

Science Fiction/San Francisco

Issue #60

February 20, 2008

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

Wham, Bam, Thank you, Ma'am! Following a slow period, the dam bursts and eFanzines.com brings out all sorts of zines from all sorts of people. There's an ebb and flow to the site and the folks who regularly put out zines, and this is one of those periods of flow.

Earl Kemp, who won the Hugo for his historic zine *Who Killed Science Fiction?*, put out the 36th issue of *eI* this last week. It's dedicated to the memory of one of fandom's great dilettantes, Sid Coleman. There's art from Grant Canfield (a Rotsler winner whom you don't see in eFanzines.com zines much these days), Ditmar and Bill Rotsler. The writing features Gregory Benford doing a wonderful piece in tribute, and several of Coleman's reviews reprinted. Some of them are among the best that've ever graced *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*.

Mike McInerney is a local guy who stopped by the Fanzine Lounge when we were running it at Westercon last year. His FAPA zine, *Number One*, is out and it's one of the better zines that comes along whenever there's a FAPA mailing. It's got a great cover from Steve Stiles (who is a favorite for the Best Fan Artist Hugo this year) and a good look at what this whole retail thing is about. The way he found out about being laid off was brutal yet funny.

Do not think that *The Drink Tank* has slipped away into nothingness. Since the last

SF/SF, we've managed to put out two. The Third Annual Giant Sized Annual featured the writing of Mark Plummer, Eric Mayer, Frank Wu, Derek McCaw, Leigh Ann Hildebrand, James Bacon, SaBean MoreL, Steve Green and John Purcell. It's a solid issue and a lot of fun. The piece from Derek about his Grandma bringing him to the whole Fanboy thing is really beautiful. *The Drink Tank* 161 features Taral Wayne, Frank Wu and Me, talks politics and TAFF and more.

Nic Farey has put out a wonderful piece called *Tits, Sausage & Ballet Shoes*. It covers two trips to the UK and is just great reading. Anything that opens with the phrase "Jeez, my ass hurts" is gonna be good stuff. It's a lot of fun and if I can manage to make my TAFF report half this entertaining, I'll be over-the-moon. It sounded like a great time!

If you want to read the lengths I'll go to to make sure that my writers are happy, read *Chris Garcia's Little Thing*. It's an apology zine to Leigh Ann Hildebrand. As our intrepid layout dude and bon vivant David Moyce noted, I left out the time I hyphenated her name in the pages of this august zine and she got mad. I apologize for that too!

WonderCon is coming up and you can read our preview later in the ish. There's a lot going on and the *SF/SF* Team will be there. I'm going for two days (likely not Saturday), and I'll try and post to my lj (johnnyeponymous) if there's going to be any gathering of folks around

those parts. I'm sure Dr. Noe will be presenting another form of The Joker, especially with the new movie coming up.

Speaking of movies, Cinequest has their schedule up and it's looking good. Among those they're honoring are Michael Keaton (who was a Batman), John Leguizamo (who was a Pest), and Danny Glover (who's getting too old for this...). Some highlights (where you're likely to find me) are the Tenacious D documentary *D-Tour*, *Call of Cthulhu*, and *Sputnik Mania*. Of course, I'll be at all the Shorts programs I can make it to. You can find out more at www.cinequest.org.



Letters Of Comment

John Purcell writes:

This zine hasn't caught up in numbers with Garcia's other zine, but it's still running right along at a decent clip. And once again, it's a good issue.

Jean Martin responds: *Chris has another zine? Kidding aside, we're not trying to catch up with The Drink Tank. Even his new zine is probably going to outpace us at some point.*

Just a few things to jot down here this morning before I get onto school-related stuff.

Jean, your comments to my loc contain a very important fact about what I like the most about fandom, core and otherwise: by and large, fans aren't judgmental about other fans. It is a pretty forgiving group, and it is probably the biggest attraction I have to fandom. We can be ourselves here, follow our own interests, and if they dove-tail with other fans, fantastic! There is so much to do and enjoy in fandom, and your statement that "it's great that we respect each other's sometimes wildly divergent proclivities" not only has two wonderful polysyllabic words, but offers up a basic truth about fans. Somehow the fannish group mind determined that life is for living and not for brow-beating other people. Enjoy it while we can, we must.

Yes, for the most part, it's a great, big group of wonderful people. I've had a few bad experiences here and there but I understand that's part and parcel of dealing with human beings

and the nature of organizations that involve people in general. The good experiences far outweigh these minor hiccups. I'm glad you like my use of polysyllabic words. My writing style used to be more verbose and flowery, but since I read On Writing Well and became a corporate writer, my style has become simpler and more concise. Once in a while, though, I still like to throw a few big words around. I love the English language and Tom Stoppard's plays often make me grin like an idiot the entire time I'm reading or watching them. Check out Arcadia if you can, in print or on stage. It combines quantum physics and the Regency era in an amazingly intelligent but entertaining way. At least I found the play and book enjoyable. The gals I saw the play with found it tedious and boring.

So now I just remembered that I have to write up a brief Texas Ren-Fest arkle for youse guys. Hang in there. It's a-coming.

Would it help if we gave you a deadline? That usually helps me. We've been looking forward to your article for a while now. I hope you do get it to us soon.

Lloyd Penney's loc reminds me that the Davises won this year's DUFF race and will be on their way to Perth in short order. My guy, Murray Moore, received a lot of votes, but not enough. If I remember correctly, there were a number of voters this year, which is wonderful. Congratulations go to the winners, who are nice

people just like Murray. I do hope they enjoy their trip. If I win in 2010, I plan on having a great time. The question for me is, will I return? Many people fall in love with Oz and quite a few settle there. We shall see what we shall see when the time comes. However, since I really do love my job, I will most likely return. Maybe.

Australia is on my list of places to go in the near future. That part of the world is just so pristine and mostly untainted by the evils of the modern world. I fell in love with New Zealand when I went two years ago. I can't believe it's been two years already! A lot of people move to New Zealand as well. They're having to limit immigration. I would have moved there too if I didn't love my job like you do. Maybe I'll move there for a little while and be an extra in The Hobbit.

The word "core" brings to mind the following exchange between Donald Duck with Chip and Dale:

"Apple core."

"Baltimore."

"Who's your friend?"

"ME!" *SPLAT!!!*

Silverbob has produced one of FAPA's longest running zines, and like many other fans of the late 40s and early 50s, had the writing talent to make the transition to filthy pro. Fortunately for all of us, he's still a fan at heart, and is one of the nicest writers I have met over

the years. A class act, no question. It is way cool that you were able to lay your hands on an issue of *Spaceship* to read and review. So cool that it's neat. Plus, this one was sent to Bob Tucker! A totally awesome, historically significant acquisition. Thank you for sharing this find with us.

There was talk a while back of interviewing Silverbob for SF/SF but it hasn't materialized. Any takers? We would love to have someone do an interview and write about him and his work.

Ah, more Anime con reportage. Since this is something I am not really into (my son is, sort of, although his 12-year old mind is beginning to shift gears into thoughts of *other* things — but still not girls. Here's hoping he stays that way),

I don't care about it, but España's comment that the lack of parties was a bummer doesn't surprise me at all. Most devotees of Anime are probably under-age (mega-assumption, there) so this should be expected. But it sounds like the dealer's room was a happening place, as was the costuming. At a deal like Anime LA, people-watching for their costumes would be the big highlight. Such is the way of this sub-genre of fandom. I see aspects of Anime at AggieCon, which is coming up in a month and half now. Should be fun again. I must visit their website to see what they have planned for this year.

I was into anime when I was a kid, but anime then was so much simpler and more innocent. Comic books were much simpler then, too. I seem not to be able to get into anime and

comic books, or graphic novels as they are now called, these days. Maybe I'm just older and have outgrown them, or maybe it's because they've gotten so complicated they hurt my eyes and brain just to take it all in. I'm trying to read Girl Genius right now, though, because I've become really interested in steampunk. I've already gotten two costumes together (including genuine Girl Genius goggles!), which I'll debut at upcoming conventions.

Speaking of conventions, I haven't been to an anime convention but I probably wouldn't be interested either if there are no parties — and if I'm old enough to be most of the attendees' mother! But, as a fandom journalist, I should probably keep an open mind and make it out to one of them if there any that are close enough to where I live and that don't conflict with any of my other regular and preferred activities.

I am really into Avatar right now, though. That's tailored toward children so I guess that's why I like it. It's simple, wholesome entertainment with not much violence, but lots of adventure and good moral lessons. It reminds me of the TV show Xena. As for graphic novels, I took a peek at Frank Miller's 300, and the artwork was beautiful but I had trouble reading the words. I loved the movie, though, as elegantly violent as it was. I suppose I'd like anything with Gerard Butler in it. Although Shooters was a little bit too hard for me to take with its gratuitous violence.

With that, done with another zine. Gotta look at some reading education videos on-line now, so thanks again for a good ish, and I hope to get to the Bay Area some day to meet you folks.

We have a lot of great conventions coming up, so come on over!



Editorial

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

OK, here's the business: I'm all about TAFF right now. I know, I know, I said I wouldn't pollute this zine with all my TAFF stuff, but it's hard to write anything without mentioning TAFF. Yes, I've drunk the Kool-Aid and so on with regards to the Fund. I'm sorry, but I'm less than a month out from my trip and I have to talk about it in an editorial.

So, what's the big deal? What's got my knickers in a twist? Well, the reality that it is, in fact, a reality that I'll be going to the UK in less than a month. That's the big one. I guess it wasn't real until I read the numbers from Suzle. She posted the numbers of the TAFF voting and I won with 60%-ish percent of the total vote.

But the European vote was much different.

Unless I read the numbers wrong, and that can happen, I got 41 votes in Europe. The others totaled 8 votes from Europe. Think about that: one vote for someone else, five votes for me. That's not reasonable. That's too much pressure, especially when I think that one of those people was Christian McGuire, the Chair of one of the best WorldCons in modern memory. I've gotta perform because the overwhelming majority of European (mostly UK) voters said that they wanted me to come and visit. How scary is that? I'm a stammering fool, most of the folks who know me will tell you that. When I have to

perform, well, then it's easy, all the pressure's off, but have you ever felt like you have to perform the entire time you're doing something? Like every moment you're someplace, you're on stage? That's not easy.

And so, I'm not even going try.

You see, I just wanted to go to Britain, meet all the wonderful people there that I've been reading about in *PLOKTA* and *Banana Wings* and *Prolapse* and *Procrastinations* and swap some stories, maybe get drunk and set a fire in someone's kitchen. (Note: I promise not to do that in the home of anyone I'm staying with!) That'd be swell, but now I have this thought that people expect me to be charming.

That's so not me. I'm not charming. I'm weird. Not that bald motorcycle guy from *Weird Science* who didn't want to lose his teaching job weird, but needing a shave and a haircut likely to say things that aren't fit for human ears and then hug people at inappropriate moments weird. That's not the guy five out of six British fans want to meet. They want a rakish and comical chap from the States who can pass along all the charm that we earned in the settlement from the War of 1812. I'm not that guy. You can see why this would worry me.

But then, I look at those numbers again. That's 41 people. At an average Eastercon, there's gotta be 1500 or 2000 people. That's one out of 50 who voted for me. Thinking about it like that, then I'm just another visitor from the

West Coast who can hang around, chat folks up, tell old stories like they're new. (Hey, you ever hear about the time that Dave Kyle said I couldn't sit here, or the time I sawed Courtney's boat?) I'd just be another guy who maybe 2% of the attendees would care anything about.

Only, that actually makes it worse.

You see, with only one in 50 caring enough to vote, how can a Fund survive? I've gotta be the best dude who ever came across, meet every single person, and talk TAFF up. Basically, I gotta do what I did at WorldCon in 2006, only with the pressure that if I don't manage to be both pushy and likable, I'll cost the Fund that's been so good to me money! I could doom TAFF by not being the best me I could be. Way to go Chris...you killed TAFF. Magnificent!

And so, my mind is still kinda reeling. On the other hand, I'm so excited. First off, Frank Wu, Brianna, The Lovely and Talented Linda are all gonna be there. That'll make things easier because they're all entertaining and I'm always happier (and more entertaining) when I've got entertaining people around me. I'll also be so glad to spend some real time with folks like James Bacon, Claire Brialey, Mark Plummer and so on. Those are folks I've met, chatted with and never had too much of a chance to sit down with and get much beyond the "Hey, who's this floppy-haired guy?" stage.

There's also the chance to meet the

PLOKTans, Smilin' Pete Sullivan, Steve Green, The Towerin' Inferno Niall Harrison, Liz Batty, Greg Pickersgill, Abi Brown, Ravin' Dave Langford, Martin Hoare, and a bunch more folks.

Of course, there's one guy I wanna meet more than any of the others. That's John The Rock Coxon. He's all of 19 or so, a masterful writer, a good editor and probably the reason the future of British fandom seems so rosy to my eyes. He's put out a great zine (*Procrastinations*, available on eFanzines.com) and does a great LJ. He's a stylin' master of the medium and I'm hopin' that at least a little of his natural awesome rubs off on me with my visit.

I've got my schedule for the Con, which is one of the other reasons it's so real, and it's a fun one. There's Jimmy-Jam Bacon and me workin' with folks to do a TAFF Report in an hour. That should be fun. I've got a panel with Abi, Flick, Peter Sullivan and Johnny C called Who You Callin' Obsolete about why young folks would ever do Fanzines in this day and age. I will point out that Abi's in her early 20s I think, John 19 (the magnificent BASTARD!) and Flick's maybe 30. That makes me the old guy. Well, I think Pete's got me beat, but he's the moderator, so it's expected!

I've got a couple of others, mostly fannish panels, but I think I'm on one Lit panel and one auction for TAFF. I plan on starting every item at One Thousand Pounds. That way, I only have to sell one, and my trip is paid for!

This Weekend at WonderCon

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

Every year I go to WonderCon. Usually it's the serious start of my con-going season. While this year that honor went to Further Confusion, I will say that WonderCon looks to be ready to pop!

First off, more this year than any other that I can think of, they're playing up the movies. The big deal I want to go and see is the *Iron Man* panel. Let's face it, Tony Stark is a great character and Robert Downey, Jr. is just about the last actor I'd ever have expected to play him. Director Jon Favreau, who is best known for acting on *Friends* and in *Swingers* and directing films like *Elf*, will be there live to discuss the film.

Another one that I really wanna go to is the *Get Smart* panel. Anne Hathaway, who gets topless to the delight of many in *Brokeback Mountain*, will be there along with Steve Carell to talk about the upcoming future masterpiece based on the 1960s TV show. I was hoping that Dwayne The Rock Johnson would be showing up, but he's working on another movie. I've been told by those who were working on the movie in the post-production phase that it's really a solid picture.

The director and writer of the upcoming *X-Files* picture are going to be there along with

David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson. That should be a fun panel and I'm not the only one who is chomping at the bit for a return of *The X-Files*.

There will be a lot of comics folks around, one of which is Terry Moore. A personal favorite of mine, Terry has done so many great books including the amazing *Strangers in Paradise*.

Of course, you always have to expect that there'll be two panels head-to-head that you really want to go to, and this year it's the two panels I want to see the most. The first is the Comics Podcasting Extravaganza and the second is R2-D2 Droid Building Basics. Same time, different rooms. I'm still not sure if I'll be able to make either, but I'm gonna try.

One thing you can always count on is the appearance of the usuals. Phil Foglio will be there, as will Mr. Lobo. You can't deny that Raphael Navarro of *Sonambulo* fame will make you smile. The porn stars including Aria Giovanni will be there, and the folks from *Dorothy*, that photo comic that certainly inspired a recent Sci Fi Channel knock-off, will be around. Plus you can find folks from FanboyPlanet.com and MoronLife.com wondering around doing interviews and podcasting.

WonderCon 2008 takes place February 22-24 at Moscone Center West in San Francisco.
www.comic-con.org/wc/

This Old Fanzine

NOVOID No. 5
by Colin Hinz

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

People have been very generous to the Chris Man. More than two dozen people have given me old zines to add to the collection that travels to the various Fanzine Lounges I've been doing, not to mention the current faneds who have been kind enough to send me their present zines to show people that zining ain't a thing of the past.

One of the kind people who added to the collection was Colin Hinz. After he made his GoH speech at CorFlu last year, he presented me with several issues of *NOVOID*, a zine he had done in the 1980s. I was most pleased, even though I'd already packed my bags and had little room for anything. I made space, took them on the plane, and enjoyed the hell out of them. One stuck in my mind and I came across it again a few days ago while looking through my bankers boxes. I figured I'd pull up my 1980s playlist on the old computer and go over this fine zine of the late 80s.

The first thing that caught me about *NOVOID 5* was the cover by Rob Alexander. I'm not sure I'm familiar with Mr. Alexander's work, but it's good stuff, showing an Emerald

City-inspired future settlement with a spacerrail running to it. It's one of those covers that stands out and makes you expect something from the interior. Of course, that never comes because this is a fanzine and not a book from the Golden Age of SF, right? Wrong! This time you DO get it, with a lovely little piece from Dave D'Amassa about it being the Venus Hilton and that we should all be supporting their bid for the Worldcon in the far-off year of 2000. Remember, this is a zine from 1987, when the dark days of the year 2000 were so far off as to make the eyes water. The little explanation of the Venus Hilton is a lot of fun and the kind of thing I've tried to make happen in *The Drink Tank* once or twice, with minimal success.

The greatest strength of *NOVOID* is the way Colin laid it all out and the headers/footers he used. In the days of stencils and Gestetners I didn't expect the kind of layering and mapping that Mr. Hinz did with *NOVOID*. While *Costumer's Quarterly* was doing one of the earliest computer-laid out zines (and I'll talk about that in a future issue), Colin was doing an equally amazing job with his layouts here. (Excuse me here, I have to stop and skank to The Specials' "The Guns of Navarone.") The green and reds mix lovely with the black text and when they collide, it makes for a nice bit of textual texture...or something like that. The way he boxed a Taral Wayne article in burgundy was a solid indicator for me. Attention like that just

isn't paid as often in zines anymore.

The articles are first rate, and the contributor list is just fantastic. There's John D. Berry, who is one of those writers you just want to read more of these days, and of course Mr. Hinz himself, who is a strong writer with a really dry-wry bent to him in a way that I would pray to be able to emulate but could never come close. His fanzine reviews are remarkable and tidy while still being highly entertaining. Kathleen Moore-Freeman has an article that's pretty good, as does the aforementioned Taral. Dale Spiers has an article about the differing kinds of reviews. It's really a strong look at the differing ways people can go about looking at reviewing things. I can see where each and every one of my reviews falls into the seven areas that Dale points out. There's a push to get him on the Hugo ballot right now and I think it's a good idea. He's been a consistent writer for a couple of decades now, so why shouldn't he be on the ballot?

There's a very funny Trufan Evaluation Form from Don D'Amassa that is nutty fun. (Excuse me again, it's "Everyday is like Sunday" from Morrissey, so I have to do the Gladiola Waving dance around the room for a second.) I scored a 30 on the evaluation. That's a pretty good score for someone 20+ years out! I was laughing at the way it was put together and how I could see this leading directly into a parody that any number of current fans could put out. Andy Trembley, I'm looking in your general

direction!

The lettercol opens with a letter from my hero, Harry Warner. You can't dispute that the man could comment like the Ghod he was. The entire lettercol is strong, making me wish I had been around at the time.

The art throughout the issue is first rate. There were a few pieces from Paul Lambo that had a Rotsler-esque feel to them — and how strange does it feel to be reading a zine from the 1980s without a single piece of Rotsler art in it? (Oh, hold on again, it's "Radio, Radio" by Elvis Costello on the playlist right now, and I must rock out.) The art from Taral is great, as is the stuff from folks whose stuff I can't recall seeing many other places. Paul Chadwick, Hank Heath, Diana Vick are all names I can't say I've seen much from. That's one of the great things about doing these This Old Fanzine segments: it gives me a chance to discover what I was missing. There's also some great Brad W. Foster stuff that looks like it could have some out in the latest issue of *Banana Wings*. It's amazing how his stuff just lasts and lasts, it's so damned good!

All in all, *NOVOID* is one of the better zines of its day and I'm so glad Colin thought of passing it along to me. There's a strong push for TAFF in it too, which will always make me smile. It even announced the winner of the most recent race (Jeanne Gomoll) in an added page to explain why it was so late. I would say you should go out and find it (or stop by the Fanzine Lounge at BayCon, Westercon or WorldCon and ask me for it) and maybe we can all convince Colin to put it on-line for all us simps to get a shot at! (Ooh, The Cure! This is my favorite: "Show me, show me, show me how you do that trick...")



Feasting and Finery at Crosston Ball



Kathy Stormberg was among those in attendance.

By Cin Barnes

Photos by Renee Hollomon

The Shire of Crosston, a local branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), held its annual Crosston Dance Ball January 26th at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Santa Clara.

Renaissance dance classes started at 1 p.m. and continued until we rearranged the hall for dinner. We dined on an amazing array of "potluck medieval" dishes.

There were tartes, roasts, stuffed breads, potages, rissoles, and to drink there were hypocras, wines and even some soft drinks from early recipe manuals. There was an entire table of sweets, but I didn't quite make it there. Too many other goodies had found their way to my plate previously.

At the hour of six, the tables were cleared for dancing to music provided by our magnificent live band. (I'd say "orchestra" but the concept of orchestra is much more modern.) The band had a lutenist, drummer, shaum and krumhorn player. Others played double reeds, recorder, and many more instruments.

I danced my little tooties into remarkable soreness over the course of eight hours.

For more information, visit:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~al-qurtubiyya/home.html>



Left to right: Geoffrey Matthias strikes a pose, Vyncent and Cin collude, Renee shows off her embroidery.

Vampire Ball, New Orleans Style

Story and Photos by Jean Martin
Editor

The Period Events & Entertainments Re-Creation Society (PEERS) held its February ball, “Le Mardi Gras des Vampires,” Saturday February 2nd at the San Mateo Masonic Lodge, its regular venue. PEERS had just had its annual “Le Bal des Vampires” last November in Alameda, so some people, including myself, were worried that it was too soon to have another vampire-themed ball. However, the theme seems to continue to be a popular one and the hall was packed with over 200 people despite the rainy weather.

The February Ball arrived just in time for Fat Tuesday and the traditional celebration of Mardi Gras in New Orleans, so the theme was more in line with Anne Rice’s *Interview with the Vampire*. Sure enough, M. Lestat de Lioncourt himself welcomed guests to the ball. Most attendees wore 18th- and 19th-century fashions, and a lot of people wore colorful masks of different kinds. There were feathered masks, ribbon masks and even metal masks straight from Venice.

The Venetians are quite well known for their own pre-Lent celebration called Carnevale. I would like to attend the Carnevale di Venezia at some point but it’s held in the middle of winter. I generally don’t like traveling to cold places during the winter, and it falls during the busiest time of the year for me at work. So I suppose I



Revelers Kevin Roche and Andy Trembley.



Jean as Mina Harker.

have to settle for celebrating the Tuesday before Lent here at home. But what a celebration it was!

As for my costume, it was cold and rainy so I didn't want to wear a Victorian or Baroque gown. I went as Mina Harker, the vampiress from the movie *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*. The movie was based on a graphic novel of the same name. I'd read really bad reviews of the movie so I wasn't expecting much when I saw it recently, but I'm in a steampunk phase so I've been watching a lot of steampunk movies lately. The movie could have been a lot better, some of the dialogue was stilted or too cheesy, but on the whole it was alright. And I was really enamored of Mina Harker's costumes.

So I put together an outfit overnight from costume pieces I already had plus a quick trip to Hot Topic at the mall for the corset. My costume would probably have been more appropriate for Carnevale because it was the outfit Mina Harker wore in the Venice scenes in the movie. But I was a vampire and the time period, Victorian, was correct. No one except my friend Jeff recognized my costume, but it was warm and looked great so I was happy.

A lot of people complimented me on my long, red wig. Some people even thought it was my real hair and that I had dyed it red! I had to be careful when dancing so that my wig wouldn't fall off, as it has done in the past.

Dancing was a little difficult during the earlier hours as the dance floor was packed. But there were other things to do, such as chat with friends, enjoy the Mardi Gras themed food, and get your fortune read by a tarot card reader. *Le Theatre des Vampires* also performed during the



Above: Masked dancers take a break. Right: Le Theatre des Vampires performs.

intermission. Before I began dancing, I helped out at the gate to take tickets, sell tickets, and check volunteers and guests off the comp list.

Music for the evening was provided by The Baguette Quartette, a Parisian-American band. They're not the usual band at PEERS events, and although I love Bangers and Mash, it was nice to have a different band for the evening. The music was lovely, but surprisingly cheerful and light: I was expecting dark and gothic music at a Vampire Ball. But perhaps the music was more appropriate for recreating a New Orleans atmosphere.

The band played a mix of waltzes, polkas (which I can't dance because I get too dizzy), schottisches (which I love, but did not

get to do), mazurkas, tangos and the Congress of Vienna (which I missed as well). I did get to do Les Lanciers, a simple quadrille that was taught before we danced it. I love the quadrille, which is danced by four couples forming a square, and with beautiful patterns between couples and the entire set. I was also able to dance Sir Roger de Coverley, a line dance that's really energetic and a lot of fun.

Too soon, the ball was over and the house lights were turned up. People didn't want to leave and hung around, so we were told that if we didn't leave we had to help with the cleanup. Someone gave out a big box of Mardi Gras bead necklaces in different colors and I got a couple. That held up people from leaving even more.

Finally we all did manage to leave and my friends and I went to our regular post-ball haunt, Heidi's Pies. I was starving so I had a veggie burger patty melt with onion rings. Most people had pie.

I didn't want the night to end, but it was late and we all headed home. So much for being vampires, staying up all night and sleeping at dawn!



BASFA Minutes: Meetings 914-915

Meeting 914

February 4, 2008

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

Began 8:07 [because I had prime rib]

29 people attended

We established a TAFF jar

Secretary's report: we accepted the minutes of meeting 912 as '9.8 for presentation' & accepted the minutes of meeting 913 as 'damn good cherry pie'

The Treasurer reported that at meeting 912 we took in \$5.25 in the regular jar & \$3.67 in the TAFF jar & at meeting 913 we took in \$1.50 in the regular jar & \$6.25 in the TAFF jar

There was no VP or VP report

The President reminded us that there will be Hugo nominations after the meeting

Announcements:

Ken announced that the new issue of 'Raspberry World' is out and has an article by him therein

[check their website at raspberrymworld.net] & he announced that KTEH will start the new David Tennant 'Dr Who' on April 10 & the 4th series will start in April on the Sci Fi Channel, along with the 'Sarah Jane Adventures'

Dave C announced that John McCain keeps calling his house - along with some guy called Romney & 'I don't know what to do' [there were follow-ons]

Kelly announced that SF in SF is doing a reading on Saturday, Feb 23, opening at 6pm at the Hobart Building in SF, with Paolo Bacigalupi & Carter Sholz

Glenn announced that today is Alice Cooper's 60th birthday

Dave G announced that Saturday, March 1 at 4pm is a Tupperware/Slash/Jewelry party at the House of Spike

[evil] Kevin announced that there have been many updates made on the CostumeCon website - check out their entry forms for the historical masquerade & science fiction and fantasy costuming

Andy announced that the 19th opus of Gallifrey will be in 2 weeks at the LAX Marriott and will be the last Evil Geniuses party before Costume Con

Reviews:

Julie reviewed episode 3 of 'Torchwood' as very good but the ending was a bit weak - and there were follow-ons

Ken reviewed 'Brainiac Science Abuse' as they love explosions, innuendo and is a lot of fun to watch

Andy reviewed the lead balloon of Mythbusters as it kicked ass & reviewed Further Confusion as he's almost recovered from it, that the Evil Geniuses party went off really well, a great success, their panels went off well, judged the Masquerade on Saturday & landlarded the Santa Clara County Leather Assoc party Saturday night and it went off well, there were a few schedule glitches, FNL was the best ever, Dead Dog was actually a lot of fun and the con was worth full price; there were follow-ons

[evil] Kevin reviewed 'Mardi Gras des Vampires' as good costumes and dreadful theatrics & he reviewed the 2nd batch of St George's Absinthe vert as they enjoyed the first drink of it and then poured hot cocoa for the next 3 hours & was worth the time spent

Gordon reviewed 'The 39 Steps' and 'Secret Agent' as he predicts that director will go far - worth full price

Dave C reviewed 'Service Included' by Phoebe Damrosch as fascinating reading, fun to read and

is worth full price in hardcover

Glenn reviewed the audio book of 'Born Standing Up' by Steve Martin as funny and poignant, is worth full price, especially for his reading and inflection

Dave G reviewed the Creation Xena lovefest at the Burbank Bob Hope Airport Marriott as there were 35 guys there and a whole lot of women, that the attendees seemed to have fun but weren't interested in buying jewelry; that it was an interesting experience & is one he hopes to never do again & was not worth any price at all

[tall] Kevin reviewed his company's management conference, held in Tahoe in the snow as not a smart idea and they had to pay him to go there, but he spent the weekends in Reno and can't recommend the Holiday Inn there, it's not near anything and is in a run down section of town, he also commented that looking at real estate off in the middle of nowhere made him very glad they had 4-wheel drive [there were follow-ons]

Daniel reviewed the DVD of 'Clerks 2' as a must buy for Kevin Smith fans - worth full price plus

We adjourned at = 9:26

And the rumor of the week was that = 'Tupperware/Slash/Xena'

Meeting 915

February 11, 2008

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

Began 8:00 [because I had prime rib]

20 people attended

We established a TAFF jar

Secretary's report: we accepted the minutes of meeting 914 as 'Soylent Green is Phoebe'

No Treasurer - but the proxy treasurer report via Dave C was that at meeting 914 we took in \$0.50 in the regular jar & \$2.26 in the TAFF jar

There was no VP - but Joe volunteered to do the VP report - not realizing the danger [of taking over the -job-] that he was putting himself into

The President introduced us to Brenden - visiting us after having seen the webpage [when asked to talk about himself, his comment was to shake his head and say, "I'm good."]

Announcements:

Dave C announced that Paris Hilton's movie, 'The Hottie and the Naughty' took in a grand total of \$25,000 in its release week [there were follow-ons]

Joe announced that there are 2 conventions this weekend, PantheaCon, locally and Gallifrey

down south

Andy announced that the last Evil Geniuses party before CostumeCon will be held at Gallifrey, Friday - and Ken follow-on'd that Evil Geniuses will host a Dalek party in their room on Saturday night

Lisa announced that her grandson turns 2 today and has thus far survived

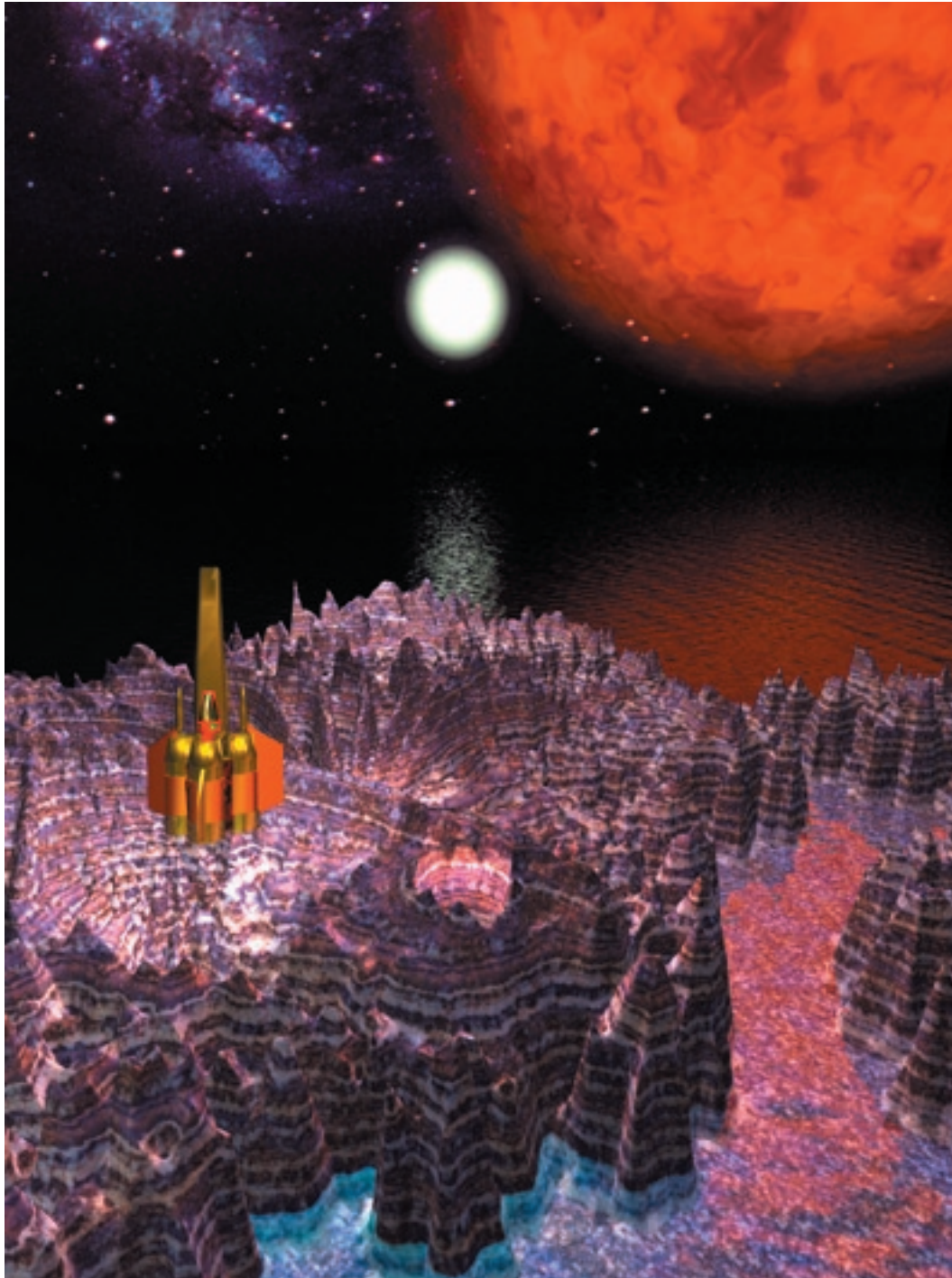
Mike announced that Amichi's Pizza is celebrating their 20th anniversary tomorrow and for a day they'll be selling at 1988 prices - in downtown Mountain View

Trey announced that Roy Scheider died yesterday

Reviews:

Julie reviewed 'The God Machine' as a book about the history of helicopters & commented upon Roy Scheider's fantasy ties, with a reference to the movie 'Blue Thunder' & also said one of the folks on her Fair Organ Preservation Society mailing list recommends 'Masterpieces of the East'

Andy reviewed 'Slice of New York', next to Stevens Creek Surplus, as seriously good NY pizza, worth full price & reviewed 'Torchwood' episode 4 as it continue the dark spiral the series is doing this year - it's weird and dark and worth stealing [there were follow-ons] & reviewed the new CD by John Barrowman as the worst pop power ballads of the 70s & 'Another Side' is not worth stealing [there were follow-ons]



Joe reviewed Mexico as utterly brilliant & they ran into a brigade of dolphins [amazing], swam with a pod of whales [they WERE the pod people] & ate dinner with bats - had a lot of fun & was worth full price

Ken reviewed The Cliff House as the place has been remodeled & lacked the classic ambiance - not worth going there again, but the food wasn't bad & reviewed 'Across the Universe' as worth Net-flicking, the actors did their own singing & the DVD extras were interesting & he reviewed Jerry's wedding dress preview as fabulous

Dave C follow-on'd last week's session by recommending LeGuin's 'On Serious Literature'

Trey reviewed Kim Harrison's first 4 books as a neo-gothy, fantasy hard-boiled detective girl series - with a lot of revisionist mythology going on there & he likes the supporting characters - worth used pb

Julie announced that the Tolkien estate is suing New Line Cinema since they haven't received their 7% from the last movie

We then auctions off some: books and a CD for \$2.00, books for \$3.00, \$0.25, \$0.25, \$0.50, \$0.50, \$0.50 & \$0.25

We adjourned at = 9:20

And the rumor of the week was that = 'Barbara writes fast'

Bay Area Fannish Calendar

Life is complicated; putting on an event is even more so. Please check before attending, as events are sometimes canceled or times and locations changed.

New listings are in red.

Ongoing events are toward the back.

Wednesday, February 20

Ray Harryhausen and Friends

Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center

1118 Fourth Street (Between A & B)

San Rafael

7:15 p.m.

\$15

Special Guests include: Craig Barron, Arnold Kunert, Dennis Muren & Phil Tippett

Friday, February 22

Jonathan Coulton

Great American Music Hall

859 O'Farrell Street

San Francisco

8 p.m.

Sold-out

Friday-Sunday, February 22-24

WonderCon

Moscone Center South

747 Howard Street

San Francisco

www.comic-con.org/wc/

\$30 in advance, \$40 at the door.

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

Saturday, February 23

SF in SF: Paolo Bacigalupi

Preview Room

Variety Children's Charity

582 Market Street

San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

7:00 p.m.

Free

SF in SF is a regular series of sci fi and author readings, with discussion and signing after moderated by Terry Bisson. Cash bar opens at 6:30.

Saturday, February 23

Community Costume Dance Party

Sebastopol Subud Center

243 Hutchins

Sebastopol

<http://www.boudiccamusic.com/>

Arab-Celtic rock fusion band Boudicca presents a Star Trek costume-themed event featuring the Black Sabbath tribute band Electric Funeral as well as bellydancers and drummers from the Angelena Shool of Middle Eastern Dance and

Music.

\$10

Saturday, February 23

Authors: Maria Alexander and Loren Rhoads

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

3:00 p.m.

Free

Tuesday, February 26

Ask a Scientist: The 2000-Year-Old Computer (and Other Achievements of Ancient Science)

Axis Café

201 8th Street (btw. 16th & Irwin)

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7:00 p.m.

Free

Richard Carrier, Science Historian and Philosopher, Columbia University, will discuss the nature and limitations of ancient science.

Saturday, March 1

Pride and Prejudice Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (until February 23), \$20 at the door.

Mr. Bingley requests the pleasure of your company at Netherfield Manor. Join us for an evening of elegant dancing, wit, romance and intrigue. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

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.

Friday, March 14

Ask a Scientist's PI Day Puzzle Party

The Bazaar Café

5927 California St. (21st Ave) San Francisco

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7:00 p.m.

Free

Celebrate Pi Day (3.14) this year with a boisterous math and logic puzzle competition, hosted by the inimitable Wes Carroll.

Monday, March 17

Ask a Scientist: The Science of Baseball

Axis Café

201 8th Street (btw. 16th & Irwin)

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7:00 p.m.

Free

This event is presented in collaboration with KQED's QUEST program. Details to follow.

Thursday, March 20

826 Valencia

San Francisco

Benefit Book Party with Michael Chabon

Details to follow.

Friday, March 29

The Phenomenauts CD Release Party

Slims

333 11th Street

San Francisco

www.phenomenauts.com

9:00 p.m.

\$13

Friday-Sunday, April 4-6

Contact 24

NASA Ames Research Center

Mountain View

\$135

Saturday, April 5

The Royal Debutante Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (until March 29), \$20 at the door.

A ball in honour of the debut in Society of Her Royal Highness, Princess Louise. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Thursday, April 10

Thrillville's 11th Anniversary Show

It! The Terror from Beyond Space (1958) and

Journey to the 7th Planet (1962)

Cerrito Speakeasy Theater

10070 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito

www.thrillville.net

7:30 p.m.

\$10

With Mr. Lobo and the Queen of Trash, Ms. Monster and a live music by The TomorrowMen.

Friday-Sunday, April 18-20

La Prova Dura

SCA West Kingdom, Shire of Canale

San Benito County Fairgrounds

9000 Airline Highway

Tres Pinos

\$10

Saturday, April 19

Author: Peter Beagle

Clayton Books
5433 Clayton Road
Clayton
www.claytonbookshop.com
2:00 p.m.

Friday-Monday, April 25-28

CostumeCon 26
Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
www.cc26.info
\$95 in advance (through April 15, 2008)
CostumeCon will be coming to Silicon Valley in 2008.

Monday, April 28

Author: Jack O'Connell
Dark Carnival Bookstore
3086 Claremont Avenue
Berkeley
www.darkcarnival.com
Book signing by the author of *The Resurrectionist*.
5:30 p.m

Saturday, May 3

Chicago Speakeasy Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until April 26), \$20 at the door.
Join us at the hottest speakeasy in Chicago for All That Jazz! PEERS is proud (and truly amazed) to announce that the evening's band

will be the one, the only, the incomparable Lee Presson and the Nails!
Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Friday-Monday, May 23-26

BayCon
Hyatt Regency Santa Clara
5101 Great America Parkway
Santa Clara
www.baycon.org/2008
\$65 in advance (through March 15)
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
\$50 in advance (through March 31)
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
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until May 31), \$20 at the door.
Inspired by the Charity Ball In Atlanta from the

first part of *Gone with the Wind*. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday, July 5

The Emerald City Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until June 28), \$20 at the door.
Come join us in honoring the singular courage of Dorothy Gale and her intrepid companions.
Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday-Sunday August 16-17

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

Saturday, September 6

Northern California Renaissance Faire
Casa de Fruta
10031 Pacheco Pass Hwy
Hollister
<http://www.norcalrenfaire.org/>
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat-Sun
\$25 (starting May)

Saturday, September 6

Space 1889: The Adventure of Le Cirque de Venus
PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until August 30), \$20 at the door.
Steampunk event: Space 1899 - a Victorian Ball in Space. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Friday-Sunday, October 3-5
Silicon 2008: A Salute to FanAc
www.siliconventions.com
Details to follow.

Saturday, October 4th
Swingin in the Rain
PEERS Event
www.peers.org.
An evening in 1929 Hollywood at a ball inspired by that most joyous of musicals!
Details to follow

Saturday, November 1
Ls Bal des Vampires
PEERS Event
www.peers.org.
Details to follow

Send your items for
inclusion in our Calendar
section to:

SFinSF@gmail.com

Saturday-Sunday, November 1-2
Alternative Press Expo
The Concourse
620 7th Street
San Francisco
Details to follow

Ongoing:

Daily
San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour
Begins: Queen Anne Hotel
1590 Sutter at Octavia
San Francisco
www.sfghosthunt.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.

The Gay Men's Book Club
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
Free
5:00 p.m.
The book for February 10th is THE ALGEBRAIST by Iain M. Banks. Please contact the group leader, Christopher Rodriguez, at cobalt555@earthlink.net, for more information.

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.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
6:00 p.m.

Free
The book for February 17th is THIRTEEN by Richard Morgan. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

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.usndefiance.org
7 p.m.
Free
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.

USS Northern Lights

The Great Mall Food Court
Milpitas
fristjedi2000@yahoo.com
7 p.m.
Free
The 'Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International and a swell group of science fiction fans. We do more than *Trek*. Usually meets the second Friday of the month, with social event TBD.

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.