

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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Into the Heart of the Galaxy

photo by Lucy Huntzinger

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Art credit:

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Page 9 – Tom Becker (if you call that art)

Page 11 – Sue Mason

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

The new year has brought us good stuff in the mail. Steven Silver, perennial Hugo nominee and damn nice guy, has released the latest issue of *Argentus*. It's got a part of my TAFF report as well as various articles from top-flight fan writers and pros alike. I'd say it'll make the ballot for Best Fanzine in Montreal.

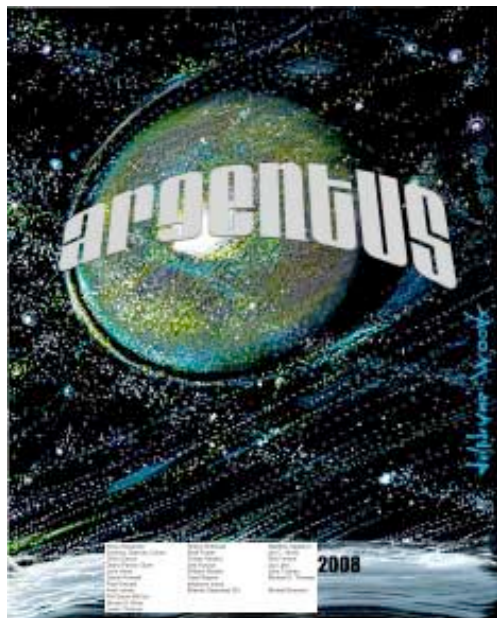
By the way, in a magical piece of coincidence, Steven Silver wrote me and asked if I'd be the Fan Guest of Honor at Windycon this year! I of course said yes and will be invading Lombard, Illinois for the first time in

my life. During November. Here's hoping the weather stays good. Global warming, do your stuff!



wins my moment of the year. True, there were a few things on my TAFF trip, but I think the fact that the entire trip was so amazing makes it hard to choose just one moment.

Looking at eFanzines, you'll see that there are tons of new zines up. I dropped a few *Drink Tanks* of late, largely because I had Christmas vacation. Issue 195 is a year-in-review issue, suitable for framing. Another Nic Farey zine, *Arrows of Desire*, was added, as were the first thirty issues of *WeberWoman's Wrevenge!* Garth Spencer's *Royal Swiss Navy Gazette* also put



I'm officially naming my best moment of 2008. Westercon, Las Vegas, Saturday night. I was wandering around trying to find someone, and ran into Bill Mills. I love that guy! Anyhow, I have been a big fan of Bill's YouTube video from the Fan Cabaret at Westercon 33 of him and a group performing "Rocket Man." It's a great video (you can find it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1jrrt6wYv0). I stopped by, seeing that Bill had his guitar, and requested "Rocket Man." He, in good form, performed it masterfully. There were only three of us there, me, Bill and Roxie, and that easily



images courtesy of eFanzines.com

out its latest issue. It's a busy time, you should get readin'!

I sent out the first issue of *Claims Department* that's getting a general release, instead of as a part of FAPA, since 2005. It's a weird issue. Probably not the best foot to return on. It's gone out to 25 recipients around the world, Sweden, Australia, the UK and Canada, along with a few USers. It'll be irregular and it'll go to random people, more or less. It'll be on eFanzines at some point and it'll be slightly different.

There's also a fine collection of letters to *New Worlds* on eFanzines.com. I thought it was really cool to see that stuff!

John Scalzi was in town on the 16th. Always good to see the Old Man himself hangin' around these parts.

In case you haven't heard, the first batch of BayCon GoHs have been announced. Mercedes Lackey and Larry Dixon are the Author Guests of Honor while Fred Patten is a fine Fan Guest of Honor and writer Jennifer Brozek is Toastmaster. That's a good lineup, but I don't see any artist GoH yet. I'm hoping that they choose to have one as I've been a fan of the recent artists they've brought out.

Cinequest has put together their short film program and it's really good stuff. There are a lot of films that'll certainly interest readers of this fine zine, including *Welgunzur*, a time-travel film, *La Hora de la Muerte*, a Mexican version of Art Bell's radio show, and *The Stars Don't Twinkle in Outer Space*. There's an animation program that'll knock your socks off too, especially an Australian film called

Chainsaw. The whole program is great, with one of my favorite short films of all-time, *Love You More*, really making a powerful impact.

I'll be talking about this more later, but *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* has announced it's going bi-monthly. It's a shame as it's the only one of the big three that regularly entertains me. I'll talk more about that one in my editorial. That, and newspapers reducing regular service, are all signs that print is actually almost at the hospital on its way to death.

Folks are starting to put up Hugo recommendations for various things. Mostly it's folks reminding folks that their stuff is eligible. I'm not likely to do that for myself, but if you go through the pages of *SF/SF* from 2008, you'll see the names of just about everyone I'd nominate for Best Fan Writer and Best Fan Artist.

efanzines.com/Corflu26/ is the location to find the voting ballot for the FAAn Awards. I've actually won one of these (Best New Fan in 2006), but that's no reason why you shouldn't vote for them

We've lost yet another major influence on the early portion of my Science Fiction-loving life. Patrick McGoohan, the creator and star of *The Prisoner*, passed away on the 13th. He was a big deal around my house, as we loved *The Prisoner* and I watched it every week on KTEH when it was on there.

There was panic on the streets of LJ about the laying off, without severance, of a dozen or so of the employees at the San Francisco LJ office. SUP, the Russian company that bought

LJ a while back, seems to be bringing everyone into their Moscow office. Some are fearing the folding of the site, and I think that'd be an absolute shame. There are few other blogging sites that are easy enough for me to understand how to use 'em and none I can think of that are as massive and fun. I've no idea how to easily get my stuff off of LJ and still keep all the comments and stuff. Having no tech skills can be difficult sometimes.

The 2009 FAAn Awards Ballot

The winners of the 2009 Fanzine Artists Achievement (FAAn) Awards will be announced during the Branch in Corflu 26 in Seattle, WA, on March 13, 2009. (www.corflu.org)

There will be no voting during Corflu this year. You are not required to return the ballot, but you should.

* By email: Corflu26@earthlink.net with a deadline of midnight, Thursday, 11/2/08

** By postal mail: 3847 W. Beach, 4th floor, Box 9, Renton, WA 98057, USA, with a payment deadline of Thursday, 1/16/09

Please list in each category a maximum of three choices, in your order of preference. You are being asked to vote publicly, so 2009. Each first place vote earns five points, second place, three points, third place, one point.

Best Fanzine	Best Fan Writer
1	1
2	2
3	3

Best Fan Artist	Best Letterhead
1	1
2	2
3	3

Best New Fanzine Fan	Best Online Fanzine Site
1	1
2	2
3	3

Notes:

* "Best Letterhead" is the short name of "The Story Women In: Memorial Award for Best Fan Correspondent"

Letters of Comment

Lloyd Penney writes:

Thank you all for your good work to produce another *SF/SF*, in front of a 78. (Wish you'd done this with issue 45, right?) Yvonne and I have had a great Christmas, and we hope you all did, too. I can only imagine what a BArea fannish New Year's Eve party would be like, so keep us in mind while you dance the night away, okay? In the meantime, here's a loc on the issue at hand.

News and Notes... nope Bettie Page didn't make it. All we have left now is memories, and erotic poses to remember her by. The political crisis in Canada isn't really a crisis... what sounds like a coup by a coalition is actually completely legal under a parliamentary democracy, such as what Canada, Great Britain and Australia have. This is also very possible when you have more than two political parties with representatives in the national parliament. Our prime minister has shown that he is desperate to hang onto power by suspending parliament, but once the holidays are done, we will see what happens. No crisis, we had Christmas as usual, and a surprising percentage of the population had no idea that anything was happening. It's certainly different, but there's no crisis, unless the prime minister is letting his imagination run wild.

Jean Martin responds: *I just discovered Bettie Page and the whole pinup fandom*

community recently. I'm sad to hear that she passed away. There seems to be a trend of icons leaving our Earth recently. And thanks for the information on what's going on politics-wise in Canada. I didn't hear anything about this but I suppose I would have eventually. I should probably ask my friend who's part of the PM's security detail.

My loc...I have gotten in touch with some people who want to form a Toronto Steampunk Society. We've revealed to them our intentions of staging steamy high teas in Toronto and Rochester, and there has been little interest, but we may go ahead with them anyway. We need the local cons to start publicizing them, and they are a little late off the mark.

A Steampunk high tea sounds like a marvelous idea! I wish you a lot of success in this endeavor. Sometimes these things start small and then they grow once more people find out that it's actually happening.

Conventions are the best place to interact with people and socialize with them. More current generations than mine are missing out on this, and don't realize that friendships can last a lifetime when formed face to face. The people we've met through not only science fiction conventions, but also space conferences. At the last one I attended in Dallas, I got Rusty Schweikart his membership package. A movie about Worldcons would be helpful to the

general public if we could only get them to think of us other than just weird space cadets.

It would be great if Chris does get around to doing a movie about Worldcon. I think conventions are the best way to make lifetime friends who have the same interests too.

Philip Gust is completely right... Forry will be around as long as we remember him and honour the final fannish traditions he helped to form. We just remember that big smile of his, and keep that smile in mind when we meet new fans who may want to participate and find out more about this fandom thing we take part in. Forry would welcome those new fans in; can we do any less?

That's what I love about fandom, it's so welcoming to new people.

Yeah, there's that picture on page 11... let's hear from the apostles on this one...

Here's this apostle's reply... courtesy of Andrew Lloyd Webber (from one of my favorite musicals, Jesus Christ Superstar):

Always hoped that I'd be an apostle

Knew that I would make it if I tried

Then when we retire we can write the gospels

So they'll still talk about us when we've died.

Every review I read about a LosCon or SiliCon, I keep thinking, I wanna go! There's lots in common with local cons here, but the

California cons seem to have a little more imagination in their programming. I look forward to displaying my Steampunk costume at the next Ad Astra, but I wonder what the response to it will be... probably not as positive as those costumes I might see in a California con report. Wil Wheaton is someone I'd like to meet. Promise, not a word about a certain Acting Ensign, Wil. There's lots more to talk about. When you come up to Toronto, enjoy the city, and we should be able to help, but when it comes to getting to Montréal, the VIA train is definitely the way to go.

Do send us photos of your Steampunk costume! I would love to meet Wil Wheaton. He sounds more interesting than I expected.

Any response yet to the death of Majel Roddenberry? A nice lady we met twice, and the heart and soul of Trek. She lived long enough to provide the voice of the Enterprise's computers in the upcoming new Trek movie. Also saw something on Trufen... the pulp illustrator Edd Cartier has passed away. And Eartha Kitt...the obituary lists in zines like *File 770* and *Ansible* are going to be far too long.

As I mentioned earlier, too many icons leaving us. There hasn't been any responses to Majel's death other than folks emailing about the news and posting on Facebook.

I am done like dinner here, folks...we're going to have a light dinner, and then I have to go to work! Today is a holiday here, Boxing Day, but Saturday and Monday are regular days, and what I do for the newspaper affects both those days. Happy New Year to everyone, hugs to Jean, and take care, all. We will see you

in 2009, may it be a better year than the one just ending. Bye!

I can't believe the holidays just came and went. At least I had a good Christmas and Boxing Day even though my New Year didn't turn out the way I wanted.

And Lloyd Penney writes again!

Oh, geeze, it's him again, writing these stupid letters... well, there's gotta be someone thinking that when they open their Inbox! On the assumption it's not you, here's another letter on *SF/SF 79*.

Jean responds: It's always me checking the SF/SF inbox and it's always a pleasure to receive an email from you.

E-zines are the way of the future, but hey, we're still producing and buying vinyl records, so I expect paper zines will be produced for a long time to come. As much as I like the e-zines arriving on eFanzines.com or in my own Inbox, I still like to find that a paperzine or two have made their way to the mailslot in my front door. (Years ago, I might have received up to ten paperzines a week, which must have made the guy who delivers my mail wonder what I'm doing, and if I was up to no good.)

There's always going to be nostalgia for LPs and I'm sure the same is true for paper zines. I personally love paper even though I have now switched to online zines as well as digital scrapbooking. I still do collect all sorts of paper literature like brochures, to-go menus, stationery, note cards, colored and decorative papers, etc. And I still buy books to

keep even though I listen to them in audio first.

I guess because of my age, I don't mind being away from my e-mail and other websites for a while; there's always time to catch up when you return from wherever you've gone. I have proved to myself that it's a good idea to carry a cell phone with you when you travel. Jean, great to read that you plan to come to Montreal for the Worldcon. Big hugs when you get here.

My Internet connection went down over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend. And I couldn't get a technician to come in until that Monday. I was panicking that I couldn't get online! That's how I realized how addicted I've become to the Internet. At least I didn't drive out to the nearest wireless station a block away from me (there's free wireless in the city where I live). I also now check my email on my new, and very lovely and fast, pink Dell laptop right before I go to bed. I hated that my ex-boyfriends did that and now I'm doing it too. I think it's time to wean myself off a little bit.

Still planning on going to Worldcon even though there's been several rounds of layoffs where I work. It's beginning to get really scary and sad. I've never gone through this before, at least at this magnitude, although I'm sure a lot of people here in the Bay Area who are in technology have. I went into finance thinking it's more stable! Now with less people, there's obviously also more work for those of us left behind. Still, I'm very grateful to still have a job in this uncertain economy.

You only do some things once a year, Jean? Besides trying to prevent the feeling of routine, there's so much to do in the BArea, I'd think that once a year would be all you'd be able to do for any given activity. Again, I wish we had stuff like this in Toronto. We are trying to get a Steampunk high tea going at Ad Astra, and we have to figure out how to get the word out about the tea.

I've thought about this and I seem to really like variety. Lots of people like to do things over and over again but I don't. As you said, there's way too many other things to do so I find that I would like to sample a bit of everything rather than a lot of one or two things. I suppose that's just my personality. And that's why I absolutely love buffets, smorgasbords and dim sum!

Odd was also the name of a fanzine by David Haugh in the 90s, if I recall. Haugh was from Oregon, and was a cartoonist in demand because of his little tin can robots. Dare I ask why those signs on page 19 were posted at Anime LA? I may be attending Anime North in Toronto this coming May, not because I am a fan of anime, but because the con often has voice actors as guests, and I might be able to learn something from them in my own quest to become a professional voice actor.

Neat calendar attachment at the end... keep doing this, and people will just print it and stick it on the fridge with magnets. Or is that the whole idea?

14 locs in 2008? I wrote 20 to Chris for *The Drink Tank* in 2008. He must be getting sick of e-mail from me...

Everyone seems to like the new, additional calendar layout. That is the idea... to print it and have it for easy reference.

With that, I'm going to finish this up and get it to you ASAP. And to make the ending of this loc a little more surreal, let's all call out for Super Chicken!

When you find yourself in danger,
When you're threatened by a stranger,
When it looks like you will take a lickin',
(cluck, cluck, cluck, cluck)
There is someone waiting,
Who will hurry up and rescue you,
Just call — for Super Chicken! (cluck, awk!)

Fred, if you're afraid, you'll have to overlook it,

Because you knew the job was dangerous when you took it! (cluck, awk!)

He will drink his Super Sauce
And throw the bad guys for a loss
And he will bring them in, alive and kickin' (cluck, cluck, cluck, cluck)

There is one thing you should learn
When there is no one else to turn to
Call... for Super Chicken! (cluck, cluck, cluck, cluck)

Call... for Super Chicken! (cluck, awk!)
Buh-bye!

Thanks for the entertaining Super Chicken lyrics. We all need some laughter during these dark times. I've been getting my daily dose of cheer from Lolcats (icanhascheezburger.com). First of all, I love cats. Second, the photos and captions are just hilarious and clever. My favorite one is the

one where the cat's cuddled up in a little bed (with coincidentally the same bed sheet and comforter as I have) and says how at night you don't want to go to bed and in the morning you don't want to get out of bed. My sentiments exactly!

Mike Schweizer (Conpix.net) writes:

I was surprised to hear of the passing of Bob Wilkins. I actually saw him last November 8th at Carnival of Stars where he MC'ed the cosplay contest.

farm4.static.flickr.com/3140/3014450711_7cf8bd7095_b.jpg

My daughter was the contest coordinator, and from his interaction with her and his on-stage presentation, I had no idea that he was afflicted with Alzheimer's. I especially liked hearing the stories relating to acquisition of movie rights and distribution arrangements at KTVU when they were one of the first satellite-delivered "superstations" in the U.S. (I work in broadcasting and never heard that side of it).

There are a few other photos of Bob at:

www.flickr.com/photos/8145334@N06/sets/72157608780096226/

The girl in the silvery skirt is "Jailbait EB," my kid. The lady in the gold lame is Pepper, the director of the convention.

Jean responds: Mike's photos from lots of conventions around the Bay Area are fabulous. Check out the links above and his Flickr web site for more. I was hoping to go to Carnival of the Stars but didn't make it. It would have been great to have coverage of that event, which I seem to miss every year.

Hopefully, next year I'll be able to go or find someone willing to cover it. I did try to find someone this time but couldn't. If anyone is interested in doing a review of this past one, let me know! We can still run it.

Howeird writes:

Love the new layout, and especially the new calendar! That looks like it was a lot of work — well done! And thanks for the useless stats, too.

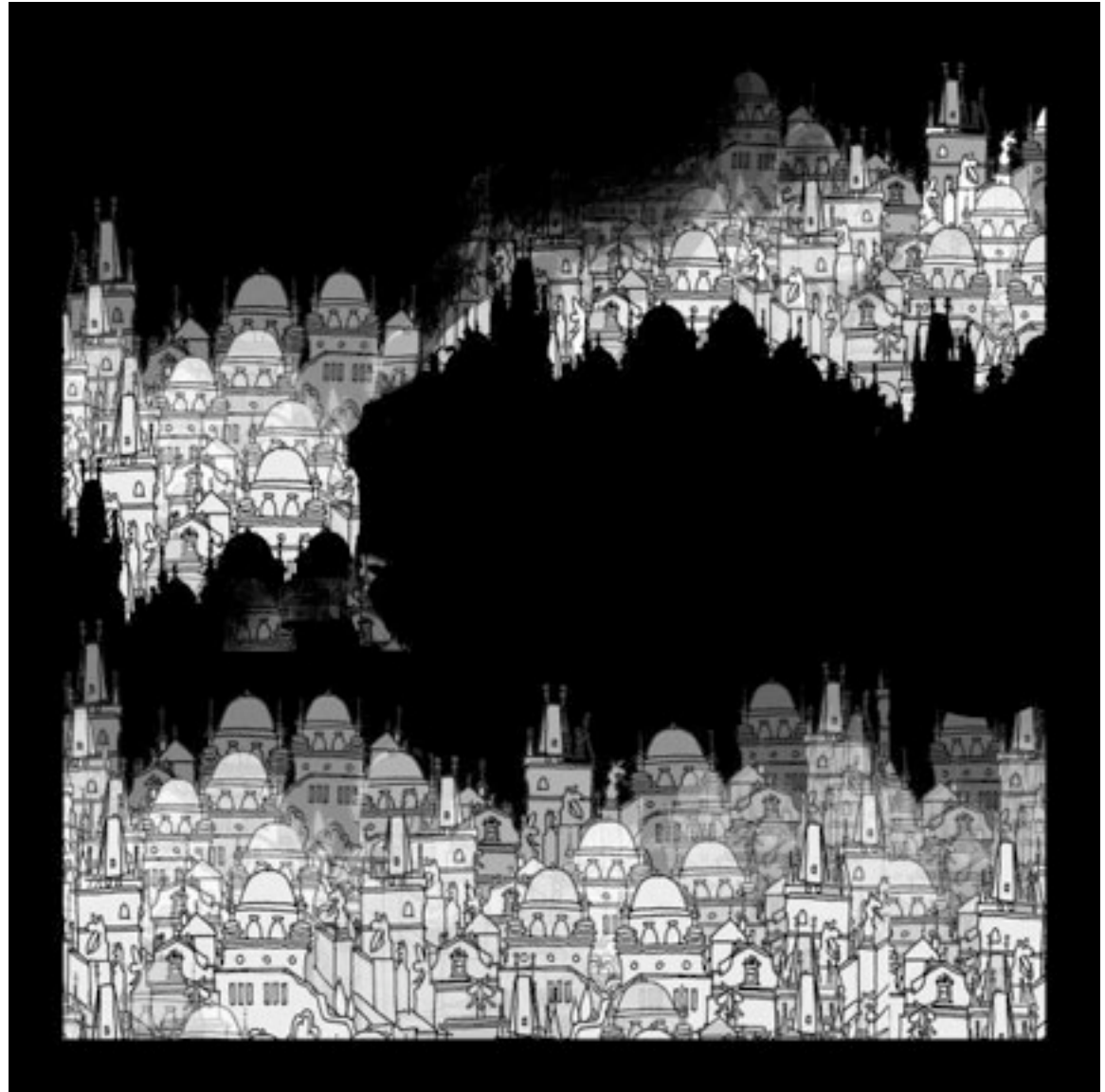
Tony Y. writes:

I like pages 33 and 34, which lists the events on a calendar. It makes for ready reference.

Nina K. writes:

Great look! It's easier to read now. The editorial and article on Majel Roddenberry are especially good, Jean! We just watched *Forbidden Planet*.

Jean responds: Above are some of the positive responses we received for our last issue, SF/SF 79, regarding our new look. We're happy with the changes and glad that our readers feel the same way. And it was an honor for me to write Majel's obituary.



Kate Kelton

Editorial

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

2009. Wow. It's a real year now, not just some weird number that comes along at some distant moment on the timeline. It's good to be here, I must say, during this awesome time in the history of fandom. We've got great cons coming, including the highly-anticipated Montreal Worldcon and Potlatch coming to beautiful Sunnyvale, and there are fantastic zines being published both on paper and on the web. I'm a pleased person with all of this. 2008 was great, with everything from Costume-Con to the Steampunk Convention coming in and going out with great excitement.

I had a blast, and I think it was also the best year for this here Fanzine. We had changes, the biggest being David, who did a great job for more than a year, stepping back from the layout and Mr. Tom Becker stepping forward to fill that role. He's doin' a great job, too. It's the fourth layout person we've had in the four years that we've been in existence. Such is the modern world: constant change.

I'm going to take a step into the territory of weird thought. I've been thinking a lot about the stuff I've been reading. I read less SF than I have over the last decade or so. In fact, I think I only read about twelve SF novels last year, maybe a half-dozen anthologies, a few of the regular magazines and various short stories and

the like on-line. Compare that to my reading in other areas. I've read about a dozen crime novels (mostly Hard Case Crime stuff), a couple of issues of Ellery Queen and a few short stories on the web. I've read four mainstream novels (Gasp!) and probably fifteen magazines of various Mainstream-ish content. I'm a big TC Boyle fan and there was a Chris Buckley novel I had to get into. I read one war novel, one western (oh, it was true crap!), two horror and a couple of fantasy novels. Oh yeah, and two romance novels, both of which were historical. That's down from 2007 where I probably read 25 science fiction books, a half-dozen crime novels, another five fantasy novels, and probably fifteen anthologies and most of the issues of *F&SF* and one or two *Analogs*. That was a year full of reading.

A few days ago I heard that *F&SF* is going bi-monthly this year. That makes me unhappy. *Analog* sucks. I always say I'm gonna give it another shot and I do and it still disappoints me overall. True, *Asimov's* is no better, and at times a great deal worse, but still, I always held *Analog* in great respect during the peak of my magazine reading just five or six years ago. *F&SF* has always been solid, the most diverse of the regular zines and the one that I think takes the most chances. Gordon Van Gelder, hereafter referred to as Gordo, is a great editor and has made *The Magazine of Fantasy &*

Science Fiction into the best genre magazine in the English Language.

So, hearing that the best of the magazines was going bi-monthly was a bummer. It's the economy and the general demise of the printed word among other things, but the fact is, they're just doin' what so many other outlets are doing. Hell, *Helix*, a fine on-line magazine that published some great material (including two pieces that'll be on my Hugo nomination ballot), has folded up shop. What can we do to save new fiction?

I think there's no hope for all of the magazines. I really don't think all the majors will survive. I asked at my local Barnes & Noble, where a buddy of mine is one of their main buyers, and he said flat out that they're lucky if they sell three issues of *Analog* and two of *F&SF*. That's bad news bears right there.

There are more writers out there right now than there have been in years, meaning more fighting for the few spots in the top mags. That's a shame, but it does mean that smaller mags and websites will probably see a better quality of writer trying to stuff their pages. The big names will still stand for nothing less than the big market paychecks, but that's OK, that's how it's always been, really. The new names will get themselves in on the ground level, but they'll be packed in with larger names who have been around and are willing to take a

slight step down. This is a very good thing because it is not the health of the big magazines that'll ensure the survival of science fiction. It is the enthusiasm of those in that middle section that'll ensure the survival.

You see, those big properties like *F&SF*, *Analog* and *Asimov's* are all good and visible, but really, they've not managed to become anything more than well-known genre mags. They attract no new kinds of readers, they simply pick up those that were already headed in that direction. It's a shame, as there were times when all three could have drawn a lot of new converts to the SF magazine world. On the other hand, things like *Andromeda Spaceways In-Flight Magazine*, *Abyss & Apex*, *Jim Baen's*

Universe and *Clarkesworld* are all doing great stuff, putting out fantastic stuff from terrific writers, some of whom are name writers, but mostly they're that layer that you have to scrape away to get at. They're good pubs, each of them more consistently readable than *Analog* or *Asimov's* or even *Interzone*. Yeah, *F&SF* is better than all of them, but still, they're the kind of things that will get writers noted and move them forward.

These aren't exactly tearing up the world in sales, but they don't have the overhead that the big ones do, and they can weather the storms with a bit more even-keelishness. These, and magazines like them, are the ones that'll help give science fiction new means and names. The

previous is far more important than the latter, though the latter gets far more attention. They may never thrive, and for all that is holy it is best that they never get to the size that the majors have attained, but they're the ones that need to be supported. Yeah, *Analog* could end its miracle run (if I remember correctly, they started in the Depression!) and the state of science fiction wouldn't be damaged. On the other hand, if we lost enough of those smaller mags, we'd see permanent stagnation and doom.

Such is the way of the world: constant change.

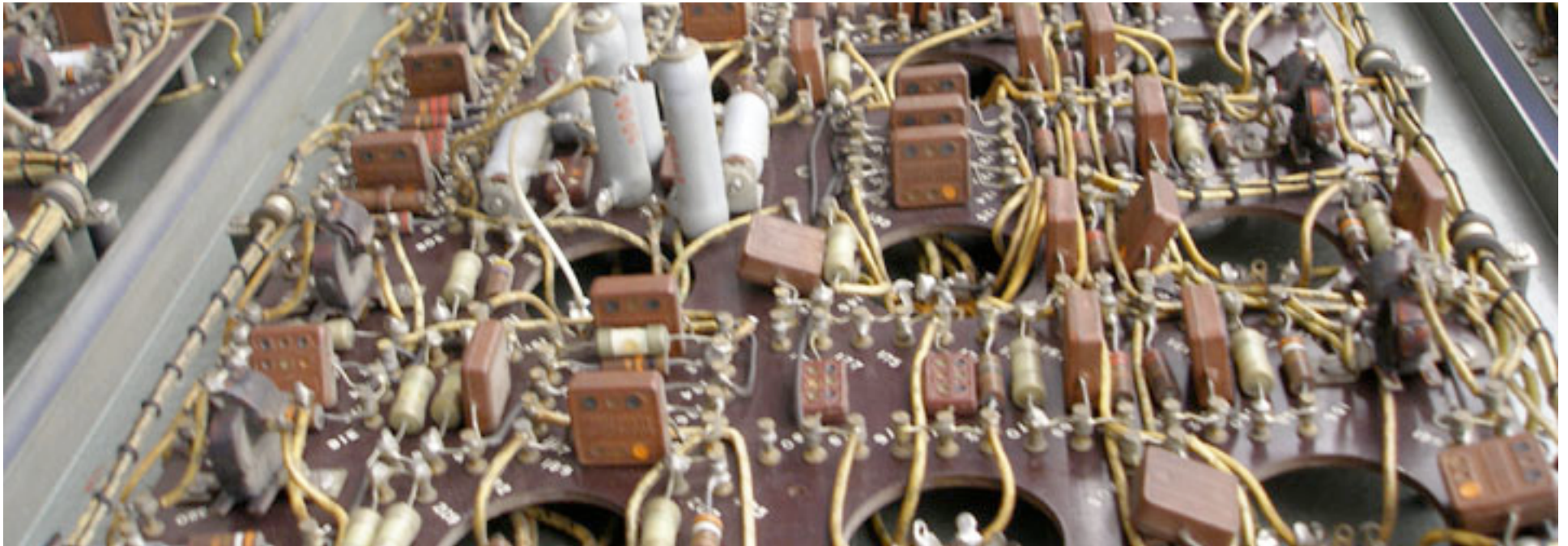


photo by Tom Becker

Montalban and McGoohan: Two More Icons Pass Away

By Jean Martin
Editor

I hadn't known until I read the news about Ricardo Montalban's death last January 20th that he was born in Mexico (of Spanish parents) and that he was a star of MGM musicals before he became known to all of us Trekkers and/or *Fantasy Island* fans as the infamous Khan and the mysterious Mr. Roarke.

I suppose growing up in the Philippines, where Spanish surnames are quite common, I didn't think "Montalban" was out of the



Khan

Courtesy of Paramount

ordinary. But I just realized how rare it was for Latinos at that time to have become famous in Hollywood. Again, *Star Trek* lives up to Gene Roddenberry's vision of a more integrated cast, and yes, real world too. The 1967 episode "Space Seed" where Montalban first appears as Khan Noonien Singh (a decidedly Asian-sounding name) was a terrific one. He reprised the role in *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* (1982) which is arguably the best of the *Star Trek* movies (so far?).

Montalban managed to embody not one, but two, of fandom's most celebrated and memorable characters. Other than Khan, he was also the handsome and suave Mr. Roarke, the host of *Fantasy Island*. This was one of my favorite TV series growing up. I loved the tropical setting, the magical premise, the surreal atmosphere and the wholesome lessons in each episode. Montalban, with his exotic looks and accent, was perfect for the role.

Montalban graced our movie and TV screens for several decades and he will be missed. He died at age 88.

Prisoner star and co-creator Patrick McGoohan also passed away this month, on January 15th at the age of 80. Unlike Montalban who I've been a fan of since my childhood, I discovered McGoohan just a few years ago. Interestingly, both "Space Seed" and *The Prisoner* came out in 1967, the year I was



Danger Man

CBS Photo Release

born.

I'd heard of *The Prisoner*, of course, but I never watched the series until 2004. I can't remember what spurred me on that year. I think there was some sort of anniversary for it around that time or it was finally released on DVD. In any case, from the first episode, I was hooked. I've never seen anything like it. It's original, surreal and clever as well as simultaneously paranoid and imaginative as only people in the



Portmeirion

photo by Sue Mason

middle of the Cold War and the Flower Power hippie era could have produced.

Each episode had a different theme but had a similar storyline. I wasn't very happy with the open-ended and bizarre conclusion to the series. But that seems to be the consensus. Still, I try not to let that ruin my enjoyment of the previous episodes and the interesting journey toward the end.

I was so enamored of Portmeirion in Wales, the location where "the Village" was filmed, that I went there in 2007 with my boyfriend at the time who was originally from Wales. His parents drove us north through the beautiful West Coast of Wales to the remote Italianate and whimsical tourist attraction at the foothills of the famous Snowdonia mountain range. Portmeirion was even more beautiful and magical in person. You can read my full report on Portmeirion (included in my 2007 sci fi and fantasy tour of the U.K.) in SF/SF Issue 49: efanzines.com/SFSF/SFSF49.pdf.

McGoohan has that cool James Bond air about him (I was surprised to find out that he was actually born in the U.S.) and I've meant to watch his earlier series, *Danger Man* (released in the US as *Secret Agent*), which is supposed to have inspired *The Prisoner*. In *Danger Man*, he plays a working spy whereas in *The Prisoner* he plays a retired spy. I finally rented the first DVD of the *Danger Man* series after he died. I was surprised to see that Portmeirion was also featured in the first episode.

Both Montalban's and McGoohan's legacies will live on in DVDs and in our hearts and minds.

This Old Fanzine: Vapourware No. 1 by Greg Hills

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

I don't know enough about Australia. It's a plain and simple fact. I've never been there, I doubt it'll ever be an option, so I can't speak from experience, but I knew a lot about England before I ever visited. I just don't know much about Australia beyond Aussie Rules Football, and I especially know very little about Australian Fandom. I jumped into TAFF which means I'm forever tied to the European side instead of Australia. Go figure.

So, sometimes I start to read Australian fanzines of the past, and even the recent past, which is what brought *Vapourware* Issue Number 1 (1993) to my eyes when I went looking for stuff on FANAC.org. As a computer guy, I immediately latched on to the name. Vaporware is anything that's supposed to be delivered, but hasn't been. 90% of the novels and collections that Harlan Ellison has ever talked about are vaporware. The problem is that once vaporware is delivered, it's just software, as Greg Hill so wisely points out. There's something magical when your thinking and that of a writer writing more than fifteen years earlier are the same. There's also something magical about something that's never come along but everyone talks about. Xanadu, a sort-of web-browser sort of thing, is my favorite vaporware.

Greg makes an interesting note: No issue of *Vapourware* will ever be finished. There'll never be a Beta version, Greg says. It's interesting in that this seems to be a paper fanzine with an electronic version. I can't think of another zine that did that for another three or four years, though I'm not sure what MT Void was doing at that point. Once again, the Australians were way ahead of us in these things!

There is a particularly interesting and important section of the introduction: *True, I have umpteen fanzines on disk, but what has scuttled each is simple fiscal impotence. No money for photocopying, no money for postage, means no publication.* You can see a problem that still exists today, but in far lesser numbers. The web was young and there were few zines out there on the web in 1993. There were a few, but not as many as there would be just a year or two later. Pubbing on the net wasn't something that was seen as viable and if you think there's a lot of steam around the number of zines done to the web today, you should see what was going on around Usenet and so on in those days on the subject.

The subject matter is all over the place in a way that I really appreciate. Let's start with the first article after the intro. It's a piece about the ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand, United States) treaty of 1951. It's a majorly important

treaty, one which is often referenced and even more often tested by difficult matters, the worst of them being New Zealand denying port to US nuclear warships, and more recently Australia's position on the matter of China and Taiwan. This isn't the kind of thing you see too often in a fanzine, and certainly not at that point in time. I find it amazing that anything like that could be written in the age when there was no Wikipedia. It's a strongly reasoned essay and a very good topic that closes with an interesting quote: *After 4 years of this sort of arrogant policy, the paradox is that USAmericans still wonder why the US is unpopular even with its nominal friends*

Sound familiar?

There's another fine piece about Denmark setting their elections and their reaction to American nuclear vessels in *their* ports. First off, I really don't understand how places do things with elections. I mean, anytime anything goes different they can call for new ones? What's up with that? I like the known-term concept, even if it means that there are longer times of leanness because you have to deal with x-long periods no matter how they perform. That's just me.

The second article that moved me was about the Devaluing of the Egobuck by Greg. It's a strong article, very opinionated and it makes many points that many folks who read

and even produce this fine zine have made over the years. The concept of fandom “graying” or that “fanzines are dying” are all things we’ve talked about for years, and it turns out that yeah, we’re getting older, but folks are producing longer and that makes up for fewer younger fans (and we do bring in the younglings, like John Coxon and Warren Buff), and that’s nothing new.

Greg’s concepts are interesting, that The Usual should have some sort of quality valve that awards some more and some less, and that trades should have a form of equality in cost and so on. I’m not one of those who holds much in those areas, but I see his point. It’s impossible for fans who are new to get a grasp on zines without a little bit of help or a natural inclination. The idea of trading zines, allowing young fans who have never seen many zines to get them in their hands by trading their own, obviously crappy zines, is way out-dated, and was by the time this article was written in 1992. On the other hand, I’m one of those who believes that costs are so high that it’s almost impossible for most of those who might want to do a regular zine to do a print zine, and that we should move online and make it available to all. Some really don’t like that idea, but things ain’t getting cheaper and you can’t keep making zines smaller just to keep costs down. I know, I’ve done it!

While Greg set us up for a blaster of an article, it’s actually pretty reasonable, right along the lines of an Arnie Katz take on the subject. I’ve read much harsher, and much less reasonable, takes on the matter.

We follow that up with a look at what it feels like to be unemployed. Everyone knows that’s one of my greatest fears. Hell, even being a full-time working guy I’m barely making ends meet, but this was an important article in that it showed how a fast-talking salesman can make you feel like you’ve got the bargain of a lifetime when you’ve paid exactly what you should have for things you didn’t need. It’s a rough trap to fall into when money’s tight, something I know from experience on both sides of the sale.

How do you follow an article like that, one which practically takes you into the store and shows you how you’re being conned? Well, of course, you go sercon. Greg shows an impressive range of argument in his take on the matter of Science Fiction not keeping up with Society. It’s good stuff, though I disagree with a few of his takes on things like technology being a defining point. His example is if you’re in a society with ample ATMs, why is your character lining up at a counter to get cash. I’m the kind of guy who feels much better depositing money into the hands of a human, and I don’t think we’ll get to the fully automated bank in the next generation or two. He also talks about the ways in which authors see the evolution of the microcomputer, specifically talking about the earpiece following on from the handheld. The lack of good voice recognition has made that impossible, but it could happen when they finally get AI right.

He finishes his ish with a fine look at the then-current Australian economic conditions.

With a bit of research, I know that it was a bad time down that way, and you can see some very interesting ties between there and then and here and now. I’m one of those who has a very gloomy take on the current situation (I’m thinking we’re in this mess for at least the next five years and I’ve taken to calling it the Grand Depression) and Greg’s view seems gloomy, but reasoned. A good combination.

Now, as a document of the early 1990s, it’s a fine one. As a piece of the puzzle as to how we got to where we are today with Electronac, it’s another step. I’m very impressed and even went on to read the second issue which is also available on FANAC.org, but if I wrote about that now, what would I write about in future This Old Fanzines?

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

An Evening of Christmas Revelry and Dancing

By Jean Martin

Editor

I've been going to the Gaskell Ball at the Scottish Rite Center in Oakland (on and off) since the beginning of 2005. My friend Barbara introduced me to this bimonthly Victorian dance and I have always loved going to it. The venue is right off Lake Merritt, and at night, the scene is so romantic even before you enter the majestic building. With lights festooned around the lake reflecting on the calm water, and seeing everyone walking in wearing formal Victorian attire, one can be forgiven for imagining that one is entering into a magical land. Once you enter the actual ballroom on the first floor, it's as if one has stepped back in time into a more elegant and glorious past of music and dancing.

I always relish watching dancers whirl past through the open doorway as I listen to the strains of lively music from the Brassworks band. Attendance is usually pretty good and the dancing is energetic and a lot of fun. There's not much time to socialize with people because the breaks are short, but I do find time to say hello to friends and meet new people. I also enjoy taking photos of the patrons in the best costumes.

One area where I like to catch costumed folk at is the ornate marble staircases that go up on both sides from the main lobby. I never knew where these led to, but I sometimes see people attending other events coming down the stairs. I didn't fully comprehend that there are several floors above the first one, and there is a huge theater occupying the top levels. I knew of it peripherally, but I didn't know how massive and amazingly beautiful it was until I got to see it first hand. I got the opportunity to marvel at this hidden Bay Area gem when my dance friend Cary invited people to join him in watching the California Revels earlier in the evening before the Christmas Gaskell Ball last December 20th.

The California Revels have been around for more than twenty years. I'd always wanted to go see a performance because I love historical music, dance and traditions. Every year, there is a different theme from either a time period or country showcasing "a theatrical celebration of the Winter Solstice." The show ran for two weekends last December, and appropriately enough, I saw it on the Saturday of its second weekend, the



The Christmas Revels photo courtesy of the California Revels

weekend of the Winter Solstice. It certainly was a fantastic way to “welcome the light back from the darkness of winter.”

2008 marked the Revels’ 23rd year and featured a brand new re-staging of *The King and the Fool*. Set in a medieval castle before the Winter Solstice, darkness appeared in the guise of the Black Knight who challenged the king to combat. The demise and eventual return of the King symbolized the death of Winter and the rebirth into Spring. The story is reminiscent of the Arthurian legends as well as the myth of the Holly and the Ivy. I’m glad I got to see this particular show because I have loved this time period since I was a little girl. Arthurian legends inspired me then and still do today.

And, of course, I loved the elaborate and colorful costumes of the performers on stage. It was quite a huge cast of at least fifty people. I was surprised to see that there was also English Country dancing, which I do quite regularly. I even knew the lead fiddler, Shira Kammen, who arranged several of the songs for the show. It was also fun to see two troupes of Morris dancers. There was choral singing of joyful courtly melodies as well as haunting hymns. The audience was even encouraged to sing along to several tunes. I really do love performances where there is audience participation. It’s like we were part of the celebration just like in the old days, and not just passive spectators.

The show was directed by David Parr, and the story began with a Victorian old man telling a bedtime story to three children stage right. Upstage was a medieval setting with a castle



Geoff Hoyle performing The Danse Macabre
photo courtesy of the California Revels

with banners and courtiers. Then the King and Queen arrived.

During Act One, we sang *Deck the Halls* with the performers, the Golden Ring Morris dancers performed a stick dance as well as a sword dance, some courtiers danced an English Country dance entitled “Step Stately” from John Playford’s collection, children sang the merry songs “There Was a Pig Went Out to Dig” and “Here We Come A-Wassailing,” the Fool (played by Geoff Hoyle) took someone out of the audience and dubbed him the “Lord of Misrule,” and the chorus sang the traditional “Boars Head Carol.” The first act ended with the Black Knight sending the King into exile and the Fool having to rule in his stead. Then we all sang “The Lord of the Dance” and the entire audience joined hands and headed toward the stage. Since I was in the balcony, I didn’t actually reach the stage but lots of other people did.

During the intermission I gazed in awe at the tall and stately columns supporting the enormous and decorated dome above us. It seemed like I was inside the Capitol in Washington, D.C. as the graduated rows circled around the auditorium in the same style.

After the intermission there were more songs and dances but of a more somber sort. Most of the lyrics were stories of heroic deeds, celebrating seasonal rituals or religious hymns.

Geoff Hoyle was just amazing and the star of the show. He was on stage during most of both acts and did mime, some acrobatic work, and lots of puppetry. In Act Two, he performed the “Danse Macabre” with a skeleton. I forgot that it was a puppet he was dancing with after a short while. It was quite an original and amazing sight to see.

The story of Saint George and the Dragon was also introduced in the second act. Saint George was played by a young boy who was really good, and the dragon was quite funny. The show ended with the “Sussex Mummers’ Carol,” to which we all sang the chorus. Some of the cast held up the lyrics printed on enormous banners. Blessings to master, mistress and home was what we sang and blessed indeed did we all feel after the joyous Winter Solstice show, nay, ritual. I fully understand and appreciate the human value of sustaining hope through symbols, rituals and community during the darkness of Winter, and indeed, any dark time.

But my night had really just began as I went to Gaskell’s after having a delicious dinner at a nearby vegetarian restaurant. I was wearing a



Colorful Gowns

photo by Jean Martin

red satin ball gown with a Steampunk black coat and red and black Steampunk hat for the show. During the ball, I had had to take the coat and hat off as it was too hot (yes, in December!) and my hat flew off during my first waltz.

I immediately espied my friend Kim in gorgeous yellow Southern Belle ball gown, and my eyes kept darting back and forth around the magnificent ballroom as lovely ladies in jewel-

toned Victorian gowns walked past or danced around. There were also gowns in sparkly white, cream and silver. It was all very Christmassy, as it was the Christmas Gaskell's Ball. In fact, several people came directly from the Dickens Fair at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, after a full day of dancing at Fezziwig's Warehouse.

There was a beautiful Christmas tree in the lobby adorned in blue and white tinsel, and I

was able to take photographs of friends and got photos taken of me in front of it as well.

I hadn't been to Gaskell's for a while, so I was glad to get a lot of dancing done. It's such an enjoyable, artistic and social form of exercise! And I was finally able to add the Polka to my repertoire. I went to Friday Night



Naval Captain and His Lady

photo by Jean Martin

Waltz in Palo Alto the night before and became more comfortable about doing the Polka without getting too dizzy. I even learned the Redowa and Crossstep Waltz too!

At Gaskell's, I danced with several male dancers in gorgeous Victorian costumes as well as in military uniform. The men dressed in the latter looked especially dashing and heroic. I danced a waltz with Aaron who was in a British officer's uniform, and he looked like Prince Charming. And did I feel like Cinderella! Sure enough, the ball ended at midnight.

But before that witching hour, I was able to dance to several Christmas-themed songs by Brassworks with several handsome men. I danced the Schottisch with Dan, a talented singer who performed at the PEERS Chicago Ball (which I performed at too) last May. We danced it at four times the speed of the other dancers and overtook, respectfully, several couples as we did lots of fun variations. I danced the Mazurka with someone I didn't know but who was an expert dancer. Then I danced the Congress of Vienna with Chris, a fellow Browncoat. (Yes, there are lots of sci fi fans in the historical dance realm.)

I didn't know that many people there since I hadn't been in a while, but I was surprised that I had an easier time finding partners. There are usually more women than men at these events so I usually need to be more assertive. But it was still good that I planned to meet some friends there so I was able to dance with male friends like Maimone, and chatted with female friends like Louise. Also, through them and

other friends like Barbara, I was able to meet new people both male and female.



Jean and Aaron photo courtesy Jean Martin

Attendance was high and the dance floor was packed. Collisions occurred quite frequently but people responded in a mostly civilized and genteel manner. It was interesting to note that the age range was quite wide, from young pups from high school to the more mature, but we were all united in our love for dancing. It's great to know that there are so many people who love to costume and dance

and be in this elegant world of color, music and joy.

Queen Victoria (Laurie) and Prince Albert (Gregory) were announced during the beginning of the second set and they started the dancing for that set. There were four sets that evening. I missed the first one due to dinner, and it seemed to me that it just wasn't enough. I could have danced all night, just like Audrey Hepburn in *My Fair Lady*.

During one of the breaks, I saw Kim juggling with a couple of people. I knew she juggled but I had never seen her do it live. She was excellent at it, but it looked quite interesting to see people in formal wear juggling.

One of the last dances of the evening was Sir Roger de Coverley, which is always a lot of fun because it's a pattern dance involving several couples. This one was even more fun than usual because I had several friends in the set.

The night wound down with everyone singing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus in four-part harmony. And of course, we ended with "God Save the Queen."

Then some of us went to the regular after-party destination of Au Coquelet in Berkeley for much needed sustenance after a long but satisfying evening of Christmas revelry.

For more information, visit www.calrevels.org and www.gaskellball.com.

The Browncoats Celebrate Boxing Day

By Jean Martin
Editor

I love hanging out with the Browncoats, that fun and active group of *Firefly* fans, but I rarely get to go to their regular meetups as I'm not a morning person, especially during the weekends. So I try my best to go to their sporadic evening events as much as I can.

To celebrate the various holidays and even birthdays in December, the Browncoats scheduled a party on Boxing Day, the day after Christmas. I suppose that's a good time to get together because everyone is busy before the holidays and it gives us an opportunity to extend merrymaking for another day.

The party was held at the beautiful Kona Club in Oakland. Since Oakland is a bit far from where I live, I was glad I was able to



Elizabeth, Thad and Sue photo by Jean Martin

carpool with my Browncoat friend Chris. When we got there, there were already several Browncoats in the back room having a good time.

I'm not very fond of going to bars in general but this bar was quite magical and I really enjoyed it. It looks like the Tiki Room at Disneyland. The entire inside looked like a tropical hut and there were plants, flowers and



Gail and Johnny photo by Jean Martin

various Hawaiian décor all over. There was even a volcano behind the bar. And the patrons, other than our group, were all young and decent-looking people, most of whom were there with their friends just to hang out. So it almost felt like a cozy and wholesome place compared with normal bars.



Tracy and Stacy photo by Jean Martin

The music coming from the jukebox was quite good as well. Quite a variety of tunes, and some that Arielle, Louise, Suzette and I were able to dance to. Other Browncoat friends in attendance were Elizabeth (who along with Arielle and Louise helped organize the party), Thad, Sue, Stacy, Tracy, Al, Johnny, Gail, Ray, and Ammy. There was a good number of people there and more came later in the evening.

The first order of business was food. There was a long table of potluck items, and there definitely was too much food. Then we got drinks and the glasses were adorned with little plastic mermaids and monkeys. The attention to detail to set the atmosphere at this place was incredible! Added to that, the organizers festooned the back room with garlands and *Firefly*-themed décor. On one table there were

three cute juggling geese (an inside-joke in the ‘Verse), one of which had a tiny Jayne (a character from *Firefly*) hat. On another table was a *Battlestar Galactica*-inspired Hanukkah setup with candles, coins and miniature Cylons.

All of these reminded us that the party, although on Boxing Day, also celebrated Christmas, Hanukkah, Yule, Solstice, etc. Most of these celebrations involve gifts and so, of course, there was a white elephant gift exchange. Fun was had by all opening the presents that filled an entire long table. What was more fun was watching some people “steal” the more popular gifts from others. There were some *Firefly* items but there were other gifts ranging from all of fandom, and some more generic gifts as well.

When it was my turn to pick, I got the most appropriate present for me, which probably would not have been as good for anyone else. It



Juggling geese celebrating Boxing Day

photo by Jean Martin

was a purse in the shape of a Chinese takeout box, covered with shiny blue and gold exotic fabric. I was the only one wearing a *Firefly*-like Chinese outfit, a fuchsia satin and floral long jacket, so the gift was perfect. No one even attempted to steal it from me.

Then we all enjoyed breaking some Christmas crackers, some of which popped successfully and some of which didn't. Inside them were paper crowns in different bright, primary colors, and cute little toys.

The party started winding down earlier than I expected: it wasn't even midnight when people started leaving. I was sad to see it end so I stayed until our group dwindled to just a few people, and the other bar patrons started taking over our emptied (and sometimes not even!)

tables. I guess midnight is the peak time for the regular Friday night crowd, while our own friends had all scattered out into the night to sleep or head to other fun places.



Louise and Arielle

photo by Jean Martin



Chris and Jean

photo courtesy Jean Martin

John and Mary Show Their Shorts at Borderlands

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

Every now and again I come up to the city from my safe little duchy of Sunnyvale. It really doesn't take much to get me up there: a Worldcon, the Olympics, a Zombie Horde picketing for the right to secede from the Union, those are all things that I would come up for.

Oh, and John Scalzi reading. That's another

Photos by Chris Garcia



one, and that's why I took the BART up from Fremont into SF, meeting The Lovely and Talented Linda at Borderlands, which is some sort of bookstore apparently. I'd never been there, so I wasn't sure what to expect. It was a really nice place and they'd set up some chairs and I was lucky enough to get two seats next to each other in the front row about forty minutes before the readings started. Linda joined me a few minutes after I got in and we hunkered down. No one was going to get our chairs from us.

Holy Crap, Scalzi could sell out the Cow Palace! – Doug Lister

Almost immediately after we took our seats, John Scalzi, the author of soon-to-be classics like *The Android's Dream* and *Old Man's War* and the same John Scalzi that trounced me for the Best Fan Writer Hugo last year, was doing a reading with Mary Robinette Kowal, the reigning John W. Campbell award winner and author of books and stories and awesomeness. OK, OK, I've never read any of her stuff! So sue me! Linda has, though, and she's got much better taste than I do.

So we started chatting. John has a way of working a room and he's just so damn



personable. I didn't even get bitter remembering the sorrow and pain he brought to my life when he accepted that Hugo while I simply took fifth place, losing even to that lowly bastard called No Award. He's really nice and you can't hold having your entire sense of self-worth destroyed against someone that excellent.



But I digress...

We chatted and Mary was really funny. She did a few short readings, turning anything into the voice of a phone sex operator. It's her super power. I handed her a copy of *Banana Wings*

How many times do I have to apologize for winning the damn Hugo? – John Scalzi

and she did her thing. I never thought the words of Mr. John Hertz could be that sexy, but what do you know?

And all of this was merely prelude.

The official title was John and Mary Show Us Their Shorts. They did a tag team sort of reading, doing short readings and even doing some Q+A kind of stories that allowed them both to do their reading at the same time. Mary does voice-over, so she was amazing, and John was really good too, though he did crack a couple of times. They opened with a great little

piece about the Booker for Superheroes. She's the one who makes sure there's a superhero available to deal with any crime. It was good stuff, very nicely written, and the performance was good. There was a character from San Jose called Brian Garcia. I'm fairly certain that wasn't based on me since he did all his crime-fighting in jeans and t-shirt, and I don't wear jeans.



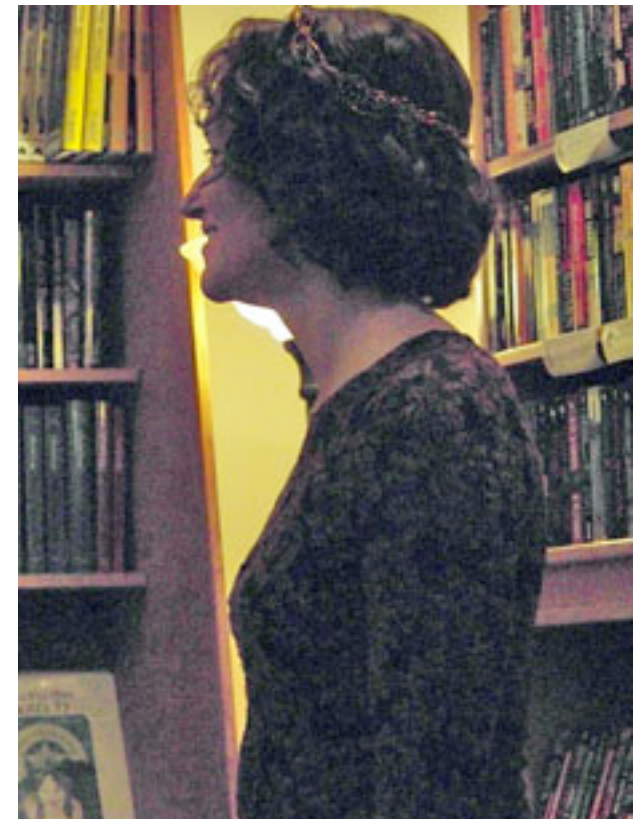
After that, Mary took the stand and read a very short piece about a very unfortunate troll. It featured Flamenco, a troll, kids, Irish Step Dancing and kicking. I laughed and enjoyed it. That was followed by one of John's pieces about what would happen should Hitler have been killed in 1908 in various ways. I'd read that one sometime and it was really top-notch comedic writing. The funny thing might be the fact that I can actually say that everything I've ever known of Mary Robinette Kowal's work

I didn't know we were supposed to bring tiaras. – Linda Wenzelburger

And the Bacon Cat Girl was hot!
– John Scalzi

was personally read to me by Mary Robinette Kowal.

The second Q+A was Mary and John doing a look at the Risk-Assessment people who work with Superheroes. It had many references to Iceland. Everything is funnier when it references Iceland. Mary ended up reading a piece about an Evil Robot Monkey. There is not but awesome when it includes monkeys and



John's going to say something untoward at some point...again.

– Mary Robinette Kowal

robots. Add lesbians and vampires to that mix and you've got 100% boffo box office!

The funniest bit came at the end. John and Mary did some science fiction improv. I've done improv, it's hard, it's not easy, and it's difficult. While technically they weren't perfect, Mary was awesome and John stuck in



his character, which slowed the story at a couple of points, but he did get laughs. They told the story of a girl and her CyberDog and the customer service representative who helps her with a malfunction. It made me laugh a lot and the audio was recorded so it's out there, somewhere. You might wanna check out Scalzi's blog, Whatever, for more info.



At one point, John had me stand up and actually endorsed me for a Best Fan Writer nomination. I gotta make sure I get that audio out to voters! There were two different recordings on all the time, and a bunch of us

Speak Spanish to it. It calms it.

– John Scalzi



took a lot of photos, my terrible ones included here. Dave Clark and España Sheriff also made the trip, though they stood in the back. The place was packed, which added to the fun of the evening. John said that he thinks it was the most fun he's ever had at a reading, and I think the same goes for me.



Dreams of the City



Transamerica Pyramid

photo by Lucy Huntzinger

A Column by España Sheriff

Fritz Leiber is one of the giants of the genre with whom I'm unfortunately not terribly familiar...A Grand Master best known for the "Fafhrd and the Grey Mouser" series, of which I read a few stories, and for his horror, of which the most famous, *Conjure Wife*, didn't grab me the way I had hoped. Although I enjoyed some of his other work, I was never able to properly suspend my disbelief and enjoy it.

Our Lady of Darkness is a different matter entirely. It deservedly won the World Fantasy Award. Originally published in two parts in the January and February 1977 issues of *F&SF* under the title "The Pale Brown Thing," and novelized without major changes, the novel is short by modern standards, under 200 pages. The modern edition, published by Orb, is packaged along with *Conjure Wife* under the combined title *Dark Ladies* and is a nice trade paperback with a cover that shows part of the downtown SF skyline.

The protagonist in this story is Franz Westen, who writes novelizations for a popular

television show called *Weird Underground* and who is slowly emerging from a dark period in his life. As with Leiber himself at the time, Westen is a recently widowed author of horror fiction emerging from a three-year bout of alcoholism. Leiber's own wife, Jonquil, had died in 1969 after which Leiber moved to San Francisco, and he experienced his own troubles with drinking throughout his life.

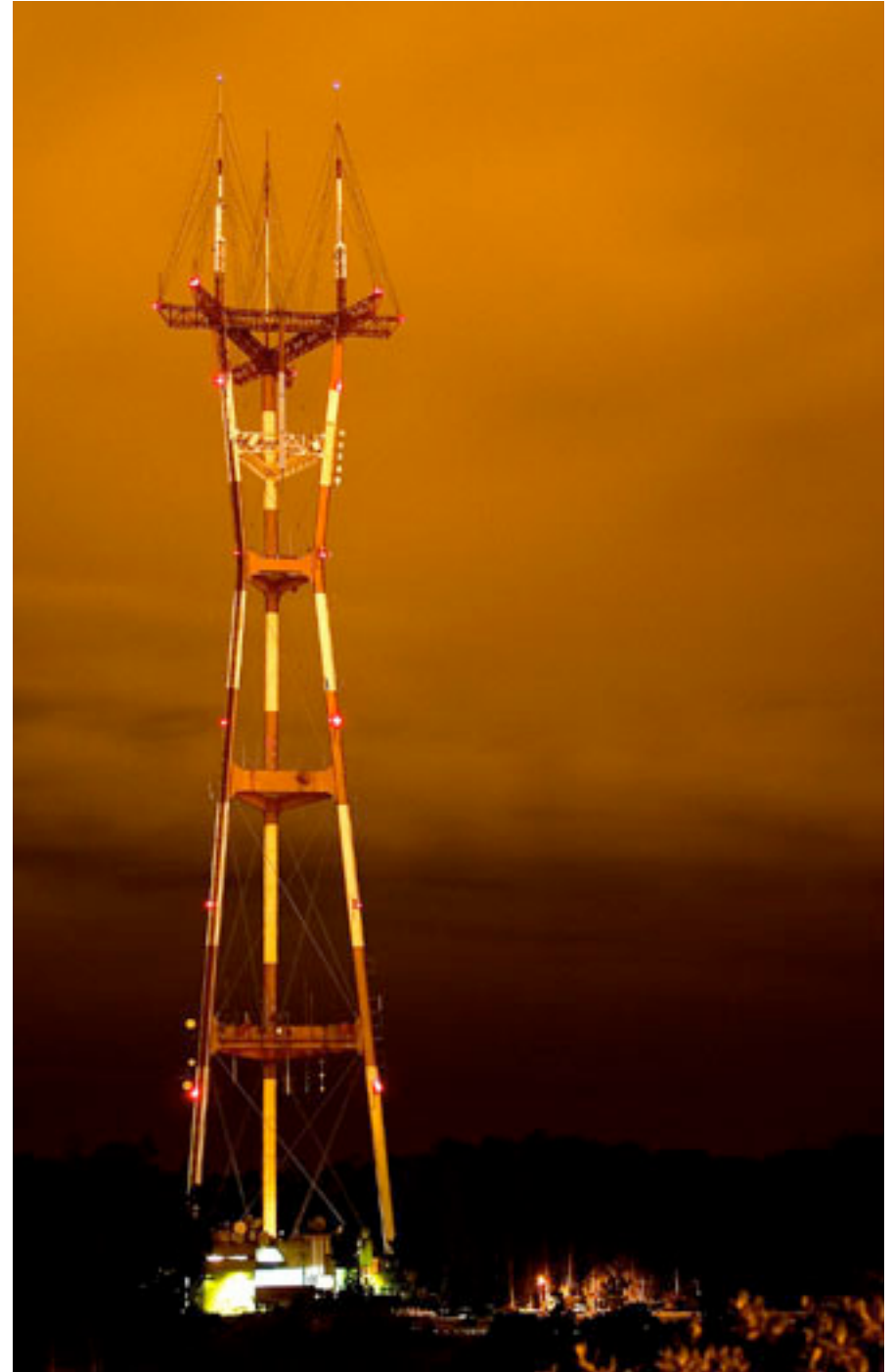
In the novel Westen uses his rediscovered interest in the world around him to pull himself out of his depression. Partly he does this by simply investigating the view from his window, which looks out onto Twin Peaks and the recently erected Sutro Tower, whose prominent silhouette and blinking lights fascinate him. Things start to get weird when he turns his binoculars to a nearer landscape feature, Corona Heights, "a shape like a crouching beast," and spies a vague, robed figure moving along the top. Intrigued by both the hill itself and whatever he saw, he wanders up the hill the next day, and while idly looking back towards his own window is startled to see what appears to be the same figure, the pale brown thing, looking back at him.

Intertwined with this unsettling incident is his fascination with an occult book and an accompanying handwritten journal purchased during one of his drunken wanderings the previous year. The book is a non-fiction tome by an obscure occultist called Thibaut de Castries describing his theories of megapolisomancy which consist of the idea that big cities and their large monolithic edifices are composed of materials and patterns which poison our world and that their very existence breeds hostile paranatural entities called “paramentals.” Additionally de Castries claims to have developed the magic formulas that allow one to manipulate these forces to predict the future, change it, and even bring about certain specific events.

Investigating the authorship of the journal, which came bound together with the book and which clearly belonged to the owner of that copy, Westen becomes convinced that the man who wrote it was Clark Ashton Smith during his years in San Francisco. As he delves also into the history of de Castries and Smith he discovers that the occultist was part of a circle of notable figures at the turn of the century including Jack London, Ambrose Bierce, George Sterling and others of the Bohemian Club set, and that they formed a secret order to implement his ideas.

There are excerpts of the tome provided, written in a wonderfully overwrought Victorian pseudo-scientific style with phrases such as “The electro-mephitic city-stuff whereof I speak has potencies for achieving vast effects at distant times and localities, even in the far future and on other orbs.” The first thing I did after finishing *Our Lady of Darkness* was to check the Internet in the vain hope that de Castries and his theories were real.

The combination of detective work and supernatural horror is one I greatly enjoy, and this is no exception. The San Francisco setting feels very real and natural, which is not surprising given that Leiber had lived in the city for seven years when he wrote it, and remained here until his death in 1992. The story revolves also around one of my favorite supernatural gimmicks, that of the urban center as something greater than the sum of its parts, with its own magic and rituals. More than any of the stories that I’ve previously read and reviewed here, *Our Lady of Darkness* really runs with the idea and makes it work.



Sutro Tower

photo by Thomas Hawk, © some rights reserved

BASFA Minutes: Meeting 963

Meeting 963

January 12, 2009

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

Began 8:00 – and the cherry pie was hot!
22 people attended.

A party jar was established.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 961 were accepted as 'this is your brain on Miko'; the minutes of meeting 962 were accepted as 'new, with less Miko'

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$6.85 in the regular jar; \$5.25 in the party jar and \$17.00 in the TAFF jar.

The Vice president said, "Hello!" and then reported there are 2 new 'Drink Tanks' out – one being a tribute to Bob Wilkins – and today's Milo fact is that Miko once shot a guy in Reno and did not have the courtesy to watch him die.

The President reported that Further Confusion will be in 2 weeks.

Announcements

[tall] Kevin announced that 'it's that time of year again' so starting next week we'll be discussing Hugo nom-nom-nominations – beginning with the Campbell award and the bottom third of the ballot.

Cheryl announced that on Friday [7-ish?, check their website] Borderlands will have short readings from John Scalzi and Mary Robinette Kowal – and on Saturday at the Variety Preview Room in the Hobart Building in SF, that SFinSF will also have a reading, doors opening at 6pm.

[this space left ominously blank]

Dave G announced that he saw a job ad for Queensland [Australia] who want a caretaker for Hamilton island – check the BBC website.

Ken announced that John Scott Martin passed away last week – along with another guy = Ray Dennis Stechlet.

Glenn announced that Ewan Chrystal passed away last week and was a very nice fan.

[evil] Kevin announced that they won't be holding an Evil Genius party at Further Confusion, but they still may be pouring drinks there.

Dierdre announced that Obama says the first thing he'll do in office is close Guantanamo Bay prison.

Reviews

Chris reviewed that he survived the weekend without verbs – saw '*Shoot em Up*' and thought it awful and awesome in which carrots are a lethal weapon – rated as worth both '*Point Break*' and '*Road House*' – and reviewed Frank & Bri's back room as it has to be made of pure morphine & reviewed the 1st 2 episodes of *Dr Who* as ruined for him & reviewed '*Bride Wars*' as flawed & more offensive than '*Crystal Skull*' & reviewed the DVD of '*Dark Knight*' as a bad transfer & boiled meat is tasty and worth hitting himself in the head for.

Cheryl reviewed searching for cheese in Napa as they had a fairly good time and worth the trip and reviewed getting interviewed by a Mexican radio station via Skype about the Hugos and science fiction awards as interesting and she recommends '*Sands of Saravati*' for the graphic novel Hugo – and suggested a few names for Best Prozone for Hugo = *Albedo*, *Weird Tales* and *HP Lovecraft's Magazine of Horror*.

Dave C reviewed '*The Spirit*' as he will never doubt Chris's reviews again in his life – it was 108 minutes of hell in soft focus and recommends seeing '*Minuscule*' on Youtube.

Dave G reviewed '*Evil Dead, the Musical*' as they were not in the splash zone but were

still lightly spattered, it had no redeeming virtues at all and was everything that makes a musical great – really worth going to Martinez to see – several times.

Glenn reviewed Korean tomato candy as not bad, that he got an accurate fortune and really likes the bathroom at the El Camino Mongolian BBQ.

Stellan reviewed ‘*Leonardo*’ as he liked the exhibit a great deal, saw the ‘*Band of Brothers*’ miniseries again and was still impressed by it.

Adrienne reviewed the Bay Area Ghost Hunter’s get together as neat and reviewed Amazon’s ‘also bought’ information as very helpful for her.

[evil] Kevin reviewed ‘*Sharks in Venice*’ as unwatchable and ‘*The Immortal*’ as a mix of CGI and live action and he’s not sure it was good or bad – worth cable.

Fred reviewed the Asian Art Museum in SF as the exhibit on Afghanistan artifacts as worth visiting to see.

Gnu reviewed the Aladdin show at California’s Great Adventure as worth going to.

We then did auctions: stuff for \$0.75, soap and sheets for \$3.50, clocks for \$1.50 & \$0.50 and a yoyo and books for \$0.25.

We adjourned at = 9:58.

And the rumor of the week was: ‘*When carrots are outlawed, only outlaws will have carrots*’

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 highlighted in red.

Ongoing events are toward the back.

Thursday January 29-Saturday February 7

Evil Dead, the Musical

The Campbell Theater

636 Ward Street, Martinez

www.willowstheatre.com/evildead.htm

EDTM's triumphant return!

Check website for tickets and showtimes.

\$25

Tuesday, February 3

Author: John Birmingham

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia, San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

The author signs his new military thriller, *Without Warning*.

7 p.m.

Free

Friday, February 6

Author: Patricia Briggs

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia, San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

The author signs her new Mercy Thompson novel, *Bone Crossed*.

7 p.m.

Free

Saturday, February 7

The Scarlet Pimpernel Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo

www.peers.org

Restoration themed event with live performance by Bangers and Mash

7 p.m.

\$15 (till January 31)

Tuesday, February 10

Author: Christopher Moore

NEW

Books Inc. Opera Plaza

www.booksinc.net/

601 Van Ness, San Francisco

Launch party for Moore's latest book, *Fool*

6:30 p.m.

Free

Wednesday, February 11

Author: Christopher Moore

NEW

Book Passage

51 Tamal Vista Blvd, Corte Madera

www.bookpassage.com

Moore reads from his latest novel, *Fool*

6:30 p.m.

Free

Thursday, February 12

Thrillville's Voodoo Valentine's Show

El Cerrito Speakeasy

10070 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

www.thrillville.net

Sugar Hill and Her Zombie Hit Men, plus very special musical guest Kitten on the Keys!

9:15 p.m.

\$9

Friday-Saturday, February 13-14

Cinematic Titanic Live!

Marines Memorial Theater

609 Sutter, San Francisco

www.cinematictitanic.com

Joel Hodgson, Frank Conniff, Trace Beaulieu and the rest of the original MST3K crew take their Cinematic Titanic show on the road.

8 p.m.

\$40

Friday-Sunday, February 13-15

DunDraCon

San Ramon Marriott

2600 Bishop Dr., San Ramon

www.dundracon.com

Gaming convention.

\$50

Saturday-Sunday, February 14-15

AOD 2009

Cathedral Hill Hotel

1101 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco

www.aodsf.org

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

\$35

Saturday, February 21

Author: Rain Graves

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com

The author signs her new poetry collection, *Barfodder: Poetry Written in Dark Bars and Questionable Cages*

3 p.m. Free

Saturday, February 21

SF in SF: Deborah Grabien & Michael Boatman

Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org

Reading, followed by Q&A from the audience moderated by author Terry Bisson.

7 p.m. Free

Friday, February 27

The Tomorrowmen

The Burnin Burro
6651 Brisa St, Livermore
www.myspace.com/tomorrowmen

Instro-surf rockers from the future. Also featuring rockabilly with The Revtones, The Pendletones and Motorpunx. All ages show.

8 p.m. \$10

Friday, February 27

Boudicca

Ace in the Hole Pub
3100 Gravenstein Highway North, Sebastopol
boudiccamusic.com

Arabic Celtic Rock Fusion music.
4:30 p.m. Free

Friday, February 27-Sunday, March 1

Potlatch 18

The Domain Hotel, Sunnyvale
www.potlatch-sf.org

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.

\$55 until February 14

Friday, February 27-Sunday, March 1

Wondercon

Moscone Center South,
747 Howard Street, San Francisco
www.comic-con.org/wc

Comics and popular arts convention, featuring panels, dealer's hall, masquerade and more. \$40

Saturday, February 28

Author: Kim Harrison

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com

Harrison signs book 7 of the Hollows series, *White Witch, Black Curse*.
7 p.m. Free

Saturday, March 7

The Sting Swing Ball

PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo
www.peers.org

1930's, Swing themed event with live performance by Bangers and Mash
7 p.m. \$15 (till February 28)

Sunday, March 8

Sac-Con

Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sacramentocomics.com/html/index2.html
10 a.m. \$6

Sunday, March 15

Author: S.G. Browne

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com

Browne signs *Breathers: A New Romantic Zombie Comedy*
3 p.m. Free

Sunday, March 15

Road Trip of the Drunken Fantasy Authors

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Mario Acevedo, Mark Henry, Caitlin Kittredge (*Second Skin*) and Cherie Priest (*Fathom*)
7 p.m. Free

Saturday, March 21

Author: Jonathan Thomas

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com

The author signs his new book, *Midnight Call and Other Stories*

1 p.m. Free

Saturday, March 21

Author: Mark von Schlegell

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com

The author signs his new novel, *Mercury Station*

3 p.m. Free

Saturday, March 28

Author: Ken Scholes

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Scholes signs his novel, *Lamentation*.

12 p.m. Free

Saturday, March 28

Author: Amber Benson

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Benson signs her novel, *Death's Daughter*

4 p.m. Free

Sunday, March 29

Jay Lake and Ken Scholes Write In-Store

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Each author writes a story set in each other's universes.
12 p.m.

Free

Friday-Sunday, April 3-5

Contact 25

NASA Ames Research Center, Building 943
Moffett Field, Mountain View
www.contact-conference.com
Interdisciplinary gathering of scientists, artists and writers. This year is Contact's Silver Anniversary and the event will be sharing the space with Yuri's Night 2009. Penny Boston will be the Keynote Speaker

\$175

Saturday, April 4

The Girl Genius Victorian Mad Science Ball

PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo
www.peers.org
Victorian, Steampunk themed event with live performance by Avalon Rising.
7 p.m. \$15 (till March 28)

Thursday, April 9

Thrillville's 12th Anniversary Show

El Cerrito Speakeasy
10070 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito
www.thrillville.net
Plan 9 From Outer Space and Re-Animator.
Special guests Mr. Lobo and the Queen of

Trash, Ms. Monster plus, live on stage, Twilight Vixen Revue!
7:30 p.m. \$12

Saturday, May 2

The Unseen University Ball

PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo
www.peers.org
Discworld, fantasy themed event with live performance by Avalon Rising.
7 p.m. \$15 (till April 25)

Tuesday, May 22-Sunday, July 5

Spamalot

Golden Gate Theater
1182 Market Street, San Francisco
www.shnsf.com
Check website for tickets and showtimes.

Friday-Monday, May 22-25

Fanime

San Jose Convention Center
San Jose
www.fanime.com
Bay Area anime convention \$50

Friday-Monday, May 22-25

Baycon

Hyatt Regency
5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara
www.baycon.org/2009
This year's theme is 'The Search for Pyrocumulon'. GOH are Larry Dixon and

Mercedes Lackey, Tim Kirk, Fred Patten and an artist GOH TBD.

\$60 (till March 15)

Saturday-Sunday, May 30-31

Maker Faire

San Mateo Fairgrounds
2495 South Delaware Street, San Mateo
Maker Faire is a two-day, family-friendly event that celebrates the Do-It-Yourself mindset. It's for creative, resourceful people of all ages and backgrounds who like to tinker and love to make things

Free

Saturday, June 6

The Secret Agent Ball

PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo
www.peers.org
Spy themed event with live performance by Sara and Swingtime.
7 p.m.

\$15 (till May 30)

Friday-Sunday, Jun 12-14

Robogames

Fort Mason Center
San Francisco
Details TBA, dates tentative. \$20

Saturday, June 21

SF in SF: The Brazzen Hussies

Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org

Reading by local authors Michaela Roessner-Herman, Lisa Goldstein and Pat Murphy. Bar proceeds benefit Variety Children's Charity
7 p.m. Free

Friday-Tuesday, July 17-21

Azcatraz, A Harry Potter convention

Park 55 Hotel
55 Cyril Magnin Street, San Francisco
www.hp2009.org
\$145 through February 28th.

Saturday, August 1

The River City Picnic Dance

PEERS Event
Lincoln Park
1450 High Street, Alameda
www.peers.org
Music Man, Edwardian themed event with live music by Bangers and Mash
1 p.m. Free

Saturday, September 5

The Sweeney Todd Ball

PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo
www.peers.org
Victorian themed event with live performance by Bangers and Mash
7 p.m. \$15 (till August 30)

Friday-Saturday, September 25-26

From the Land Beyond

Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento

www.sacramentocomics.com
Details TBA

Saturday, October 3

The Space Cowboys Ball

PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo
www.peers.org
Firefly, Western themed event with live performance by Bangers and Mash
7 p.m. \$15 (till September 27)

Thursday, October 29-Sunday, November 1

World Fantasy Convention

The Fairmont Hotel
170 South Market Street, San Jose
The World Fantasy Convention is a professional networking event that regularly attracts several hundred of the top authors in the field every year. It is the home of the World Fantasy Awards and this year will be celebrating Edgar Allen Poe's 200th birthday. Garth Nix will be the GOH.

\$125

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

MGI SF&F/Horror/Speculative fiction Writing Group

Personal Residence (email for details),
Emeryville
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGISFFWriters
7:30pm Free

Sakramento Anime Society

Rancho Cordova Library
9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova
Meets every Sunday to watch old and new
anime and anime music videos, play collectible
card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.
3-7 p.m.

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

Coco's
1206 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale
www.basfa.org
8 p.m. Free

Dukefish

Jake's of Sunnyvale
174 E. Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale
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. Free
8 p.m.

Mondays and Wednesdays

Silicon Valley Boardgamers

Mountain View Community Center
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue
Mountain View
www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb
Group meets regularly to play mostly German-
style strategy boardgames such as Settlers of
Catan; also multiplayer Avalon Hill-style,
historical wargames, and others.
6:30 p.m. \$2

Tuesdays

MGI Boffers & Outdoor Games

Codornices Park
1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley
mgisciaf.angelfire.com
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyclub
Bad weather we meet the same time at 33
Revolutions Record Shop & Cafe, El Cerrito
for boardgames.
3 p.m-5:30 p.m Free

Wednesdays

Bay Area Role-Playing Society

Go-Getter's Pizza
1489 Beach Park Boulevard, Foster City
www.BayRPS.com
Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game
night details email GM@BayRPS.com.
6 p.m-10 p.m. Free

East Bay Strategy Games Club

EndGame
921 Washington, Oakland
www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/
home.html
7:30 p.m.-11 p.m. Free

Fanboy Planet Podcast

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

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

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.

7 p.m. to midnight

Free

Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour

Meets at Coffee To The People

1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco

www.hauntedhaight.com

Reservations required.

7 p.m.-9 p.m.

\$20

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

Meets corner of California and Taylor, San Francisco

www.sfvampiretour.com

Led by Mina Harker. Tour is canceled if there is heavy rain.

8 p.m.

\$20

Saturdays

Rocky Horror Picture Show

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd., Oakland

www.parkway-speakeasy.com

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Midnight

\$7

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.

7:30 p.m.

Free

East Bay Steampunk

Various locations (see website for details)

www.steamfaire.com

Steampunk fans meet up on the third Friday of the month

6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Free

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

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.

12 p.m. Free

The Gay Men's Book Club

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia, San Francisco

Please contact Chris, the group leader, at cobalt555@earthlink.net for more information.

5 p.m. Free

Legion of Rassilon

Giovanni's Pizza

1127 N Lawrence Expy, Sunnyvale

www.legionofrassilon.org

Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.

7:30 p.m. Free

Micro Gods, Inc.

Berkeley Public Library, West Branch

1125 University Ave, Berkeley

mgisciaf.angelfire.com

groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/
Family Club for fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Movie, Anime & Manga. Meets every 3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for updates.

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

No-Name Anime

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Avenue

Saratoga

www.nnanime.com

Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.

Free

Other Realms Book Club

Books, Inc.

1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame

www.booksinc.net

Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month.

6:30 p.m. Free

Religion & SF Book Club

First United Methodist Church

1183 "B" Street, Hayward

Meets the 4th Sunday of the month. The book for February 22nd it will be A Case of Conscience by James Blish. The Please contact Rev. Randy Smith at RSmith2678@aol.com for more information.

7 p.m. Free

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia, San Francisco

The book for February 15 is *Childhood's End* by Arthur C. Clarke. The book for March is *Undertow* by Elizabeth Bear. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

6 p.m. Free

SF Browncoats

Cafe Murano

1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco

www.sfbrowncoats.com

SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.

Noon Free

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

Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.

Noon - 2 p.m. Free

South Bay Steampunk

Various locations (see website for details)

www.steamfaire.com

Steampunk fans meet up on the second Thursday of the month

6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Free

Tangential Conjectures: The Science Fiction Book Club

Books Inc.
301 Castro Street, Mountain View
650-428-1234
Generally meets the third Thursday of the month.
7:30 p.m. Free

USS Augusta Ada

Round Table Pizza
3567 Geary Blvd, San Francisco
trek.starshine.org
Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and *BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month.
1 p.m. Free

USS Defiance

Round Table Pizza
1566 Howe Ave, Sacramento
www.usdefiance.org
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.
7 p.m. Free

USS Northern Lights

Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for location.
www.geocities.com/Area51/Cavern/4096/
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.
7 p.m. Free

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.
6 p.m. Free



Bay Area Fannish Calendar – February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 <i>MGI SFF/H Writing</i> <i>Sakuramento Anime</i>	26 <i>BASFA</i> <i>Dukefish</i> <i>SV Boardgamers</i>	27 <i>MGI Boffers</i>	28 <i>SV Boardgamers</i> <i>BA Role-Playing Soc</i> <i>E.Bay Strategy Games</i>	29 <i>Evil Dead, the</i> <i>Musical (thru Feb 7)</i>	30 <i>SF Games</i>	31 <i>Rocky Horror</i>
1 <i>SF/SF Meetup</i>	2	3 <i>Author: John</i> <i>Birmingham</i>	4	5	6 <i>Author: Patricia</i> <i>Briggs</i>	7 <i>Scarlet Pimpernel Ball</i> <i>Silicon Gulch</i> <i>Browncoats</i>
8 <i>Gay Men's Book Club</i>	9	10 <i>Author: Christopher</i> <i>Moore</i>	11 <i>Author: Christopher</i> <i>Moore</i>	12 <i>Thrillville's Voodoo</i> <i>Valentine's Show</i> <i>SF&F Writers' Group</i> <i>South Bay Steampunk</i>	13 <i>Cinematic Titanic</i> <i>Live! (thru Sat)</i> <i>DunDraCon (thru</i> <i>Sun)</i> <i>USS Northern Lights</i>	14 <i>AOD 2009 (thru Sun)</i> <i>No-Name Anime</i> <i>SF Browncoats</i>
15 <i>SF/F Book Club</i>	16	17	18	19 <i>Tangential</i> <i>Conjectures</i>	20 <i>USS Defiance</i>	21 <i>Author: Rain Graves</i> <i>SF in SF: Deborah</i> <i>Grabien & Michael</i> <i>Boatman</i> <i>Micro Gods, Inc.</i>
22	23	24	25 <i>Other Realms</i>	26 <i>SF&F Writers' Group</i>	27 <i>The Tomorrowmen</i> <i>Boudicca</i> <i>Potlatch 18 (thru Sun)</i> <i>Wondercon (thru Sun)</i> <i>Legion of Rassilon</i>	28 <i>Author: Kim Harrison</i> <i>USS Augusta Ada</i> <i>Veritech Fighter</i> <i>Command ONE-THREE</i>

Science Fiction/San Francisco #80 – January 28, 2009

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Bay Area Fannish Calendar – March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MGI SFF/H Writing Sakramento Anime	BASFA Dukefish SV Boardgamers	MGI Boffers	SV Boardgamers BA Role-Playing Soc E.Bay Strategy Games		SF Games	Rocky Horror
1 SF/SF Meetup	2	3	4	5	6	7 The Sting Swing Ball Silicon Gulch Browncoats
8 Sac-Con Gay Men's Book Club	9	10	11	12 SF&F Writers' Group South Bay Steampunk	13 USS Northern Lights	14 No-Name Anime SF Browncoats
15 Road Trip of Drunken Fantasy Authors Author: S.G. Browne SF/F Book Club	16	17	18	19 Tangential Conjectures	20 USS Defiance	21 Jonathan Thomas Mark von Schlegell Micro Gods, Inc.
22	23	24	25 Other Realms	26 SF&F Writers' Group	27 Legion of Rassilon	28 Author: Ken Scholes USS Augusta Ada Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE
29 Jay Lake and Ken Scholes Write In-Store	30	31	1	2	3	4

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