

# Science Fiction/San Francisco

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### *Art credit:*

Page 21 - George Barr

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# News and Notes

**By Christopher J. Garcia**

*Editor*

Well, a lot of folks headed down to San Diego for Comic-Con and I've heard folks had a great time. The crew from FanboyPlanet.com reported on it (and if you haven't listened to the FanboyPlanet PodCast #100, go to FanboyPlanet.com right now!) and they loved it. I've never been, and I say I'm gonna go every year. I don't mind 120,000 people hanging about, so I'll make it some day.

And speaking of awesome, congrats to occasional *SF/SF* contributor and all-around good people Cordelia Willis who was a part of the Comic-Con Masquerade with the group that did the entry "Hairspray." Belle Benson and Angie Clough were also involved in it. I've gotta find a video of that because the photos make it look great. The Best in Show was won by "We Lost," one of the best entries from Costume-Con by Lance Ikegawa and Lynette Eklund (with help from Jen Seng and Steve Galluchi). It's a remarkable costume and presentation.

Speaking of Cordelia reminds me of a certain Connie Willis, which reminds me of the fact that there's a panel at Worldcon where they've chosen the panel and the audience will choose the topic at the moment of the panel. On it with Connie Willis is Greg Bear, my hero and a damn fine writer as well as a member of the first family of science fiction (as far as I'm concerned), Jay Lake, the greatest mind in the history of awesomeness, and me. That's right,

the Hugo Factory Willis, the Genius Mr. Bear, the Incredible Mr. Lake and Chris Garcia. How did I get that gig? It'll be an interesting thing to see. I think I can keep up...but who will care what I say?

The annual Vintacon is now over. CommieCon was held in the Russian River area with the con hotel being the Santa Rosa Hilton right off of 101 by the Round Barn. It's a good little property, with a nice little restaurant. There were 20 or so attendees, including *SF/SF* faves Spring Schoenhuth and Dave Gallaher, The Lovely and Talented Linda, JohnO with ChrisO, Dave Clarke, and Kevin Roche and Andy Trembley. I was only there for Saturday night and Sunday. Dinner was at LoCocos, a good Italian restaurant in Santa Rosa with great food and a staff that didn't take no guff. On the other hand, there were two tables, one of which didn't get service until after the larger table had been complete. The evening meal was followed by the Sweets Night with a tasting of sweet wines from all over the place. I brought a Syrah from Castle Wineries in Sonoma that I've been saving. There were a couple of great Ice Wines from Canada. It was awesome.

We were a little late arriving because I couldn't miss watching Robbie Lawler winning the Middleweight EXC MMA title from that Steve Smith guy on CBS. The night was long and I'd driven up from Campbell to Santa Rosa, so I had to sleep a little early. I understand they auctioned off a book called *I, Robot* that sounded

like it was written by the Republican National Committee and they just so happened to name it the same thing as a popular novel by a well-known science fiction author.

Sunday was good. We met and cleaned out the Con Suite and then folks headed over to the Petrified Forest with Ken and Jerry, while Linda and I headed over to the Charles Schultz Museum and toured it, looked at all the great "Peanuts" art, along with a few other people who were influences on or influenced by Schultz, and got to see the Christo-wrapped doghouse. That was the second-coolest thing there, following the Root Beer tasting they had in the courtyard. After that, we headed off to the Roxy in Santa Rosa and watched *The Dark Knight*, the blockbuster film with the explosive performance by Heath Ledger and a real movie star turn by Cupertino's own Aaron Eckardt. He was great in his turn. A fine 24 or so hours in Santa Rosa.

In the Better Late than Never Department report, I finally finished the Tim Powers Tribute Zine that was largely done at BayCon. I'd lost España's article (I finally found the thumbdrive it was on) and put it all together with Mr. Powers's own artwork. It'll be available for a donation to TAFF in the Fanzine Lounge at WorldCon.

Hey, there's a new *Askance* from John Purcell on eFanzines.com. To say that it's a good issue isn't required, because John does great stuff, but this one has a tribute to Joe Lonsdale and writing from folks like Lloyd Penney, John himself, Mr. James Bacon and others. I gotta get

an article into *Askance* sometime.

Hey, I got a copy of *Beam* from Nic Farey the other day. The BArea's own Rich Coad is in it, as is Robert Lichtman from Oakland. Ted White also appears. It's good stuff and the cover, a version of the Jim Beam label, is awesome.

I'm watching the Royal Rumble from 1989. It's incredibly strange to watch wrestling from the 1980s and see how many of the people are now dead. Rick Rude, Miss Elizabeth, Dino Bravo, Bad News Brown, Sensational Sherri, Gorilla Monsoon, all dead. It makes me feel like we're losing fewer SF authors and fans. It's a very different world.

The Legion of Rasillon meeting on the 25th was pretty awesome. I won a DVD copy of "The Wasp and the Unicorn," the best *Dr. Who* episode I've seen, and they showed "The Forest of the Dead," which was a very good little episode. I hadn't been to an LoR meeting in ages and there's talk of moving to a new location that'll fit more folks. I like the Carl's, but for light and such, a new place would probably be a good idea.

There's another *Virtual Tucker Hotel* from Peter Sullivan. I have to admit that I haven't read the last couple, but I have to say, he's been putting *The Drink Tank* to shame when it comes to publishing lately.

*The Drink Tank's* unofficial Panda issue features a Frank Wu cover that's awesome. He's drawn the greatest panda in history and should be given a Nobel Peace Prize for it. It's solid. The issue is almost completely without content, but it's still there. We also debuted The Dork Knight from Dann Lopez. He's good people too!

WorldCon will be happening soon,

possibly while you read this. I'll be there and you can read my list of panels and such in the latest *Drink Tank*. It'll be a fun time. The cover of that particular *Drink Tank*, number 176, is from Brianna SpaceKat, who has been doing great stuff for us the last few months. Kevin Standlee is doing "The Match Game" at Worldcon. I dunno if I'm on it or not, but I know Jay Lake is and he's going to be great. I hope Leigh Ann's on the panel because she's one of the best at actually managing to match the contestants!

Hey, SiliCon's coming in October, and that's where the giant cross-over event "Fandom on Infinite Earths" will take place. If you've got a zine and want to be a part of it, let me know. Silicon's going to be good stuff, and the Masquerade will be awesome. Johanna Mead's the Masq Director and there's a ton of stuff she's talking about.

Just a plug for Xanadu Vegas this coming Easter Weekend. It's gonna be good stuff and there's seldom a bad time in Vegas. The GoHs are strong (Bram, Robert J. Sawyer) and the casino/hotel's the Plaza, which is pretty cheap.

Sadly, one of the BArea's best film production and distribution companies is closing its doors. Red Envelope Entertainment, the Netflix-owned production and distribution company that released such films as *Girl 27*, *Colma: The Musical*, and *Confessions of a Superhero*, is closing down, which they said was because they didn't want to compete with the other film companies that they distribute on Netflix. This really hurts small-time filmmakers who had a great way to get their films out there. My guess is that groups like Fox Searchlight, Sony Pictures Classic, ThinkFilm and Lionsgate

complained because they were competing with their documentaries and artsy films. The company probably didn't make much money either, since the only times they got things into the theaters they didn't go anywhere. I thought that *Confessions of a Superhero* was a great film; that and *Who the #\$% is Jackson Pollack* were both really solid docs. You can still get all the films on Netflix, so you should do that! *Colma: The Musical* was a weird movie, not great, but one of the fun local films that just fly under the Radar and are kinda cute.

I've been happily enjoying *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*. It's Hugo-eligible for Best Dramatic Presentation Short Form and I'm betting it'll show up on the ballot. It's on iTunes (and there've been people putting it up on YouTube), and you really should go and buy it, especially since there's already talk about doing further episodes. Neil Patrick Harris is a genius. NPH 4-eva!!!

TAFF is doing well, and I'm working on getting more ribbons and something special for SiliCon and the whirlwind tour I'll be doing next year to promote the fund and make sure folks are aware of the Fund. I've already got the next slogan: TAFF = Teh Awesum Fan Fund, and I'll be auctioning a few special pieces at LosCon. Trust me, some of it will be stuff you'll never find anywhere else!

NPR (I think it was "All Things Considered" or maybe "On The Media") was talking about some Sci Fi last week and mentioned *The Yiddish Policeman's Union* was Hipster SF. That's a terribly sad term. Yes, it's Hipster SF. I enjoyed it, and therefore, I am now officially a Hipster. I've arrived.

# Letters of Comment

**Let us begin this round of eLoCs with the Grandmaster of Letters of Comment: Mr. Lloyd Penney!**

Dear Chris and Jean, and David and España:

Finally, I've gotten caught up, and I can now fulfill my promise, which is some comments on *SF/SF* 69.

*Chris Garcia replies: And away we go!*

Only a few times did I have the pleasure of talking to Jack Speer. And, it was only in passing, too, but I knew what Jack had done in his fannish lifetime, not to mention being a judge, and I certainly know that in writing these letters of comment, this is something Jack started in early fanzines. We do have a lot to thank him for, and I guess I never knew what to say, and that is my loss. I can only imagine the loss that FAPA is feeling at losing their last founding and active member. I have a copy of *Up To Now*, which is on my reference shelf, one of the more valuable fannish history reference books I have. Wish I'd gotten an autograph.

*You know, I've never read Up To Now. I probably should. He was a classy guy, very big on proper spelling and grammar though. I bet if he had regularly read The Drink Tank he'd not have been pleased!*

Well, it is past the Las Vegas Westercon, and from what little I've read, the reviews are mixed to poor, which is a shame, given the amount of work that goes into these cons. It looks like it was in the Union Plaza Hotel on

Main Street. Wasn't it supposed to be just off the Strip? Well, Xanadu is the next convention, and I wish Scott and Luba luck with this new project.

*Well, everyone seemed to have a good time, but a lot of that wasn't due to the con, which is a bad thing in its own right. It was actually at the JW Marriott, which is a good ways off the Strip, but it was a nice property. Xanadu is at the Plaza and I plan to be there!*

I will be monitoring this zine and *The Drink Tank* to see how the BAarea steampunk convention goes. Looks like there will be a steampunk event at next year's Polaris, and we plan to be ready for it. We're doing some research into features of interesting costumes. Yvonne is planning an aviatrix costume, and I'm thinking of something vaguely like an engineer or Model T driver. Any sites you can recommend about steampunk costumes, especially for men?

*Ooh! Model T Driver! There's a really great place at [etsystemteam.com/news.shtml](http://etsystemteam.com/news.shtml). It's mostly jewelry and such but there's a wide range of links to the good stuff. Also [www.steampunkconvention.com/node/15](http://www.steampunkconvention.com/node/15) has a bunch of great links.*

I'd like to tour the Google facilities some day. Google forgot Canada Day this year for their Google.ca home page. Oh, well, they caught enough flak for it, they'll remember next year. Let us know about your trip to Portugal, Jean...

*Yeah, we haven't heard about Portugal yet! Jean, get right on that!*

I only received the last few issues of *Science Fiction Five-Yearly*, but that means that was over a space of 15 to 20 years, not bad. It was only in that time when a letter column was instituted, IIRC. When you see some of the names in it like Nalrah Nosille, you know that this zine is steeped in fannish legend and tradition. I know that Geri has decided no more, but there might be one last issue to publish the last letters, and do a tribute to Lee Hoffman. It might not be called *SF5Y*, but it will tie up this proud zine with a big, shiny bow.

*There should be a last issue to wrap things up. I can see why they're retiring it, but having a closure issue would be a nice touch.*

Personal stuff...Diageo suddenly let Yvonne go, end of contract stuff, like that, but I have a daytime job now, and I must leave shortly to go to it. I am being trained as the membership and publications clerk of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, at their temporary offices a few miles north of where I work evenings at the *Globe and Mail*. If I can't find full-time work, then two part-time jobs will have to do.

*Well, it's ebb and flow, isn't it? Best of luck to her on finding something new. And to you getting the full-time gig that will pay you insane amounts of money, perhaps to write emails to people who do fanzines!*

All done...take care, see you with issue 70!

Yours,  
Lloyd Penney

**Thanks! Now let us follow that up with a piece from Mr. Mike Deckinger about the “This Old Fanzine” from last issue!**

Dear Chris:

I was just skimming through your latest issue. You are wondering who “RAP” is from the first New York program book. He’s Raymond A. Palmer, a very active midwest fan in the 30s and 40s. Among other accomplishments, he edited a memorial for Stanley G. Weinbaum following his untimely death.

*If it had said Ray Palmer, I would have gotten that one. I really should reread All Our Yesterdays.*

As Ray Palmer, he began working for Ziff-Davis publishing in the late 30s, editing *Amazing* and *Fantastic*, transforming them into garish, but popular monthly publications. His greatest claim to fame was the discovery of Richard Shaver, and fierce promotion of

the “Shaver Mystery” in the mid 40s. This consisted of a series of fanciful yarns, discussing subterranean races (the Dero and the Tero) living within the Earth and influencing mankind. Circulation skyrocketed with the publication of the “Shaver Mystery” attracting thousands of readers who attested to the absolute truth and veracity of Mr. Shaver’s words. In later years, Palmer edited *Other Worlds*, *Science Stories* and *Fate*.

Best,

Mike Deckinger

*I kinda like Amazing from the 1930s. It was shiny! I didn’t know Shaver Mysteries were his fault!*

**And we also heard from Robert Lichtman!**

Hi, Chris-

In your piece on the first Worldcon’s program book you have a couple things that stood out for me. One is where you write

“RAP” (whoever that is).” That would be Ray Palmer (“Raymond A. Palmer”), who was editor of *Amazing* at that time and for many years afterwards.

You include Russ Hodgkins as one of the names you didn’t recognize and about whom *All Our Yesterdays* didn’t offer any information. That’s surprising since Hodgkins has nine page entries in the index, and he also has half a dozen in *The Immortal Storm*. None of them offer up a lot of information -- he was a Los Angeles area fan dating back to the ‘30s, one of the founders of Ackerman’s Fantasy Foundation, part of the group that did the 1946 Worldcon, etc.

*Hmmm...I haven’t read All Our Yesterdays in a while, but I totally don’t remember him coming up. Of course, The Immortal Storm is something I’ve only read recently and that should have gotten my attention.*

I know him most as coeditor of a slender fanzine, *Sweetness & Light*, that saw five issues in 1939 and 1940. One of his coeditors was Henry Kuttner, who has more contributions in the four issues I have in my collection. The final issue has a short piece by Ray Bradbury. I believe he was well-regarded by Laney, though I don’t have time to sift through *Ah, Sweet Idiocy* to offer up a citation.

Best wishes,

Robert

*Well, being well-regarded by Laney makes him a more interesting name, then! I’ve still not read all of Ah, Sweet Idiocy, though I’ve found portions on-line and read all of that I can. I can’t say that I’ve read nearly enough Bradbury from fanzines, though. It’s a gap I need to fix at some point!*

### **SFSFC Continues SMOFCon Scholarship for 2008**

San Francisco Science Fiction Conventions, Inc. (SFSFC) has voted to offer a scholarship of \$500 to help convention runners in training attend the SMOFCon convention-runners convention in Columbus OH this year over the weekend of December 5-7, 2008.

SMOFCon is an annual convention about organizing science fiction conventions. Subject matter ranges from managing small conventions up to the unique challenges of World Science Fiction Conventions. The convention is held in a different city each year. The 2008 SMOFCon will be in Columbus OH at the Drury Inn & Suites. More information about this year’s SMOFCon is available on their web site.

The scholarship is open to anyone involved in running science fiction conventions, regardless of their place of residence. However, applicants must be able to demonstrate that their attendance at SMOFCon will benefit San Francisco Bay Area conventions. Applications will be judged by the scholarship administrators, who for 2008 are the three directors of SFSFC who have chaired Worldcons: David W. Clark, Kevin Standlee, and Tom Whitmore.

An application form is available on the SFSFC web site <http://www.sfsfc.org/> or by writing to SFSFC at PO Box 61363, Sunnyvale CA 94088-1363. SFSFC must receive (postmark date does not count) applications by September 30, 2008.

# Editorial

**By Jean Martin**

*Editor*

The real world intruded into my fandom world just recently, and it made me aware of how differently “mundanes” feel about all the fun and creative things we do. I’m not going to elaborate to protect the privacy of the person involved so all I can say is that something I mentioned in a previous article has adversely affected said person. I felt really bad and I’ve come to the conclusion that to protect the people I write about, I will use either their fan names, if I know what they are, or just use their first names. There are still some people whose names I will mention in full, such as those with more public and high profile personas, and those I know wouldn’t mind being mentioned and/or might benefit from some publicity.

I have been aware, as I’ve mentioned in previous editorials, that some folks prefer not to be mentioned or see their photos published due to privacy concerns. And I totally respect their positions. I, personally, am very open about my interests and activities, and I’m quite lucky that I haven’t had any bad experiences as a result of having my life in print... knock on wood. But I haven’t really had much of a reason to be searched on the Internet by prospective employers, political constituents, and the like. I suppose I’m lucky because my current name is fairly ordinary and there are so many other Jean Martins that come up on a generic Google search. I decided after my divorce to keep my name and

not go back to my maiden name because it’s such a hassle to change names. Also, I was getting quite well known as Jean Martin, it’s easier to remember and spell than my maiden name, and I quite like the name... it suits me, I think. Also, Jean Martin is the Anglicized version of my two middle names Jeannette Martinez. In any case, I did draw the line and cancel my Facebook account as it’s searchable by email address.

I usually only have positive things to say about the people and events I write about, but I suppose they’re positive if you’re part of fandom. I forget at times that people in mainstream society don’t understand, on the mild end, or are hostile, on the extreme end, to us and our activities. I think the cultural and social divide between fandom and non-fandom is wider — and a much more relevant issue — than who’s “Core Fandom” and who’s “big tent fandom.” We’re all fandom... we all have to stick together.

Sometimes, it seems that the lines are blurring. The top movies in the last several years, including this year’s *The Dark Knight*, have been based on comic books. And at the recent Comic-Con, 125,000 were reportedly in attendance. A friend offered me a room a week before the convention that he had free at the last minute, but there were no tickets left for the actual con at that point. I also was still tired after coming back from Portugal and immediately coming down with bronchitis afterwards. This is also one of the busiest times for me at my day job. Added

to all these, I’m not really into being around so many people, or having to wait in line for hours to see panels where the panelists are so far away you can’t even make out their faces. So Comic-Con is really not one I’m usually excited about going to, unless a very interesting masquerade opportunity comes my way. And several friends who have just come back from Comic-Con said that it was great. So maybe next year.

But I digress... I did read some news articles about Comic-Con and looked at photos online to see what I was missing. There were some interesting costumes by attendees and appearances by big name stars. But there wasn’t anything I was too excited about. I also read a report by someone involved with Lee’s Comics (who has stores in San Mateo and Mountain View) who said that Hollywood has pretty much taken over Comic-Con and the artists and comic book dealers are sort of lost in the shuffle. So it seems to me like Comic-Con is really more of a *mainstream* event. There are so many people that go to it, it’s really not a sub-culture anymore. And I’ve always been more into sub-cultures... and really just hanging out with people I know. I’m not opposed to meeting new people. In fact, I find that very exciting. But running into hundreds of thousands of nameless faces, and jostling each other in the hallways and in a queue with all these people I don’t know just doesn’t do it for me.

One article I read on MSNBC.com also disturbed me a little. I know that Comic-

Con is known as the “Geek Prom.” Still, for a mainstream news outlet to refer to us in fandom as geeks and nerds feels slightly derogatory.

We in fandom may fondly call each other geeks and nerds, but heaven forbid other people call us this, especially in an deprecating manner. My sister calls me a nerd and the table I was at during the wedding in Portugal was jokingly referred to as the “nerd table,” as we were all *Lord of the Rings* fans who met each other through the *Lord of the Rings* tour of New Zealand that I was on in 2006. I’ve learned to not take these seriously from people I know who just don’t understand us.

Still, it’s so un-PC to call people by racial, religious, etc. epithets, why does it seem acceptable to call people geeks and nerds? Especially since the definitions are quite insulting. Here are the OED definitions:

**geek**, *n.* *slang (chiefly U.S.)* *Freq. deprecativ.* *An overly diligent, unsociable student; any unsociable person obsessively devoted to a particular pursuit (usually specified in a preceding attrib. noun).*

**nerd**, *n.* *slang (orig. U.S.). Derogatory.* *An insignificant, foolish, or socially inept person; a person who is boringly conventional or studious. Now also: spec. a person who pursues an unfashionable or highly technical interest with obsessive or exclusive dedication.*

Okay, I’m sure there are folks who fit this stereotype... but so what? We’re all free to be whatever type of person we want to be. Not everyone is meant to be a social expert. I read a book that said that extroversion and being sociable is highly prized in Western cultures. In Eastern cultures, it’s quite the opposite. Having

grown up in the Philippines, I can totally see this contrast.

In any case, I really do think that the things we in fandom enjoy are more intelligent, creative, imaginative — and sometimes even risqué — and I’d rather talk about things that have meaning and significance. I’ve never been one for drinking in bars or doing small talk at generic parties. Still, anyone who knows me can attest to the fact that I really am quite a social

**I think the cultural and social divide between fandom and non-fandom is wider — and a much more relevant issue — than who’s “Core Fandom” and who’s “big tent fandom.”**

butterfly. And most of my friends in fandom are actually quite sociable and outgoing. Really, anyone who’s been to any sci fi convention parties would never think of us as unsociable. I mean seriously, does anyone think Chris, España, David or myself are socially inept? We’re all the life of the party in our own individual ways.

I think it all just comes down to mainstream people not understanding us, and maybe even being jealous that we don’t seem to conform to what’s socially acceptable or considered normal, while they feel the need to follow the norm. Or maybe we just make

them uncomfortable because we do things that are different from what they do. We follow our own interests, proclivities and imaginations. We march to the beat of our own drummers. And we’re not inhibited and so we feel free to dress up in costume, express our feelings in word or song, dance to our hearts’ content, etc., etc. This is a free country but freedom is in the mind, and one has to feel free or else it doesn’t matter if you’re handed freedom on a silver platter. I suppose, if the official definition of nerds and geeks changes to something more along the lines of what I’ve just described, then I would even more proudly call myself one or the other.

To show my true colors as a nerd, I attended a couple of events recently that were totally geek heaven. I went to California Extreme on July 20th at the Parkside Hall in San Jose. I didn’t even know this event existed until this year — it’s twelfth. The name of the event doesn’t really tell you what it is. It’s a “classic arcade games show” as touted by its web site. For a set entrance fee, you can play arcade games inside the noisy and huge hall for several hours without having to deposit any coins. I enjoyed pinball and other arcade games when I was younger but I don’t seem to have the time, patience or interest to play them regularly anymore.

Still, it was fun to play different ones for several hours. I’ve always liked pinball and my favorite video game is Ms. Pacman. There were games from the earliest days when they were more basic, to the more complicated and flashy ones of today. There were lots of sci fi movie tie-ins such as *Star Wars*, *Terminator* and

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# Dreams of the City

## A Column by España Sheriff

Next year is rapidly shaping up to be another good one for the local convention calendar. Aside from the nearly monthly roster of regular conventions, we're also getting a big one near the end of the year, when World Fantasy Convention arrives in November. But first, in February we can look forward to the return to the city of a smaller but equally delightful treat, Potlatch 18, a literary convention which was last held here back in 2003.

I was fortunate enough to attend that year, when the book of honor was *The Rediscovery of Man* by Cordwainer Smith. Instead of having GOHs, Potlatch generally focuses instead on one book. The membership is not large, generally under 200, which might be an actual pre-set limit, although I can't find confirmation of that. While that may seem a pretty small con, it really allows for a more intimate experience since it is possible to actually meet everyone there if you're so inclined. There is one single track of programming as well as discussions and readings, a lively con suite, Clarion-style workshops, auctions, and a small but well-stocked dealers' room.

Potlatch started in Seattle back in 1992 but soon made its first appearance in the Bay Area for its second year, when it was held in Berkeley. That year was also the first in which the con had a book of honor around which it centered its programming. Since then the

location has hopped around, mostly between Seattle, Portland and the Bay Area, with no regular pattern. One of the main purposes of the convention is raising funds for Clarion West and its auction is one of the main sources of income for the writers' workshop.

At Potlatch 12 I spent most of my time either in the panels with most of the other members, or in the con suite which was always packed and very lively and full of good conversations. I do love the free-wheeling nature of larger cons, which are often like carnivals with all sorts of glimpsed temptations distracting you as you go from activity to activity and the feeling that there's always something new to see. But I have very vivid memories from the intense conversations and intimate atmosphere at Potlatch. Perhaps because it was specifically a literary convention, there was much more actual sfnal discussion than there sometimes is at a regular con — although all sorts of conversations took place as well, and during one of those I heard some terrible horror stories about Chicago's winters that made me vow never to visit that city during the colder season. Honestly; ice in the bathroom? Not civilized.

Regardless, it was interesting to have one single track of programming so that everyone was enjoying more or less the same convention and throughout the weekend the discussions reflected this to some degree.

Potlatch's return to the Bay Area next

year also marks several firsts. For starters, the convention has chosen to honor two separate books. One is *Always Coming Home* by Ursula K. Le Guin, a far future Utopian/fictional anthropology story appropriately set in Northern California. It also marks the first time the convention has chosen a book by a living author (Le Guin has attended Potlatch in the past, however there is no indication that she herself will be at Potlatch 18).

*Always Coming Home's* co-BOH is *Growing Up Weightless* by John M. Ford, a coming-of-age story set on a lunar colony in the late 21st Century, which in turn is the first YA book to be featured.

The convention will be held at the Domain Hotel, which I will be breaking in soon in October, since it will also be hosting the California Steampunk Convention and looks to be a good location for a smaller gathering of this type.

## Join our crew!

We are looking for writers to cover local events, conventions, fan groups and the fannish scene in general. Contact Jean Martin and Chris Garcia at [SFinSF@gmail.com](mailto:SFinSF@gmail.com)



# This Old Fanzine

## *The LASFS Album (1966)*

By Christopher J. Garcia  
Editor

You know, we're living in the best-documented age in history. We've got the web where thousands of pictures can be posted in a heartfelt second and they stay up for long periods of time. Thumbdrives are full of digital photos and web pages practically sag with the weight of video of masquerades and hall costumes. That's what makes it so weird that I can tell you from sight what long-ago fan Rick Sneary looked like, but I'd have no clue who Johnny Carruthers was even if he walked square into me.

One of the reasons for that is that people felt like they needed to preserve the photos of the old days. Once a little time passed, folks tried to find a permanent method for holding onto those photos. There are several photozines that were published in the 1960s, but to me the most significant is *The LASFS Album*, published on the occasion of the 1500th meeting of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society on May 12, 1966.

The thing was put together by Al Lewis, one of the great fans of the 1950s and 60s. You see his name a lot in relation to LASFS and the folks around LA. He was a pretty good writer too, and his introduction to the album was really solid:

*This Album is historical but it is not a*

*history. It is not meant to tell you that the LASFS meeting hall, wherever it may be, is named in memory of Paul Freehafer, nor that Alvin W. Mussen, dead on the Bataan death march, was the only LASFS fatality of World War II, nor that Jack Jardine wrote a paper back called "Lesbo Lodge" wherein most of the LASFS members of the day appear as recognizable characters. But it is meant to show you what Paul Freehafer, Alvin W. Mussen, Jack Jardine, and many another fan who has been a member of the club in its more than thirty-two years of existence looked like.*

Now, you see, that's quite the way to start what may be the most significant piece of Fan History from the 1960s. OK, that's a stretch, as *All Our Yesterdays* was being done in those days, but it's still a really important part of things. The fact that we can connect faces to events, to stories told to us by Art Widner and Rusty Hevelin, means that we can see what happened, even without photos of the actual events. Here, we see Paul Freehafer himself, a man known to me for years only as the name on the LASFS Clubhouse. It's great.

There are some early photos, largely provided by Mr. Forest J. Ackerman himself, who is the star of most of those photos. There are



a few meeting-type photos and I totally forgot that LASFS was like BASFA for years: floating from place to place for meetings. In my lifetime, they've always had a Clubhouse.

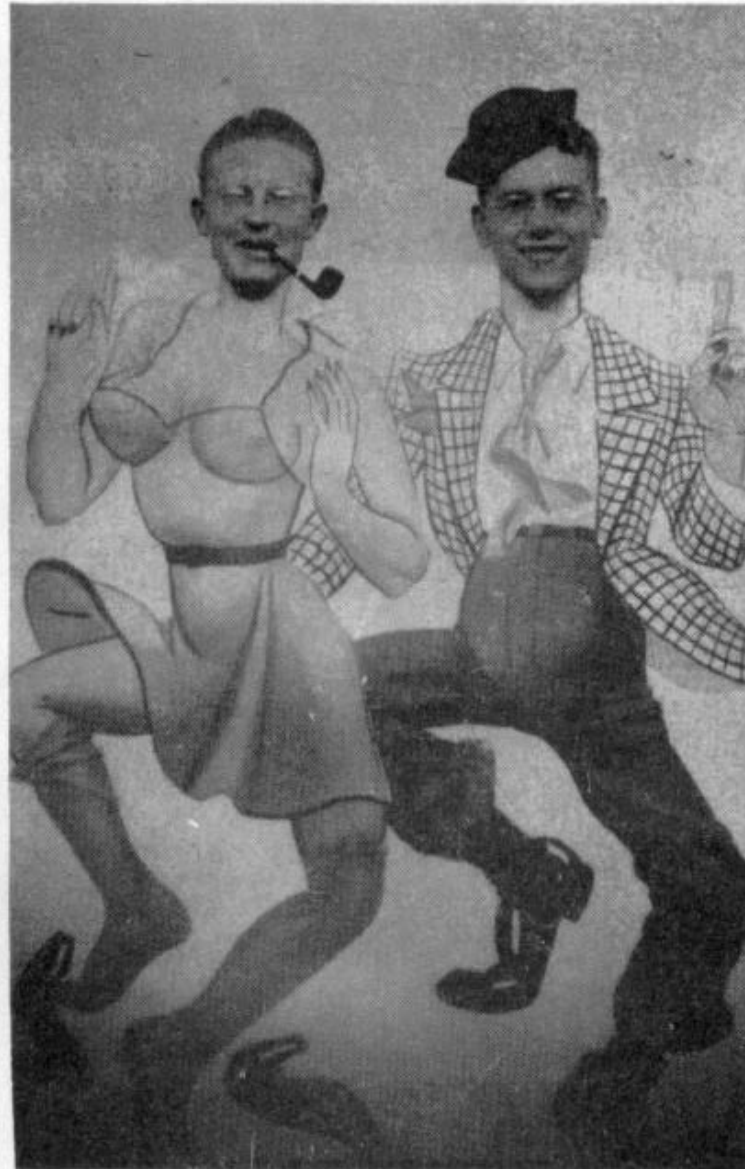
There's an awesome photo of the 100th meeting in 1940. In the photo are legendary writers like Jack Williamson, legendary fans like

Walt Daugherty and 4E, a very young Ray Harryhausen and some talentless hack named Robert Heinlein. The photos of the 100th meeting are really good and it's awesome that we get a look at it. True, they're not the most dynamic shots, but we get to see those that are almost entirely gone to us.

There are great looks at those significant folks, and a few just there folks, from 1940 through 1966. There are photos of visitors like Doc Smith and Bobby H, but also shots of Elmer Perdue, Ray Bradbury, Morojo and Pogo, and others. I'm curious as to the fannish history of Tigrina. There are even photos of FT Laney from the days before *Ah, Sweet Idiocy* changed the way a lot of folks thought of him.

There are some fun shots. A great one of the late Walt Daugherty monkeying around on a tree in a wig will probably forever be the image I associate with him. There's a fun shot from the 1943 Halloween party, a shot of a Solacon meeting at the Ackermansion, and others.

The most interesting thing from my point of view is that while a few pros sneak in, this really is a celebration of the fans of LASFS. I've seen these done from other groups and it's always the outsiders who come in that get all the attention, but here the Club is in the center spotlight and that makes it all more interesting. You can show me a



Alva Rogers

Art Saha

dozen shots of a guy like Steve Tolliver over even one of some big name author who just happened to stop by.

The timeframe where I start to see people I've met over the years is 1958-59. There's a photo of Don Franson that reminded me that our times overlapped. There are a few of BJo, a force who kept the club afloat for a time, and Jack Speer, Len Moffatt, and even one of Trina Robbins. Those folks I've seen over the years, and some I've even interacted with. The length of people's stay in fandom seems to be long enough that people who were an active part of things in the 1950s are still around...or were until recently.

The section from the 1960s was right up to the moment at the time of release and there are some really great pictures. There's one of Thomas Digby, a guy I've known since I was in my teens, and he is almost completely unrecognizable. I mean, where's the bone through his nose? There's a very young Lenny Bailes, and a picture of Len and June Moffatt back when June was still a Konigsberg.

And of course, it ends with a joke. Alva Rogers and Art Saha with their heads on one of those cut-out things, looking like a couple of young marrieds off to the Honeymoon Suite. It's a funny little photo, especially with Rogers's pipe!

# Serenity Fans: Not Going to Stop

By Al “Rackstraw” Megas

Contributing Writer

Photos by Thad Gann

*Dear Friends, On behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the third annual Can't Stop the Serenity charity movie screening of Joss Whedon's "Serenity" to raise money for Equality Now, taking place June 21, 2008.*

*Equality Now is a non-profit women's organization that helps women and girls from around the world get out of violent and desperate situations. San Francisco raised \$3,680 in 2006, \$4,020 in 2007, and more than \$165,000 has been raised worldwide. There are 50 other cities participating worldwide to raise funds and increase awareness for this issue. I applaud the commitment of all those individuals who helped make this event possible this year. Congratulations on continuing this tradition and best of luck with all your future endeavors!*

So read a letter from San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom that was posted at the “Can't Stop the Serenity” screening which took place back in June.

For the seven or eight Bay Area science fiction fans who don't already know, *Serenity* is the big-screen spin-off of Whedon's space adventure TV series *Firefly*. Inspired by the plight of sympathetic folks on the losing side of the Civil War, the program follows the exploits of Captain Malcolm Reynolds (Nathan Fillion). Mal commands a crew of nine pirates and



Julie in her award-winning Kaylee costume.

passengers making their way through a vast star system governed by a nationalistic Alliance by way of their “Firefly class” spaceship, *Serenity*.

Though the series was canceled after a mere 14 episodes, many fans maintain that it would have enjoyed immense success if it only had had the chance to find its audience. In a video introduction to the movie, Mr. Whedon thanks Browncoats (*Firefly* fans, named after the

Earth-tone wearing anti-Alliance army for which the character Mal once fought) for their support of the singular production: a film based on a failed television show.

*Serenity* the movie ties up many loose ends left over from the series. Most notably, the story of River Tam, a crazed teen super-prodigy (played by Summer Glau) caught stowing away in the pilot episode, is fully told and concluded. Additionally, the berserker antagonists known as Reavers who occasionally complicated things for the crew are finally shown. All in all, one good stroke of moviemaking tells what might have been a few seasons' worth of story quite satisfactorily in under two hours.

People didn't just come for the movie. Many started their *Serenity* experience at nearby Kennedy's Irish Pub and Curry House where the SF Browncoats were screening highlights from the series. Expectant moviegoers socialized over Indian cuisine.

Soon after, it was a quick stroll to the San Francisco Art Institute on Chestnut Street. A check-in table was set up to accept a modest \$12 ticket fee (or pre-purchased Internet vouchers) for an admission wristband. The sun was still up so some of the crowd meandered to the roof for a view of Coit Tower and Alcatraz.

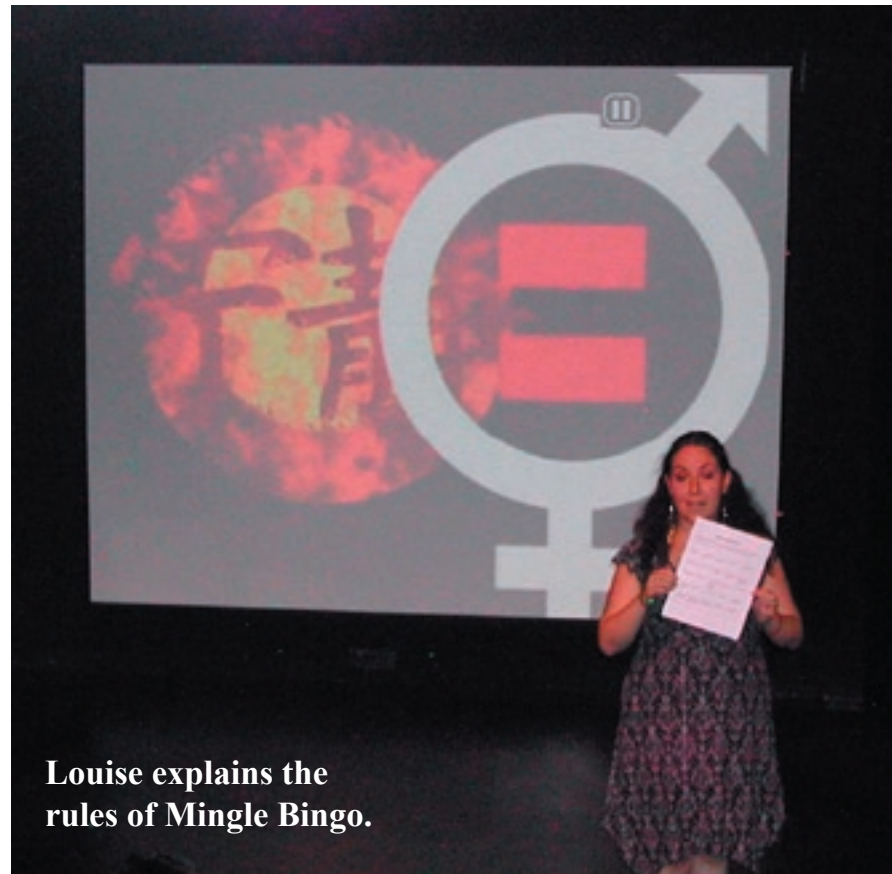
After a leisurely wait, many took their seats at the school's theater and the pre-show festivities began. So did the game of Mingle Bingo! In this version of the game named after the farmer's dog, all cards were identical.

Players endeavored to black out as much of it as they could by seeking out initials from audience members that could curse in Chinese, or knew all the words to that silly song about mercenary Jayne Cobb.

It was a competitive game but not the only way to win prizes. With sponsorships from local stores, the Browncoats were well stocked with *Firefly* memorabilia, Equality Now insignia pins, and even the deluxe edition *Serenity* DVD, which the whole crowd was about to watch. With proceeds going to charity, raffle tickets for such treasures sold and sold. Perhaps even more enticing was the promise of an upcoming auction for Jayne's signature cap, the very headpiece worn onscreen by actor Adam Baldwin. (Indeed, it's not too late. A handout card indicates that this will take place this autumn and directs us to [www.californiabrowncoats.org](http://www.californiabrowncoats.org) for information.)

Soon it was time for another of the evening's highly anticipated events: the costume contest! Anyone dressed as a character from the *Firefly* universe was invited to show off their look. Some copies of Kaylee, replications of River, and imitations of Inara took the stage along with a myriad of Mals and a couple of Cobbs. (Al apologizes as always about exceeding acceptable allowances for alliterative antics.) With such a long line of wonderful costuming, the audience had a difficult time selecting only three winners. They were Tara McAuliffe, Nicole

Zayac and Julie Barman. These three will be put in with the winners from all the other screenings globally to win such prizes as two gold weekend passes to Creation: Salute to *Firefly* and *Serenity*



**Louise explains the rules of Mingle Bingo.**

in Burbank; two tickets to the 2008 Browncoat Ball in Austin, Texas; and a voice acting role in a minisode of *Buffy Between the Lines*.

At last the lights went low and the featurettes began. Lyrics appeared for the ever-so-memorable "Ballad of Serenity," the *Firefly* theme song. (Not that most of the fans needed them as they sang along to the music.) Next on the program was a video of an oration by Joss

Whedon himself on his numerous reasons for writing strong female characters into his science fiction programs. Though humorous in his own right, the show creator may have been upstaged by a video of Fillion who made a joke or two at Whedon's expense.

When all else was said and done, the CSTS 2008 audience found *Serenity*. Some had announced earlier that it was their first time seeing the movie. For others, doubtlessly far from it.

Did long-time fans who've seen the film more than once enjoy seeing it again? Julie Barman, who won one of the costume awards with her Kaylee outfit, blogs: *After three years, I still laugh at the dialogue and get very sad at certain moments. (And darn it, I STILL hope a certain character's fate will change, but no luck yet ...)*

On the event as a whole, Jason Brand expresses satisfaction with everything but the conditions the city is notorious for: *[CSTS] was cool... but there were a few things I took issue with like the lack of air conditioning in the theatre and the poor parking.*

*None of that kept me from enjoying the heck out of the evening.*

The movie ended and some fond goodbyes took place. Some decided the night was still young. What of SF nightlife might this crowd find alluring? There was word of a midnight *Serenity* screening in another part of town...

# Fire Arts Fest is a Pyromaniac's Dream

By Jean Martin

Editor

Photos by Marcin Wichary

I heard of the Crucible and their annual Fire Arts Festival a few years ago but had not had the chance to go to it until this year. I was finally able to go last July 11th.

Founded in 1999, 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. They currently offer more than 400 classes, including bronze casting, welding, glassworking, neon, blacksmithing, fire dancing, textiles and woodworking.

The Fire Arts Festival is the center's annual fundraising event, with proceeds supporting their art education programs for youths and adults. 2008's Fire Arts Festival was held July 9-12 from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. each day at the Fire Arts Arena in West Oakland. Designed and produced by Michael Sturtz, the festival featured an impressive cast of artists, dancers and performers that reflected the Bay Area's diverse arts community.

I arrived at the open-air venue and was surprised to see that it was almost a full street block with a portion of it right under a BART train track. It was jam-packed with displays and art installations, and there were already a lot of people when I got there just after 8 p.m. It was still light out, and it didn't seem like there was



Flames seem to menace a passing BART train.

much actually going on. It looked more like an industrial junkyard scene out of *Mad Max*. But after the sun set, the place just seemed to explode with fire and sound. There were so many things to see I had to go around several times to make sure I'd seen and experienced it all.

I brought with me my new digital single lens reflex camera (DSLR) that I still didn't quite know how to use. I bought it recently, inspired by my boyfriend Marcin (an amazing photographer) and several photographer friends at BayCon. I realized after Costume-Con that

I needed a better camera to capture photos at masquerades where flash photography isn't allowed. My regular point and shoot, which is pretty good for everything else, just didn't quite cut it without the flash. Some con panelists and vintage dancers have also told me that flashes are quite distracting to them.

Marcin gave me some tips. I'd used SLRs before but that was ages ago, and I just experimented and used different settings. I knew the Fire Arts Festival was quite a challenging environment in which to try a new camera because it was going to be dark and there would be a lot of action shots. But that's the typical environment I would need the camera for, so I needed to learn how to shoot in these conditions. Also, Marcin was the official *SF/SF* photographer for the evening so my photos weren't really needed.

Soon after darkness fell, I met up with my friend Thad. He was wearing a new Steampunk costume, and I was wearing one too. There were a few other people wearing costumes, but not very many at all. He and I were quite surprised. This was definitely a Burning Man-type event and people in that scene usually love to costume.

But just like Burning Man, there were lots of art installations that shot out flames. Most if not all of these had already been showcased at that annual desert festival. The most memorable were the flaming cacti called Bizarro Saguaro, fire flowers, a huge orrery-looking rotating sculpture entitled Fata Morgana, a large monolith called Healing Eye, fire sculptures and a Tesla coil by THERM, a block of ice with fire shooting out of the middle of it, and a huge metal sculpture resembling a woman with her arms outstretched

in supplication (Epiphany) that burst into flames periodically. And, of course, there were art cars and other flaming structures by the Department of Spontaneous Combustion.

There were also interactive displays, which I thought were more interesting. There was the Flame-thrower Shooting Gallery, which looked like a Wild West gone to Hell. Unfortunately, only Crucible staff members were allowed to play due to safety concerns. But there were other attractions that attendees were allowed to enjoy.

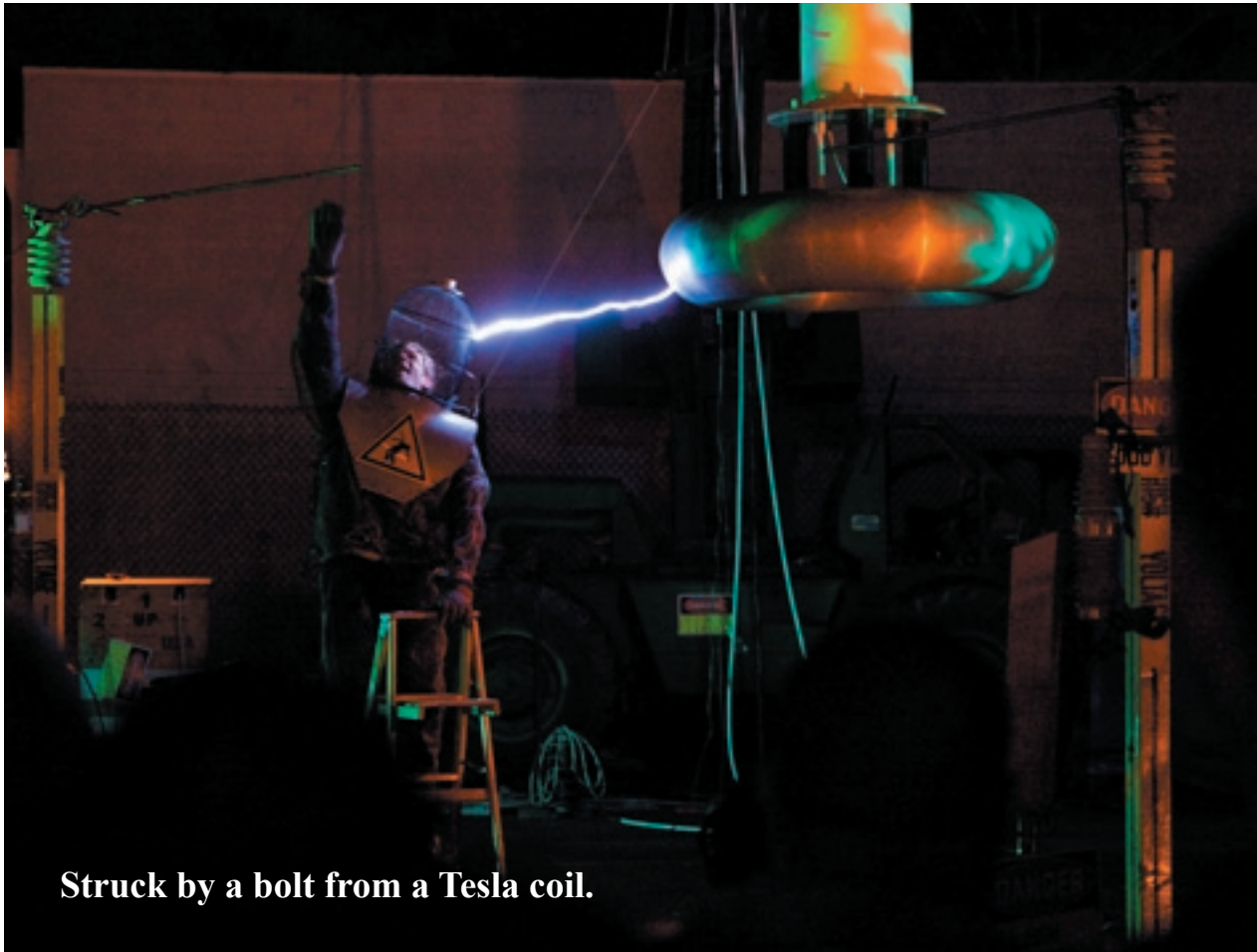
There was the Pyrobeat, where people could play tunes on a keyboard that would

control the flames shooting out of pipes arrayed like a pipe organ. There was the PyroCardium, which I personally tried, where you put a stethoscope next to your heart and your heartbeat would command the flames coming out of these tall tiki torches that were arrayed in a circle. The Hydrogen Economy, which I saw at Yuri's Night last April, is a glass case where you could pop bubbles of hydrogen with wands and they would burst into flames.

Then there were the fire demonstrators, such as the dueling flamethrowers called Fire Vortex (Marcin's favorite attraction that evening), the Omega Recoil electricity theater with mad



**Playing (music) with fire.**



**Struck by a bolt from a Tesla coil.**

scientists being attacked by lightning bolts coming out of a Tesla coil, and the Crucible's welding and blacksmithing demonstration area.

The performances on the stage were probably what I enjoyed most, being a performer myself. I didn't get to see all of them as there were lots of people crowded in front of the stage at all times, and that made it difficult for me to see and to take photos. Also, there were so many things to explore, I had to just catch snippets of performances as I could.

I did see the first two on the lineup: The Santa Cruz Trash Orchestra (a hip hop music and fire dance group) and the elegant and dramatic Flamenco Fury. I didn't see any more until the last two: The Nekyia (a showgirl-belly and fire dancing-acrobatic troupe) and Loop!Station (a two-man band that played layered orchestral musical loops combined with hauntingly beautiful vocals).

There was more actual fire dancing, but these were the only ones I managed to see.

Those I did see were all very professional and impressive.

I would love to be part of a "neo-burlesque and belly dance fusion" group like the Nekyia and perform at events like the Fire Arts Festival, but I would imagine that groups like these require lots of rehearsals, and there aren't any in my immediate area (these are usually in San Francisco or the East Bay). I suppose given these conditions, I'm pretty happy with my amateur showgirl and roleplaying groups and masquerade competition entries. The performances I do get to be part of and *SF/SF* keep me pretty busy year round as it is.

Before Loop!Station was one act I was really looking forward to: Trapeze Arts. I love watching trapeze artists and I've always wanted to try doing this. It looks like a lot of fun swinging in the air and being caught by another person on the other side. Trapeze Arts did a short demo that was quite thrilling to watch. The Trapeze Arts school is across the street from the Crucible.

Next to the stage was a special Patron Pavilion for people who added a donation on top of the ticket price. These patrons were privileged to have their own tent with food, drinks and seats, but the icing on the cake was that they were allowed to go up Sean Orlando's Steampunk Tree House to get a nice view of the entire arena. In front of the impressive metal structure was an old-fashioned steam tractor that actually blew out steam every now and then.

Just like other festivals, there were vendors and a food court. The stores included one that sold gorgeous Burning Man-style clothing, fire dancing paraphernalia and fire

toys. My favorite store was Cool Neon, which sold blinkies, EL wire and other neon light toys and accessories. From them I bought a Pocket Plasma — a flat panel disk that displays colorful plasma light based on touch, voice or music. Food-wise, it was a little disappointing as there were only two stalls selling food. I did enjoy a delicious pumpkin pie by Uhuru Pies.

I'd have to say that the Fire Arts Festival is quite a unique and almost otherworldly experience. It

**Right: A Steampunk Treehouse.  
Below: Flame-thrower Shooting  
Gallery.**



truly is a pyromaniac's dream. I suppose we human beings just love fire. There's something about it that's mesmerizing and dangerous at the same time.

Marcin and I left before the fireworks finale, but we could see it from where I parked my car. I thought the fireworks seemed quite ordinary compared to the original spectacles that we had witnessed earlier. I do enjoy a fireworks show, though, and I suppose it was a fitting ending to a fire festival.

To find out about classes at the Crucible, or learn more about the Fire Arts Festival, visit [www.thecrucible.org](http://www.thecrucible.org).



# Soulless in Seattle, but Still Worth a Visit

**Story and Photos by Marcin Wichary**  
*Contributing Writer*

Next time you're visiting a museum of any sort, look around. Chances are, somewhere on one of the walls, you will see a declaration in big, blocky letters: a mission statement explaining what exactly that museum is there for.

There's nothing terribly wrong with that idea, except, inexplicably, all the mission statements tend to be stilted, soulless and pretentious. Something along the lines of "To preserve and present for posterity the artifacts and stories of the information age." Or "To promote the understanding and appreciation of art, architecture and other manifestations of visual culture." And, like hearing people introducing themselves by blurting out their oh-so-important-sounding job title after their name in one single swoop, you can't help but feel rubbed the wrong way already during the introduction.

It must be noted then that, in a brilliant act of defiance, especially considering its unwieldy name, Seattle's Experience Music Project: Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame decided to forgo this tradition. Instead, it chose to introduce itself, and the whole idea of sci-fi, with two simple words.

What if...?

This must be one of the most spot-on, and undoubtedly the most succinct definitions

of science fiction. It also happens to be the name of the first exhibit in the museum, which offers a couple dozen of "what if" questions, and answers



**A replica of Gort from**  
*The Day the Earth Stood Still*

them... with artifacts. What if the seasons lasted for millennia? (*Helliconia*) What if you could erase most painful memories? (*Eternal Sunshine*

*of the Spotless Mind*) What if you only saw the stars every 2,000 years? (*Nightfall*) It is a very powerful way of looking at science fiction, and I spent quite a lot of time right there, thinking about questions that my favorite books and movies tried to answer, and all the creativity and open-mindedness necessary for them to even attempt that.

It's a shame, then, that the rest of the museum doesn't live up to the expectations set by its welcoming exhibit. Walking through its two floors and about a dozen-and-a-half exhibits, I was reminded of mainstream sci fi movies like *Matrix* — sure, the production values are amazing (and the museum doesn't disappoint here with its high quality decor and great atmosphere), and it's a lot of fun, but you quickly realize that there's really not much more to it, the ideas are not quite as fresh as they seem, and the whole thing seems like a wasted opportunity.

It's not entirely surprising given the museum's history. Even though it feels quite at home in the building designed by Frank Gehry (its bubbly shapes, a monorail going right through it, and the Space Needle nearby make it all seem like a future transportation hub), the Science Fiction Museum wasn't the original inhabitant. The building opened in 2000 as the Experience Music Project (EMP), a museum of music history and rock memorabilia. EMP wasn't a commercial success, and a decision

was made in 2004 to devote one wing to science fiction. The museum's focus on mainstream sci fi, especially the ubiquitous *Star Trek*, might then be understandable — the hardcore sci fi fans would not have brought enough revenue to keep the museum and the whole EMP project afloat.

What's inside then? The exhibits include "The Changing Face of Mars" (about the ways we looked at the red planet, including *War of the Worlds* radio spectacle and the infamous Cydonian face), weaponry, communication devices, time travel, utopian worlds, robots, and a couple others. A collection of mostly original artifacts accompanying the exhibits is quite impressive. A random selection from my notes (unfortunately, photos were not allowed due to copyright reasons): Rachael's costume and license plate from *Blade Runner*, Locutus's headgear from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, a model of the original *Star Trek* bridge, a dinosaur prop from *Jurassic Park*, a miniature from that 1956's sci fi classic *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers*, full-size original models of the Terminator, NS-5, R2-D2 and Robby... and that's only a small fraction of what's there. Other than TV and movie props, you might also marvel at vintage books, notes, screenplays and movie posters.

All the above exhibits look and feel the same, but there are a few more creative ones, too. One puts the visitor on a balcony overlooking vistas from foreign worlds (unfortunately, only three are available: *Blade Runner*, *The Jetsons* and *Matrix*). The other allows us to learn more about imaginary planets, Arrakis and Solaris among them.

The last couple of sections talk about sci



**The Museum Store: Nothing to see here. Move along.**

fi. Outside of an uninspired, obligatory timeline, and a self-congratulatory writer/artist hall of fame, the museum shines when talking about influences of science fiction on both society and science.

One other part of the museum would surely delight a certain Mister Garcia from *SF/SF* — a whole exhibit about fanzines, complete with a mimeograph, photos of the first convention and the first fan costume ever (1939!), and a "who is who" page from an early fanzine, which matter-of-factly lists then-unknown people like Asimov and Bradbury.

Highlights like these aside, the Science Fiction Museum underwhelms and doesn't quite escape the curse of the mission statement; it feels stilted, soulless, and pretentious, a somewhat random collection of artifacts, without the heart and passion so necessary to both create and enjoy sci fi. You can visit the whole museum in about two hours. Alas, no audio or guided tours are available and, disappointingly (if typically), the attached store is a disaster — a predictable mix of random books, DVD movies, cheap gadgets and apparel.

But is it worth a visit? Absolutely yes. It

is, as far as I understand, the only such museum in the world, and the sheer volume of artifacts alone means everyone is bound to find at least one little thing that will make the whole trip worthwhile (for example, I loved the mention of *Space: Above and Beyond*, that short-lived TV sci fi series that I thought no one had remembered but me). And it will definitely make you think of



your favorite science fiction moments, whether they're on display or not.

So next time you're in Seattle, take a ride on the monorail, go up the Space Needle, go to the Science Fiction Museum — and, after all that, be sure to visit the restroom. You'll see what I mean, and I'm sure you will ask yourself this question too: What if...?

*Rule, Britannia! Britannia rule the stars! Britain's flag extends to Venus, Mercury and Mars!*

The Space 1889 Ball The Adventure of Le Cirque de Venus:  
**A Steampunk Ball Set on the British Crown Colony of Venus**  
(Sponsored by the Period Events & Entertainments Re-Creation Society)



Saturday, September 6, 2008 at The San Mateo Masonic Temple  
100 North Ellsworth Avenue (at Tilton), San Mateo, California  
Doors open at 6:45 p.m.; Dance lesson at 7:00 p.m.  
Formal Dancing: 8:00 p.m. to Midnight Music by the Fabulous Colonial Dance Band  
**Bangers & Mash**

Playing waltzes, polkas, schottisches, mazurkas, reels, mixers, the Lancers, the Ragtime two-step, the Venusian Tango, & other popular late 19th century ballroom and set dances  
(Set dances will be briefly taught or called)

Late Victorian or Edwardian costume, Steampunk-inspired costume, dress uniform, Science Fiction/Fantasy costume, or modern evening dress is admired but not required.  
Victorian High Technology accessories and devices are encouraged!

Special intermission performance by that Queen of the Venusian Trapeze – Ariyana La Fey!  
Guest appearance by Le Legion Fantastique

No host (cash) bar & light snack buffet  
(Your potluck contributions to the buffet are extremely welcome)

Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by August 30); \$20.00 at the door  
[www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org)



# BASFA Minutes: Meeting 939

## Meeting 939

July 28, 2008

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

Began 8:03 - with contention

27 people attended

A party jar was established

Secretary's report: The minutes of meeting 937 were accepted as 'Mmmm, that's good sheep' & the minutes of meeting 938 were deferred until next week

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$16.86 in the regular jar & \$22.25 in the party jar

The VP reported: "Yes!" and that there is a new 'Drink Tank' out & a new 'SF/SF' out - it's awesome - and he's freaking out

The President polled the room to see who is going to Worldcon [13 present are] - and we said 'hi' to Jim, visiting us for the first time

## Announcements

[tall] Kevin announced that Cheryl will be back in the area this week - but that she likely won't be at next week's meeting due to lack of transportation

Fred announced that Denvention's pocket program is now online

[evil] Kevin announced that he will have free passes for this year's Gay Rodeo at Driscoll Ranch, the week after Worldcon; and wanted to know who is interested in them

Glenn announced that Denvention is coming up

[tall] Kevin also announced that this week he's been bee stung, gashed his finger and has a potential L4 vertebrae rupture - and also has a copy of 'Instant Messenger' to be looked at

Spring announced that the Campbell award nominee pin is now out

## Reviews:

Andy reviewed Vintacon as there was some minor road work problems getting there - and the hotel was a bit confused but very nice; that they hit 5 wineries Friday and 3 on Saturday and it was a bit heavily scheduled for a relaxacon; the wineries were all excellent & he drank a lot of really good red wine [I missed some stuff then], there were follow-ons and the overall reaction to the con was 'wow'

I reviewed 'Hellboy 2' as fun to watch, that Prince Nuada was snacky-looking and thought it was worth full price; Trey follow-on'd that it was just okay and worth matinee

Harold reviewed a concert as the drive up was awful and the venue was the worst possible - that all 3 bands were loud and the band he wanted to see - Drop Kick Murphy - could actually be heard and was fun; worth full price for the Murphies

Joe reviewed the Happy Puppy ['Warm Puppy' Chris corrected] as it had good ice cream and reviewed 'Dark Knight' as it drove out all his memories of Vintacon; there were various follow-on's about 'Dark Knight' that finally ended in philosophical musings; then Joe reviewed seeing a fire retardant drop by a B-52 onto a fire as incredibly cool

Mike reviewed Luce Libre triple wrestling as they even had midget wrestlers, as they all moved so much faster than the guys on TV and amazingly acrobatic and definitely worth full price

Chris reviewed 'Human Giant' as 'buy it' - it's one of the funniest things he's seen for a while and worth the \$11.99 he paid for it

Joni reviewed that Flogging Molly did a concert and it was just the right decibel level to hear from her front porch at home

Dave C reviewed 'Evil Dead: The Musical' as there was Barbie abuse onstage and very good songs - it was worth full price & reviewed AOL as it's possible to get service at a hotel without going thru the hotel's network - however there was then a follow-on warning that this is illegal and could get you in lots of trouble

[tall] Kevin reviewed the line in front of his place as they were lined up waiting to get into the 'Lost' panel at Comic-Con

Ken reviewed the Texas Roundhouse in Union

City as very good

We then did auctions: birthday auctioned off Ken for \$13.00 to Ken; birthday auctioned off Linda for \$25.00 to Chris; auctioned off books for \$5.00; \$4.00; \$0.25; \$0.25; \$1.00; \$0.25; \$1.00 & then a jar and calendar for \$3.00

We adjourned at = 9:53

And the rumor of the week was: 'Same thing we do every night Pinky'



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## Editorial, from page 7

*Tron*. But those proved quite popular and I didn't really want to wait too long to get on them. It was a different and fun way to spend a summer Sunday afternoon, especially since it was chilly out, even in San Jose.

I also went to see the 25th anniversary screening of the movie *WarGames* on July 24th at the Century Redwood City 20. *WarGames* was one of my favorite movies when I was a teenager. Has it really been that long since it came out? The movie was still as thrilling, intelligent and relevant now as it was then. But I still think the ending was a bit of a letdown. Before the movie, recent interviews with the writers, producers and actors were shown. I didn't know until now that the character of Dr. Stephen Falken was based on Stephen Hawking. Duh! I suppose I probably didn't know about Stephen Hawking that long ago. Apparently, there's a direct-to-DVD sequel that just came out. I'll probably check it out just to see if it's any good or not.

Well, fandom certainly keeps me busy and I intend to enjoy it and make the most of it. And report on it in the pages of *SF/SF*.

# 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, August 6**

*Ask A Scientist: Robots*

Axis Cafe

1201 8th Street

San Francisco

[www.askascientistsf.com](http://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-Sunday, August 6-10**

*Denvention 3*

Colorado Convention Center

Denver, Colorado

[www.denvention3.org](http://www.denvention3.org)

\$225

The 66th World Science Fiction Convention.

GOHs: Lois McMaster Bujold, Rich Sternbach,

Tom Whitmore. Toastmaster: Will McCarthy.

Music Guest: Kathy Marr.

## **Friday, August 8**

*Midnites for Maniacs*

The Castro Theater

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

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

7:30 p.m.

\$10 for all three films.

Freaky Fantasy Films of the 1980s triple feature: *Return to Oz*, *Beetlejuice* and *Meet the Feebles*.

## **Saturday, August 9**

*Kin-Yoobi Con*

Chabot College

25555 Esperian Blvd

Hayward

[www.gzronline.com](http://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

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

Check theater for prices and showtimes.

## **Friday-Sunday, August 15-31**

*The Listener*

Ashby Stage

1901 Ashby Ave.

Berkeley

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

Check theater for prices and showtimes.

## **Saturday, August 16**

*Author: Jeff Carlson*

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Carlson reads from and signs his new book

*Plague War*.

## **Saturday-Sunday, August 16-17**

*Golden Gate Renaissance Festival*

Speedway Meadow

Golden Gate Park

San Francisco

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

10 a.m-6 p.m. Saturday/10am-5pm Sunday  
\$15

**Tuesday, August 19**

*Author: Greg Bear*

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Bear signs his new book *City at the End of Time*.

**Wednesday, August 20**

*SF in SF Double Feature: Galaxy Quest and Raiders of the Lost Ark*

Variety's Preview Room in the Hobart Building

582 Market St.

San Francisco

www.varietync.org

7 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.

**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*.

**Saturday, August 23**

*Author: Laurel Anne Hill*

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

1 p.m.

Free

Hill signs her book *Heroes Arise*, "a modern parable about timeless ideals: The pursuit of honor and justice, and the right to love and family."

**Saturday, August 23**

*Author: Barth Anderson*

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Anderson signs his new book *The Magician and the Fool*, "A richly textured mystical mystery exploring the dark heart of one of our oldest traditions," the Tarot.

**Friday-Sunday, August 29-31**

Sac-Anime

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

www.sacanime.com

\$25

A celebration of Japanese/Asian music, comic books, toys and animated films, video games and costuming.

**Friday-Monday, 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.

\$50

**Friday, September 5**

*Author: S.M. Stirling*

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Stirling signs the second book in the Sunrise Lands series, *The Scourge of God*.

**Saturday, September 5**

*Author: Steven Erikson*

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Erikson signs the most recent book in the Malazan series, *Toll the Hounds*.

**Saturday, September 6**

*Time Tunnel Super Toy, Comic and Record Show*

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

344 Tully Road

San Jose

[www.timetunneltoys.com/toyshow.html](http://www.timetunneltoys.com/toyshow.html)

\$5

General toy and collectibles show with special guests R. Black, Ben Walker and others TBA.

**Saturday, September 6**

*Northern California Renaissance Faire*

Casa de Fruta

10031 Pacheco Pass Hwy

Hollister

[www.norcalrenfaire.org](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](http://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**

*Author: Neal Stephenson*

Moe's Books

2476 Telegraph Avenue

Berkeley

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

Stephenson sings copies of his new post-

apocalyptic novel, *Anathem*.

**Wednesday, September 10**

*SF in SF Double Feature: The Princess Bride and Ghostbusters*

Variety's Preview Room in the Hobart Building

582 Market St.

San Francisco

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

7 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, September 10**

*Ask A Scientist: How Computers Look at Art Axis Cafe*

1201 8th Street

San Francisco

[www.askascientistsf.com](http://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 12**

*Author: Neal Stephenson*

Keplers

1010 El Camino Real

Menlo Park

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

7:30 p.m.

Stephenson sings copies of his new post-apocalyptic novel, *Anathem*.

**Friday, September 19**

*Book Release Party for Christopher Paolini's Brisingr*

Clayton Books

5433 Clayton Road

Clayton

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

Midnight party to celebrate the release of *Brisingr*, book #3 of the Eragon/Inheritance series by Christopher Paolini.

12 a.m.

**Monday, September 22**

*Author: Kevin J. Anderson and Brian Herbert Borderlands Books*

866 Valencia

San Francisco

9 p.m.

Free

The authors sign their latest collaboration, *Paul of Dune*.

**Friday-Saturday, September 26-27**

*From the Land Beyond*

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

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

\$15

Sacramento's Horror and Sci-Fi show with guests Doug Jones, Vince Locke, Dan Brereton and others.



**Sunday, September 28**

*The Great West End and Railroad Square  
Handcar Regatta and Exposition of Mechanical  
and Artistic Wonders*

Historic Railroad Square  
Santa Rosa  
handcar-regatta.com  
10 a.m.

The Handcar Regatta invites builders and artists to create and race a Human Powered Rail Bound Vehicle. The event will feature live music, performers, magicians, fortune tellers, etc.

**Sunday, September 28**

*Sac-Con*  
Scottish Rite Center  
6151 H Street  
Sacramento  
www.sacramentocomics.com  
\$6

The Sacramento Comic, Toy and Anime Show.

**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.

**Saturday, November 1**

*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.

**Thursday-Monday, January 22-26**

*Further Confusion 2009: Surf Safari*

Doubletree Hotel  
2050 Gateway Place  
San Jose

www.furtherconfusion.org

\$40 until December 30th

GOHs this year are animator Jeff Pidgeon, puppeteer Anita Coulter and author Clare Bell.

**Friday, February 27-Sunday, March 1**

*Potlatch 18*

The Domain Hotel  
Sunnyvale

www.potlatch-sf.org

\$50 until July 31

Literary convention, with panel discussions, writer's workshops, consuite. Books of Honor for 2009 are *Always Coming Home*, by Ursula K. Le Guin and *Growing Up Weightless* by John M. Ford.

**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.

### **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.

East Bay Steampunk  
Various locations (see website for details)  
www.steamfaire.com  
6 p.m.-8 p.m.  
Free  
Steampunk fans meet up on the third Friday of  
the month

Fantastic Frontiers  
[www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/](http://www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/)  
Social club for Sacramento County sci fi/  
fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday  
of the month. Check website for meeting times  
and locations.

Foothill Anime  
Building 5015, Foothill College  
Los Altos Hills  
Free  
Monthly event where people can get together to  
watch anime and meet like minded others.  
Usually meets the first Sunday of every month  
at noon.

The Gay Men's Book Club  
Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia  
San Francisco  
Free  
5:00 p.m.  
The book for September 14th will be *The Lathe  
of Heaven* by Ursula K. Le Guin. Please  
contact the group leader, Christopher  
Rodriguez, at [cobalt555@earthlink.net](mailto:cobalt555@earthlink.net), for  
more information.

Legion of Rassilon  
Carl's Junior  
2551 N. First Street  
San Jose  
[www.legionofrassilon.org](http://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.

Micro Gods, Inc.  
Berkeley Public Library, West Branch  
1125 University Ave  
Berkeley  
[mgisciaf.angelfire.com](http://mgisciaf.angelfire.com)  
Free  
1 p.m-5 p.m  
Family Club for fans of Science Fiction,  
Fantasy, Movie, Anime & Manga. Meets every  
second Saturday.

No-Name Anime  
Saratoga Library  
13650 Saratoga Avenue  
Saratoga  
[www.nnanime.com](http://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](http://www.booksinc.net)  
6:30 p.m.  
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month. The  
book for July 23rd is *When Gravity Fails* by  
George Alec Effinger. For August 27 it will  
be *Someplace To Be Flying* by Charles DeLint

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club  
Borderlands Books

866 Valencia  
San Francisco  
6:00 p.m.  
Free  
Please contact Jude at [jfeldman@borderlands-  
books.com](mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com) for more information.

SF Browncoats  
Cafe Murano  
1777 Steiner Street  
San Francisco  
[www.sfbrowncoats.com](http://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/](http://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](http://www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org)  
Noon - 2 p.m.  
Free  
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up  
on the first Saturday of the month.

South Bay Steampunk  
Various locations (see website for details)  
[www.steamfaire.com](http://www.steamfaire.com)  
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Free  
Steampunk fans meet up on the second  
Thursday of the month

Tangential Conjectures: The Science Fiction  
Book Club  
Books Inc.  
301 Castro Street  
Mountain View  
650-428-1234  
7:30 p.m.

Free  
Generally meets the third Thursday of the  
month.

USS Augusta Ada  
Round Table Pizza  
3567 Geary Blvd.  
San Francisco  
trek.starshine.org  
1 p.m.

Free  
Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet  
International and a Linux and \*BSD user group.  
Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every  
month.

USS Defiance  
Round Table Pizza  
1566 Howe Ave.  
Sacramento  
www.ussdefiance.org  
7 p.m

Free  
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of  
the month.

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.