

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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email: SFinSF@gmail.com

Editors: Jean Martin, Chris Garcia
Copy Editor: David Moyce
Calendar Editor: España Sheriff

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

In sad news, Jack Speer, one of the true legends of fandom, passed away the morning of Saturday the 28th.

He was one of the most significant figures in the history of fandom, but had in many ways been forgotten as the significant figure that he was due to the change in the composition and focus of modern fandom. He was a member of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association from its beginning and was an active member, even having a zine in the latest mailing. The concept of mailing comments is often credited to him with the third FAPA mailing, as is the concept of interlining. Jack wrote the first history of fandom, *Up To Now*, in the early 1940s and was the Fan Guest of Honor at Noreascon in 2004. I had the honor of meeting him in 2006 at LACon and again at the 2007 CorFlu. He was a gentleman and one of the most lasting images I'll have is of Jack sitting in the front row of our panel on Hoaxes at LACon wearing a fake mustache that made him look like Mario from the Super Mario Brothers games. I'll miss him.

By the time you read this, Westercon will be over. There's a lot of great stuff planned, but since our deadline is before Westercon, and since there's no way I'd put our dedicated and exceptional layout guy through the hell that would be holding things until I get back on Monday night, I'll simply say that this is a very

BArea Westercon. There are two Match Games on the schedule, one of which I'll be on (along with Leigh Ann Hildebrand, Kevin Roche, Andy Trembley, Tom Galloway and others) and one which I won't be on (which might feature the debut of Jason Schachat on the dais). There's our own España Sheriff doing a docent tour of the Art Show, quite a few panels with various BArea peoples (like Kevin Standlee, myself, and others) and there's a large swatch of BArea attendance. It'll be a good time.

eFanzines.com never sleeps! This time, there's been a lot of good stuff going up. Peter Sullivan has become Chris Garcia and has put out weekly editions of *Virtual Tucker Hotel*, which mostly centers around what goes on in the Virtual Fan Lounge. It's good stuff and the Virtual Fan Lounge is a wonderful thing that makes me wish I could access it!

The most recent issue of *Chunga* is out and it's a good one. The cover alone, from my second favorite fan artist Mr. Dan Steffan, is magnificently awesome. There's good content (including an article from me about a strange couple of evenings I had) and some really nice art. It's hard to decide which layout I prefer: that done by the good people of *Chunga* or the good people at *PLOKTA*...or maybe *Consonant Enigma*? Hard to say.

There's another *Visions of Paradise* from Robert Sabella. It's one of those zines that you either get and really enjoy or don't and kinda

read it for a while and then have some itch come to the surface and you come back to it. I am in that first category.

Hey, you gotta love it when you also get a new issue of *Prolapse*. I was most interested in it and Mr. Peter Weston sent a photo of Sir Richard Burton's gravesite to me. It was really an ugly beast that's referenced in the zine. I'm one of the many Americans who really enjoy *Prolapse*, which some see as strange since it's a British Fan History Zine, in many ways like an Island version of *Mimosa*. Issue 11 is probably the second best issue of the zine so far.

If you haven't read the Alexei Panshin article in *eI* yet, what are you waiting for?

If you haven't read *Inca* #3, go to eFanzines and do that too! Rob Jackson, a great FanEd who came back after a longish absence and has been doing some great stuff, deserves a lot more attention than he's been getting. His 1970s zine *Maya* is a classic (and I've just been reading a few old issues of it!) and you can't go wrong with *Inca* either.

There's talk of the Little Men have a gathering again. It's small, but it might just happen.

SiliCon is coming and the Fanzine Lounge is going to happen. I'll have more details, but it should be a lot of fun. I've found a bunch of new, long-standing BArea things that'll be in the lounge and it should be a great salute to FANAC.

The Babbage Engine at the Computer History Museum continues to draw people from around the world and all over fandom. If you've got a mo, come on down to Mountain View and take a look. It'll make my Babbage talk at the Steampunk Convention much more understandable.

By the time you read this, the voting will have closed for the Hugos. I'm still saying that *The Yiddish Policeman's Union* is going to take it, just like it took the *Locus* Poll.

That said, of late eBay has been burning up with fanzine stuff. Some of the items include a 1962 Worldcon proceedings that was edited by Chairman Earl Kemp. I bought it and was quite pleased. There have also been various zines and a bunch of Worldcon program books, including the one that shows the full schedule for the First Worldcon. That one ended up out of my league, but it was in decent shape.

BayCon still hasn't announced any GoHs for next year. I'm hoping for some fun ones, maybe someone like Robert Silverberg. He's not been a GoH, I don't think. There's also Trina Robbins, a legendary figure in Underground Comix and also a long-time SF fan. I'd love to see her as a GoH somewhere. And let us not forget there's the matter of the fellows by the name of Christopher Moore, Daniel Handler or Michael Chabon, all of whom have strong BArea ties and would be the highest profile GoHs BayCon has had since Poppy Z. Brite and Harlan Ellison.

No one ever told me that Grant Canfield, the Rotsler Award winning fan artist whose stuff is just fantastic, lives in Sausalito. No one tells me anything!

The Fannish Wedding of the Year

So, Monday the 23rd at BASFA was a special night. Not a perfect night. The Lovely and Talented Linda found her tire flat around 6:30 that night and couldn't get it fixed in time to come down, so that was weighing on my mind since I hadn't seen her in a week. That's not fun, but the rest of the night was great.

I got there about 7:15 or so and the place was already as full as it gets on busy nights right as the meeting is starting. There were a bunch of folks who only attend when the meetings are held at cons or who had never been before. The reason was simple: Kevin and Andy were getting married.

Now, everyone knows that there are no two fans whom I am happier to have on my friends and conspirators list, and they're a wonderfully fun couple of people. They got married in front of friends and family a few years ago and with the recent California Supreme Court ruling, they decided to do the In The Eyes of The Law marriage, which is a good thing.

And with a great deal of happy, they chose me to do the ceremony.

So, we sat down and there were presents around for the boys and when Trey started the meeting, he takes a pause, as the Rules of the Club state. The pause is supposed to be used to establish a party or TAFF jar to collect funds, but this time I stood up and said "Mr. President, I move to perform a wedding." And there was a giant chorus of seconds from all over the room.

I got up and I put on the smoking jacket

which I wore to perform Ken Patterson and Jerry's wedding. It still had the buttons they gave me as Officiant and Staff on it, so it worked. Kevin and Andy stood up and I said "OK, let's marry YOU two!" And then the Ceremony:

"Kevin, do you take Andy?"

"I do."

"Andy, do you take Kevin?"

"I do."

"Then by the power vested upon me by the State of California, I now pronounce you spouses-for-life. Go on and kiss or something!"

And they did and there was riotous applause.

Of all the things I believe, it's that you can love anyone you want. And if you happen to love someone who loves you back, you should be allowed to be together in all the ways you want, no matter who you are. And so this was what I'd been waiting for for years, to see people who truly love each other and who had been denied the rights that a legal marriage confers getting to have those rights and getting to be a part of making that happen. It may only be a shining moment these couple of months because of the push to get an amendment to the California Constitution passed to define marriage as an act between a man and a woman, but unless I misread the thing, it needs 66% and recent polls put support somewhere around 55%.

So, I can say honestly that the wedding went off beautifully, and a few times during the meeting we'd drop a "Kevin and Andy got married" reference and there'd be applause and laughter. That was fun.

It was a great time and it felt good to be a part of something like this.

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor

Summer has begun and I'm looking forward to all the fun things this, my favorite season, has to offer. The season started with a heat wave, with temperatures reaching unbearable levels, even for someone like me who likes it hot. Unfortunately, wild fires have spread in the last few weeks and the air quality has been very poor. It's been hard for me to tell whether it's warm or cold out, and I've been avoiding the outdoors as it's been wreaking havoc on my eyes and throat. The color of the sky has also been eerie. It feels more like being on Mars with a red haze screening out the sun.

Speaking of this red haze, on the Summer Solstice on June 20th, the Google page featured a red-orange sun surrounded by clouds of the same color. I was actually at Google that day, enjoying a day off touring the Googleplex. I met the artist who created that graphic, Ryan, and he showed it to me right after it was online.

So what was I doing at Google? Well, I got the opportunity to hang out there with my new beau Marcin, and I lucked out with the day I picked. The weather was gorgeous and a Friday afternoon social was scheduled. I got there around noon and was there for five and a half hours! And there were still some sights I wanted to see that I didn't get around to seeing.

My first impression is that the Google complex resembles a university campus more than a corporate headquarters. Most people were

young (and I do mean young) and everyone looked happy, attractive and intelligent. The place more than likely attracts the best creative and technical minds in the world. I ran into one of the co-founders, Larry Page, and he looked young and just like another exceptional Google employee.

The place was also very colorful. The site of the old Silicon Graphics campus, purple was the dominant theme, and the rest were primary colors. The exteriors and interiors of buildings

were modern and artistic. Outside, there was a replica of a T-Rex skeleton. Inside, there was décor everywhere, on the walls and hanging from the ceilings, and some cubicles looked like tents. There were a lot of techy visuals and fun displays. Employees are free to decorate not just their own spaces but public spaces as well. So there were museum-style photos and posters as well as entertainment and space memorabilia. The most interesting ones were a full size model of SpaceShip One and a Cylon Centurion from



Visiting the Googleplex on a sunny Summer's day.

Photo by Marcin Wichary

the current incarnation of *Battlestar Galactica*. My second impression, which actually got overwhelming after a while, is that there was an abundance of food and drinks everywhere! And it's all free! Yes, free! You couldn't walk for more than a few minutes before running into a self-serve café or microkitchen. And it's all fully stocked with healthy and tasty snacks and even breakfast treats. I felt like I was at Whole Foods, and I probably wouldn't ever have to go to the grocery if I worked at Google!

Then there are, of course, cafeterias in every building. Each one has a theme. In the main cafeteria, there are several stations with different cuisines from all over the world. This was very busy during the lunch hours and so I came back later and ate. I had the most delicious vegetable biryani I've ever had and some yummy sauteed kale with mole sauce.

After lunch, I played ping pong and vintage arcade video games, and got to play a Nintendo Wii for the first time. Oh, and I tried out Dance Dance Revolution. Although I'm a dancer, I had a hard time with it as it's really more about coordination and quick reflexes than going with the music and being creative. It was fun, though. I walked around and saw most of the main campus as well as the outlying buildings. It got hotter so I indulged in a Naked mango smoothie and a healthy flavored water brand that I can't remember.

As if all these perks weren't enough, the campus has onsite everything from hair cuts to dry cleaners, masseuses, doctors, dentists, mailing center, laundry room, computer stores, brand name stores, volleyball court, exercise pools, vegetable and fruit garden, etc. There are

also loaner cars, bicycles and coach shuttles with wi-fi. I went to the coach station, called the Hub, and it had a nice Starbucks-like café and three projection screens that showed different news shows. I sat in one of the couches enjoying a fruity pastry bar and just marveled at it all. I felt like I was in a different country!

And to top it all off, at 4:30 p.m. there was a Friday afternoon social with a bluegrass band and free appetizers and beer in the main square. It felt like a street fair. Most of the people at the social were young guys. I was tired by then and I'm not really into socializing with strangers, especially when there's alcohol involved, so I headed home.

I thought I had a lot of perks at my job, but wow, I bet Google beats any company as far as taking care of their employees in this manner. But I like my job, and I'm sure all these perks get old after you get used to them... maybe.

So, as I write this Editorial, I'm in the midst of packing and preparing for my trip to Portugal in a couple of days. I'm so looking forward to going on vacation. I'm so worn out from everything, although it's been a great six months for me so far. My life has been flourishing in every way, and I'm very grateful, especially after a very trying 2007.

Recently, I've been so tired I've been falling asleep on my couch as soon as I get home. And last Sunday, I literally woke up from my bed, went to my couch to watch some DVDs and then went back to bed to read and go to sleep. I haven't done that in a long time and that just tells me that I really need to slow down and take care of myself.

The other day, I re-watched the first

episode of season one of the re-incarnated *Doctor Who*, "Rose." Seeing that episode now as I'm watching the current fourth season, I was surprised to see how much the show has grown in sophistication and characterization. Season four has completely different actors as the Doctor and the companion, and it almost feels like a different show. But I love it all... from the first through the fourth seasons. The last two episodes of this season look to be quite amazing and unprecedented based on the preview. I'm not going to spoil it for people who haven't seen the preview, but do check it out!

I'm also re-reading (or re-hearing) *The Lord of the Rings* via an unabridged three-set audiobook. It's still as magnificent this third time around. And I cried, again, at my favorite part of the novel — when Eowyn battles the Witch King of Angmar. Sigh... such a poignant and powerful scene.

I've just finished up the recent J.R.R. Tolkien release, *The Children of Hurin*, and it's wonderfully written and very interesting. I suppose I'm getting ready for my trip to Portugal to do a reunion with my fellow New Zealand *LOTR* tourmates. The main reason, though, is that two of my tourmates met then and are now getting married.

I hope to be refreshed and ready to resume my life where I left off when I get back. There are lots of fannish activities and events coming up and I'm sure I'll be all over the Bay Area in no time. I'm especially looking forward to the upcoming Renaissance Faires this summer before the Bay Area convention season resumes in the Fall.

Have a great Summer everyone!

Dreams of the City

A Column by España Sheriff

With Westercon just days away, I'm briefly switching the focus of this column from SF to Las Vegas. Prepping for what will be my second trip to Sin City, I picked up the Tim Powers novel *Last Call* in the dealer's room at Baycon.

Vegas was around before the casinos, of course, but as we imagine it today it's the youngest of the iconic American cities, making even Hollywood seem steeped in history by comparison. But it's also unlike any other city and feels uniquely American. A brash denial of the obvious fact that you can't just up and build in the middle of the desert and expect anything but tumbleweeds and dust, Vegas is gaudier, bolder and more incredible than it has any right to be.

My first visit was not at all what I expected. Along with my brother and his wife, on their first trip to the U.S., I expected a certain amount of entertainment but also a tacky, chintzy experience. And, for sure, Vegas is garish. Hunter S. Thompson described Circus Circus as "what the whole hep world would be doing Saturday night if the Nazis had won the war," and that feels about right when you're standing in the middle of it. The city is crammed with singing statues, replicas of European marvels and American cities, fountains on a scale that would be marvelous enough in any desert but which also perform synchronized ballets set to light

and music. Every inch is unabashedly artificial, even the parts that mimic nature like the cycles of night and day inside Caesar's palace. My sister's boyfriend described it as what generations of a post-apocalyptic underground future civilization might build while trying to recreate an Earth they never knew from fragmentary historical records.

But Vegas is more than the sum of its parts. Like ancient Egyptian or Roman architecture, the sheer monolithic scale of the place, the orgy of lights and spectacle, the side-by-side wonders which compete for attention are like an oversize carnival that runs 24/7. Like the circus coming to town and never leaving, simply growing like a gorgeous hedonistic cancer.

Years ago my sister, on her own first trip, described it as refreshingly single minded in its desire to separate you from your money. And that's Vegas all over, no pretense in being anything other than what it is, and confident that there ain't anything else like it out there.

The idea behind *Last Call* is that this unique personality is not an accident, but part of the mystic process surrounding the Fisher King. Vegas as we know it started from the seed sown by the first luxury hotel and casino, the legendary Flamingo. In the book, the Flamingo is entirely Bugsy Siegel's creation, his own Tower from which to rule as the King of the West after defeating his rivals. Siegel is of course dethroned and killed in 1947 and a new King takes his place. The story of *Last Call* is

set in the 80s when a power struggle takes place between the new contenders for the throne, some of whom desire a parasitic immortality which will keep them on the throne forever.

Poker cards, Tarot decks, the oversized artificiality of the city and the superstitious quasi-mystical nature of gambling and mathematics all combine in the story to tell the tale of the Fisher King and all the archetypes of birth, death and renewal that are often at the center of Powers's mythologies. The characters are simultaneously real people whose weaknesses and strengths put them on the quest they follow, and at the same time archetypes such as The Fool who get swept up helplessly in something greater than themselves.

The city and its landmarks are all utilized as set pieces and players in the intricate cosmology of the succession. The inanimate universe is not quite so inanimate after all and the very atoms that make up the world we live in, and perhaps some beyond, desire a restoration of balance and align for or against the various players as they in turn attempt to channel these forces.

I don't know that Vegas is a city you can love. I would imagine that even the gamblers for whom it was built don't quite view it as a place they could call home, and it's hard to actually imagine people living there, although people must. But presented as it is in *Last Call*, it's fascinating at the least.

This Old Fanzine

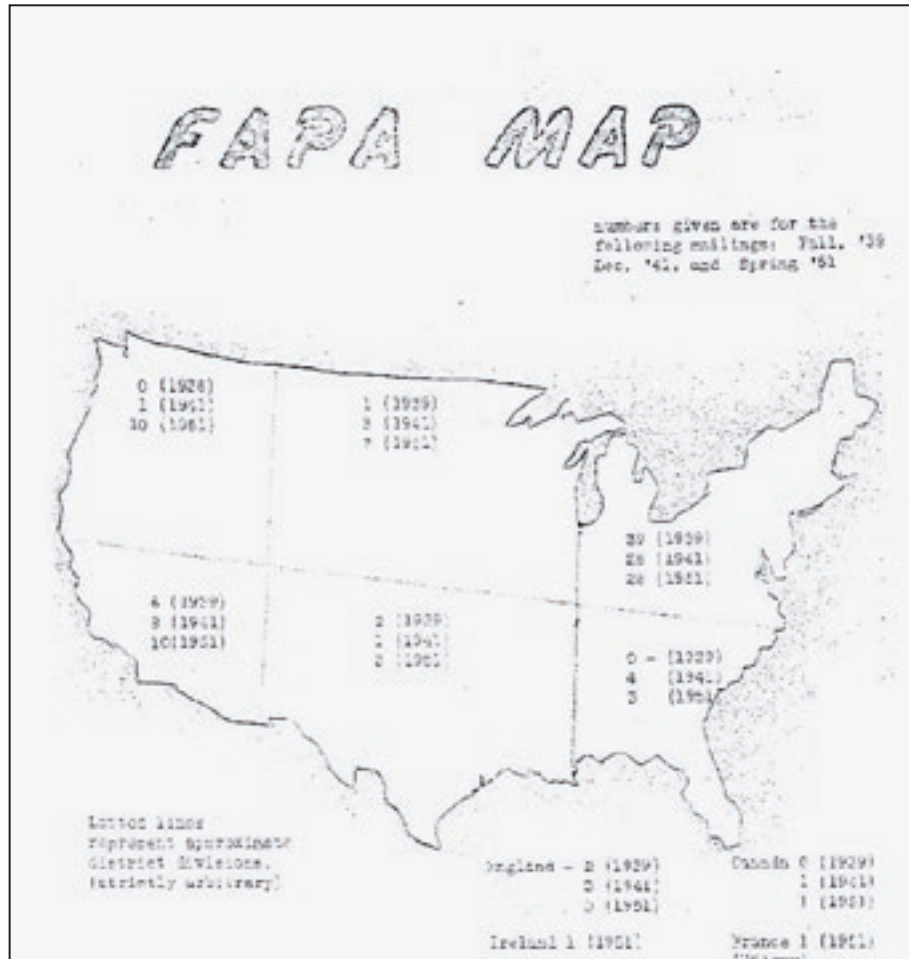
Science Fiction Five Yearly
Lee Hoffman

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

There are some grand traditions in fandom. While I'm often seen as a guy who breaks traditions in favor of fun, I have huge respect and admiration for those marvelous moments of the past and the incredible sense of continuity that some of the traditions we've built bring.

There is one tradition that recently returned, and then was promptly announced as having ended: *Science Fiction Five Yearly*. Lee Hoffman started *SFFY* in 1951 and every five years it popped up, was brilliant, and often ended up with a Hugo nomination or other major award. It was one of the longest running fanzines in history, second only to Harry Warner's FAPA zine, though it only put out 12 issues. Sadly, with the passing of Lee Hoffman last year, it's been declared that there will be no more. The final issue of *SFFY* won the Hugo for Best Fanzine in Japan. I decided it would be a good thing to check out *SFFY* #1 on FANAC.org.

The thing opens with a wonderful cover from LeeH herself. It's a Buck Rogers-type space patrol ranger with a buxom woman cowering behind him. Not exactly politically



correct, but very typical of the day. It illustrates "Deathtrappers of Mars," or so the inside cover tells us. It also mentions that the fanzine was distributed through FAPA, the Fantasy Amateur Press Association, which lives to this day and of which I'm a current member. The

too real. I would never have been published in *SFFY*, it seems, as I am ultimately a writer of miserable mishmash, but it's just not what I'd expect of a fannish publication. It's weird that it would appear at all. I don't believe that this was standard operating procedure for the time, but

issue is dedicated to Walt Willis and Bob Tucker. Remarkable pair, those two.

The material is great, though the editorial had a weird part:

There will be a charge of 50¢ a page for running unsolicited material in Science-Fiction Five-Yearly which we hope will help pay for the coffee and doughnuts absorbed by the staff during publication and also discourages talentless amateur writers from wasting editorial effort with miserable mishmash which they want published in this noble journal.

OK, go and read that again. Back? Nice. Now, I pray that was just a gag, but it sounds far

maybe I'm wrong. It just doesn't feel right.

There was a very nice piece about people being encouraged to send back issues of *SFFY* if they didn't want to keep them so that they could be forwarded to other friends. That's a nice touch.

There was a neat little piece about "The Lives and Deaths of Earl Tuckleton," which is obviously about Bob Tucker. The man who had been the subject of several fake death announcements and this Tuckleton character seem to match up. Hell, he was even a popcorn salter! It's a nice little piece of fan humor.

There's some really nice art, and the bit where Willis claims that good art can't be reproduced using a Mimeo is obviously false. This is a showcase for art by folks like LeeH and Peter J. Ridley. It's good stuff, very different from the stuff we're seeing today, but wonderful.

There's a nice article talking about the future of fandom. It's one of those articles that mentions communists, talks about fandom becoming watered down, and doesn't really say much positive about the future of fandom. I've seen this same kind of article (but with the kind of players in the roles switched) in various other fanzines from the 1960s, 70s, 80, 90s, and in pages of zines today.

Robert Bloch does a funny bit, though honestly, I kinda forgot about it right after I read it. I guess I was still mulling over the future of fandom bit. There was also filler marked clearly as filler. I have to respect that! The art was there, including drawings of Dale Hart, Bob Tucker and EE Evans, SaM, Les & Es Cole and others. Nice touch.

There's a strange piece about the

Bureau Of FanAlysis from Lee Hoffman. It's weird and it breaks down the various names of well-known fans. The best one was Charles Burbee as Char Les Bur Bee, which comes out as A Flawless Insect Burner. You gotta love that. The one for Walt Coslet, whose son is a volunteer at my museum, was pretty funny too!

There's a critical look at FAPA featuring the phrase *Every mailing I've received so far has had a definite odor of "Barely meeting activity requirements" about it.* Strange. There's a sanity test as well, something that still pops up in fanzines every now and again.

After that there is a look at award winners from 1940 and 1950 as comparisons. It was an interesting chart and it showed just how much everything had changed over that decade. There wasn't a single zine from the 1940 list that was also on the 1950s list, and I think there were at least a few that were around at both points. It's an interesting view of two time periods that you don't see much about right now.

There's a look at FAPA membership geographically, and all the FAPA content made me realize that this was, in fact, a FAPAzine. The connection to FAPA didn't seem so strong in later issues, possibly because it wasn't sent through FAPA.



There's a funny little piece in the mode of Billy Shake's Julius Caesar with folks like ShelVy, Bob Tucker, Walt Willis and others playing roles. It was funny, but some of it was lost on me since I wasn't there and missed a lot of what were obviously well-known gags at the time.

All in all, a majorly important historical document of 1950s fandom and the start of the long run. It was great to see it and to experience so much stuff from LeeH, who is a largely forgotten figure these days. You hear about Tucker, Willis, Laney, etc, but Hoffman isn't one of the ones you hear about much these days.

You can read all the issues of *SFFY* on FANAC.org anytime you like, and I suggest you do it now!

Hot Ticket: Fire Arts Festival in Oakland

Photo by Lane Hartwell



By Jean Martin
Editor

The Crucible is having its annual Fire Arts Festival fundraiser on July 9 – 12, from 8 p.m. – 12 a.m. each day, at its Fire Arts Arena in West Oakland (Kirkham and 5th Streets). The Crucible is a non-profit arts and education center that fosters a collaboration of arts, industry and community by teaching and showcasing fire, metal, glass and light art.

The Fire Arts Festival is designed and produced by Michael Sturtz and will feature an impressive cast of artists, dancers and performers that reflects the Bay Area's diverse arts community. There will be classically trained dancers, spectacular fire performers, avant garde sculpture and art, lively music, and the Crucible's talented crew of blacksmiths, metal casters and glassworkers.

I'm still amazed at how fantastically creative Bay Area residents are. I'm so glad I live in the Bay Area and am part of this community. I admire everyone who is passionate about their creative hobbies and even professions. Here in the Bay Area, lots of people participate and are involved, and are not just spectators. The Crucible is one such place where anyone can explore different creative avenues.

Founded in 1999, the Crucible currently offers more than 400 classes, including bronze casting, neon, welding, glassworking,

blacksmithing, fire dancing, textiles and woodworking. Proceeds from the Fire Arts Festival will support the center's art education programs for youths and adults.

I heard of the Crucible and their Fire Arts Festival a few years ago but have not had the chance to go to it yet. I am looking forward to going to it this year and to report on it for *SF/SF*. However, I encourage our readers to go to it as it is best to see these types of events for one's self. It promises to be quite an extraordinary experience.

One specific installation I would personally like to see at the open-air exhibition is Sean Orlando's Steampunk Tree House. As I've mentioned in my previous editorials and articles, I'm really into Steampunk right now and it's the hottest trend at the moment.

There will also be aerial acrobats and fire dancers at the Festival. I've seen some of these at other events in the past, namely Burning Man, L.A. Decompression, Yuri's Night and Deathguild's Thunderdome fundraiser. I do enjoy these forms of entertainment being a dancer myself, but anyone can appreciate these marvelous performances. You really have to see these incredible acts to believe them. The acrobats do amazing moves suspended in mid-air with only long bolts of cloth supporting them. Fire dancers are also quite breathtaking as they twirl around with flames shooting out of their hands or other body parts, or from hoops or ropes.

To purchase tickets (which sell out fast!), find out about classes at the Crucible, or learn more about the Fire Arts Festival, visit www.thecrucible.org/firerartsfestival.

Locals Launch Westercon Bid

San Francisco Science Fiction Conventions, Inc. has announced that they are launching a bid to host the 2011 West Coast Science Fantasy Conference (Westercon 64) in San Jose, California.

The bid committee is currently evaluating proposals from several properties in the San Jose area, including the San Jose Doubletree Hotel and the San Jose Fairmont Hotel. The Doubletree has hosted many SF genre conventions including Westercon 36, Costume-Con 26, BayCon, and SiliCon. The Fairmont was the headquarters hotel for the 2002 Worldcon and will be site of the 2009 World Fantasy Convention. The committee will announce a specific site later in 2008.

Glenn Glazer will chair the San Jose in 2011 Westercon bid committee. He and other members of the bid committee will be present at the bid's kick-off party, which will be at this year's Westercon in Las Vegas, Nevada.

San Jose in 2011 is offering "pre-supporting" memberships for \$15 and a variety of other types of memberships to help fund the bid. Membership forms and additional information about the bid are available on the bid's web site. The bid accepts PayPal for online membership purchases and accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover.

Westercon is one of the oldest general science fiction conventions in the world, with a history stretching back to 1948. Different groups host Westercon each year in a different city in western North America or Hawaii. Members of the 2009 Westercon in Tempe, Arizona will vote on where to hold the 2011 Westercon.

SFSFC was the parent non-profit corporation of ConJosé, the 2002 World Science Fiction Convention, ConFrancisco, the 1993 Worldcon, as well as Westercon 53 in 2000. SFSFC is also organizing the 2009 World Fantasy Convention.

For more information, visit the bid's website at www.sfsfc.org/westercon64/

Fans Cheer St. George's Open House



Photos by David Moyce

A large and eclectic crowd of fans, hipsters, and craft distilling enthusiasts showed up for the St. George Spirits Open House on June 28th. Operating out of a hangar at the former Alameda Naval Air Station, St. George offered samples of such delights as the Fraser River Raspberry Vodka, Absinthe fresh from the still, single malt whiskey, fruit eaux-de-vie, and the breathtaking "De Profundis" 20-year-old Pear Brandy.



Clockwise from above: Chris offers Tactical Alcohol Consumption Squad member Kevin an Absinthe refill, a view of the shiny copper still, Sasha pours raspberry vodka through a block of ice, TAC operatives Radar and Johanna.



BASFA Minutes: Meetings 934-935

Meeting 934

June 23, 2008

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

Began 8:00 - with a WEDDING officiated by Chris Garcia - joining [evil] Kevin & Andy in wedded bliss, in front of a standing-room only crowd

48 people attended

A party jar was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 933 were accepted as 'jumping the broom'

The Treasurer reported that at meeting 932 we took in \$5.00 in the regular jar & \$32.75 in the TAFF jar, while at meeting 933 we took in \$3.50 in the regular jar & \$50.50 in the party jar

The VP reported that Kevin and Andy got married recently,, that there is NO new 'Drink Tank' out yet, but there will be a new 'SF/SF' out this week & he will have to hand-address 250 TAFF envelopes [there were follow-on's] and

'support TAFF'

The President had nothing fannish to report and congratulated Kevin and Andy

The Party Committee reported that the BayCon party went well & that the next BASFA party will be held at SiliCon & he's SiliCon's party maven [it was commented that nanites are a myth]

Announcements

Ken announced that the regular monthly meeting for the Legion of Rassilon will be held this Friday in the usual place on First & Trimble

Glenn announced that Burning Fan is coming up - the Westercon in Las Vegas, July 3-6

Dave C announced that Cody Books is now closed

Spring announced that she has a new job and that Vinticon 6 will be held Comic-con weekend in Healdsburg and subtitled 'CommieCon', check the Vinitcon LJ or talk to her

Carole announced that June 28 will be a games day at their place & they will host a house filk on July 12

[evil] Kevin announced that the 28th is the next open house at Saint George Spirits - check

www.stgeorgespirits.com for more information - and it's always fun there

Reviews:

Glenn reviewed getting married last weekend as worth full price - they had badges and RIBBONS & a WedCon program book!

Chris reviewed 'Get Smart' as a funny action movie & he loves the Rock - worth full price & reviewed 'The Love Guru' as a standard Mike Myers film & he made a mistake seeing it & reviewed the Psychotronic Film Festival as hilarious and worth more than full price

Dave C reviewed the Psychotronic Film festival as he WAS sterilized with fear when he encountered his nemesis - the Dave Clark 5 & thought it was worth full price [there were follow-on's] & he reviewed 'the Fall' as good - a dark fantasy and worth matinee

Julie reviewed buying BASFA's rumor of the week a few weeks past - THE midi board - as she makes them and sells them and they work - worth twice full price

Joe reviewed a poster for 'Dark Knight' as worth an orgasm looking at when he stood there on the street

[evil] Kevin reviewed 'Bikini Planet' as not a sexploitation novel [awwww] and not a crappy

book either & he enjoyed it - worth BASFA auction price & reviewed the Shipwreck Ball as he finished his bamboo coat & won an award ['meticulously madish macaws'] as worth full price and he had a wonderful time

Carole reviewed 'Crystal Skull' as worth matinee and lots of fun; Bill follow-on'd that it had a little too much cartoon physics for him [and there were other follow-on's]

Ken reviewed Kevin & Andy's wedding as short and 'cheaper than ours' and had more people per square foot

Maureen reviewed the Calamari Wrestler - a DVD - as worth what she paid for it and it's Spook Fest fair

We then did auctions: LOTS of birthday auctions = Yvette Keller for \$14.00 to Chris; Sharon Nicolai for \$13.50 to Ed; Craig Nicolai for \$15.00 to himself; Maureen Starkey for \$10.00 to Dann; Dann Lopez for \$15.00 to Barbara; Richard for \$15.00 to Joe; Karisu [Chris] for \$25.00 to Chris; Carole Parker for \$10.00 to Bill; THEN a silver dolphin for \$13.00; 2 ponchos for \$3.50; a bootleg BASFA print for \$15.00; 2 books for \$4.00; fanzines for \$1.00; craft books for \$5.00, magazines for \$1.00, CD & a magazine for \$12.50 & hero gear for \$1.00

We adjourned at = 9:39

And the rumor of the week was: 'Yay for married boys kissing'

Meeting 935

June 30, 2008

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

Began 8:00 - with an explanation of 'rick rolling'

30 people attended

A party jar was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 934 were accepted as 'closing in on Trey'

The Treasurer reported that at meeting 934 we took in \$115.53 in the regular jar & \$76.75 in the party jar

The VP reported that he was frustrated & then ascribed motives to [tall] Kevin that [tall] Kevin then spoke about; then Chris stated there is a new 'Drink Tank' out and a new 'SF/SF' out & a new Chris TAFF newsletter

The President had nothing fannish to report

The Party Committee reminded us that he's SiliCon's party maven

Announcements

Glenn announced that Burning Fan is coming up - but what he REALLY wanted to announce was

that SFSFC is bidding for the 2011 Westercon and he's the bid chair; check for more information at www.sfsfc.org/westercon64; pricing is pre-support \$15.00; pre-oppose \$20.11; friend for \$64.00 - there'll be a kickoff party at Burning Fan & a fan table [and they take Paypal, cash if you are there in person, credit and may take llamas in trade]

Dave C announced the Hugo voting is a week from now, so vote & also announced that 'Coraline' the musical will be out in 2009 in NYC at the MCC theatre, May 6-June 30; & the SJ Rep Theatre will have Reduced Shakespeare - 'All the Great Books, Abridged' June 21-July 20, call 408-367-7255 and mention book group expo for a \$6.00 discount & 'Evil Dead' the musical is in Martinez at the Campbell Theatre, June 13-July 26

Ken announced that all 3 of their channels have realigned their signals for digital assignments

Joe said something in the language of costuming and that Miko will be exiled to LA. Then it was proposed and voted in at 'lots to 1' to name her BASFA's ambassador to LaLa land

Adrienne announced that the SJ America Festival will have fireworks and craft booths, fun stuff and opens at noon on July 4

[evil] Kevin announced that he'll be giving a lecture at the Con and NOT hosting a party there and reminded everyone to hang up and drive tomorrow

Chris announced [air quotes] that there will be at least 2 - maybe 3 - 'Match Games' at Burning Fan, with really nifty prizes - and that the 1st one will be on Friday night in Ballroom A at 10pm

Julie announced that she'll be holding her calliope caliola social up in Martinez this weekend and her place has a great view of all the local firework displays

Dave G announced that he has 2 tickets for the Alameda County Fair but you have to go along with Spring & himself, so see him

Dann announced that at Friday, 8pm will be a Spook Fest featuring 'Crab Monsters' and 'From Hell it Came'

Reviews:

Ken reviewed the BBC episode of Dr Who as 'bwah?!'

Joe reviewed the Alameda County Fair as there's a lot there, some scary rides, good food, LOTS of animals - definitely worth full price

Adrienne reviewed seeing a TV pilot screening [of investigative sarcasm] as 52 minutes of 'rather silly', as interesting and new to her

Harold reviewed trying to ride a bike trail as not worth full price, that bike helmets ARE worth full price & Blue Cross health insurance is 'not worth a damn' & reviewed 'Son of Rambo' as worth bargain matinee; reviewed a French film 'Roman de Guerre' as worth bargain matinee; reviewed 'Mongol' as pretty good; reviewed

'The Hulk' as wow - he loved it & reviewed 'Wanted' as fun & worth bargain matinee. [There were follow-on's]

Julie reviewed 'Wall-E' as a Pixar film & worth full price - then reviewed the latest Dr Who as '!'

Chris reviewed the Zap as the car of his future & ultra-adorable; reviewed the New Zealander as his favorite pub in the area, reviewed the St George Spirits open house as fantastic & *hey* they had booze there & reviewed the 'Venture Brothers, season 2' as of Hamlet quality - perfectly awesome

Andy reviewed the St George Spirits open house as the proof was in the tasting and it was very interesting and a mob scene - totally worth full price and a wonderful way to kill an afternoon [and a lot of brain cells' added [evil] Kevin]

Dave C reviewed getting the first of the 'left behind' series from his sister as a gift and then *really* reviewed a SciFi channel show - 'Jonathan something' as he can't remember the full title and it was a dreary thing to see, [tall] Kevin asked 'It was too bad for Skiffy?' & Dave also reviewed BBC America as it's warping his mind & that 'Top Gear' is wonderful & worth full price

Howeird reviewed the John Denver 2 CD set of greatest hits as it will be up for auction

[evil] Kevin reviewed 'Shadow Moon' as the 2nd in a series and not a bad book but that he

prays to god there won't be another book in the series & rates it as worth buying for Chris as a BASFA auction

[tall] Kevin reviewed 'Aoi Mitsuki' as a 13 episode anime series - very silly, he liked it and definitely worth full price & also reviewed 'Cosplay Complex' as an incomplete 3 episode anime OAV - it was fun and also silly

Trey reviewed the play 'Twelfth Night' in SJ as it was very good for an amateur theater group, worth the time he spent there

We then did auctions: birthday auctioned off = Lisa for \$9.00 to Glenn; Trey for \$12.00 from Harold & given to Barbara [thanks again!]; then bath things for \$3.00; books for \$7.00; tea stuff for \$0.50; bag & a CD for \$3.00; more books for \$2.25 & \$1.50; strange kitsch for \$1.50; books for \$2.00; & craft stuff for \$4.00

We adjourned at = 10:10

And the rumor of the week was: 'Everybody run! The fashionista queen's got a gun!'

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, July 9

SF in SF Double Feature: Spirited Away and The City of Lost Children

Variety's Preview Room in the Hobart Building
582 Market St.

San Francisco

www.varietync.org

6 p.m.

Free

Refreshments will be available for purchase, and your purchase benefits Variety Children's Charity of Northern California, a non-profit organization that supports children in local communities who are dealing with poverty, neglect, violence, and physical disabilities.

Wednesday, July 9

Ask A Scientist: Native American Science

Axis Cafe

1201 8th Street

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7 p.m.

Free

Lecture series featuring a speaker on a different scientific topic each month, a short presentation and questions from the audience.

Wednesday-Saturday, July 9-12

The Crucible Annual Fire Arts Festival

1260 7th Street

Oakland

www.thecrucible.org

Each July The Crucible's Fire Arts Festival celebrates creativity through fire and light with a spectacular open-air exhibition of interactive fire art, performance and the largest collection of outdoor fire sculpture on the West Coast

Saturday, July 12

Good Omens Con 2

EndGame

921 Washington

Oakland

www.goodomensgames.com

10 a.m.

Free (please bring a can of food to help a local charity.)

Gaming minicon, check the website for specific games schedule and to sign up in advance for games.

Saturday, July 12-Sunday, August 3

The Listener

Traveling Jewish Theater

470 Florida St.

San Francisco

www.crowdedfire.org

Check theater for prices and showtimes.

Saturday, July 12

Author: Jay Lake

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

The inimitable Jay Lake signs copies of *Escapement*, the sequel to his 2007 clockpunk novel *Mainspring*. Afterwards he will be heading over to SF in SF.

Saturday, July 12

SF in SF: Jay Lake and Susan Palwick

Variety's Preview Room in the Hobart Building

582 Market St.

San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

6 p.m.

Free

Ongoing monthly reading and discussion series sponsored by Tachyon Publications and moderated by Terry Bisson. There is a cash bar and books will be provided for sale by Borderlands Books.

Saturday, July 12

Mechanicrawl

San Francisco

www.longnow.org/mechanicrawl/

\$15

Spend a summer day exploring the mechanical marvels along San Francisco's North Shore.

Saturday, July 12

House Filk

Carole and Bill's House

630 Barnsley Way

Sunnyvale

2 p.m.

Good music, fannish and folk friends, plus the ability to swim on a hot Summer day. What more could you ask? Well, you could ask for a grill for potluck dinner items to be cooked on, and we'll have that too. Please email Carole <mscip@inreach.com> or Bill <blaubenheimer@yahoo.com> for more information and directions.

Saturday, July 19

Unification Day Saloon Shindig

14 Canyon Lake Drive

Bull Valley Restaurant

Port Costa

7 p.m.

The Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild presents a Firefly/Serenity themed event. Check website for pricing information.

Tuesday, July 22

Authors: Naomi Novik and Eldon Thompson

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Fantasy author double-feature! Novik promotes her new Temeraire novel, *Victory of Eagles* and Thompson the final book in his Legend of Asahiel trilogy, *The Divine Talisman*.

Wednesday, July 23

Author: Naomi Novik

Dark Carnival Bookstore

3086 Claremont Ave

Berkeley

5:30 p.m.

Free

Novik signs her new Temeraire novel, *Victory of Eagles*

Saturday, July 26

Author: Harry Turtledove

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Turtledove signs his new alternate history novel *The Man With the Iron Heart*.

Saturday, July 26

Authors: Michael Louis Calvillo and Gabrielle S. Faust

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

5 p.m.

Free

Two apocalyptic stories for the price of one.

Michael Louis Calvillo's novel *I Will Rise* was a Bram Stoker Award finalist this year and Faust presents her first novel, *Eternal Vigilance*.

Sunday, July 27

Author: David Williams

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Monday, July 28

Authors: Kelley Armstrong and Melissa Marr

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Tuesday, July 29

Author: Charles Stross

Borders

400 Post Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Stross signs copies of his new book, *Saturn's Children*.

Saturday-Sunday, August 2-3

Ani-Jam

Fresno Radisson and Conference Center

2233 Ventura Street

Fresno

www.ani-jam.com

Central Valley Anime convention.

\$20

Saturday, August 2

The Phenomenauts

Ashkenaz

1317 San Pablo Avenue

Berkeley

9 p.m.

All ages show, also appearing Kepi Ghoulie Electric (of the Groovie Ghoulies) and Vick Ruggiero (of The Slackers)

\$10

Saturday, August 2

Author: David Webber

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Saturday, August 2

The Impressionists Picnic

PEERS Event

Lincoln Park

1450 High Street

Alameda

www.peers.org

Free

Le Salon des Refusés invites painters, models, artistic subjects and interested members of the public to join us for an outdoor picnic, fete and dance. Picnic begins at 11:30 a.m. Formal dancing 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 6

Ask A Scientist: Robots

Axis Cafe

1201 8th Street

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7 p.m.

Free

Lecture series featuring a speaker on a different scientific topic each month, a short presentation and questions from the audience.

Saturday, August 9

Kin-Yoobi Con

Chabot College

25555 Esperian Blvd

Hayward

www.gzronline.com

9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

\$15

Sunday, August 10

The Phenomenauts

Nickel City Arcade

1711 Branham Ln

San Jose

9 p.m.

All ages show, also appearing Kepi Ghoulie Electric (of the Groovie Ghoulies) and Vick Ruggiero (of The Slackers)
\$10

Monday, August 11-Sunday, September 14

Little Shop of Horrors

Willows Theater

1975 Diamond Boulevard

Concord

Tickets go on sale July 1st. Check theater for prices and showtimes.

Friday-Sunday, August 15-31

The Listener

Ashby Stage

1901 Ashby Ave.

Berkeley

www.crowdedfire.org

Check theater for prices and showtimes.

Saturday-Sunday, August 16-17

Golden Gate Renaissance Festival

Speedway Meadow

Golden Gate Park

San Francisco

www.sffaire.com

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday/10am-5pm Sunday

\$15

Saturday, August 23

Mark Millar and Tony Harris

Isotope Comics

326 Fell Street

San Francisco

www.isotopecomics.com

8 p.m.

Free

Millar, author of The Ultimates teams up with Harris, the artist on acclaimed titles Ex Machina and Starman, for their new series War Heroes.

Friday-Sunday, August 29-31

Sac-Anime

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

www.sacanime.com

Details to follow

Friday-Monnday, Aug 29-Sept 1

Con-x-Treme

San Mateo Marriott

1770 S. Amphlett Blvd

San Mateo

www.con-x-treme.org

Con-x-Treme returns for a second year.

\$35

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

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.

Wednesday, September 10

Ask A Scientist: How Computers Look at Art

Axis Cafe

1201 8th Street

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7 p.m.

Free

Lecture series featuring a speaker on a different scientific topic each month, a short presentation and questions from the audience.

Friday, September 19

Book Release Party for Christopher Paolini's

Brisingr

Clayton Books

5433 Clayton Road

Clayton

www.claytonbookshop.com

Midnight party to celebrate the release of

Brisingr, book #3 of the Eragon/Inheritance

series by Christopher Paolini

12 a.m.

Friday-Sunday, September 26-28

Yaoi-Con

San Mateo Marriott

1770 South Amphlett Blvd

San Mateo

www.yaoicon.com

18+

\$50 before August 22

Friday-Sunday, October 3-5

Silicon 2008: A Salute to FanAc

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

\$50 until September 14

Saturday, October 4

Swingin in the Rain

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (until September 27), \$20 at the door.

An evening in 1929 Hollywood at a ball inspired by that most joyous of musicals! Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday, October 11

The War and Peace Ball

Arlington Community Church

52 Arlington Avenue

Kensington

www.baers.org

\$15 advance, \$20 door

Natasha and Prince Andrei dance at the 1812 ball from Tolstoy's classic. Russian nobility, Russian military, and civilians and military from friendly countries (English welcome; Frenchmen at their own risk). Set dances and waltzes led by Alan Winston. 8 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, October 31-November 2

Steam Powered: The California Steampunk Convention 2008

Domain Hotel

1085 East El Camino Real

Sunnyvale

www.steampunkconvention.com

La Legion Fantastique and Steam Powered Events present the California Steampunk Convention.

Saturday, November 1*Le Bal des Vampires*

PEERS Event

Alameda Elks Lodge

2255 Santa Clara Ave

Alameda

www.peers.org.

\$17.50 in advance (until October 25), \$25 at the door.

Waltz the night away in a beautiful candlelit ballroom with SF Bay Area's most glamorous Undead at the 15th Annual Le Bal des Vampires. Dancing on two separate floors; Bangers and Mash performing live in the upstairs ballroom 7:45-Midnight and free-style dancing downstairs in the Dracula's Daughters Discotheque 6:30-Midnight.

Saturday-Sunday, November 1-2*Alternative Press Expo*

The Concourse

620 7th Street

San Francisco

Details to follow.

Sunday, November 2*APE Aftermath*

Isotope Comics

326 Fell Street

San Francisco

www.isotopecomics.com

8 p.m.

Free

With featured guest Josh Cotter.

Friday, November 28-Sunday, December 21*The Great Dickens Christmas Fair*

The Cow Palace

2600 Geneva Avenue

San Francisco

www.dickensfair.com

\$22 each day

Victorian London is recreated for the four weekends after Thanksgiving.

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

Coco's

1206 Oakmead Parkway

Sunnyvale

www.basfa.org

8 p.m.

Free

Mondays

Dukefish

Jake's of Sunnyvale

174 E. Fremont Avenue

Sunnyvale

8 p.m.

Group meets weekly to play German-style strategy board games such as Settlers of Catan, Carcasson and other games, plus an occasional game of bridge breaks out. Meet up at 8:00 p.m., figure out who wants to play what, and typically start playing games no later than 8:30 p.m.

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

Wednesdays

Fanboy Planet Podcast
Illusive Comics and Games
2725 El Camino Real, Suite 105
Santa Clara
6 p.m.
Free
Live from Illusive Comics and Games, it's the Fanboy Planet Podcast with your host, Derek McCaw.

Wednesdays and Saturdays

Hayward Collectibles Show
22300 Hathaway Ave (rear bldg)
Hayward
www.toysandbaseballcards.com
Wednesdays 3 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 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.

East Bay Star Wars Club
Central Perk
10086 San Pablo Ave.

El Cerrito
510-558-7375
www.ebstarwars.com
Meets the second Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
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 July 13th is Contact by Carl Sagan. 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.

Other Realms Book Club
Books, Inc.
1375 Burlingame Ave.
Burlingame
Free
www.booksinc.net
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
6:00 p.m.
Free
The book for July is *Perdido Street Station* by China Mieville. 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
groups.yahoo.com/group/scifisantarosa/
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.usdefiance.org
7 p.m.
Free
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.

USS Northern Lights
Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for location.
www.geocities.com/Area51/Cavern/4096/
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.



Fires near Big Sur, California continued to burn unchecked when ASTER captured this image on Sunday, June 29. The satellite image combines a natural color portrayal of the landscape with thermal infrared data showing the active burning areas in red.

Photo: NASA/GSFC/METI/ERSDAC/JAROS
and U.S./Japan ASTER Science Team.