

# Science Fiction/San Francisco

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# News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

## The Drink Tank Gets it Right?

Last year, I ran a hoax campaign for the Mayorship of San Jose on the platform that we should rebuild the giant light tower that stood over the intersection of Market and Santa Clara Streets. This was meant as a universal joke, but now the San Jose *Mercury News* reports on 1stACT Silicon Valley and their plans to revitalize Downtown San Jose. There's a lot of typical stuff about prettifying Downtown and having gates, but they also mention that they want to rebuild a light tower!

A letter has been written to the folks at 1stACT San Jose suggesting that they should name the tower after The Drink Tank, but no response has been received.

## WorldCon BArea Panelists

If you're a BArea fan and you're interested in seeing some of the BArea's most interesting fen being interesting, then you make sure to check out the various WorldCon panels and programs (not to mention parties) that folks will be on. Here are some random highlights:

Blogs and eFanzines on Wednesday the 23rd at 2:30 will feature Bay Area fans Chris Garcia, Lisa Deutsche Harrigan and SF/SF contributor Andy Trembley as well as Patrick Neilsen Hayden and Irish fan (and former TAFF winner) James Bacon.

Preserving Your Collection will feature another SF/SFer, Robert Hole, along with Chris Garcia plus Joe Siclary and Fred Lerner. That panel will talk about the best ways to keep your comics, fanzines and other items safe for a long time. It'll happen Wednesday at 4 p.m.

I Was Promised Flying Cars will feature the ubiquitous Chris Garcia, BArea SF writer G. David Nordley and former local guy (and Laurence Livermore National Labs employee) Jordin Kare. Should be a fun panel on Thursday at 5:30.

Garcia and Trembley team up again and are aided by SF fan Lenny Bailes as well as Challenger editor Guy Lillian III and LA fan Chaz Boston-Baden for Why Do People Write For Fanzines. It's an interesting panel topic and should bring out some fine discussion. It's on Saturday at 1 p.m.

The Match Game will return — twice! Kevin Standlee has put together a BArea-heavy roster of folks for two versions of the game. Lynn Gold, Leigh-Ann Hildebrandt, Andy Trembley, Chris Garcia, Kevin Roche, Tom Galloway and the inimitable Len Wein will all

be there doing a daytime version, and the Late Night version will get a little blue following the Hugo Awards on Saturday.

And though not strictly a BArea affair, local fave and writer-genius Jay Lake will be roasted on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. Who knows what's gonna happen as many of his friends on the panel skewer him alive.

## Fanzines Published

eFanzines.com has seemed a little slower than usual lately, partly due to Arnie Katz having computer issues that have resulted in no Vegas Fandom Weekly issue being released since the one that came out on July 23rd. A flurry of action that started on August 1st has seen the release of Earl Kemp's eI #27, Shelbe Vick's ConfuSon, John Purcell's and furthermore... #12 and The Drink Tank #92.

Other zines are likely to start to roll out with WorldCon just around the corner. Traditionally there's a flood of zines right before and right after Con and this year looks to be no exception.

# Letters Of Comment

## **Peter Sullivan writes:**

Firstly, congratulations on the first anniversary. I suspect that a fanzine like SF/SF has quite a bit of an “iceberg” effect, in that much of the work involved isn’t visible. For a typical, single-editor fanzine, basically whatever they type appears in the fanzine. But with SF/SF, there’s a lot more work finding out about events to cover, getting people to write about them, and then bringing the whole thing together at the end.

***Jean Martin responds:** Yes, there’s a lot of work behind each issue of SF/SF. It’s amazing though how everyone just does their job on schedule and we all pull together to get this show on the road. Really quite like clockwork. I’m in awe that we get so many people to do this with us for free! I think we all just love to be part of something bigger and express our thoughts and creativity. As I’ve mentioned before, SF/SF provides that and we’d love to have more people on board.*

Sad news about Emerald City, but if Cheryl’s no longer enjoying it, then she’s right to call it a day. I must admit that I’ve never been a great reader of the Emerald City fanzine itself, but I’ve found the weblog

very useful in keeping up to date on SF and writers’ issues generally.

Interesting editorial by Jean. I must admit that, over the past month or so, I have been consciously avoiding the news as much as possible, which for a news junkie like me is quite a turnaround. I think that Jean’s right to say that keeping up more “normal” activities like fandom is even more important in such times. At city-level, nationally and internationally, fandom helps keep us connected to other people, and helps us to realise that they are, fundamentally, just like us – even down to a shared interest in “that crazy Buck Rogers stuff.”

*I knew my editorial would be a little controversial. But since I’m provided with a bully pulpit, I might as well make use of it! That’s a good point that I didn’t think of or I would have included it in my editorial. That people in fandom reach across continents and connect people of all races, religions, social standings, etc. It’s quite a testament to the fact that we’re all just human beings and we all have something in common if we look deep enough. So there’s no reason why we shouldn’t all get along.*

## **John Purcell writes:**

To break with the traditional format of “loc the zine from the front to back,” allow me to jump straight into commenting on Jean’s editorial.

Yes, Jean, we all live in our own little cocoons, protected from the madness swirling around us, and sometimes it is very difficult to want to come out to get the necessities of life performed. To try to bring joy and laughter into the world is a noble goal; to desire nothing but to immerse one’s self in that joy and laughter is detrimental to one’s sanity. One cannot know joy without pain, one cannot laugh without crying sometimes. It is unfortunate that the yins and yangs of life are quite often out of balance, but it is precisely that balance which we must strive to achieve.

***Jean responds:** Wow, I get our three regular LOC writers responding all at the same time to our Issue 27 and you all have something to say about my editorial. I’m quite flattered! It’s good it’s my turn to respond to LOCs this issue.*

*Well, I’m not advocating burying our heads in the sand like ostriches and ignoring what’s going on in the outside world. I keep a*

*pretty good balance between my fandom life and my real life. That's why I prefer not to date someone in the scene and my job keeps me sane most days because it brings me back down to earth. I'm also no stranger to depression, anxiety, loss and pain in my own personal life. We all have our own challenges that we face on a daily basis. Darkness comes to each of us soon enough so that's why I'm a big proponent of making sure to follow the light as much as I can.*

*Discovering fandom three years ago actually was my saving grace and enabled me to make a huge transformation in my life for the better. What I'm not interested in personally is wallowing in all the blow-by-blow detail of the miseries in the world that the news media feeds the mainstream populace. It's unproductive and makes some negative, fearful and angry at other people. Some people also use it as an excuse not to do anything with their lives because they don't see any hope for the world. Just my two cents.*

So what exactly am I getting at here, Jean? Just this: by all means, spread as much joy as you humanly can, but don't forget about that "dark side." I for one enjoy the things you and your cohorts write about in *SF/SF*; it is definitely fun and an enjoyable diversion. We all need this from time to time. That's why right now I'm writing this loc after the evening class I just taught; it's

helping my mind shift into a lower gear to start unwinding from leading my students through Book 9 of *Paradise Lost*. No wonder my eyes are itching!

Anyway. A long way to go to say, "keep it up." Like I said, I enjoy your zine.

*Thanks for the support and compliments. I do think though that fanzines like SF/SF are not just diversions but keep a sense of community and also serve as a venue for the people involved in it to do something productive with their time, talent and energies.*

Too bad about Cheryl's announcement. *Emerald City* is a wonderful webzine. Someone somewhere will pick up the slack. My guess is *Some Fantastic*, which happens to be another wonderful zine.

I do hope all of you West Coast fen have a good time at the Worldcon. Sure wish I could go. In fact, I doubt if I'll ever be able to attend another Worldcon since it is held over Labor Day Weekend. That corresponds with the first week of classes at most colleges and universities, and in my mind, my obligation is to my students first and Worldcon second. Don't get me wrong; I love fandom and cons. But unless the Worldcon comes back to Texas, it is highly unlikely anyone will ever see me at one of these again.

*Well, let's just hope Worldcon shows up*

*in your neighborhood sometime soon. I won't be able to go as well and it's in L.A. I know, I know, it's not too far from me but my domestic life won't allow for it either. I'm probably going to regret not going, just like I regret not going to Comic-Con. Wow, was that a mistake. I can't say I regret very many things in my life but missing panels with David Wenham (LOTR), Lucy Lawless (Xena and BSG) and Gerard Butler (Phantom of the Opera and Lara Croft) is something I will have a hard time getting over!*

Sub lots and lots and lots of pictures!! That will ease the pain of my academic solitude.

*Glad you like our photos. I'm such a photo buff and I truly believe that a picture is worth a thousand words. It took me awhile to switch to digital photography but once the picture quality came up to par with film photography, I became a huge fan. I develop hundreds of photos a month! And it's so convenient to email and/or upload them to friends. Of course, it makes Eva's layouting job easier.*

That and the Worldcon report Lloyd Penney's gonna write for my zine. I'm preparing a Not-Worldcon report. You Have Been Warned!

Espana Sheriff gave us all a nice little bit on San Fran. And I really have to wrap this up, but I must ask a simple question

about that Romantic Poetry reading on the Lake: don't you mean a "recitation of Keats" instead of "Yeats"? You're talking a hundred year's difference and a whole 'nuther poetic era. Please say this was a misprint...

*You know what, I was there and I can't remember if it was Keats or Yeats. I think it was Keats, though. Our Regency events are not very particular about periods. I think someone recited some Shakespeare sonnets and someone had their own poetry, which would be considered modern. It was more just a venue for people to enjoy poetry.*

All for now. Enjoyed it very much.

Lloyd Penney writes:

Chris can tell you that I must be terribly caught up if I am not doing multi-issue letters of comment. Either there's a lull in fanzine production, or people are getting ready for Worldcon or Dragoncon. Here's some quick comments on issue 27 of SF/SF.

Hey, Chris, congratulations on your film award! Good to see that your writing skills are being recognized. It is always great to get a little recognition for your efforts. I agree with John Purcell on the staying power of the zine...it is difficult to establish a stable of good and reliable writers, and you've been able to do this, to the benefit of BArea fandom. I hope they appreciate this.

*Jean responds: Yes, Chris. Congratulations! I hope Bay Area fandom appreciates it as well. I'm constantly rounding up people to write for us. We have our regulars but most people come and go. Some come back after a break. We're all busy with our own lives. So, yes, we do have to continually recruit people to write.*

My loc...I relayed this to you, Chris, in a loc to The Drink Tank, but for the rest...I found there's a chain of clothing stores called The Hollister Clothing Co., and there are stores all over Toronto, including a major mall to the south of us. That's why there are shirts everywhere that say Hollister on them. I still haven't heard anything about the Tolkien event here...I know that Ed Meskys was involved in Tolkien fandom many years ago, but he was not involved with this convention.

*I met lots and lots of Canadians in Mazatlan over the last Christmas holidays (they were all flying south for the winter). Anyway, one of them was wearing a Hollister shirt, which I've never heard of before then. So I guess that's popular in Canada! It was so funny, though, because Hollister means something completely different to us Bay Area folks.*

A shame about Emerald City. I know Cheryl is very angry with many fans right now as they have spread rumours about her

making money off favorable reviews, which is completely false. I don't think she'll ever write for a fanzine or any other kind of zine again after this mess. Also, she's had to make the decision to find more income, and the zine had to be sacrificed to free up more time.

*That's such a shame. I don't understand why some people have to ruin a good thing that other people are doing. Usually a result of envy I think. I completely empathize with Cheryl. People used to say nasty things about me when I used to publish my heavy metal magazine in the early 1990s. That I was a groupie, etc., etc. I thought people in fandom were less like that but I guess there are always bad eggs in every community. For the most part though, knock on wood, we've been getting nothing but good feedback from people.*

That's right, Jean, follow your bliss. We've all had to endure too much criticism for what we enjoy, and the way we enjoy it. That comes from family, friends and other fans, and it's not fair to anyone. Somehow, their interests are "normal," while ours are "weird."

*I made a friend from England during my New Zealand trip and she said that most people where she comes from think she's weird and she felt so blessed to be in a company of people that appreciated and even celebrated her. I'm sure we've all been labeled for our*

*interests and so we should all support each other and stand proud.*

Given that LAcon IV is in late August, are there any fannish expeditions planned to go see The Burning Man festival? There was a documentary broadcast on the CBC a short time ago about a Vancouver couple, both performance artists, who packed up their van and drove down to Nevada to perform at Burning Man. I've heard there's expeditions out to Burning Man just to see the performers and naked people. I keep seeing jackalopes in popular culture... Pixar made a great short cartoon with a jackalope as the main character, and the jackalope is the school mascot at Atomic Betty's high school. There's the phrase that sums it all up, and makes so many people interested in Burning Man, and fandom, too... delightful absurdity. Maybe fandom needs a similar expedition out to Nevada to do all the delightfully absurd things fans like to do. I think the Las Vegas Westercon will be subtitled Burning Fan...

*Burning Fan, that's hilarious. Yes, I'm headed to Burning Man barring any unforeseen circumstances. My home life is a little bit chaotic at the moment but I got my ticket the first day they started selling, so I've been looking forward to this for a while now. I won't be with a big theme camp this year so I'll have more time to explore the delightfully*

*absurd things that you'll only see at Burning Man.*

Time to go and get this sent out and archived. The LAcon website says there's 14 days left until the convention, and Yvonne and I are leaving for LA in 11 days. We'll party with you real soon now!

Yours, Lloyd Penney

*Wow, that's coming up real soon. Have fun at LAcon and we look forward to hearing about your adventures there.*

# Join our crew:

We are looking for writers to  
cover local events,  
conventions, fan groups and the  
fannish scene in general.

Contact Jean Martin and Chris Garcia  
at:

SFinSF@gmail.com

# Editorial

**By Christopher J. Garcia**  
*Editor*

It's a busy time to be a fan, one full of so much action and adventure that you kinda have to take a breath every now and again to get yourself centered. For the last two weeks, I've been working on preparations for WorldCon. I've got zines to print, panels to get ready for and ribbons to pass out, not to mention securing a car to drive down to Anaheim in, hotels to deal with and so on.. It's gonna be a big deal week for me.

Besides WorldCon, there are the starting rumblings of making WesterCon 2007 happen. With the move to a new hotel added to the fact that a large number of today's fans weren't around the last time there was a BArea WesterCon, they've got the task of re-educating us as to why we should go to a BayCon-sized convention just a few weeks after BayCon. There's a very good reason in my eyes: Jay Lake is Toastmaster and that's going to be loads of fun. We'll be hearing a lot more about WesterCon and the San Mateo Marriott as

we go along. They had their first staff picnic and it looks like a plan is starting to come together.

Cheryl Morgan's announcement that Emerald City is closing up shop, which we managed to mention in the last issue, has caused quite a stir. There've always been differing opinions about EmCit, and of course Cheryl herself, but most of the commentary on the closure has been of the "hate to see it go" variety. Personally, it was one of the first zines I regularly read when I finally got back into fandom. Thankfully, Cheryl said that we could reprint one of her early Emerald City articles and you'll find it later in this issue.

And on top of that, there's Hollister in 2008, which seems to have all the momentum of a runaway train. The planning stages for the big WorldCon party are now nearing completion and the full six-issue eBound set of Pacheco Progress Regress Reports is available on eFanzines.com. There's some fun comedy in the last couple of issues... not to mention many glorious typos!

In addition to that, SF/SF will be a

part of the big August 20th *Shriek* event at 12 Galaxies. [See Calendar section for details.] Jeff Vandermeer's film will be shown, The Church will be there, and a good time will be had by all. I'm excited that we've been asked to be a part of the event and I'm sure a few of our staff will be on hand for the fun.

And there's so much more. SF/SF will have full coverage of everything that happens because that's what we do around these parts!

# Dreams of the City

-a column

By Espana Sheriff

My favorite book about San Francisco is also one of my favorite SF books. In *The City Not Long After*, Pat Murphy uses the city as a setting for a post-apocalyptic tale, and it's hard to imagine the tale taking place anywhere else.

The story opens in a San Francisco populated by a loose community of misfits and artists. Those who stayed in or came to the city after a plague wiped out most of humanity seem to be those who least would have noticed something like the total collapse of Western civilization, or perhaps those who would least have regretted its passing. Art and dreaming are their prime motivators. Art projects from small (a message in a bottle) to huge (painting the Golden Gate Bridge blue) give their lives meaning. They are a mixed lot: hippies, bookworms, anarchists, freethinkers and even a man who believes he is a machine.

Into this world comes a literally nameless girl who doesn't quite know what to make of them. Are they decadent doomed remnants of an earlier, even more decadent

society? Blessed fools? Visionaries? Whatever they may be, Jax, as she is eventually named, has come to them with a warning: an army is on the march from Sacramento (natch) attempting to reunite the state and ultimately reestablish the old United States. Its leader, General "Fourstar" Miles, represents law and order. But the people of San Francisco are happy with their anarchy and chaos. Manifest Destiny on his side, Fourstar marches into the city expecting only token resistance.

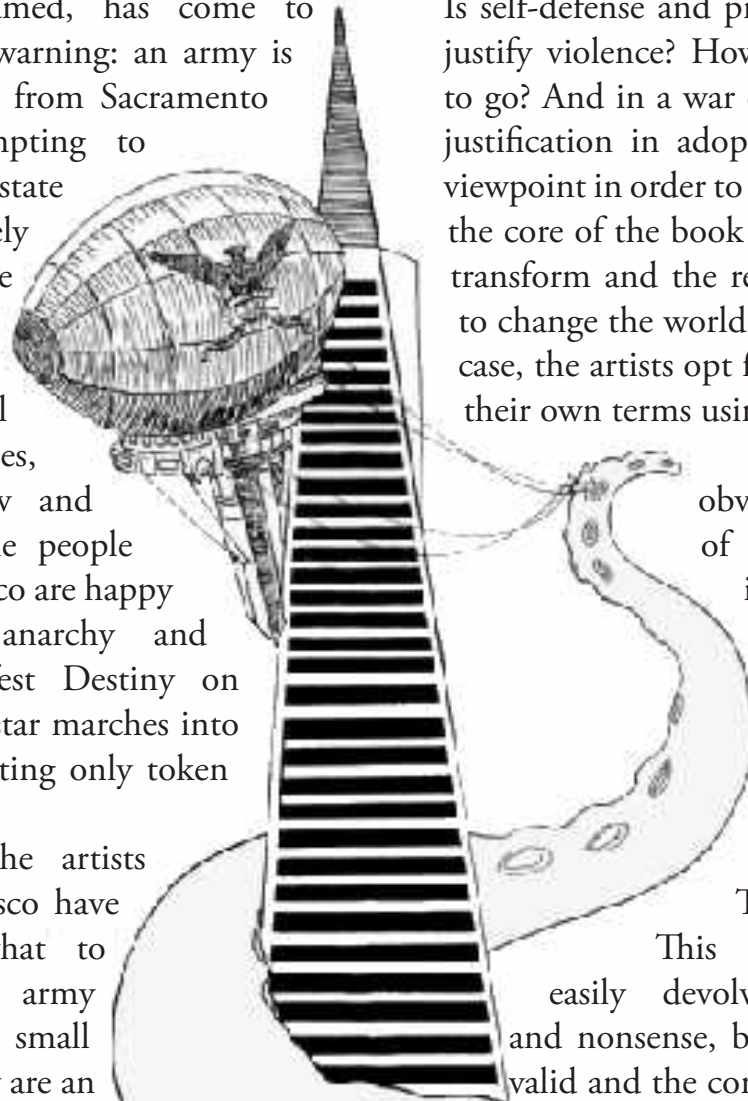
Thus the artists of San Francisco have to decide what to do when his army arrives. It's a small army, but they are an

even smaller group of defenders. Beyond the practical are the deeper issues of morality. Is self-defense and preservation enough to justify violence? How far are they willing to go? And in a war of values, is there any justification in adopting your opponent's viewpoint in order to preserve your own? At the core of the book is the power of art to transform and the responsibility of artists to change the world with their art. In this case, the artists opt for guerilla warfare on their own terms using their own rules.

The book is obviously on the side of the artists... but if it agrees with their ideals it does not idealize them as people. They are a chaotic disorganized group, at times incomprehensible.

That is the point.

This story could have easily devolved into platitudes and nonsense, but the arguments are valid and the consequences of sticking





(or not) to your ethical code are worth exploring. The soldiers are not cold killing machines nor are the artists wide-eyed innocents. Living up to your own ideals is difficult, not everyone succeeds, but the attempt must be made all the same.

The city itself plays an active role. Ghosts inhabit the streets; fogs and magics fill the air. Even before the invaders arrive the artists live with these apparitions and wonders in their daily existence. This lends the proceedings a mythical and mystical flavor. Art vs. Power, with souls as well as lives in the balance. Long after reading the book the artworks both human and supernatural (for so they appeared to me, the City making its own evanescent art) described within its pages stayed with me, making me look at familiar surroundings in new ways.

Pat Murphy works at the Exploratorium, a place where science, science fiction and art all intersect, and she mentions her work there as a big influence on this story. It shows; these are not anguished artists suffering in their attics, but artists as engineers — observing reality and changing it.

Murphy is one of our most important local SF authors. Whether you've read her work or not you've probably felt her influence. She is one of the founding mothers

of the Tiptree award and has taught writing at Stanford and UC Santa Cruz as well as at the Clarion West writer's workshop, teaching new authors such as current Hugo nominee David Levine and Campbell Award winner Nalo Hopkinson. She has won a slew of awards herself, including the Nebula and Sturgeon. And she isn't just busy in the genre either; she writes children's science books for the Exploratorium, and along with Paul Doherty she co-writes a very entertaining science column for *F&SF*.

A few years ago she teamed up with Lisa Goldstein and Michaela Roessner to overcome their reluctance to self-promote and also to bring former SF readers back into the fold. They call themselves the Brazen Hussies.

<http://www.brazenhussies.net/murphy/>

# Comic-Con: The Mother of All Cons

Photos and Text By Dr. Noe

Staff Writer

I survived my fourth year of Comic-Con, barely. Not because the con itself wore me out but the trip home was a bit arduous. Not the driving, but before getting out of the greater San Diego area I passed six accidents – three of them within a mile of each other.

But, that's not why you're here.

Comic-Con (July 20-23) is the mother of all cons. People begin saving for the next year immediately after the current. And for good reason.

Outside of all the booths full of comics, toys, weapons, and art, there are the very coveted con exclusives that set collectors' souls afire, and put pangs in their wallets. And that's how each year begins.

Though the con officially didn't begin until Thursday for most of the populace, those with full memberships are graced with a three-hour preview of the main convention floor. From 6-9 Wednesday the hall is more abuzz with activity than its actual first day, as collectors flitter from booth to booth seeking the coveted treasures of the con.

Some of the cooler exclusives included Vincent Price as The Professor from *Edward Scissorhands* and a 12-inch deluxe Evil Monkey from *Family Guy* by Mezco, Hikaru's VF- from *Macross* by Toynami, and a *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* Cannibal Jack Sparrow

by NECA, to name a few. But all the major companies from Hasbro to Mattel had a slew of exclusives set to empty collectors' wallets.

Comic-Con, while the largest con, still starts off with a bit of a slow spell, but quickly gets into full swing as conventioners



Agent Smith Versus Doctor Who

descend on the massive San Diego Convention Center, of which the con dominates and controls almost every nook and cranny for four days.

Thursday started off my costuming in what has become my token costume: Agent Smith from *The Matrix*. And for a good portion of it, there were very few pictures in which I wasn't attacking someone – that poor knight from Monty Python, Neo (but he deserved it), Lara Croft, even poor Dr. Who. And as with any con, the second you stop for pictures, photographers come out of the woodwork and keep you in the same spot (and often same pose) for a very ... long ... time. But, that's why we costumers do it. Not just the adulation of a job well done, but for the sheer love of the character we portray.

The one thing I found, not just Thursday, was that there seemed to be a lot less I was interested in attending this year, at least to pique my desires. The same goes for the exciting people (stars, artists) to meet. However, there

were a few exceptions to both.

Thursday's can't miss panel for me was *Animaniacs*, which has *finally* been released on DVD (buy it now!). The panel included Jess Harnel (Wakko), Rob Paulsen (Yakko, Pinky & Dr. Scratchensniff), and Maurice LaMarche (The Brain), who shared some of their favorite episodes (Rob and Maurice's was the Pinky & the Brain Christmas Special), did some great bits from the show, and showed some of the special features from the DVD. Being a huge fan of the show, it was great to see this panel, especially after talking with Rob Paulsen at last year's Anime Overdose in San Francisco about the show and how both of us wanted the DVD.

Friday was a great costuming day as my new and improved Joker finally made its grand scale debut. Again, more violence in pictures ensued as various heroes thought they could best the clown prince. During the wanderings of the day (which reminds me, wear comfortable shoes whether or not you're in costume, unless you like pain), I came across a wonderful group costuming as the 60s'-style Batman and Robin, including Catwoman and Batgirl. The best thing about this group was that their Batman really sounded like Adam West! This also started the group costuming as I ran into not only another Joker, a Poison Ivy, and



Sith Lords



Star Wars Cantina Band

a Bane, but had my own little Bat Villain group to walk around with later in the day.

Panels that interested me were again kind of scarce except for the Gotham Public Works group. For the uninitiated: They are a group of friends that dress as heroes and villains (more so the latter) and that's it. While their costumes and characterization is great, I did find the panel lacked a bit

on the informative side. All they talked about was mostly getting into character and picking the right character for you (which are important), but nothing about their costuming at all. Most of them don't actually do any of their own costuming. But it was still cool to see them and hear some of their anecdotes.

One of the highlights of Saturday

was to meet Matt Groening again. He was signing at the Bongo Comics booth. Unfortunately, I got to the *Simpsons* panel late and the doors were closed. This tends to be a problem for Comic-Con all around. For the panels and signings you really want to see, chances are there are a couple hundred other people who want to see the same thing. Thus, you must get to where you're going early, 30 minutes to an hour sometimes, otherwise you risk missing out. This is where planning is very essential, as is deciding what you can and cannot miss at the con. The fact that there's usually last minute additions adds more chaos to the mix.

After washing the whiteface and green hair off, it was time for some nightlife. A large group of my friends and I decided to meet at a place called the Yard House where we waited forever to get service that never came. So our meal was a wonderful late night at Baja Fresh. After which I did a photo shoot for some friends who wanted some pictures in their Preacher costumes.

My Saturday had started out pretty much shot, as the costume I had hoped and prayed for (not to mention spent a year and a lot of money on) did not make it in time to wear. So, it turned into an all Browncoat day, which isn't bad. By



The Joker and Gonzo

now, most of the free world knows what Browncoats are, but if you don't, we are the fans of Joss Whedon's *Firefly/Serenity*, and at the rate the costumers are growing, we will probably be giving the 501st Stormtrooper legion a run for their money any day now.

Saturday again was a lackluster day panel-wise, although it's probably best to spend a good portion of it in panels as the dealer's room gets so crowded you can barely move at times. However, certain things make this mass worth it.

After waiting in line at the Marvel booth for two hours I got to meet Joss Whedon! Our Browncoat pal, Ray, had a replica of Mal's duster and gave it to Joss, who was practically swimming in it. This was quite a thrill as I was probably the

last *Firefly* fan left who hadn't met him. And, for the first time in the years she's attended Comic-Con, Elvira was there dressed as Elvira!

Saturday night is the big Masquerade, which I usually never miss, however there was a showing of *Done the Impossible*, the story of how the fans of *Firefly* got the movie *Serenity* made. For as many people as the Masquerade attracts, *Done the Impossible* still filled a fairly large ballroom, and ended with time left to catch most of the Masquerade participants in the photo area before awards were doled out.

Some of the great costumes included the Cantina Band from *Star Wars: A New Hope*, the



SF and Silicon Gulch Browncoats at the SciFi Channel booth

Corpse Bride, Davey Jones, and someone was actually Scott Bernard's VF-6 Alpha Fighter from *Robotech*. Again, I didn't get to see most of it and even the party scene around the Masquerade and afterwards was a bit more subdued than years past.

Apart from all the panels and stars there was also plenty to see around the hall. Marvel had several renditions of Spider-

Man hanging about. DC Comics had a huge Batman high on a rooftop. But by far the best was the Lego display of a full-sized, completely-made-of-Legos Batman. In addition they had an entire Gotham cityscape on display for ogling.

There was one factor that altered my experience in various ways. This is the first year I've attended with a girlfriend (yes, my

own). It wasn't bad; in fact Kelly willingly volunteered her services as swag-toter to keep my costumes all accurate-like. This also made me feel more obligated to make sure she was enjoying herself, not that I had to, however this was one of the first cons she'd attended (she's done cons before, but she's usually behind the scenes – boy, is her world in for some changin'). It does also alter the dynamic of when to eat, what to see, which of the several rows to walk down, but nothing that made me want to change it.

And finally, Sunday, the coma day, almost. Things really wind down as last-minute deals are made and attendees begin their pilgrimage home. We left about noon as there, again, was really nothing exciting enough to keep us around until 5 p.m. when the con actually ended.

However, next year things, as always, will be a bit different. As always, regardless of the seeming lack of things to do, there still was plenty to keep me occupied; I just hope next year has a bit more activity to keep me going throughout the day.



Sean of the Dead and Friends

# If You're Going to San Francisco

*With the announced folding of Emerald City, we here at SF/SF thought it would be nice to run one of Cheryl Morgan's early pieces from EmCit that happened to be about her first visit to our lovely City.*

**By Cheryl Morgan**

*First Appeared in Emerald City  
Issue 5- January 1996*

Well it was hardly the weather or time of year for flowers in my hair, but there are few cities in the world that bring music to mind as readily as San Francisco. Vienna, perhaps, or Liverpool, but both for what was written there rather than what was written about them. Is San Francisco really that wonderful, that romantic, that laid back? Of course not, it is a real city, but it is a pretty special one for all that.

**LA is a great big freeway...**

My first ever trip to the USA began with a short stopover in Los Angeles to change planes. I did not see Hollywood. I did see an awful lot of cars. Coming in low over the city, the one thing that stands out is the succession of huge five and seven lane highways scything their way through the

suburbs, each one infested with an army of automobiles. And in the airport too, as soon as you step out of the terminal buildings, cars everywhere. Compared to slow, sleepy Melbourne, Los Angeles is hell on wheels.

I must admit the poor city didn't get much of a chance. I didn't leave the airport, but I did spend 2 hours longer there than expected due to air traffic delays. They, of

course, were all San Francisco's fault, but I was sat in LA, fed up and starving. Eventually I decided I would just have to start my visit in the most American way possible, and went and bought a McDonalds.

**All the leaves are brown, and the sky is grey...**

Coming into San Francisco, I could have been forgiven for thinking that the



**San Francisco sky line**

National Park Service Staff Photo

plane had taken a wrong turning and ended up at Heathrow by mistake. The colour of the fog was decidedly London-like. SFO, I gather, suffers a lot from the weather. It even has a bar called *The Fog Bank*. But we got down OK, and once more I was surprised by America and cars. You want a cab to the city, thirty-five



bucks; you want to go cheap, share a stretch limo with half a dozen other folk and you can get there in luxury for ten.

And so you go, up another enormous freeway, on the wrong side of the road, past The Park formerly known as Candlestick (and still so called on all the maps and road signs), and through South San Francisco which, Hollywood-like, proclaims its name on a hillside with the added epithet, *the industrial city*. It is an accurate claim. Here, beautiful, romantic San Francisco looks suspiciously like the sort of place you would find the meanest Shadowrunners.

### **Such a lovely place...**

It doesn't last. Soon you are into the city proper and experiencing a delightful confection of 1930s nostalgia. Is San Francisco a theme park disguised as a city? At times you could be forgiven for thinking so. The restored art deco trolleybuses are the major culprits: haunting Market Street, the ghosts of public transport past are a constant reminder that things are not quite when they should be. But for me the crowning glory is the Marriot hotel. Imagine, if you will, a 39 storey skyscraper with a gently cascading summit. Now switch into art deco mode and apply the classic segmented hemisphere style - the sort of thing you see on the front of old radios. Use it for the windows on the main and subsidiary peaks.

Finally, take yourself to the top floor, given over entirely to a bar. On either side, the largest of those windows give a panoramic vista over the city. To one side, on a good day, the Golden Gate in the distance; to the other, a magnificent view of the equally stunning Oakland bridge. Spectacular.

### **Down in the crowded bars, out for a good time...**

Of course one of the things that San Francisco is most famous for is restaurants. With only a few days to explore, and poor Kevin having a nasty stomach bug, I had no chance of making a thorough survey. In particular I was sorry to miss out on the Stinking Rose, a garlic lover's restaurant where the few dishes on the menu marked with a V are those deemed safe for vampires. But what I tried I very much enjoyed, both for the settings and the food. I went to John's Grill, famous for having been featured in *The Maltese Falcon*, and Max's Diner, a classic American café with a soda fountain and juke box terminals on every table. I also had one of the best Chinese meals I have ever eaten, and have discovered real Mexican food, as opposed to the tepid stuff you get outside California. If I have any complaint at all it concerns the mountainous quantities that US restaurants serve you. No wonder so many Americans are horizontally challenged.

### **Don't you remember, we built this city...**

On the San Andreas fault.

It was so easy to forget. In amongst those magnificent, arrogant buildings, it is hard to believe that the whole edifice could come crashing down at any moment. Of course it could. The client I was working for had their staff spread through a number of temporary homes whilst their main office, damaged in an earthquake two years ago, was completely refurbished and strengthened. But I now understand why people continue to live there, despite the obvious dangers. I've had the good fortune to visit two of the world's most beautiful cities: San Francisco and Sydney. One has earthquakes, the other has poisonous spiders. Give me the earthquakes any day.

# BASFA Minutes: meeting 836

July 31, 2006

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

Began 8:00.

18 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 835 were accepted as 'ice-cream-alicious.'

Treasurer's report was that we took in around \$70.00 last week between the regular and party jars.

We established a party jar.

The VP reported that there's a new issue of 'Drink Tank' out on efanzone.com, a new SF/SF & remember to buy 'Chris for TAFF' stuff at cafepress with Frank Wu artwork on it ['why should America suffer alone?'] & Frank's 'Guidilon' won 'Best in Show' and 'Best Animated Short' at Conestoga.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

The Hollister in '08 bid committee reported that the bid now has a sub rosa theme song 'My House' by Rosemary Clooney ['finally a bid with enough fiber'; 'not an elevator in

sight'; 'no wait for the elevator'; 'no broken elevators'].

The Sports Committee admits defeat in regards to organizing a SJ Giants outing due to illness and his hectic work schedule.

## Announcements

Ken announced that the Cinema San Pedro movie for this Wednesday night will be 'The Poseidon Adventure.'

Dave C announced that Daniel & Kelly say hello & gave their proxy report that 'Santa Claus rules us all,' plus that 'Greetings from Lake Wu' will be a special edition book released at Worldcon [Frank = 'larger and in color'].

Kevin S announced that you have until midnight to vote on the Hugos & there are 'Emerald Cities' in the room & to read Cheryl's blog.

Chris announced that Sunday, August 13 is the premiere of Jeff VanderMeer's 'Shriek' at the DNA Lounge & that Chris will be speaking there for SF/SF.

## Reviews:

Joanie reviewed Traverse City, Michigan, as a vacation spot that is usually cool, the indoor pools are nice & the shops are pleasantly quaint - very nice to visit.

Ken reviewed Las Vegas as 'a way to escape the heat' [Dave C = 'it's a dry hell'] & Ken saw Blue Men Group as very funny, very loud & very bizarre - a great show & then he reviewed 'Love' as the greatest thing ever produced - worth his air fare, accommodations, food and the ticket to get in & he reviewed 'Tempest' in the park as he enjoyed it too.

Chris reviewed the greatest film ever ['again'] 'Hollywood's Top Secret Movie Studio' as fascinating and great & funny things were spoken of [including about Chris's driving] & I agreed with Frank that 'The Hellstrom Chronicles' was the best bug movie ever.

We auctioned off stuff, books for \$0.25, \$1.00, \$0.50, \$2.00, \$4.00, \$0.25, \$0.25, \$0.75, a Tshirt for \$0.25; a poster for \$0.10 & a box of movie trailers for \$0.25.

We adjourned at 9:22 pm.

And the rumor of the week was 'Perverts are ideal for curling.'

# BASFA Minutes: meeting 837

August 7, 2006

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

Began 8:00 [with cleaner hands].

16 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 834 were accepted as 'phacetious.'

Treasurer's report was that last week we took in \$21.25 in the regular and \$16.10 in the party jar - and that Vinticon's hotel needs an overflow hotel & since the ghost won't pay for a membership, the ghost is not wanted.

We established a party jar.

The VP reported, 'I'm sorry, what?' - then that there's a new 'Drink Tank' out & Jeff VanderMeer's 'Shriek' will be shown on Aug 20 at 12 Galaxies & he had a date on Friday [that did not end up in a park] & the 'Match Game After Dark' is on for Worldcon - after the Hugos.

The President welcomed Linda -er- Lisa & Frank Wu paid for her BASFA membership.

There was a motion to rename Lisa 'Linda' for the duration of the meeting that passed 10-9.

There was a motion to rename Frank 'Pacolon' for the duration of the meeting that passed - 'everyone to Frank.'

There was a motion to rename Trey 'Chafing dish' for the duration of the meeting but it was objected to consideration.

There was a motion to rename 'Linda' as our Ambassador to Chatsworth [Calif] for the duration of the meeting - and then name Lisa Ambassador to Chatsworth that passed.

The Hollister in '08 bid committee reported that the complete bound edition of Pacheco Pass PRs 1-6 has been published & PR6 is out.

## Announcements

Ken announced that the Cinema San Pedro movie for this Wednesday night will be 'Galaxy Quest.'

Andy announced that CostumeCon 27 has received its ribbons [and they look GOOD].

[evil] Kevin announced that Conrad's underbite is repaired & he's working on getting a bit of tail.

Dave C announced that there's a bunch of stuff on the back table - including the new Cargo Cult & there's a convention coming up a few weekends from now.

## Reviews:

Harold reviewed the world's worst umpiring in the history of baseball - in the 9th inning at PacBell Park where the umpire threw Barry out [but it did help to get the fans in the game] & reviewed the greatest discovery in the history of diet snacks division - Orville Redenbacher Kettlecorn minipacks.

Chris reviewed his date as very enjoyable & reviewed 'Hollywood Babylon' as beautiful and 'just made me smile' but that 'Hollywood Babylon Unraveled' was the greatest book ever written & just makes him feel good.

Lynn reviewed the 'Today Show' as an example of incredible interviewing & that Al Roher is brilliant.

Dave C reviewed 'Collapse' by Jered Diamond as very thick reading - dealing with things that have gone wrong with civilizations that brought about their downfall & reviewed the 'greatest website ever' as [www.oddballcomics.com](http://www.oddballcomics.com).

We auctioned off stuff, birthday auctioned off Harold to Chris for \$26.50; birthday auctioned off Warren to Lynn for \$10.50; birthday auctioned off Lynn to Warren for \$10.50; auctioned off books for \$0.75, \$0.50, \$0.60; a magazine for \$1.00 & a bound copy of Pacheco Pass PRs 1-6 for \$6.50.

We adjourned at 9:21 pm.

And the rumor of the week was '837 has been declared a prime number by the Kansas State board of education.'

# 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, August 16

*Ghostbusters (1984)*

San Pedro Square

San Jose

Dusk (pre-show begins at 8 p.m.)

Free

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

Bring your own lawn chair. Cinequest presents a movie under the stars, with special features TBA.

## Wednesday, August 16

*Brains (Send More Cops!)*

Space Gallery

1141 Polk Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

415-377-3325

Reception and art exhibition subtitled "Zombies both visceral and subtle," curated

by Archie McKay and Kottie Paloma.

## Wednesday, August 16

*La Jetée (1962)*

Humanist Hall

390 27th Street

Oakland

7:30 p.m.

\$5 suggested donation

Chris Marker's avant garde Sci Fi film composed entirely of still images.

## Wednesday-Saturday, August 16-19

*The Capp Street Aeronautical and Lighter*

*Than Air Space Program (Reaching*

*Towards Heaven)*

The LAB

2948 16th Street

San Francisco

1-6 p.m.

Art installation by Kal Spelletich, whose kinetic art-bots are controlled by (or temporarily control) the viewer in innovative ways. Kinetic sculpture and robotics workshop Saturday, 2-5 p.m. (call 415-864-8855 to register).

## Thursday, August 17

*Casmic Third Thursday*

California Academy of Sciences

875 Howard Street

San Francisco

5-9 p.m.

\$5

[calacademy.org/events/thirdthursdays/](http://calacademy.org/events/thirdthursdays/)

At this month's "Third Thursday" cocktail party at the Academy, take a stroll through the universe by visiting the "Xtreme Life" exhibit. Space Cowboy DJs Mancub, 8ball, and more will be laying down stellar beats and the cash bar will be mixing up out-of-this-world drinks.

## Thursday-Saturday, August 17-19

*ORBIT (notes from the edge of forever)*

Intersection for the Arts

446 Valencia Street

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$9-\$20 sliding scale

Dance theater performance by Erica Shuch Performance Project explores the search for extra-terrestrial life, concepts of faith and belief, and the human need for contact and connection with the universe.

## 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.

**Friday, August 18**

*Midnight Movie:*

*Snakes on a Plane (2006)*

Camera 7 Cinema

1875 S. Bascom Avenue

Campbell

\$7

**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**

*Tron (1982)*

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street

**San Francisco**

**Midnight**

**\$9**

**First SF showing of a new 70mm print (part of the Castro's 70mm Festival).**

**Saturday, August 19**

*Midnight Movie:*

*Snakes on a Plane (2006)*

Camera 12 Cinema

201 South Second Street

San Jose

\$7

**Saturday, August 19**

*San Francisco Underground*

*Short Film Festival*

Bridge Theatre

3010 Geary Blvd.

San Francisco

Midnight

\$10

Hosted by Peaches Christ; list of films at

www.peacheschrist.com.

**Sunday, August 20**

*Shrek*

12 Galaxies

2565 Mission Street

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Special free screening, co-hosted by our own Chris Garcia, of Jeff VanderMeer's short film based on his novel of the same

name, with soundtrack by The Church. Q&A with members of the band.

**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)*

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$5

**Wednesday, August 23**

*Fahrenheit 451 (1966)*

Humanist Hall

390 27th Street

Oakland

4 p.m.

\$5 suggested donation

510-393-5685

Truffaut's film based on Bradbury's novel.

**Thursday, August 24**

*Repo Man (1984)*  
Parkway Speakeasy Theater  
1834 Park Blvd.  
Oakland  
9:15 p.m.  
\$5

**Friday, August 25**

*Midnight Movie:*  
*Tron (1982)*  
Camera 7 Cinema  
1875 S. Bascom Avenue  
Campbell  
\$7

**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**

*Author: Robert Farrell*  
Barnes & Noble  
2550 Taylor Street  
San Francisco  
415-292-6762

2 p.m.

**Saturday, August 26**

*Midnight Movie:*  
*Tron (1982)*  
Camera 12 Cinema  
201 South Second Street  
San Jose  
\$7

**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, September 1**

*Midnight Movie:*  
*Enter the Dragon (1973)*  
Camera 7 Cinema  
1875 S. Bascom Avenue  
Campbell  
\$7

**Friday-Monday, September 1-4**

*ConQuest SF*  
San Francisco Airport Marriott  
1800 Old Bayshore Hwy.  
Burlingame  
\$50, one-day pass \$30  
www.avalonconventions.com/conquestsf/  
Gaming convention includes role-playing, miniatures, card, classic, board, collectibles, historicals, RPGA.

**Saturday, September 2**

*Midnight Movie:*  
*Enter the Dragon (1973)*  
Camera 12 Cinema  
201 South Second Street  
San Jose  
\$7

**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.

**Wednesday, September 6**

*Author: Robin Hobb*  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia Street  
San Francisco  
7 p.m.  
Free  
[www.borderlands-books.com](http://www.borderlands-books.com)

**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](http://www.sffringe.org).

**Thursday, September 7**

*Flash Gordon (1980)*  
*Natural City (2003)*  
*Garuda (2003)*  
Preview Room  
Variety Children's Charity  
582 Market Street  
San Francisco  
7 p.m.  
Free  
Borderlands Books and Variety Children's Charity invite you to an international Sci Fi triple feature. Refreshments will be available for purchase, and your purchase supports Variety's efforts to aid disabled, disadvantaged, abused and neglected kids. Doors open at 6:30.

**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](http://www.pacrep.org)  
Local production of the play that's been running in London for 16 years. Highly

recommended by Jack Avery.

**Friday-Sunday, September 8-10**

*Creation Salutes Star Trek: The 40th Anniversary Celebration*  
DoubleTree Hotel  
Sacramento  
2001 Point West Way  
Sacramento  
\$399-\$90; one-day passes available from \$50  
[www.creationent.com/cal/stsac.htm](http://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](http://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, Eric Spitznagel, and Sparky.

**Saturday-Sunday, September 9-10**

*Bay Area UFO Expo*  
Hyatt Regency Santa Clara  
5101 Great America Parkway  
Santa Clara  
\$155; one-day and single-workshop passes available  
[www.thebayareaufoexpo.com](http://www.thebayareaufoexpo.com)  
8th annual gathering devoted to UFOs, alien encounters, crop circles, reptoids, conspiracies, commerce.

**Saturday-Sunday, September 9-10**

*Northern California Renaissance Faire*  
Casa de Fruta  
100031 Pacheco Pass Highway  
Hollister  
\$22  
[www.norcalrenfaire.com](http://www.norcalrenfaire.com)  
Hearty ale, fine foods, handmade crafts, new Tournament of Horses.

**Monday, September 11**

*Ask a Scientist:*  
*A Cleaner Future for Cars*  
The Canvas Gallery  
1200 9th Avenue

San Francisco  
6:30 p.m.  
Free  
Speaker: Nancy Garland, Technology Development Manager, U.S. Department of Energy.

**Tuesday, September 12**

*Zatoichi (2003)*  
Parkway Speakeasy Theater  
1834 Park Blvd.  
Oakland  
9:15 p.m.  
\$7  
“Beat” Takeshi’s reinterpretation of the classic blind Samurai story, with tap-dancing. A benefit for Suigetsukan Martial Arts School; with live onstage demonstration.

**Friday, September 15**

*Author: Lara Parker*  
The Booksmith  
1644 Haight Street  
San Francisco  
7 p.m.  
Free

**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](http://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, September 16**

*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 card games, and historical board wargames.

**Saturday-Sunday, September 16-17**

*4th Annual Japantown Anime Faire*  
Japan Center  
1581 Webster Street  
San Francisco  
\$25 (by September 1), \$35 at the door, single day passes available



registration@project760.com  
Screenings, live performances, artist alley,  
swap meet, gaming, cosplay contest.

**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**  
*Twenty Epics*  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia Street  
San Francisco  
3 p.m.  
Free  
www.borderlands-books.com  
Appearance/signing by authors Marcus  
Ewert, Tim Pratt, and the collection's editor  
Susan Marie Groppi.

**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**  
*Browncoat Ball*  
Marines Memorial Club and Hotel  
609 Sutter Street  
San Francisco  
\$150  
www.browncoatball.com  
Join the SF Browncoats who are sponsoring

this year's Browncoat 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, September 23**  
*Tachyon Publications Anniversary Party*  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia Street  
San Francisco  
2 p.m.  
Free  
www.borderlands-books.com

**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.

**Friday, September 29**

*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, 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, September 30**

*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-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.

**Wednesday, October 4**

*Author: Alexandra Sokoloff*  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia Street  
San Francisco  
7 p.m.  
Free  
www.borderlands-books.com

**Thursday, October 5**

*Thrillville's Zombie-Rama:*  
*Children Shouldn't Play With Dead Things*  
(1972) and *Burial Ground* (1981)  
Parkway Speakeasy Theater  
1834 Park Blvd.  
Oakland  
7:30 p.m.  
\$8  
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; live theremin by Robert Silverman.

**Friday-Sunday, October 6-8**

*SiliCon*  
DoubleTree Hotel  
2050 Gateway Place  
San Jose  
www.siliconventions.com  
\$35 (until August 31), \$45 at the door  
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**

*Author: Glen Hirshberg*

Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia Street  
San Francisco

5 p.m.  
Free  
www.borderlands-books.com

**Saturday, October 7**

*Dickens Fair Preview Ball*

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 (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)*

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.

**Monday, October 9**

*Author: Spider Robinson*

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

**Tuesday, October 10**

*Nosferatu (1922)*

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

Max Schreck as the granddaddy of all  
movie vampires, with an original live  
soundtrack performed by the Devil Music  
Ensemble.

**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.

**Sunday, October 15**

*St. Sebastian's Archery Hunt*

Society for Creative Anachronism Event

King's Mountain Archery Range

Huddart County Park

Redwood City

10 a.m.-sundown

\$9 (members \$6)

www.thewestermark.org/events.html

A hunt in the forest, to be followed by a  
baronial feast.

**Tuesday, October 17**

*Gremlins (1984)*

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

A benefit for Just Cause Oakland.

**Wednesday, October 18**

*Femspec Magazine*

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Editor Batya Weinbaum and contributor

Ardys De Luis discuss *Femspec*, an  
interdisciplinary feminist journal dedicated  
to critical and creative works in the realms  
of SF, fantasy, magical realism, surrealism,  
myth, folklore, and other supernatural

genres. [www.femspec.org](http://www.femspec.org)

**Thursday, October 19**

*Thrillville's Monster-rama:  
The Werewolf vs. The Vampire Women  
(1971) and  
Beast of The Yellow Night (1971)*  
Parkway Speakeasy Theater  
1834 Park Blvd.  
Oakland  
7:30 p.m.  
\$10

Hosted by Speakeasy Theaters programmer  
and local lounge lizard Will "the Thrill"  
Viharo and his lovely wife and stage  
assistant, Monica, Tiki Goddess. With guest  
appearances by Son of Ghoul, Cinema  
Insomnia host Mr. Lobo, and the Devil-  
ettes.

**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](http://www.folsomfaire.com)  
Dancers, bards, puppets, food, more.

**Friday-Sunday, October 20-22**

*Yaoi-Con*  
Westin and Clarion Hotels  
San Francisco Airport  
[www.yaoicon.com](http://www.yaoicon.com)  
\$50 (by September 20), \$60 at the door  
Male/male anime and manga fest with art  
show, manga reading room, dealer's room,  
bishounen auction. (For a definition of *yaoi*,  
see [www.yaoicon.com/whatisyaoi.html](http://www.yaoicon.com/whatisyaoi.html) or  
Andy Trembley's review in SF/SF #11.)

**Sunday, October 22**

*3DBCon*  
Three Dollar Bill Café  
LGBT Center  
1800 Market Street  
San Francisco  
10 a.m.-10 p.m.  
\$10  
[www.threedollarbill.com/3DBcon/](http://www.threedollarbill.com/3DBcon/)  
One-day gaming convention; gamers need  
to register by October 13.

**Thursday, October 26**

*Army of Darkness (1993)*  
Parkway Speakeasy Theater  
1834 Park Blvd.  
Oakland  
9:15 p.m.  
\$5

**Friday, October 27**

*Thrillville's Halloween Spookylau:  
The Crawling Eye (1958)*  
Copia  
500 First Street  
Napa  
8 p.m.  
\$6  
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 28**

*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  
card games, and historical board wargames.

**Saturday, October 28**

*Warp 11: "Halloween Scary Love Fest"*  
G Street Pub  
228 G Street  
Davis  
10 p.m.  
Ages 21+  
Sacramento's Star Trek-themed rock band

performs such hits as “Red Alert” and “Rage Against the Federation.” With The Brodys.

**Tuesday, October 31**

*The Monster of Phantom Lake (2006)*

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$5

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

A new indy film pays tribute to the B-horror movies of the 50s.

**Friday-Sunday, November 3-5**

*BASCon*

Embassy Suites

250 Gateway Boulevard

South San Francisco

\$75

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

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.

**Saturday, November 11**

*Other Magazine Presents*

*Writers with Drinks*

The Make-Out Room

3225 22nd Street

San Francisco

7:30 p.m.

\$3-\$5 sliding scale

Writers: K.E. Silva, Madeleine Robins, and Katie Hafner.

**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.

**Saturday, November 18**

*Pas D’Armes*

Society for Creative Anachronism Event

Elk Glen

Golden Gate Park

San Francisco

Opening ceremonies 11 a.m.

Site fee \$5 (\$10 family), repast \$10, non-members +\$3 (The Hospitallers of St. Bahb the Martyr will subsidize the non-members fee). [www.cloondara.org](http://www.cloondara.org)

**November 24-December 23**

*Dickens Christmas Fair*

Exhibition Hall

The Cow Palace

Daly City

11 a.m.-7 p.m.

\$20

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

An appallingly exciting experience of no ordinary cleverness. Dickens’ London opens for business the Friday after Thanksgiving and continues weekends through Dec. 23 with gifts, food, costumes, dance parties, & etc. (Free admission during opening weekend for “timeplayers” who have submitted their Victorian personae in advance and arrive in period costume — see website for details.)

**Thursday, December 7**

*Thrillville: The Giant Claw (1957)*

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

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 13, 2007**

*Sac-Anime*

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

\$5 - \$10

Anime convention featuring viewing room, art contest, vendor's room, costume ball, J-pop concert, more.

**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**

*Pantheacon*

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

Annual Pagan gathering with workshops, lectures, performances, rituals, drumming, dancing, costume contests, and crafts.

**February 16-19, 2007**

*DunDraCon*

San Ramon Marriott

2600 Bishop Drive

San Ramon

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

Annual gaming con; details to follow.

**March 2-4, 2007**

*WonderCon*

Moscone Center South

747 Howard Street

San Francisco

[www.comic-con.org/wc/](http://www.comic-con.org/wc/)

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

**March 2-4, 2007**

*Consonance*

Venue TBD

\$45 at the door (\$35 until Oct. 31)

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

The annual Bay Area filk convention.

**March 11, 2007**

*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.

**Mach 16-18, 2007**

*Rakkasah West*

Richmond Auditorium

403 Civic Center Plaza

Richmond

www.rakkasah.com

Billed as the largest bellydance festival and fantasy bazaar in the world. Details to follow.

**March 16-18, 2007**

*Con-X-treme*

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.con-x-treme.com

Few details as yet on this con devoted to X-treme anime, science fiction, fantasy, martial arts, and cosplay.

**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*

Location TBD

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, hall costumes, gaming, 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*

Marriott San Mateo

1770 South Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo

spfii.org/westercon60/

Guests of Honor: Tad Williams, Theresa

Mather, Christian McGuire

Toastmaster: Jay Lake

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:sfscifi@yahoo.com) for more information.

### **Monthly**

#### *Dorkbot-SF*

Free, donations welcome  
[www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/](http://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/](http://www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/)  
Social club for Sacramento County Sci Fi/Fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.

#### *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

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

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

#### *No-Name Anime*

Saratoga Library  
13650 Saratoga Avenue  
Saratoga

Free

[www.nnanime.com](http://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](http://www.sfbrowncoats.com)

SF Firefly/Serenity fans 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](http://www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org)

Silicon Valley 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.usdefiance.org](http://www.usdefiance.org).