spend the weekend at a fan event, come home and go to work on Monday and then write an article by Tuesday for a Wednesday issue. So I stopped worrying about being timely with articles.

Publishing weekly is killed me. I was planing on keeping this zine going through issue 13, because I wanted to cover the Metreon Festival of Anime, and Jean wanted to cover Silicon. But I just couldn't make it. Last week, I didn't manage to write my article on the Ultraman Festival, the organizer never got back to me on photos of the Stunt Show, I was too lazy to track them down elsewhere, I didn't have time to write an article on the

Sacramento show (probably a good thing as I wouldn't have been very upbeat) and I didn't have any contributions by others; so I didn't publish.

You'll notice that this issue the only thing I did was a photo essay on the Sacramento show. I just didn't have anything worthwhile to say about it.

It just got harder and harder to get each issue out.

Publishing weekly also took up so much time that I didn't have time to look ahead and try to get advance articles written or arrange for press access to events.

I don't mean to discourage you from doing your own zine, that's yet another reason I shouldn't be helming this ship, the editor here needed to be more upbeat and more positive—more of a cheerleader and less of a grump. And it certainly needed somebody more sociable and outgoing, somebody who enjoyed fannish activities rather than seeing them as a burden.

So with this last issue, I sink back into the obscurity of GAFLation. Hopefully somebody better suited to this task will step forward and put up a web site that will serve as the rallying point for area fandom.

Peter Sullivan writes:

I think that Chris Garcia is right to

focus on the wide range of events you cover in the SFSF calendar. Really, this is the antitheses of the attitude that Lloyd Penney reported being on the wrong end of a couple of issues back - being told media fandom was not "real" fandom. SF/SF represents almost the other extreme in terms of "big tent" or "inclusive" fandom, and quite right too. Things like SCA and furry fandom are clearly not SF fandom or fanzine fandom in the traditional sense, but they are definitely fannish.

Regardless of anything else, it provides a mechanism for people like Lloyd and myself to have interests that evolve over time. Moving through different, distinct but mutually-aware or linked fandoms. There are many roads through fandom, but each traveller must plot their own path to find their own personal trufandom. Gosh, that sounds almost zen-like, doesn't it?

I would agree that trains (US or British) are not necessarily a good idea if you absolutely, definitely need to be somewhere on time. But then much the same could be said of air travel.

Glad to see the BASFA crew 'enjoyed' the Glasgow cuisine - so did none of them try the deep-fried Mars Bars? (*Not*, I am assured, an urban legend.)

See Letters of Comment page 34

News and Notes

Kepler's Books in Menlo Park has apparently gone out of business with very little notice.

While it is always sad when a bookstore goes under, this is a serious blow to the science fiction community as it was one of only two bookstores in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area that hosted a regular science fiction book club. The store also brought in major science fiction authors for signing and events.

In addition, there were a number of author signings scheduled for the store in coming months, including Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman which now seem to be cancelled.

There are community efforts underway to try to find a way to save the store. A well-attended rally was held September 7 and potential investors have stepped forward in an attempt to reopen the store.

In much better news, a new local science fiction group has formed and has already hosted its first two meetings. The Fannish Imperial Guard meets most Sundays for brunch at area restaurants and then the group goes on adventures that are accessible by public transit.

The next meeting of the group is this

coming Sunday at 11 a.m. at Absinthe Brasserie, 398 Hayes Street (at Gough Street) in San Francisco.

The group plans to alternate meetings on different sides of the bay.

Last Sunday the group met at La Note in Berkeley and visited The Other Change of Hobbit.

See the schedule in this issue for more information on meeting locations or email mishalak@livejournal.com or aiglet@livejournal.com for more information or to RSVP if you plan on attending so that reservations can be made if there is going to be a large turnout.

Bay Area Browncoats gathered at the Metreon last Wednesday for a free press screening of *Serenity*. Unfortunately, we learned of this after last issue was released.

A special benefit night of the Haunted Haight Walking Tour Saturday raised \$150 for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The tour, which covers the ghosts, witches and macabre history of Haight-Ashbury, is an ongoing event. See www.hauntedhaight.com for more information.

A.J.G. Ballard *Conversations* book release

party was held Saturday at the Hayes Valley Market.

The event included a "Dynamic Art Installation" organized by Mark Pauline, founder of Survival Research Laboratories (SRL). Other party entertainment included a panel moderated by V. Vale with Mark Pauline and composer Graeme Revell. DJ Mike Ryan provided Ballardian music throughout the evening.

An art exhibit continues through September 17, 11 a.m. -6 p.m. See schedule for address.

I forgot to put it in the calendar, but there is a Peninsula Science Fiction Association part Saturday, September 17 and one on Saturday, October 1. Contact commander@pensfa for details.

For a different perspective on Burning Man than offered by Jean Martin this issue, please see our sister zine *Don't Shake Me* at <http://www.efanzines.com/BackNumbers/index.html>.

And finally, this will be the last issue of SF/SF. I'd like to thank all of my contributors LOCers and supporters without whom this zine would never have seen eight issues.

Burning Man: Experiencing the Myth and the Reality

By Jean P. Martin
Staff Writer

Arrakis... Dune... I viewed the alien landscape and was assaulted by the sights, sounds and smells surrounding me. A bustling metropolis in the middle of a barren wasteland. Wait a second... wrong desert! I was actually closer to home in Nevada's Black Rock Desert. With the sandy but solid ground at my feet reminding me of the surface of the moon, the flamboyantly clad natives roaming about obviously on mild-altering substances (mélange anyone?), the post-apocalyptic structures a mish mash of primitive and modern, and people sipping water from their stillsuits (I mean camelbacks), I could be forgiven for thinking I was on Frank Herbert's spice planet.

After months of preparation, I was finally at Burning Man. Burning Man... the name evokes thoughts of debauchery and sybaritic pleasures. As a Burning Man "virgin," I didn't quite know what to expect. Everyone I've asked told me it's something one needs to experience for one's self as everyone comes out of it with a different

perspective. Some view it as an arts festival; some an all-day, all-night rave party; and a few even view it as a religious pilgrimage. So I decided to find out for myself. It was all of the above and more! It was everything I expected and nothing I expected. Where anything and everything could happen... and did.

For a week, from August 30 through September 5, I was a citizen of Black Rock City (BRC). I lived and was part of this cultural experiment. The city of more than 35,000 is the seventh largest in Nevada for a week. The massiveness and impermanence of this society was mind-blowing. BRC is indeed a city with its own post office, radio station (BMIR),

newspapers (one was called the Spock Science Monitor), street maps, DMV (Department of Mutant Vehicles), law enforcement (the Black Rock Rangers), café, medical facilities, airport, temple, etc. Started in San Francisco by Larry Harvey 20 years ago, the event now takes place on an ancient lakebed, known as the Playa.

Why would people travel from all



Center Camp

Photo: Jean Martin



Angel of the Apocalypse

Photo: Jean Martin

over the world to such an inhospitable environment to participate in this weeklong event that only happens once a year? On the back of the admission ticket, it says “you voluntarily assume the risk of serious injury or death by attending this event and release Burning Man from any claim arising from this risk.” Not very inviting is it? Reminds me of Dante’s Inferno as he entered the Gate of Hell: “Abandon all hope, ye who enter here.” However, in our Western society of creature comforts, it does hold a certain appeal to hold your survival in your own hands and return to our primitive roots. To know in the core of one’s being that one can survive without the trappings of modern life (radical self-reliance). To distinguish what is important and to shed everything else. It was a liberating and empowering experience. Not only did I survive, I thrived. I put aside all my reservations (well, the Bene Gesserit’s “Litany Against Fear” and poison alteration came in handy) and managed the extreme conditions (a contrast not unlike heaven and hell) quite well. I did experience the power and majesty of nature. We humans seem so insignificant in the whole scheme of things as I looked up and saw the Milky Way in all its glory. On the other hand, I was in awe of the creativity, imagination and determination (radical self-expression) of the human race to make its mark on the Universe. To connect and build communities (radical inclusion) against overwhelming odds... and to celebrate life in the face of mortality.

So what was it really like? Of course, nudity and drugs were prevalent. But not overpoweringly so. In fact, the most prominent impression I got was that there were too many RVs! So much for roughing it. I myself resided in a camper trailer...



which I loved, by the way. Still, it was a challenging environment (no running water, no toilets, no air conditioning!). But after a couple of days acclimating to the low humidity, dust, smoke, noise, high altitude and temperature extremes, I felt at home and enjoyed the adventure. The first thing I noticed was that people were all so friendly and positive. I felt like I was at the happiest place on Earth... yes, Disneyland. Especially with all the different art cars (reminiscent of the Electric Light Parade) and elaborately decorated theme camps. Throw in a little of Las Vegas glitz, Hollywood magic, Mad Max dystopia, Woodstock hippie ethic and Raver culture. This haven for the counterculture was so surreal I felt like I was in a Salvador Dali painting.

Surprisingly, though, it all came together in some bizarre manifestation of cosmic convergence and harmony. The uniting factor was the Burning Man tenets of self-expression and participation. On the Playa, one is free to express one's self with no masks and no judgment. Costumes are an expression of one's inner self, imagination and creativity. Anyone can be an artist. Which I try to live in my real life in "real camp." I'm a big believer in everyone having a God given talent (or more) and the basic human need for self-



The Temple of Dreams

Photo: Jean Martin

expression. A costumer in “real camp,” I was surprised that I didn’t win the award for best costume at my camp, Camp Stimulation. Well, I decided not to bring my elaborate and expensive Cosplay and vintage ballroom dancing costumes and became a hippie raver for a week. My camp mate who won brought his Jedi costume. But I was happy to at least have one person

in my camp who understands what I do and love. Other people in my camp, myself, and lots of other people, wore artistic body and face makeup, colorful faux fur, El Wire, hair braids and glow sticks. Lots of people decorated their bikes, and 3,000 of us women participated Friday afternoon in Critical Tits, an all-female topless bike ride around the Playa while men watched on the

sidelines cheering and supporting us on. The ride culminated in an after-party with no men allowed unless they were there to serve the “goddesses.” Men walked around serving drinks and hors d’oeuvres; there were Adoration Stations with men feeding women chocolate dipped strawberries, massaging our hands, quoting poetry and spritzing aromatherapy mist; and there was a station for Tarot readings and spiritual healing.

The art theme for Burning Man 2005 was “Psyche: the Conscious, the Subconscious and the Unconscious.” This was right up my alley because of my interest in art and psychology. One afternoon, I biked around the art installations within BRC’s environs and out in the open Playa. The “Temple of Dreams,” across a wide boulevard from the Man, was a magnificent red Japanese-inspired temple by Mark Grieve. In between the Man and the Temple was the purple “The Dreamer,” by Pepe Ozan, the top half of a bald man’s head sticking out of the Playa floor. My favorite large-scale art installation was the “Angel of the Apocalypse,” by the Flaming Lotus Girls, with its huge metal wings coming out of the ground and with flames bursting out of filigree ornamentation on the sides. There were also large-scale sound art zones in the 2 o’clock and 10 o’clock



The Temple Burns

Photo: Jean Martin



Camp Stimulation

Photo: Jean Martin

areas (BRC is laid out like the bottom half of a clock). And of course, the fun and whimsical art cars. I was able to get on the La Contessa (a Spanish galleon), the Nautilus (a submarine from Jules Verne's novels) and Purple Passion (two muni buses joined together with dance floors on the top and bacchanalian activities within). The latter took me out into the open Playa where I found an enormous tent shaped like a Hershey's kiss. Inside was a replica

of the human brain complete with neurons hanging from the ceiling and synapses firing off in every direction. Another fun installation was "Flight to Mars" where you walk inside this building and you go through a maze of alien rock formations.

Theme Camps were another major staple in BRC. As I mentioned earlier, I was part of Camp Stimulation. We served free coffee (there is no money exchanged in the Playa... gifting is the mode of transfer) in

the morning and early evening. Although some of my camp mates served until the wee hours of the morning. We dominated the skyline of the 9 o'clock plaza with our tall tower covered with with an orange and white parachute tent. You could see our beacon and Welsh flag on top of the tower from across BRC in the 3 o'clock plaza (approximately 2 miles away). A highly traveled and visible area, our plaza was replete with dance clubs and bars. Star



Zaphod Camp

Photo: Jean Martin



Spike's Vampire Bar

Photo: Jean Martin

Lush Lounge was small and intimate, the Deep End was huge and raucous (they even had dancers performing on stage once in a while). Sleep... what's that? Music played 24 hours a day from all directions. Still, Camp Stim felt like my home away from home. I looked forward to coming back after each night of revelry. Well, we rarely came back

until sunrise. There was a rumor floating around that one of our neighbors met Sting and he told Sting to go over to our camp for coffee but we were closed. Meeting Feyd Rautha (in case anyone doesn't know, Sting played Feyd in the David Lynch movie version of Dune) would have just completed my Dune experience! Two of

our other neighbors were memorable for their offerings, Funky Monkey with their banana pancakes, and Seven Sins Lounge with their frozen margaritas. Yes, all for free!

As far as my favorite theme camps, Deathguild's Thunderdome takes the top prize with its amazing replication of the fighting dome from the movie *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome*. Loud pulsating rock music (the kind I like), women and men in goth clothing, people hanging from the metal pipes of the geodesic dome cheering and jeering, and of course, competitors battling it out while harnessed by bungee cords. On the more quiet side, Hookadome was relaxing with its Middle Eastern flavor. We sat on saffron and scarlet cushions while smoking on hooka pipes and watching a belly dancer. I even got up and did the belly dance myself. Center Camp, the main watering hole at Burning Man, was also a feast for the senses. It was like a circus big tent with bright colored banners and flags everywhere, a café, a stage with scheduled performances, a central area for acrobats and fire dancers, and couches and chairs for people to lounge on. The Opulent Temple of Venus was the place to be in the late evening and into the wee hours of the morning with its lineup of popular DJs. The Deep End was its counterpart during



Two Men Enter: One Man Leaves: The Thunderdome Photos Courtesy of Russ Fuller (Left) and Malibu (Top and Bottom).



the day until sunset. Dance music was the prevalent genre of music. I had to learn how to dance to house and techno really quick! Seeing as this is a speculative fiction e-zine, and being an SF fan myself, I made sure to check out some SF-themed camps. There was the Zaphod camp (based on Zaphod Beeblebrox from the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams), where they served free root beer, and Spike's Vampire Bar (based on Spike from Buffy the Vampire Slayer), where they had pole dancing classes. I also ran into a talking and moving robot, which answered questions and was quite the randy fella.

In fact, the whole week was just full of such serendipitous and synchronistic events. I never looked at the program of activities once and didn't even consult the list I brought with me of camps I wanted to see. I just let things flow and I ran into unexpected and amazing people, things and events. My first night there, I taught two of my camp mates the Can Can and did an impromptu performance on Center Camp's stage. And lo and behold, one of my vintage dance friends just happened to walk by and he recognized the dance and then me! I stumbled into a wedding at the Temple involving a couple who came all the way from Taiwan to get married at Burning Man! It was a beautiful and touching

ceremony, and surprisingly, they were friends with someone I met just two months ago! I also met people from all over the world... from Cornwall (my favorite place in England), Jersey (an Island in the English Channel I've been wanting to visit), Ireland, France, Taiwan, Vancouver, Seattle, and surprisingly, my hometown of Foster City! Yes, us suburbanites know how to let our hair down too. And people were just so giving and loving. I commented to someone as I was serving coffee that



A talking, and very amorous, robot

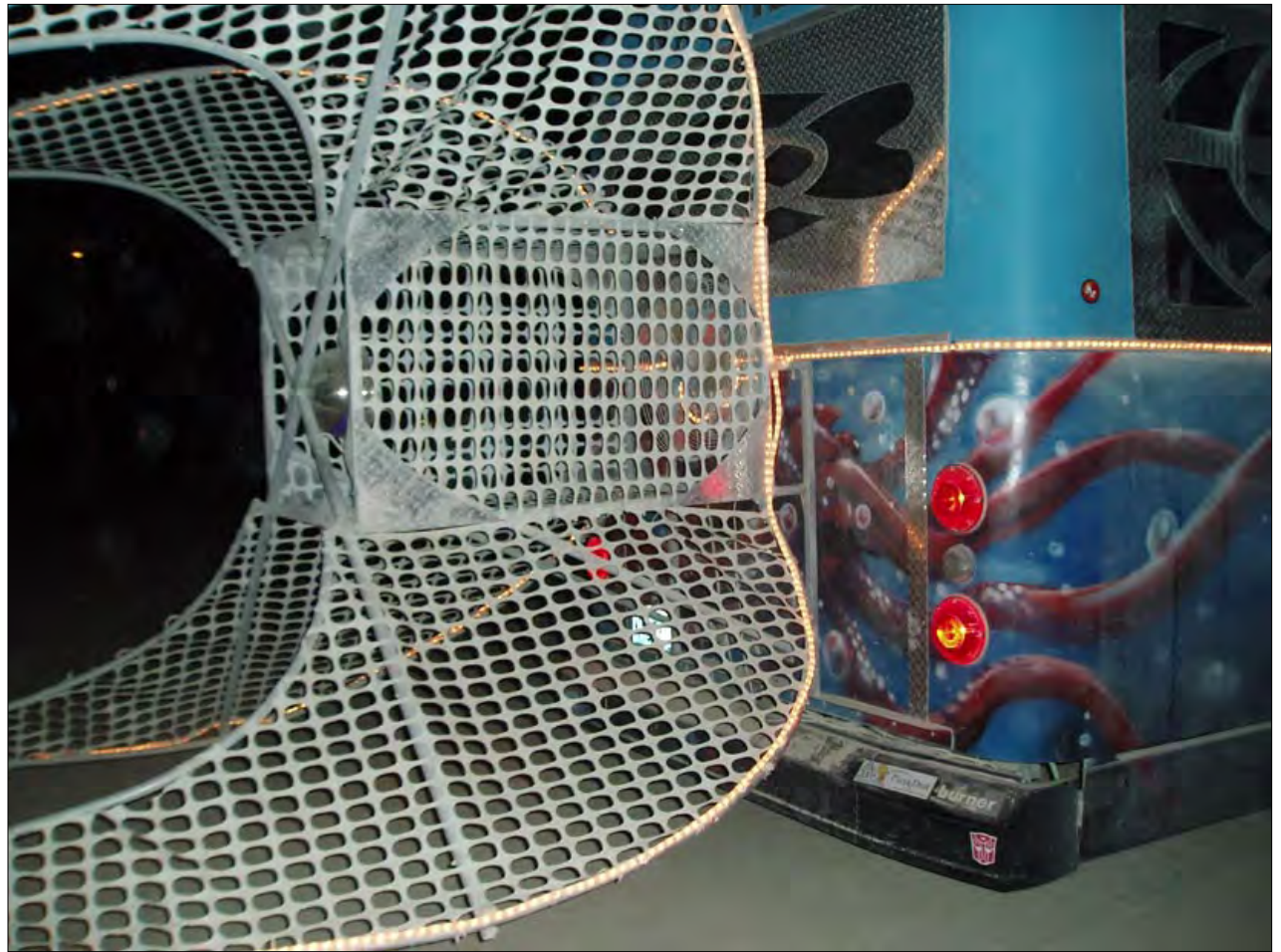
Photo: Jean Martin

I liked his hula hoop and he said if I wanted one he would come back the next day to give one to me. I didn't expect him to come back, but the next day, I was the proud owner of a pink and black hula hoop.

Well, let's come right down to it shall we. What everyone has been waiting for all week long... and for some people all year long. Saturday evening, the night of the Burn. After having a Mexican pot luck/camp meeting in the early evening with all 18 residents of Camp Stimulation, which was by the way the first time we were all together all at the same time, we all walked to the Man (an abstract facsimile of a man made of wooden stakes and pink and green neon lights) and patiently waited for what was to come. Us virgins were briefed at the meeting by one of our Camp's most experienced Burners so that we'd know what to expect and be able to take care of ourselves. There are spoilers coming up so if you've never been to Burning Man and want a fresh perspective on it if you do go, then skip to the next paragraph. By the way, I wore a Kill Bill "Bride" costume with two other women. I don't think there was any special significance to it, it was just a fun costume we agreed on. The festivities started with the most incredible fire dancing I've ever seen, which was accompanied by tribal

drumming. There were dancers with metal wings and flames shooting out of the tips, dancers with hula hoops of fire, jump ropes on flames, fire eaters and poi spinners. Hey, here are more dances I can learn! Anyway, I felt like I was back in prehistoric times participating in a ritual devoted to the gods of old. Then finally, explosions rocked

the base structure (where there previously was a maze with various rooms depicting different artists' interpretation of this year's art theme) and fireworks started shooting out of the Man. Fairly quickly, the entire structure was aflame with angry red and yellow tongues of fire. As soon as the Man fell to the ground, people started rushing



The Nautilus Art Car

Photo: Jean Martin

forward and it was chaos. Like a mosh pit but with everyone pretty much going counterclockwise or deosil (interesting... just like vintage ballroom dancing... oh, and witches trying to produce positive magic) as we were told people would do. As I walked three times around and felt the heat of the flames and saw the wreckage, I thought about what this all meant to me. Fire, of course, can be viewed as either good or bad. Its destructive force can undo the work of man and nature. But fire is also cleansing as it sweeps away the old to make room for the new. At that moment, I was reminded to learn to let go, that nothing is permanent, and that for every ending there is a beginning. Cliches all but they took on a much deeper and richer meaning on the Playa. I also felt like I tapped into the collective consciousness. As I walked, I saw people's faces were aglow with joy and awe. Everyone looked so beautiful and lit up from within, and in that same instant, a stranger walked in front of me and uttered the same exact words that were just then formulating in my mind. In the desert, without the comforts and conveniences of modern life, we were all connected and our real selves came out.

The next night, Sunday, was the night of the Temple burn. A more somber event and a hush came over the crowd as someone

Photo: Jean Martin

The Man before the burn.





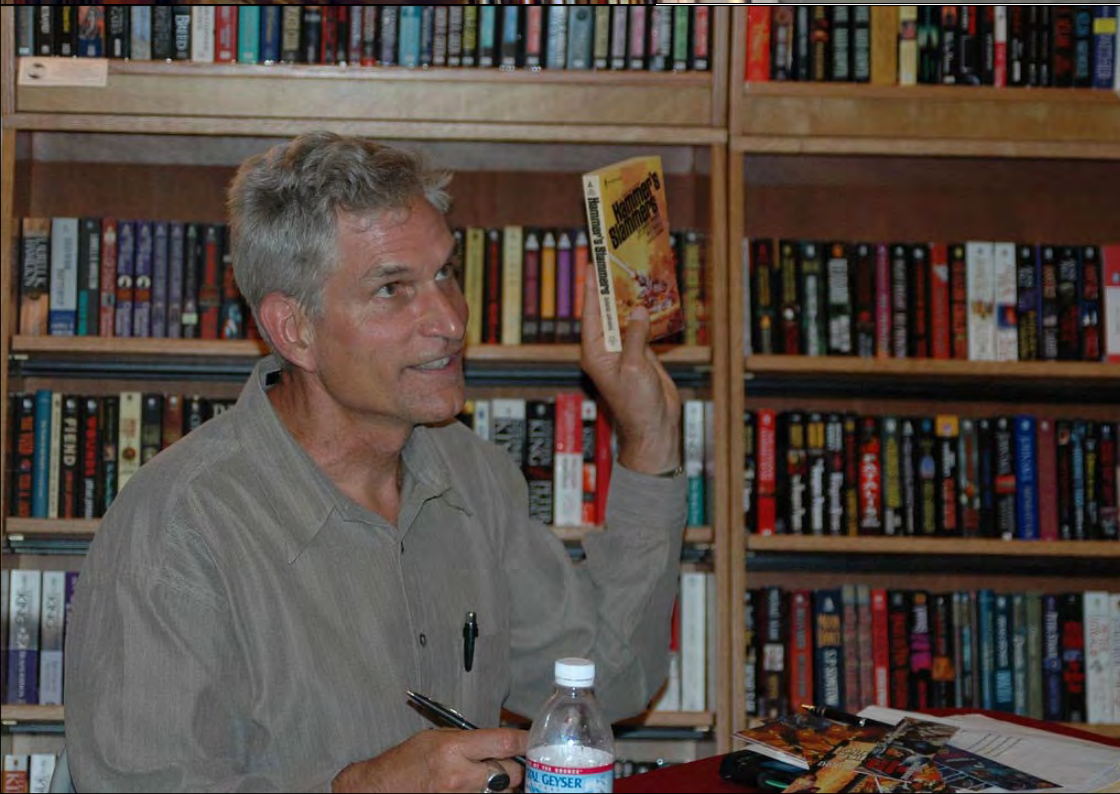
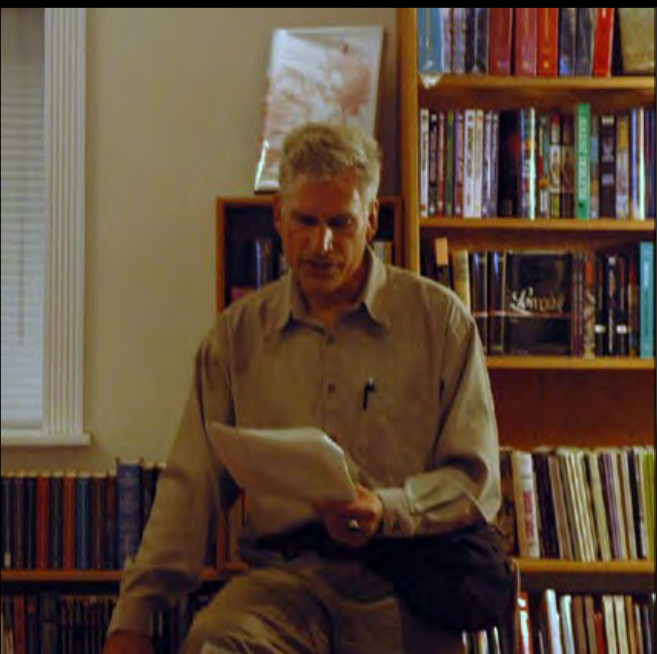
sang Ave Maria to remember the passing of loved ones. Earlier that day, we broke down our camp and burned most of our wooden structures in a burn barrel. I wanted to take a piece as a souvenir but decided that this would be my first test of being able to let go and just live with the memories in my heart. And not as a material object that I needed to possess. I left the next day soon after dawn and participated in the last Burning Man ritual called the Exodus as our vehicles trudged out of the Playa and back into the real world. Except we had no Moses to lead us to the Promise Land. Before we left, we made sure to “leave no trace” and picked up any MOOP (matter out of place). I was sad to leave the Playa, which became my home for a week. It wasn’t just an ordinary vacation. There’s nothing like Burning Man in the whole world. I felt very privileged to be a part of this unique anthropological phenomenon. Everything went so seamlessly and I’ll miss being around friends all day long, with no schedule and the freedom to do whatever I wanted and be whatever I wanted to be. I’ll even miss the Porta Potties. Well, there’s always next year!

Left: The Grand Finale as the Man burns

Photo: Jean Martin

David Drake Signing at Borderlands

Photos by Jeremy Lassen



Dragon*Con Convention Trip Report

By Dr. Noe
Staff Writer

Is flying cross-country for a convention crazy? Not if it's Dragon*Con (held Sept. 2-5 at the Hyatt Regency and Atlanta Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, Georgia).

I know that several people make the annual pilgrimage from all across the world to attend Comic Con in San Diego, but this is the first time I've done it for a con unless I was already heading in that direction and a nearby con was a bonus.

Now, this may get me into trouble with people who love Comic Con, but I actually enjoyed Dragon*Con more. Before coming after me with pitchforks, tar, and feathers, let me explain; as I've thought for years seeing pictures and hearing various things about D*Con, it seemed more of an adult con. And it is. Which is one of the main reasons it appealed to me. Not that kids don't look cute dressed up as Batman, Mike & Scully from Monsters Inc., or Darth Vader, but it's nice to have a con that caters to big kids. There is very little at D*Con for children.

First of all, the events are more geared like contest (which I unfortunately missed), for the mature. You have the Dawn look-a- authors including Forrest J. Akerman and



V Costumers

Photo: Dr. Noe

Anne McCaffrey, and one of my favorites, The Rocky Horror Picture Show among the hundreds of other events going on.

Second, the costumes are a little more on the risqué side that most family oriented cons. Whether it's scantily clad ladies walking the halls or the SPAT Costume contest (costumes that barely pass the rules of decency), there is definitely more skin shown, and more vague costumes for that matter.

Some of the costumes reached back into the days of my youth. There was an entire group from "V" (remember the nice lizard aliens that came to earth?), G Force, a Moon Knight, Rainbow Brite, John Carpenter's "The Thing," "The Greatest American Hero," GI Joe & Cobra, and Dirk and Daphne from the animated video game "Dragon's Lair." Sure, many of these are getting a new lease on life thanks to 80's properties returning in full-force, but it's the fondness I have of growing up with some of these things that made it better.

Not that there was a lack of modern costumes.

One costume that is very noteworthy, however; is the Red Cross Stormtrooper who was taking donations through the weekend for Hurricane Katrina relief.

Others from recent years included Men in Black, Stargate, Serenity (they

were everywhere!), Matrix, The Devil's Rejects, and many, many more.

As for the events, there was so much going on that it was enough to sate anybody's appetite. There were quite often more than one panel for various shows, movies, and more.

Serenity had no less than four panels during the weekend. Buffy the Vampire Slayer had several events as well including a "Buffy Prom," and the "Buffy Horror Picture Show" (hey, you got your "Rocky Horror Picture Show" in my "Once More with Feeling"). Before you start to think I'm Joss Whedon's sub-par PR, there



Photo: Dr. Noe
San Francisco Bay Area Costumers Neo Dave and Dr. Noe as characters from Ghostbusters.



were other great events blanketing the weekend.

Star Trek had various events encompassing the effects of Trek on society, Trek Trak which put Marina Sirtis, LeVar Burton, and Robin Curtis in pseudo-late-night talk show environment to talk and, well, answer questions, and even a TrekTrak Flik concert with Voltaire performing songs from his CD “Banned” (songs include “Worf’s Revenge,” “Sexy Data Tango,” and “Screw the Okampa”).

As with pretty much any con, especially this year, there was no lack of Star Wars panels and events. From costuming, fan films, and lightsabre dueling lessons, there was something for every Star Wars fan, even an MST3K version of “Empire.”

Other great events during the weekend were Battlestar Galactica, discussing old and new; Stargate; Farscape; panels on make-up, costuming, artist and writer panels/workshops, and gaming; lots and lots of gaming.

And of course, there was shopping (two rooms) and the celebrities, many, many celebrities.

Unfortunately with all of these great things going on during the weekend, it’s impossible to see everything. To make matters worse, if you have several interests it’s even more complicated to get to see everything you want, let alone participate in all of it.

There was a “Whose Line is it Anyway” competition going on throughout the weekend that I not only missed the opportunity to match wits with fellow con-goers, but also never attended any of the sessions. This just proves that like any con, you have to pick what you want to do wisely, and plan properly. This task becomes even more difficult when you’re a first-time D*Cer, which I was.

So, in light of my first year and not being able to see



Photos: Dr. Noe

Left: Collecting money for Hurricane Katrina victims in C-3PO's head.

Right: a very well done Moon Knight from Marvel Comics.



everything I wanted and missing even more, it was still a great event for the social aspect.

I have never been to a friendlier convention, whether just meeting people in the hallways and grabbing pictures, or hanging out with various random people in the bar, there was no lack of welcomeness the entire weekend. Even meeting up with the Cobra 21st Infantry (which I associated myself with recently) was great despite one of my costume SNAFUs for the weekend. I got to join them in the parade and party with them a bit during the rest of the weekend. Which is where I, at almost every large con run into problems.

The parade was huge, but seemed a bit short. It was held Saturday morning where all of the major contingents got together, and marched through the streets of Atlanta. This was a great chance for attendees to see some great groups (again, I was in this so I didn't really get to see much of those in the parade) who may have missed them during the con.

I love people that show up en-masse for costume and conning. The afore mentioned "V" group, Star Wars, Stargate, Colonial Marines ("Aliens"), various super heroes and super villains, and the Cobra 21st. However, the problem I have in associating myself with large costume groups (besides having to plan out costumes well beforehand) is

my varied interests that have me roaming all over the convention. Yes, it's great to be a part of the group, even when they're so inviting and like to party, but when there's so much to see and do, it becomes very difficult to stick with the group; especially my first time at D*Con.

There were no real problems or issues

that I saw during the weekend. Something occurred in the Hyatt that got photography banned from the main areas of the hotel Saturday and Sunday night, but I wasn't privy to what exactly that was. Otherwise, Dragon*Con was a great experience and one that I look forward to repeating (perhaps a bit more meticulously planned) next year.



Dr. Noe, far left, joins the Cobra 21st Infantry from G.I. Joe.

Photo: Dr. Noe

Robin Hobb Signs at Borderlands



Robin Hobb (Meagan Lindholm) signs and reads Sunday at Borderlands
Photos by Alan Beats, courtesy of Borderlands Books



Sacramento Comic and Toy Show

Photos by Jack Avery



Left: Neko as Faye Valentine and WhiteKnight as Spike from Cowboy Bebop.
Right: BSaphire and her daughter as characters from Vampire Princess Miyu.



Right: Cherry Tea Girl as a J-Rock recreation of Miyabe. Amazingly, this outfit is actually made mostly out of duct tape.

Below: Kuekue as a ninja from the country of rain from the anime Naruto, Rangy as Botan from Yu Yu Hakusho, Becca as an original angel creation and Lil' Slugger from Paranoid Agent.

For more photos from this and other Bay Area anime conventions, visit www.californiacosplaytimes.com. Brocas has photos from this show up and the rest of my photos will be posted eventually.





Left: Sushi as Misato from Neon Genesis Evangelion. During her performance in the costume contest, she sang the opening theme to the show, in the original Japanese.

Right: Imarichan as Ryo-chan from Real Bout High School





Left: Renegade Pocky as King from King of Fighters and her daughter as Milk Chan.

Left: Francine from Edhead Cosplay organized the cosplay contest.





Editor's Choice: I'm completely biased, as these are my friends, but it's my zine, so I'm declaring this group as the best of show and running lots of photos of them.

That's Pegasus Maiden on the left, with a costume based on Nina Thomas' Red Hearts, and Jennycat, below, as Tira from Soul Caliber III.





Jennicat and Pegasus Maiden created Tira's blade weapon out of resin. Below: Pegasus Maiden shows off the detail work on a commissioned Vash the Stampede costume that she made, worn by Andrew.





Naruto continues to be popular with cosplayers. You can now even order custom Sharingan contact lenses to complete your Uchiha Itachi as Ashadeus, below right, has done.

Left: standing: Genma as Iruka Sensei, Ashadeus, Silent Guitarist as Uchiha Sasuke, kneeling: Pink Ninja as Sakura and Darkened Wings as the ANBU version of Uchiha Itachi.

Below Left: Darkened Wings as ANBU Itachi



Michael Blumlein at Borderlands

Local Author Michael Blumlein at a recent Borderlands Books signing and reading to promote his new book **The Healer**.

See the calendar for details of his next signing on Sept. 14.

Photos by Alan Beats courtesy Borderlands Books



BASFA Minutes: meeting 789

Sept 5, 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 8:00 p.m.

7 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 788 were accepted as 'laborious'.

[no Treasurer] Treasurer's report by proxy was that last week we took in \$3.50.

VP reports: neither were present.

The President reported that Cascadia Con seems to have sucked away our attendance and he said he has party paraphernalia that needs a home - plus that we need a new party maven.

Announcements:

Mike announced there is a free screening of *Serenity* at the Metreon at 4 p.m. on Wednesday - so check the Yahoo group for the SFBrowncoats for more details.

Reviews:

Jim reviewed Burning Man as great and

hot and that lots of people were there [more than 30,000] - that local fans attended; he had a wonderful time & thinks it worth full price.

Joanie reviewed *Queen of the Damned* on the SciFi channel as "it was incredible to see how so much bad could be crammed into the time it took" and rates it as worth background noise.

Mike managed to avoid seeing *Frankenfish*.

We adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was that "labor is overrated".

BASFA Minutes: meeting 790

Meeting 790

Sept. 12, 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 8:02 p.m.

14 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 789 were accepted as 'belabored'.

Treasurer's report was that last week we

took in \$0.50.

VP reports = no Nathan [week 3]; VP Chris reported that new issues of 'Drink Tank' are coming out.

The President got a wealth of silverware & reported that he has party stuff that he

Continued Next Page

wants to fob off on a new party maven.

We said 'hi' to Glen, visiting from LA & he commented he may be moving up here in 2007.

Art had email from Matthew, a SF resident who'd like to attend meetings but needs a ride & inquired if anyone drives in from SF & could help him.

Chris suggested he may restart 'Justifying the Neans', the BASFA newsletter & this was greeted positively.

Announcements:

Kevin announced there are new Emerald Cities & that Cheryl plans to take the 'zine semi-pro.

Chris announced he will be doing another movie Oct 16 & would like volunteer stunt drivers for slow speed driving therein.

Dave C. announced that fan Kelly Turner is in hospital. He also announced The Other Change of Hobbit is putting up auction items on Ebay for Katrina relief & various charities.

Frank announced there are Ebay auctions to add your name to various fiction [by Stephen King, Amy Tam, Neil Gaiman & others].

Reviews:

Julie reviewed a series of YA melodramatic books with cliff-hanger

endings that included *Both Sides of Time* as "nice if you like that sort of thing" and worth library

Kevin Standlee reviewed one of the busiest weeks of his life as being fan GoH at a NASFIC was pretty neat & he tried to be a good guest & had a great time; he reviewed the NASFIC as well-attended but too spread out & he enjoyed the board of inquiry & worth far more than he paid for it.

NASFIC was reviewed by Chris as he had a good time & that it did have problems & the fanzine lounge was FANtastic, worth 3/4 of what he paid for it; Glen reviewed that the program guide blame should be laid at the feet of only one person & you needed a secret decoder ring to figure it out; Dave C. agreed about the program guide problems & as a dealer had other problems – such as the website program participants varied from real life – so it made stocking a table difficult; Dave G. said he was there for only part of the con & thought the dealer's room was in a bad space, as was the standing exhibits area – but this was due to the facility being built into a hill, but that the expected attendance did not justify 10 tracks of programming; the Board of Inquiry was reviewed as 'Kevin was railroaded'; that it was all Seth's fault & Kevin got off on a technicality & that the

board of inquiry was hijacked by pirates.

Dave G. reviewed the IMAX *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* as worth full price.

Dave C. reviewed *The End of the Road* by Tom Bodett as good short stories for a dentist's office visit, worth pb & reviewed *The Unquiet Grave* by Evans as the "grimmiest, highest body-count Dr. Who book he has ever read" & worth getting free.

We auctioned off stuff; books for \$1.00 & \$2.25, a CD for \$1.25; a pen for \$1.00; audio for \$1.00; comic for \$1.00; magazine for \$1.25 & 2 glasses for \$3.75 & \$4.25.

We adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Letters of Comment from page 3

It was part of my editorial policy to be inclusive, I tried very hard to cover all segments of fandom, even those that I'm not personally interested in. I really don't want this zine to be a pulp magazine/written SF/animelAsian fantasy film zine. I think I managed to avoid that, but there's still a lot of groups out there that I wasn't able to make contact with. I needed better coverage of the filkers, the Gay-laxians, traditional fandom, paper fanzines fandom, Star Wars fans, written SF and many others.

Despite my feeble pleas, I never got any trip reports from the Worldcon, so I don't know about the Mars Bars.

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.
Canceled Events are in violet

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 14

Bay Area Role-Playing Society

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. (Not confirmed, check before attending.)

September 16- 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:

Friday, Sept 16, 10 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 17, 4 p.m.

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

Through September 18

Such Stuff as Dreams are Made On: a two person adaptation of The Tempest

The Off-Market Theatre

965 Mission Street (between 5th & 6th)
San Francisco
8:00pm-9:30pm
\$15

A two-person adaptation of Shakespeare's *Tempest*

Please call (617)962-6158 to RSVP. For full schedule and times visit www.knighthorse.org.

Friday, September 16

Anime Style Drawing and Animation Techniques

Frank Bette Center for the Arts
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

Drop-in class, all skill levels welcome. (Event is not verified, check before attending)

Friday, September 16

SF Games

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.

Through September 17

Art Exhibit

srl.org/shows/events/hayes/

Hayes Valley Market

580 Hayes St. (at Laguna)

San Francisco

11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

A "Dynamic Art Installation" organized by Mark Pauline, founder of Survival Research Laboratories (SRL). Part of the *J.G. Ballard Conversations* book release event.

Wednesday, September 14

Spirited Away

Red Vic Movie House

1727 Haight Street

San Francisco

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 Heavy Metal God Thor battles Satan in this very low budget horror movie, thus qualifying it as speculative fiction.

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

Thursday, September 15

Chupacabra: A Puppet Show by Shadow Circus Creature Theatre

w/ Musical acts Fuga and the Afro-Caribbean Ensemble & DJs Alicante & Sonido Urbano

www.shadowcircus.com

The Balazo Gallery

2183 Mission Street (at 18th)

San Francisco

8:00 p.m.

\$5

Combining folklore, mythology, Lovecraftian monsters and pop-culture parody, Shadow Circus Creature Theatre has been one of San Francisco's most popular and outrageous puppetry troupes since its formation in 2000. Using life-sized latex and foam creatures Shadow Circus creates a world that is utterly fantastic, and yet hilariously similar to our own.

Shadow Circus presents 'Chupacabra': Overlord Hatchet buys a Chupacabra with the intention of entering him in pit fight competitions for money. But when his new pet mauls a bystander, the Mayor tries to pass a law that will ban Chupacabras from the entire city! Can Overlord Hatchet stop Mayor Newson from taking away his new-found scaly friend? Find out this Thursday, when the Shadow Circus Creature Theatre performs 'Chupacabra'

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

Thursday - Saturday, September 15-17

The Las Vegas-nauts
New Langton Arts
1246 Folsom Street (between 8th and 9th
streets)
San Francisco
Doors: 7:30 p.m.
\$17- \$20 sliding scale

The Thunderbird Theatre Company's
comedy featuring the Swiss Mafia, super
heroes and mutant villians. Set in Las Ve-
gas, it of course features an Elvis imperson-
ator, "E" the last son of Graceland.

Friday, September 16

Christopher Paolini signing
Maria Carrillo High School Auditorium
6975 Montecito Blvd.
Santa Rosa
707-823-2618
Receive one ticket with purchase of Eldest
at Copperfield's Books
\$10 for additional tickets
7 p.m.

Friday - Sunday, 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 and Sunday, September 17-18

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 17

Pokemon Rocks America
www.pokemon.com
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
150 San Carlos St.
San Jose
Free

Saturday, September 17

Kevin Murphy appearance and reading
Dimensions in Time Grand Opening
www.dimensionsintime.com
4235 Arden Way
Sacramento
Free
Noon - 4 p.m.

Kevin Murphy (Mystery Science The-
ater 3000's Tom Servo and Professor Bobo)
will be signing memorabilia and copies of
his book *A Year At The Movies - One Man's*
Filmgoing Odyssey.

More Events Next Page

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

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

Christopher Paolini

San Ramon Valley High School

140 Love Lane

Danville

925-837-7337

Ticket with purchase of *Eldest* at Rakestraw

Books

6 p.m.

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.

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.)”

Saturday, September 17

Rocky Horror Picture Show

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

Sunday, September 17

The Fannish Imperial Guard's Brunch

Absinthe Brasserie

398 Hayes Street at Gough Street

San Francisco

11 a.m.

Free

The FIGs meet most Sundays for brunch, conversation, and occasional high silliness in a restaurant determined by the group with no set plan other than showing up at 11 a.m.

The brunch is followed by lengthy adventures about the bay area using public transportation to view some of the many things the bay area has to offer, fannish or not. Please RSVP to either mishalak@livejournal.com or aiglet@livejournal.com so that reservations can be made when there are large groups.

Sunday, September 18

Northern California Mars Society

San Jose Public Library

San Jose

1 p.m.

Free

Sunday, September 18

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*.

Note corrected day and time

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 *Bellwether* by **Connie Willis**. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Note: the book for this meeting has been changed as the original book chosen is out of print.

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

With Patrick Simms, Stoo Odom and Jim Fourniadis. Pirate cat radio night.

From their website:

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.

More Events Next Page

Monday, September 19

Cal Animage Alpha

155 Dwinelle

Univeristy of California

Berkeley

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Free

Schedule:

Full Metal Panic! The Second Raid

Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday September 19

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

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 and Sunday, September 24-25

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 24

USS Augusta Ada Meeting

Starfleet Chapter

trek.starshine.org

Round Table Pizza

5160 Geary Blvd

San Francisco

Free

1 p.m.

Saturday, September 24

Tachyon Publications Anniversary Party

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

2 p.m.

Free

More Events Next Page

Saturday, September 24

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

Last performance.

Saturday, September 24

Rocky Horror Picture Show

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.

Sunday, September 25

East Bay Skeptic Society Meeting

China Village

1335 Solano Avenue

Albany

6:00 p.m.

Topic: Reports from toolbox and maybe Esalen; maybe “Earthquake preparedness: what’s real” as discussion.

Monday, September 26

Cal Animage Alpha

145 Dwinelle

Univeristy of California

Berkeley

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Free

Schedule:

Tsubasa Chronicle

Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday, September 26

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick’ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday, September 27

Japanimation Book Group (Graphic Novel)

Barnes & Noble Booksellers

6111 Sunrise Blvd.

Citrus Heights

916-853-1511

7 p.m.

Free

Tuesday, September 27

Mr. Cleaver

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

Cancelled. Venue Closed

More Events Next Page

Friday, September 30

Fabulandia: Terra Opening Reception

Artists: David Hamill, Carrie Lederer, Philip Ross, James Sansing, Tonya Solley Thornton and Genevieve Quick

The LAB

2948 16th Street

San Francisco

p: 415.864.8855

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Continues through October 29

Gallery Hours: Wednesdays-Saturdays, 1-6 p.m.

From the website:

“Fabulandia is a two-part exhibition that speculates on the world of the future. A fantastical place, filled with new strains of plants and odd creatures that inhabit a mysterious landscape barely recognizable as planet Earth. The first in the Fabulandia series, Terra, presents the work of six artists envisioning this futuristic environment - an overloaded world that meshes the natural with the artificial in a landscape filled with sleek urban-scapes, extraordinary gardens and terrains of the impossible. Rather like an analog vision of a digital future, the exhibition ranges from carefully rendered works on paper depicting futuristic plants and structures to post-apocalyptic landscapes made from plumbing supplies and

motorized shrubbery. Welcome to a place called Fabulandia, where low-tech and high-tech collide in a hybridized vision of the future.

“Fabulandia: Fauna opens in January 2006 with a look at the drastically altered creatures that populate the terrain of Fabulandia.”

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

Sonoma-Marin County Fairgrounds

Petaluma

Noon Friday – 4 p.m. Sunday

\$12-\$15

Tourney to determine successor for the Kingdom of the West.

More Events Next Page

September 30-October 5

Mirrormask

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 and Sunday, October 1-2

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, October 1

Hayward Comic Con

www.borderlands-books.com
Centennial Hall
22292 Foothill Blvd.
Hayward
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
\$5

Dealer's room. Guests: Marshall Rogers, Alex Suviak, Tony DeZuniga, Chris Marinan, Tim Vigil, Joe Vigil, Nate Watson.

Saturday, October 1

Ellen Steiber appearance

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

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*.

Saturday, October 1

Terry Pratchett appearance

The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free

Terry Pratchett (*Thud*) reads and signs.

Saturday, October 1

Rocky Horror Picture Show

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.

Sunday, October 2

Foothills Anime Showing

Room 1500
Foothills College
12345 El Monte Road
Los Altos Hills
foothill.anime.net
12 Noon -
Free

Schedule:

Space Cruiser Yamato #3 (sub)

TBA

My:Hime #19-20 (sub)

Monster #31-32 (sub)

Tsubasa #5-6 (sub)

Anime Music Videos

Beck #19-20 (sub)

TBA

Ebichu Minds the House #7-8**(sub)

** Not for children 18+ only.

More Events Next Page

Monday, October 3

Cal Animage Alpha

145 Dwinelle

Univeristy of California

Berkeley

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Free

Schedule:

Eyeshield 21

Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday, October 3

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday, October 4

Stanford Newtype Anime Club

www.stanford.edu/group/newtype

Loction TBD

Palo Alto

8 p.m.

Free

Weekends October 7-30

Batman!!! The TV Show: The Play

www.darkroomsf.com

Tthe Darkroom

2263 Mission St. (b/t 18 & 19)

San Francisco

Fri. and Sat. 7:30 p.m.

Sun. 3 p.m

\$15.

From their website:

“Impossible productions presents BATMAN!!! The TV Show: The Play, an original episode and campy tribute to Bob Cane’s suave crime fighters and the copas-etic 60’s TV show that made us love them.

“Pandemonium reigns when the theft of a molecular mass divisor signals the first domino to fall in a nefarious crime wave to topple the noble city of Gotham. Who will rescue the fair citizens of this great metropolis?!?! Holy obvious set up, old chum!! It’s none other than that dynamic duo Batman and Robin, the caped crusaders of justice, freedom and tortured aphorisms!

“But will they succeed when arch-super-master-criminals, the Joker, the Riddler, Catwoman and the Penguin-four of Gotham’s most fiendish and fearsome foes-join felonious forces?!?!? And what happens when Aunt Harriet secret shenanigans land her in the middle of their salacious schemes?!?!? Does the Joker’s plot device

spell out a tragic ending for the Caped Crusader and Boy Wonder?!?! It will take every ingenious gadget in their utility belts, every spare scrap of spandex and every entry in their thesauruses to thwart these dastardly evil-doers as they aim to steal the world’s first supercomputer. Will our heroes fare well? Or will it be a Bat-tastrophe?!?!?”

October 7-9

Silicon 2005

www.siliconventions.com

Doubletree Hotel

San Jose

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

Saturday and Sunday, October 8-9

Northern California Ren Faire

<http://www.norcalrenfaire.org>

Pacheco Pass Highway

Hollister

10 am. to 6 p.m.

\$15 in advance

\$20 at gate

More Events Next Page

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 \$15

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.

Saturday, October 8

SF Browncoats

sfbrowncoats.com

Cafe Murano

San Francisco

Noon

Free

Serenity/Firefly fan group. Meets every second Saturday of each month.

Join the yahoo group from the link on their website for schedule updates.

Saturday, October 8

Fiona Avery appearance

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

2 p.m.

Free

Author of *The Crown Rose* will sign.

Saturday, October 8

John Ringo appearance

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

4 p.m.

Free

More Events Next Page

Sunday, October 9

Speculative Fiction Book Club

Kepler's Books

Cancelled. Venue Closed

Monday, October 10

Cal Animage Alpha

Location TBA

Univeristy of California

Berkeley

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Free

Schedule:

Loveless

Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday, October 10

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday, October 11

Sci-Fi Book Club

Barnes & Noble Booksellers

3501 McHenry Avenue, Suite E

Modesto

209-521-1118

7 p.m.

Free

Wednesday, October 12

Fabulandia: Terra Artists Talk

7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

\$3-\$10 sliding scale admission

See Friday, September 30 for a description of the show. From the website:

“Come for an informal presentation and discussion with The LAB’s exhibiting artists in the context of their latest work. Meet the members of Fabulandia: Terra, Q & A will follow.”

Thursday, October 13

Thrillville’s Horror Host Palooza 2005!

Dracula vs. Frankenstein

Astro Zombies

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.

Saturday and Sunday, October 15-16

Northern California Ren Faire

<http://www.norcalrenfaire.org>

Pacheco Pass Highway

Hollister

10 am. to 6 p.m.

\$15 in advance

\$20 at gate

Last weekend for this event.

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.

Monday, October 17

Cal Animage Alpha

Location TBA

Univeristy of California

Berkeley

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Free

Schedule:

Law of Ueki

Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday, October 17

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick’ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

More Events Next Page

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*.

Thursday, October 20

Sci-Fi & Fantasy Book Group

Barnes & Noble Booksellers

Creekside Town Center

1256 Galleria Boulevard

Roseville

916-788-4320

7 p.m.

Free

Thursday, 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.

Friday, October 21

William Winckler’s Frankenstein vs. The Creature From Blood Cove

www.bayareafilmevents.com

Hyatt Theater

Highway 101 Broadway Overpass

Burlingame

Time: TBA

Cost: TBA

The Northern California premiere of this horror movie tribute to the great horror movies of the past. Filmed in black and white, and featuring not only Frankenstein’s monster and the Creature, but also a werewolf.

This event will be hosted by legendary horror movie host The Ghoul. Cast and crew will also be present. Question and answer session with director William Winckler. Plus horror shorts.

Friday, 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

Friday, October 21

Chris Ware appearance

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

Time: TBD

Free

Saturday, October 22

William Winckler's Frankenstein vs. The Creature From Blood Cove

www.bayareafilmevents.com

Auctions by the Bay

Alameda

Time: TBA

Cost: TBA

A second Northern California showing of this horror movie tribute to the great horror movies of the past. Filmed in black and white, and featuring not only Frankenstein's monster and the Creature, but also a werewolf.

This event will be hosted by legendary horror movie host The Ghoul. Cast and crew will also be present. Question and answer session with director William Winckler. Plus horror shorts.

Saturday, October 22

Chris Ware signing

Kepler's Books

Cancelled. Venue Closed

Saturday, 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.

Monday, October 24

Cal Animage Alpha

Location TBA

Univeristy of California

Berkeley

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Free

Schedule:

Glass Mask

Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday, October 24

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday, October 25

Clive Barker

Stacey's Books

581 Market Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

415-421-4687

Noon

More Events Next Page

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*.

Tuesday, October 25

Clive Barker

Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

415-863-8688

7 p.m.

Free

Tuesday, October 25

Japanimation Book Group (Graphic Novel)

Barnes & Noble Booksellers

6111 Sunrise Blvd.

Citrus Heights

916-853-1511

7 p.m.

Free

Tuesday, October 25

Clive Barker appearance

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

Time: TBD

Free

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Robert Jordan appearance

Cody's Stockton Street

2 Stockton Street

San Francisco

7:30 p.m.

Free

Thursday, October 27, 2005

R. A. Salvatore appearance

Barnes & Noble Booksellers

3600 Stevens Creek Blvd

San Jose

408-984-3495

7:00 p.m.

Free

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Robert Jordan appearance

Bay Book Co.

Strawflower Shopping Center

80 F. Cabrillo Hwy.

Half Moon Bay

7:00 p.m.

Free

Thursday, October 27

Lost Boys

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

9:15 p.m.

Trivia, prizes, contests.

October 28-30

Yaoicon 5

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.

More Events Next Page

Friday, October 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.

Friday, 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.

Saturday, October 29, 2005

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

Saturday, 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.

Saturday, October 29

Flashlight Tour
Winchester Mystery House
www.winchestermysteryhouse.com
525 South Winchester Boulevard
San Jose
6 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.
\$31

Monday, October 31

Flashlight Tour
Winchester Mystery House
www.winchestermysteryhouse.com
525 South Winchester Boulevard
San Jose
6 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.
\$31

Monday, October 31

Cal Animage Alpha
Location TBA
Univeristy of California
Berkeley
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Free

Schedule:
Trinity Blood
Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday, October 31

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

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.

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).

Monday, November 7

Lemony Snicket appearance

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

Time: TBD

Free

More Events Next Page

Monday, November 7

Cal Animage Alpha

Location TBA

Univeristy of California

Berkeley

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Free

Schedule:

Mar

Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday, November 7

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Thursday, November 10

Charles Burns

Diesel, A Bookstore

5433 College Avenue

Oakland

510-653-9965

7:30 p.m.

Free

Friday, 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

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, November 12

SF Browncoats

sfbrowncoats.com

Cafe Murano

San Francisco

Noon

Free

Serenity/Firefly fan group. Meets every second Saturday of each month.

Join the yahoo group from the link on their website for schedule updates.

Saturday, November 12

No Name Anime Showing

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga

12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. or so

Free

Saturday – Sunday, November 12-13

Robot Fighting League 2005 National Championship

www.botleague.com

combots.net/index

Herbst Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

San Francisco

\$20

Noon – 11 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, November 12-13

Creation's Salute to Sci-Fi TV

Wyndham San Jose

1350 N. First Street

San Jose

Sunday, November 13

Speculative Fiction Book Club

Kepler's Books

Cancelled. Venue Closed

Monday, November 14

Cal Animage Alpha

Location TBA

Univeristy of California

Berkeley

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Free

Schedule:

Zipang

Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday, November 14

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Wednesday, November 16

George R. R. Martin Appearance

Copperfield's Books

140 Kentucky St.

Petaluma

7 p.m.

Free

Thursday, November 17

George R. R. Martin Appearance

Stacy's Books

581 Market Street

San Francisco

12:30 p.m.

Free

Friday, November 18

George R. R. Martin Appearance

Kepler's Books

Cancelled. Venue Closed

Friday, November 18

George R. R. Martin Appearance

Bay Book Co.

Half Moon Bay

7:00 p.m.

Free

Sunday, 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 for more information.

Monday, November 21

Cal Animage Alpha

Location TBA

Univeristy of California

Berkeley

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Free

Schedule:

Sosei no Aquarion

Weekly: Honey & Clover

More Events Next Page

Monday, November 21

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

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.

Saturday, November 26

Roman Dirge appearance

Hobby Monkey

10000 Fairway Drive #140

Roseville

Free

Creator of *Lenore* and *Haunted Mansion*.

Monday, November 28

Cal Animage Alpha

Location TBA

Univeristy of California

Berkeley

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Free

Schedule:

Initial D: The 4th Stage

Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday, November 28

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday, November 29

A Zathura Science Spectacular with the Mad

Scientists

Kepler's Books

Cancelled. Venue Closed

Monday, December 5

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Saturday, 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.

Saturday, December 10

SF Browncoats

sfbrowncoats.com

Cafe Murano

San Francisco

Noon

Free

Serenity/Firefly fan group. Meets every second Saturday of each month.

Join the yahoo group from the link on their website for schedule updates.

More Events Next Page

Sunday, December 11

Sacramento Comic, Toy & Anime Show

www.sacramentocomics.com

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$5.00

Dealer's room, anime viewing room, contests, Yugioh & Magic tournaments, cosplay contest at 2 p.m.

Monday, December 12

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Saturday and Sunday, 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.

Sunday, 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 for more information.

Monday, December 19

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Monday, December 26

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

More Events Next Page

Saturday, January 14, 2006

SacAnime 2006

www.sacramentocomics.com

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

\$5.00

Dealer's room, anime viewing room, contests, Yugioh & Magic tournaments, cosplay contest.

Sunday, 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 for more information.

January 19-23, 2006

Further Confusion

San Jose Doubletree

www.furtherconfusion.org

\$40

Furry convention with an emphasis on art. Dealer's room, programming, anime.

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 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 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 for more information.

Sunday, April 24, 2006

3DB Con

www.threedollarbill.com/3DBcon

Three Dollar Bill Cafe 1800 Market Street
San Francisco

10 a.m.-10 p.m.

\$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.

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 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.

More Events Next Page

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.

*Anime Style Drawing and Animation
Techniques*

Frank Bette Center for the Arts

www.frankbettecenter.org/

1601 Paru Street

Alameda, CA 94501

510-523-6957

Fridays 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.

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. (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

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.