

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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Don't Be A Square

photo by Lucy Huntzinger

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

I'm sitting here at Casa de Garcia Grande, staring at my computer, knowing that the deadline for articles is in two days and I've got next to nothing. Not that there's nothing going on, it's just that I think I may be out of it, possibly caused by having too much fun at FurCon. Who knows? I'm working on a few things, and please forgive if this edition of News and Notes fails to live up to your expectations. I mean, if you've got expectations for Chris Garcia, you might be in the wrong business.

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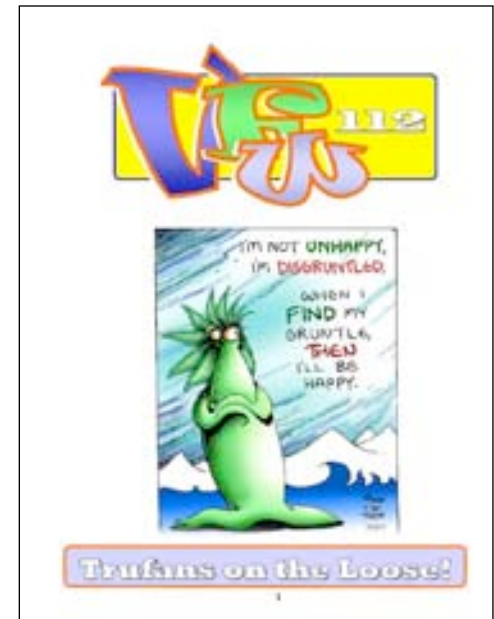


There's a second issue of *Idle Minds*. It's a Las Vegas publication and it's well worth a read over on eFanzines.com. I'm still missing the days when you could count on a *Vegas Fandom Weekly* almost every week. Arnie was at his peak in 2005 and 2006, when there was always an issue about to hit eFanzines. I really did model a fair bit of *The Drink Tank* after *VFW*.

Speaking of *The Drink Tank*, Issue 200 came out. It also happened to be the Fourth Annual Giant Sized Annual, and although it was shorter than the other Giant Sized Annuals, it still had some great stuff, including several debuts from writers like Beth Zuckerman, Bobby Schaeztle, and Bobby Toland. There's a fine poem from John Hertz, a rather adult piece

from Bob Hole, some nice art from Genevieve, Mo Starkey and España, and overall, I think it turned out pretty good. 199 was also a decent issue, though it was mostly LoCs.

The next issue of *Claims Department* will be mailed to 15 people, only 4 of which have been pre-selected. One person each in the UK, US, Canada and Australia. I've decided on a random address situation where I look at the lettercols of 7 zines and pick the recipients from there. Should be fun. This one is based around Further Confusion.





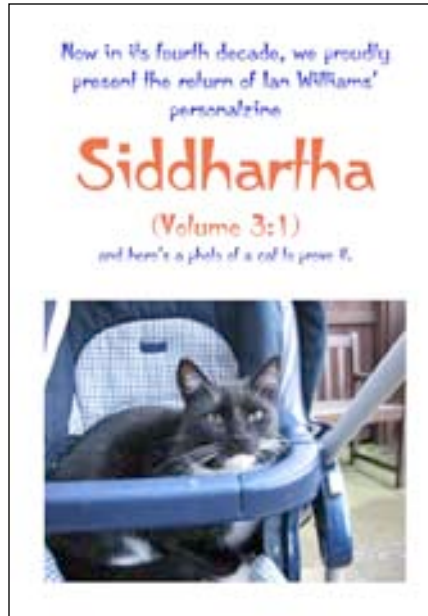
Hey, there's a convention coming up. Potlatch at the Domain Hotel in Sunnyvale is being run by several good people, including a certain *SF/SF* layout guy who is awesome. It's the last weekend in February and it's well worth taking the time to visit.

Let's not forget Cinequest is coming too. I'll be there instead of Potlatch (or Wondercon) and tickets are now available. I highly recommend *Samurai Avenger*, *Generic Thriller*, *Shorts Program 5 (Letting Off Steam)* and *Truffe*. And there are Danish films and they're always fun. Starts February 25th and runs through March 8th. You must go!

BayCon announced that Tim Kirk will be their Artist Guest of Honor. He's a huge deal to me and he's a five-time Hugo winner for Best Fan Artist in the 1970s as well as a former Disney designer. I can't think of a better Artist Guest. He hasn't been around fandom nearly as much as he was in the 1970s, so his appearance is a big deal. He did present Frank Wu his Best

Fan Artist Hugo in 2006 at LACon, but that was the last I heard of him at a con.

Nic Farey continues to catch up on eFanzines.com. This time he put up several issues of *Arrows of Desire* from the 1990s. They're good stuff. I like Nic's writing, and his sensibilities are pretty impressive when it comes to layout. I gotta get more of his stuff printed out for the Lounge.



Siddhartha, Ian William's zine, has just put out another issue on eFanzines. I read it and then went back to it a few days later. There's a great review of *I Am a Woman*. It's solid. I like the perzine feel of the thing, largely because perzines are a personal favorite of mine. Well worth reading.

Flashing Forward with Robert J. Sawyer is one of those amazing zine-thingeos put out by Alan White, in support of Xanadu, the con over

Easter weekend in Las Vegas that I was very excited about but can't make it to now. It's a shame, because this zine alone made me far more interested in being there to get to meet Robert again.

If you haven't yet, you really should support the Westercon bid for San Jose. You can find more info at sfsfc.org/westercon64/

And while you're at it, take a look at www.raleighnasfic2010.org/ and support the Raleigh NASFiC bid. It'll be great fun in the land of tobacco. And perhaps, while we're nearer to Research Triangle, we could find a way to get some Tomacco made!



Letters of Comment

OK, R. Graeme Cameron, let's boogie!

Re: SFSF #78

Hi Chris, Jean & España!

Philip Gust shocked me somewhat when he mentioned seeing Forry in a wheelchair with old friends Ray Bradbury and Ray Harryhausen on either side in matching wheelchairs. I knew Forry was frail. I knew Bradbury was frail. But the last I'd heard of Harryhausen was that he was still up and about, as hale and hearty as someone his age could be. But as far back as 2005 in a wheelchair? This upset me.

Chris Garcia replies: I saw him in 2006 out of the wheelchair, so I'm guessing it was a temporary thing. A lot of the older folks who attend the big cons use wheelchairs or Mobies for them. Heck, I might get myself one for Montreal!

You know you are GETTING old when your childhood icons begin to pass away. You know you ARE old when famous iconic personalities YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF pass on. Not there yet.

Wow. I'm already there. My childhood icons have been dying since the early 1990s, but that's what happens when you're a wrestling fan!

Chris, your review of LosCon read like an episode in Philip K. Dick's writing... no, scratch that, like an episode in his life! Very eerie.

That's terrifying!

After VCON 2 Dick announced he was staying in Canada and spent the first week as guest of local movie critic Michael Walsh and his wife Susan. They found him a difficult guest. Apparently he didn't so much talk WITH you as AT you. At one point they put on a record by Marshall McLuhan consisting of random bits of sound and recorded monologue, thinking Dick would find it interesting. After a minute or two he covered his ears with his hands and started shouting, "Turn it off! Turn it off! It sounds like the inside of my head!"

I've heard a lot of stories about Dick that were very similar. The classic one being the time when he was attending a small con in LA and insisted that no one with a boombox be allowed in the building.

España, I found your Sci-fi Toga Party very amusing. The only costume I've ever worn at VCON had to do with my persona as MOOG THE MAGNIFICENT, a Martian who happens to be the Solar System's worst stand up comic. (When I showed up on stage the year after my first appearance someone in the audience shouted "Oh No! He's back!") My ensemble consisted of a tunic fashioned from a green foil tablecloth, a green fright wig, a green "Green Hornet" style face mask, a green glove with extended fingers (actually a cat toy), and glittering gold antennae. Made quite an

impression on Mundanes when I walked into the elevator I can tell ya!

OK, that sounds like a really fun costume. Mundanes are getting harder to freak out. You could wear that today and people will actually ask who you're cosplaying!

Cheers! The Graeme (fanned of SPACE CADET & WCSFAzine)

Always good to hear from ya!

And now, Mr. Steve Green!

It's no surprise Patrick McGoohan displayed that "cool James Bond air," as Jean terms it, since he was offered that very role early in the franchise's genesis, choosing instead to play the rather more realistic John Drake in *Danger Man* (aka *Secret Agent*). McGoohan was notoriously single-minded and abrasive, and it would no doubt have been highly entertaining to hear his opinion of the forthcoming TV remake.

Chris replies: Yeah, I think you're right about that. I enjoyed Secret Agent as a kid. I think he would have made a fine Bond, probably right up there with Connery. He had a very Clive Owen thing going about him years before Clive Owen had it.

Fabulous bacover photography by Lucy Huntzinger. Having caught Kris Kringle and his reindeer in mid-flight, I trust she'll soon be off capturing similar images of Sasquatch and the Loch Ness Monster.

If she does, I'm sure we can convince her to let us run the photos!

All best, Steve

Thanks, Steve!

And now, a note from John Purcell:

Man, I really need to get back into the swing of writing locs. My schedule isn't *that* busy right now... Oh, sorry. Yes, it is.

With an 80th issue now under your belt, I think we can honestly say that *SF/SF* is a zine that will be around for awhile. I am no great prognosticator, you understand, but this time I have a good feeling about this. In any event, it's a fine, fine issue that once again provoked a few comments from my fevered brow. But first, gotta get a refill of coffee. Be right back.

Chris replies: Well, I'm already thinking of fun stuff for issue 100, which is due out at the end of the year. If my math is correct, it'll be the last issue of 2009. Strange how these things work out, like my 4th Annish for The Drink Tank being the 200th issue.

Okay. I'm back. Where was I? Oh, yeah... Chris notes in his opening statement that folks are beginning to chatter and jockey for position in the Hugo races this year, and some of my fannish friends have told me that *Askance* has come up a *lot* in this discussion. That is flattering and surprises me. If the zine gets a nod, very cool and most definitely appreciated. We shall see what transpires, but I don't really care if my zine makes the Best Fanzine Hugo short list. Not only that, but I don't spend oodles of time perusing the various listservs and other on-line commentaries that fandom blathers about on the ether. There's simply too

much ground to cover, so if I hear something somewhere down the line, whatever. As far as I am concerned, the FAAn Awards mean more to me, and even there I really don't care if my zine makes the final ballot or not. Just knowing that people are reading and enjoying *Askance*, then writing to me and discussing what's in its pages, is my reward. I am having fun producing it, and to me that's all that really matters. It keeps me sane, which is a very subjective thing, you understand.

I'm with ya on those counts, though I must admit that I like the Hugos because they draw from a deeper well of people. I don't manage to read any of the listservs either, unless you count File770.com as a listserv. Askance has come up quite a bit more than The Drink Tank, that's for sure.

With that caveat out of the way, there really are many wonderful zines out there deserving of nomination for both FAAn and Hugo Awards. It looks like I won't be at Corflu Zed in March (fundage issues) nor Anticipation (same reason), yet I will be following the proceedings of both through the wonders of the Internet. Have fun, young feller, and say hello and gives hugs to folks for me.

I'll be at both and will think of you fondly. I'm very excited for CorFlu (I love Seattle!) and how could I not be hyped about Worldcon?

Lloyd Penney's loc reminds me that my wife is really getting into this Steampunk thing, which is cool. Val is an artistic sort who likes to make crafts and such, so she's starting to make jewelry and other sundries for possible sale at

cons or to offer on eBay, or both. We shall see where this endeavor leads. Maybe she can place an ad for these goodies in *SF/SF*. Whatever.

She might wanna look into selling as a part of etsy.com. It's good stuff and a lot of the SteamPunk types swear by it!

I was very saddened to hear of the passing of both Ricardo Montalban and Patrick McGoohan. Khan was one of SF's best all-time television baddies, and *The Prisoner* was one of my favorite TV shows. Ever. It was intelligent, witty, well-produced, and topical. So was *Star Trek*, but *The Prisoner* had elements of mystery, suspense and continuity which *Star Trek* sorely lacked. Both were fun shows, absolutely, and set the bar fairly high for the stfnal television programming to follow. Both men shall be missed.

I was depressed by the loss of Ricardo "KKKKHHHHAAAANNNN" and Mr. McGoohan in the same day. Hell, that'd make for a bad month, no less a bad day. The Prisoner was my all-time favorite TV show until Twin Peaks showed up.

As for the state of current SF magazines, I really don't read them anymore. When I do make the effort to find the current ones, Hastings has a couple of magazines — interestingly enough, things like *Space & Time* and the newest incarnation of *Weird Tales*, also *Realms of Fantasy*, which I like — on their shelves, but not the so-called Big Three of *Asimov's*, *Analog*, and *F&SF*. Those I find over at Barnes and Noble, and I don't go there very often. During the holiday break I discovered that our Half-Price Bookstore now sports a

shelf-plus of the digest SF mags at a dollar apiece, so I might start acquiring some there. The Internet is killing off newspapers and magazines, which shouldn't surprise anybody. But I do believe that there will be traditionalists who prefer reading material that they can hold in their sweaty hands, thus the SF mags aren't on the brink of extinction. They are getting there, but I believe it is going to be a while yet before that happens.

Frankly, I've not thought of Realms for ages. I kind figured it was someone's pet project and they'd just keep it going. I hadn't

been impressed with any of the recent issues I'd read and while it's not good to lose another market, it's also not good to keep one around that really isn't producing. Plus, their sales were just flat awful. I'm not one for newspapers.

Say, that John Scalzi guy sounds like a pretty cool fellow. Great write-up of that reading and book-signing event. I was a bit harsh at first when I learned of his infamous "win" over Dave Langford, but Scalzi really impressed me when I eventually heard and read his comments about spreading the wealth

around in the Fan Hugo categories. The more I read his blog and other writings, John seems to be a very nice fellow, and I am pleased to note that he's on my MySpace page as a friend. Not only that, but I read *Old Man's War* this past December — only took me two and a half days, which is a recent speed-reading record for me — and was very impressed by the novel. Very entertaining and thoughtful, and well-paced. That was his first novel? In a wheezy voice I say, "Most impressive!"

Old Man's War and The Android's Dream are both fantastic. His stuff's really good in general and I'm hoping to get to read more of his stuff. I have a feeling I'll have to for my Handicapping The Hugos issue.

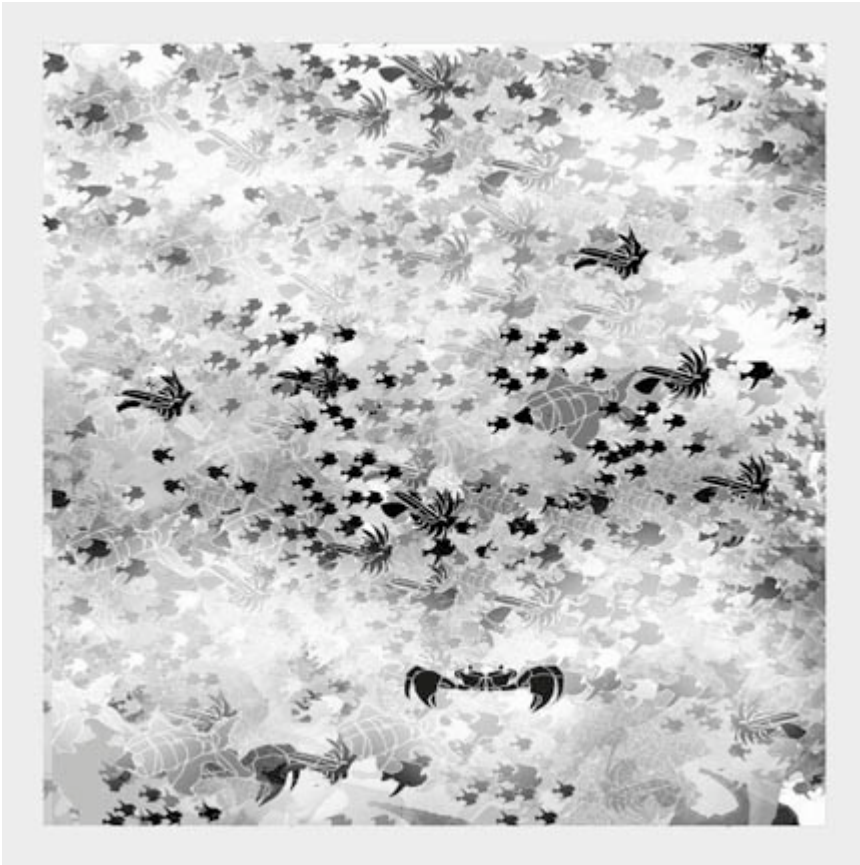
Add my voice to the chorus of folks who like the new and improved Bay Area fannish calendar. Nicely produced. Having a pull-out section like that is handy-dandy, and a lot quicker than licking liquor.

I like it too! I think we've come a long way in the last few issues. We've always been lucky to have good layout people for the zine! You'd think some of it'd rub off on me!

Hmm. I think it's time to wrap this up. Chat at you folks again sometime.

All the best,
John Purcell

Always good to hear from ya!



Kate Kelton

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor

Where did January go? I'm glad the coldest month of the year (and the busiest time at my work) is over. I was hoping to hibernate a little, which I did. There were too many nights that were just too cold to be out. But I managed to attend several fannish events, nevertheless. There was a hobbit/Tolkien birthday party, a M*A*S*H birthday party (which was appropriately on an unusually sunny day), a travel convention (where I got to meet my favorite travel show host, Rick Steves), the PEERS Twelfth Night Ball and the Edwardian Ball.

My review of the Twelfth Night Ball is in this issue. The ball was amazing fun and a great continuation of the Dickens Fair atmosphere and Christmas spirit — which was really nice because I was sick from Boxing Day through New Year's Day so I was able to celebrate more. My take on the Edwardian Ball is in this issue as well. Although it was a three-day event, I only went on one night (Saturday) as I thought it would be too much to drive to the city three nights in a row. I'm still trying to pace myself and cut down on events due to time, energy and financial considerations. I don't mind driving to events but parking in San Francisco is quite expensive. I paid \$20 to park!

Thankfully, there are no obituaries of sci fi icons in this issue. I guess a lot of influential people who came out in the genre boom of the late 1960s and early 1970s are at the age where their mortality catches up with them. It does make one think about how short life is but also how important it is to make one's life worthwhile and count for something. We all don't have to be famous and iconic but it would be great to be remembered with fondness and respect after we're gone.

Also, it does seem to me (and statistics bear this out) that a lot of people die after the holidays. Divorces happen a lot during this time as well. I have my own theories on the causes of these things, but this is not the venue to discuss them. It is a very interesting sociological phenomenon that I'm sure people can look up somewhere else if they're interested.

However, I am sad to report that Tilly the Wonderdog has passed away recently. Tilly was a prominent presence at sci fi conventions for years.

All these events in the smaller circle of my own life and in the bigger arena of the world have made me reflective during this time. Well, I'm usually introspective in the Winter anyway, but I have made some breakthrough realizations this past month or so.

My friend Louise said to me at the Browncoat Boxing Day party that regular people often stare at us Browncoats because they are curious to find out who we are and how we're all related. We don't look like we're having a family get together or a work party. And I suppose most friends tend to look alike, whereas we Browncoats spanned different ages, ethnicities, styles and personalities. This is normal for me so I don't think twice about it. But I looked around, and sure enough, most groups at the Kona Club that night were people who looked alike, and were of the same ages, ethnicities, fashion sense, even genders and dare I say social classes.

I do recall how I made this observation when I used to hang around with my Welsh ex-boyfriend's friends. They were all around the same age and were mostly white European immigrants with the same level of education and job fields. Not only that, the women would congregate in the kitchen and the men would congregate in the living room. Or whatever equivalent at a bar, which is where they could always be found on weekends.

Frankly, I find this quite safe, boring and, well, mundane. I don't want to be judgmental because I don't like it when mainstream folk call us weird or nerdy or whatever. All I'm saying is that their choice of social company is

not my cup of tea. But if that's what they want then that's all good... to each his own. I personally like diversity and a variety of friends and acquaintances.

As for the Browncoats, and fandom in general, we may all come from different walks of life, but what we have in common is our love of sci fi and fantasy and even science, history, art and literature. It was awesome to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Yule, Solstice, etc. at the Boxing Day party. I mean, other than expat Brits, who else knows about Boxing Day?

The other thing we all have in common is that we like to participate and not just be spectators or engage in passive leisure activities. We do watch movies and TV shows, and read books, but we take that a step further. These forms of media and entertainment inspire us and motivate us not only to get together with other people with like interests but also to do something creative and even good for society. Every event I go to, there are people who do photography, art, performing and even fundraising.

I admit that fandom seems to be mostly Caucasian but then that is the majority of the general population. I think percentage-wise, we do have a fair representation from different ethnicities.

Another Browncoat friend, Chris, told me that he loves meeting new people, and hanging out with different kinds of people, because he is always pleasantly surprised to hear others saying things that are interesting and different to him. I try to be like this as well because that's how I learn more about myself and the

world. I wish more people were like this because it seems to me that a lot of people are threatened by other people's different lifestyles and opinions that they don't understand.

I'm reading an enlightening spiritual book called *The Rhythm of Life* right now, and the author (Matthew Kelly) says the foundation of relationships is not understanding, which is the commonly held belief, but acceptance. So I'm trying to just accept people as they are because I want to be accepted myself. We're all entitled to our opinions and preferences, but it is also important to be open-minded and remember that other people are similarly entitled.

Kelly also mentions that he burned out after doing four years of teaching around the globe. I seem to be going through the same thing right now. And this happened to me in the 1990s as well during my heavy metal partying, I mean journalism, days. I guess the four-year cycle holds true for me as well. I can only go full-tilt out into the world for so long before I need to reflect and not just recuperate. Kelly says it's important to go inward to make sure that our outward manifestation has meaning and purpose. So we don't just go around doing activity after activity that in the long run don't serve us. He adds that even good things in excess become bad for us.

I suppose that's my challenge, because I do go to extremes and have done way more than can be realistically sustained for four years, and now I want to go in the other extreme direction and just stay home. The key is balance, which is what I'm working on right now. This takes a lot of conscious thought, awareness and

discipline. That is my goal, call it my New Year's resolution, for 2009.

Although February is a short month, it is a very busy one. I'm already busy getting ready for this month's PEERS event (the Scarlet Pimpernel Ball), then there's Gallifrey One in L.A., and then WonderCon in San Francisco. I'm also still busy at work (and will even be busier due to layoffs). With so many friends looking for work or getting laid off, I can't complain. My work finances my creative outlets, and so it is very important to me. I do love my job as well. It's the best job I've ever had as it suits my temperament, skills and talents.

I hope this year is going well for everyone so far. And if not, I hope things get better for those going through a hard time. The global economic situation is very uncertain at the moment so I think it's important for all of us to try to be positive, not only for ourselves, but also so we can support each other during this trying period in history.

Not My Fandom: A Guide to FurCon for the Non-Furry

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

Let me start by saying that I've had fun at the three Further Confusions I've attended. I've been on staff twice, which would indicate that yes, I do enjoy myself when I'm at the con. I do have to admit that there are aspects of Furry Fandom that weird me out, but honestly, you could say that about segments of any fandom. There are certainly parts of SF fandom that I would not want to meet in a dark alley, but that doesn't make SF fandom any less awesome. It just means you have to steer a particular course. With Furry Fandom, you have to do the same thing.

First, you have to pick your event. If you're local, Further Confusion is a fine convention. It's the second-largest furry con in the world. That's right, W-O-R-L-D! Anthrocon's bigger,



photo by Andrew Trembley



Non-Furry

photo by Andrew Trembley

but from what most folks have told me, FurCon is more fun. Going to a con like that is a good choice. Also, all the BArea fandoms are pretty close, so at FurCon, you'll find people who are friends of yours from other places. There are tons of folks who are costumers, or anime fans, or just plain folks who like to party. It's rather impressive how much crossover there is. Try to have a few friends who you know are gonna be there and that'll help.

Next, make a plan. Further Confusion, more than any other con I know of with the possible exception of Xanadu, has an excellent website full of a fair amount of information on just about every aspect. Know what you want to see. If people in fursuits acting silly freaks you out, make plans to go for lunch during the Fursuit Parade (though that'd be a shame, because it really is a blast to watch). If you

don't like anthropomorphic nudity, avoid that portion of the art show (and probably the adult species panels as well). You might like drawing, so you might wanna hang out in the Creator's Lounge (that's what I did), and you might wanna make sure you hit something like the Live Animal panels, which are educational and fun. A plan will allow you to best style the con to your enjoyment level.

Next, and this one is important: if it says Adult, it means Adult. In the Dealers' Room, you'll see binders that say Adult Art or 18+ or such. Take heed if ye be squeamish. They can be rather...bracing. True, there are people who enjoy that sort of thing, and I'll admit that some of it is rather artistic and entertaining, but there are also pieces that'll move you in other ways, which you may want to avoid. It's up to you, but you'll almost always be warned.



photo by Andrew Trembley



The Witch Doctor photo by Andrew Trembley

If I had to make a list of five things that a non-Furry attending FurCon should do, it would start with Furry Night Live. It's a talent show, more or less, and features a wide variety of acts. This year's opened with a fursuiter doing a drum solo. It was supported by a video thing that made it more of a skit, but it was very cool. There was a fine B-Boy breaking it down in a suit, some karate fighting, and a great skit about a fursuit going from drab to fab with the help of a reworked song from *Wicked*. It used the word "Yiffable" which was well done. Evil Kevin, aka Kevin Roche, was even in it playing the Witch Doctor in a skit using the song "The Witch Doctor" from Dave Seville. It was funny stuff. It's a good time and it's almost entirely appropriate for all ages. Almost.

The second would be the Wild Animal panels. Last year, I brought in the folks from Leopards, Etc. to give a Big Cat presentation. It

was very well-received and they came back this year and brought their cats with them. At the presentation, they talk about ocelots, caracals, lynx (who are my favorites), puma and even a king cheetah. The presentation is solid, they're incredibly informative and they show all sorts of fun animals. I think that it's the most accessible for non-furs. They also had a fine Falconry show that was really interesting. Sadly, I only got to see part of it.

Third would be Fursuit Parade. It's fun and the folks are really funny. They'll walk by, wave, and even play around with the folks watching from the sidelines. Yes, it's a whole bunch of suiters walking through the hotel, but it's really fun. It's especially fun to watch the kids when they get to play with the suiters who

walk by. They love them, absolutely love them, and that's even more fun than watching the parade. At the Coffee Garden, you can sit and eat and watch them walk by, though sadly, they're leaving the DoubleTree and anyway the Coffee Garden is Sprigs now and that sucks.

The Dealers' Room is a fine place to find just about anything Furry-related, and quite a few things that are not. You'll find some books and a lot of art. You may want to buy yourself one of the very cool badge art thingees that almost every artist in the room will be making and selling.

Finally, make a visit to the parties. No doubt the Klingons will be there. They'll probably even have their slave auction. There'll probably be a BASFA party, and maybe one or



photo by AI "Rackstraw" Megas



photo by AI "Rackstraw" Megas

two other cons will have one. It's one of the most fun things you can do at FurCon. You mingle, you drink a little, you enjoy yourself.

There's one way you can sort of ease into the entire thing: work for the con. Maybe you could do a few shifts at Reg, or sign up to help with one of the Lounges, or help run



photo by Andrew Trembley



photo by AI "Rackstraw" Megas

programming. All of these are good ways to dip into the convention. Once folks start to recognize you, things'll lighten up and you'll have more fun. Maybe you could even help run one of the parties. Being the person who slings the booze always helps make you popular.

So, those are the steps you can take to enjoy a furry con if you're not a furry. I'd recommend it. While there is the thought that furries don't take kindly to non-furs joining in on their con

fun, I've never felt that at all. As long as you're there to have a good time and not just gawk at the freaks, you'll do fine. Well, in some cases it's hard not to gawk, but don't worry, those folks tended to get gawked at by furries and non-furries alike!

This Old Fanzine: Dynatron 72

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

There are things in the TAFF archives/auction stores that are, for lack of another word, awesome. It's interesting to note that there are things in there that I've never heard of and many things that I've heard quite a lot about.

In the earlier category is *Dynatron* by a fellow named Roy Tackett. Sadly it wasn't in the best of shape. It was put in a plastic bag and piled with stuff. I took it out and repackaged it in an acid-free folder. The first thing that hit me was that it looked like it was from the 1950s, was in worse shape than many of the *Hyphens* and earlier TAFF publications, but it was made in 1979. The cover was by ATom, aka Arthur Thompson, and it's a good one of a robot fighter with a ray gun and some ships in the end. It might be somewhat responsible for me thinking this was considerably older than it really was. It feels very 1950s.

The contents are great. They feature Roy talking about Bubonicon, the long-running Albuquerque convention and the various panels and so forth. There is some talk about then-current Conservatism. I wonder what words would spring forth about what we've seen over the last couple of decades. It'd be interesting to find out. Of course, there is also a long piece about religion in science fiction. It features Stephen Donaldson, Mike Kring and Orson

Scott Card. It was highly possible that OSC had not yet gone off the deep end, or if he had, he wasn't talking about it. This apparently made some heads turn because of the various claims of religion being as good a basis for SF as natural law. Well, that's an interesting idea, and one that is probably true, but if I were to hear OSC say it, I'd probably debate it too!

There's a strange piece from Ed Cox that I thought was interesting and honestly, kinda reminded me of myself, only in a weird way. It's the story of a guy who joins FAPA, starts doing zines and is the talk of the town because of his talent and perfection of writing. I sorta exploded on the scene, joined up with FAPA pretty quick, but I was never the kind of quality machine that the Melvin Putney of the article is. I just started writing zines and stuff at great speed and kept going. The similarities increase when the guy stands for TAFF and wins. Hey, I've done that! Then again, there's the piece where the guy's the toast of fandom and is the top of all the polls. He also specifically does not join the N3F. Well, it wasn't like that Titan/Titanic coincidence. It ends up being something of a joke, but it's a fun little piece. It's long enough to gather interest, but short enough that my mind didn't go wandering.

The zine mostly peters out, which is too bad, but there's a fine little poem that references Claude Degler. He was a character, an unsavory character to hear most folks tell it, but he is a

figure in the history of fandom that is significant enough to keep in mind. Supposedly he's still alive and living in Minnesota, but there's no certain proof of that...or of his passing.

The back page is kind of worrying and shows how TAFF has largely changed over the last 30 years. Here's a quote: "TAFF is not a charity nor is it something a fan runs for. TAFF is a recognition, a reward. One does not announce that he or she is running for TAFF. If a fan is worthy of it that fan will be nominated by his peers."

OK, things have changed. I certainly announced my running, asked folks to nominate me, got my name out and pushed for folks to vote for me. I'm not subtle, I'll say that, but really, that's how it works now. Yes, I understand that there are people who preferred the old ways, the sit back and let it happen if it's gonna happen, but really, it's not like that anymore and I rather like it. Yes, TAFF is an honor, but it's also a charity. I really think that need should come into people's minds, especially during the process of candidates, but it should also go to someone who has really done good stuff for fandom. It should all come into play.

It's a short zine, much like the issues of *The Drink Tank* that happen right after I've done a big issue. Still, there's some good writing in there and while the art is limited to the cover, it's still good stuff.

More Dickensian Merriment at Twelfth Night Ball

By Jean Martin

Editor

As if four weekends of the Great Dickens Christmas Fair were not enough, Victorian-attired merrymakers descended on the San Mateo Masonic Hall to continue the festivities with the PEERS Twelfth Night (aka Dickens Fair Reunion) Ball on January 3rd. I was still struggling to get over a cold that turned into a sinus infection up to the day before the ball, so I was not sure if I was going to be able to make it. However, I missed the same one last year and I don't like missing opportunities to perform. Also, this event would mark my fourth anniversary as a member of the Peerless Beauties, the chorus girl group that performs during the Peerless Music Hall at Victorian PEERS events. So I made a huge effort to take care of myself and get better.

I was barely well when I got to the hall for rehearsal at 4:30 p.m. I wasn't sure if I could even sing at all as my ears, sinuses and head were all stuffy. But adrenaline and excitement got me through not only the afternoon but into the evening and even wee hours of the morning. I just love dancing, performing, costuming and being

around friends who enjoy the same so much that I seem to be transported into a zone where I and everything else are okay.

After rehearsals, I went to meet up with Deborah, Bud, Scott, Dawn, Gloria and Helena for dinner at a nearby Indian restaurant. Then I rushed back to change into my Victorian outfit for the evening, a riding outfit comprising a light blue jacket, white blouse and black skirt, and a new wig attachment of black curls, which looked so natural on me that people thought it was my real hair.

When I got back, toward the end of the pre-ball dance class, the place was already packed with people. We weren't sure how many people would show up due to the economic downturn, but attendance broke a record, and the ball turned out to be a huge financial and artistic success. Perhaps people have more of a need to have fun, forget their cares, and enjoy themselves during this difficult economic climate. The Dickens Fair probably also drove the tide of interest in Victorian costuming and dancing. Plus, the ball was early this year, right after New Year's, and so people were probably still in the holiday



Deborah and Bud Waltzing

photo by Stasha Powell

spirit and wanted to extend the festivities a few more days.

I saw several people I met at this past Dickens Fair at the ball, as well as several dance friends I hadn't seen in a while. It truly felt like a reunion. Friends who were there included Mike and Carol, Louise, Stephanie, Mike, Arielle, Kim, Cin, and Stacy and Tracy in matching Christmas-inspired Victorian attire. My friend Chris came dressed as the 4th Doctor Who and it was an interesting coincidence that two other men came as the Doctor, one as the 5th and another as the 10th. The Doctor does have a penchant for Victorian England and Christmas. In fact, the recent *Doctor Who* Christmas special was set in both. I tried to take a photo of all three Doctors together but it was difficult finding all three at the same time as the ball was extremely crowded!



Jean and the 4th Doctor Under the Mistletoe
photo courtesy Jean Martin

With the record attendance, collisions on the dance floor occurred quite frequently. I jokingly told a friend that it was “bumper car ballroom dancing” that evening. But everyone was in good humor and took everything in stride.



Charles Dickens photo by Jean Martin

There were numerous patrons in beautiful costumes, and I took lots of photos in between trying to dance as well as performing during the second intermission. The first intermission was someone roleplaying Charles Dickens doing a



Queen Victoria and Prince Albert
photo by Jean Martin

reading from *A Christmas Carol*. The third intermission was a parlor game.

For the second intermission, the Music Hall, I changed into a new pink corset, and white can-can shorts I bought at the Dickens Fair, both of which matched really well with striped black stockings and my black can-can boots. We performed several musical numbers, and it seemed like there was a lot of positive energy from the performers as well as the audience. There were a lot of people who actually watched the entire show in rapt attention and sung along with some numbers

such as “The Boy I Love” (solo by Cathleen Myers). There was also a funny skit to “Bird in A Gilded Cage” (sung by Susanne with Laura, Ammy and Ammy’s boyfriend), and a lively tune, “A-Rovin’,” (with Charles and Ariyana), which segued into the popular “Lumberjack Song” by Monty Python (Charles). We ended with “Don’t Have Any More Mrs. Moore” (sung by Hilary along with can-can dancing by some of us gals). I do enjoy singing and dancing as part of the chorus for the Music Hall.



Stacy and Tracy

photo by Jean Martin

There was a no-host bar this time around, which the guests enjoyed. The food and décor were also beautifully prepared and delicious. And, of course, the live music by Bangers and Mash was much admired.

The ball was still in full swing around midnight, but my usual group of friends who I go to Heidi’s Pies with after PEERS balls wanted to leave, and so I left with them. Heidi’s Pies was closed for some emergency, and we wound up at Denny’s, which actually worked well for me, as having some warm oatmeal made me feel tons better. I heard that the ball lasted until almost 1:00 a.m., and it ended with everyone singing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel’s *Messiah*. I did that several times at Dickens Fair and Gaskell’s last December and so I didn’t feel too bad that I missed it. But I’m so glad I didn’t miss this ball, and I’m looking forward to it again next year.

For more information on PEERS and upcoming balls, visit: www.peers.org.



Jean on stage with the Peerless Beauties

photo by Maimone Attia

An Edwardian Ball Weekend

By John C. Sulak
Contributing Writer

The 2009 Edwardian Ball Weekend in San Francisco at many times reminded me of past experiences in science fiction fandom. Almost everyone who attended, both performers and those in the audience, was dressed up. And many of them were in outfits that could have, not that long ago, been on the stage at a Worldcon Masquerade. At the 1996 L.A. Con, which I attended, there was a woman dressed up as a character from Neal Stephenson's *The Diamond Age*, and I remember thinking how cool she looked. She was then competing in the Journeyman (Intermediate) division. At the Edward Ball Weekend, I was in the Diamond Age itself, with of hundreds of people who looked at least that good, and it went on for three evenings.

There were many science fiction and fantasy-themed bands on the stage. This seemed to me to be carrying on a tradition that goes back to 1970, when the record album *Blows Against The Empire*, recorded by Paul Kantner and the Jefferson Starship, was released. Side two of the original LP featured a rock opera about hijacking a starship, leaving the planet Earth and flying across the galaxy to find a better life. The story was a hippie version of Robert Heinlein's *Methuselah's Children*, and it actually got nominated for the Hugo

award that year for best dramatic presentation. (I was at the Worldcon in Boston in 1971 when they announced the winners. *Blows* lost, but I remember talking with people there about it, and we were all pretty excited that it had gotten recognition.)

Jumping ahead to January 23, 2009, I found myself at the first night of the ball, which had the theme of "The Edwardian World's Fair." It was basically set in an alternative history, Steampunk world. There were actual steam-powered inventions set up throughout the Regency Center, including a time machine motorcycle in the lobby. (Its inventor had successfully channeled the spirit of George Pal.)

On stage that night was, first off, the band Abney Park. Rumor has it that they were from some place called Seattle, but they claimed to have "come from an era that never was, but one that we wish had been. An era where airships waged war in the skies, and corsets and cummerbunds were proper adventuring attire." They looked like they had stepped right out of the pages of one of Edgar Rice Burroughs' Mars novels, with the lead singer as John Carter and the back-up singer/belly dancer as Princess Dejah Thoris. (Indeed, looking at her gave me déjà vu.) Abney Park had a heavily synthesized sound that was topped off by a talented lead guitar player who doubled on electric violin.

The band members stayed in character before and after their set when they were all hanging out at their merchandise table.

Friday's headliners Rasputina were, according to their official history, formed by



Edwardian Lady with Steampunk Motorcycle
photo by John Adams



Rosin Coven

photo by John Adams

cellist/singer Melora Creager in 1891. Well over a century later Creager still looks great in a corset, and continues to be backed up by another cello player and a percussionist. They might actually be Victorian, not Edwardian, but they fit right in when they took the stage after midnight. Their music was appropriately dark and spooky. I don't know what their songs were about, but they could easily do the soundtrack for a horror movie. (I think I heard them say something about recording for the PBS *Mystery!* series.)

Saturday night was “The Edwardian Ball” itself — a San Francisco tradition since the turn of the century! Opening act Jill Tracy was the Belle of the Ball, as she has been since the very first one. She is a singer/songwriter/keyboard player who tells Gothic tales that got the audience moving. And then came the main event: Three one-act plays that were staged by house band Rosin Coven and the multi-talented Vau de Vire Society. Rosin Coven's musicians play an eclectic mix of instruments, including vibraphone, violin, and cello, and they all know

how to improvise as the Society performed the story that was being told. They've done this before, and they have real chemistry together.

Their first story of the evening was an original, a tribute to writer/cartoonist Edward Gorey. He lived in New York and, when George Balanchine was alive and choreographing, Edward Gorey went to every performance of the New York City Ballet. He always wore a full-length fur coat, lots of outrageous jewelry, and sneakers. The ballet was one of his inspirations, and the dancers were his muses. So, at the Ball, while Rosin Coven accompanied them with a slow blues, the Vau de Vire Society danced and played cartoon ballerinas, and the character of Edward Gorey brought them to life and then cleverly killed them off.

The second play was a dramatization of Gorey's short story *The Disrespectful Summons*. For this one Rosin Coven was joined by guest artists Cirque Berzerk. *The Disrespectful Summons* is about a woman who sells her soul to the devil and pays the price in the end. But of course, as Gorey wrote it, it was all very clever and entertaining.

And this was all just a warm-up to the grand finale, an epic staging of Gorey's *The Tuning Fork*. The original story is only 168 words long, with 15 black and white illustrations. In the Regency Center Ballroom that night it was magic — a fantasy that was made real. This was the first year the Ball has been in an actual ballroom, and the Regency Center has a big stage. The Vau de Vire Society are, among

other things, talented circus acrobats, and they finally had some room to show off what they can really do. I classify the experience as “theater,” but that’s kind of like calling the May 29, 1913 premiere of *Le Sacre du Printemps* at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées “a night at the ballet.” There was much more going on. The combination of acting, dance, music, costumes, and computer technology, and the particular time and place, was radical, beautiful and unforgettable.

When it was all over I got in the airship that was waiting outside and asked the pilot to take me home. As the ship quietly lifted up in the air, I looked down at the Regency Center and understood that even though the year was still young, “The Edwardian Ball Weekend” will be getting my nomination for the Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation of 2009!

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



A Portion of the Gashlycrumb Tinies

photo by John Adams

Celebrating Gorey's Work in Style at the Edwardian Ball

By Jean Martin
Editor

I went to the Edwardian Ball for the first time in 2006 when it was held at the Great American Music Hall. I covered that event for *SF/SF* and at that time, the Edwardian Ball was only for one night. I marveled at how my different worlds coalesced in one place in one evening. There were vintage ballroom dancers, costumers, performers, sci fi and fantasy fans, and Burning Man folk. I remember the hall being packed and having a hard time dancing as a result. But I had a marvelous time and was blown away by the production of the event as well as the high caliber of costuming by the performers as well as attendees.

More recently, the Edwardian Ball has expanded into a three-day weekend of festivities celebrating the work of author and illustrator Edward Gorey. I first heard of Gorey because his art inspired the opening sequence of the PBS show *Mystery*. *Mystery* features British mystery shows, which I love. I don't know much about Gorey so I was surprised to find out, after some research, that he was born in the U.S. in 1925 and never went to England. This is a common misconception, it seems, because his books are set in Victorian and Edwardian times. So the name Edwardian Ball is appropriate on two levels: one for Edward Gorey and the other for the era of Britain's

King Edward VII (1901-1910).

This year, the Edwardian Ball moved to San Francisco's Regency Center, which is a lot bigger and newly renovated. The Edwardian Ball weekend was last January 23-25. I only had time to go on Saturday, January 24th. Touted by the impressive program as "a splendid three-night celebration of art, music, dance, theatre, circus and, of course, the art and stories of Edward Gorey," the actual ball on Saturday night was certainly that and more. I

give major kudos to Justin Katz of PARADOX Media, the producer of the event, for such an elegant, well run, highly entertaining and huge endeavor.

The program book had ads from the sponsors and I was surprised to see several companies and individuals who were also part of the Steampunk Convention last Halloween weekend. In fact, when I entered the amazingly beautiful and historic ballroom, my first response to seeing the crowd was that it was



Jill Tracy and Justin Katz

photo by Jean Martin



Dark Garden Model

photo by Jean Martin

more Steampunk and less Gorey. I suppose the two genres have a lot in common, being both set in the Victorian and Edwardian eras, being counterculture and having a gothic influence. Both also draw in the Burning Man subculture since all of these groups do promote participatory art and performance.

I would say the difference is that Gorey is more macabre, Steampunk more technological, and Burning Man more art. But they all seem to intermingle and have a lot of overlap. I missed

the Edwardian World's Fair the night before, which really falls in the category of Steampunk. Seattle rock band Abney Park, who performed at the Steampunk Convention, made an appearance on Friday night. I really like the band a lot and listen to their music fairly often at work on my iPod, but I just saw them recently so I didn't feel too bad that I didn't get to see them again. I'm sure they'll be back soon.

Although the Regency Ballroom is much bigger than the Great American Music Hall, it quickly became packed with people in amazing costumes, which were very elegant, elaborate and varied. The night started out with ballroom dancing and it was great to dance while the crowd was relatively thin. There were several of us PEERS (Period Events and Entertainments Re-Creation Society) folk there and we were able to waltz and tango. However, I came by myself and it became harder to find dance partners as the night wore on. It became too crowded to dance and one couldn't tell who was available or willing to dance. Plus, it seemed like most of the guests came as couples who didn't dance with anyone except the person they came with, or else what seemed to me big Burning Man groups.

It was also hard to connect with friends I knew were there, because of the crowd. I ran into Playa (Burning Man) acquaintances, dance friends (Kim and Laura) and sci fi friends (Louise, Sophia and Joe, and Diane). Meeting new people was also difficult because people tended to stick with people whom they knew. This seems to be common among all larger

events and not just this one.

I did manage to dance a couple of tangos with a fabulous dancer named Fabio who I think is more into modern ballroom dancing. I danced with John and Van who are into vintage ballroom dancing, and did a lovely waltz with PEERS Artistic Director Cathleen Myers. I suppose I shouldn't have expected to dance the whole night as I would at one of my regular haunts. This event is called a ball but is really more than that. In fact, it was more of a concert than a dance.

DJ Delachaux played eclectic music in between the concert acts. But the main focus of the evening were the performances by the très chic Jill Tracy (with guest Abney Park violinist Nathaniel), Vermilion Lies (a duo of hip-looking gals with a guitar and gasoline can drum), Rosin Coven (with producer Justin Katz) and Vima Burlesque (which did "When You're Good to Mama" from the musical *Chicago*).

Rosin Coven took to the raised stage with aplomb as they opened with their song "March of the Modern Pagans." I liked Rosin Coven when I saw them in 2006 and I liked them even more this time. I did like the song "Jalousie" best then and this time around. It has a nice tango beat that is very danceable. I preferred their colorful Raj-inspired outfits as well. Cirque Berzerk and Vau de Vire Society performed dances and pantomimes behind Rosin Coven for several of the songs and a recitation (accompanied by music) of some of Edward Gorey's work. Cirque Berzerk and Vau de Vire did a lot of fun dancing and awesome

aerial acrobatics.

One number that Vau de Vire did was quite memorable. Behind the band and in front of a big movie screen, the main girl character “drowns” in a bath tub into the sea and meets mermaids and other sea creatures all in blue. These mermaids, suspended in the air, did acrobatics on hula hoops and silks with moving and changing pictures of water and seaweed depicted on the screen. The effect was very magical and ethereal. Then an enormous sea monster showed up to scare the girl.

After their performance on stage, Vau de Vire did some floor acrobatics in the middle of the dance floor and the crowd made room and congregated around them. Throughout the show, most people were standing in front of the stage. There were also people sitting in the balcony where there were theater-style seats going around the perimeter of the hall.

As I didn’t want to stand the entire time, and I didn’t want to just sit, I wandered around to find friends and to explore the dark wonderland that was the Edwardian Ball. There was the main lobby area with a façade of a house with two ghostly mannequins in white and a Steampunk motorcycle. These two attractions were popular for people wanting their photos taken. There was also a photo station where a professional photographer took photos of the guests. This was in a side room where there was a bar as well as merchandise tables for the acts performing that evening. There were two other bars, one in the back of the ballroom and another in the balcony. All of the bars served Absinthe (illegal in the U.S.

until not so long ago), which is the drink of choice for the Bohemian set.

I checked out the balcony sometime during the evening. The view of the stage and the dance floor, and the chandeliers hanging from the ceiling, was quite fabulous. On the back wall of the balcony was a gallery of surreal art,



PEERS Dancers

photo by Jean Martin

and at the entrance to the balcony was an art installation by J.D. (of horg.com) whom I know from having camped in the Playa with him and his group for the 4th of July in 2005. The installation was a big metal tree with giant microscopes through which you could see

Gorey’s illustrations and writings.

J.D. and his friends were also responsible for the most prominent and most Gorey-inspired participatory activity by attendees. Their *Gashlycrumb Tinies* costumes (based on Gorey’s cautionary tale of children whose names start with all 26 letters of the alphabet and who die of bizarre causes) were a hit with everyone. They were also very inclusive as they handed out nametags for others to wear. I wound up with “A is for Amy who fell down the stairs.” J.D. was “Quentin who sank on a mire,” Logan (who gave out the nametags) was “Xerxes devoured by mice,” Martin was “Desmond thrown out of a sleigh,” Raven was “Zillah who drank too much gin,” Dan (sandwiched in between two rugs) was “George smothered under a rug,” and Carol was “Titus who flew into bits.” There were three remarkable costumes by women I had not met until that evening. One of them was “Maud who was swept out to sea” complete with a blue dress and a fishing net with starfish and seaweed all over her. Then there was “Una who slipped down a drain” who actually walked around with a manhole-sized drain around her waist. The most impressive was “Winnie embedded in ice” whose upper body was encased in cardboard and a thin sheet of plastic so it looked like she was dead underneath a big block of ice.

I was surprised to find out that my dance friends Dan and Kim also know J.D.’s group. It is such a small world. I suppose everyone who is into expressing their creativity and who likes to participate and not just be a spectator is

bound to know the same type of people. In fact, that's what I really enjoyed about the event, and events of this nature. There is something for everyone, be it dancing, singing, acrobatics, costuming, literature or photography.

There were a lot of professional, semi-professional and amateur photographers at the Edwardian Ball, which was fun because at midnight, all of the Gashlycrumb Tinies, including myself, congregated in the main lobby for a photo shoot. It was difficult to get all of us in one photo. There were at least 35 people by one person's reckoning (more than the letters of the alphabet due to duplications). But I was glad to be a part of it as I had felt alone for most of the evening. I usually don't have any problems going to events by myself, but due to the circumstances I mentioned earlier, I wasn't able to connect easily with people as I normally do.

Interestingly enough, as I was waiting in line for the bathroom (which took at least 30 minutes and made me miss some of the aerial acrobats), one of the Gashlycrumb Tinies came up to entertain us ladies waiting for the bathroom. He asked some of us to pull out a Tarot card from his deck and I pulled the Synergy card. To which he said that I should be connecting with people that evening. I said I was trying! I felt disheartened before that, but his reaching out by example, and my getting that particular card encouraged me to do what the card said. So after that, I ran into J.D. who told me about the photo shoot at midnight, and then I got to meet some photographers and writers, and I also ran into a friend I haven't

seen in a while, Allan, who took me to the Edwardian Ball in 2006.

To me, events are about people. Still, the décor at the Edwardian Ball was quite a treat. There were decorative backdrops on most walls as well as up the staircase. There was also a science exhibit on one side of the ballroom and Steampunk machines on the other. One of the Steampunk attractions was a steam-powered sewing machine.



Steampowered Sewing Machine

photo by Jean Martin

Going back to people, models for Dark Garden (Autumn Adamme's popular corsetiere

in San Francisco) posed like mannequins one at a time at one of the entrances to the ballroom. Unlike at Dickens Fair, however, these models were fully clothed. Lara and Kaliko wore gorgeous Victorian attire with their corsets worn on the outside. There were also circus acts going around, such as a pair of costumed men on stilts.

The Edwardian Ball went on until late. I don't know the exact time it was supposed to end but I gave up around 1:00 a.m. as I still had the drive home and had to wake up early the next day for a travel convention. There were still a lot of people when I left. I'm used to balls that end around midnight, but I guess this is a more mainstream event in the city where staying out late is more the norm. I like staying out late myself but I usually like to move on to other things, such as finding a place to eat, after dancing. I went straight home after a very satisfying evening of dancing, music, art, photography, acrobatics, literature and friends. I do love creative and intelligent forms of entertainment and the Edwardian Ball was world class in this respect.

New Traditions at Seattle's Filk Con

By Howeird

Contributing Writer

"If it happens twice in fandom, it's a tradition."

– Rick Weiss, *Chair, Conflikt 2*

The Holiday Inn at Renton, WA (the suburb south of Seattle where Boeing got its start) is an unlikely place for a con, but that didn't prevent more than 150 filkers showing up from far and wide for Conflikt, Seattle's filk con. The Bay Area was well represented, including the GoH, Seanan McGuire, direct from Contra Costa County.

The con started Friday, January 30, with a CD recording session, the CD being a special bonus for those who signed up for the Saturday brunch. After audio was set up in the concert room, Puzzlebox and Kathy Mar gave concerts,



Frank Hayes

photo by Howeird

with a fan-participation recording session in between. Open filking started around 9:30 p.m. and was still going when I bailed at 1 a.m. The level and amount of talent was amazing.

Saturday events began with John Seghers, assisted by Jen K, giving a workshop called "The Microphone Is Not The Enemy." After explaining in easy-to-understand layman's vocabulary some of the basic points of microphone usage, everyone was given a chance to get up on stage and try out John's cardioid mike. John and Jen did most of the audio work for the rest of the con.

Brunch with the guests was next, and the room was completely packed. While the food was unremarkable, the company was brilliant. One of the "traditions" for the brunch was for each table to write a filk based on two random words. Some tables collaborated to produce one song, others had two or three filks to offer. Another tradition is the presenting of superhero capes, made by Canadian filker Brooke Lunderville, to the guests of honor.

After brunch the program split into two parallel tracks, a singing track and a workshop track. The legendary Frank Hayes served as toastmaster and MCed the song track sessions with aplomb, wit, charm, and the memory lapses which are part of his legend. There was a songbook sing-along (Conflikt had a printed songbook as part of the registration packet,



Seanan McGuire

photo by Howeird

songs contributed by members and guests well beforehand), two-fers (though there was only time for about five performers), and concerts by Randy Hoffman, Mark Bernstein and Interfilk GoH Lawrence Dean from Faversham, Kent, England.

One of Dean's filks is about annoying ring tones, where he invites the audience to participate by holding up their cell phones during the chorus, blasting out their most obnoxious ring tones. His previous record was 29 phones; this session just about doubled that record.

Over on the other side of the hotel's meeting area, Puzzlebox gave a Performance and Stage Presence workshop, Seanan McGuire

led an improv workshop, and Char MacKay led a belly dance workshop.

A highlight of the afternoon was the Interfilk auction, with a large and eclectic collection of items, ranging from hand-made pendants and graphic strips from the GoH to Jaffa Cakes donated by the Interfilk GoH. Seanan McGuire and Mark Bernstein were co-auctioneers. As one would expect, there were lots of filk CDs, but unlike most con auctions, there were also data disks of raw audio donated by the recording techs from a couple of con filks. One of those went for \$500. And of course there were the wenches. When a bidder needs encouragement to respond to being outbid, a bevy of suggestively clad wenches are



Calli Hills, Naomi Rivkis, Steve Savitzky

photo by Howeird



Interfilk Auction: Seanan McGuire and Mark Bernstein look on as Vixy demonstrates the acoustic properties of Jaffa Cakes

photo by Howeird

dispatched to encourage him (or her) to keep bidding, usually with their spouses looking on in amusement.

After a dinner break, there were concerts by Marian Call of Anchorage, AK, Toastmaster Frank Hayes and GoH Seanan McGuire.

Hayes simply sat down on stage and said, “What do you want to hear?” and played requests for about an hour, including “Never Set The Cat on Fire,” “When I Was A Boy” and “The S-100 Bus.” When “The Twelve Days of Worldcon” was requested, he asked the audience if they were committed — and they were. And they needed to be, because it is a long and tongue-twisting epic.

McGuire brought a small entourage onstage with her: backup singers, keyboard, guitar and maybe more. Highlights included a zombie take-off on the Dead Man’s Curve genre of 60’s

rock, and selections from her latest CD, *Red Roses and Dead Things*.

While the concerts were going on, open filking was on the other side of the hotel, and after the concert room was turned over to filking, two open filks were in session.

Sunday's first session was juried one-shots at 11, with a break for lunch during which a hiss 'n' purr session called Sharps and Flats was held in one of the meeting rooms. After lunch another fun session was held: the songwriting concert. Friday evening, the con announced a list of words, and the object of the game was to write a filk using all the words. The list was somewhat challenging, with words such as "licky," "meretricious," "diatomaceous" and "broccoli." The three guests were judges, and there were enough contestants to go well past the one hour time slot. The winning entry was a fast-paced ballad (think "The Devil Went Down To Georgia") by Mark Osier about a torrid love affair with an alien which gave him a case of pan-galactic STD.



Mark Osier, Lynn Gold, Blind Lemming Chiffon
photo by Howeird



Creede Lambard, Frank Hayes

photo by Howeird

Over on the workshop track, Tony Fabris led a session on reverse-engineering songs and C.D. Woodbury demonstrated "The Weird Chords." Open filking continued on that side of the hotel through dinner time.

Concerts by Naomi Rivkis and Steve Savitzky followed (both accompanied on various flute-like objects by Calli Hills). Next up on the song track was the Band Scramble. Earlier in the con, people had put their names into a jar, and those were drawn at random to create four or five ensembles. Finding rehearsal space was a challenge; one band commandeered the exercise room. A jam

session wrapped up the formal part of the song track, but after dinner everyone who didn't have a plane/bus/car/spaceship to catch was welcome to stay till "whenever" for the Smoked Salmon filk session.

Lost Connections

By Al “Rackstraw” Megas
Contributing Writer

Though the survivors of Oceanic Flight 815 have only been marooned on the island for two months by their reckoning, it has taken network television four years and counting to tell their tale! On January 21st, the show resumed tantalizing us with impenetrable mysteries, inter-character intrigue, and its signature flashbacks (and flashforwards!)

New viewers of the show (not to mention those who don't watch regularly) may find themselves...well, lost! On the other hand, there are a lot of familiar faces for an island full of strangers!

Where else might science fiction fans have seen these actors?

Matthew Fox – Dr. Jack Shepard was sighted last year in the mask of the mysterious Racer X from the new *Speed Racer* movie. Much intrigue, including a subplot involving plastic surgery to achieve Fox's face, surrounded the masked character in that film.

Evangeline Lilly – The much sought-after Kate Austen has also appeared in *Freddy Versus Jason* and *Smallville*. (Her fiancé, seen in only one flashback, was once Captain of the *Firefly Serenity*!)

Terry O'Quinn – John Locke was once a proponent of cloaking devices (normally not used by the United Federation of Planets) as



Lost Cast

Courtesy of ABC

Admiral Pressman in “Pegasus,” an episode of *Star Trek: TNG*. He was also the young Howard Hughes in *The Rocketeer*! (The office bully who tormented him at work back in the first season now sings those FreeCreditReport.com jingles!)

Daniel Dae Kim – Jin, that Korean man, CAN speak English! And he does when he briefly appears working on one of Doctor Octopus's contraptions in *Spider-Man 2*. He was also Corporal Chang in three episodes of

Enterprise, Dr. Tsi Choi in TV's *The Andromeda Strain*, and has done voice work in many animated shows.

Dominic Monaghan – As if anyone missed this, the bass player in Drive Shaft used to be a member of an even more famous group. He was Merry from *The Fellowship of the Ring*!

Harold Perrineau – Michael Dawson (artist, architect, and father of a gifted child) appeared as Link, Operator of the Nebuchadnezzar hovercraft in the *Matrix*

sequels. As Link, he had to fill the shoes of his fan-applauded predecessor, Tank. He managed this feat with light comic relief, acting the role uncertainly as a character who aspired to new heights.

Naveen Andrews – Sayid Jarrah, the ex-military man, was also Abby in Robert Rodriguez's *Planet Terror* and Sanjay in the 2002 remake of *Rollerball*.

Josh Holloway – It seems Sawyer's mostly too good for science fiction! However he is credited as "good lucking guy" in a single episode of *Angel*.

Michael Emerson – Before he was the mysterious Ben Linus, who communes with the island, he popped up in *The Legend of Zorro* and *Saw*. He's also an *X-Files* alumnus.

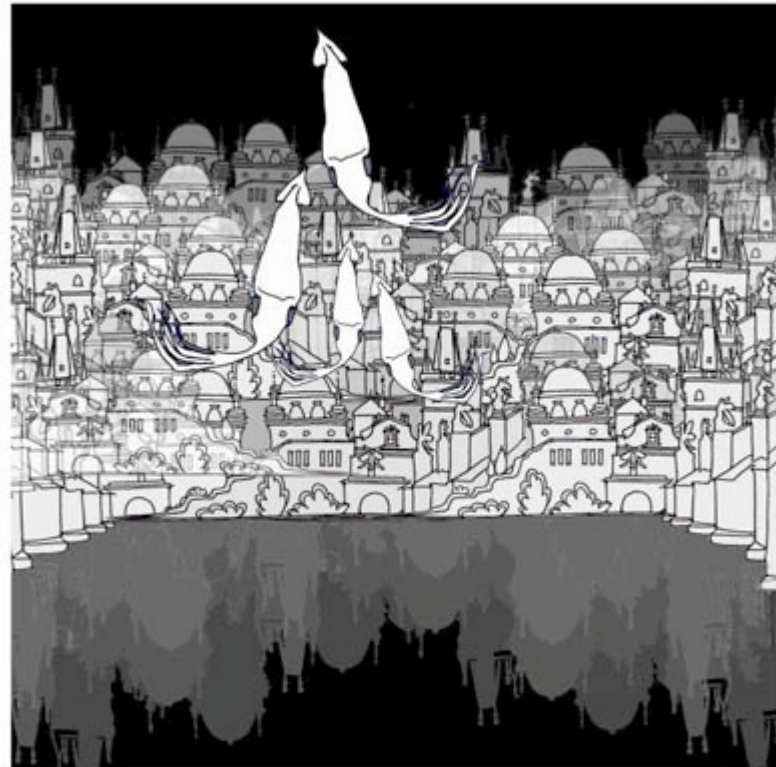
Elizabeth Mitchell – Before she was Dr. Juliet Burke, the reluctant Other, she was Mrs. Claus in *The Santa Clause* movies. In *Frequency*, she played Julia Sullivan.

Ken Leung – Newly introduced as Miles, the island's new arrival who communes with ghosts, his credits include Kid Omega in *X-Men 3*, Detective Steven Sing in *Saw*, and Syatyoo-Sama in *Artificial Intelligence*.

Mira Furlan – Though first known to the survivors as "the Frenchwoman," Rousseau once looked much more foreign than that! You may remember her as Delenn in *Babylon 5*!

Ever the diplomat, Delenn grew a full head of hair so as to appear less alien in later episodes of the show.

Francois Chai – Dr. Marvin Candle appears only in taped messages from the days of the Dharma Initiative island settlement. Don't recognize the face? That may be because, last time you saw it, it was covered behind the mask of The Shredder in *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II*!



Kate Kelton

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 964-966

Meeting 964

Meeting 964 started at 8:04

19 people attending

Absent: President and Secretary

Chris Garcia presiding

Eric Larson acting as Secretary for the price of a pun license ("The fools! I'll show them all!")

A party jar was established.

The minutes of meeting 963 were read by evil Kevin and accepted as iPhoned in

Treasurer's report: the regular jar took in \$34.80 - total \$10774.15. The party jar took in \$4.60 - total \$848.61. the TAFF jar took in nothing - total \$215.82

VP report: There's a new Drink Tank out; He's going to be Fan Guest of Honor at WindyCon, other GOHs Phil and Kaja Foglio and Tom Smith

Business:

Evil Kevin suggested a meeting on Monday at FurCon.

Joni suggested checking out Facebook and possibly establishing a presence there, she was appointed to chair a committee to do that.

Announcements:

Dave C.: Janet van Dyne (aka the Wasp) is

dead

Tall Kevin: The Hugo list is circulating and there will be an after-meeting to discuss the first third of the nominee categories

Evil Kevin: FurCon is happening this weekend. He and Andy will be pouring at a party.

Adrienne: Reminder to nominate for a Hugo, you must be a member of either this year's or last year's Worldcon. If you're going to join Anticipation, you must do so by Jan. 31. Also, there's a meet and greet at Bronco Billy's in Union City Feb. 24 at 3 pm.

Reviews:

Adrienne: now that she's finished *Harry Potter 7*, she's going to review the series. She found the Durseley relationship disturbing, Voldemort is a 1-dimensional character, and the characters eavesdrop way too much. Overall, she did get sucked into the world of Harry Potter while reading the series.

Julian: reviewed an anime - *Haruhi Suzumiya*. It starts out as a romantic comedy and evolves into something else with romantic comedic elements. (Telling us what it evolves into would be a spoiler.) Amusing and interesting

Evil Kevin: "*The Immortal Voyage of Captain Drake*" He was bored after 15 minutes.

Ken: In honor of Patrick McGoohan, he

watched two DVDs - "*Brand*" (which he found heavy and interesting) and another which I missed. Both are worth seeing

Follow on: Tall Kevin - McGoohan only wanted to make a few, but the miniseries concept hadn't ripened yet.

Dave C. - "*Dr Syn and the Scarecrow of Romney Marsh*" is available from Cargo Cult.

Dave G: Life and Times of Bob May- best known as the Environmental Control Robot from "Lost in Space". He was always pleasant at appearances. Follow on: Ken "Actors with names starting with M or the upside-down version W are dropping like flies."

Ed.: "*Benjamin Button*" definitely worth seeing at full price.

Chris G.: Scalzi and other reading was very funny, well worth seeing.

Tall Kevin: A co-worker reviewed his voicemail message as "He should do voice over work."

Auctions:

Advance reading copy - \$.25

Star Wars minis - \$1.25

Cards and a book - \$.50

Fanzine and a Magic mug - \$7.25

Glass mug from Chez Mac - \$1

There was no rumor.

Adjourned at 9:05

Meeting 965

January 26, 2009

2004: Meeting #965 convened. No president or vice-president. VP, treasurer, Emergency Holographic Secretary Glenn Glazer present.

Party jar moved and passed.

Treasurer reported we took in \$10.25 main jar, \$3.80 party.

Lex Nakashima recognized as guest and LASFS spy. He was required to explain his nom de furry.

VP report. DT #199 out w/cover by Mo. DT #200 coming soon.

Some discussion followed on fan publishing records.

Hugo committee reported by reiterating deadlines.

Announcements

Glenn: gung hay fat choy.

Spring: moving boxes to give away. going to Tucson gem shows. new castings available at Gallifrey

Tall Kevin: has a bunch of triangular DHL boxes to give away

Gordon: Neil Gaiman to be on the Today Show tomorrow

Bob: Announcing Gold Country SF group launching bid for Timbuktu, CA worldcon

Lisa: little Harold now has classes on Monday, no BASFA for awhile

Howeird: Conflkt at the Renton, WA Holiday Inn this weekend

Dave G: Cartoon Art Museum has a display on the art of *Coraline*

Reviews

Fred: "*Clockwork Orange*" play at Hoover Theatre in SJ highly recommended.

Tall Kevin: Instant Message available for those that want to look at it

Howeird: "*Doubt*" has lots of talent, skimpy everything else. Worth matinée.

Lisa: Went to Further Confusion, had a good time and lots of follow-ons: Stellen: BASFA party used up all the booze and had some females for once. Glenn: Sat behind the Westercon table, liked falconry at a furcon, lots of sameness Tall Kevin: Took video of parade, see his LJ. Met Bill Holbrook. Chris: had a blast, hotel had problems: bad bacon and lousy in-house video feed Mo: Liked Kevin's videos, 533 in parade. Liked technical discussions by fursuiters. Lex: Performers are attracted to kids because of the 500:1 ratio. Probably another 25% in non-fur costumes, probably 1000 all told. Mentioned that they had a video introducing the Fairmont for next year.

Stellen: chipotle chicken at Coco's is breathtaking

Mike: "*Outlander*" is a new monster movie that set a bargain matinée bar and met it.

Tall Kevin: Reviewed the imminent collapse of the NESFA clubhouse told in IM.

Lisa: Went to Disneyworld. A lot bigger than Disneyland. Hotel is so large it has an internal transit system. Recommends getting

reservations for dinner if you don't want junk food. Some of the same rides as in Anaheim (Haunted Mansion, Pirates, etc.) not as good. <This was followed by a long discussion on ghosts and hauntings, not recorded>

Howeird: Next Monday is Groundhog Day (again)

Tall Kevin: Continuing the Hugo discussion next week.

Chris: DT is the third longest continuing fanzine.

Stellen: Amazon started shipping "*The Sharing Knife: Horizon*" today.

The rumor of the week is that *none have been submitted*.

Adjourned at 2125.

Meeting 966

February 2, 2009

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began 8:03

27 people attended

a TAFF jar was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 964 were accepted as '*we fools, he showed us all*'; the minutes of meeting 965 were accepted as '*in spite of Adrienne*'

the Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$3.25 in the regular jar & \$2.25 in the party jar

the Vice president wasn't here, but 'Drink Tank' 200 is out

The President had nothing fannish to report [then, ninjas did a floor show]

The committee to get us on Facebook reported that BASFA now has a Facebook presence and Chris Garcia is already there

Announcements

Andy announced that Gallifrey 1, 20 Years to Life will be in 2 weeks in LA

Glenn announced that he was laid off by Sun and looking for a job as a software developer & if someone knows the BayCon fantables people to PLEASE have them get in touch with him because lots of his emails have gone unanswered = glenn.glazer@gmail.com

Lisa announced that the scarf is done!

Ken announced that he was also now laid off

Julian announced that he and Faith will be running the anime room at Gallifrey

Dave C announced that Hershey is moving all the chocolate goodness of Schmidt and Scharfenberger out of state, back east & announced that Walgreen's is selling '\$2 Buck Choc'

[evil] Kevin announced that Johanna and Alex are selling their Harlan Ellison collection - check at fangrrl-squees.livejournal.com/189199.html

Letha announced [for Derek] that he wrecked his car and is looking for a cheap place

to move into

Joni announced that she and Garth have some Victorian and other furniture to sell, check www.garthbrown.com/furniture

[tall] Kevin announced that the Hugo clipboard is circulating in the room and we'll be discussing Hugo nominations after the meeting

Tom announced that Potlatch pre-reg closes Feb 14; check www.potlatch-sf.org & Potlatch will be at the Domain hotel in Sunnyvale, Feb 27, 28, March 1

Adrienne announced that Bay Area Ghost Hunters will have a fund raiser ghost tour on March 1, 3 pm, check www.meetup.com and search for Bay Area Ghost Hunters info

Connor announced that he's organizing a zombie attack for his school

Howeird announced that Tilly the Wonderdog passed away this week

Reviews

Glenn reviewed '*Star Wars on Trial*' as literary criticism that he enjoyed and parts were very amusing, he recommends it

Andy reviewed FurCon as they arrived Wednesday, helped with DustyKat's party Thursday night and has a blast - it was a relaxicon for them, that [evil] Kevin was in an FNL skit [that was SO cute!] and FC move-out was done really fast - all-in-all was worth full sponsor price [there were follow-ons]

Justin reviewed '*Machine Girl*' as gore-horror-comedy-gore-gore-gore and recommended for those with strong stomachs

Stellan reviewed '*Implied Spaces*' by Walter

Jon Williams as rousing space opera, worth full hardcover book price

Dave G reviewed the *Coraline* art exhibit at the Cartoon Art Museum in SF as well worth full price [and Fred agreed]

Adrienne reviewed the '*Haunts of San Jose*' by David Lee as just awful with horrible writing

Mo reviewed '*Dragon Wars*' as it sucked on toast, even with having good CGI & she reviewed '*The Host*' as recommended and worth full price [Julian agreed]

Ken reviewed soundtracks for '*Danger Man*' as definitely worth full price

Lisa reviewed '*Indigo Dragon*' as a good read, worth full price & reviewed '*Inkheart*' as Brendan Frazier did a good job in it and go see it & reviewed '*Doubt*' as very well-acted, no doubt about it

Howeird reviewed Conflkt in Renton WA as there was lots and lots of talent there - he had a great time

[tall] Kevin reviewed seeing the SJ Stealth play Edmonton in lacrosse as very fast and worth winning tickets to go see

we then did auctions: videos for \$4.00, \$0.50, \$0.75, a figurine for \$1.00, and glowy kitsch for \$0.50

We adjourned at = 9:40

And the rumor of the week was: *Is that Darth Vader or are you just happy to see me?*

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.

Wednesday, February 11

Author: Christopher Moore

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

Bad Science Film Festival

San Francisco Public Library Koret Auditorium
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco

Celebrate Darwin's Birthday with an afternoon of film featuring wacky and weird scientific inaccuracies. Guests include Ms. Monster, Norm Goldblatt, Michael Meehan, Gerri

Lawlor and Nick Leonard.

evolve2009.org/events/bad-science-film-festival

1 p.m.

Free

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

Saturday, February 21-Sunday, July 19th

Watchmen

Cartoon Art Museum

655 Mission Street, San Francisco

www.cartoonart.org

An in-depth look at the much-anticipated film

and the graphic novel that inspired it. Dozens of concept illustrations, preparatory sketches and original comic book pages illustrated by Dave Gibbons as well as props from Warner Bros. There will be an opening reception on **Friday, February 27th.**

\$6

Monday, February 23

Lecture: Asteroids, Evolution, and the Long-term Habitability of Earth

California Academy of Sciences
Morrison Planetarium, San Francisco
www.calacademy.org

David Morrison of NASA Ames research center examines the long-term habitability of our planet.

7:30 p.m.

\$10

Friday, February 27

Wondercon Weekend Party

Cartoon Art Museum
655 Mission Street, San Francisco
www.cartoonart.org

Featured guests Dave Gibbons and Stan Sakai. Rare and signed books, prints and artwork will be raffled and auctioned throughout the evening, and additional special events and guests TBA

8 p.m.

\$10-\$35 (sliding scale)

Friday, February 27-Sunday, July 5th

The Art of Stan Sakai: Celebrating 25 Years of Usagi Yojimbo

Cartoon Art Museum
655 Mission Street, San Francisco

www.cartoonart.org

A career-spanning retrospective featuring over 60 pieces of original artwork by the critically-acclaimed artist. There will be an opening reception on **Friday, February 27th.**

\$6

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

Thursday, March 5

Watchmen Cartoon Art Museum Benefit Screening

The Metreon
101 Fourth Street, San Francisco
www.cartoonart.org
The Cartoon Art Museum presents an advance screening of one of the most anticipated films of 2009, in a special benefit fundraiser sponsored by Warner Bros. Pictures. Tickets can be purchased at the Museum or by calling 415-227-8666, ext. 300
7 p.m.

\$25

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

Wednesday, March 11

SF in SF Double Feature, with author James Morrow

Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org
James Morrow, author of *Shambling Towards Hiroshima*, introduces movies starring Lon Chaney, Jr.; *The Ghost of Frankenstein* and *The Mummy's Curse*
6 p.m. Free

Friday, March 13-Sunday, March 15

Sonora Celtic Faire

Mother Lode Fairgrounds
220 Southgate Drive, Sonora
California's oldest and largest Celtic faire.
sonoracelticfaire.com
\$50

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

Wednesday, March 18

Abney Park

Slim's
333 11th St., San Francisco
www.abneypark.com
Post- apocalyptic, swashbuckling, Steampunk musical mayhem.
8 p.m. \$20

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

EndGame March Minicon

921 Washington, Oakland
endgameoakland.com
Gaming Minicon. Details TBA

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
http://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)

Saturday, May 16-Sunday, May 17

Scottish Games & Celtic Celebration

Robertson Park, Livermore
www.livermoregames.com

\$15

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
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, and Fred Patten.

\$60 (till March 15)

Saturday, May 30-Sunday, May 31

Valhalla Faire

Camp Richardson
1900 Jameson Beach Road, South Lake Tahoe
valhallafaire.com
Renaissance Faire

\$18

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-Sunday, June 7

Valhalla Faire

Camp Richardson
1900 Jameson Beach Road, South Lake Tahoe
valhallafaire.com
Renaissance Faire

\$18

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 Childrens Charity

7 p.m. Free

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.

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, August 29-Sunday, August 30

Golden Gate Faire

Speedway Meadow

Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

ggfaire.com

Renaissance Faire

\$18

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)

Saturday, October 17-Sunday, October 18

Folsom Renaissance Faire

Folsom City Lions Park

403 Stafford Street, Folsom

folsomfaire.com

Renaissance Faire

\$12

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

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

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.

8 p.m. Free

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. 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. The 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.ussdefiance.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



Sea Pens

photo by Lucy Huntzinger

Bay Area Fannish Calendar – February 2009

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

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 Watchmen Cartoon Art Museum Benefit Screening	6	7 The Sting Swing Ball Silicon Gulch Browncoats
8 Sac-Con Gay Men's Book Club	9	10	11 SF in SF Double Feature, with author James Morrow	12 SF&F Writers' Group South Bay Steampunk	13 Sonora Celtic Faire 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 Abney Park	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 EndGame Minicon Author: Ken Scholes USS Augusta Ada Veritech Fighter Cmd 13
29 Jay Lake and Ken Scholes Write In-Store	30	31	1	2	3	4