

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

There's word out on the street that the locals are planning a Westercon/NASFiC bid for 2010. This is how it looks from here: The plan is to bid for the Westercon at next year's Westercon in Vegas. Since no one seems to have any interest in bidding 2010, I'm betting it'll fly. That'll leave the 2010 WorldCon bidding to Australia and when it wins, they'll set-up a bid for the NASFiC which should be voted on in Montreal. That would mean two bidding periods, and not a whole lot of time. The people and places specifically for the NASFiC/Westercon bid aren't yet announced, but we should know more after SMOFcon.

LosCon was a good time and a lot of great BArea fans were down there. I've got a write-up later in the issue, but let me say that the Fanzine Lounge, while not the best we've ever done, was somewhat blessed as acceptable by the Powers of Fanzinia! It was really good to see folks like Mike Glycer and John Hertz stopping by to hang.

Cons are running ahead towards the new year. We've got Further Confusion to look forward to and I think it'll be good fun for the folks who attend. I'm working Science Programming and it's looking OK over all. I'm excited for the Leopards, Etc. presentation and there's a panel on the Science of Dragons that looks like fun, too.

After that, it's Costume-Con on the horizon. That's gonna be a big deal for the BArea costumers and will hopefully make a big splash. I understand the numbers for the con are good already and we're gonna probably see growth up until the day of the con.

Xanadu, a con for Las Vegas, will debut in early 2009. Not too many details are out there yet, but they'll be coming soon for sure. Merric Anderson will be chairing and folks involved include the great Alan White. I'm excited to see what happens with it. Vegas could use a con to give folks an excuse to fly out to Vegas for a weekend.

There are unhappy rumblings coming from various sides about an article by Arnie Katz in the current issue of *Askance*. Give it a read over at eFanzines.com and judge for yourself. The concept of Core Fandom appears to be a

major bone of contention with a lot of folks, and we're far from hearing the last of this in the pages of various zines.

I wanna thank Kristine Kopnisky for sending beautifully bound versions of *Consonant Enigma*. They're really pretty and rugged and will be wonderful additions to the Fanzine Lounge collection. John Coxon's *Procrastinations* was also a hit at the LosCon Lounge. The kid's just too damn good!

Haven't heard of a new *From Alien Shores*. I found myself thinking about it yesterday.

Did you hear I won TAFF? Did you know you can support TAFF by buying one of Steve Stiles's fantastic TAFF Reports? Send me a message at Garcia@computerhistory.org for more details. That's all the TAFF shilling I'm gonna do at this time!

Two ways to hear about new issues of SF/SF:

Send an email to SFinSF@gmail.com to get on Jean's mailing list

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Sign up for the eFanzines announcement list by sending an email to efanzines-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Letters Of Comment

John Purcell writes:

Once more into the breach we go, charging full ahead. Fanzines to the left of me, filloes to the right... into the valley of fanac charged the cyberfan...

As if I haven't said it enough already, congratulations, Chris, on your winning of the 2008 TAFF race! It was an honor and a privilege to be one of your nominators, so go forth to England and have a good time. And like Randy Byers said in one of his LiveJournal entries, it is surprising that you haven't written and published your trip report already. Slacking off again, are we? Anyway. Well done, roomie. Have a great time over there.

Jean Martin responds: Congratulations, Chris! You've campaigned so hard for so long, you deserve it! Yeah, we can't wait for Chris's trip report.

Many thanks for the kind words about *Askance* #5. I have been running off full-color issues of it for mailing now that I have a bit of postage money saved up, so hard copies will soon be making their way around the fannish world. Also, like you and everybody else, I am looking forward to seeing David Burton's *Pixel* again. It is one of the finest of the e-zines being pubbed, and I am sure that David will be back in full-swing with no lapse in excellence. Not only that, full agreement with you on *Consonant Enigma*; a wonderful start up zine from Kristina. She might be one of the nominees for Best New Fan FAAn Award at Corflu Silver. Her zine

is really doing quite well, and shows a lot of promise.

In my loc, Chris is right that Earl Kemp's monumental Hugo-Award winning "Who Killed Science Fiction?" addressed the topic of what's going on with the SF being written. Like it has been said, things like this run in cycles, and I am positive that Science Fiction will continue to be a vital literary form for many moon cycles more.

Jean Martin's editorial was interesting to read. Yes, it is true that sometimes being single can be just as busy of a lifestyle as being "coupled," as she put it. I am a home-body, too, but I do enjoy getting out once in a while to enjoy the company of others. I am not a bar-person anymore — can't stand the smell of cigarette smoke, for one, and the crowds bug me — and don't really dance. Never have, actually. Like Jean, I've been doing a lot more reading recently, and enjoying it. I just hope that I get to meet Jean someday. Corflu Silver, mayhaps?

I hope to meet you and all our other faithful LOCers sometime in the future too. Unfortunately, I'm not as much of a con-goer as Chris since I am not as outgoing as he is. I have a hard time just hanging out and chatting to people. I tend to go to cons that have something for me to do like dancing and costuming. I enjoy the parties at cons but I have to jump from one to the other because I don't have much to say, so I look for new people to talk to after a few minutes. I don't drink alcohol, either, so I suppose I don't

have as much fun as those that do.

Jean also reminds me of my concert-going days. Gwen Stefani is a dynamic performer, and I am quite envious of Jean getting to be in that luxury box suite. Very cool. I think the last concert I went to was Genesis back in the summer of 1991 with my wife. Great show. The year before that, Val and I saw Paul McCartney (both were at Jack Trice Stadium on the campus of Iowa State University in Ames, IA) on his *Flowers in the Dirt* World Tour. That was the largest concert I have ever been at in terms of attendance: 55,000 people. Fantastic show, too. Loved every minute of it. But my favorite concert is still seeing Loggins and Messina back in the winter of 1973, shortly after *Your Momma Don't Dance* hit the charts. Only 2,700 people were in a venue that could hold 7,000, but man, they rocked and it was just a wonderful, wonderful show. Nothing will ever top that.

I love going to concerts. I don't have friends that like to go too often nowadays so I haven't really been in a while. So it was great to see Gwen Stefani. I really want to see Van Halen but I haven't found anyone to go with! It's interesting you mentioned Paul McCartney because the one and only time I saw him was the last time I was at the Oracle Arena (it was called Oakland Arena then) before Gwen Stefani, and I remembered that I was in the very last row and could barely see Sir Paul. So being in the luxury suite was quite a huge contrast.

My older daughter, Penny, is into

scrapbooking, but the old-fashioned kind, not the digital method Jean describes. I'll have to ask Penny about this and see if she knows anything about digital scrapbooking. It does sound interesting.

I love scrapbooking, both the old-fashioned kind and the new digital kind. Someone a while back made a very insightful observation when he said that scrapbooking is very similar to my love of publishing. There's words, photos, layouting, etc. I'm a chronicler by heart in any way, shape or form. However, I still haven't gotten into LiveJournal. Most of my friends are on it and I miss stuff going on with them or events that they talk about because I'm not on it. I still haven't figured out why that just doesn't appeal to me much. I've journaled in hard copy off and on in the past just for myself but it was mostly just mundane or neurotic ramblings. I was never consistent either. I haven't had much luck with travel journals either. I start writing excitedly at the beginning of a trip and then stop midway. I love to write but I guess journaling is just not my thing.

Stan Lee is looking great! Lee Hester did a great job writing up their meeting and also of the influence of Stan Lee on comics and the entertainment industry as a whole. Indeed, Stan Lee is a precious commodity. Let's hope he stays with us for many more years.

I was very impressed by Lee's article, which he sent around to his mailing list of customers. So I asked him if I could reprint it in SF/SF. Now here's my funny Stan Lee story. I seem to miss this guy whenever he appears on film or in real life. I was having lunch with my friend Dr. Noe at Comic-Con a few years back

and later on he told me that he pointed out Stan Lee as he walked past us. I have no recollection of this at all! I suppose Comic-Con was so overstimulating that my brain just overloaded with all the sights and sounds. Then finally, I noticed Stan Lee in the Fantastic 4 sequel. I told someone about it and he said that Stan Lee is in all the movie versions of his comic books. Again, I missed him in all of these movies! Well, I guess it's not that funny unless you were there.

That SMOFCon thing that Garcia attended is not my cup of tea at all. I am most definitely not a SMOF. Far from it. If my plans for hosting a convention come to fruition — and they just might within the next year or so — it would take the form of a fanzine/relaxacon: get folks together for a chance to sit, play card games, talk zines, run a fan fund auction — that sort of thing. This con even has a name already: ConDamnation. My notes on it indicate that it Just Might Work. But who knows? It is a thought that I return to more often now because it would be a great way to promote a run for DUFF in 2010. Stay tuned.

I'm not a SMOF either. I think about getting more involved in putting cons together once in a while. But I'm already overextended as it is. I've narrowed down my activities to a more manageable load and I'm reluctant to add more to my plate. Maybe in the future, though. It's great to have so many other options in case I tire of my current interests. I do rotate interests and activities every so often.

ConDamnation is a clever and funny title for a con. Good luck with your plans and DUFF run.

SiliCon certainly came across as a good

time. Boy, I sure wish you people would stop making me feel so dagnabbin con-deprived! *grumph* At least there's a bunch of fun stuff coming up on the con front here in Texas over the course of the next few months.

You're welcome to come visit us! BayCon and SiliCon are my favorites and they're my must-go-to cons. I like to keep local because it's cheaper (no airfare!) and more convenient. And they're both really quite fun and I like seeing people I know.

So that brings me to the end of another SF/SF. Another stellar effort for a non-clubzine. Good job, folks. Let's meet again, shall we?

Lloyd Penney writes:

When I fall behind, I really fall behind. Work will do that to you. Three issues of SF/SF have piled up, and it's time to deal with the pile. Take that as you will. I will start with issue 53...

Your con schedule in the BArea is amazing. There's always something going on. Our own cons are seasonal, because who wants to travel in the snow? Today was our first day of snow, by the way... My next conventions are in the spring...Ad Astra, Eeriecon and Corflu Silver, and all fairly close together, too.

Once again, I have watched no television at all this year. That makes about five or six straight years for me. Just nothing has caught my eye, and working evenings kinda takes away from viewing time. That will change in the new year, I hope...Will there be anything worth watching? That's where I always have my doubts.

I know a lot of people that don't watch TV for various reasons including those you've

mentioned. I tend not to watch much either, because there's not much that interests me on the air and I have so many other things I'd rather do.

Jean, I do have an anniversary coming up next year, but I have certainly been in your situation. I know what loneliness is, and I have been in and out of relationships, too. I thought I'd be alone for the rest of my life, I found Yvonne, whose interests were very close to mine. If there is someone out there for you, and I'm sure there is, he's probably very close to your interests. If he's there, don't let go, and if he's not, you have lots of friends who love you, so hold them close. The only people who truly understand fandom are fans, so grab a guy you like, and there's acceptance right there.

Thanks for your support, understanding and advice. I'm glad that you found someone to be with who matches your interests. I'll definitely keep my eyes open for someone more compatible in the future. I haven't given up hope of finding a life partner. I'm sure he's out there somewhere!

Vintacon... Lance who has an LJ? Not that Sibley guy from Toronto? He's friends with Kevin and Andy, and it wouldn't surprise me to find out he made a quick trip to SoCal for this event. I am not going to ask Kevin Roche how he knows what a wet dog tastes like...

I haven't heard anything more about renfaires in our area here, except that the Casa Loma event is probably going to take place in the summer, and given what few changes there were over the past couple of years, we will probably take a pass on it, and perhaps picnic in a nearby park.

Ren faires are over around here too.

Cold weather is really not conducive to outdoor festivals like those. But Dickens Fair season is back and I'm excited to go with a group of friends this time. And I'll make sure to wear a costume. I haven't costumed in the past because it gets cold even indoors (it is supposed to be London), and then I used to go with my family and they don't costume. I'll probably be dancing at Fezziwig's the whole time as I love Victorian dancing. And probably stuffing my face with yummy British treats. One thing I haven't given up on is enjoying British things, even after my breakup with my Welsh ex-boyfriend. I've been an Anglophile since I was 15 and I'm not giving up something I love just because it reminds me of him. I suppose in time everything won't remind me of him. It's been hard watching Doctor Who and its various spinoffs lately because he grew up in the Cardiff area and we went there together last Spring. Several episodes of the new Sarah Jane Adventures feature Cardiff Castle in them and every picture of Torchwood has the Cardiff Millennium Centre Water Tower in the background. Grr...

Chris, you didn't press the Lovely Linda into service as BASFA Secretary, did you? Naughty boy! Ah, Linda, that's only the beginning...

Wow, that's love for you!

54...Chris, you keep saying BASFA Times, well, let's see it! Fire one up my way, and a special loc shall be yours. (It'll be relatively on time...that's what will make it special.)

I must respond to Anna Davour's fanzine. She's living in Kingston, Ontario, right on the 401. Driven past it tons of time between Toronto and Montreal, and been through it, but

have never really been in it. There are rumours of a convention runners' con to be held there some time in 2008.

I'm a little late in saying it, but congratulations, Chris, on your TAFF win. The big preps are just ahead of you, and the trip report should be classic. I look forward to it.

Jean, I think this Garcia guy had a beard when he was six years old. John Purcell is right... this zine has become a vital service, not only to BArea fandom but to other readers who must wonder if this variety in fanac is happening in their own cities, and maybe we can try this...

I suspect you're right. It would be great to see before-beard photos of Chris, though, if there are any! I'm so glad that people find SF/SF of service to Bay Area fandom. I've always wondered why people outside the Bay Area such as yourself read our zine and even send in LOCs. Now it makes sense to me because it does show other areas what's possible given what's happening here in the Bay Area.

I keep reading about how good the new Doctor Who is, and about Torchwood and the Sarah Jane Adventures, which I don't think has shown up on television around here... I haven't seen any of it. This is what happens when you work evenings for far too long. If the CNIB decides to keep me, I will be able to catch up with my writing, but also perhaps watch a little TV here and there.

Working evenings must be hard. I'm a night person myself but I like to do fun things at night. I put in my hours during the day and the night is my free to be me time. If you get some time to do so, Doctor Who is probably already available to rent. I highly recommend the first

and second seasons. Excellent TV. The rest are good too, but not of vital importance unless you're a die-hard fan like I am.

55...I want a full report on LosCon! Rob Sawyer was a guest there, and he usually livens the place up. I ask about the health of SF, as did Earl Kemp those years past. I am concerned about the genre, but it is possible that the changes I see in SF are in reality changes in me, and my shifting interests. I'm not going away any time soon, though...next month, I mark 30 years in fandom. I've been here this long, I might as well stay in for the long haul.

Wow, 30 years in fandom! That's awesome. It's good to know that fandom has longevity because now that I've found it, I don't want it to end any time soon. I want to grow old in fandom, which I'll probably enjoy in a different way than I do now. I'm having a hard time imagining myself in my skimpy "Mirror, Mirror" Star Trek outfit when I'm in my 60s.

Hi, Jean...don't be lonely. Loneliness is hard, and it only hurts yourself. Your friends will tide you over until that next love arrives. I wish I could reach through the net and give you a hug.

I'm not lonely, exactly. I feel numb and

somewhat shell-shocked... post-traumatic stress, I think. I'm going through the motions at work and in life. But I am enjoying being by myself, being with friends and doing the things I love as much as I can. Time heals, they say, and so I'm sure I'll be okay after a while.

I was at a fannish party just last night... friends who used to live here, and who now live in New Jersey, came up as they do most years, and held a Thanksgiving party here. Great food, wonderful company, and a lot of close chat and casual hugs. A good time for me, and a good time all around. Gotta keep hanging out with the fannish family.

I spent Thanksgiving with my mom, sister and nephew. We had a lovely Thanksgiving at a new, fancy restaurant in San Mateo. It's the one special occasion each year when I eat turkey. I'm a vegetarian the rest of the time. Well, I haven't been as good lately. I was tempted by a baby back rib at the Gwen Stefani concert, and boy, it was delicious!

I think any convention that brings conrunners together to trade ideas around is a good one. Smofcon has been in Toronto in 1989 (I was the chairman), and now there is a small regional conrunning con called Canadian ConRunners Convention, or CCC. CCC1 was a few years ago now in Trenton, Ontario, and there are now plans to hold CCC2 in Kingston, where Anna Davour is living right now.

Well, at this time of day after a big party last night, two pages is pretty good. Be well, all of you, and it's one month to Christmas! Have a good one, and see you soon, before the big day, I hope.



Editorial

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

I won.

That's the weirdest sentence I think I've ever had to write. I managed to win TAFF and do so on the first ballot. That just isn't supposed to happen, and certainly not with my name attached. Christian McGuire was supposed to win. He has everything you'd every want in a TAFF delegate and somehow, he didn't manage to win. I was shocked when I got the call and I'm still kinda shocked. How did it happen?

Putting that aside for a bit, let me say thanks to everyone everywhere who helped out with my races. There's Peter Sullivan, whose fault all of this was because he suggested I run, set up Chrisfortaff.org, and generally made it all happen. There's James Bacon who wrote pieces everywhere saying that folks should vote for me. I never would have won without him. There's Mark Plummer and Claire Brialey who put a bunch of Chris For TAFF material in issues of *Banana Wings*, arguably the best zine in the world at the moment. John Coxon put so much Chris For TAFF stuff in *Procrastinations* that it seems totally unfair! There's the tireless work of my US nominators, Arnie Katz, Ted White and John Purcell. Those guys went above and beyond. And the art from folks like Brad Foster,

Frank Wu, España Sheriff, Bob Hole and Jason Schachat. You can't go wrong having those folks takin' care of your art needs!

The trip is scheduled for March 14th through 30th. I'll be doing Eastercon in the middle. I'm currently working on what I'll be doing in the rest of those days. I know I want to get to the Sheffield SF Group and any of the others that are out there. I'm hoping that I'll get a chance to meet Peter Sullivan, John Coxon, Steve Green and various others I've been writing with and for over the last few years. I wanna get to Scotland, and if I can swing it, Ireland, but two weeks with four days chopped out isn't a lot of time. I know I gotta see Bletchley Park and the Science Museum or my work won't give me the time off. I'll also get to turn the crank on the Babbage Engine there! I'm planning on sticking around London for at least a bit of the trip, and crashing wherever'll give me the floor/couch space to do so.

I also gotta figure out what to do about my CPAP machine while I'm out there. I figure there's gotta be an adaptor or somethin'.

So, I'm going to the UK and then I'll be administering for two years. I'm going to have my report out within a few months, and certainly completed within 30 days of my return. I'm not doing a regular printed version, which seems to have annoyed some folks who have heard. I'm

not a print fan and the costs of producing what I have in mind, lots of pages with full color photos and such, really is out of the league of printing possibilities for me to afford and it's not something that I think that the TAFF funds should be used for. I'd much rather make the report available to everyone through the web. Making it available through eFanzines.com, FANAC.org or some other site makes it possible for all of fandom to take a look and could increase TAFF visibility. That's one thing I'll be trying to work on.

But that also raises another question: If I'm not going to be selling reports, what will I use to replenish TAFF funds? That answer is TAREwriMo: TAFF Report Writing Month. I'm going to be soliciting every fannish group I know, and individuals too, to pledge 30 somethings: dollars, quarters, hundred dollars, what have you. Anything multiple of 30 will be fine. I'll then have 30 days to create my TAFF report. At the end of thirty days, if I finish, pledges get sent in, but if I don't manage to finish, then I'll lose 1/30 for every day after 30 days. For example, if someone pledges 30 bucks and it takes me 37 days to complete the report, that'll mean they're only on the hook for 23 dollars. You get the idea. I'll be putting it together and will probably end up delivering a long report within the month...if I can!

This whole TAFF thing will also be keeping me from some stuff next year. No Cinequest or Sonoma Film Festival, for example. I'll probably do a day at WonderCon. I'll do Costume-Con, BayCon (I'm running the Fanzine Lounge) and Westercon and WorldCon, and SiliCon and probably LosCon, but anything else is highly unlikely. Money and time are going to be limited and as much as I'd love to get to more cons around the country to press the flesh for TAFF, it's not gonna happen next year. I'll do better in 2009, hopefully. I'd like to get to as many cons as I can to raise money and get TAFF over to the people.

And there's this zine, which I promise not to turn into a TAFF-only monster. I've got a great team who will help me not make that happen. TAFF's just another thing I'll be doing. (Now, *The Drink Tank* will be all TAFF all the Time!)

And so I'll say this: Thank you for reading, and I'm about to go nuts getting this all planned.

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

Legion Rallies for KTEH

By Jean Martin
Editor

KTEH has been my favorite TV station since I moved to the US, and specifically the Bay Area, in 1987. Since then I've enjoyed lots of *Masterpiece Theatre* dramas as well as British mysteries, comedies and science fiction. Who else airs *Cadfael*, *Vicar of Dibley*, *Monarch of the Glen*, *Red Dwarf*, etc.?

Years ago, I noticed a group called Legion of Rassilon (LOR) answering phones during a pledge drive. I thought it was so cool that there was a local *Doctor Who* fan group. And I thought it was great that people were volunteering to support KTEH and the programs being aired. Little did I know then that I'd get the opportunity to do just that.

I liked the old *Doctor Who* series but I wasn't as huge of a fan then as I am now since the new series came out. I got involved in the Legion of Rassilon through Merv, one of the organizers, at SiliCon in 2005. And I've gone to a few meetings since then to view new episodes that haven't aired in the U.S. yet. It's great to see these with a group of fans who cheer and laugh. It seems like I'm doing more with LOR recently because there are so many new spinoffs (*Torchwood* and *The Sarah Jane Adventures*).

The meetings are a lot of fun, too.

So when I saw a post on the LOR Yahoo! Group from Ken Patterson, KTEH's broadcast scheduling manager, for volunteers to answer phones one night when *Doctor Who* was going to be aired, I jumped at the chance. I've always wanted to do something to support KTEH, other than donations, and I was eager to finally get to see the studio where my favorite programs are shown. Well, I was also excited about the chance to be on TV.

I'd never been in a TV studio before. I've always been interested in the technical aspects of broadcasting, and also interested in being in front of the camera. Any type of camera. I'm a ham that way, I guess. I have been on a movie set: A couple of years ago, I was an extra in an independent movie set in the Regency period. I was one of the dancers and was also in a three-person tableau with one of the main characters. I have no idea if that movie was ever released but the filming process and just being part of something creative like that was a wonderful experience. I've also been interviewed for TV news programs in the past, but those were filmed on location, so they weren't in a studio. I was in a Channel 5 news story about Coinstar when it first came out, I was interviewed twice by a Filipino TV station about my rock magazine,

and more recently, I was in a CBS Marketwatch segment on Women and Investing that was aired nationwide.

Anyway, enough of my cumulative fifteen minutes of fame, and back to KTEH. I drove in my new car to the studio in San Jose last November 17, and I was literally giddy when I saw the KTEH sign as I entered the parking lot. I walked in through the front door and found my way to the break room. I didn't know what to do and I didn't see anyone I knew right away. There was a big group of women that I knew weren't part of LOR. I found out they were the Black Masque Honor Society from San Jose State University. Some LOR members strolled in and I was relieved to see them. I was surprised to see that dinner was already served. It was only 5:30 p.m. and we hadn't even started answering phones yet.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that Maggiano's Restaurant from Santana Row had generously donated food for us volunteers. I've never been there but I've heard it's good and have been wanting to go there for years. The buffet included lots of rigatoni with amazingly delicious sauce and iceberg lettuce salad with tomatoes, avocados, and the best dressing I've ever had. I had seconds and even thirds.

After we ate and more LOR members showed up, the volunteer coordinator, Lyn, gave a quick orientation. I'd never done this before, so I was a bit nervous. I didn't want to mess up. Apparently, LOR used to volunteer more often in the past so a lot of the members already knew what to do.

One of them, Wendy, was wearing a Union Jack shirt just like I was. I wore it because

most of the programs airing that evening were British. I even wore my Union Jack sneakers for the occasion.

Unfortunately, I forgot to bring my camera. I've been forgetting my camera a lot lately. I've been losing things lately too. I guess I've just been overwhelmed with so many things going on these last couple of months... moving, buying a new car, busy work load, lots of activities. My mind is just not as focused and alert as it usually is.

***The Lawrence Welk Show* was also on the program list — a bit old-fashioned for my taste.**

Ken was one of the hosts of the pledge drive that evening. I actually met Ken a couple of years ago at a Gaskell's Ball in Oakland, of all places. I introduced myself to him. I'd seen him on KTEH for years and years, and I was pleasantly surprised to find out that he knew who I was: I guess from the LOR Yahoo! Group or Merv or Chris Garcia or even *SF/SF*. Ken was wearing a Union Jack pin. Alan Dale, who's from the Yorkshire Dales, was the other host. I've seen him on KTEH for a long time as well. Behind them was a big TV with KTEH in the background.

They were in one corner of the small studio. The walls were red and there were

two sections of volunteers in two rows in the opposite corner. The rows were graduated so the volunteers sitting on the second row could be seen. I sat in the front row on the right side, which turned out not to be a choice section for being seen on TV. That's where most of us LOR members were seated, unfortunately. The other section was where the Black Masque girls sat.

Diagonally, in the middle of the studio, were three cameras manned by three camera people. There were several other technical crew people going around. I didn't know what most of them did but one was in charge of counting down before air time. I was surprised to see teleprompters on the cameras. I didn't realize that pledge breaks were scripted.

Above us were lights trained toward Ken and Alan and us volunteers. I got a headache from all the lights and I wondered how people who do this for a living deal with it, but I guess I'm more sensitive about these things. Although someone else told me they got a headache too. And it was not a quiet set. There was lots of talking and moving around.

We had a six-hour shift that evening and the night was jam-packed with a wide variety of British TV — drama, mystery and sci fi. British comedy was on a different night, unfortunately. *The Lawrence Welk Show* was also on the program list — a bit old-fashioned for my taste but somewhat of interest because of my love of singing and dancing. There were two pledge breaks per show, and our shift flew by quickly. The rest breaks, where we sat in the break room and talked and ate more food, seemed short, and we were in and out of the studio quite fast. At least during the rest breaks, I was able to talk

to the LOR folks. I'm relatively new to the group and I haven't been able to get into much conversation with anyone yet. I haven't attended regularly in the past and with the episodes being shown at the meetings, there usually isn't much time to socialize.

The first show was *All Creatures Great and Small*, which is set in the Yorkshire Dales. Alan Dale told us the show depicted Yorkshire quite well. Next was Lawrence Welk, the only non-British show that evening. It was quite popular and we got a lot of calls for it. Calls were random and we never knew whose phone would ring next. And boy, was it hard to concentrate and write down people's information with the noise in the studio and folks talking fast. I now have a genuine appreciation for people who do this kind of thing as their livelihood.

If I remember correctly, it was after Lawrence Welk when one of the tech crew, Zack, took us on a quick tour of the studio. Zack told us all of them are volunteers and they welcome anyone, even with no experience. They are happy to train anyone who's willing. In the studio, he showed us how the teleprompter worked as well as one of the cameras. Then he took us to the control room where the director and monitors are. He showed us a little bit how things worked and also the sound room with the sound guys behind the control room. It was all quite fascinating. If there were more than 24 hours in a day and more than 7 days in a week, I'd love to volunteer. Except it was too cold in the room because of the equipment, and I'd probably be too frazzled with the stress and immediacy of a live environment.

Lovejoy was next. I hadn't seen this

mystery show in a while and I remember loving it a long time ago. They showed the first season and it was quite interesting to see Ian McShane looking so young, but not as young as when I saw him recently in an early episode of *Space: 1999*. I didn't see this show when I was a kid because I wasn't interested in it then. I appreciated the few episodes I saw a few months ago but I'm still not into it. It's too sterile and cold, from what I've seen. It's great to know, though, that Ian McShane has actually gotten even more

Several of us renewed our KTEH memberships during the *Doctor Who* pledge breaks.

successful and popular after all these years.

The last segment of the evening, and the one our group anticipated the most, was *Doctor Who*. KTEH showed the first episode of the first new season, "Rose," plus the matching *Doctor Who Confidential: Back from the Future*. Each episode has a making-of special that goes with it. During the two pledge breaks for *Doctor Who*, Ken ad libbed while Alan had the script with the regular information. During the previous programs, it had been the other way around. Ken acknowledged that he was a *Doctor Who* fan, and during all the breaks, he thanked our group for volunteering.

Several of us renewed our KTEH

memberships during the *Doctor Who* pledge breaks to show our support for the program. Memberships taken during a particular show count toward programming decisions. I just joined at the lowest level, though, because I didn't really want any of the thank-you gifts. The only one I was interested in, the *Doctor Who* soundtrack, I already have. And, I guess this is a new thing, but there is now a \$4 shipping charge for thank-you gifts.

One other cool thing was that Brad, an LOR member, brought along his 12" remote control Dalek, which moved around, blinked lights and made sounds. Brad sat right behind me so I could see him putting the phone next to the Dalek and pretending that the Dalek was answering phones. The Dalek was a huge hit with the camera people and all the other volunteers in the studio.

I was tired after our long shift but I felt happy to have done something I've always wanted to do and never thought I would. I went to my car and saw Alan Dale waving goodbye to me as he drove by. I didn't get to meet him but he was just so friendly and nice to acknowledge me.

I drove home and couldn't wait to see if I was actually shown on TV or not. I had taped the entire six hours, and after fast-forwarding through it, I found that I was shown twice. The first instance I looked okay, but in the second I was answering a phone call from someone who couldn't hear me and hung up. So I looked silly and confused, and the director quickly changed the shot to another person. Oh well, it was a fun experience that was also useful and meaningful. I can't wait to do it again someday.

Elegant Music, Dancing, and Vampires

By Jean Martin
Editor

The PEERS (Period Events & Entertainments Re-Creation Society) annual Bal des Vampires is always the most popular ball of the year. That's because it's the one time of the year when all the dance and musical styles are offered, and patrons can wear whatever costume they want from any time period or even from fantasy and science fiction. So it attracts all the different groups that frequent different PEERS balls. Vampires are, of course, the theme for the evening but not the typical and mainstream vampires that most people think of. We're talking elegant vampires in the vein of Ann Rice's *Interview with the Vampire*. The book is, after all, set in San Francisco.

But in typical San Francisco avant garde fashion, the predominant look at this year's ball, held at the Alameda Elks Lodge last November 3rd, was slanted more toward the fetish subculture. I've never seen so many corsets at a ball, or anywhere in my life! (Even at the one fetish ball I've been to.) Renowned corsetiere Dark Garden also had a booth with their beautiful corsets on display and for sale. I forgot my black gloves, which are an important part of my Anna Valerious costume, and they had the exact kind I needed so I was fortunate to be able to complete my outfit then and there. By the way, Anna is the vampire slayer princess in



Anna Valerious and Van Helsing.

Photo courtesy Jean Martin

the movie *Van Helsing*. Although lots of people recognize my costume, so I had to explain what complimented me on it, most people didn't it was all night long. The other important part



Guests sample the sumptuous buffet.

Photo by Jean Martin

of my costume is a corset, so I blended in quite well with the sartorial scenery.

It was also a pleasant surprise to find someone dressed as Van Helsing. I immediately introduced myself to him and asked him to pose for photos with me. Also, he didn't have a partner for the Congress of Vienna, which as I've written numerous times before is my favorite dance, so we danced that together. Someone recognized us as Anna and Van Helsing and thought it was hilarious fun that we were dancing together.

Period music for the evening in the upstairs ballroom was provided by Bangers and Mash, who play at most of the PEERS balls and also perform at Dickens Fair. The upstairs ballroom was elaborately decorated in the Edwardian style. There was a small bar outside the ballroom as well. I danced a few Victorian waltzes and English country

dances upstairs, but then it became too hot for me. It was an unusually warm November night and I was wearing a wig. So most of the evening, I spent in the downstairs Ratskellar.

The Ratskellar was a lot of fun too because there were two DJs — Robyn Forbes and Ariyana le Fay — playing goth and industrial music. The cellar had a dark and modern Vampire-like feel to it. That's also where the delicious catered buffet of hors d'oeuvres and desserts was, right next to a large bar with mirrors and wood carvings. Most PEERS balls don't offer alcohol, but this one is an exception. This is also the only one not held at the usual location at the San Mateo Masonic Lodge, which I love because it feels like my second home and is actually near where I live.

There was a mezzanine area where lots of people socialized away from the music and dancing. That was also where two fortune tellers were



DJ Robyn warms up the Ratskellar.

Photo by Jean Martin

reading people's fortunes. I was lucky to have been able to get a reading before the lines started to form. My reading was pretty accurate. I seem to almost always get readings that are right on.

The half-time show in the ballroom was performed by Le Theatre des Vampires. This year, their skit was entitled *Vampires of the Caribbean*, which I really enjoyed. Charles played the vampire Christopher Lee whose band of vampires terrorized a Caribbean bar whose customers included Elizabeth Swann (portrayed by Ariyana in between her DJing duties) and Will Turner. And who else would come to save the day except Captain Jack Sparrow (an excellent performance by Quinn)? His method of defeating the vampires was quite unorthodox but hilarious: He had them all bite him and they all got drunk from his blood.

I usually volunteer at the door for PEERS balls when I'm not performing, but I didn't this time because I wanted to enjoy the ball myself. The first time I went in 2004 I was with my then husband, in 2005 was with my then boyfriend, and in 2006 I suffered a knee injury that very day. This time, I flitted up and down the staircase to all three levels as I fancied. I danced, ate, talked to friends, enjoyed the show, and generally had a fabulous time. I was so happy I didn't get around to slaying any vampires that evening. And I suppose the vampires were having a ball as well as they didn't bother me at all.

For more information on PEERS and upcoming balls, visit www.peers.org.

LosCon: Do Try the Panda

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

I go to my Uncle Wayne's every year for Thanksgiving. It's a tradition dating back to the early post-911 era. We go there, to Perris, California, and enjoy turkey and fixins. And every year I leave there as soon as I can to get away from the fam and get myself into the comfy confines of LosCon, the last con I attend every year. This year was different, but no less fun than usual.

I woke up at 6:30 and drove across Riverside County to the LAX Marriott. It wasn't a bad drive, as I appear to have missed all of the mall-based traffic that comes with the day after Thanksgiving. I made it there around 8 and I managed to bring all my stuff down to the Long Beach room, where the Fanzine Lounge would be.

It was a slight stiffening that then occurred. It was a small room with a HUGE table in the middle. There was also supposed to be a paper Map Room from *Raiders of the Lost Ark* in there. This was much smaller working space than we'd ever had before.

I set up the zines and the space with a few drinks and some fun playing around stuff and

made the place as Lounge-y as possible. Luckily, the Mirror Universe Tadao, David, came around and set up the little thing that was the Map Room. It was a complex little system of lights and plugs and it looked really cool. When Jason Schachat and Leigh Ann Hildebrand arrived, they rightly noted that it was positioned in such a way that the thing could very easily get crushed. I did not disagree, but somehow the whole thing survived long enough for the creator to smash it under his own feet!

The Lovely and Talented Linda arrived and we headed up to dinner at the restaurant. No sooner had we sat down then I started to get phone calls on how to actually find the hotel. No joke, we used the position of the moon to figure out how to get folks to the right Marriott. We sat down and started talking with Bob Hole, his Mom, Linda, Leigh Ann and Jason. Turns out Bob's Mom is banned from a resort for the type of behavior that the Rat Pack would have appreciated. Good on her! We also discussed saving the pandas by raising them for food. It worked for the once endangered cow! We laughed a lot and finally ended up heading over to the Ice Cream Social.

They were serving ice cream and there were huge lines. I've always loved the ICS, but

I had missed the last couple. As we went along, Christian McGuire found me and told me that I'd be making a small speech about TAFF in front of the audience. I wasn't ready for this, but I figured no one expected much of me, so why the hell not? He called me up and I went gladly. I made a couple of jokes, told folks to come to the auction, and we had a fine time. I headed back to the Lounge where we hung around in case someone wanted to do the Map Room puzzle. No one did, but it was early yet.

The parties at the Marriott are always on the 17th floor. There were a bunch of them, some quite good, and some completely lacking booze (like the Writers of the Future party). The highlights were the BayCon party featuring cheese on pirate flags (I like!) and the Las Vegas Westercon party. Some of the others were jumping, but we were all kinda tired and called it an early night. We watched a little bit of *Futurama* before falling off to sleep with visions of peal, panda veal, dancing through our little heads.

The next morning it was up and at them to the Lounge, but only after breakfast. They do the best Chicken Hash Martinis at the Marriott. I noticed that this is a chain dish, as they also had it at the San Mateo Marriott. We headed up to the Lounge and I hung around there most of the morning. One person came to do the Map Room challenge, but that was it! It was a shame, as the set-up was really really cool.

I had a panel with two of my favorite people, June Moffatt and John Hertz, on Fan Funds. Not a lot of folks showed up, though Len Moffatt did, and had a lot to say. Linda was there too. That was nice. Then I had a panel on Hugo

Recommendations and Predictions for next year. I think we're going to have a harder time figuring out what's going to be on the ballot as there were no real huge smashes this year that didn't feature Harry Potter, and the usual suspects were kinda quiet. We're thinking that the only gimme this year will be the Best Dramatic Short Form going to *Doctor Who*, though I still think that *Pushing Daisies* deserves it.

I came back to the Lounge and hung there for a bit. Linda was watching Eric Hoffman's pilots that went nowhere and they got kicked out of the room before the end of the *Star Trek IV*

There were people hanging about and chattering madly. That's always a good thing.

bloopers, so they moved it up to the ConSuite on the 18th floor. Linda and I went up there, and sadly the place felt like it was swaying, which tripped out my equilibrium and we had to retreat. We headed down and had dinner with the good folks of Vegas Fandom at the Sheraton Four Points. The food was good and pricey, though it took forever for our group of 17 or 18. They added a lot of tables together to seat us, which was mad, and we were plenty loud.

We headed back to the hotel a few minutes later and got into the Masquerade right

before it started. They had a lot of kids in cute costumes. LosCon seems to attract a bunch of families since it's over Thanksgiving. Of the adults, Kevin Roche did Vanamonde from *Girl Genius* and it was really good stuff. There was an A.C.R.O.N.Y.M. entry of the Arrakeen Spice Girls, though I didn't see if Harkonnen Spice had a heart-plug or not. No matter, it was good fun. This was a smallish Masq if you took out the kids, but the costumes were good and I appreciated Tadao's MC-ing skills. That boy needs to come to CostumeCon and do at least one of the Masqs. Turns out that Kevin won an award at the Masq! Go figure!

After that, back down to the Lounge for a bit. There were people hanging about and chattering madly. That's always a good thing. I headed in and we stayed until a little after 10:30 and then went to the parties. League of Evil Geniuses was the best thing on the floor, and it was packed. Eric in the Elevator was good to see, though it was all material I'd seen a couple of times before. He's going to be the Performance GoH at Arisia and that'll be fun for him, I bet. The parties were slower than usual and the booze-to-party ratio was pretty low too, so we called it a night around midnight. That was a good thing as I needed more sleep.

We woke up a little later than I'd have liked and got breakfast, which seemed to take forever. We were seated next to the window looking out on a stand of bamboo, and the panda jokes ran lucid! I joked that once I managed to get pandas on the menu of the restaurant, this would be like the lobster tank. *I'll take that one over there*, people would say. After that, I helped Christian manage the TAFF Auction,

though I'd been scheduled against it. Sometimes these things happen. We didn't get many people, but we did get a few folks passing through and making offers on the stuff that Christian brought. We ended up raising 178 dollars for the fund, which is a great number.

We spent the rest of the time slot chatting and being generally good natured. I was afraid Christian might try to assassinate me since I was the guy who had beaten him in the race — you never know.

After that, I had a panel on Con Programming that was mostly a conversation between Mike Glycer, Craig Miller, James Stanley Daugherty, Milt Stevens and myself. We talked and told stories and it was basically a SMOF panel which was good fun for what it was. I like those kinds of panels, though they seldom fill rooms. When they do, you have to worry about what's about to be said!

We headed down to the Lounge and hung out and chatted. Linda worked the Costume-Con table and I cleaned up. We were all ready to go after dinner at Champions, which was OK



Another helping of Panda, Mr. Garcia?

Photo by Alan White

at best, but cheaper than the other restaurant. We all left and Linda and I kissed goodbye around 6. I drove back to the place in Perris, slept and drove home.

Realizing that LosCon wasn't great, I don't have a lot to say about what LosCon brought out in me like I did after the 2006 WorldCon or even the 2007 Westercon, but it was a solid con with lots of stuff happening and a pretty good slice of people. Kevin Roche, Andy Trembley, Jo Rhett, España, Jason, Leigh Ann, Linda, Tadao, Mark Ferrari, Christian, Daniel Spector and Kelly Buelher, Wendy Newton, John Hertz, that devil Frank Wu, Jim Terman, and a bunch of others were great to have around. Mike Glycer spent some time in the lounge with us and seemed to be amused. Same could be said of Hertz. Sadly, I barely got to see Spring and Dave, or Dave Clark or Selina Phanara or any of the folks I always love to see at LA cons.

I gotta find a way to get more hours into a day.

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 903-904

Meeting 903

November 19, 2007

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

Began 8:03 - with a story about Prius mileage.

22 people attended.

We failed to establish a party jar.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 902 were accepted as 'phoned in.'

The Treasurer reported that we have money.

[The VP showed up to the club VERY late . . . in his PJs to announce 'Chris IS TAFF!']

The President reported he went to the SiliCon wrap party - a fannish event - and announced that next year's SiliCon Chair is Ravan & that the theme will be to honor fanac.

The Site Selection Committee reported that he's still looking for a place for us to meet next week, Nov 26 - but after that we'll be at Coco's - and there will be a selection vote in 2 weeks at

Coco's [and we congratulated Dave on getting World Fantasy Con for 2009].

Announcements:

Adrienne announced that she got the latest catalog for BBC America and the Doctor is on the cover.

Reviews:

I reviewed the Sharks game I went to last week as a wonderful experience - especially since the Sharks beat Phoenix, 5-0; and also reviewed the game 'Neverwinter Nights' as a lot of fun to play - and this IS my first exposure to the game - and I think it's worth full price.

Joe reviewed 'Razor' the new Battlestar Galactica movie - that he saw on the big screen - as a set up for season 4 & it had real Cylons in it; it was fun and made him happy & he rates it as a 9 out of 10.

Adrienne reviewed going to Windycon in Chicago as a way to use frequent flier miles and that the con didn't start their programming until 5 pm Friday & that she didn't see many panels because she was involved with the writer's workshop, she saw a number of parties - and passed along a 'hi' from Henry to [evil] Kevin & Andy and she reported an 'incident' [the loudest conversation evAR].

Harold reviewed getting his teeth yanked out

as painful and worth having his head cut off to stop the pain & reviewed 'Beowulf' as he was not much taken with the film & was not impressed by the computer techniques & thought it -definitely- not worth full price; there were follow-on's = Glen recommended reading 'Grendel' by Gardner & Mike disagreed - saying the movie was worth full price & just fun.

Jim reviewed 'Lust, Caution' as a Chinese import in limited release - not a happy film - and worth full price & very interesting; & he reviewed 'Body Works' at the Tech museum as very interesting to see and worth full price.

Glen reviewed a Time-Life video of an Xmas tree catching on fire as it went up like a torch - and be careful & the Phillie cheesesteak sandwich here was not worth full price.

Stellan reviewed travel to Europe as it's possible to play 'Quake' on a plane now on the KLM system & he also used it to see 'Reboot' during the flight.

Julie reviewed some Dr Who stuff as worth staying up till 1 am to see it & reviewed the Ragtime West con as quite fannish in ways - but the con comm weren't on radio, but she thought it worth going to even though she had to drive home in pea-soup fog.

Spring reviewed the Ariel Atom Top Gear

presentation as she went there with Frank Wu & the cars are amazing machines & it was money well spent - every penny.

Ken reviewed his commute to work last week as exciting because the bonnet on his Mini flew up and the car is in for repairs right now & reviewed 'Star Trek - The Menagerie' on the big screen as it looked good.

Then we auctioned off Chris, new TAFF delegate for \$22.00 to Linda; little gems for \$8.00, books for \$0.25; \$0.25; \$0.50; \$1.00; a Devo CD & program book for \$10.00; posters and buttons for \$2.25; & a wall-hanging for \$3.00.

We adjourned at 9:30.

And the rumor of the week was that 'Joe and Glen are going in on Chris.'

Meeting 904

November 26, 2007

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

Began 8:01 - with a bout of Robert's Rules of Wrasslin'.

21 people attended.

We established a party jar [after a close vote].

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 903 weren't available, but were accepted as 'forgotten at home.'

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$58.58 [helped by Chris's heartfelt TAFF win]

No VP - not even the VP's PJs.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

The Site Selection Committee reported that we'll be at Coco's next week - and urges a site selection vote then to choose Coco's.

Announcements:

Adrienne announced that the 'Gilded Bat' will be having a 'Dragon's Treasure Trunk Show', Sunday, Dec 2, from 1-5 pm.

Andy announced that there will be a wearable arts fashion show in downtown SJ, Friday, Dec 7 at the SJ Museum of Quilts and Textiles & is sort of themed holiday formal.

Mike announced that there will be a Celtic holiday music fest featuring Broceliande at the Mission Street Coffee Roasting Company in Santa Clara.

Ken announced that there will be a Legion of Rassilon meeting this Friday at the usual place & that Verity Lambert passed away.

Dave G announced that on Saturday, December 29, look for a gathering in Fremont.

Mike announced that the next Psychotronic Film Festival will be December 8 at Foothill College.

Reviews:

Andy reviewed Philcon - where he was a Costuming GoH - as it's a con with 70 years of tradition behind it - and nothing started there until Friday at 5 pm; sadly [evil] Kevin got sick during the con :(and Andy was puzzled to find no opening ceremony to attend, he thought the meet the pro party was enjoyable, as was the techno party; he felt a bit spacey on Saturday, did panels and things & the con wound up at 5 pm Sunday, upon which the crowds evaporated; he rated it as worth pre-reg as an Easterner and worth going to as a guest; then Andy reviewed Loscon as not a bad drive, the Evil Genius party was Saturday & came off well, everything was good and worth pre-reg; there were follow-on's, Dave G discovered there 'were these things called panels,' sleeping in was nice & thought they did a good job, Spring mentioned drama llamas & [evil] Kevin won the costume competition.

Eric reviewed 'Kooza' [the new Cirque du Soleil show] as spectacular, especially the 'hamster wheel of death' - the tickets are expensive and it was worth -more- than he paid for it.

Glenn reviewed Loscon as he was there only on Saturday and had a great time & reviewed Tad Williams' entire Otherland series as many, many, MANY hours of his life that he won't get back - that Tad needed an editor desperately & there were good concepts but it went on way too long.

Howeird reviewed that having strep throat was not worth any price & reviewed Facebook as there's no way to see what it's like without signing up for it, it has the least intuitive interface he's ever seen & he finds it rather useless - as free and not worth the time [but it DID inspire a lot of puns].

Adrienne reviewed 'Tales from the Red Lion,' an anthology about the Red Lion pub in Chicago, as she quite enjoyed it and recommends it.

Jerry reviewed 'Subversive Cross Stitch' - a book on needlework by Julie Jackson as it contains 33 patterns for your surly side.

Joe ran out of things to say.

Trey did not review 'Enchanted.'

Spring reviewed the LA City Library, downtown, as there was a James Gurney exhibition there [Andy: 'Dinotopia 40K!'] - she found the library impressive & the library store was full of all sorts of wonderful things - and the library was crowded.

Then we auctioned off books for \$1.00; then \$0.50 [for Chris] & a bag went for \$3.00.

We adjourned at 9:24.

And the rumor of the week was that 'Pancake surrender to the Luftwaffle.'



Bay Area Fannish Calendar

Life is complicated; putting on an event is even more so. 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.

Saturday, December 8

Psychotronic Film Festival

Room 5015

Foothill College

El Monte Road

Los Altos Hills

www.kfjc.org/promotions/psychotronic.php
7-11 p.m.

\$5 donation (bring 8 quarters for parking)
KFJC presents a festival of weird, forgotten, and unintentionally funny 16mm films.

Saturday, December 8

Other Magazine Presents

Writers With Drinks

The Make Out Room

3225 22nd Street

San Francisco

www.writerswithdrinks.com

7:30 p.m.

\$3-\$5 sliding scale

With Jack Hirschman, Geoff Manaugh, Lisa Palac, Domenic Stansberry, and Tom Barbash.

December 8-23

Dickens Christmas Fair

Exhibition Hall

The Cow Palace

Daly City

www.dickensfair.com

11 a.m.-7 p.m.

\$22

An appallingly exciting experience of no ordinary cleverness. Victorian London opens for business the Friday after Thanksgiving and continues weekends through Dec. 23 with gifts, food, costumes, dance parties, etc.

Sunday, December 9

Sac-Con

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

www.sacramentocomics.com

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$6

Regular comic, toy and anime show, featuring game tournaments, cosplay contest, more.

Sunday, December 9

Ask a Scientist's Holiday Puzzle Party

The Bazaar Café

5927 California Street

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7 p.m.

Free

Start the holiday season with a rollicking math and logic puzzle competition.

Sunday, December 9

Bad Movie Night: Black Christmas (2006)

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

www.darkroomsf.com

8 p.m.

\$5

The Dark Room's resident sharp wits skewer another bad flick.

Monday, December 10

Down to a Science:

Do Drug Companies Help or Hurt Patients?

330 Ritch Street

San Francisco

www.sciencecafesf.com

7 p.m.

Free

Dr. Gilbert Chu, Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry at Stanford University, will discuss drug development and marketing focusing on the case study of Merck and Vioxx..

Monday, December 10

Impact of the Commodore 64: A 25th

Anniversary Celebration
Computer History Museum
1401 N. Shoreline Blvd.
Mountain View
www.computerhistory.org
7 p.m.

With guest speakers Adam Chowaniec, William C. Lowe, Jack Tramiel, and Steve Wozniak.

Tuesday, December 11
Author: Lemony Snicket
The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
www.booksmith.com
6 p.m.
Free

Wednesday, December 12
Ask a Scientist: The Dark Side of the Universe
Axis Cafe
1201 8th Street
San Francisco
www.askascientistsf.com
7 p.m.
Free
Stanford physics professor Patricia Burchat talks about dark matter and dark energy.

Thursday, December 13
Crazy Rays: Science Fiction and the Avant Garde
Roxie Cinema
3117 16th Street
San Francisco
www.sfcinematheque.org
7 p.m.: James Fotopoulos and Leah Gilliam

9:30 p.m.: Victor Faccinto and James June Schneider
Presented by the SF Cinematheque, a series of riffs on the intersection of science fiction and experimental cinema, curated by Ed Halter.

Friday, December 14
At the Edge of Art
Kanbar Hall
Jewish Community Center
3200 California Street
San Francisco
www.longnow.org
7 p.m.
\$10 donation
A talk by authors Jon Ippolito and Joline Blais, presented by The Long Now: Seminars About Long Term Thinking.

Saturday, December 15
Robots Are Art
Float Gallery
1091 Calcot Place #116
Oakland
www.thefloatcenter.com/robot_art.html
6-10 p.m.
\$5 donation
DIY robot contest and opening night party for an exhibition by a diverse group of robotic artists. Educational presentation on the history of robots by Frank Garvey from 6-6:30 p.m. The exhibition runs through January 17.

Wednesday-Thursday, December 19-20
In the Shadow of the Moon (2007)
Red Vic Movie House
1727 Haight Street

San Francisco
www.redvicmoviehouse.com
\$8.50 (\$6.50 matinee)
The definitive feature-length documentary about the U.S. space program and the first moon landing.

Saturday, December 22
Unsilent Night
Dolores Park
18th and Dolores Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free
Return of Composer Phil Kline's all-volunteer boombox holiday concert: People show up with boomboxes. Kline distributes tapes and CDs to the volunteers. "Play" buttons are pushed, the group embarks on a mile-long route through the Mission, Noe, and Castro districts, and each boombox contributes its voice to the mobile sound performance.

Monday, December 31
New Year's Eve Ball with Paul Price's Society Orchestra
St. Mark's Hall
600 Colorado Avenue
Palo Alto
www.paulpriceorchestra.com/NYE07.html
8:30 p.m.
\$25
Ring in the new year dancing to authentic arrangements of vintage music. Modern or vintage evening wear (any era: Regency, Victorian, Edwardian, Jazz Age, Swing era, etc.).

Friday-Sunday, January 4-6

Kingdom of the West's Twelfth Night Coronation
 Society for Creative Anachronism Event
 Doubletree Hotel
 2050 Gateway Place
 San Jose
www.thewestermark.org/12thnight.html
 \$25

January 4-26

"Sweetie" Tanya: The Demon Barista of Valencia Street
 The Dark Room Theatre
 2263 Mission Street
 San Francisco
www.darkroomsf.com
 Fri. & Sat. at 10 p.m.
 \$20

A new take on the tale of Sweeney Todd:
 "Vengeance is best served hot."

Saturday, January 5

Victorian Twelfth Night Ball
 PEERS Event
 Masonic Lodge
 100 North Ellsworth
 San Mateo
www.peers.org
 \$15 in advance (by December 29), \$20 at the door.
 A.k.a. The Dickens Fair Reunion Ball. Dance Lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

<p>Send your items for inclusion in our calendar section to: SFinSF@gmail.com</p>
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Tuesday, January 8

Author: Todd McCaffrey
 The Booksmith
 1644 Haight Street
 San Francisco
www.booksmith.com
 Time TBA
 Free

Thursday, January 10

Thrillville's Bat-Tastic Bat-Show: Batman (1966)
 Parkway Speakeasy Theater
 1834 Park Blvd.
 Oakland
www.thrillville.net
 9:15 p.m.
 \$8

The fabulously freaky feature film version of the 60s TV series, starring Adam West and Burt Ward. Special appearance by Kitten on the Keys.

Friday-Sunday, January 11-13

Sac-Anime
 Scottish Rite Center
 6151 H Street
 Sacramento
www.sacanime.com
 \$20
 Anime convention featuring viewing room, manga contest, game tournaments, dealers' room, more.

Saturday, January 12

BeefBowl Anime
 Albany Library

1247 Marin Avenue
 Albany
 12:15-4:15 p.m.
 Free
 See the screening list at beefbowl.org.

Saturday, January 12

Other Magazine Presents
Writers With Drinks
 The Make Out Room
 3225 22nd Street
 San Francisco
www.writerswithdrinks.com
 7:30 p.m.
 \$3-\$5 sliding scale
 With Aimee Bender, Ariel Gore, and Wagner James Au.

Wednesday, January 16

Ask a Scientist: Where Did Language Come From?
 Axis Cafe
 1201 8th Street
 San Francisco
www.askascientistsf.com
 7 p.m.
 Free
 A talk by Terrence Deacon, Professor of Biological Anthropology and Linguistics at UC Berkeley.

Saturday, January 19

SF in SF: Peter S. Beagle and Mark Ferrari
 Preview Room
 Variety Children's Charity
 582 Market Street
 San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

7 p.m.

Free

SF in SF is a regular series of sci fi author readings with discussion and book signing after, and a clever name. Cash bar opens at 6:30.

January 24-28

Further Confusion

Doubletree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.furtherconfusion.org

\$40 in advance (through December 30)

10th Anniversary Edition of the Bay Area's major Furry con is themed "The Fur East."

Panels, art show, dealer's room, costume contests, more.

Saturday, February 2

Le Mardi Gras des Vampires

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (by January 26), \$20 at the door.

New Orleans' most amusing host, M. Lestat de Lioncourt, invites you to a joyous Mardi Gras Ball. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Thursday, February 14

Thrillville's Giant Valentine's Show:

Konga (1961) and Reptilicus (1961)

Cerrito Speakeasy Theater

10070 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito

www.thrillville.net

7:30 p.m.

\$10

Featuring Mr. Lobo and the Queen of Trash in person.

Friday-Sunday, February 15-17

DunDraCon

San Ramon Marriott

2600 Bishop Drive

San Ramon

www.dundracon.com

Annual gaming convention returns to San Ramon.

Friday-Monday, February 15-18

Pantheacon

Doubletree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.ancientways.com

\$65 in advance (until January 15), \$75 at the door

Annual Pagan gathering with workshops, rituals, drumming, dancing, and crafts.

Friday-Sunday, February 22-24

WonderCon

Moscone Center South

747 Howard Street

San Francisco

www.comic-con.org/wc/

Comics and media con that seems to get bigger every year. Panels, dealers, summer movie previews, costume contest, more.

Saturday, March 1

Pride and Prejudice Ball

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

Details to follow.

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9

Consonance

Crowne Plaza Silicon Valley

777 Bellew Drive

Milpitas

\$50 at the door (\$45 until February 22)

www.consonance.org

The Bay Area's annual filk convention returns.

Sunday, March 9

Sac-Con

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

www.sacramentocomics.com

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$6

Regular comic, toy and anime show, featuring game tournaments, cosplay contest, more.

Saturday, April 5

The Royal Debutante Ball

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

Details to follow.

Friday-Monday, April 25-28

CostumeCon 26

Doubletree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.cc26.info

\$85 in advance (through December 31, 2007)
CostumeCon will be coming to Silicon Valley in 2008. Details to follow.

Saturday, May 3

Chicago Speakeasy Ball
PEERS Event
www.peers.org
Details to follow.

Friday-Monday, May 23-26

BayCon
Hyatt Regency Santa Clara
5101 Great America Parkway
Santa Clara
www.baycon.org/2008
\$50 in advance
Northern California's largest annual general SF convention is on the move again. Diverse panels, dealer's room, art show, masquerade, anime room, hall costumes, gaming, much more.

Friday-Monday, May 23-26

FanimeCon
San Jose Convention Center
435 South Market Street
San Jose
www.fanime.com
The Bay Area's largest annual anime convention returns. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, J-pop concert, more.

Saturday, June 7

Gone with the Wind Ball
PEERS Event

www.peers.org
Details to follow.

Saturday, July 5

The Emerald City Ball
PEERS Event
www.peers.org
Details to follow.

Ongoing:

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour
Begins: Queen Anne Hotel
1590 Sutter at Octavia
San Francisco
www.sfgghosthunt.com
7 p.m. – 10 p.m.
\$20

Sundays

Sakramento Anime Society
Rancho Cordova Library
9845 Folsom Boulevard
Rancho Cordova
3-7 p.m.
Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
Currently looking for a new regular meeting location. Check the website for details.
www.basfa.org
8 p.m.
Free

Mondays

Dukefish
Jake's of Sunnyvale
174 E. Fremont Avenue
Sunnyvale
8 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
Mountain View Community Center
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue
Mountain View
www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb/
6:30 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
www.BayRPS.com
6 p.m-10 p.m.
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
www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html
7:30 p.m.-11 p.m.
Free

Fridays

SF Games
Muddy's Coffeehouse
1304 Valencia Street
San Francisco
vax.hanford.org/dk/games
7 p.m. to midnight
Free

SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week. Also has a regular cards night at Atlas Café, 20th and Alabama Streets, Tuesday nights from 6:30-10:00.

Fridays-Mondays

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

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour
Meets corner of California and Taylor
San Francisco
www.sfvampiretour.com
8 p.m.
\$20

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

Saturdays

Rocky Horror Picture Show
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
www.parkway-speakeasy.com
Midnight
\$7
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 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
www.legionofrassilon.org
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
www.nnanime.com
Free
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.

SF Browncoats
Cafe Murano
1777 Steiner Street
San Francisco
www.sfbrowncoats.com
Noon
Free
SF *Firefly/Serenity* fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.

SF/SF Meetup
Mysterious Future Bookstore
531 Fifth Street
Santa Rosa
scifi.meetup.com/348/
Regular meetup for North Bay fans on the second Sunday of the month.

Silicon Gulch Browncoats
Various locations (see website for details)
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org
Noon - 2 p.m.
Free
Silicon Valley fans of *Firefly/Serenity* meet up on the first Saturday of the month.

Tangential Conjectures: The Science Fiction Book Club
Books Inc.
301 Castro Street

Mountain View
650-428-1234
7:30 p.m.
Free
Generally meets the third Thursday of the month.

USS Augusta Ada
Round Table Pizza
3567 Geary Blvd.
San Francisco
trek.starshine.org
1 p.m.
Free
Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and *BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month.

USS Defiance
Round Table Pizza
1566 Howe Ave.
Sacramento
www.ussdefiance.org
7 p.m.
Free
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.

Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE
Round Table Pizza
4403 Elkhorn Blvd
Sacramento
916-338-2300
Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.

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