

Science Fiction/San Francisco

Issue 26

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Special One Year Anniversary Issue!

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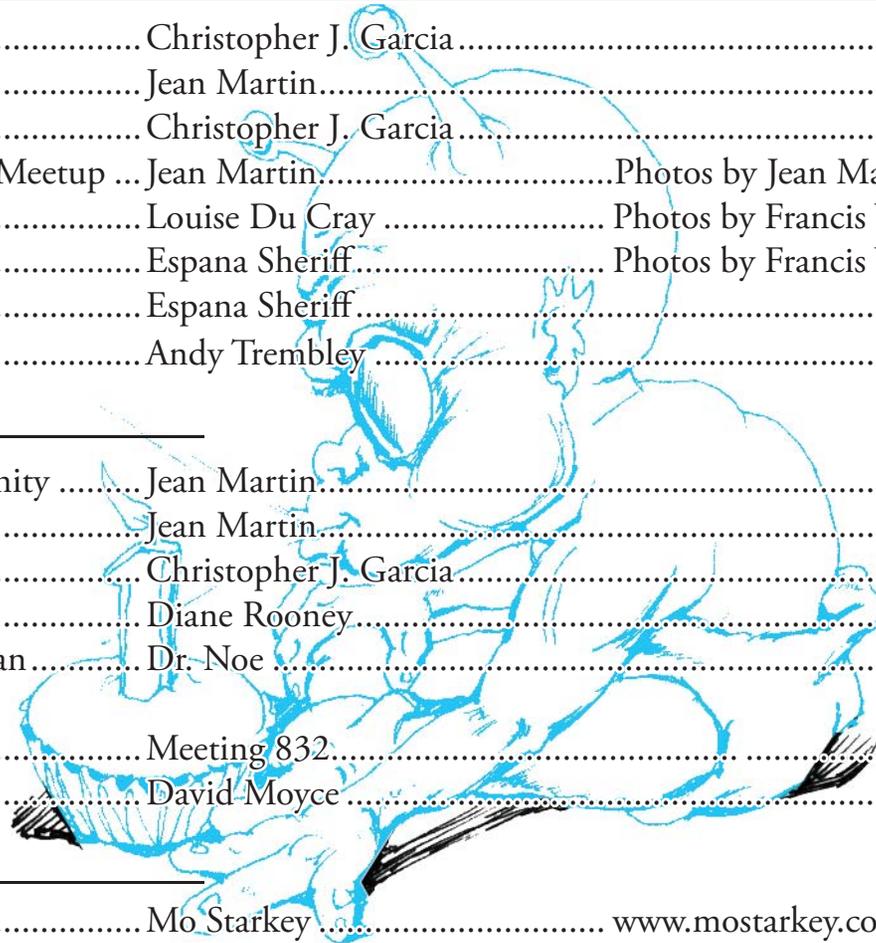
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News and Notes

Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

After some wrangling with the DoubleTree San Jose Airport, the 2007 WesterCon has relocated to the San Mateo Marriott. The Marriott was the site of a number of card shows in the 1990s and a few other fannish type things over the years. This marks a major swing from the past, as the DoubleTree has hosted dozens of conventions and been the symbolic center of fannish activity for the BArea.

While there's no word on what officially caused the change, there is also no word yet on whether or not BayCon will return to the DoubleTree (though it is believed that it will also relocate), and the status of other cons at the hotel has not yet been confirmed. It is believed that all cons that have contracted with the DoubleTree through early 2007 will be there, including Further Confusion, SiliCon and Pantheon.

In other WesterCon news, Las Vegas won the site selection for the 2008 WesterCon. The JW Marriott, a newish facility off the Strip, was chosen, largely for the incredible, though pricey, rooms. The con is nicknamed Burning Fan, with Kage

Baker as Writer Guest of Honor, Lubov as Artist Guest of Honor and Milt Stevens as Fan Guest.

Fanzines Published

Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

eFanzines.com has been busy, as always. Three issues of Vegas Fandom Weekly have been released. The first was a regular issue, the second, number 80, was an updated version of the Fannish Worry Book, which features a gag about me! There's also a special issue dedicated to brief messages about the death of rich brown numbered issue 79. Arnie has announced that there will be a special rich brown memorial issue.

The Drink Tank has been busy. Issues 87 and 88 have been released, including an issue about Mexico and Mexicans.

John Purcell has also put out an issue of And Furthermore that talks about the Chris for TAFF race and features several LoCs from the best known LetterHacks in fandom.

Jan Stinson also gives us another issue of Peregrine Nations. This issue features a huge (15 pages) LetterCol with LetterHacks large from around the world.

WorldCon Preview

Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

We're only about a month away and there's a lot brewing for the Anaheim WorldCon. Along with the 40th Anniversary of *Star Trek* attracting such guests as Marina Sirtis and Walter Koenig, we've got great guests of honor like Connie Willis and James Gurney. There's also a long list of folks coming from around the world to the event.

One of those people is a former BAreaite and current comic book writer/filmmaker Greg Pak. He wrote and directed *Robot Stories*, one of the best SF movies of the last five years, and has done shorts that are all the rage at film festivals like Cinequest. He's currently writing *The Hulk* and has had stints on comics like *Warlock*.

I'm not sure if he'll be showing his films or not.

A local fan who doesn't show up nearly enough in the pages of SF/SF is Lenny Bailes. A longtime fan, he and Arnie Katz started doing zines together back in the 1960s. His credits are far too long to list, including being one of the best participants in the CorFlu Titanium production of "Read and Enjoyed, But No Content," and being one of the driving forces behind Potlatch.

Peter Beagle will be on programming as well. The BArea guy who grew up in Brooklyn wrote *The Last Unicorn* as well as the Sarek episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (according to the LACon website). He's a great reader (I opened for him last month!).

Photographers Ctein and James Stanley Daugherty will both be there, and I'm betting will both have pieces in the art show. A pair of jokers, Christopher J. Garcia and Tom Galloway, will both be on paneling, quite possibly together as they always seem to either get a computer history panel or a comic book panel thrust upon them. Filk star and former Match Game panelist Lynn Gold will also be on programming.

More than any year I can remember, this year's WorldCon will feature comic book professionals: Bernie Wrightson, co-

creator of *Swamp Thing*, Marv Wolfman, who did *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, Keith DeCanditto, and Phil Foglio. Along with a number of animators from Dreamworks, Disney and elsewhere, cartoons and comics fans will not be disappointed.

And let us not overlook the important people of fandom whom we sometimes forget. Jack Speer, Art Widner and Forry Ackerman will all be in town. If you get a chance, make sure to see Art's fantastic slideshow on the early days of SF fandom.

Greetings from Lake Wu to be Reprinted

Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

Greetings From Lake Wu, the collaboration between Palo Alto's own Frank Wu and former BayCon Writer Guest of Honor Jay Lake, is getting a full reprinting as the first selection offered from Traife Buffet, a new "super-luxury" press headed up by former BAreaans Daniel Spector and Kelly Buehler -- a sumptuous version with touches such as a fine Thai silk cover and more. Also three new stories by Jay and three new illustrations by Frank

and a new introduction to the author by perennial Hugo nominee Steven H. Silver and to the artist by some guy named Christopher J. Garcia. It should be available at WorldCon.

Hollister in 2008 Report

Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

The Hollister in 2008 (hoax) WorldCon bid hosted a party in San Diego during WesterCon. Hosted by bid-chair Andy Trembley and Kevin Roche, the traditional hosts of the League of Evil Geniuses parties, it was well-attended and fun, featuring all sorts of goodies from Casa de Fruta.

The bid itself is rolling along with more than sixty supporters from twelve states (and Wales!), has managed to put out five Regress Reports (the most recent is viewable at <http://www.bovil.com/Conventions/hollister2008/PachecoProgress5.pdf>), and will be hosting a blow-out party at LACon IV.



Mountain Sly by Mo Starkey

www.mostarkey.com

Letters Of Comment

John Purcell Writes:

Hello once again, BASFAnS!

A healthy lettercolumn is a good sign for a clubzine. Let's all hope it keeps going.

Lloyd Penney mentions that wonderful hoax bid of Myles' House in '89, which I remember well. Hoax bids are a long and wonderful fannish tradition, and it is very reassuring to see that you folks are keeping this alive with the Hollister in '08 bid. I'll gladly do my part by running support linos in my zines. Speaking of hoax con bids, back in 1976 at that year's Minicon, there was a regional teachers' convention going on in the same hotel, and they likewise were site-selecting for their future cons. So, a bunch of us sf fans grabbed handfuls of "Little Rock is Ready for 1979" buttons, and started passing them out at conventions throughout the country. The beauty of this hoax bid was that it was completely spur of the moment, and that 1979 was a non-North American year for the WorldCon. It caused the grinding of a few mental gears, but the great wheel of fandom keep on turning. If we had organized this hoax bid at all it could have been funnier on a much larger scale. But that's okay. It was still a bit of fun.

Well, Chris, good luck with the TAFF campaign! As you know, I'm in your corner. At least with you I believe that a trip report

will follow in record time upon your return. Remember, I bid to pub a portion of that report!

Those are cool pictures of the Edgefield Hotel. Too bad Jean didn't get any spectral visitations during her stay; if I ever have the chance to stay at a haunted hotel, I would because I'm a huge skeptic when it comes to ghosts. Count me as one of those "believe 'em if I see 'em" folks. But this hotel looks like a wonderful place anyway with all those murals and decorative artwork all over the place. My wife is an artist, and she would totally love seeing these. She's painting a rather Italian looking mural in our bathroom at the present. Back to the Edgefield Hotel: Very cool place! I'm going to make a note of this place if my family ever gets out that way in the future.

Speaking of cool places, the Varnish Gallery sounds like my kind of place to visit. They really showed Firefly episodes and do sf-related things? Sounds like a fan is in charge of things there. That Nemo Gould kinetic sculpture work is truly incredible. Thanks for the website.

Nifty photos of the Klingons mingling with lower life forms. You know, I really am going to have to wend my way out to your area and take in some of the sf & f events. The Bay Area is certainly a happening spot right now in

the fannish universe.

Great issue, and I already am looking forward to the next one!

Jean Martin responds:

Hello, John. Always good to hear from you. I'm glad you enjoyed the photos from the Edgefield Hotel. I thought it was quite an extraordinary place. Definitely worth the visit.

The Varnish Gallery is also quite a unique venue. I believe I wrote about seeing a Firefly episode there before the midnight premiere of Serenity last Autumn. I'm amazed how I keep finding new things in the SF Bay Area myself. Thanks to Espana Sheriff for bringing the Nemo Gould exhibit to our attention.

And the Klingons... they are so much fun! Seems like I hang around them and the Browncoats a lot because they are so active and very friendly. They have events all the time and the same people show up and so it feels like coming home to family.

So do come and visit! I'm sure you'll have lots to do. Our calendar section is always jam packed with listings, so pick a time when you see anything of interest. Let us know when you do find your way to our area and we'll show you around.

Editorial

Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

This is the first AnnIsh for Science Fiction/San Francisco! It should be a very joyous occasion, but sadly Fandom lost one of its best and brightest, rich brown, and it's hard to keep smiling. He had been ill for a long time, and the outpouring of condolences and remembrances in fanzines (including Vegas Fandom Weekly Issue 79 and The Drink Tank issue 88) has been huge. On behalf of the editorial staff of SF/SF, we send our condolences to his daughter Alicia and to his hundreds of friends in every fannish corner of the world.

It has been one full year since Jack Avery said "This is all Arnie Katz's fault" to start the first issue. Since then, the zine has changed and stayed the same. I first popped up in issue #2, with an LoC and an article that we're rerunning here. Jean came not too long after that. We've grown from a zine that was one guy in Santa Rosa to a team that hits every corner of the BArea and even a few from far beyond. I so proud of what we've managed to do with SF/SF, and I'm

glad to say that I've met almost everyone who regularly works with us...well, almost. You see, I didn't meet Jean until SiliCon last year, and David (our proofer who doesn't get nearly enough credit for fixing the trash I submit) until BayCon. I haven't met Eva yet, but I'm sure I will. Dr. Noe and I came face to face at a BayCon staff meeting. We're a team now, even if we only see each other a couple of times a year.

What am I proudest of? Well, there's the team we've put together, the way we've transitioned between various editorial set-ups with hardly a hiccup, the articles we've printed, the praise we've gotten from folks. I love the interviews we've run. I love the con reviews we've done. I love the fact that we've brought folks who aren't all over every other fanzine out to play (folks like Andy Trembley and Robert Hole, for example), and I'm proud that we're still going strong and ready to go forth into new areas.

2007 looks like it'll be a year full of change, and I'm betting that SF/SF will be there to bring it all to you.

Happy Anniversary to us.

Jean Martin

Editor

Since it's our one-year anniversary issue, both Chris and I are doing editorials this time around. I'm sure we both have a lot to say!

It has been quite a rollercoaster ride for me this past year. Well, I joined up in August, thanks to Chris posting an ad on Tribe.net for writers, but that's quite close enough to a year. I can't believe so much has happened since then!

I was looking to do some writing again. I used to publish a heavy metal music magazine in the early 1990s and that was probably the most fun I've ever had in my life. I interviewed local and major label bands, partied with rock stars, took concert photos at clubs and big venues, and hung out with a whole community of musicians and friends.

Well, as you all know, the heavy metal scene died down, and by the mid-1990s, it was gone. For a decade, my creativity was pretty stagnant. I sang in a church choir, took voice lessons, competed

in (and won) karaoke competitions, tried different dance classes (belly dance, jazz, ballet, etc.). But nothing seemed to stick or ignite my passion. And most of all, I missed the sense of community I had in my rocker days. I used to go to any club or concert and would know half the people there!

I discovered fandom in early 2003 when I saw an ad for the Return of the King PEERS ball in the Lord of the Rings Fan Club magazine (of which I'm a charter member so my name appears in the credits of all the three extended DVDs of the movies). I went to a BAERS dance party once a few months before that and I was so surprised to find people from Regency dancing and the hobbits I met at a Renaissance Faire there.

I completely dove headlong into fandom and joined PEERS, BAERS and the SCA, went to conventions and balls, started competing in masquerade competitions, attended fan club meetups, made lots and lots of new friends, etc. A friend of mine recently told a newbie that people in fandom are friends you just haven't met yet. I nodded in enthusiastic agreement.

But there was a piece missing. I'm a chronicler at heart and I love photography and scrapbooking. I was posting blogs on Tribe.net about my experiences but it wasn't the same. So I jumped at the chance

to be a journalist again and contacted Jack Avery who was at the time looking for contributors. And the rest, as they say, is history!

I had enjoyed writing and taking photos for SF/SF for about a month when Jack mentioned, last September, that he wanted to stop publishing. So I jumped at the chance to keep the zine going as an editor along with Chris. I strongly believed that the zine was a valuable resource for Bay Area fandom and that the layout and coverage were very high quality. SF/SF also gave me the added motivation to seek new groups and attend events I wouldn't necessarily have gone to. I've broadened my horizons and discovered new communities such as the Browncoats, the Klingons, Black Fleet Star Pirates Guild and the Legion of Rassilon.

SF/SF has evolved as we've gotten more people involved. Thanks to our old-timers, Dr. Noe and Diane Rooney, we've kept the zine going. And thanks to our amazing copy editor and calendar genie, David Moyce, who's really rounded out the editorial team. We're glad to have Eva Kent, who's livened up our layout in addition to writing and taking photos. And we're happy to have Espana Sheriff on board as well.

Hopefully, we will continue to grow and see more people bring their own

interests and unique voices to the zine. We are a fan-based publication and our aim is to cover as much of Bay Area fandom as we can. That's the beauty of publishing online. There is no limit to how much we can expand!

Joint SF Browncoats and Silicon Gulch Browncoats Meetup

Article and Photos by Jean Martin
Editor

On a warm and sunny summer day in Palo Alto, the SF Browncoats and Silicon Gulch Browncoats got together for a joint meetup. The event, which took place on July 8, was supposed to convene at the Rose & Crown Pub in downtown Palo Alto. But due to the runner up World Cup game between Portugal and Germany, the pub was packed with rowdy sports fans cheering and watching the game.

So the meetup was moved to the nearby Zibbibo restaurant. Zibbibo is a Mediterranean restaurant that was very popular a few years ago. I haven't been there in a long time. It was nice to go back there and find that the food is still as good as it used to be. I arrived late but was able to sit at the long table of more than two dozen Browncoats. We were seated in the outdoor patio area, which was quite lovely, as we enjoyed the weather and scenery.

I recognized several people, mostly from the SF Browncoats. I go to their meetups at the Café Murano in San Francisco now and then. I also hang out with them at various events and conventions. The SF Browncoats are a very friendly and welcoming group. I enjoy being with them.

It seemed like half of the group was from the SF Browncoats and half was from the Silicon Gulch group. That group usually



James and Francis



Gail and Arielle

meets at the Tied House in Mountain View. Mountain View is much closer to where I live than San Francisco but I'm usually in the city during the weekends, or rehearsing for a performance with PEERS as the Silicon Gulch group meets on the first Saturday of the month and PEERS balls are on the same dates.

It was nice to finally meet people from the Silicon Gulch group. It was an added bonus that Palo Alto is even closer to my home.

Brunch items were served as well as lunch dishes. I had a wonderful brioche French toast with fresh fruits. After eating,

we just chatted and discussed *Firefly*, *Serenity*, Joss Whedon's other works, and science fiction in general.

I discovered that one of the SF Browncoats was hosting a barbecue the next day, which I also attended. I also found out that a lot of them are going to Comic-Con where they'll have a booth in the Dealers' Room just like they had last year. They tried to convince me to go too. I was sorely tempted. It would be nice to go to Comic-Con but I have so many other pressing responsibilities and engagements in the next month or so.

Around 5:00 p.m., the core group

of about 10 people that I know went over to Gelato Classico for something sweet and cool to eat. It was a lot of fun walking around downtown Palo Alto with the group. I noticed lots of new restaurants and shops that I've never seen before from just driving by.

All in all, a nice way to spend an afternoon. Food, friends and *Firefly*!

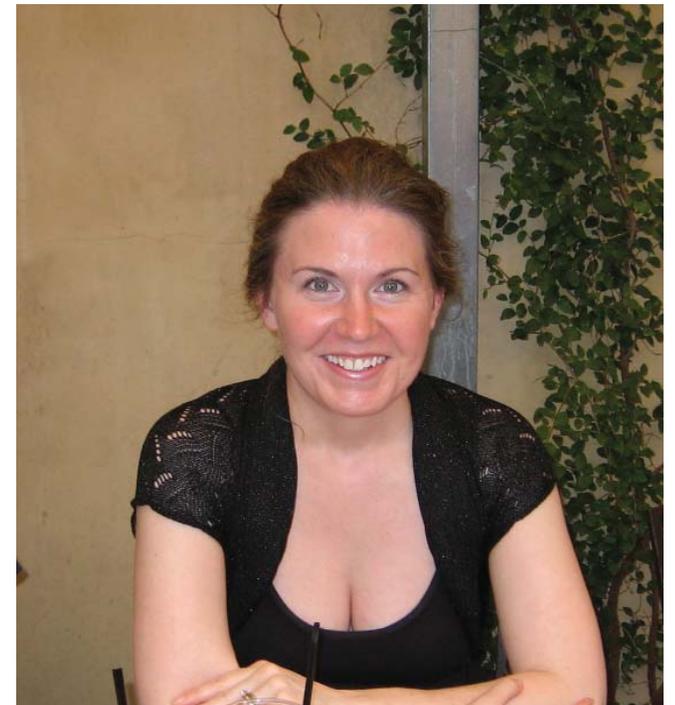
Links:

<http://movies.groups.yahoo.com/group/sfbrowncoats/>

<http://tv.groups.yahoo.com/group/SiliconGulchBrowncoats/>



Ray, Silicon Gulch founder Patti, and Christina



SF Browncoats founder Renee

Serenity Charity Screening in San Francisco

By Louise Du Cray
Staff Writer

Happy birthday, Joss Whedon. The Browncoats put our heads together and got you a little something. Oh, it's not much. Just the unprecedented theatrical re-release of your film, which is going to raise a staggering amount of money for your

favorite charity.

June 23 was the night the San Francisco Browncoats took part in the *Can't Stop The Serenity* effort, a project that started relatively small and grew into a worldwide event. That week, 47 cities in 5 countries hosted screenings of *Serenity* within the same couple of days. All of the proceeds went to directly benefit the women's rights



Gorgeous Inaras at Pig and Whistle

Photo by Francis Yun

organization Equality Now. Most of the screenings were scheduled for that Friday, which also happened to be creator Joss Whedon's birthday.

Before the screening, Browncoats converged on the Pig and Whistle, a pub near the Bridge

Theatre. If you ever wanted to see Inara stroll into a bar with an entire ragtag crew in tow, or Mal in a heated conversation with Simon over couple of beers, this was the place to be. By the time it was time to head over to the theater, the place was packed, and maybe six of those people were not Browncoats.

The line outside the Bridge was around the block. In addition to the die-hards who were seeing *Serenity* for the 10th or 14th time, there was a surprising number of new faces. I talked to several people who were seeing the film for the first time that night. A few had seen and enjoyed *Firefly*, but a number were there who knew nothing about our little 'verse, and they had already been swept up in the excitement and sense of community that was present throughout the night.

The SF Browncoats tend to do things with style, and once inside it was clear that tonight was to be no exception. The Bridge staff had just stood back and let the organizers take over the theater. Prize drawing tickets and Equality Now wristbands were handed out as people poured in. Limited prints of



Browncoats at Pig and Whistle

Photo by Francis Yun

Adam Levermore-Rich's fantastic Fillmore-style poster were on sale in the lobby. A special themed slideshow with trivia and behind-the-scenes photos was projected on the movie screen. Even the music piping through the speakers was the filk band Bedlam Bards. Johnny Absinthe, Sue, and Arielle had obviously worked very hard to make it all seem easy.

Once everybody was settled in their seats, the prize drawing was held and the audience was treated to a few special features before the main show began. One was an extended trailer for *Done The Impossible: The Fan's Tale Of Firefly and Serenity*, which will at last be released on DVD this month. The trailer was put together exclusively for the charity screenings, and included many kind words by Mandy Sullivan and Renee Balmert about the Browncoats' involvement with Equality Now. Also shown were a video from an Equality Now event — where Joss was honored for his continued portrayal of strong female characters — and of course, the *Fruity Oaty Bar* commercial in its entirety. Then, shortly after midnight, the lights dimmed and *Serenity* screened once more to a nearly sold-out house.

For a movie that didn't do well theatrically, and was itself based on a show that didn't last a full season, it certainly seems to have staying power. The fans have

obviously had something to do with it becoming *The Little Movie That Could*. In the year since I've become involved with the Browncoats, I have been continually amazed by the devotion, kindness and wicked organizational skills of this fandom. But when it comes down to it, *Serenity* is simply a great movie, and we were watching it for a great cause.

All told, San Francisco's screening raised almost \$4,000, with more expected as sales and auctions of the limited-edition poster continue. Combined with other screenings, in one weekend Browncoats worldwide raised more than \$60,000, proving that you truly *Can't Stop The Serenity*.

You can read more about this remarkable event at cantstoptheserenity.com and sfbrowncoats.com and on the following pages! For more information about Equality Now, visit equalitynow.org.



Mal being held up by River as they wait in line

Photo by Francis Yun



Browncoats invade Bridge Theatre

Photo by Francis Yun

Can't Stop the Serenity

By Espana Sheriff
Staff Writer

As a Western Orthodox Browncoat, I set aside June 23rd as a high holy day devoted to the celebration of the nativity of Our Beloved Leader, the Creator of the 'Verse, Joss "Boss" Whedon. Normally, the event is commemorated by entering a euphoric trance state after watching all the seasons of *Buffy* in a row without sleep while maintaining a fast broken only with water and marshmallow peeps (bunnies, not chicks). Some hold that scripture mandates all-night *Angel* fanfic writing sessions... but I call that heresy, which if allowed to fester will surely lead to a schism such as has not been seen since the Great Balrog Wing Flamewars.

This year was truly a Jubilee since my fellow Browncoats and I joined together for a charity screening of last year's megahit (*Serenity*). In 47 theaters across five nations, theaters showed the movie, and shindigs where organized with proceeds going to Equality Now, a fantastic organization

dedicated to ending violence and discrimination against women and girls. In total, over \$63,000 was raised for the cause, and there was much rejoicing.

In our little corner of the 'Verse, a pre-movie gathering was held at the Pig and Whistle Pub on Geary Street where I arrived cold and shivering after allowing myself to be lulled by the balmy downtown San Francisco weather. A detour to Ross to purchase something warm to wear sucked some of the money out of my pockets and wind out of my sails. I arrived unfashionably early, wondering if it was really wise to get there FOUR hours before the screening.

Luckily, 10 or 12 Browncoats were already there, including the charming and ebullient Arielle, who always makes a body feel welcome at these



Inara and Mal inside the theatre

Photo by Francis Yun

things. Within a short time span, more fans arrived, slowly filling the joint until we spilled out onto the sidewalk. The remaining locals were either driven before



Kim with Serenity Now poster outside Bridge Theatre

Photo by Francis Yun

us like cattle or assimilated into our ranks. Flagons of mead were lifted in celebration.

Well, since they don't actually serve mead, I stuck to delicious black and tans and soon enough we were all rowdy and drunken and at the perfect pitch to call it an honest-to-god shindig. At that point, we poured into the street en masse and trooped down to the picturesque Bridge Theater, a venue that I love dearly for its hosting of the venerable *Midnight Mass* and its general awesome extreme non-metroplexness.

We queued up, and the line was really just an elongated party with late arrivals joining the fun. In the lobby Kim, Arielle and Renee worked a table selling prints of the lovely poster created by Adam Levermore-Rich of *Black Market Beagles*. The Fillmore style poster was a big hit, and even now, when the nights are long I have impure thoughts about it. It was that nice. A large version of it was circulated amongst the attendees to be signed and sent to Whedon with our birthday wishes.

Once in the theater, the pre-show entertainment included a teaser reel specially made for these events, with trivia and quotes and all the stuff we normally ignore in regular theaters because it has nothing to do with the reason we are there. This was followed by a raffle with prizes that I didn't win (the worst kind) and a lovely speech by Johnny Absinthe, who acquitted himself nicely after looking momentarily queasy at the prospect of public speaking. Arielle called out the raffle names and for her own part looked decidedly in her element on stage.

The penultimate treat was a short film of Joss' acceptance speech for the Equality Now award given to him for his work. After an introduction by Meryl Streep, Joss gave a beautiful speech that was just like his work: funny and touching, and which ultimately made me tear up. If he weren't married and I weren't lazy, I would stalk the heck out of that man, sniff.

Finally, the Universal logo dissolved into a brilliant and doomed Earth-that-Was and we all sat mesmerized by the *Big Damn Movie*, surrounded by a few hundred of our closest friends.



Browncoats at the Bridge Theatre

Photo by Francis Yun

Borderlands and Variety Children's Charity Sci Fi Double Feature

By Espana Sheriff
Staff Writer

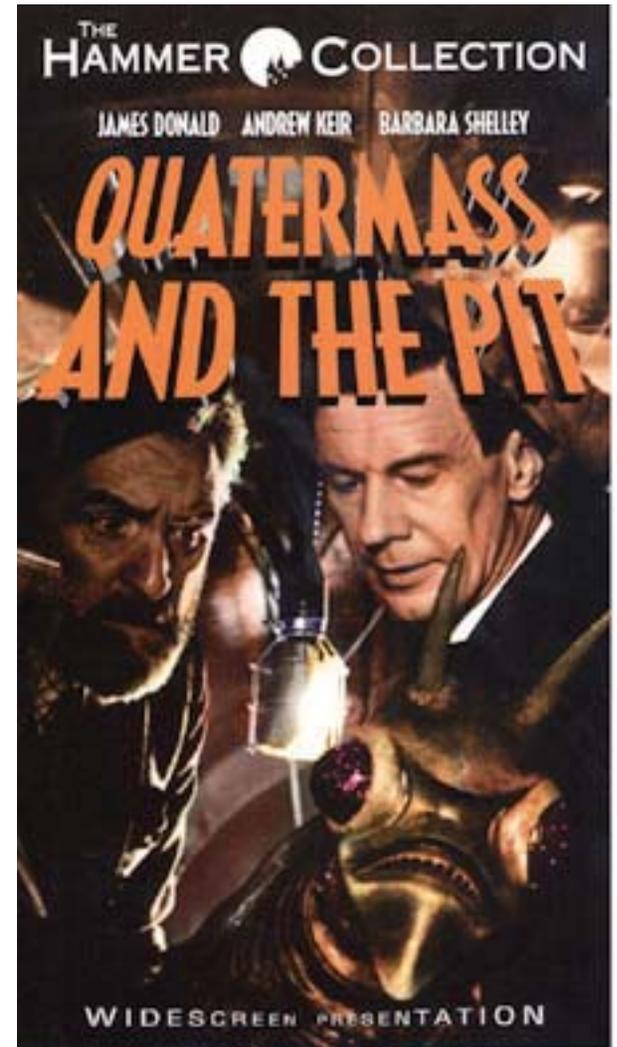
On the first Thursdays of every month, Borderlands Books and the Variety Children's Charity of Northern California host a double feature at Variety's preview room in the Hobart Building in San Francisco. Previous bills have included Neil Marshall's horror flicks *The Descent* and *Dog Soldiers*. Or on my favorite night so far was the 2000 Japanese film *Battle Royale* and a little-seen 1971 gem called *Punishment Park* – both films complementing each other in theme but contrasting in execution.

This month, on July 6th, was a writer double feature, *Quatermass and the Pit* and *The Stone Tape*, both written by Nigel Kneale, whose screenwriting credits include one of my favorite steampunk movies ever: *First Men in the Moon* and more recently, one installment of the enjoyable *Sharpe* series.

The 1967 Hammer Films version of *Quatermass and the Pit* (released in the U.S. as *Five Million Miles to Earth*) is one of those Sunday afternoon films that many

fen know about but few outside of *Doctor Who* conventions have actually seen. And that's a shame, because aside from the inevitably primitive special effects, this is a tight and enjoyable science fiction thriller. The story moves at an almost frantic pace as the 180-minute serial was packed into a 90 minute movie, but that may actually work in its favor for notoriously impatient modern audiences. With few exceptions, the audience was rapt with attention soon after the movie started.

The second movie of the evening was *The Stone Tape* (1972), originally broadcast as a Christmas ghost story by the BBC. Anyone who has seen *Prince of Darkness* (which I highly recommend) has this movie to thank at least in part for inspiring John Carpenter. The story revolves around a group of young engineers and scientists who are trying to develop the next technological breakthrough in music media. While the man who controls their funding breathes down their necks via telephone, threatening to turn the facilities to other ventures, they find that some sort of apparition is haunting the castle. Good stuff.

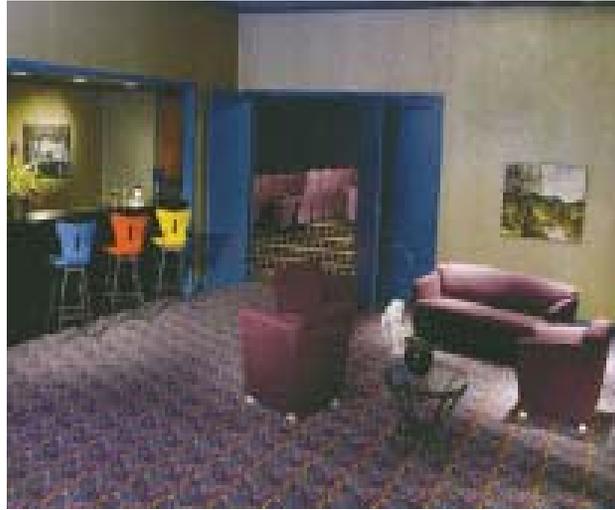


Quatermass movie poster

Courtesy BBC



Location Photos



Variety Children's Charity of Northern California

Alan Beatts and Jude Feldman from Borderlands managed the bar with style and aplomb, serving wine, scotch and cider as well as soft drinks. This week Jeremy Lassen, the brain behind the movie selections, was unfortunately not there, but normally he introduces and explains the night's selection. Turnout so far has been light, but seems to be slowly building. That night there were probably around 15 to 20 of us, but the conversation was lively and geekalicious. Jacob Weisman, from local independent press Tachyon Publications,

was also present. And other lovely people whose names I should know but do not.

The Hobart Building is a fine old landmark in and of itself, and the preview room is a very nice venue. The theater is a proper movie theater in all but size, and even there the screen is larger than some of the rep houses I've been to. Popcorn was provided and the seats were comfy and laid out in couches in the center of the front room. A bar on the side made for an inviting place to socialize before the movie, and since the proceeds will go to charity,

the alcohol had no calories. Trust me. In the front room, art lines the walls. The preview room hosts art shows and up until now we've been treated to the fantasy art of Stephanie Pui-Mun Law. This month they are featuring portraits by local artist Richard Freeman.

<http://www.borderlands-books.com>

<http://www.varietync.org/>

I Had a Blast at Conzilla

By Andy Trembley
Staff Writer

I had a blast at Conzilla. It was the most Westercon-like Westercon in years, the night life was excellent, the program was excellent, the hotel's flaws were mostly minor, and it even felt like it was a bit bigger than the on-site member count suggested.

Details?

We hopped in the car early (7:30-ish) Friday morning to head down to San Diego. Seeing how the 4th of July was on a Tuesday, there was a chance that holiday weekend traffic would be a bit lighter than usual. It was, but that's not saying a lot.

We made Casa de Fruta by 8:30 (a perfectly reasonable time), stopped for breakfast, and spent quite a bit of time shopping for CdF wine and snacks for the Hollister in 2008 party. The continuing run down I-5 was a bit busy, but nothing out of order (unlike the fire later that night at the 152/I-5 interchange). We made it to the Getty in LA before traffic got ugly, and then it was slow-and-go down to the LA/Orange County border. OC was pretty reasonable

except for the I-5/405 interchange and the John Wayne Airport traffic. As it turns out, though, there was a fire in San Diego County that closed I-15, so traffic on I-5 from Oceanside to Encinitas was slow-and-go. Subtracting the CdF stop, it took us around 9 1/2 hours to get to San Diego; not great, but not bad for the day before a holiday weekend.

The con was at the beautiful San Diego Marriott Mission Valley. Yeah, it actually was beautiful, although that beauty was marred by half the pool area being re-grouted and all the rooms being cracker-box sized. Still, if I wasn't planning to throw a party and the pool was complete, I'd stay there again. We got checked in pretty quickly, and were told that our adjoining party room would be available for check-in the next morning.

There wasn't much on the slate for Friday night. The con didn't open until the next morning, but registration was already open and running efficiently and a gang of early-bird sports fans had gone to Petco Park to see the Padres game. Dealers' room was loading in already, so we said "Hi" to Spring

Schoenhuth, Dave Clark, Janet Anderson and Liz Mortensen (who all seemed to be happy about moving in that evening rather than the next morning). The Las Vegas in 2008 Westercon bid was hosting a party, at which we met many still-arriving fans.

Saturday the con got off to an early start. I had an 11:00 a.m. panel (before Opening Ceremonies, I think) on Costuming from Your Closet with Arabella Benson, Karen Anderson and Sandy Manning (who had just stepped off the airport shuttle). I missed Opening Ceremonies (as I often do), probably while trying to get some lunch.

The dealers' room was pretty decent, split between several book dealers with mostly mutually-exclusive stocks and a few dealers of stuff of interest to fans. It wasn't big, but it was a good selection.

Sandra Childress, LaMont Jones and I did a shopping run for party supplies. S. was shopping for the three Guest-of-Honor parties, and I was shopping for our two parties. We covered a lot of ground. The rest of the afternoon was spent (for us) getting ready for the "Hollister in 2008: A Bid for

Casa de Worldcon” party and K. getting ready to go on stage as Conrad T. Lizard at the “Meet the Guests Cabaret.” The party was simple. The lizard not so much.

“Meet the Guests” was probably the shakiest thing at Conzilla. I’m used to the BayCon-style “Meet the Guests” where (because it’s a workday afternoon), Opening Ceremonies isn’t a big deal and the nighttime “Meet the Guests” is the real kick-off. This wasn’t quite the big production (but Opening Ceremonies were mid-day Saturday). The lizard did a few short lounge numbers (with minor technical difficulties that nitroace worked very hard to correct), Toastmaster Kevin J. Anderson said a few things about the Guests of Honor, and that was about it. After that, the lights were really too low to socialize inside, and things broke up pretty quickly.

Afterwards, we went back up to the party room. We got there well before our 9:00 scheduled opening time. This wasn’t a big deal; the Hollister party practically throws itself. Set-up was already done, decoration was already done, and all we had to do was receive ice from the party maven, unzip a few snack bags, and start serving.

Everything in the party was Casa de Fruta product (we didn’t remember to get sake from Hollister’s own Ozeki USA sake brewery), still in the CdF packaging.

The nuts, dried fruit and novelty chocolate were all very popular, but not as popular as the CdF Santa Rosa plum wine and pomegranate wine. We sold quite a few pre-supporting memberships (that I have to process and get into the spreadsheet). Down the hall Kevin J. Anderson’s book release party was going full steam, and on the lower floor Gnomeward Bound, Vegas in 2008, Phoenix in 2008 and several other parties were hopping. Pretty good for a 600-person convention.

Sunday Kevin had no panels, but I had two. “Convention Traditions We No Longer Need” was a wide-ranging discussion of things we do at conventions that don’t seem to draw the attention and support they used to but keep going on and on. “*Lost: What’s Really Happening*” was a rollicking discussion of theories surrounding that oh-so-confusing popular science fiction (or is it?) television show. I am the supreme *Lost* guru, as I am supremely baffled.

He got to do most of the party decoration for the League of Evil Geniuses party. The paint was really awful; nothing would stick to it, so we ended up with a reduced set of posters. The party itself was excellent, though. We handed out a ton of “Minion” ribbons and we had many people go for the “Lab Rat” ribbons (Coffin Liquor and Alchemist Series #1 were

very popular, Wolf Urine wasn’t, and of course the youngsters went for the candy). Gnomeward Bound was in session again, along with DarkCon, Leprecon, Loscon, the Walter Jon Williams Margarita Party and a few others. We did not close the convention when we closed at 4:30; Anticipation (the Montreal 2009 Worldcon bid) did at 5:00. Monday was not lost in a hung-over haze, at least not for us. It was for others. I had “The Blog Ate My ‘Zine” with Bobbi Armbruster and Lynn Maudlin; it was fun and all of us had done paper zines in the past. Kevin had a “Stage Movement” workshop in the morning that was very sparsely attended, and his science lecture in the afternoon that was packed. We got a bit of dinner (for a light day the schedule was crazy) and did Workmanship judging for the Masquerade.

Masquerade was small (10 entries) and several entries were press-ganged up on stage. The quality, though, was impressive (even the press-ganged insta-costumes). Half the entrants took workmanship judging. We turned our awards around pretty quickly, and the presentation panel did too, letting us get to the parties early.

There weren’t as many parties on Monday night, but there were still enough. The Monday GoH party was Bobbi’s Port Party. Much port was drunk. This was later

followed by the traditional semi-closed “Sweets” party, and one of the biggest we’ve had in a while (in a cracker-box sized room). Much dessert wine was drunk.

Tuesday morning was clean-up and move-out time for the party room. I may have blown off an 11:00 panel. Looking back at my LJ and the participant email, I was scheduled for a Brit vs. US genre television discussion but I don’t remember seeing it on my schedule on the back of my badge. That’s fine; we had “The Match Game” at 12:00 anyway, and I just made it there.

Match Game was lightly attended (maybe 2 dozen people average) but was delightfully bitchy. Scott Norton, Lynn Gold, Kevin, Nora Rankin, myself and Cody Goodfellow came up with some hysterically bad answers, and did a good job reproducing the feel of the 70s game show for Kevin Standlee. We got through six games in a reasonable time. Next time, though, we need cocktails.

K. ran closing ceremonies for Christian McGuire as Conrad again, and we spent a bit of time at the bar noshing and chatting with people as the con ran down. We skipped the bitch session and satisfied ourselves with the reported highlights. The dead dog party was kind of light, but reminded me a lot of the great dead dog

parties of yesteryear.

The return drive on Sunday afternoon was a lot nicer than the drive down. A few minor clots leaving San Diego, passing the Orange County Airport, and getting the last three or so miles to the 405/101 interchange were about it. We got home late, but in good shape.

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The SF Browncoats

From Firefly to Serenity

By Jean P. Martin

Staff Writer

From SFSF Issue 6

Not since the original “Star Trek” has such a loyal fan base achieved the astounding feat of transforming a highly regarded but canceled show into a major motion picture.



Joss Whedon at the San Diego Comic Con

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

I first found out about the SF Browncoats, a local Bay Area chapter, through a fortuitous but circuitous route. Two of my vintage dance friends, Cordelia Willis and Kelly Bolton, invited me to join their Comic-Con Masquerade Competition entry this year. Their theme was “Firefly” and they asked me to play Inara because they thought I would make a great “Companion.” In the show, “Companions” are a guild of high-class courtesans. I decided to take their invitation as a compliment as I’m sure it was meant as such. I’ve never been to Comic-Con and there I was about to compete in the largest convention of its kind in North America!

For research, I rented the DVDs and

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

At Comic-Con, I got to meet more SF Browncoat members at their fan booth, and I was adopted as an honorary member since I was in the “Firefly” masquerade. Actually, two people in the masquerade group, Kim Pudliner and

Carolyn Staehle, are members and worked at the booth. Through them, I got a taste of what a wonderful group of people the SF Browncoats are. Intrigued, I decided to find out more about them and became a member just as I was about to interview the founder of the SF Browncoats, Renee Balmert.

I arranged to meet Renee at a microbrewery/restaurant in downtown

Burlingame. Not sure what to expect, I met an eloquent, enterprising and intelligent young woman. I can totally see how she started this organization and got it to the level it has reached in such a short time. She also echoed my views on why people are drawn to “Firefly:”

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

you could like it for a thousand different reasons.

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

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

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

The SF Browncoats usually meet at Café Murano in between Post and Sutter,



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

near Union Square, on the second Saturdays of each month. But Renee advises to check their Yahoo Groups calendar in case the dates get moved around. Café Murano is an “adorable little café, which my husband owns, so it’s a very nice arrangement. We can take over the place without the owner getting upset.”

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

So if anyone wants to get involved, Renee invites you to join the SF Browncoats Yahoo Group. There you’ll get information on meetings and activities they’re doing. “It’s also a very active online community with a strong presence in the Bay Area... even internationally. There are conversations happening almost all of the time!” She estimates that the Yahoo Group has about 250 members from all over the world. They also have a web site: SFBrowncoats.com.

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

However, since they started getting involved in conventions their agenda has changed. “It takes a lot of work and planning

and team effort so a lot of our meetings got taken over with organizational planning type stuff.”

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

“What really was the turning point for our group was when I found out that Joss Whedon was coming to WonderCon in San Francisco,” Renee mused. “I was so excited that my idol is coming right into my own backyard. I wanted to participate in the fan

booth; I wanted to help in some way. I kept posting that on various web sites and no one else was stepping forward. I realized there had never been a fan table at WonderCon... and I know that fan tables had happened at Dragon*Con and other conventions. I couldn’t understand why one wasn’t happening in SF... and I finally realized if there was going to be one that I would have to start doing it. I had no idea what I’m doing. I’ve never participated in any fandom before. Everyone was so



Browncoats table at the San Diego Comic Con.

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

The SF Browncoats ran the

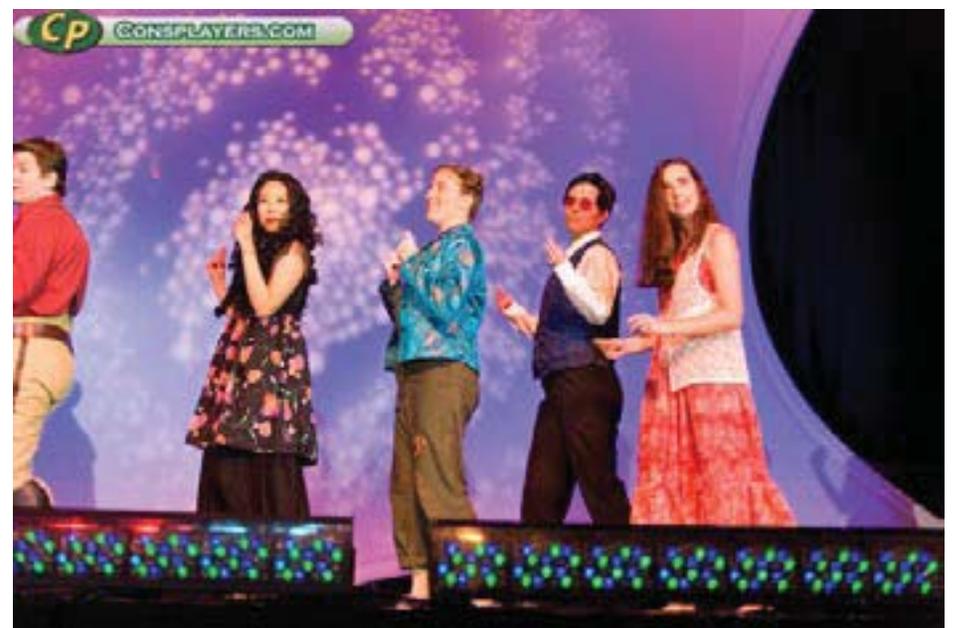
WonderCon booth with the help of volunteers from all over the place. However, the Comic-Con fan table "was a huge event... we couldn't possibly have ran that all by ourselves. We built together a committee. We had help from the Sacramento Browncoats, the San Jose Browncoats, Los Angeles and San Diego. It was really a team effort."

Renee clarified that some of these Browncoat organizations existed in other cities in the U.S. before she launched her San Francisco branch. These groups' original goal "was to keep the show on the air, which didn't work. Then it was to try to get a movie made and that succeeded." So

she wishes the SF Browncoats could take credit for the movie being produced but her chapter only started only about a year ago.

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

So other than conventions, Renee and the gang are working hard to publicize "Serenity." Which she said is very enjoyable. "That's what's so exciting and fun about being a Browncoat. I guess if you're a fan of "Star Wars" or "Star Trek" at this point you just kind of hang out and talk and



Browncoats, including Jean Martin, portraying the crew of the Serenity at the Masquerade at the San Diego Comic Con.

Photos courtesy of www.consplayers.com

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

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

For instance, at Comic-Con, it was “absolutely amazing because Joss was there.” It was the first screening of the

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

What’s up next for the amazingly dynamic SF Browncoats? Well, there’s the premier of “Serenity” on September 30th, of course.

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

A Medieval Summer Night in the Heart of Silicon Valley

By Jean P. Martin

Staff Writer

From SFSF Issue 6

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

Forward to the present, just months later after I started learning Italian

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

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

iron balconies and turrets with red pennants.

The festivities started with a performance by our dance group, the West Kingdom College of Dance. Led by Geoffrey and Crystal, we presented six dances. The first three were lively English Country Dances (ECD): “Ruffy Tufty,” “Chestnut” and “Cuckolds All in a Row.”





Fortunately, I've been doing ECD for two years now with the Bay Area Country Dance Society (BACDS) and the Bay Area English Regency Society (BAERS) so I felt comfortable doing these. The last three were the more elegant Italian Renaissance dances: "Fiamma d'Amore," "Villanella" and "Contrapasso." With the music playing in the background and all of us in costumes, I felt transported into another time and



place while I was dancing.

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

Then came the heavy weights of the evening... the armored fighters! Attired in movie-quality medieval gear, they performed on the lawn as they didn't want to fall off the stage. With helmets on, the men didn't have very good peripheral vision. Their armor was also quite heavy. One of the knights said his whole outfit weighed 100 pounds in total! It was amazing how they were able to move much less fight. Sir John did a play-by-play of what was going on as men fought in twos and then in fours. Each wore different colored shields, tabards and heraldry. Quite a spectacle! I'm looking to going to a full-scale SCA event in the near

future. If their demos are this much fun, their tournaments and feasts must just be awesome! If you're interested in finding out more about the SCA, the Kingdom of the West and the West Kingdom College of Dance, go to: www.sca.org, <http://westkingdom.org/> and <http://westdance.org>. By the way, all the names used in this article are SCA names... mine is Francesca.



A Sorta Neo-Fan's View of BArea Fandom

By Christopher J. Garcia
Taken from SFSF Issue 2

OK, it may be a stretch to call myself a neo-fan. I was at the first NASFiC and have been attending BayCon off and on since the first one. It really wasn't until the year 2000 that I started regularly coming to cons on my own and it was more than a year later that I could be found touring to cons outside of San Jose. In October 2004, after my break-up with Gen (which didn't take and we're actually happier than ever), I started going to BASFA meetings, and in January 2005, I started putting out fanzines at the rate of one page an hour (ok, that's a slight exaggeration). So, I'm an old-timer who also happens to be a new guy. Go figure.

The first things I caught on my glance around BArea fandom when I really started looking is that it's so totally different from many other fandoms. Our major club doesn't put on cons like LASFS or NESFA. Infact, BASFA doesn't do much beyond holding meetings and hosting room parties at cons, but they meet

regularly and have a good time with their form of recreational parliamentarianism. There's no clubhouse, just a meeting space at a Campbell restaurant once a week. We're a diffuse group of fans, spread out over 8 counties up to 3 hours away, but mostly BASFA is South Bay and Peninsula types hanging out on Monday nights.

As I got to look around elsewhere, I also noticed that we're an incredibly important area for fandom. There are more SMOFs per square inch than anywhere else on Earth. Big Name Fans like Kevin Standlee, Cheryl Morgan, Frank Wu, Janice Gelb, Michael Saladi, Robert Lichtman, David Bratman, Dave Clark and others all call the BArea home. I was rather amazed when I started looking through the Fan Gallery that Chaz Baden-Boston runs to discover that there were so many BArea residents lurking around. And not only are they important people, but they do important things.

CorFlu, that fanzine fans' con which took place in SF this year, was started in Berkeley in the early 1980s. The first organized Filk Cons were Bay Area

innovations. I'm led to believe that the first US Anime conventions were held in San Jose years before they began to outdraw even the largest WorldCons. There've been five BArea WorldCons, three in the distant past and two since 1993. At the 1968 WorldCon, fandom really embraced the Society for Creative Anachronism (another BArea innovation) for the first time.

Sadly, despite all this 'useless' innovation, the BArea has something of a dark mark around it. There are personality conflicts with some of the prominent SMOFs in the area and outright feuds in some cases. The fact that it took more than 20 years for San Jose, the third largest city in California, to get a WesterCon, even with several credible bids over that period, speaks to that fact. The San Jose WorldCon, brilliantly programmed by the Chef Sakai of Programming Kathryn Daugherty, was a very large success, but when I attended Philcon 2002, the first thing someone in the Fannish Year in Review panel said was "Well, against all odds, San Jose somehow managed to put on a fairly decent WorldCon." Most I've spoken to, when they

really thought about it, know that ConJose was a far superior con to the Millennium PhilCon, though you'll be hard-pressed to find East Coast folks who will admit it.

Even with some things fighting against it, there's still a lot of respect for some of the output of fans from 'round these parts. Cheryl Morgan's Emerald City is one of the most widely-read and respected fanzines out there today. She probably has ten times the readers of any other BArea fanzine. Robert Lichtman's Trap Door is one of the best fanzines ever put to paper and will go down in history as the great non-varietal product of Glen Ellen, California. eFanzines.com features a couple of BArea fanzines, though the only one that updates very frequently is The Drink Tank, which I write, and now SF/SF, which should give the San Francisco Bay Area the same push that Arnie Katz's Vegas Fandom Weekly gave to Sin City.

Oddly, we're so spread out that many fans from my neck of the woods don't know much about fans from up Sonoma and Napa County way. I run into one or two at BayCon every year, but mostly, I just know the folks who live south of Burlingame and North of Santa Cruz. Everyone attends events in The City, which is the one place where you can see collision between the various geographical fandoms.

But there's more. There are some great costumers (including folks who have won Master Class awards at Costume Con and other major events) and some of the greatest party-hosts ever (Andy Trembley and Kevin Roche being my two personal favourites), and there are Anime fans and Smut SF fans and Pulp Fans and Dr. Who Fans and Star Wars Fans and Masked Wrestling Hero Film Fans and Con-going and con-running fans of all stripes. There's such a broad spectrum that you could be one of the top people in your segment of fandom and not have any clue that the others existed less than a mile away. We're both distant and close to one another, in ways both geographical and experiential. We're weird like that, and it's a good thing that we have something like SF/SF that we can rally around.

So, that's what BArea fandom looks like to me with the few years under my belt. If you've got the time, come down to BASFA on Monday nights at Emil Villa's The Hick'ry Pit in Campbell. If you can't, try to make it to Silicon or BayCon or the SF films at Cinequest or Cinema Epicuria or the SF Underground Film Festivals. Or, just read SF/SF and stay in touch, or The Drink Tank to see how I waste my time. Consider this a call to meetin', brethren.

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

By Diane Rooney
From SFSF Issue 6

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



Maureen as Arwen



Volunteers dressed as Hobbits greeted attendees

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

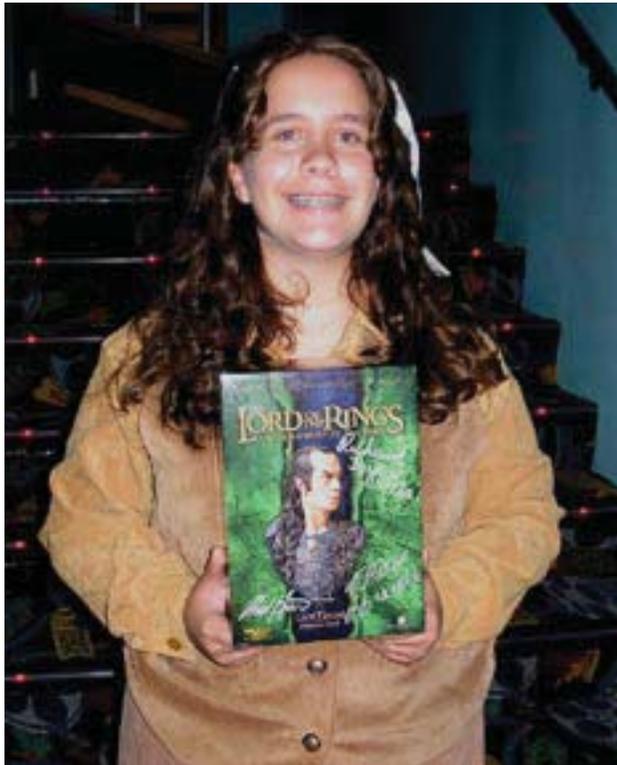
Volunteers dressed as Frodo, Sam,

Merry, and Pippin were on hand to welcome guests and sell raffle tickets for a range of donated *Lord of the Rings* merchandise and art. British *Lord of the Rings* artist Alan Lee created a design especially for the event, which was featured on the Trilogy Thursday

t-shirts.

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

Matthew Jacobsmeyer won a Sideshow/WETA statue of Shelob, personally signed for this event by Richard Taylor and Tania Rogers. He was thrilled



Youth Division Winner Abbey Smith

to add the autographed item to his already large Sideshow/WETA Lord of the Rings collection.



Workmanship Division Winner Ivy Henry

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

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

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

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

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

Abbey Smith, 16, won the youth



Creativity Division Winner Teague Hansberry



Katie K as a Fourth Age Ranger

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

benefits."

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

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



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

Edinburgh Castle Pub Hosts a Tribute to Scotty and James Doohan

By Dr. Noe

From *SFSF Issue 7*

On July 20, 2005, the world lost a great actor, made famous by portraying one of the greatest starship engineers and Scotsmen (sorry William Wallace) ever.

Within the next month, The Edinburgh Castle Pub in San Francisco threw a tribute to one Montgomery “Scotty” Scott.

Included in the tribute to James Doohan’s most famous role were poetry tributes heralding some of the Scotsman’s finest moments, a Scotty impersonation contest, music from band Savage Curtain, a bagpiper, a video tribute to the man himself, and, of course, lots and lots of whiskey.

Costumes were encouraged, but few actually wore them.

Included in the video tribute were various snippets of Scotty saving his beloved ship, The Enterprise from certain doom. Of course, the most famous was his out drinking Tomar in “By Any Other Name.” Unfortunately missing was the fight scene on the K-7 Space Station from “Trouble with Tribbles” and Scotty and Kirk talking

about how the fight actually started.

But why would Scotty be given his own tribute? Sure he was on the main cast and saved the ship, but everyone loves Kirk, don’t they?

According to the Edinburgh’s Bar Manager Alan Black (who was dressed proudly in his Scotty uniform) Scotty was the epitome of a Scotsman, and when Black learned of Doohan’s death, he immediately began planning the tribute.

Black, himself Scottish, was a fan of the “intergalactic D.U.I.” since he was a child. Watching Star Trek was part of Black’s regular evening of watching TV. Scotty’s position on the ship also appealed to Black.

“He was the future representation of The Scottish,” he explains who made quite an accomplishment. “To become the engineer of

The Enterprise he had to be the top physicist in the world.”

“He was also a metaphor for being Scottish,” Black continues. “He drank a lot and saved the ship at the end (of the show). There he was, behind the scenes saving the ship.”

And, as Black notes, “Doohan captured the Scottish essence in his character.”



Savage Curtain plays the Scotty Tribute

BASFA Minutes: meeting 832

July 3, 2006

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began 8:00 [with several at Westercon].

12 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 831 were accepted as 'Chris Garcia makes the flowers die.'

No Treasurer or Treasurer's report.

The VP reported that there's a new issue of 'Drink Tank' out & it contains lots of interesting information.

The President reported that there are conventions coming up and if this seems vague & unfocused, you're right.

The Hollister in '08 bid committee reported a new PR is out

Announcements

Ken announced that the Cinema San Pedro movie for this Wednesday night will be 'Best in Show.'

Chris announced that Las Vegas won the Westercon bid, [then something deleted] & the next Westercon will be at the San Mateo Marriott.

Bob announced that LACon's website has very good discount tickets for Disneyland.

Reviews:

Joanie reviewed their ceiling as it needed removal & she recommends using the popcorn scraping gadget because it worked.

Chris reviewed his reading as he had a wonderful time & went very well & reviewed 'Other Magazine' as it was very good and the current issue is monkey-themed.

I reviewed 'Superman Returns' as okay, not as bad as I expected, although I was annoyed by Lois & highly disliked the opening credits [then there were comments made about homages].

We auctioned off stuff, birthday auctioned

Trey for \$18.00 to himself; cards for \$2.00 & a book for \$0.50.

We adjourned at 8:35 pm

And the rumor of the week was that 'the next issue of "Drink Tank" will be devoted to showing pictures of Chris Garcia dressed up like a Catholic schoolgirl.'

[note = The president and secretary will miss the meeting on July 10; you are now warned]

Bay Area Fannish Calendar

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

New listings are in red.

Ongoing events are toward the back.

Wednesday, July 19

Anime in the Afternoon

Milpitas Library

40 N. Milpitas Blvd.

Milpitas

2 p.m.

Free anime screening, with free popcorn. Call (408) 262-1171 ext. 3616 for schedule.

Wednesday, July 19

YLEM Forum: Biomimicry

RX Gallery and Bar

132 Eddy Street

San Francisco

7:30 p.m.

Suggested donation \$5-\$10

YLEM-Artists Using Science & Technology presents Onno Koelman of Pax Scientific and CCA design instructor Sue Redding discussing biomimicry - adapting elegant designs from Nature.

July 19-30

Heist a Crow

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

8 p.m. (3 p.m. on Sundays)

\$10

knifebeatsfinger.com

A new absurd comedy about the Afterlife by Sean Kelly, directed by Helena Nolan.

Thursday, July 20

80s Third Thursday

California Academy of Sciences

875 Howard Street

San Francisco

5-9 p.m.

\$5

calacademy.org/events/thirdthursdays/

Live alligators meet Izod alligators: For its "Third Thursday" cocktail party this month the Academy has chosen a 1980s theme. Music by Marc Fong; 80s-era costumes encouraged.

Thursday, July 20

10 Rillington Place (1971)

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

701 Mission Street

San Francisco

7:30 p.m.

\$8

www.ybca.org

Unnerving portrait of real-life sex killer John Christie (in a tour-de-force performance by Richard Attenborough). Part of YBCA's "Too Scary for DVD: Neglected Horror on 35mm" series.

Thursday-Saturday, July 20-22

The Creature from the Black Lagoon (1954)

The Red Vic Movie House

1727 Haight Street

San Francisco

\$8

In 3-D; see www.redvicmoviehouse.com for showtimes.

Friday, July 21

Film Night in the Park:

The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (2005)

Old Mill Park

Mill Valley

8 p.m.

Suggested donation: \$5 adults, \$3 children

Saturday, July 22

BeefBowl Anime

Albany Library

1247 Marin Avenue

Albany

12:15-4:15 p.m.

Free

See the screening list at beefbowl.org

Saturday, July 22

Harry and the Potters

Koret Auditorium

San Francisco Public Library

100 Larkin Street

San Francisco

2 p.m.

Free

www.eskimolabs.com/hp/

A wizard rock show for all ages. (Opening act is Draco and the Malfoys.)

Saturday, July 22

Author: Barth Anderson

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Sunday, July 23

Harry and the Potters

Sacramento Public Library

9845 Folsom Blvd.

Sacramento

2 p.m.

Free

www.eskimolabs.com/hp/

A wizard rock show for all ages. (Opening act is Draco and the Malfoys.)

July 24-August 4

Creepshow Camp

The Hypnodrome

575 10th Street

San Francisco

(415) 377-4202

\$350

Ages 9-14

A two-week summer day camp for young devotees of Horror, Suspense and SciFi, featuring a monster make-up lab, special effects shop, hands-on horror theater workshops, film shoots, and a final stage performance for friends and family.

Monday, July 24

Harry and the Potters

Milpitas Library

40 N. Milpitas Blvd.

Milpitas

7 p.m.

Free

www.eskimolabs.com/hp/

A wizard rock show for all ages. (Opening act is Draco and the Malfoys.)

Tuesday, July 25

Ask a Scientist: Anniversary Trivia Party

Bazaar Café

5927 California Street

San Francisco

7 pm

Free

Ask a Scientist celebrates three years of free informal lectures with a rollicking night of science trivia, hosted by the Exploratorium's Robin Marks.

Tuesday, July 25

Harry and the Potters

Amador Theater

1155 Santa Rita Road

Pleasanton

5 p.m.

Free

www.eskimolabs.com/hp/

A wizard rock show for all ages. (Opening act is Draco and the Malfoys.)

Wednesday, July 26

Anime in the Afternoon

Milpitas Library

40 N. Milpitas Blvd.

Milpitas

2 p.m.

Free anime screening, with free popcorn. Call (408) 262-1171 ext. 3616 for schedule.

Thursday, July 27

White of the Eye (1987)

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

701 Mission Street

San Francisco

7:30 p.m.

\$8

www.ybca.org

Donald Cammell (*Performance*) transforms slasher film clichés into a psychedelic kaleidoscope of images. Part of YBCA's "Too Scary for DVD: Neglected Horror on 35mm" series.

Thursday-Saturday, July 27-29

It Came from Outer Space (1953)

The Red Vic Movie House

More Events Next Page

1727 Haight Street
San Francisco
\$8

In 3-D; check www.redvicmoviehouse.com for showtimes.

Thursday-Sunday, July 27-30

Vision for Space Exploration Experience
NASA Ames Research Center
Moffett Field Main Gate
Mountain View
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Free

Housed in a 53-foot-long trailer located behind the white tent of the NASA Exploration Center (Building 943-A), this traveling exhibit will inspire space enthusiasts as they embark on a simulated journey to the far reaches of the solar system. (Also on display at Ames: an original Mercury space capsule and a piece of the Moon brought back by Apollo 15.)

Friday, July 28

Lunar Lounge Express
Chabot Space Science Center
10000 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland
8-11 p.m.
\$15, \$8 for members, \$10 for students
510-336-7373

Party under the stars with the Total Eclipse Band, Sonic Vision planetarium show, food

Send your items for inclusion in our calendar section to:
SFinSF@gmail.com

and beverage tastings, and telescope viewing (weather permitting).

Friday-Saturday, July 28-29

BlogHer Conference
Hyatt San Jose
1740 North First Street
San Jose
7:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
\$249, Day 2 only \$99
blogher.org/about-blogher-conference-06
Workshops and discussions by, for and about Women Who Blog.

July 28-August 3

Azumi (2003)
Lumiere Theatre
1572 California St.
or
Opera Plaza Cinema
601 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco
(Landmark apparently hasn't decided which theater will screen it yet. Check www.landmarktheatres.com for location and showtimes.) Based on Yu Koyama's manga; directed by Ryuhei Kitamura (*Versus, Godzilla: Final Wars*).

Saturday, July 29

Paul Reubens Day IV
The Dark Room Theatre
2263 Mission Street
San Francisco
9 p.m.
\$10
www.darkroomsf.com

The Drunken Redheaded Sluts hold a day-long celebration climaxing at the Dark Room with zany live performances and clips from a certain notorious porno. So, adults only. Pee-wee Herman-themed costumes are encouraged and will get you a \$3 admission discount.

Saturday, July 29

Film Night in the Park:
Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)
Dolores Park
San Francisco
8 p.m.
Suggested donation: \$5 adults, \$3 children

Saturday, July 29

WIC-TOP 5.0
San Ramon Creek
San Ramon
"We're In Costume - Take Our Picture."
A cosplay and doll photoshoot and potluck barbecue. RSVP and location information at <http://forums.cosplay.com/showthread.php?t=85369>.

Saturday and Sunday, July 29-30

Berkeley Kite Festival
Berkeley Marina
Berkeley
11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Free
highlinekites.com/Berkeley_Kite_Festival/
Kite team demos, kite-making workshops, giant creature kites, Taiko drummers, food, music, more.

More Events Next Page

Saturday and Sunday, July 29-30

5th Annual Belly Dance Fantasy Festival

Marina Community Center

15301 Wicks Blvd.

San Leandro

Noon-9 p.m.

\$10

www.tatseena.com

Dancing, live music, bazaar, workshops,

Moroccan food.

Sunday, July 30

Bad Movie Night:

Escape from New York (1981)

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$5

Wednesday, August 2

Metropolis (1927)

Humanist Hall

390 27th Street

Oakland

7:30 p.m.

\$5 suggested donation

Fritz Lang's silent sci fi classic.

Wednesday, August 2

Interkosmos (2006)

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

701 Mission Street San Francisco

7:30 p.m.

\$7

A mock documentary about a secret East

German plan to establish Communist colonies

on the moons of Saturn and Jupiter, including musical numbers and faithful reconstructions of the rigors of space travel. With filmmaker Jim Finn in person.

Friday, August 4

Music of the Spheres

Lick Observatory

Mt. Hamilton Road

San Jose

www.ucolick.org/public/music.html

8 p.m.

\$40-\$150

Part of the Observatory's Summer concert series, featuring the music of Oscar Reynolds and the Karumanta Ensemble and a talk by astronomer Geoff Marcy, followed by telescope viewing (weather permitting). Doors open at 7:30.

Friday-Sunday, August 4-6

AOD: The San Francisco Animation

Convention

Cathedral Hill Hotel

1101 Van Ness

San Francisco

www.aodsf.org

\$45

Once known as Anime Overdose, this con now celebrates anime as well as American cartoons and other flavors of animation. Panels, guests, dealer's room, cosplay, art show, more.

Saturday, August 5

Hell's Belles Pinewood Derby

The Shooting Gallery

839 Larkin Street

San Francisco

6 p.m., races start at 8

Free

hellsbellesclub.com/events/p_derby/derby.html

A pinewood derby for artists and people who just want to race little pinewood cars. There will also be a silent art auction with proceeds supporting the Buen Dia Family School.

Saturday, August 5

Music of the Spheres

Lick Observatory

Mt. Hamilton Road

San Jose

www.ucolick.org/public/music.html

8 p.m.

\$40-\$150

Part of the Observatory's Summer concert series, featuring the music of the Kurt Ribak Trio and a talk by astronomer Raja Guhathakurta, followed by telescope viewing (weather permitting). Doors open at 7:30.

Saturday, August 5

Turkish Delight Viennese Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by July 29), \$20 at the door.

Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Strauss waltzes and more.

More Events Next Page

Saturday, August 5

Warp 11: "Return to the Alpha Quadrant"

Blue Lamp

1400 Alhambra Blvd.

Sacramento

10 p.m.

Ages 21+

Sacramento's Star Trek-themed rock band performs such hits as "Everything I Do I Do With William Shatner" and "She Make It So." With Special Guest TBD.

Saturday, August 5

Midnight Mass: Deathrace 2000 (1975)

Bridge Theatre

3010 Geary Blvd.

San Francisco

\$12

www.peacheschrist.com

Hosted by Peaches Christ as part of her summer midnight movie series. Guest appearance by Mary Woronov.

Saturday, August 5

Bay Area Games Day

Los Altos Public Library

13 S. San Antonio Road

Los Altos

10 a.m.

\$1

Regular event featuring German-style strategy boardgames like Settlers of Catan, Avalon Hill-type multiplayer games, lots of cardgames, and historical board wargames.

Sunday, August 6

Author: Peter S. Beagle

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

1 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Sunday, August 6

Author: Elaine Isaak

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

August 7-13

ISEA 2006

ZeroOne San Jose

Various venues

San Jose

The 13th International Symposium of Electronic Art (ISEA) will be held August 7-13 in San Jose in conjunction with the inauguration of ZeroOne San Jose: A Global Festival of Art on the Edge, a milestone festival to be held biennially. More info, schedules at isea2006.sjsu.edu.

August 7-18

Creepshow Camp

The Hypnodrome

575 10th Street

San Francisco

(415) 377-4202

\$350

Ages 13-18

Special teen session of the two-week summer

day camp for young devotees of Horror, Suspense and SciFi, featuring a monster make-up lab, special effects shop, hands-on horror theater workshops, film shoots, and a final stage performance for friends and family.

Tuesday, August 8

Alien (1979)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

A fundraiser for the Chiapas Support Committee Health Care Project.

Tuesday, August 8

The Goonies (1985)

The Lawn at Wente Vineyards

5565 Tesla Road

Livermore

Suggested donation: \$9 adults, \$5 children (925) 456-2400

Outdoor movie night at the vineyard: Café opens at 6:30 p.m., movie starts at twilight.

Thursday-Sunday, August 10-13

Super Vision

California Theater

San Jose

8 pm, Saturday at 3 p.m.

\$32-40

www.artsopolis.com/zeroone/02.htm

The Builders Association and dbox present a multi-media theater piece on a very large scale, exploring life and privacy in the data society.

Friday, August 11

Survival Research Labs
Behind South Hall
435 South Market Street
San Jose
10 p.m.
\$25

www.artsopolis.com/zeroone/02.htm
SRL brings a newly conceived performance piece to ZeroOne San Jose: Monster machine meets hovercraft, meets huge sculptural creatures, meets fire. Very Big, Very Loud, Very Exciting.

Friday-Saturday, August 11-12

Further Confusion Summer Campout and Picnic
Lake Chabot
Oakland
Picnic: Sat. at 11 a.m.
www.furtherconfusion.org/fc2007/camping_picnic.php
Friends of the Bay Area's Furry con hold their annual campout and picnic. \$5 per night to camp, RSVP at camping@furtherconfusion.org.

Saturday, August 12

Author: Mark Budz
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
1 p.m.
Free
www.borderlands-books.com

Saturday, August 12

Author: David Thomas Lord

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
3 p.m.
Free
www.borderlands-books.com

Saturday, August 12

Other Magazine Presents
Writers with Drinks
The Make-Out Room
3225 22nd Street
San Francisco
7:30 p.m.
\$3-\$5 sliding scale
With Noria Jablonski and Sage Vivant.

Saturday-Sunday, August 12-13

Scottish Renaissance Festival
Buchanan Park
Pittsburg
Free
www.angelfire.com/realm2/hrp/PSRF/home.html
Celtic crafts, swordfights, music, food, more.

Thursday-Saturday, August 17-19

Super Vision
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts
701 Mission Street
San Francisco
8 p.m.
\$30
www.ybca.org
The Builders Association and dbox present a multi-media theater piece on a very large scale, exploring life and privacy in the data society.

August 18-September 23

TROG!
Theatre Rhinoceros
2926 16th Street
San Francisco
8 p.m. (Sundays at 3 p.m.)
\$20
www.makeitsoproductions.org
Make It So Productions' parody of the 1970 British B-horror film *Trog*, which starred Joan Crawford in her final role.

Saturday, August 19

San Francisco Underground
Short Film Festival
Bridge Theatre
3010 Geary Blvd.
San Francisco
Midnight
Now accepting submissions; details at www.peacheschrist.com.

Sunday, August 20

Ask a Scientist:
Vision and Misperception
The Canvas Gallery
1200 9th Avenue
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free
UC Berkeley vision researcher Ariella Popple offers visual illusions and entertaining audience participation experiments.

Sunday, August 20

Bad Movie Night: Lifeforce (1985)

More Events Next Page

The Dark Room Theatre
2263 Mission Street
San Francisco
8 p.m.
\$5

Friday, August 25

Lunar Lounge Express
Chabot Space Science Center
10000 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland
8-11 p.m.
\$15, \$10 for students
510-336-7373
Party under the stars with music, food and beverage tastings, Sonic Vision planetarium show, and telescope viewing (weather permitting).

Saturday, August 26

Film Night in the Park:
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
(2002)
Creek Park
San Anselmo
8 p.m.
Suggested donation: \$5 adults, \$3 children

Saturday-Sunday, August 26-27

Golden Gate Renaissance Festival
Speedway Meadow
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco
www.sffaire.com
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday
\$15

Jugglers, food, handcrafted items, jousting, sword fighting demonstrations. Rapier tournament on Saturday.

Sunday, August 27

Bad Movie Night: Orca (1977)
The Dark Room Theatre
2263 Mission Street
San Francisco
8 p.m.
\$5

Friday-Monday, September 1-4

ConQuest SF
San Francisco Airport Marriott
1800 Old Bayshore Hwy.
Burlingame
\$50 at the door (\$45 until August 15), one-day pass \$30
Gaming convention includes role-playing, miniatures, card, classic, board, collectibles, historicals, RPGA.

Saturday, September 2

Captain Morgan's Privateers (We Ain't Pirates No More) Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
\$15 in advance (by August 26), \$20 at the door
Dance lesson at 7:15 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Sunday, September 3

Sac-Con
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street

Sacramento
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
\$5
Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest.

September 6-17

San Francisco Fringe Festival
Various Venues
San Francisco
Some promising-sounding plays this year include *The Thrilling Adventures Of Elvis In Space 2* (the continuing exploits of Elvis, his lovable sidekick Stevie, and the Robot Charlie Hodge), and *Yorick & Co.* (struggling theater company's production of *Hamlet* features its recently-deceased patron in the role of Yorick's skull). Full schedule at www.sffringe.org.

September 7-October 1

Woman in Black (A Ghost Play)
Pacific Rep
Golden Bough Theatre
West side of Monte Verde between 8th and 9th
Carmel-by-the-Sea
www.pacrep.org
Local production of the play that's been running in London for 16 years. Highly recommended by Jack Avery.

September 8-10

Creation Salutes Star Trek: The 40th Anniversary Celebration
DoubleTree Hotel
Sacramento
2001 Point West Way
More Events Next Page

Sacramento
\$399-\$90; one-day passes available from \$50
www.creationent.com/cal/stsac.htm
Creation brings William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy to Sacramento.

Saturday, September 9

Author: Ray Garton
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
3 p.m.
Free
www.borderlands-books.com

Saturday, September 9

Film Night in the Park:
The Birds (1963)
Union Square
San Francisco
8 p.m.
Suggested Donation: \$5 adults, \$3 children

Saturday, September 9

Other Magazine Presents
Writers with Drinks
The Make-Out Room
3225 22nd Street
San Francisco
7:30 p.m.
\$3-\$5 sliding scale
With Daniel Alarcon, Mark Budz, and Sparky.

Saturday-Sunday, September 9-10

Northern California Renaissance Faire
Casa de Fruta
100031 Pacheco Pass Highway

Hollister
\$22
www.norcalrenfaire.com
Hearty ale, fine foods, handmade crafts, new
Tournament of Horses.

Friday, September 15

Film Night in the Park:
The Addams Family (1991)
San Geronimo Community Center
San Geronimo
8 p.m.
Suggested donation: \$5 adults, \$3 children

Friday and Saturday, September 15-16

Music of the Spheres
Lick Observatory
Mt. Hamilton Road
San Jose
www.ucolick.org/public/music.html
8 p.m.
\$40-\$150
Part of the Observatory's Summer concert series, featuring the music of guitarists Daniel Roest and Muriel Anderson and a talk by astronomers Geoff Marcy (Friday) and Alex Filippenko (Saturday), followed by telescope viewing (weather permitting). Doors open at 7:30.

Saturday-Sunday, September 16-17

4th Annual Japantown Anime Faire
Japan Center
1581 Webster Street
San Francisco
Screenings, cosplay, dealer's room, more.
Details to follow.

Saturday-Sunday, September 16-17

Northern California Renaissance Faire
Casa de Fruta
100031 Pacheco Pass Highway
Hollister
\$22
www.norcalrenfaire.com
Hearty ale, fine foods, handmade crafts, new
Tournament of Horses.

Saturday-Sunday, September 16-17

Vintage Fashion Expo
Masonic Center
1111 California Street
San Francisco
Sat. 10:30-6, Sun. 11-5
\$10
www.vintageexpo.com

Sunday, September 17

How Berkeley Can You Be Parade
Berkeley
11 a.m.
Starts at the corner of California and University Avenue.
A Klingon contingent is again planning to march. Members of the 501st Legion also usually show up. In addition, there will be a bunch of mundane weirdos there.

Wednesday, September 20

Author: Kelly Link
The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free

Friday, September 22

Film Night in the Park: Ghostbusters (1984)
 Commons Park
 10 Ross Commons
 Ross
 8 p.m.
 Suggested donation: \$5 adults, \$3 children

Friday-Sunday, September 22-24

Browncoats Ball
 Marines Memorial Club and Hotel
 609 Sutter Street
 San Francisco
www.sfbrowncoats.com
 Join the SF Browncoats who are sponsoring this year's Browncoats Ball. Two dinner and dance events, a boat tour of the bay and a tour of Chinatown are planned, plus lots of *Serenity*/*Firefly* activities. The event is themed around the ball from the *Firefly* episode "Shindig." (Yes, that's the one with Kaylee's dress in it.)

Saturday-Sunday, September 23-24

Northern California Renaissance Faire
 Casa de Fruta
 100031 Pacheco Pass Highway
 Hollister
 \$22
www.norcalrenfaire.com
 Hearty ale, fine foods, handmade crafts, new Tournament of Horses.

Sunday, September 24

Bad Movie Night: Incubus (1965)
 The Dark Room Theatre
 2263 Mission Street
 San Francisco

8 p.m.
 \$5
 1965 fantasy-horror film starring William Shatner; in Esperanto with English subtitles. Really.

Saturday, September 30

Hellfire Club Ball
 Masonic Lodge
 100 N. Ellsworth
 San Mateo
 8-11:30 p.m.
 \$20 at the door
 Presented by the Bay Area Regency Society (BAERS). The membership of the Hellfire Club invites you to their Annual Ball to celebrate women and wine. Dress as a gentleman, a mythological god or goddess, a monk or nun, or a mollie or dollymop.

Saturday-Sunday, September 30-October 1

Northern California Renaissance Faire
 Casa de Fruta
 100031 Pacheco Pass Highway
 Hollister
 \$22
www.norcalrenfaire.com
 Hearty ale, fine foods, handmade crafts, new Tournament of Horses.

Tuesday, October 3

Author: Neil Gaiman
 Kepler's Books
 1010 El Camino Real
 Menlo Park
 (650) 324-4321
 7:30 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, October 6-8

SiliCon
 DoubleTree Hotel
 2050 Gateway Place
 San Jose
www.siliconventions.com
 \$45, \$35 until August 31
 Guest of Honor: Robert Meyer Burnett
 Special Guests: Mark Bode, Steve Englehart
 Media-oriented general SF con; this year's theme is "Comics On and Off the Page." Art show, dealer's room, panels, costume contest, more.

Saturday, October 7

Author: Kage Baker
 Borderlands Books
 866 Valencia Street
 San Francisco
 3 p.m.
 Free
www.borderlands-books.com

Saturday, October 7

Dickens Fair Preview Ball
 PEERS Event
 Masonic Lodge
 100 N. Ellsworth
 San Mateo
 \$15 in advance (by September 24), \$20 at the door
 Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday, October 7

Film Night in the Park:
Young Frankenstein (1974)

More Events Next Page

Dolores Park
San Francisco
8 p.m.
Suggested donation: \$5 adults, \$3 children

Saturday-Sunday, October 7-8

Northern California Renaissance Faire
Casa de Fruta
100031 Pacheco Pass Highway
Hollister
\$22
www.norcalrenfaire.com
Hearty ale, fine foods, handmade crafts, new
Tournament of Horses.

Saturday-Sunday, October 14-15

Northern California Renaissance Faire
Casa de Fruta
100031 Pacheco Pass Highway
Hollister
\$22
www.norcalrenfaire.com
Hearty ale, fine foods, handmade crafts, new
Tournament of Horses.

Thursday, October 19

Thrillville Double Feature:
It! The Terror from Beyond Space (1958)
and *Invasion of the Bee Girls (1973)*
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
7:30 p.m.
\$10
Thrillville is an independently run cult
movie cabaret hosted by Speakeasy Theaters
programmer and local lounge lizard Will

“the Thrill” Viharo and his lovely wife and
stage assistant, Monica, Tiki Goddess. Guest
appearance by Cinema Insomnia host Mr. Lobo.

Saturday, October 21

Other Magazine Presents
Writers with Drinks
The Make-Out Room
3225 22nd Street
San Francisco
7:30 p.m.
\$3-\$5 sliding scale
With Frank Portman and Lisa Goldstein.

Saturday-Sunday, October 21-22

Folsom Renaissance Faire
Lions Park
Natoma & Stafford Streets
Folsom
\$12
www.folsomfaire.com
Dancers, bards, puppets, food, more.

October 20-22

Yaoi-Con
Westin and Clarion Hotels
San Francisco Airport
www.yaoicon.com
\$60
“A celebration of male beauty and passion in
anime and manga.”

Friday, October 27

Thrillville’s Halloween Spookylau:
The Crawling Eye (1958)
Copia
500 First Street

Napa
8 p.m.
\$6
Thrillville is an independently run cult
movie cabaret hosted by Speakeasy Theaters
programmer and local lounge lizard Will
“the Thrill” Viharo and his lovely wife and
stage assistant, Monica, Tiki Goddess. Guest
appearance by Cinema Insomnia host Mr. Lobo.

Friday-Sunday, November 3-5

BASCON
Embassy Suites
250 Gateway Boulevard
South San Francisco
The Bay Area Slash Convention returns. Adults
only. For all your Kirk/Spock fanfic needs.

Saturday, November 4

Le Bal des Vampires
PEERS Event
Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda
7 p.m.
\$15 in advance (by October 28), \$20 at the door
The annual fancy dress ball for the Undead and
their admirers.

Sunday, November 12

Blind Guardian
The Fillmore
1805 Geary Boulevard
San Francisco
German progressive rock band tours “A
Twist in the Myth,” their new album. “They
previously did an entire album, ‘Nightside on

Middle Earth' based on Tolkien's Silmarillion and a song called 'The Lord of the Rings' is on an earlier album. Definitely a band heavily influenced by fantasy themes."– Jack Avery.

Thursday, December 7

Thrillville: The Giant Claw (1957)
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland
9:15 p.m.
\$7

Thrillville is an independently run cult movie cabaret hosted by Speakeasy Theaters programmer and local lounge lizard Will "the Thrill" Viharo and his lovely wife and stage assistant, Monica, Tiki Goddess. With the Twilight Vixen Revue live on stage.

Sunday, December 10

Sac-Con
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento

10 a.m.-4 p.m.
\$5

Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest.

Saturday, December 16

Otaku Bowl
Details to follow

Winter edition of the event where bowling, anime and cosplay meet. Video room, costume contest, artist alley/swap meet and random bowling fun.

January 5-7, 2007

Fangoria's Weekend of Horrors
DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose

This is a Creation Convention. Guests to include Doug Bradley (Pinhead). Further information will be forthcoming.

January 6, 2007

Victorian 12th Night Ball
PEERS Event
Venue: TBA
8 p.m.

January 18-22, 2007

Further Confusion 2007
DoubleTree Hotel
2500 Gateway Place
San Jose
\$40

The Bay Area's major Furry con. Art show, dealer's room, costume contest, more.

February 3, 2007

Gotham City Black and White Ball
PEERS Event

We're not sure if this is Gotham as in Batman or Gotham as in old New York. With PEERS it could go either way.

February 16-19, 2007

Pantheoncon
DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
Annual Pagan gathering with workshops,

lectures, performances, rituals, drumming, dancing, costume contests, and crafts.

March 2-4, 2007

WonderCon
Moscone Center South
747 Howard Street
San Francisco
www.comic-con.org/wc/

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

March 16-18, 2007

Con-X-treme
DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
www.con-x-treme.com

X-treme anime, science fiction, fantasy, martial arts, cosplay, masquerade, belly dancing, workshops, dealers and more.

April 7, 2007

Red Carpet Ball
(1930s Hollywood Academy Award Ball)
PEERS Event
No details yet on this dance.

May 5, 2007

Sleeping Beauty's Christening Fantasy Ball
PEERS Event
No details yet on this dance.

May 25-28, 2007

BayCon
www.baycon.org

\$75 (\$45 until Aug. 31)

25th Anniversary of the largest annual general SF convention in Northern California. Diverse panels, dealer's room, art show, masquerade, anime room, gaming, Mara's Bar, Dive-In Movies, much more.

June 2, 2007

Space Cowboys' Ball

PEERS Event

No details yet on this dance.

June 30-July 3, 2007

Westercon 60: Gnomeward Bound

San Mateo Marriott

1770 South Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo

spfii.org/westercon60/

Guests of Honor: Tad Williams, Theresa

Mather, Christian McGuire

Toastmaster: Jay Lake

Note date and location change.

August 3-6, 2007

MythCon 38

Clark Kerr Center

2601 Warring Street

Berkeley

www.mythsoc.org

\$60, \$50 Mythopoeic Society members

The annual Mythopoeic Conference returns to

Berkeley with Guests of Honor Ellen Kushner

and Delia Sherman.

August 4, 2007

Pride & Prejudice Picnic

PEERS Event

No details yet on this event.

September 1, 2007

Mikado Ball

(A Gilbert and Sullivan Cast Party)

PEERS Event

No details yet on this dance.

October 6, 2007

Edwardian Gothic Ball

PEERS Event

Edwardian as in macabre illustrator Edward

Gorey.

November 3, 2007

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event

Gotta love a group that plans this far in advance, particularly since they have a good track record of actually holding their events as scheduled. No further details available yet.

April 25-28, 2008

CostumeCon 26

www.cc26.info

CostumeCon will be coming to Silicon Valley in 2008. Further details to follow.

Ongoing:

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt

Walking Tour

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia

San Francisco

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

\$20

www.sfghosthunt.com

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org

Mondays

Dukefish

Jake's of Sunnyvale

174 E. Fremont Avenue

Sunnyvale

Gather: 8 p.m, games: 8:30 p.m.

Dukefish is a bunch of people who get together to play board games and, sometimes, bridge every week.

Mondays and Wednesdays

Silicon Valley Boardgamers

Match Play

San Antonio Shopping Center

Mountain View

7 p.m.

\$2

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

Wednesdays

Bay Area Role-Playing Society

Go-Getter's Pizza

1489 Beach Park Boulevard

Foster City

6 p.m-10 p.m.

www.BayRPS.com

Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email GM@BayRPS.com.

Wednesdays

East Bay Strategy Games Club

EndGame

921 Washington

Oakland

7:30 p.m.-11 p.m.

Free

www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html

Fridays

SF Games

Muddy's Coffeehouse

1304 Valencia Street near 24th

San Francisco

7 p.m. to midnight

Free

vax.hanford.org/dk/games

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

night on Tuesdays at Café Macondo, 3159 16th Street between Guerrero and Valencia.

Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour

Meets at PlanetWeavers/Genesis Store

1573 Haight Street (at Clayton)

San Francisco

7 p.m.-9 p.m.

\$20

www.hauntedhaight.com

Reservations required.

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

Meets corner of California and Taylor

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$20

www.sfvampiretour.com

Led by Mina Harker. Tour is cancelled if there is heavy rain.

Saturdays

Rocky Horror Picture Show

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

Midnight

\$6

www.picturepubpizza.com

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

Biweekly

PenSFA Party

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

Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Group

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jade Livingston at sfscifi@yahoo.com for more information.

Monthly

Dorkbot-SF

Free, donations welcome

www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/

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

Fantastic Frontiers

www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/

Social club for Sacramento County SciFi/

Fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.

Foothill Anime

Building 5015, Foothill College

Los Altos Hills

Free
Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.

Legion of Rassilon

Carl's Junior
2551 N. First Street
San Jose
7:30 p.m.

Free
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.

No-Name Anime

Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga
Free

www.nnanime.com
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.

SF Browncoats

Cafe Murano
1777 Steiner Street
San Francisco
Noon

Free
www.sfbrowncoats.com
SF Fans of Firefly/Serenity usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.

Silicon Gulch Browncoats

Tied House

954 Villa Street
Mountain View
Noon - 2 p.m.
Free
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org
Silicon Gulch fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza
Howe Ave. (Near Howe and Arden Ave.)
7 p.m.-10 p.m.
Free
Sacramento's oldest science fiction group meets the third Friday of the month. Info at www.ussdefiance.org.