

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

So, there was a lot of fun had at SiliCon. The *SF/SF* party was a blast on Friday night. We had great drinks flowing (I came up with a new one: a large splash of Mandarin Absolut, a squeeze of lime, cranberry juice to fill to the 4th ridge on the Red Plastic Cup, and a touch of Raspberry Absolut) and lots of folks came by to enjoy. We managed to party well into the night and were pretty busy all along. It was a good thing.

But the best part of SiliCon was the silent protest that España came up with. There was Mexican fun all over the place. As the con was a salute to FANAC, we announced that the Fanzine Lounge was a salute to HISPANAC! The decor (especially the Loteria) that España brought was a nice touch. There was classic Drunkzine Lounge fun on Saturday and everyone seemed to do well.

The whole Fiesta theme was due to Larry Niven being the Writer Guest of Honor and there was a little bit of a protest because of comments he made to some presidential commission that one way to discourage the use of emergency rooms would be to spread a rumor in the Hispanic community that hospitals were harvesting organs from undocumented people. Now, this very much upset España, so much so that she was not planning on attending. We figured a better way would be to come up with a fun way to protest.

So the Fanzine Lounge's décor was entirely Mexican themed, right down to the El Santo Movies that España brought. Jason Schachat and myself wore serapes during part of the con and España, Leigh Ann, Laser (aka Deb) and Joe Price joined us in our dress-up. Perhaps Jason had the most subtle bit: he would whistle the "Mexican Hat Dance" anytime Larry was around. We don't think he noticed. It was a fun bit of internal protest and I think it made us feel better about things without making a scene where folks would be uncomfortable.

The Match Game was another blast, and even though it wasn't The Match Game After Dark, we managed to come up with a few things that walked the line. Kirsten Berry, Andy Trembley, Kevin Roche, Lynn Gold, Leigh Ann Hildebrand and I were there doing our thing, with Kevin Standlee as host, The Lovely and Talented Linda and Bob Hole working in the house, and general fun all over the place.

I finally saw the *Incredible Hulk* movie. It wasn't bad, except for when it went from a sunny day to a rainy night just because a helicopter crashed. That kinda sucked.

eI 40 is up on eFanzines.com. It's got some great stuff, and Earl officially announces the Eaton connection, and there's an article from me about the Fanzine Lounge. It's always good stuff from Earl Kemp, one of the true stars in the history of fandom.

"Fandom on Infinite Earths" has started with the *Drink Tank* 183 and a cover that I

doctored up, art from Dann Lopez, and the start of my strange long CorFlu story. It'll be an interesting next few issues. They'll be followed by the NaNoWriMo where I'm going to be doing the Unresearched History of San Francisco. It's a strange piece of fictional non-fiction. I love doing that. The next FoIE won't show up until next week since I've got myself trapped into a lot of other little projects.

Further Confusion at the DoubleTree is sounding like a good thing, but there's a matter that may well be a big problem: The Coffee Garden is no more. It's been replaced by a new thing called Sprigs. It's got a green theme that looks more...I dunno...artsy. They've taken out all the booths along the low wall and replaced them with standalone tables. While this does give them more options when they're trying to seat larger groups, which they were doing all during SiliCon, it does take something away from the whole set-up. The bigger problems are that they've cut the menu and they've also stopped serving after 2 p.m. SiliCon was under the impression that they would be open for dinner, but alas, Sprigs remained stuck to its 2 p.m. end-time. That was a bad thing as you could only get dinner food at Spencer's, which is still massively overpriced, or the Quiet Bar, which didn't have enough tables. I'm hoping that FurCon will address that situation and manage to get the place open with a fuller menu.

A lot of folks were very concerned about the DoubleTree. The argument is simple,

they're going downhill, and the Sprigs change is only one of many things that have come up, all of which make it look like the DoubleTree ain't gonna be the Fannish Headquarters for much longer. While I know that Pantheacon has decided to stay with the DoubleTree for a while, there are thoughts that the Further Confusion people are looking to find a larger venue, leaving only SiliCon at the DoubleTree on an open-ended plan.

There's no better venue for a con in the BArea than the DoubleTree when it comes to set-up. There's a lot of good stuff, but the biggest problem is that they've started to move in a different direction. The focus as far as food seems to be Spencer's, which has even taken over room service. It's still overpriced, and the steak, while pretty good, isn't anything special when it you compare it to the prices. It's a bad thing. The Sushi Bar is still pretty good, with prices that aren't bad. ConComms need to demand more from the DoubleTree than they've usually had to. Either that, or they gotta jump off the ship and find a new hotel.

LosCon is coming too, and it's the other BArea convention that isn't in the BArea (along with Wiscon).

Hey, Nino dropped off a box of zines and in it was the Spacecon III program book. Well, one half of the Spacecon III program book. The slightly beat-up copy featured the signatures of Harlan Ellison, Nichelle Nichols (Lt. Uhura), Grace Lee Whitney (Yeoman Rand), Theodore Sturgeon, Robert Silverberg, and then I got Larry Niven to sign his photo that was in the program. It was an amazing find. I'm gonna try and find Alan Dean Foster and Dick Lupoff. Maybe I can

grab Phillip Kaufman too. That'd be awesome!

Nominations are still being taken in the next TAFF race from the Euro-side to North America. If you've got a pal in the UK or on the Continent that you wanna see come over for Anticipation, you should nom them now! [Garcia](#)

@computerhistory.org or bugshaw@gmail.com for more details.

Speaking of Anticipation, I've got reservations at Au Pied de Cochon. I'm so freakin' psyched!

Letters of Comment

Let's start this go-round with a new name: Debbie Esters aka C.O.S.T!

Hi. Last week I attended the Erotic Sci-Fi reading, because you published the notice in the fanzine! Yeah. You'll kill me because I didn't record names of authors who read, but the stories were great. I laughed till I cried.

Chris Garcia replies: It's always good to know that we're actually keeping people informed! The plan has worked! I wish I could have gone, being that I grew up on Phillip Jose Farmer and so on.

There was a sex sphere that would keep sucking dick (can I write that in a fanzine?) until it sucked whole worlds out of existence. There was a soldier in mental/cyber link control of an array of small airborne missiles who, when bored, programmed the vibrating machines to target and please her...with the safeties on of course.

We're a progressive fanzine. The only thing you can't say is !@#\$\$%^&*. That would just be too filthy. Those sound like fun stories. I think the readers were Rudy Rucker, Richard

Kadrey, M. Christian, Steven Schwartz, Carol Queen, Charlie Anders, Thomas Roche and others. I know Charlie's always good for a fun story, and I think I read with Steven Schwartz once, long ago when I was still a writer.

But they did not have a poster of *Barbarella*, and if you haven't seen that movie you are missing out on classic sci-fi (R-rated) but very sexy. Quiz: in *Barbarella*, how many times does Jane Fonda's character have sex?

You know, it's been ages since I saw Barbarella, but I think it's something like nine. Really fun movie, though! Glad you had a good time at the reading and it's always good to hear that we got folks up and out to the readings!

And now, a special note from the guy who wrote the piece we profiled in This Old Fanzine last issue: Mr. Greg Pickersgill!

Hi Chris -

I had your review of CAN'T GET OFF THE ISLAND pointed out to me and persuaded myself to read it. Not through any particular lack of interest in your writing, but more because of my general failure of enthusiasm when it comes

to reading fanzines onscreen (especially when they're delivered as pdf which always seems a pain).

I can understand that. I'm a screen guy myself, and it's actually harder for me to read things on paper these days, so I can't complain about folks who have trouble reading off these infernal devices!

Anyway, I thought at first you were taking the mickey in some subtle way but I was again persuaded otherwise. So, thanks very much for such a positive and rather interesting review. That brings the number of published comments on ISLAND up to an average of 1.75 per year since 2005. Pretty good, or what? ("What", actually.)

Hey, that still beats the number of comments made on my TAFF report so far! Not by much, mind you, but there is that.

I rather appreciated the review if for nothing else than it made me re-read for the first time in a while that Novacon report. Good grief, reading it "properly" instead of skimming for facts was quite a revelation. This was good fanwriting, about something. I was amazed. You mean I did that? Gosh. This isn't false modesty, I was genuinely surprised at how interesting and entertaining that piece was. I find myself rather hoping your review does indeed persuade more people to read that collection.

Well, we've got several in the TAFF stuff that I'll auction off. I always hope folks'll take a look at the web-version as well.

Anyway, thanks, good luck, and happy days!

And the same to you!

Lastly, we hear from Mike Deckinger:

I enjoyed the latest issued but found little motivation for comment.

However, I did wish to offer some thoughts on Jean's comment about being interested in Egyptology. Has she visited the Rosicrucian Museum on Naglee Ave. in San Jose? The last time I was there (admittedly several decades past) they had quite a compelling display of Egyptian artifacts, some mummies, and a re-created pyramid entrance. I have no interest in their teachings, but I do recommend

viewing the exhibit.

Jean Martin replies: I haven't been to the Rosicrucian Museum. That's been on my to do list for several years. I'll eventually find my way there.

Also of interest; a massive King Tut display will be returning to the DeYoung Museum in San Fran, from June 2009 to March 2010. Get your tickets early.

Thanks for the heads up. I'll definitely try to make it to this exhibit!



Reminder: The California Steampunk Convention is coming up October 31-November 2 at the Domain Hotel in Sunnyvale. www.steampunkconvention.com

Photo by Mike Pecci

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor

Well, I was single again at SiliCon this past weekend. There must be something about Septembers. My most recent boyfriend and I split up last September 30th and the one before that was September 17th of last year. So I can't believe I'm writing an editorial about this, again.

The last issue of *SF/SF* went to press with articles of mine stating that he was still my boyfriend, but it was too late to make any changes. That was a little bit strange for me but it didn't bother me too much as I didn't have to read them again after I proofread the issue. But it was difficult for me to write about our trip to Vegas to see the "Star Trek Experience" in this current issue. That seemed to have been the turning point in our relationship, and the damage was something he and I couldn't seem to overcome. It's too bad, too, because his photos came out a lot better than mine, as he's such a great photographer (and an awesome writer too)...but we're using my photos instead.

I'm really sad, disappointed and hurt because I thought I've finally found my soul mate. We had a lot in common, had similar values and we connected very quickly. He's also intelligent, creative, insightful and deep just like me. The best part was he was very good to me in general... kind, gentle, considerate and thoughtful. So I really admired and cared about

him. I saw some warning signs along the way but I thought things were going well for the most part. So I was a little bit blindsided about our breakup. Again, here was someone who didn't appreciate me for who I am.

Perhaps I really do need someone already in fandom. I realize now more than ever that my being in fandom really makes me different, and that someone from the outside really has a hard time understanding me. Fandom, I've realized, is a subculture and a lifestyle choice. Fandom is something I've been looking for for a long time and I'm not going to give it up just to be more acceptable in the dating world. This was even clearer to me at SiliCon. (My review of SiliCon will be in the next issue. Other than my "Star Trek Experience" article, I also have a story on the recent PEERS Steampunk Ball. So now I'm finally caught up with my backlog of articles.)

For the foreseeable future, I think I'm going to take a break from relationships and just concentrate on having fun with my friends and activities. I barely got over the breakup last year, and now I have to get over another one. I'm exhausted and burned out from all these emotional upheavals. I'm the type of person who doesn't get lonely or bored, so being single suits me fine. I would like to have a life partner at some point in the future, though.

But enough of my own little drama. I know there's a lot of fear and uncertainty in the world right now that everyone is dealing with.

There's a presidential election coming up soon, the stock market has taken a significant nosedive, the global economy is starting to stall, wars and potential wars continue to plague the world, etc. I'm reminded of lyrics from the Duran Duran song "Ordinary World":

*Papers in the roadside tell of suffering and greed
Feared today forgot tomorrow
Here beside the news of holy war and holy need
Ours is just a little sorrowed talk blown away.*

Still, I think personal sorrows cut deeper. I guess what I'm trying to say is that I know there are a lot of people suffering in the world and there is fear of more to come. I am aware of all of this and have compassion and understanding for those in need. My heartache may seem small in the whole scheme of things, but it is my pain, and I don't think it is any less valid.

Also, I don't think most of us have much control over what's going on in the world. Of course we can all do our part, and some people do become Fed policymakers, presidential candidates, social activists, etc. In general, though, I don't think a mass panic and prophesying doom and gloom is healthy or necessary. I think there is room for hope that we will all survive tough times if we all support each other. I came from a Third World country that seems to have managed through revolutions, terrorist attacks, bank runs, depressions, etc., and people seem to be able to enjoy the life they have

and make the best of things. This great nation has withstood a lot as well, and I think the American spirit will carry us through.

There are a couple of things I'm worried about, though. I work in the financial industry and the livelihood of everyone where I work is dependent on the stock market. But the company I work for is on pretty solid footing and the job I do is mandated by the government, so I at least feel safe in this respect.

The other thing I worry about is the effect of an ailing economy on fandom activities. I heard of one recent event that had low attendance, and SiliCon had a much lower registration count than last year. I suppose events will have to just adapt to current economic realities. I don't think events are going to go away entirely. Also, these things come in cycles and there's more or less participation as the economy goes through its own cycles. And I think people like me who treat fandom as part of our lives will continue to participate. This is not disposable income, leisure-type activities as far as I'm concerned. I may have to cut down on costume buying, hotel room stays and photo printing, but I'm still going to be around enjoying myself, hanging out with friends, and reporting for *SF/SF*.

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



Howeird captured this graceful belly dancer at SiliCon this past October 4th. More SiliCon coverage begins on page 10.

This Old Fanzine

Nocturne No. 1

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

I love Jean Martin.

She's one of the most wonderful things about BArea fandom. She might be the perkier woman on Earth, and this is coming from a guy who read *Candide's* attitude as something of a bummer. Jean's been active all over the place, dancing, singing (and she belted out Evanescence at SiliCon's Karaoke) and writing and editing for this fine publication. She's got a wide variety of interests, so I don't know why it shocked me when she told me that she'd done a fanzine before, back in the 1990s. I guess it was the topic of the fanzine:

Jean Martin used to do a Heavy Metal fanzine.

That's right, Jean Martin, the littlest member of the *SF/SF* Quadroika, used to do a Heavy Metal fanzine. Now, if you had asked 100 people who know the various members of the *SF/SF* Crew, most would probably point to me as the Metalhead (and at one time I was way into it) and others might think España would bring her force of will to a Metal zine, but no...it was sweet l'il ol' Jean!

She was kind enough to send a few issues my way via PDF and I have to say, they're really fun. I remember this era, and while I was way



into Ska acts like The Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Let's Go Bowling and The Janitors Against Apartheid, I did hit a few shows at places like The Cactus Club to see bands like Sinister Sam play their little hearts out.

Apparently, Jean did too!

The cover features photos of Mr. Big, Babylon A.D. (a great band), Megadeth (at times the best Metal Band in existence), and Vicious Rumors (a group I saw a couple of times that was a lot of fun). It's exactly the type of cover that

lets you know what you're in for.

Now, I always hated Mr. Big, but the interview thingee that Jean did with Eric Martin is a good one. Long and very interesting. Jean's got a good mind for the interviewing, she does.

There's another good article by Michele Bohanon on Marty Friedman of Megadeth. I always had a place in my heart for Megadeth, a band which can shred harder than just about anyone.

As my buddy Jeremy once put it, Dave Mustaine left Metallica because they weren't hard enough. That just about says it.

Jean writes a couple of pieces about the BArea Thrash scene of the late 1980s and early 90s. I can remember that every band that came out of the BArea in the early 1980s was called a Thrash band, whether they were Psychofunkdapus or Skankin' Pickle. The Bay Area sound of the 1980s and 90s was Thrashy as all get-out and Jean profiled two bands in particular: Defiance and Mordred. I used to love Mordred. They were a really tight band and they just hit hard.

There are looks at Babylon A.D. and Jetboy, along with a little piece on Vicious Rumors. There is also a little note about the reopening of One Step Beyond, Santa Clara's legendary club that opened and closed about five times over the course of my life. This one was the final go-round it got. It's an Elks Lodge or something now. The reopening show was good — I remember being there and having no idea

who was playing, but enjoying the show.

There are three good articles about the post-break-up Dokken, a band that was one of the best of the 1980s. They split up and Don Dokken went solo while other members formed the bands War & Peace and Lynch Mob. None had the power of Dokken, and I don't think Lynch Mob went very far. I can remember War & Peace from a "Day on the Green"-type show in the mid-1990s, but other than that, nothing.

There is an article about Sette Cana, which is a band I never heard of. Looking back through a scene that I wasn't much a part of is interesting. There are lots of similarities to reading about fannish events that I wasn't around for either. All fandoms are the same when you move away from the subject of them.

There's was a sweet article about one of the best bands to ever come out of Gilroy: Classy Trash! They used to play the Cactus a lot and I always enjoyed them. Not a band that lasted too long, though. There's a mention about the "Best of the Best" show at the One Step and that had Audio Fungus, a great band that I went to that show specifically to see. They played a song called Schizoidembolism (or something like that) that was rad. There is a nice series of photos from the gig, which brought back a lot of memories.

All in all, Jean was doing a great zine years ago, and I had no idea. I'll be reading the other ones she sent my way, but it's great that sometimes you find out a little something that just makes you wonder: "How come I never thought she'd be into Metal?"

Steampunk Warms SF in SF

By España Sheriff
Staff Writer

It's probably been a year since I've attended an SF in SF event for a variety of reasons mostly related to extreme lameness on my part, so after seeing Rena Weisman at Denvention I decided to make a concerted effort to start going again. These events are always fun and the Hobart Building is scant blocks away from my place of employment so there really is no excuse. The October 9th event was devoted to Steampunk.

After work I ran a couple of errands downtown before heading over to Market and Montgomery. I was a little early and quite starving, so I grabbed a slice of pizza at Portico to tide me over and made it back at about ten past seven. I was surprised to find that there were well over three dozen people there already. As I approached the door I was handed a LitQuake flier and numbered sticker and everything made sense. I had forgotten that the evening's reading was tied into the LitQuake events, which always draw a pretty good crowd.

As it turned out the Variety Screening Room had accidentally double booked the room, and things were due to start a little later than scheduled at 8 p.m. However there was a good spread of cheese and crackers, strawberries, and some tasty cookies as well as the customary cash bar, so I grabbed a Guinness and settled in.

As I waited I had a chance to observe the crowd. It was a nice mix of SF in SF regulars, LitQuake attendees, and a sprinkling of steamers, this last contingent identifiable by their costumes. The first costumer to show up was wearing a top hat and bustle gown ensemble. A few minutes later another less flashy but very lovely lady in a wool dress came in along with her male companion who had a casual steampunk thing going on.

There were also several men in waistcoats, bowlers and so on including one very sharply dressed gentleman wearing dark glasses who turned out to be the special guest for the evening, Richard Bottoms, the CEO of the upcoming Steampunk convention, Steam Powered.

I wandered over to say hi to Jude Feldman, who was at the Borderlands table. She had a very nice selection of appropriate books, but I haven't cracked open the Steampunk Anthology yet and my wallet was already empty from SiliCon, so I merely browsed. A gorgeous Subterranean Press special edition of Joe R. Landsdale's *Flaming London* with a Timothy Truman cover did catch my eye and I took a peek at the price. That sobered me right up, so I grabbed a second Guinness and perused the rather neat black and white art hanging on the walls until the film screening ended and they started letting us in.

Seating was limited due to the crowd, so we were let in by the numbers on the stickers we had received at the door. I was safely in the middle and managed to get a seat in the back row, which doesn't have the best view but has by far the comfiest chairs. The woman seated beside me was a Borderlands regular and we discussed the store, the upcoming LitCrawl event, and the Airship Ventures Zeppelin while everyone got settled in.

Rena Weisman started things off by discussing the Variety's Children Charity, on behalf of which these events are held, and then handed things over to the moderator, Terry Bisson, who introduced the panelists. In addition to Bottoms, the other guests were Kage Baker, Joe R. Landsdale and Rudy Rucker.

Bottoms spoke a little about Steam Powered and his own interest in the genre, citing *The Wild, Wild West* as an early influence. His opinion seemed to be that it's an inherently hopeful genre, an optimistic reappropriation of the post-American Civil War era.

I hadn't quite thought of it that way, but it's an interesting perspective and would probably explain the attraction for many women who enjoy the femininity of the Victorian fashions but not necessarily the repressive culture and feminine stereotypes of the era, leading to the aviatrix and lady adventuress archetypes that are far more interesting to us.

The first author up was Baker, who read an excerpt from her story "Speed, Speed the Cable," recently published in the anthology *Extraordinary Engines*. The story is about an attempt to sabotage the first trans-Atlantic cable. Baker explained her interest in steampunk as

part of a more general interest in history and "living in the past" and related to her interest in the Elizabethan era and historical recreation. One of the most interesting parts of her story was the featured technological marvel, a Spanish submarine called *La Ballena*, built by real life Spanish inventor and revolutionary Narcís Monturiol and based on his actual creations.

Landsdale was up next with a couple of chapters from *Flaming London*, which it turns out is the second book of a trilogy. His story featured Mark Twain, Jules Verne and an uplifted

We discussed the Airship Ventures Zeppelin while everyone got settled in.

seal named Ned and was terribly crude and quite hilarious. It didn't hurt that Landsdale has a great presence and reading style, and is prone to humorous improvisation. His Western accent fit the story well and it was a definite crowd pleaser. I found myself wishing very much that I had a spare \$95 on me. Since I did not, I've added the first of the trilogy, *Zeppelins West!*, to my next shopping trip to Borderlands.

Landsdale disdained the idea that he's a steampunk writer, since not only has he written in all sorts of genres but he's not much interested in clubs, cliques or movements. However he's very much a lover of Victorian scientific romances and adventure stories with a particular interest in Western dime novels. Other influences

he mentioned were the old Jules Verne movie adaptations such as *Master of the World*, and the Burroughs adventures. His tendencies lean quite definitely towards the American West pulp style, and reminded me of Howard Waldrop.

Poor Rudy Rucker was left with a hard act to follow, and indeed his reading of an excerpt from his novel *The Hollow Earth* started off just okay. After Landsdale's flamboyant style Rucker's voice seemed a near monotone. After a bit, either he relaxed or the story took over and things got quite better.

The story follows a teenage boy's encounter with a young Edgar Alan Poe, and their eventual exploration of the theories of true-life crackpot John Cleves Symmes, who theorized that the Earth was composed of hollow spheres nested one inside the other and inhabitable on the inside. Rucker expressed a fascination with the Hollow Earth theories, which are far from just a Victorian era fancy and live on even to the present day.

After the readings, the discussion was quite lively, both from genre fans and from newcomers who had not heard the word "steampunk" prior to that night. Bisson opined that the genre is a mythologizing of the singularity, which he believes already happened. Much discussion was had about whether it is an inherently utopian or dystopian genre, whether it's just a form of alternate history, fanfic about dead authors, or a desire to do away with the irritations of modern technology for something more elegant and accessible. It was all quite invigorating and naturally no conclusions of any sort were arrived at by evening's end.

SiliCon Features Salute to Hispanac

By España Sheriff

Staff Writer

Photos by Deborah Kopec

SiliCon was considerably smaller this year than it has been in a while, but just as much fun as ever. The big news was the conversion of the much maligned Coffee Garden into something that everyone could agree we liked even less. The new operation, named Sprigs, has the hours of a Financial District coffee shop and the looks of a generic sushi restaurant. The first failing is that the breakfast and lunch buffets appear to have been done away with completely. Breakfast is only served until 11 a.m., so I have no idea if it's any good as I wasn't ever up and about by that time. Lunch goes until 2 p.m., which is also ridiculously early. The same menu is served in the sushi bar area in the afternoon, which would be a decent compromise except that the area is far smaller, as are the actual chairs, and this means that during the afternoon and evening hours the place is packed. It's also harder to seat a large group there. Service at Sprigs appeared to have gone downhill fairly dramatically as well, although the servers at the sushi bar area were all doing a great job.

Beyond the hotel issues, the con itself seemed to suffer from a certain amount of organizational woes, as reflected by the recent problems with the website and the lack of communication to the fans about things like the changes in our dining options. Although nowhere



near what I would call a failure, there seemed to be more confusion and less organization and advertising than in past years, and I can only assume that the decline in numbers is at least partially a result of these problems. In spite of this, the atmosphere was great, everyone seemed to be having a good time, and there were no

major problems that I heard about.

Although I love SiliCon, my decision to attend was only made about a month ago when my fellow Fanzinistas talked me into it. As some of you may already know, the GOH was Larry Niven. And while he is of course an accomplished author and well-known fan and

quite a popular guest, just a few months ago he made some published comments related to the Spanish-speaking population of this country which I took exception to. I made a personal decision that I wasn't comfortable being a member of a convention where he was a GOH, and reluctantly looked for something else to do with my weekend.

However, I was feeling terrible about missing the convention and Chris, David and Leigh Ann decided that rather than avoiding the convention, a better solution would be to turn it into a celebration of Latino fanac (the inimitable Andy Trembley came up with the term "Hispanac" and later just "Spanac" for it), and the more I thought on it, the more excited I became about the possibilities for fun, costuming and carousing built around this theme. Then at Con-X-Treme I ran into Maureen Starkey who was there promoting SiliCon and that cemented my decision to attend after all.

I spent the days before the con digging up thematically appropriate decorations and costuming bits. Unfortunately my eBay purchase of a dozen or so Latin American comics didn't arrive until Monday after the convention, but by con time I had accumulated quite a haul: a bunch

of flags, red, white and green streamers, some lovely Mexican calendar art postcards, and a book of Mexican Pulp Art from the 60's as well as a stack of Spanish-language horror and sci fi films, including last year's Hugo winner *Pan's Labyrinth*. However the best of the stack were



two lucha DVDs, one featuring two El Santo horror films and the other two Superzan sci fi flicks featuring what appeared to be quite a bit of silver tinfoil. My last two purchases, which I picked up on an impulse on Friday afternoon, turned out to be the most fun: a loteria set and a stack of about 12-15 cheapie Chevy's, El Torito

and similar-type sombreros purchased at Thrift Town for 69 cents a pop.

Anthony "Ace" and Deborah "Lazer" Kopec picked me up around 7 p.m. and we first stopped at BevMo for supplies. Aside from some Vodka to make "little things" I was determined to pick up a bottle of good Tequila. My unfortunate previous experiences with the drink involved the cheap stuff and for years I thought I simply didn't like it. However my sister's boyfriend, Andres, is quite the connoisseur. He enjoys doing tastings and mixes a mean Margarita, so under his guidance I've come around on the subject recently. I called him and he walked me through the brands available in my price range, eventually settling on a Reposado called "7 Leguas," which it turns out is named after Pancho Villa's horse and eventually met with general approval from most everyone who tried it.

By this time we were receiving drunken text messages inquiring as to our whereabouts. When we pulled into the hotel David "Mangcha" Moyce and Bill "Daisy" Howard generously offered to help us with our luggage. As we grabbed things from the car the sombreros were a little awkward to carry, so everyone put one on

and I wore the extras one atop another. We made quite an entrance, if I do say so myself, and after dropping everything off in our room we hit the party floor to check things out.

The first stop was the *SF/SF* party where Chris Garcia, Jean Martin, Leigh Ann Hildebrand and Jason Schachat were holding down the fort. We spent some time in there and then wandered a bit to see what all else was going on. There were four or five parties on each night, including the San Francisco Browncoats and the Black Hole Klingons. Marv from the Legion of Rassilon helped out with a *Doctor Who* party and I caught a glimpse of karaoke from another room.

As I bounced around I was urgently called over to a room, and walked in to discover that the boardroom most commonly used as the con suite was in its original board meeting layout, looking exactly how the headquarters of the Revolution should. We immediately wrangled all the sombrero-wearing folks to sit around it and look conspiratorial and took a bunch of silly photos. Then someone noticed that Chris was

sitting at the center of the table and made a Last Supper joke. Of course the challenge could not remain unmet, so after one of the boys pulled up the image on his phone, everyone posed appropriately. Or inappropriately, rather.

Eventually someone came by with the

Jean and Joe Price busting some swing moves to a couple of Lee Presson songs and the rest of us enjoying what mostly appeared to be angry German remix versions of popular favorites as well as the occasional eighties hit. At the end of that we were all starving and exhausted so we hied over to Denny's for some post drinkin' food to stave off hangovers.

On Saturday I woke up satisfyingly hangover-free and thanked the Reposado gods as I ran about trying to getting things done. I hung my art and checked out the smallish but well-represented art show, and then rushed to get some food before Sprigs closed. I made it under the wire and joined the kids at a table, ordering an underwhelming tuna sandwich and pea soup. Afterwards we checked out the

Dealers' Room, which was also on the smallish side but larger than Westercon's and with more stuff that I actually wanted to buy than Denvention's, so quality won out over quantity for me at least.

The music GOH for Silicon was Peter S.



news that Rocky Horror had been canceled and the dance was starting early so we closed the party and went to check it out. The music was a bit on the loud side when we dropped by, but the DJ was kind enough to drop it under teeth-rattling levels and we all got our dance on for a while,

Beagle, better known as an author but also quite the musician, apparently. We stopped and chatted with Beagle, who was warm and charming, and I picked up a print of the recently re-discovered Hidemi Buko concept art for the Red Bull from the animated *Last Unicorn* film, as well as the Conlan Press hardcover of the book which also includes the recent Hugo winning novelette *Two Hearts* and some other material.

Afterwards I took my bag of goodies to the Fanzine Lounge to decorate. Chris already had two flags up: Puerto Rico and Che, as well as a lucha libre mask perched on a houseplant which watched over us all weekend. Leigh Ann and I hung up the party streamers and flags while David placed little toothpick Mexican flags all along the edge of the wainscoting throughout the room. I spent a few hours hanging out in the lounge chatting with folks until Leigh Ann and I took another walk through the Dealers' Room and Springtime Creations showed me some absolutely perfect earrings with Frida Kahlo on them, which I had to buy. I also found a bright yellow skirt that looked like a good match for my costume that evening.

At a recent convention, plans had been hatched for some reason to get Bill into a Daisy Duke outfit. Details on the why and wherefores are unclear, but as a result of this I found myself on Saturday night changing into jeans, a checkered shirt and a white cowboy hat. It is the oddest I've ever felt at a convention and suffice it to say that, with Jean and me dressed as Bo and Luke Duke and Bill as Daisy, we attracted quite a bit of attention.

I was not able to make it to the Masquerade but I'm told it was small but good.

I did see Bryan and Mette in their Gwen Cooper and Captain Jack costumes. Mette in particular looked spot-on in the black wig, although it was a startling change and caused quite a few double-takes.

Done with that I headed back up to the room to change into my Frida costume. The yellow skirt matched my top far better than I had hoped and once Deb helped me with jewelery and the flowers in my hair, the result was pretty good, easily identifiable despite the lack of unibrow, which I dispensed with for reasons

We seemed to make an impression on at least one of the Japanese businessmen we were sharing the hotel with.

of vanity and to avoid crossing that tenuous line between homage and caricature which we had already thoroughly trampled the previous evening.

Deb dressed in a similar style while the boys both wore wrestling masks, Anthony with black latex and Joe Price with a suit. We seemed to make an impression on at least one of the Japanese businessmen we were sharing the hotel with as the four of us poured out of the elevator. I wonder what he supposed we were up to.

The parties were still going pretty strong and we popped by the Black Hole to say hi to Mangcha'. After a bit of wandering, we decided

to head to the fanzine lounge and discovered that Chris had closed already, even though it was barely midnight. We chased him down and he went to get it reopened. We checked out the dance while we waited. There weren't many folks there when we popped by, but Mr. Lobo was nearby and I couldn't resist asking for a photo of him with Joe Price.

Eventually, after some more negotiations with Chris, we got the lounge open and were joined by quite a few other folks including Spring Schoenhuth and, briefly, Maureen Starkey who I was told by Dann had to get a load of Joe Price and Anthony. For the next few hours the lounge contained a lively crowd and soon enough we stared a round of loteria, this time as a drinking game. Since I had chosen to drink on misses rather than hits it took me about 20 minutes to get through two drinks and it was all downhill from there.

Chris and the Lovely and Talented Linda stayed up past their bedtimes, much to our delight, although I nearly killed Chris as he mangled the Spanish language so badly only Mangcha' could possibly have deciphered it.

Eventually we wrapped the game up as some folks headed off to bed and the rest of us stayed and chatted for a while longer. We ordered pizza in the wee hours and it was damn near perfect, and after the last few stalwarts toddled off to bed around 5 a.m., Leigh Ann, Jason and I once again found ourselves as the last fen sitting. When I got back to my room I found Deborah "Lazer" Kopec and Joe "El Camino" Price still conscious and we chatted some more until I realized that was sunlight peeking between the blackout curtains.



When that finished up, all that was left was the lingering series of goodbyes that happen at the end of every con, with the vague beginnings of plans and plots being laid for the next event. Some folks, like Jason Schachat, we won't see until Loscon unfortunately, but Bryan and Mette were turning their sights towards Steam Powered which is now just a few weeks away, and I'm doing likewise. I wonder what sort of goggles go with a sombrero?

We asked for a late checkout and only just managed to get packed and move everything to the car in time for lunch at Sprigs. I had a hamburger which was much better than the previous day's meal, although service was still a little dodgy. Even though most of the comfy booths are long gone, the layout fortunately hasn't been changed yet so it's still a good spot to linger and chat with folks on their way to and from programming.

We did this for about an hour, chatting with Anna and Kay and later with Mette Hedin (sporting a very cool hoodie she had made) and Bryan Little before heading over to check out the Match Game already in progress. I have only ever seen After Dark editions so I wasn't sure if it would be quite as fun, but it turned out to be a hoot and there was even a Con-X-Treme question which drew a good reaction from both the panelists and the crowd.



PEERS Throws a Hot Steampunk Ball

Story and photos by Jean Martin
Editor

I'd been looking forward to the PEERS Steampunk ball for quite some time as I'm totally into Steampunk right now. Well, who isn't? It seems to be the hottest trend at the moment. The great thing about Steampunk is that there are so many variations of how it is interpreted and anyone can get into it based on their individual interests.

This particular ball, held September 6 at the San Mateo Masonic Hall, had the theme "Space 1889: The Adventure of Le Cirque de Venus." Basically, it was a Victorian Steampunk ball in space.

The thing that I (and a lot of other people) find awesome about Steampunk is that it combines our interests in the Victorian era and science fiction. And it's quite easy to put together costumes. One can use typical Victorian garb and just add a few futuristic props like goggles and ray guns. Some other folk get really elaborate like La Legion Fantastique who perform at Dickens Fair and show up at various conventions. Their costumes are quite elaborate and some of them play characters from Jules Verne's novels. At the Space 1889 ball they also brought Robur's heat ray gun, which they displayed at the entrance to the hall.

To start off, we all sang "Rule, Britannia!" but with modified lyrics. The lyrics reflect an alternate universe in which Britain had occupied



Members of La Legion Fantastique

the planet Venus for the preceding ten years. The ball was to celebrate the tenth anniversary of British rule.

The ball was a huge success. Attendance was high and everyone had a good time dancing and socializing. It was a very colorful ball with people dressed in different types of costumes. I had a new generic Steampunk costume for the evening, on which I got a lot of compliments. The band Bangers and Mash played beautiful

waltzes, polkas, mazurkas, schottisches, reels, ragtime two-steps and tangos. I danced quite a lot, as I've missed dancing. I also got to do a special set dance called the Lancers Quadrille. I was in a group with only one other person who knew the dance other than myself, but we did okay and enjoyed it even though we made mistakes. Dancing at PEERS is all about having fun... and great aerobic exercise too!

PEERS is also about food, drink and



Steampunk Ladies

good company. That evening there was the usual delectable and visually appealing snack buffet and also a no-host cash bar. Several of my friends from the sci fi world showed up too. It was great to see them dancing along with my dance friends. But then, as I've mentioned in previous articles, the lines between the vintage dance world and sci fi fandom are quite blurred and there's a lot of overlap.

I did save some of my energy for the Peerless Music Hall performance during the second intermission. I'm part of the Peerless

Beauties and we sing and dance to Victorian tunes. This time, though, the lyrics of the songs were changed to space themes. I always have a blast performing with the Music Hall. My usual costume of Victorian white undergarments (which really are quite modest compared to the racy outfits of today) was Steampunked with a black corset with silver buckles and goggles.

The highlight of the evening was a special film shown during the third break. Filmed by Christophe Pettus (the photographer for the PEERS Pre-Code Hollywood 2007 calendar I was part of), it was entitled *Transit of Venus*. A hush fell over the room as the film was projected on a wall next to the stage. It starred the Queen of the Venusian Trapeze and star of the Cirque de Venus, Ariyana le Fey. Ari, in an aviatrix outfit, was on a trapeze in a dark studio and did several breathtaking poses while slow, atmospheric songs plays in the background. The film gave me chills and there was thunderous applause when it ended. Ari is quite a multi-talented lady and Christophe a gifted filmmaker.

My friends and I left for pie after midnight with the ball

raging on past its allotted time. We saw some of the members of La Legion Fantastique at Heidi's Pies and I'm sure it was strange for the mundanes to see people in Steampunk outfits at a diner. But I suppose that's just a day in the life for us fen.

For more information on PEERS, visit www.peers.org.



Venusian Scientist and Space Tourist

Cosplayers Come Out for Yaoi-Con

Photos by Oscar Chang

Yaoi-Con 2008 (subtitled “A celebration of male beauty and passion in Anime and Manga”) was held this past September 26-28 at the San Mateo Marriott.

As the con’s own web site admits, “Yaoi is a concept that pretty much defies understanding by non-fans, particularly in the West.” Here’s how Andy Trembley attempted to explain it way back in *SF/SF* #11:

“YAOI is the Japanese equivalent to ‘Slash’ fiction. Except...

“Where slash generally involves characters from live-action shows, yaoi features characters from anime and manga (comic books). Where slash is written mostly by women over 30, yaoi is (in Japan) written mostly by high-school and college girls. Where slash takes the form of prose, Yaoi takes the form of self-published comic books (doujinshi). Where slash writers look for cues and clues in source material to match up characters, yaoi writers match

(Continued on page 19)







characters up because they would look good in bed together. There's one really big difference, though, that eclipses the others. As popular as yaoi doujinshi are 'Boys Love' (or 'BL') manga: commercially published series by professional mangaka (comic artists). Several manga publishing houses have imprints that are exclusively dedicated to BL titles."

The Yaoi-con website continues, "The intended audience is female. Which isn't to say that guys, regardless of sexual persuasion, don't enjoy yaoi. Some definitely do, and enjoy it immensely."

Be that as it may, it's clear that Yaoi-con brings out the local cosplayers in force, and Oscar Chang was kind enough to share with us several photos from this year's event.

If you enjoy Oscar's photos, you can find more at his web site, divideby0.com. You can learn more about Yaoi-con (and about Yaoi in general) at the Yaoi-con site, yaoicon.com.

Farewell to the Star Trek Experience

Story and Photos by Jean Martin
Editor

When I heard that the Star Trek Experience attraction at the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas was going to close down for good, I was sad, as I really enjoyed that place. It's one of my favorite attractions in Vegas and one of the main reasons I went in 2002 and again last year. But since I had just seen it recently, it wasn't a big priority for me to go again until Marcin, my boyfriend at the time, mentioned that he wanted to see it as he'd never been.

He and I are both huge *Star Trek* fans, especially of *The Next Generation*. However, I grew up with the Original Series and loved that as well, while he's a more recent fan and was very partial to *Deep Space Nine*. So I thought it would be a nice weekend getaway for us and so did he.

I was pretty excited as I do like Vegas a lot and I didn't get to see too much of it last time. That was when I went with my friends that I do masquerade competitions with to see the musical *Spamalot* at the Wynn Hotel. Our group won Best in Show at BayCon in 2006 for our "Knights of the Round Table" routine. We did go to the Star Trek Experience then, as we were all into sci fi and fantasy. That time I got to see the relatively newer Borg Invasion 4-D attraction, which wasn't around in 2002.

So I didn't really expect much this time around when I went on August 22nd, during



Soon-to-be-unemployed Klingon.

the next-to-last weekend before the attraction closed. But I was pleasantly surprised to find that there was more to do, such as a backstage tour and several photo booths. I don't know if these were added just recently, but I only just found

out about them this time. We decided to buy the special ticket package that included everything they had to offer: the Klingon Encounter ride, the Borg Invasion 4-D show, a backstage tour and a choice of two photos.

First, we had lunch at Quark's Bar and Restaurant. The area with the restaurant, bar and shops is patterned after the *Deep Space Nine* promenade. The food and drinks, with interesting Star Trek-inspired names, were just okay but it was a fun experience to be eating in such a futuristic atmosphere. Some of the alcoholic drinks looked quite interesting, such as the Warp Core Breach, which was a big fishbowl with neon green liquid and white smoke coming out of it. They even had a commemorative menu saying "Thank You for 10 Out-of-this-World Years." Oh, and the food was better than what was shown in the "replicator" in one of the hallways.

Then we did the Klingon Encounter, since that was the first attraction built, and I like that one better than the Borg Invasion 4-D. But first we had to walk through the museum with a timeline of the *Star Trek* universe, large model spaceships overhead, set pieces with Borgs and Klingons,

and weaponry and costume displays.

The Klingon Encounter is a lot like Star Tours in Disneyland. I suppose now that it's gone forever, I can share with you the "secret" that patrons are not supposed to reveal to the outside world. The most interesting special effect was when we were led into a waiting area for the ride, and wound up being transported somewhere else. We were then led onto the bridge of the *Enterprise-D* where Commander Riker informed us that Captain Picard disappeared as soon as a Klingon commander tried to abduct us. Thus, he believes, one of us is an ancestor of Captain Picard.

Riker assured us that he would send us back to our own time and we boarded a shuttle craft after using a turbo lift. The shuttle craft ride was a simulation where we saw space above us as we tried to flee the pursuing Klingons. It was quite a bumpy ride with lots of phaser firing going on and after going through a wormhole, we wound up in present-day Las Vegas. Well, ten-years-in-the-past Vegas, as the film was shot a long time ago. But it was still funny and thrilling to seem to fly over the lights of Sin City and land back at the Hilton. Picard then thanked us for restoring his existence. This ride was a lot of fun, even the third time around.

Then we did the Borg Invasion 4-D. I remember being really creeped out last year when I walked into this as we were pursued by Borgs. But I wasn't as scared this time, I guess because I knew what to expect. I really wanted to like this, as it's based on *Star Trek: Voyager*, which I like a lot, and has Captain Janeway and the Borg Queen in it. But I'm not so fond of 3-D shows. This one is like the Michael Jackson one

at Disneyland, which I'm not sure even exists anymore. We got to sit in a big theater with glasses, there was a big screen in front, and we got poked in the back, which simulated being captured and assimilated by the Borg. Then Captain Janeway came and saved us. I'm not sure what 4-D is since really, there were only ever three dimensions. The effects were quite impressive but it wasn't really all that thrilling.

After the ride and the 3-D, I mean 4-D, show, I was quite nauseous as I suffer from motion sickness. So when Marcin wanted to do

**We wound up in
present-day Las Vegas.
Well, ten-years-in-the-
past Vegas, as the film
was shot a long time ago.**

the Klingon ride over again, I opted to just wait for him and explore what remained of the stores. There wasn't much left. Apparently, the Star Trek convention the weekend before had cleaned most everything out and there was only one souvenir store left, which was too bad as I was hoping to buy some collectibles and even apparel. There really wasn't much that was interesting in the remaining store, but I did buy several pins that I can use with my *Star Trek* costumes.

I only spotted a couple of working characters walking around: one Borg and one Klingon, and there was one actress from the Original Series signing autographs. But there

were a lot of patrons around, a stark contrast to when I went last year. I suppose a lot of folks were trying to see it before it closed. There was a wall of notes from people saying thank you and how much they would miss the attraction. There was also one wedding while we were there. I got to see the bride and groom, who were in costumes but not very *Star Trek*-like. Apparently, the bridge of the *Enterprise* had been booked for several weddings right up until the place closed.

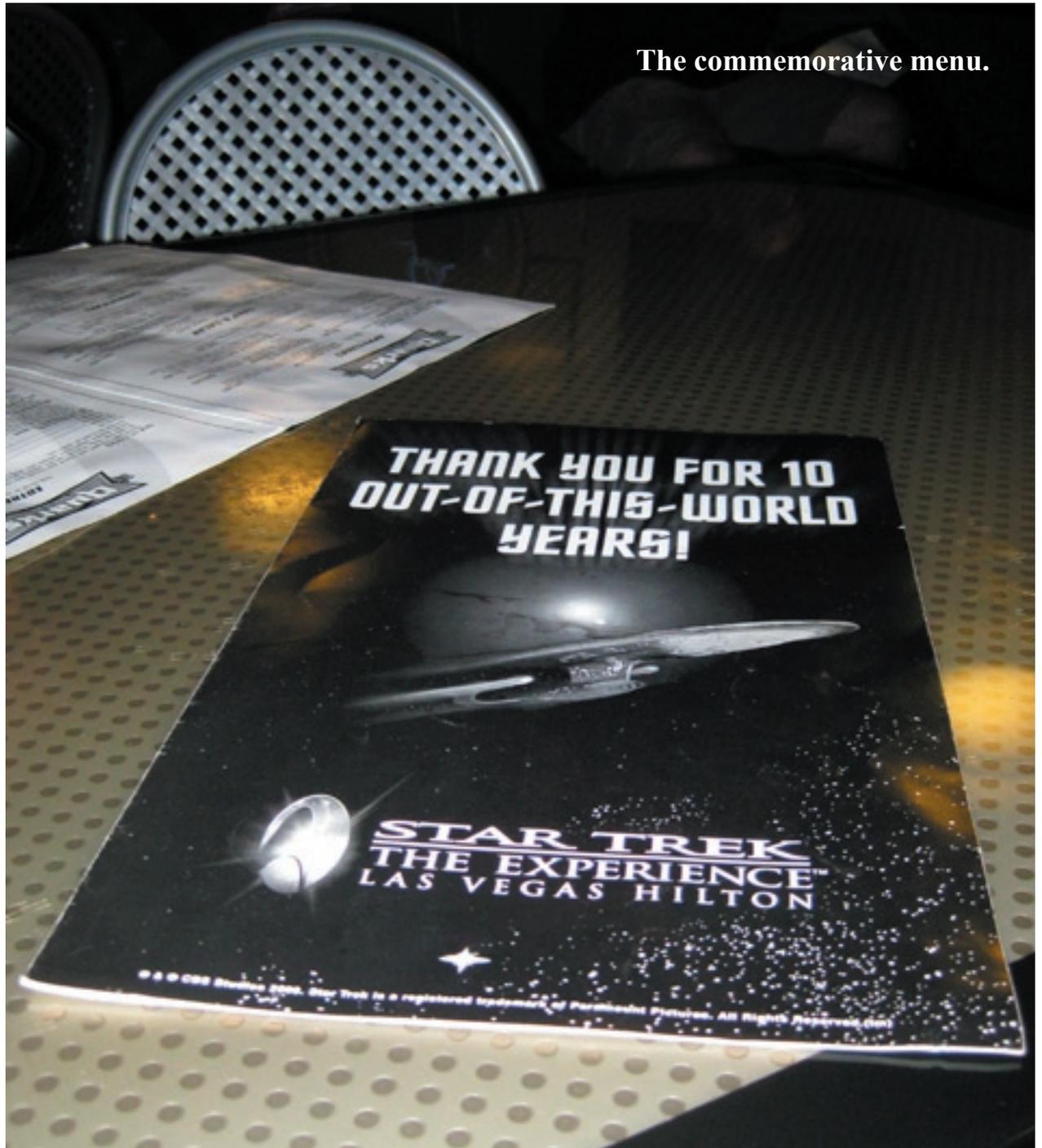
After Marcin met up with me, we got our photos taken, first on the bridge of the *Enterprise*, then in a Borg "regeneration chamber." These photos actually came out quite well. Then we got a caricature made of the two of us by an artist who was there. It's a cheesy, touristy thing to do, but we just went for everything that we could possibly do. The caricature turned out quite good as well. I was an Orion Slave Girl and he was a Cardassian.

The last item on the agenda was the backstage tour, which we had to wait for as earlier slots were booked. We took the last one of the day. Our tour guide was Jerad, who normally goes around as a Ferengi character. I didn't really expect much from the tour but it actually turned out to be entertaining and informative. Jerad remembered all our names after just telling him once and he took us around the actors' dressing rooms, which were filled with personal memorabilia from past conventions and events where the real actors from the TV shows made appearances. We got to see Jerad's Ferengi mask, then he took us under the two shuttle crafts. It was quite interesting to see how they worked. We also saw some of the equipment used to run the attractions.

In the last part of the tour we went up into a special party room where we all got certificates and got to talk to Jerad. He said he was sad not only to be out of a job but because he won't be able to portray a character that he loves playing. You could tell that the people that do this are really passionate about it. He claimed he had even memorized the entire Ferengi Rules of Acquisition!

The end of the tour was a fitting farewell to the Star Trek Experience. I will remember it fondly. I'm glad I got to see it three times, and that the last was a complete experience. Marcin and I were there for six hours!

Also, although the Star Trek Experience is gone, I don't think my experiencing *Star Trek* will be over any time soon. The new movie will be coming out next year and there are always conventions to go to. I tend not to go to the official Star Trek ones anymore as they have become too commercial, but the Klingons always make an appearance at BayCon, SiliCon and other local cons. Klingons throw the best parties. And there's always us Federation types who hang out at conventions. So don't be surprised to see me as Marlena Moreau from the Original Series or Captain Janeway from *Voyager* sometime soon. I'm also working on other costumes that will make their debut at some convention in the future.



The commemorative menu.

BASFA Minutes: Meeting 948

Meeting 948

September 30, 2008

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

Began 8:05, after orders were taken

32 people attended

A party jar was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 947 were accepted as 'picking the nits'

Treasurer's report was that last week we took in \$70.75 in the regular jar and \$9.89 in the party jar

The Vice president reported that there'll be a new 'Drink Tank' out this week and a new 'Journey Planet' out so check efanazines.com & his food has arrived and he'll be doing both fanzine lounge and newsletter for SiliCon and he's eating his soup

The President had nothing fannish to report - except that SiliCon is this weekend

The Party Committee reported he saw Michael

Wallis and there'll be an ERPs party at SiliCon, on Saturday in room 265 and the Silicon Arts council needs a programmer

Announcements:

Maureen announced that SiliCon is this weekend at the Doubletree, \$25 for a one-day membership and she'll be in the Art show - as will Howeird [with nifty photos], SiliCon TV should be channel 37, the Westercon party is Saturday night, there'll be an SF/SF party in room '360-something'; the Match Game will be Sunday at 2 pm and a PENSWAG meeting Saturday in Campbell

Dann announced that Ken Laile won't be making SiliCon after all [a paying job interfered] and SiliCon still needs volunteers badly

Julie announced that espace made its first orbital launch and that Oct 11-12 will be an organ gathering in Sutter Creek and that Disney is doing a special for a free admission on your birthday

Dave C announced that this Thursday will be the Biden-Palin debate

Howeird announced that he'll be on 10 am panels at SiliCon on Saturday and Sunday & [evil] Kevin follow-on'd that he'll do his Spintronics panel on 11:30 Sunday

[tall] Kevin announced that Ed Green is in some

of the Discovery channel ads for 'Dirty Jobs' as a dancing plumber and said for us to go read Cheryl's blog to watch her menace fandom again

Reviews:

Joe reviewed a wake for a RenFaire friend as a nice pagan ceremony and she's tired of hearing about deaths in that community

Adrienne reviewed 'Ghost Town' as kind of a cute movie and worth matinee & thinks 'Primeval' is a bit derivative but she's enjoying it

Harold reviewed 'Dexter' as worth having Showtime in order to get & reviewed 'Ghost Town' as damned funny and a cautionary tale about hospitals and reviewed the Pacifica Fog festival as - there was fog

Michael reviewed some of Toby Bluth's artwork as it blew him away [check at www.peabodygallery.com for more info]

Howeird reviewed 'Dreams from my Father' by Obama as not a page turner and worth reading for the angst

Miko commented that the Casa de Ren Faire will be going on until Oct 11 and worth it when they went & reviewed the 'Ideal Bar and Grill' in Santa Cruz as very good and has an impressive menu

Joe reviewed Yaoi-con as 'if you're not androgynous then you're effectively invisible' and he enjoyed the con

Andy reviewed Yaoi-con as possibly a greater disaster in ballroom seating than Baycon WITH screaming fangirls and the hotel staff was being weirder than usual and the air conditioning was lacking

Ken reviewed retro roller skating in Milpitas as there was a Dr Who pinball machine there, people skated and had fun and the snack bar was good - all worth full price; Chris follow-on'd that he had a great time

Chris reviewed Netflix as fools and they forgot to include a NDA for Roku - which was reviewed as crap - and reviewed 'Speed Racer' as he's lucky he still has a girlfriend & everything not CGI came from Ikea; and reviewed 'Incident at Loch Ness' as it wasn't good but it wasn't bad

Glenn reviewed seeing the 'net version of 'Shoggoth on the Roof' as amusing

We then did auctions: birthday auctioned off John O'Halloran for \$12.00 to Chris O'Halloran; then auctioned off various stuff for \$0.25; videos for \$1.00; books for \$2.00; \$1.00; a book & 1776 DVD for \$16.00; shineys for \$0.50; a USB hub for \$12.00; & CDs \$4.25; & \$11.00

We adjourned at = 9:45

And the rumor of the week was: 'Instead of a bailout, Republicans will propose 'Survivor Wall Street'



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, 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.

Wednesday, October 16

Luna Philosophie: Open Source at NASA

Yahoo! Brickhouse

500 3rd Street San Francisco

colab.arc.nasa.gov/luna

6 p.m.

Free

The thirteenth Luna Philosophie will feature Patricia Burchat, Chair of the Physics Department at Stanford University. She will

discuss a 21st Century view of the universe around dark matter and dark energy. Space is limited, so please RSVP.

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.

Sunday, October 19

Vintage Ballroom Dance with Paul Price's Society Orchestra

Palo Alto Masonic Center

461 Florence

Palo Alto

4 p.m.

\$15

Includes dance lesson and light refreshments.

Dressy attire, costumes admired but not required.

Monday, October 20

Author: Jonathan Carroll

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

www.booksmith.com

7:30 p.m.

Free

The author 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

The Singularity Summit
291 S. Market Street
Montgomery Theater
San Jose
\$500
Speakers include Vernor Vinge, Peter Diamandis

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

Peter Smith: Phoenix Mars Lander Lecture
Kanbar Hall
Jewish Community Center
3200 California Street
7:30 p.m.
\$5
Dr. Peter Smith from the University of Arizona is the Principal Investigator for the Phoenix Mars Mission.

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

Isotope Comics Halloween 2008 Monster Mosh
Fat City
314 11th Street
Details TBA
The Isotope's annual Halloween bash featuring glam rock band Triple Cobra and the Bay Area Derby Girls.

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

Tuesday, November 4

Authors: Jeff and Anne Vandermeer

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

7 p.m.

Free

Join the editors of *The Steampunk Anthology* for
a signing and discussion of steampunk.

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-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 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 cyberbunk and
Stephen Elliot reads something TBA. All
proceeds benefit the No on 8 Campaign.

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.

Sunday, November 16

Maxixe Workshop

Palo Alto Masonic Center

461 Florence

Palo Alto

3:30 p.m.

\$15

Maxixe lesson with Stan Isaacs.

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
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
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 14-15

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, consuite. 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
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.sfghosthunt.com](#)

[7 p.m. – 10 p.m.](#)

[\\$20](#)

Sundays

[Sakramento Anime Society](#)

[Rancho Cordova Library](#)

[9845 Folsom Boulevard](#)

[Rancho Cordova](#)

[3-7 p.m.](#)

[Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.](#)

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
 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

Giovanni's

1127 N Lawrence Expy

Sunnyvale

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

Its 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 Fridays

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.usndefiance.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.

Space Shuttle *Columbia* embarks on Mission STS-75, February 22, 1996.

NASA Photo

