

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

SiliCon's either just about here, or it's come and gone. I really don't know when you're reading. Maybe it's going on right now, as you're reading this. I'm in the Fanzine Lounge, or maybe I'm at our party. Maybe I'm watching you start to type that LoC on this issue from your terminal and you don't even know it. You can't see me! Look! There I am! No? Missed me! Ha!

Anyhoo, there's a lot of action on eFanzines again, and let's start with *Askance*, the only zine produced during Hurricane Ike. College Station wasn't hit as hard as other parts of Texas, but it was still serious weather that Mr. John Purcell was dealing with. There are some high-class writers in this one, even if I'm in it. You gotta love the fact that John gets Lloyd Penney and Arnie Katz to write for him!

Time & Again #6 is out and Dave Locke's done another wonderful job. I think *T&A* is going to be one of those zines that is tremendously successful for a long time. Eric Mayer, Lee Levell, John Purcell and more! It's a fantastic group of contributors and a good LetterCol too. New *Drink Tanks* are out, all of them featuring Dann Lopez's "Dork Knight" strip along with art from España, Mo Starkey and more. It's been a good run visually! With *Fandom on Infinite Earths* coming out, I'd expect it to keep on rolling.

Here's a note of sadness: Smash, Mr. Tech for just about every con in the BArea, had his trailer stolen. That's a terrible thing. I have

nothing but respect for the guy, I mean he's kept everything running for years, and some jerk steals his trailer. There oughta be a law!

YaoiCon's done come and gone and we'd love to have a report. I've never been (not my scene, but a few hundred squeeing fangirls is an interesting thought) and I'd love to hear more about it. BASCON too, when it happens.

Let us not forget that next year is a big one for BArea folks. We've got World Fantasy coming out here and that's going to be huge for us. I'm interested in World Fantasy, and I'm hoping I can go, but there's always something that's held me back. I guess it's not the kind of convention I'd regularly go to, but when it's in my backyard, I get all excited.

Let us also remember that Potlatch comes to my hometown of Sunnyvale and the Domain. The plans sound like they're going to be great, and there's likely to be a tour of the Computer History Museum as a part of the festivities.

Frank Wu is continuing his preparations for a feature-length *Guidolon* movie. It's coming along with art and script. He's become obsessed with the film and who knows what'll happen. Is it possible to make a movie and not go insane?

Speaking of which, the short documentary *Naming Pluto* is absolutely fantastic. An 11-year-old English girl named the planet. The doc tells her story and shows the first time she actually gets to see the planet through a telescope!

I'm addicted to Yelp! I know, I know, I need help. I mean, I already write far too much and here I am doing mini-reviews on weird

restaurants and all those little places I go. It's a shame, ain't it? I'm hoping to have everywhere I've ever eaten (that's still open) done by the end of the year, but by my initial count, that's more than 600 places not including fast food!

Apparently, on September 11th, David Bradley, Marion Zimmer Bradley's son, passed away. No one heard about it until last week or so. There was a service at Greyhaven this last week. I want to extend my sympathies to the clan, who haven't had it easy the last year or so.

In other news, Theresa Neilsen Hayden, popular blogger, editor, fan writer, former TAFF administrator and so on, had a mild heart attack. We hear that she's doin' OK, and we're glad to hear it. I think she thought I was from the UK because I presented a Hugo at Denvention and though I didn't process it at the time, when I ran into her in front of the Crowne Plaza, she asked me how long I was on this side for. I said five days and she said "Well, some delegates get longer than others." I was really tired.

Hey, there's a new TAFF newsletter out! It details the financials and also announces the nomination phase for the next race. The fund's looking good and I think we've got a higher profile than we've had in ages! I'm also glad to be thinking about some future TAFF plans. It's good stuff.

If you're thinking about going to CorFlu this year...Do it! It's in Seattle, a hotbed of sedition. If you don't go, you have no one to blame but yourself. You can find out more at corflu.org. Do it now!

Letters of Comment

Lloyd Penney writes:

More Garciazines on the horizon, so get ready to fire! This time, it's *SF/SF 73*, aim... (Hello to you, too Jean!)

Journey Planet was an interesting read, but I don't think I did it justice with my loc. Keep going with the second issue, and I'm sure I'll do better. (Part of my efforts to get more fanzines to work on.)

One of these years, I'll get to a BArea convention. SiliCon and BayCon always sound like a lot of fun, especially when they are reviewed in this fanzine.

Jean Martin responds: Not having been to any other than Bay Area cons and Comic-Con, I can't really compare, but I do love both these cons and think they are a lot of fun.

If that Chabon book won the Hugo, the Nebula and the Sidewise, it looks like this is a book I must get. Time for a visit to Bakka-Phoenix Books, and see what hideous price is on the front cover.

I'm curious about Chabon's much-lauded novel, The Yiddish Policemen's Union, now too. But it looks like the Coen brothers are going to make a movie out of it so I can just wait for that. I have a pile of unread books that I still haven't had the time to get to.

If you can give me full details on the scarf auction at the Montréal Worldcon, I can pass the word along to DWIN, the Doctor Who Information Network, which is the big Doctor Who club in Canada. I'm sure there's someone

there who has the cash to take it off your hands at auction.

We're working further on our Steampunk costumes, and I am trying my best to find something that contains gears. All I can think of are old wind-up alarm clocks, and I might be able to find some of those in a Salvation Army shop or two. I have designed a complex costume; so I need to get all the parts together.

There are lots of web sites that have how-tos on Steampunk costuming, from outfits to accessories to props. The great thing about Steampunk is that it's relatively easy to put together and there are lots of different styles that one can envision depending on one's interests and how one looks. Thrift shops are great for finding costuming bits. It looks like I will be part of a Steampunk panel at SiliCon this coming weekend.

It would have been great for Diana Glycer to have won that Hugo. I talked with her about her book via locs to *File 770*, and Diana, via Mike, gave me a copy of the book at Corflu Silver. I may have brought home a lot of fanzines, but zines weren't the only publications I brought home.

Hi, Jean, hope you're feeling better now. I hate getting sick when I travel, but it's worse when you get sick after you return, and it's tough to explain it all to the boss. The Star Trek Experience is now shut down, and all the props within have been sent to Paramount for storage. Oh, well, at least we got to have a good lunch

at Quark's when we were there in the spring. I wonder what they will put in its place.

Thanks. I'm feeling better but my energy level is still not where it should be. I've been skipping several events I would like to have gone to, but in the long run, I think it's for my own good. My Star Trek Experience story is coming...probably in the next issue. I'm still catching up on my articles.

I'd never heard of the *Locus* Art Book. *Locus* did indeed get its start as a fanzine, but it found a niche to fill, and became an industry unto itself. I used to buy them regularly at our local SF bookstore, but stopped it when they cost Can\$10 to buy it there. If only Charlie Brown would renew his ties and *Locus's* ties with fandom, he might boost his circulation a bit.

I would think that any convention that doesn't have its badges and programme books ready on time is in trouble. What is Antonio Fargas doing these days? I hope more than doing nostalgia events; hope he's still in the business and going for auditions. Maybe what Con-X-Treme needs is a revamp, a set theme like España said in her report, and a new name to shake the old rep as being a small con. They might need someone on the committee who knows how to shake things up and have some fun... doing anything, Chris?

So many reports on the San Diego Comic-con, especially in the media. They tagged it Comicon, and everyone seemed to know what was meant. Some said there was so much

popcult in it, the comics seemed to be pushed aside. Lots of costumes...not sure that kind of convention would be for me. BayCon sounds more my speed.

Wonderful trip to Portugal, Jean, and so romantic that two people would meet on such a trip and eventually marry. The land of LOTR is so romantic, in the books and the movies, so maybe we shouldn't be too surprised that this happened.

Yes, LOTR is quite romantic and I think it's awesome when two people who are both passionate about something like this get together. The LOTR mythos is quite special and deep, and I think people that "get it" are just compatible on a soul level. Not just as romantic partners but as friends as well. One of our former, and hopefully future, correspondents, Diane Rooney emailed me after the last issue and said that she completely understands how I feel about my March 2006 Fellowship as she has the same connection with the LOTR tour group she was with. And she's also been to Sintra!

One hundred grilled cheese sandwiches with one hundred famous people. You better hope you don't meet these famous people too often, Chris, or your bloodstream is going to be 100% clogged with cholesterol. Of course (burp), I'm a fine one to talk.

Sounds like an interesting event... and it's great that Chris is going to be there to represent.

You BASFA guys got any special celebrations in mind when you get to your 1,000th meeting? Maybe teach how to field-dress a moose? Maybe a field-dress is something

Sarah Palin wears in the wilderness? Sorry, guys, but we've got our own federal election, and to be honest, it's a little dull. It looks like we're going to have our own version of Dull and Boring in

charge once again. It probably won't change anything, and it will cost far too much.

It's definitely going to be an interesting election here. I'm generally not a political



The California Steampunk Convention is coming up, October 31-November 2 in Sunnyvale, and Ariane and Ceilidh Wolfe are ready!

Photo by Mike Pecci

person, but I think this time around, the future of the U.S. is at stake. I hope Americans make the right choice... I'll keep to myself which choice I think the right one is.

On that cheery note, thanks for this *SF/SF*, and enjoy SiliCon when it arrives. We'll be heading to Montréal in a month to go to the annual convention there, Con*cept, and we hope to check out the Palais des Congrès to see what kind of space Anticipation will have. See you all soon, and happy SiliCon, everyone!

Thanks! And to anyone going to SiliCon, the SF/SF room party is on Friday night, October 3rd, in Room 263!

John Purcell writes:

Been a while since I've written, hasn't it? It is called "busy." Of course, time flies when you're having a good time; still, I like to stay in touch, so here I am again.

Say, did I loc *Journey Planet*? I thought I did, and it's too much trouble to get up out of the desk chair right now to check my files. If not, I shall dash one off to ye editors of that zine. I can also check my "sent" e-mails, but recently I cleaned out that folder and so that particular loc may have gone the way off all cyber-flesh. C'est la guerre!

Your natterings about the various conventions forthcoming in your area makes me think again about FenCon V coming up two weeks from now in Dallas. I am hoping my wife, Valerie, will come with me; she needs a break and it would be a neat graduation trip too, especially since a new King Tut exhibit opens that same weekend at the Dallas Museum, and Guy Lillian, his wife Rosy, Greg and Elizabeth Benford, and us are all planning on sneaking

away from the con to take in the exhibit. If this goes off as planned, mayhaps I shall regale you folks with a museum report. We shall see if that happens. I sure hope so; Egyptian artifacts are fascinating!

Jean responds: Oooh, I'd love to see the King Tut exhibit. I've been into anything Egyptian for as long as I can remember. I still have to make my way to Egypt... someday!

Well, well, well. I wonder who will run for TAFF 2009? I can think of a few folks whom I would like to see come on over, John Coxon for one, Venecian Todoroff from Bulgaria for another. (Venecian trades his zine, *SF&F*, with me; it's completely in Bulgarian!) We shall see who wants to make the trip.

Y'know, Lloyd Penney is right that "fandom has changed, and we must accept it and learn as much as we can about it to enjoy its activities to the fullest." Heck, fandom has ALWAYS changed with the times and technology — and media, admit it, that's part of the deal — and so I don't mind the changes. I think what bugs me the most are the people who simply don't want to see change.

I have always felt that change is exciting and means we're moving ahead. But it is human nature to be resistant to change, and so for some, it comes about much harder than need be. Oh, well. Depending on what it is, for the most part I enjoy new things. Variety makes things more interesting and enjoyable. Here's another snappy French phrase for you: Vive la différence!

Change is hard because we human beings like to feel like we have control over our own fates and we also like to feel safe and comfortable. But everything does change and

we can either bemoan and fear it or enjoy and learn from it.

I too love variety and new things, but there are some things I don't like to change. Like if I like a certain product a certain way, it bugs me when the manufacturers come up with a "new and improved" version. I mean, I liked it as it was... then they come up with something that doesn't work for me as well. I suppose I get used to it and move on and try something else. Keeps things interesting, that's for sure!

The Russians have a phrase that works well, too: "Что это?" Look it up. In its own way, it makes sense.

I'm impressed that you know Russian phrases and can type in Cyrillic. Didn't have much luck looking it up. I suppose it'll remain a mystery unless you tell us more about it.

That's the gist of what I wanted to comment on this time around. Of course, I enjoyed the pictures of folks in costume and the con reports, and a hearty congratulations to Dulce and Anthony on their wedding. May they have a long, happy life together.

Dulce and Anthony were actually on the front page of a New Zealand newspaper when they revisited the Hobbit holes in Matamata. The Hobbit holes have been refurbished for the Hobbit movie since I went there. The newlyweds went in winter this time, and it was strange to see the scenes with snow. But New Zealand seems to be quite stunningly beautiful in any season.

Keep the fan fires burning, folks. I'll be out here fanning them as fast as I can.

Editorial

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

The Eaton Collection. You'll be hearing me talk a lot about them over the next few months. It's a huge collection of science fiction materials, from the 1500s (Thomas More's *Utopia*) through to today. They've got movies, they've got scripts, they've got magazines and books and art and (and this is where it gets interesting) they've got fanzines. What fanzines, you ask? A great many, including the collections of the BArea's Terry Carr and those of both Rick Sneyary and Bruce Pelz. The Carr collection, about 15,000 strong, has been cataloged and is the basis on which most libraries build their own hierarchies for their databases. It's a great and beautifully maintained collection.

The Eaton's fannish holdings don't stop there, either! They've got two important collections that I wasn't aware of until just the other day when I went through their website, looking for some answers for questions so I could write an article for an upcoming *Drink Tank*. The first is material from the collection of one of the prime movers in two areas of fandom that have now grown huge. The other is from one of the most significant names in the history of fandom.

Fred Patten is a legend. He's been a giant force behind the founding and evolution of two important fandoms that have grown up over the last three decades. He started out as just another SF fan, joining LASFS in 1960. Fred is credited with being a driving force behind Anime fandom.

He had come across many of the early Japanese cartoons, dubbed versions of which were then showing in America. He encountered Manga at Westercon in 1970 and from there he started importing Manga for his store, Graphic Story Bookshop. He also founded Cartoon/Fantasy Organization, one of the first fanclubs in English dedicated to Anime and Manga. That was in 1977, so it's got to be considered one of the most important early runs towards Anime fandom, which is now huge!

The other fandom Fred's name is associated with is Furry fandom. It would be difficult to pinpoint when Furry fandom started if it weren't for a couple of things Fred Patten was involved in. Fred wrote a long article for the LACon III program book that discussed the evolution of Furry fandom, focusing on the various important events in its history up until 1996. It was an interesting piece and it really gave the structure of the fandom. Another milestone in the rise of organized Furry fandom was the start of the Rowbrazzle Amateur Press Association in 1983, with Marc Shermeister at the helm. Fred was one of the first members. Fred took over in 1989 and was the Official Editor until he suffered a stroke in 2005 that left him with limited mobility.

He gave a couple of hundred boxes of material (estimated at about 220,000 individual pieces) to the Eaton collection covering science fiction, Anime, Furry and more. It's really a significant donation of materials from a guy who was at the center of it all.

Speaking of the center of it all, there's also Bill Rotsler. He did everything. Absolutely everything. The man was a pro writer, a fan writer, a fan artist, a filmmaker, a porn director, an absolute genius and a nice guy to boot. The man did more art for fanzines than just about anyone you can think of. He was around for just about ever, with art appearing in zines from the 1940s through the 1990s and new stuff is still coming out today from folks who had huge backlogs when he passed away in 1997. The man was an amazing guy who lived a wild life and put out a fine zine or two in his day.

The Rotsler collection that was taken by the Eaton folks includes all sorts of stuff. Of course, it's got art. I've sent a question asking what sort of art they've got, but haven't heard back yet. This is the type of collection where a finding aid or collection summary just isn't enough and you want to be able to get a look at every single item. Rotsler was the most significant fan artist for several (probably four, certainly three) decades and his collection is with the Eaton!

You'll be reading about my adventures helping the Eaton broaden their fanzine holdings. Earl Kemp brought me in and I'm diving in deep to help them out. You can read all about it in a coming issue of *eI* (the best fanzine on eFanzines.com!) and in a coming issue of *The Drink Tank*. There's a lot that's gonna happen and I hope you'll stay tuned, look into how you can help, and maybe have some of your stuff in the Eaton alongside the legends already there!

Dreams of the City

A Column by España Sheriff

Staff Writer

This past Saturday Tachyon Publications celebrated its 13th anniversary (or its Bar Mitzvah, as their web page proclaimed) with its traditional party at Borderlands Books, 866 Valenica Street in San Francisco.

Ellen Klages and Terry Bisson gave readings, and a whole slew of other Bay Area SF-scenesters were present, including Rudy Rucker and recent transplant Nick Mamatmas. The Emperor Norton Awards were handed out (Cory Doctorow and Jack Rems winning) and much fun was had by all, although most folks had more fun than I did, since I had overbooked my day and had to leave halfway through the proceedings, without even getting a chance at the cake, alas. Still, I had a chance to chat with Jacob Weisman, who was in excellent spirits, and with Jill Roberts who helped put together the Steampunk anthology that I took the opportunity to pick up while I was there.

I've been attending the annual parties at the Borderlands store and following the Tachyon story for quite a few years now. It's wonderful to see them grow and succeed year by year, with Jacob Weisman and Jill Roberts putting their hearts and souls into it from the beginning. Rina Weisman, who also runs the "SF in SF" events, joined the merry band more recently to very good effect.

It is through Borderlands that I first

encountered Tachyon. Along with Jeremy Lassen's Night Shade Books and the SFinSF.org crew, they form a symbiotic (or maybe the word I'm looking for is "incestuous") bunch that exist at the genre heart of the city's vibrant literary community. You are likely to find members of each group at the other's events, and certainly if you run into any of them at some place like Worldcon, they'll almost certainly be having a drink together.

Like many small publishers, one of Tachyon's strengths is the re-issuing of updated editions of unaccountably out-of-print books. In their case that includes the classic Harlan Ellison collection *Shatterday*, a revised edition of Beagle's *A Fine and Private Place*, and Robert Nathan's fantasy classic *A Portrait of Jennie*, as well as lesser-known books by the likes of Mary Shelley, A.E. Van Vogt, and Clifford Simak.

But reissues are not the bulk of their catalog. In the past few years they've managed to consistently publish critically well-received and relevant new books, and in the process their authors and artists have collected a whole slew of awards: Michael Dashow received a Chesley for his cover of *The Rhinoceros Who Quoted Nietzsche*, and John Picacio received another for his cover to the Tiptree collection *Her Smoke Rose Up Forever*. The recent Hugo and Nebula winner "Two Hearts" appears in the Beagle collection *The Line Between*, and it's a rare year when the Tachyon name doesn't show

up on the Hugo nominee list in some category.

Tachyon's most recent book is *The Wall of America*, a posthumous collection of short fiction by the late Thomas M. Disch, whose last novel, *The Word of God*, they also published this year.

For my own personal tastes, though, the true strength of Tachyon is their habit of producing great short story collections and anthologies. Two of the most talked-about recent anthologies came from Tachyon: *Feeling Very Strange: The Slipstream Anthology* and the recent anthology *Steampunk*, the editors of which will be promoting it at the upcoming California Steampunk Convention (October 31-November 2 at the Domain Hotel in Sunnyvale).

Tachyon is also the only place where you can get the short fiction of Tim Powers, Michael Swanwick, and Susan Palwick. They also put out the Tiptree and Year's Best Fantasy anthologies.

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

This Old Fanzine

*Can't Get Off the Island:
A Greg Pickersgill Collection*

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

I often wonder what would happen if I just gave up doing my own zine and started cataloging fully every zine I came across, with notes and full credits for writing and art and so on. It would be a huge deal, even if I could slurp the already existing lists and so on from folks like Greg Pickersgill and the Eaton Collection. It would not be easy — probably take me more than my entire life to get even a reasonable amount of the popular stuff done.

And speaking of Greg Pickersgill, and wanting to get everything down in a database, I came across this chestnut while cruising eFanzines.com. I had forgotten that *Can't Get Off The Island* existed, honestly, and how much I loved it when I first read it around the time of Interaction in 2005.

Can't Get Off The Island is an anthology our good friends Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer put together when Greg was going to be Fan Guest of Honor at the Glasgow Worldcon. It was a good thing to do. I think every fan guest of honor who's done any fan writing should have such a thing produced. It captured some of the most striking writing of the 1970s through to 2005. It's an impressive mass of stuff, broken

into a few sections of awesome when Greg put it online (<http://www.gostak.org.uk/island/index.htm>) including an autobiography section that is so utterly important in the getting of the piece. It really is a stage-setter and there's a section that I swear is an internet meme from the earliest days of Usenet that answers a lot of questions.

The reviews are the first part that I dove into with a full heart. There's a lot of stuff here from Frank's APA, of which I've never been more aware than the mentions of it in Greg's articles. The short piece where he talks about his rep for being a Noob killer of a fannish sort is from Frank's. It's interesting to read him looking at his own work and declaring that when he used to regularly review fanzines, he would call down the proverbial thunder.

His reviews of zines were classic. Even the positive ones had a sort of bite to them that gave them gravity and wonder. He's the kind of reviewer who might review your work with the back of his hand, but he'll do it right up front and with a smile.

The reviews of now-legendary zines like *Maya*, *Eyeball* and *Magic Pudding* are fantastic. The opening paragraph of the review of *Magic Pudding* #1 is just about the perfect intro for a Pickersgill newbie. It gives the basis for his style, is wickedly funny and just sounds darn good! His review of *Cynic* 6 is equally powerful. The very first paragraph of his review of the third issue of *Siddhartha* from Ian Williams is

great and he doesn't let up from there. I'm a big fan of the direct tone he has, and he seldom holds anything back, which is certainly what folks say when they think about Greg. My Dad used to say that Greg was the Voice of Reason in Fandom. When I told Greg this, he seemed shocked that Pops would have come up with that, but I totally see it now looking through *Can't Get Off the Island*.

In the 1990s, Greg did a series of posts where he talked about the best fanzines of the 60s, 70s, and 80s. I can say that I agree with almost all of his choices where I've read them (I've never seen *Badinage*, only one or two Redd Boggs' productions and never saw any Les Spinge or Smoke, though I know them both via reputation) and love the fact that *Speculation* is on the list as I still think that's the best zine Peter Weston's ever put out (and I think that *Prolapse* is one of the best zines that's ever lived!). I totally think he hit the nail on the head with his 1970s picks (though I've never seen *Dr. Fausenstein*) and I totally appreciate that he listed *Notes from the Chemistry Department*, though it doesn't make the top ten. My only complaint is where's *Seamonsters*? I'd take it over *Twll-Ddu* any day!

The 1980s choices are really good, though I really think that *File 770* in the eighties was the best damn newszine, period. Most of the 1980s editions I have are really good. I like the fact that he not only picked things like *Pong* and *Boonfark*, but also lists *The Big Sleaze* which

I've always wanted to add to the collection of the Fanzine Lounge. He's got an eye for not only what's good, but what's important.

The section on conventions opens with a fine piece of eListery from the Wegenheim list in 2005. It's just about the perfect "I've been here and I'm starting to wonder why" kind of commentary that Greg has become known for. It's really the kind of thing that should be introducing this series of views of cons of the past. The opening full-length report is from an issue of *Seamonsters* and is part of the reason I hold that zine in high regard. The review of Silicon (the English one, not the Silicon Valley one) is fantastic, and what I wish I could attain in my looks at the conventions I attend. We can't all be Greg Pickersgill. In fact, only Greg has ever done it successfully, thought many have tried.

The look at Novacon 23 was very enlightening, too. I really think he hit the nail on the head with the attitude. It was an event I wasn't at and I've only read snippets about it in various UK zines from the period, but the way he goes into it makes it seem fully formed and like certain American cons where the understanding of the idea of the convention is somewhat lacking, even if the con itself turned out well. His thoughts on the Why The Lack of Ethnic Diversity in SF? panel are better thought out than most of these panels have been during the decades that they've been going on (and I've been on a few of them since I managed to have the right last name).

The power of the writing isn't the brutality, it's the ability to form thoughts and put them out in an entertainingly brutal way. That's an oversimplified way of putting it. His chisel is



maybe a bit coarser than most, but it's also real, honest and sharp. I've read enough of his articles to know that he's not a guy who's out there to break the world apart with his prose, he's there to say what he knows is his truth and the way he says it is direct and in his voice. I met the man and was amazingly impressed with the way he obviously had all arranged in his head what he was going to say. It was like reading one of his articles. If I can't tell the difference between the written and the spoken, well I guess that's my Turing Test and few have ever passed it.

Possibly my favorite article in the whole thing is "Silt" from *Seamonsters* 3. It's a call to

arms, in a way, for the British to capture a bigger portion of the nominations for the Fan Hugos.

It's an interesting thing looking back, because it was published in 1979, talking about the noms for the 1979 Hugos. It ended up with four of the five positions on the ballot for Best Fan Writer being folks from the islands, with Bob Shaw the winner both in 1979 and 1980. Dave Langford was also on the ballot every year from then on. The Best Fanzine had *Maya* on the ballot a couple of times before Greg wrote his piece. British fanzines have been off the ballot 10 of the 14 years that followed. Since then a British zine has been on the list with at least one English fanzine on the ballot, and at one point there were three UK zines up for the Best Fanzine Hugo. You could say that Greg was the reason for the increase of Britzine representation on the Hugo ballot...even if it took a little while.

You can find *Can't Get Off The Island* on eFanzines (or through that eDress I posted up there) and I highly recommend it. I don't think Greg is as well known among fans who weren't around in the 1970s, and it's a good thing for new folks to understand that controlled ranting (as opposed to the out-of-control forest fire ranting that can conquer an LQ community with the drop of a hat) can be not only highly entertaining, but the right call to express oneself. Greg is one of the real masters of fan writing and even though he was a Worldcon GoH, he probably needs to get far wider recognition than he's received.

And I also hope he never reads this because I'm sure he'll have something to say and a way to say it!

One Golden Day at Golden Gate Ren Faire

By Jean Martin

Editor

Photos by Marcin Wichary

I've been going to Renaissance Faires ever since I moved to the U.S and the San Francisco Bay Area, in 1987. I've been to several in different locations all around the greater Bay Area. Each one is slightly different, but all have the same feel, and I have enjoyed them all. But I seem to really love the Golden Gate Renaissance Festival at Speedway Meadow in Golden Gate Park. This faire only began in 2004, and I missed the first two years, but every year I've gone since 2006 has been quite a fantastic experience.

I think part of the reason why it's so special is because it's only held for one weekend. It's almost like the movie *Brigadoon*, where a magical Scottish village appears for one day every 100 years, and then disappears. Other Ren Faires last for several weekends.

This year, the GG Ren Faire was held on August 16th and 17th. I went on Saturday and my boyfriend Marcin came with me. It's quite interesting to introduce someone who hasn't ever been to the whole spectacle of costumed folk, vendors, Old World comestibles, jousting, and all the other attractions a typical Ren Faire offers. It makes me remember how exciting it was for me to discover that something like this exists! The GG Ren Faire is a also good one to test the waters. It's much smaller than some, and seeing everything is doable within an



A trio of Renaissance Ladies.

afternoon. The Casa de Fruta Ren Faire, which is quite amazingly huge, is awesome but it can get overwhelming running around trying to see everything.

I look forward to going to a Faire at least once every year. I have friends who go way more than that and even to Faires outside the Bay Area. And I do have some friends who actually work at Ren Faires. I would imagine it would be

a wonderful experience to actually “live” in this time period but I don't have the time, energy and inclination for such total immersion. I do like my creature comforts as well! It's nice to explore the past but it's good to come back to the modern world too.

Marcin and I arrived in the mid-afternoon. At the entrance was a human chess board with some lusty wenches encouraging faire guests to

Thundering hooves and clashing lances.



participate. When we walked in, we saw Thad and Gail, some of my fellow Browncoats, who were already on their way out. I suppose we got there later than most but we were still able to get something to eat, enjoy the sights, and watch several shows. We both had some Greek food, then we saw the Siamsa Celtic Dancers who also perform at Dickens Fair. We listened to the Bella Donna Venetian Courtesans sing, including Chris Garcia's friend, the Lovely and Talented Linda.

Then it was on to see the last joust of the day. It was quite impressive. It was obviously scripted but the knights really go full tilt at each other and you can see their lances hit their opponents and shatter into sharp flying splinters. The horses galloping were quite a sight to behold as well.

I even managed to do a little bit of shopping. I come with a list — so I don't buy everything in sight and just things that I really need — but the only things I found were a couple of nice leather pouches.

There were also several guilds that we checked out, one of which included some royal personage, another with someone roasting wild game, and another with belly dancers. All these really add to the atmosphere.

The weather was actually quite warm for San Francisco... well, it's been warm in the Bay Area this past Summer. It's actually been

the warmest I can remember since I moved here in 1987. I'm usually always cold and I was surprised to be suffering from the heat, especially in July! Still, Golden Gate Park with

to be where the food stalls are. The lines for food were long but they were worth it, I suppose. I just wish it weren't the case as it takes time out of seeing the rest of the faire.



Siamsa Dancers

its deciduous trees is the perfect setting for an English-inspired event.

The other reason why I love this particular Ren Faire is that I get to run into more people I know. I think it's a function of it being a smaller faire and only happening over a couple of days. There's a higher probability of seeing friends when there are only two days to choose from and really only one place to hang out, which happens

I hung out with my cohorts from the Black Fleet Star Pirates' Guild toward the end of the day. Our dashing leader, Captain Obi-Have, proudly announced to me that the Lord Chamberlain signed his petition to grant our Pirate Guild official status within the realm. So we have now become official privateers and not just pirate outlaws. Other BFSPG members there were his brother Ralph, Stephanie and fairy Debbie. *SF/SF* Staff Writer Dr. Noe came by later with our mutual friends Joan and Richard. Then sci fi convention friends Jade and Erik showed up too. It was so much fun to see everyone!

Linda was sitting on a hay bale close by, so I sat and chatted with her for a little bit and I introduced her to Marcin, who volunteers at the Computer History Museum where Chris works. Then Jeffrey, my partner for the "Cell Block Tango" number at the recent PEERS Chicago Ball, walked over and we talked for a bit. He was resplendent in his highly detailed and authentic Scottish garb. Seeing him was a fitting ending to the *Brigadoon*-like feeling of the Golden Gate Ren Faire.

Catching Up with the Browncoats

Story and Photos by Jean Martin

Editor

I hadn't been to a San Francisco Browncoats meetup in a long time. I just haven't been to the city much in the past year. But after seeing my friend Thad's photos from Comic-Con, most of which were of Browncoats having a good time together, I realized I've missed hanging out with them.

The group is so tight knit that I worried that my only showing up once in a while would make me feel like an outsider, but I decided to brave it and attend the meeting last August 9th. I also had no excuse not to go because, conveniently, my new boyfriend Marcin lives just three blocks away from Café Murano (on Steiner St. and Sutter), where the meetups are held. So I was able to just walk over.

The meetup on August 9th was the first one after Comic-Con in late July. It seems like after a con, attendance always shoots up. The café was completely packed with Browncoats, most of whom I knew. And they all welcomed me warmly and exclaimed how glad they were to see me. So I guess I had nothing to worry about after all.

My friend Thad was there, which was great, and I also got to see my friend Kim, whom I rarely see. Kim is the one who introduced me to the SF Browncoats and is one of the group's most active organizers. There were also some new faces, and it's always fun to meet new



people.

The first order of business was, of course, to eat lunch. I always order the veggie panini and hot chocolate. George, the café's owner (and husband of SF Browncoats founder Renee) was behind the counter. He's always friendly and helpful.

After my meal, I asked several people

how Comic-Con was and they all said it was fantastic. A lot of them got to meet actors from the TV series *Firefly*. (The Browncoats are, of course, a *Firefly* fan club.) Elizabeth had some giveaways from Comic-Con. I grabbed a few items. I always agonize over whether to go to Comic-Con or not, and I often don't regret not going. But there's always one person there that

I've wished I could have met. This time it was Gerard Butler. Several of the Browncoats got to meet him when he signed autographs for his new movie *RockNRolla*, which was directed by Guy Ritchie (Madonna's husband), who was there as well.

One lady who was wearing a Dr. Horrible costume told me about *Firefly* creator Joss Whedon's latest project, *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*, which stars Nathan Fillion



Dr. Horrible drops in.



SF's Browncoats dine well.

(Captain Malcolm Reynolds from *Firefly*). But the main star of the online series — available on iTunes and Hulu — is Neil Patrick Harris (of *Doogie Howser* fame). I didn't really expect much but everyone was raving about it so I thought I'd check it out. Well, I was completely blown away.

The three-episode show, which adds up to 45 minutes in total, is clever, touching, shocking, funny... and it's a musical. What else can I say... oh, it's quite brilliant! I was so amazed at what a good actor — and even singer — Neil Patrick Harris is. He can be quite diabolically evil in one scene and insecure and vulnerable in another. I enjoyed the music so much too that I bought the soundtrack on iTunes as well. For more information, visit <http://www.drhorrible.com/>

Marcin arrived around 2 p.m. after watching a special screening of *The Clone Wars* and a picnic lunch at ILM. I hung around a little bit after that. When I left, there were still a lot of folks chatting. These meetups seem to last longer than the official end time of 2 p.m. I'm glad I went and rekindled my friendships and acquaintances with the SF Browncoats.

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 945-947

Meeting 945

September 8, 2008

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

Began 8:ish

22 people attended

A party jar was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 944 were accepted as 'who looks at a burger joint and says that needs a little more sonic?'

Treasurer's report was that last week we took in \$26.25 in the regular jar and \$4.00 in the party jar - and that 2 weeks ago we took in \$54.21 in the regular jar and \$27.75 in the party jar.

No VP

The President commented that there is an interview with Terry Pratchett's daughter in EGM, as she's involved in writing the plots and dialogue for video games.

Party Committee questions will be fielded by

Stellan who will be channeling Ed for a time. A motion to passed to recommend to Ed that Stellan be appointed the vice chair of the Party committee.

Announcements

Ken announced that his mini's wind-screen was broken by hurled rock this last week.

Julie announced that a silent film actress died - but that Mickey Rooney is still alive.

Lynn announced that she broke her jaw last month [she looks much better now] but she's still avoiding crunchy foods.

Cheryl announced that there's a launch party for Stephenson's 'Anthem' tomorrow at 1320 Sutter, SF & she'll be in New Orleans next week and then back to England.

Lisa announced that 'big Harold' is out of the hospital again and the Kaiser Santa Clara food sucks but the care is good.

Joe mentioned he's still looking for his sunglasses.

Howeird announced that the UN has started a text message for peace initiative on Sept 2.

Reviews:

Joni reviewed a web-comic 'Ask Dr. Eldritch'

as enjoyable, that it has a newsletter and offers good advice for world conquest - and worth donation.

Dave C reviewed Con-X-Treme a week later as the con computers ended up spamming his email account.

Lynn reviewed worker's comp insurance as it frightens her and THIS is the reformed version - and she reviewed a dog funeral as thank god the dog was covered.

Julie reviewed a Martinez production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' as they sang on key, had excellent sets and costumes and was well worth full price [there were follow-ons].

Frank reviewed Burning Man as dusty but he had a great time.

Ken then announced that Dr Who will be shown on Fridays at 11pm on KTEH and Cinema Insomnia was cancelled from their schedule.

Joe reviewed 'Kushiel's Chosen' as he really enjoyed it.

We then did auctions: birthday auctioned off Lynn Gold for \$3.00 to Lisa [& Lynn mentioned she'll be going to ConChord this weekend in Woodland Hills]; then auctioned off various stuff for \$1.50; a folding box for \$1.50; pillow

& t-shirt for \$2.25; other misc stuff for \$0.25; & videos and glowy bracelets for \$0.25.

We adjourned at = 9:10

And the rumor of the week was: 'text messaging for world domination'.

Meeting 946

Meeting number 946 convened at 2004 hours.

There were no officers at the start of the meeting. Eric took on the role of president and Glenn slapped down \$2 saying Fred should be president, but a consortium including Fred outbid him to \$6.

Fred moved for a party jar and the motion passed.

The minutes of last week's meeting were read by Andy reading from his cellphone. By this point the VP had shown up, ordered food and took over for Eric.

Corrections to previous minutes:

Stellen noted that the correct title of the book is *Anathem*.

The minutes were accepted as "according to Dread Pirate Robert's Rules of Order".

VP Report: new SF/SF.

Party report: come to SiliCon. Ed is now working on the road, so Stellen has been made

Party 2nd to help cover.

Announcements:

Glenn announced ("Arrr!) International Talk Like a Pirate Day on the 19th.

Andy moved that the 20th become "Be Silent Like a Ninja Day", which passed.

Dave C said that Book Group Expo is coming up and he won't have a table due to strange management policies.

Lisa said that Harold is better, but will need another kidney operation.

Evil Kevin promoted the SJ Walk for AIDS on the 10/19 as no walking required.

Howard paid for noting that Lance Armstrong is recycling.

Julie announced the Printed Circuit Board Conference the next day.

Harold announced that Richard Wright, of Pink Floyd, had passed away.

Dave C announced that Neil Gaiman will be in town the 1st weekend of October, but not at SiliCon, alas.

Speaking of which, SiliCon: 10/3 – 10/5, 2008.

Chris: TNH had a heart attack

Reviews:

Evil Kevin reviewed *Bal the Storm God* as not worth cable, there were a number of follow-ons.

Bill (stealing some of Carole's thunder) reviewed *ConChord*. The tacky review was good, as was a filk of "White Rabbit".

Programming notification of when and where things were needed lots of help. He went on to review *September Snow*, a present from Carole's mom as not SF, very Mary Sue and

with bad editing to boot. No pony.

Carol reviewed *ConChord* as fun with "fluid" programming. The GoH concerts were fun and it was a very comfortable time.

Dave C reviews: *Adventure_*: Anthology of ripping pulp yarns. Stories are servicable to worth full price. "True Blood": 1st two episodes. Adaptation by Harris. The Japanese develop a synthetic blood which is palatable to vampires. Many follow-ons. "Primeval": Still monster of the week, but getting better. Julie reviewed "Happiest Millionaire" as very underrated, best film that Walt worked on to completion. Cast superb.

Harold's reviews: "Secret Diary of a Call Girl" - just underwear, no nudity. Apparently there is a plot against some fellow named Jay Lake, though probably not the one that comes to mind. Worth already having Showtime. "Burn After Reading": high body count, CIA thriller, worth something between bargain matinee and full price. "Fringe": liked it despite it being a Murdoch production.

Mo reviewed the first season of "Dexter" as being very interesting and having an evolving character despite the main character being a psychopathic killer. Harold followed on with the 2nd season is also excellent.

Glenn's reviews: "The Confusion", the second bugcrusher in the *Baroque Cycle* carries on where the first one left off with themes of subtle SF - ideas that could have been earlier

and weren't. In a thousand pages, there are many different tones, often funny or sad, but occasionally graphic (e.g., the results of a strappado), so beware. The Crab House is a Korean seafood place on El Camino, which is good despite the fact that they ran out of crab. The Chargers v. Broncos game on Sunday was one of the best games in recent memory: very high scoring and the lead constantly shifting or close.

Chris reviewed "House Bunny" as suitably terrible, worth nothing and reviewed the ending song for "Pineapple Express" as pure Huey Lewis, something like the "Ballad of Gilligan's Island" for "Pineapple Express". Someone followed on with the Gilligan's Island boat being up for sale.

Andy reviewed a number of websites as being interesting lately: sinfest.net from 9/1 on, weeblestuff.com (the animation "Satire") and hasthelargehadroncolliderdestroyedtheworld-yet.com.

There were auctions.

The rumor of the week was "chocolate".

Meeting 947

September 22, 2008

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

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began 8:ish

25 people attended.

A party jar was established.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 946 were accepted as 'I don't like Mondays'.

Treasurer's report was that last week we took in \$41.00 in the regular jar and \$23.86 in the party jar.

The Vice President reported that there'll be a new 'Drink Tank' out tomorrow, there's a new 'SF/SF' out now with lots of pictures and words.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

Announcements

Dann announced that SiliCon is coming soon and an actor, Ken Laile will be attending SiliCon 2008 and then be SiliCon's media GoH for 2009.

Andy announced that this weekend is Yaoicon at the 'Winchester Mystery Marriott' - bring your slash fiction.

Harold announced that it was the 100th anniversary of Merkel's boner.

Dave C announced that DVDs are coming for the Sarah Jane Adventures, the Man from

UNCLE and Quark.

Miko announced that she's back.

Chris announced the Australia football grand finale and he is in a state of international mourning.

Glenn announced that since the US is bailing out AIG - that they sponsor Manchester United - so the US now will be overpaying soccer players.

Ken announced that this week the Legion of Rassilon will be meeting at the usual place at First & Trimble.

[tall] Kevin announced that Cheryl is safely back in darkest Somerset.

Stellan announced that there's an air show in Salinas this weekend.

And Harold announced that there's a fog festival in Pacifica this weekend - so it will be sunny.

Reviews:

Joe reviewed 'Burn' as fantastic and if you like the Coen Brothers you'll love this movie - and the body count isn't that high; plus he reviewed 'Torchwood' - playing on a HDTV channel - as he's enjoying it & reviewed that motorcycle crashes are not fun.

Chris reviewed 'Lifesized' as 'why does he let Evelyn control the TV' and he's been watching a lot of shorts, some of which are awesome.

Ken reviewed the DVD of Quark as - order it from Dave C now - and the episodes haven't aged that badly.

Glenn reviewed a bit from a book he's reading as inspirational for those taking minutes.

[tall] Kevin reviewed an SFinSf reading as certainly worth making the trip to SF for it, the readings help the Variety Children's Charity - and the next readings will be Oct 9 and Oct 18; he also reviewed his trip to New Orleans as humid and windy and very rainy, but they were able to get into excellent restaurants without reservations, he recommends Brennan's, enjoyed listening to good jazz and had a very good time.

[evil] Kevin reviewed Totoro's Sushi Boat in Saratoga as the food was very good.

And Dave C announced that Disneyland will be bringing back their Hallowe'en tour.

We then did auctions: birthday auctioned off [evil] Kevin for \$18.00 to Dave C; then auctioned off various stuff for \$3.00; a book & t-shirt for \$1.25; videos for \$2.00; \$0.50; \$33.00; \$1.00; \$1.00; \$0.75; \$1.50; \$3.00; hats & a video \$1.00; & books for \$3.50.

We adjourned at = 9:52.

And the rumor of the week was: 'BASFA will buy the TV center to produce the Chris Garcia show, starring Kevin Standlee'.



The United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) officially began operations on October 1, 1958. Happy Birthday. NASA Photo

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.

Thursday-Friday, October 2-10

Dead Channels: The San Francisco Festival of Fantastic Film

Roxie Cinema

San Francisco

www.deadchannels.com

Northern California's premier celebration of independent and international fantastic filmmaking. Opening and closing ceremonies take place at the Vortex Room and most films screen at the Roxie. Check the website for the complete schedule.

Friday-Sunday, October 3-5

Silicon 2008: A Salute to FanAc

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

\$55

www.siliconventions.com

SF/SF party Friday night, Room 263!

Saturday, October 4

Author: *Richelle Mead*

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Mead signs her latest novel, *Succubus Dreams*

Saturday, October 4

Swingin in the Rain

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

\$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.

Sunday, October 5

Author: *Neil Gaiman*

Sundance Kabuki Theaters

1881 Post Street

San Francisco

www.booksmith.com

3-5 p.m.

\$28 (price includes a signed copy of *The Graveyard Book*)

Gaiman reads from his new book, followed by a Q&A. Due to time constraints, he will not be signing at the event.

Wednesday, October 8

Endgame October Minicon

Endgame

921 Washington

Oakland

endgameoakland.com

Gaming minicon, details TBA.

Thursday, October 9

SF in SF/Litquake

Steampunk: Impossibly Fantastic Victorian Science Fiction,

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

San Francisco

www.varietync.org

7:30 p.m.

SF in SF will be participating in San Francisco's Litquake event! Confirmed this far are Joe Lansdale, Kage Baker and Rudy Rucker, with more to come.

Friday, October 10

Midnites for Maniacs

The Castro Theater

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

www.midnitesformaniacs.com

7:15 p.m.

\$10 for all three films

Back to School Special triple feature; *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Romeo & Juliet* (1996) and

Starship Troopers

Saturday, October 11

Second Annual Pixar Family Fun Day

Pixar Animation Studios

Emeryville

www.cartoonart.org

1:00-3:30 p.m.

\$125

All proceeds from this benefit are tax-deductible and benefit youth programming at the Cartoon Art Museum.

Saturday, October 11

Fifth Annual Cartoon Art Museum Pixar Fundraiser

Pixar Animation Studios

Emeryville

www.cartoonart.org

5-9 p.m.

\$200

Saturday, October 11

Litquake Litcrawl

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

Free

www.litquake.org

Borderlands hosts Richard Kadrey, Ellen Klages and Pat Murphy as part of the annual Litquake pub/bookstore crawl. See the LitQuake website for the full schedule.

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.

Sunday, October 12

Reading: Contributors to the Book of Lists

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Editors/Contributors Scott Bradley and Amy Wallace, as well as contributor Alan Beatts, will talk about putting together The Book of Lists-Horror

Tuesday, October 14

Author: Irene Lazo

The Cigar Bar and Grill

850 Montgomery Street

San Francisco

5 p.m.

Free

Launch party for the book tour of *The Accidental Santera*.

Wednesday, October 15

SF in SF Double Feature: Shaun of the Dead and Repo Man

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, October 18

SF in SF: Kim Stanley Robinson and Cecilia Holland

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

San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

9 p.m.

Free

Science Fiction in San Francisco (A Perfect Fit) stages a monthly series of readings hosted by Terry Bisson as well as monthly movie screenings. Proceeds from the events go to the Variety Children's Charity.

Monday, October 20

Author: Jonathan Carroll

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

www.booksmith.com

7:30 p.m.

Free

The author and signs his new novel, *The Ghost*

in Love.

Thursday, October 23

Thrillville Halloween Hellabaloo

El Cerrito Speakeasy

10070 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito

www.thrillville.net

9 p.m.

\$10

Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man plus live on stage *The Hubba Hubba Revue!* Special guests Mr. Lobo and the Queen of Trash from Cinema Insomnia. Advance tickets go on sale at the Cerrito theater beginning October 12th.

Friday, October 24

Thrillville's Spaced-Out Halloween Spookylau

Copia: The American Center for Wine, Food & the Arts

500 First Street

Napa

www.thrillville.net

8 p.m.

\$7

Frankenstein Meets the Space Monster, live music by The Maikai Gents. With special guests Mr. Lobo and the Queen of Trash from Cinema Insomnia.

Saturday, October 25

SF in SF Double Feature: The Haunting and *Don't Look Now*

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.

Sunday, October 26

Author: Tom Kirkbride

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

2 p.m.

Free

Kirkbride reads from his latest novel *Gamadin: Word of Honor*

Monday, October 27

Authors: David Farland and Brandon Sanderson

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Farland reads from his latest novel *The Wyrmling Horde* and Brandon Sanderson from *The Hero of Ages*.

Wednesday, October 29

Authors: David Farland and Brandon Sanderson

Dark Carnival

3086 Claremont Ave.

Berkeley

5:30 p.m.

Free

Farland reads from his latest novel *The Wyrmling Horde* and Brandon Sanderson from *The Hero of Ages*.

Thursday, October 30

Authors: David Farland and Brandon Sanderson

Books, Inc.

301 Castro Street

Mountain View

7:30 p.m.

Free

Farland reads from his latest novel *The Wyrmling Horde* and Brandon Sanderson from *The Hero of Ages*.

Friday, October 31

Warp 11 Halloween Bash

G Street Pub

228 G Street

Davis

www.warp11.com

9 p.m.

Star Trek-themed band, Warp 11. Also playing: The Brodys.

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-Sunday, November 7-9

Bascon

Embassy Suites San Francisco Airport

250 Gateway Boulevard

South San Francisco

www.bascon.org

\$85

Bay Area Slash convention.

Saturday, November 8

Writers With Drinks

The Make-Out Room

3225 Mission Street

San Francisco

Writers in Drag: writers read works they've written outside their normal genres. Austin Grossman reads fantasy, Annalee Newitz reads SF, Michelle Tea reads cyberpunk and Stephen Elliot reads something TBA. All proceeds benefit the No on 8 Campaign.

Saturday-Sunday, November 8-9

Carnival of Stars

Centennial Hall

22292 Foothill Boulevard

Hayward

www.carnivalofstars.com

\$15

Comic book convention featuring belly dancing, costume contest, a sci fi film presentation by Bob Eckman of the Psychotronic Film Festival and stop motion animation showcase by Ed Martinez. Guests include Mark Bode, John Stanley and Tanya Lemani.

Saturday, November 15

SF in SF: Ellen Klages and Geoff Ryman

Variety's Preview Room in the Hobart Building

582 Market St.

San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

9 p.m.

Science Fiction in San Francisco (A Perfect Fit) stages a monthly series of readings hosted by Terry Bisson as well as monthly movie screenings. Proceeds from the events go to the Variety Children's Charity.

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, December 11

Thrillville

El Cerrito Speakeasy Theater

10070 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito

www.thrillville.net

9:15 p.m.

\$9

Vintage Mexican thrills in *The Robot vs. The Aztec Mummy*, live music by Carne Cruda.

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.

Thursday, February 12
Thrillville's Voodoo Valentine's Show
El Cerrito Speakeasy Theater
10070 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito
www.thrillville.net
9:15 p.m.

\$9
Sugar Hill and Her Zombie Hit Men, plus a live
act TBA.

Saturday-Sunday, February 14-5
AOD 2009
Cathedral Hill Hotel
1101 Van Ness Ave
San Francisco
www.aodsf.org
\$25 until November 30

Animation on Display (AOD) is a San
Francisco-based convention that celebrates
the animated arts from around the world in all
mediums. Details TBA

Friday, February 27-Sunday, March 1
Potlatch 18
The Domain Hotel
Sunnyvale
www.potlatch-sf.org
\$55 until February 14
Literary convention, with panel discussions,

writer's workshops, con suite. Books of Honor
for 2009 are *Always Coming Home*, by Ursula
K. Le Guin and *Growing Up Weightless* by John
M. Ford.

Friday-Sunday, April 3-5
Contact 25

NASA Ames Research Center
Mountain View
\$175
www.contact-conference.com/2009
Interdisciplinary gathering of scientists, artists
and writers. Details TBA.

Thursday, April 9
Thrillville's 12th Anniversary Show
El Cerrito Speakeasy Theater
10070 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito
www.thrillville.net
9:15 p.m.

\$12
*Plan 9 From Outer Space, Re-Animator, plus a
live act TBA.*

Friday-Tuesday, July 17-21
Azcatraz, A Harry Potter Convention
Parc 55 Hotel
55 Cyril Magnin Street
San Francisco
www.hp2009.org
\$145 through February 28th.

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.

Tuesdays

MGI Boffers & Outdoor Games
Codornices Park
1201 Euclid Ave
Berkeley
mgisciaf.angelfire.com
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyclub/
Free
1:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m

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/

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 October 12 will be *The Reality Dysfunction Emergence* by Peter F. Hamilton. Please contact Chris, the group leader, 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.

MGI Family Board Game Night

It's Your Move

4920 Telegraph Ave.

Oakland

mgisciaf.angelfire.com

groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyclub/

Free

5 p.m-8:30 p.m

Every 3rd & 4th Friday

Micro Gods, Inc.

Berkeley Public Library, West Branch

1125 University Ave

Berkeley

mgisciaf.angelfire.com

groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/

Free

2:30 p.m-5:30 p.m

Family Club for fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Movie, Anime & Manga.

Meets every 3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for updates.

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
6:30 p.m.
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 October 19th will be *Fevre Dream* by George R.R. Martin. 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.

South Bay Steampunk
Various locations (see website for details)
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 fristjedi2000@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.