

# Science Fiction/San Francisco

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The Floating World

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## Contents

|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| News and Notes.....                             | Chris Garcia.....   | 2  |
| Letters of Comment.....                         | Jean Martin.....  | 5  |
| Editorial.....                                  | Chris Garcia.....   | 7  |
| Browncoat Fanboys (and Girls) on an Outing..... | Jean Martin..... Photos by Thad Gann and Jean Martin..... | 9  |
| This Old Fanzine: Locus – The Early Years.....  | Chris Garcia.....   | 11 |
| Weird Romance, a Science Fiction Musical.....   | Howeird.....  | 13 |
| The Night the Lights Went Out in San Ramon..... | Baron Law..... Photos by Baron Law.....                   | 14 |
| Gallifrey One Times Twenty.....                 | España Sheriff..... Photos by Andrew Trembley.....        | 17 |
| Potlatch In Extremely Brief.....                | Chris Garcia..... Photo by Chris.....                     | 21 |
| Potlatch 18 – The Cat’s Meow.....               | España Sheriff.....                                       | 22 |
| BASFA Minutes: Meetings 967-969.....            | .....   | 26 |
| Bay Area Fannish Calendar.....                  | España Sheriff..... Photo by Lucy Huntzinger.....         | 29 |

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|-------------|-----------------|---------|--------------------|
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| Pages 8, 23 | Tom Becker      | Page 23 | NASA               |
| Page 12     | Lucy Huntzinger | Page 25 | Michael McLaughlin |

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# News and Notes

**By Christopher J. Garcia**  
*Editor*

It's Cinequest week, and thus I've been in Downtown San Jose since the 25th of February. It's been a good year for genre films at CQ. I've seen many great films, including *Corpse Run*, a film that takes a look at hard core MMORPG players and their lives. Brea Grant, who'll be in the *Halloween* remake, is incredibly hot in the role of Liberty, quite possibly the most smokin' MMORPGeR I've ever seen. Shockingly, the SplatterPunk Samurai film *Samurai Avenger: Blind Wolf* got nothing but cries of awesome and invited comparisons to *Evil Dead: The Musical*.

*The Stars Don't Twinkle in Outer Space* had a mix-up and didn't end up playing, but having seen it a couple of times, it's a really good short film which feels like throwback to simple times. It's beautiful work. *Sunday Afternoon*, a story about a huge increase in temperature in a Montreal convenience store, is one of the most powerful science fiction films you'll ever see. *Glory at Sea*, an amazingly powerful film filmed in parts of New Orleans that still have not recovered from the Hurricanes, is one of the best fantasy films I've ever seen, bar none. I've got to check, but if it's eligible, I'm nominating it next year for the Hugo for Best Dramatic Presentation - Short Form.

The busiest weekend in recent fannish memory happened the opening weekend of Cinequest. There was Potlatch, taking place in the lovely Domain Hotel in Sunnyvale. I wish I could have gone, but you know. I hear that there was great fun and we've got great coverage! There was a lovely WonderCon. I'm hoping to get to both next year, though there's always Cinequest getting in the way.



**Philip Jose Farmer with 1953 Hugo award as  
*The Most Promising New Talent***

photo courtesy of Michael Croteau

Of course, the biggest, saddest news of the week was the loss of Philip Jose Farmer. If you've never read any of his books, you're missing out on one of the turning points towards modern science fiction. There was the

real introduction of sexuality into science fiction in a legitimate way with his story "The Lovers." His works include legendary shorts like "Mother" and "Riders of the Purple Wage" as well as classic novels like *Dare*, *A Woman A Day*, *Flesh*, *A Feast Unknown* and many others. His Riverworld saga and World of Tiers are all much-loved series. He was my favorite living science fiction novelist, ever since the death of Kurt Vonnegut. I love his stuff and I'm rereading a few of his stand-alone novels. He was in his 90s, which is a good long run for a writer. He was active since the 1950s, and had won three Hugo Awards, one for Most Promising New Writer, and one each for *To Your Scattered Bodies Go* and "Riders of the Purple Wage." He received the Forry Ackerman Award in 2007 and was a SFWA Grandmaster and has received more recognition than most other authors.

The title of Chris Garcia's Favorite Living SF Novelist goes to... Spider Robinson.

I've discovered Twitter. Johnnyeponymous is the handle. I post too much and I often find myself posting when I don't have access to a computer since I can post from my lame old cell phone.

Local fan and Bon Vivant Miko had her Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (something I don't do) debut show at

Disneyland. I wish so much I could have gone, but Jo Rhett kindly Twittered the whole event. Miko does amazing costumes and I hope some day I'll have a Miko-made over-shirt!

Former Bay Area SF Bookstore owner Charlie Cockey was in town for Cinequest, and I'm glad to say he's doin' great in the Czech Republic. I always have a good time chatting with him.

I got the new *PLOKTA* recently, which was a good thing. It's tiny, which seems to be the new technique for English zines. It was called the Credit Crisis Special, and sadly, I haven't had a chance to LoC it yet.

Speaking of LoCing, Kristina Kopnisky released a new *Consonant Enigma*. I'm all over it with recipes, an article on how to stretch your dollar and a LoC, and Lance Moore, Kristina and folks have some wonderful recipes and stories. If you compare Kristina's take on what you need to survive on the cheap at a con and mine, they are like Night and the Surface of the Sun! It's the best BArea zine being produced in Portland.

Sadly, the biggest loss to fanzine fandom in recent years is the announced folding of *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, recently referred to simply as *VFW*. It was the zine that started the phase of weekly and bi-weekly fanzines that exploded in the 2005-06 time frame and is the reason for *The Drink Tank* and *Science Fiction/San Francisco*. It's really one of the most significant zines of the last decade. Arnie has said he'll be bringing out a new zine shortly, which is a good thing. I've missed *VFW* since the schedule slowed down in late 2006. There's



images courtesy of eFanzines.com

a great Brad Foster cover on it.

I am pleased to say that Peter Weston has released *Prolapse* as *Relapse*. It's still a fantastic zine with a new title. I was happy to get my copy via eMail and it's on eFanzines.com now. It's one of the few places where you can find Michael Moorcock writing in fanzines.

Speaking of Moorcock, there's a new *eI* too.



Well worth reading.

Finally, there's *Alexiad* on eFanzines.com. I love the *Alexiad* and am glad that it's now more publicly available. There are even back issues that you can go through. One of the best LetterCols in fanzines. I can't wait for the next issue because my Butterfinger Buzz experiment will be included!

Bruce Gillespie, Australian Fandom's shiningest star, and Jan Stinson, the woman most responsible for me becoming a regular fanzine fan, have put out a new issue of *Steam Engine Time*. Sadly, I haven't gotten to spend as much time with it as I would have liked, so I'm

still waiting on a big long LoC, which it still deserves.

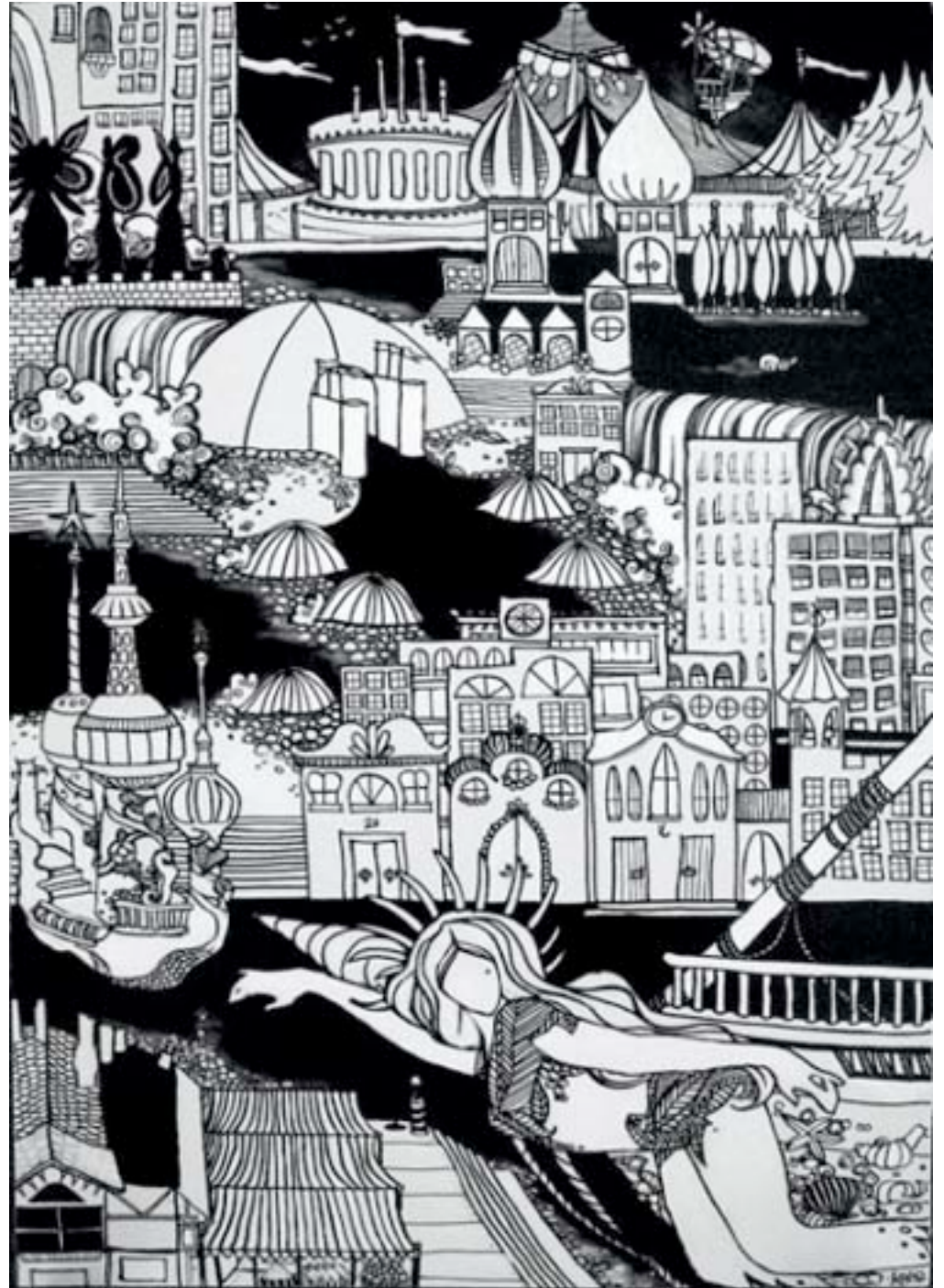
Heath Row (which sounds like such a pseudonym!) put up a list of all the known APAs in and around fandom. There are a few I hadn't heard of, which is a good thing. I'm only in three at the moment, but I doubt I'll be able to keep up with all of them. It's a tough thing. Doing an issue of *The Drink Tank* is easy enough, but doing APAzines takes me forever.

Hey, gotta love the fact that BayCon is coming along so great. Tycho has done a great job putting it all together. I can't wait for it to come along!

Hugo nominations will be out soon, followed a week and a half later by *The Drink Tank's* annual Handicapping the Hugos issue. I'm excited because it's always one of the most fun issues of the year! I've got ideas, though I was shocked by the Nebula nominations and there was no nom for *Anathem*. Even I, who didn't love it, thought it was one of the best books of the year.

I also wanna say thanks to Kevin Standlee for shepherding BASFA through the Hugo nomination review gatherings in early February. He does great work with that one. It also helps us form the powerful BASFA voting block, which I certainly blame for *The Drink Tank* and me making the ballot.

Good friends John The Rock Coxon and Peter Sullivan are both on a panel together at Eastercon. I mentioned to both of them that they should drop my name during the panel. I'm always trying to keep myself in the English spotlight!



Kate Kenyon

# Letters of Comment

## **Lloyd Penney writes:**

Hurray, it's Friday, the weekend beckons, and maybe I'll catch up with my life and get things done at home. I've got a little time here, so here comes comments on *SF/SF* 81.

You're at the home of the big Garcia? (Spanish grammar know I not.) Lots of nifty new zines are keeping me busy with loccing, and it's always fun. More and more zines are jumping to the Web (Joseph Major's *Alexiad* is the newest big zine on eFanzines.com), but they retain the magazine format, and I think we all prefer that. The hardware and software evolve, but the wetware is still far behind. We should give the wetware a break. Remember me for *Claims Department*, especially if you have the next three issues prepared.

Ah, there's Rob Sawyer's smiling face. I see that picture everywhere. That was a fine tributezine Alan White put together. I can't really comment on it because I went to school with Rob, and I know most of the REAL dirt! He's a fine example of how you can make it as a marketable writer with hard work and a loving wife beside you to help. (Hi,

Carolyn!) Chris, Rob will be in Montreal, and will be everywhere, I have no doubt.

***Jean Martin responds: So that's the secret! I should get myself a loving wife as well. Seriously, though, it is tough to make a living as a professional writer. I'm sure there are a lot of talented and hard working folks out there who are struggling to succeed. Kudos to those who even attempt to do it. I would love to, but am used to having a regular paycheck. Maybe someday I'll work up the courage.***

I remember that with Torcon 3, just about every rentable electric wheelchair, mobie or other wheeled chair was rented by the con, and there still weren't enough. I hope Anticipation will be able to find sufficient rentals for the demand. Mundanes are getting harder to freak out? Well, we'll just have to take that as a challenge, won't we, fellow fen?

I look at the FAAn Awards as the Nebulas of the fanzine world. It's voted upon and given to you by your peers. That's why most of us prefer them. Yet, the Hugos have time on their side. I found out about the Hugos before I got

into fandom, having read the various anthologies edited by Terry Carr, Edward Ferman, H.L. Gold, Donald Wollheim and more. That big silver rocket is like an Oscar, our top-of-the-line award.

***Recognition from one's peers is always appreciated and more meaningful. But, yes, the Hugos have been around longer and are more prestigious, I suppose. I knew about the Hugos when I was very young through anthologies as well.***

The steampunk costumes continue apace, and as written before, we hope to premiere them at Ad Astra. Should we get some pictures taken, we will e-mail them to the *SF/SF* Gmail address asap. I agree with you, Chris, about Etsy. Two local steampunk jewellers have Etsy pages, and they will both be at Ad Astra.

Hi, Jean! Yvonne and I have hosted a *M\*A\*S\*H* party before, with a Spam lamb and everything. We all hit an Army surplus store for the appropriate fatigues. Guess who was Radar?

***Did you play Radar? At the M\*A\*S\*H birthday party I went to, the celebrant was my friend Radar. I***

***believe she got that nickname because she resembles the character Radar with glasses and all.***

Tilly the Wonderdog is gone? Tilly was a real social presence at LAcon IV in 2006. She seemed happiest with big crowds; lots of people to pet her and feed her, I guess.

Who else knows about Boxing Day? Canadians do. We get it as a holiday right after Christmas every year.

***It's nice to have an extra holiday after Christmas. The U.K. and Commonwealth nations are lucky to have Boxing Day. Here in the U.S., most of us have to work on December 26.***

There's that picture of that weird, bearded guy, and it's captioned Non-Furry? I don't think so! The fursuits are just a kind of extreme costuming, where the creation covers the entire body, head and all. Makes me wonder if some of the better fursuiters might have careers making mascot costumes for pro sport teams.

***I think that caption was meant to be a joke. Chris doesn't need to wear a fursuit to fit in with the furies.***

The Twelfth Night and Edwardian balls do prove that you have a better time when you participate. Fandom's known that for a long time, which is probably why so many fans attend these events. Duh, everyone knows that, you say? There are still some who will sit and demand they be entertained, but they are bound to be disappointed. If the Edwardian Ball has expanded to three days, perhaps it might be the Edwardian Exposition? Or just GoreyCon? Yvonne would like the steam-powered sewing machine, and our apartment's windows would be permanently fogged up.

***The Edwardian Ball does not seem to be named correctly anymore since it's no longer just a ball and goes on for a weekend. It also confuses people because Edwardian is better known as a historical time period. I agree, it should be renamed GoreyCon. But I suppose they're already known as the Edwardian Ball and people might get even more confused if they change the name.***

Last time I was at a filk con was some years ago when Yvonne and I were on the committee for FilKONtario. We

ran their consuite on and off for ten years, and spent our last two years on the committee running on-site registration. Blind Lemming Chiffon was a guest there I think about five years back now.

Someone got sucked into the Harry Potter universe? Right now, that would also be Yvonne, who has borrowed the entire series from her sister. She has made for herself a Gryffindor-hued Hogwarts school robe, and is currently looking for the right school tie to wear.

***There are several web sites that sell Hogwarts school ties. But I got my Ravenclaw tie on eBay actually.***

Once again, a schedule of events to make the rest of us envious, in a perfect format, and more of Lucy's great photography... I'm sure you'll let us know when the NESFA clubhouse collapses, but until then, thank you for another stellar issue. More! More!, the crowd demands...

***Thanks, I think we're looking great and getting better every issue.***

# Editorial

**By Christopher J. Garcia**

*Editor*

Every fandom is the same. I know what you're thinking: *Chris, can you know what you're saying?*

Yes, I know exactly what I'm saying. It came to me even stronger this last week spent at Cinequest. I look around and there are the fans, those that buy passes and tickets and hang around in lobbies and at local eateries, there are the folks who spend much of their free time Twittering or posting to LJ about everything that's going on, and there are the pros, the filmmakers who are there to meet folks and get themselves into the spotlight as best they can. It's just like BayCon. It's just as much fun, and there are a lot of folks who have roles similar to folks in SF Fandom. There's an Arnie Katz, a Kevin Standlee, a Jean Martin (and I fear having them meet might lead to an explosion of awesome perkiness), a Dave Langford and even a John Hertz. It's incredible how exact the match-up is. Strangely, I fill the exact same role that I do in fandom at Cinequest. It's bizarre, I know, but it's true.

There was a film that totally showed me all of this: *Corpse Run*. It's a film that's about a group of friends who are Everquest players on a specific server. They're the Number 2 team trying to capture the top spot. There are characters that we've all seen: the attention-seeking young woman who is the near-universal object of affection. There's the hyper-cool guy who finds love outside of his regular vein, and the girl he discovers, an Anime fan, has a somewhat stronger insight into his world than he does. There's that incredibly talented character who keeps myself tied down to his youth. It's all very much like the world of fandom, the characters we know, the characters we love.

The film has a number of great moments, including a portion where the players divide into teams based on whether they were fans of Nintendo or Sega. I live right on the line between the two, but I only owned a Nintendo, though I played a lot of Sega Genesis, especially *Mortal Kombat*.

All of this leads me to my point for the issue: We need another Worldcon in

the Bay Area.

Now, I know what you're saying (and Tall Kevin, I'm looking in your direction...): If you want a Worldcon, you bid for it!, but alas, any attempt at running a Worldcon bid by me would be a disaster. I know it, you know it, we all know it. But we've grown, especially over the last three years, and I think it's time for us to make another run at it. It's time for us to take the next big step.

Over the last year, we've gone through a Costume-Con that ranks with the best cons ever run in the BArea (and certainly it benefited from nearly a decade of build and came off beautifully), and a BayCon that made a big move and seemed to come through it majestically. We've had a good SiliCon, a great FurCon and so many other events. We're looking at a fine World Fantasy and a great Potlatch just passed. We've had a Westercon in 07, another one coming in 2011, and there's been a lot of great stuff. It's hard to imagine any other period in fannish history where a geographical area has been so active, and pulled off as many impressive

events at every scale and in every significant sub-genre. It's time that we went for the Big One. It's time that we bid for a Worldcon.

Yes, there's so much work that goes into it that it can drive a fandom crazy. The last time we did one, it led to gigantic problems that can still be felt, but it also led to a Worldcon that was pretty damn impressive for almost all of the attendees. While there have been better Worldcons, it was one that was significantly awesome. It's time we tried again, or at least started talking about it. Now, you could almost look at the Reno Worldcon that's likely to happen as another BArea-ish Worldcon, but really, a San Francisco or San Jose (or hey, what about a 50th Anniversary of the most significant Worldcon of the 1960s in 2018 by holding it in Oakland or

Berkeley?) would be a big deal. It's time we started thinking about it. It's time we started doing something about it.

Now, it's easy to be the guy on the sidelines saying these things, but it's gotta start somewhere. We have the best example of how to turn a bid into a major thing that practically begs everyone who experiences it to get involved. The League of Evil Geniuses concept is an ideal way for pushing towards a con. It's the best bid I've ever seen. While I liked the LACon Space Cadets bid, it did not have the impact that LoEG had. I'm not saying that the same people should be doing it, largely because Kevin and Andy would kill me, but the concept is so strong, it should serve as a template for future bids in much the same way that FunCon served as a template for the Worldcons and

Westercons of the 1970s.

I've heard stories about what it takes to make these things happen. It takes a toll on life, on the heart, on the soul, on everything. There was a time when you could expect the chair of a Worldcon to get divorced within a year of having chaired the con. It's tough, but the rewards are pretty high, especially if you manage to do a good job. The fact is BArea fandom is right up there with London, LA, Chicago and Boston as Fannish Powerhouses. There's a lot of everything, more talent in more areas than anywhere I've ever been involved in and I can't think that a Worldcon here would be anything short of the cap on another Fannish Historical Period. We should do it. We should make the press forward!





# Browncoat Fanboys (and Girls) on an Outing

**By Jean Martin**

*Editor*

To celebrate Francis Yun's birthday, several of the Bay Area Browncoats (*Firefly* fans from the San Francisco Browncoats and the Silicon Gulch Browncoats) got together to watch the movie *Fanboys* on Sunday, February 8. Francis, the groups' official photographer and sometime *SF/SF* contributor, picked the movie and the location, which was the Century 20 in Daly City.

Daly City seemed to be a good central location for Francis's Browncoat friends who came from all over the Bay Area from as far as Lafayette and San Jose. It was convenient for me as well since Daly City is at the north end of the Peninsula, where I live. I do forget, though, how foggy Daly City is. When I first moved to the U.S., I lived there for three months and I thought the entire Bay Area had the same type of weather. I now enjoy sunnier weather in the mid-Peninsula, just a few miles south.

I got to the theater complex a little late but still in time to join everyone for lunch at Fuddruckers. Our group had a big table as there were at least 20 people who came. Fuddruckers is a fun, colorful, 50s style burger joint. It was the perfect place for a birthday lunch. The selection was more varied than I expected. They even had buffalo burgers. I opted for a Hawaiian veggie burger and frings (half onion



**The Birthday Boy and Friends**

photo by Thad Gann

rings, half fries), both of which were surprisingly good. I bought a chocolate chip cookie for later consumption as well.

I shouldn't have bothered because Louise had baked some chocolate chocolate chip cookies for everyone and she brought some blue milk as well. She had to explain to some people the significance of the blue milk. I didn't quite catch the full explanation but I recognized that it has something to do with *Firefly*, of course.

Then Francis read his birthday cards and opened presents. The Browncoats are such a warm and generous group of people, it feels like a family.

I was worried that I didn't have a ticket when I arrived and most everyone already had tickets. But I got one quite easily, and when we got to the theater where the movie was going to be shown, there was no one there but us. So it was like we were having our own private screening. A few people came in after us, but it

still seemed like we were having our own party, which we were.

It's a shame, though, that there weren't more people to see *Fanboys*. The movie is probably the most enjoyable one I've seen in a while. Well, I don't often go to the movies as I prefer watching DVDs. Still, I thought the movie was awesome. I hadn't actually heard about the movie myself, but when Francis suggested it for his birthday, I checked it out and I liked the premise.

The movie, set in the late 1990s, is about a group of friends who are big *Star Wars* fans. One of them only has six months to live and so would miss seeing the release of *Episode I - The Phantom Menace*. So they decide to go on a road trip to the Bay Area, sneak into Skywalker Ranch, and steal a rough cut of the movie. Most of the movie is about the road trip and their hilarious adventures through some unlikely places such as Riverside, Iowa (the future birthplace of Captain Kirk), and some popular destinations such as Las Vegas. Throughout the movie, there are many cameos by sci fi icons and other famous people that only fannish folk like us would know. It was great seeing the movie with lots of friends because someone would invariably point a cameo out so I wouldn't miss it, and there were some people I wouldn't have recognized otherwise. There were also lots of references to popular culture and fannish interests.

It was also great to see Skywalker Ranch as the setting for a movie because it reminds me that I was fortunate enough to see it several years ago. Without having to break in!

But more than just the trip and the destination, the movie is about growing up, making life choices, friendship, and the importance of movies like *Star Wars* and TV shows like *Star Trek* to us fen. To us, these are not just shows. They inspire us to be creative, to become better people, and to bond with kindred spirits.

I won't say more about the movie as I hope most of our readers will want to watch it. There are so many scenes that would be better appreciated as a surprise. And so yes, I do highly recommend *Fanboys*.

After the movie, which all of us seemed to have enjoyed, we walked out and saw three life-size standup photos from the upcoming *Watchmen* movie. Fresh from seeing *Fanboys*, we all acted like fanboys and fangirls and squeeed at the stand ups. Louise, Elizabeth and Sue had their photos taken with The Comedian, Rorschach and Ozymandias. Then one of them asked one of the customer service agents if we could take one. Apparently, the lady said yes, and so off we went with one of the cardboard standups.

We made it to the parking structure but were stopped by a security guard who asked us to return it. We told him that someone said it was okay to take it but when he radioed customer service, the lady changed her story and said she hadn't given us permission. We all felt like we were somewhat reliving the movie we just saw! It was sad when the standup was taken away, but it was still a fun experience trying to make off with it. What a real life adventure that afternoon turned out to be!



**Louise and Elizabeth Squeeing over Ozymandias** photo by Jean Martin

## Join our crew!

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

# *This Old Fanzine: Locus – The Early Years*

**By Christopher J. Garcia**

*Editor*

I hate *Locus*. I've been unhappy with *Locus* for years. It has completely forgotten that there's a fandom for the stuff they report on and it makes me angry that a zine that really had fandom at its heart in the beginning has gone so far off the track. Of course, its awards and reviews haven't helped matters much at all.

I've been lucky enough to read many of the early issues, including three of them that are currently in the TAFF Archive. Sadly, there's no Issue 1 (And I seem to remember that they did an Issue 0) but Issue 2 shows why it was such a great zine back in the day.

The three issues seem to be a sort of testing period. They changed the logo, typeface and paper type with each issue. It's incredible to think of the zine going from a mimeoed single sheet piece of well-done fannish zine-stuff to the glossy piece of crap we have today.

The front half of Issue 2 contains a very nice look at the 1968 Midwestcon, which sounds like an interesting con. The more interesting part, historically speaking, is a review below that one, also from Sheila

Brown, that looks at Funcon, the convention that really influenced what 1970s and 80s Westercons and Worldcons looked like. It was run by the recently passed Chuck Crayne and Bruce Pelz. It was a fun convention from everything I've read, though there's a note I'd never heard. Apparently Clint Bigglestone, whose family I'm well aware of, was taken in for wearing a sheathed knife that had already been approved of by the LAPD. The con did really well.

There's a really interesting note about Vaughn Bode asking for the return of all the illos he had submitted to various fanzines because of the way his art had been treated in various zines. He also points out that he was having trouble because he was getting more comic work. The issue was solid, and I was happy to see it. It reminded me that as recently as 1968 there was good stuff going on under the *Locus* masthead.

Issue 4 looks almost completely different. It has a huge LOCUS across the top and doesn't look anything like Issue 2. In fact, I think it was a big step backwards. There's an obit for Groff Conklin. He was a widely respected editor, as I understand it, and I own a couple of his things, including

*Great Science Fiction by Scientists*. It's one of the better anthologies of the 1960s. The back has some news notes and a list of Prozines and Fanzines. It lists the biggest name zines in the world at the time, including *Yandro*, *Australian Science Fiction Review* and *Amra*. This wasn't nearly as good an issue as the one before it.

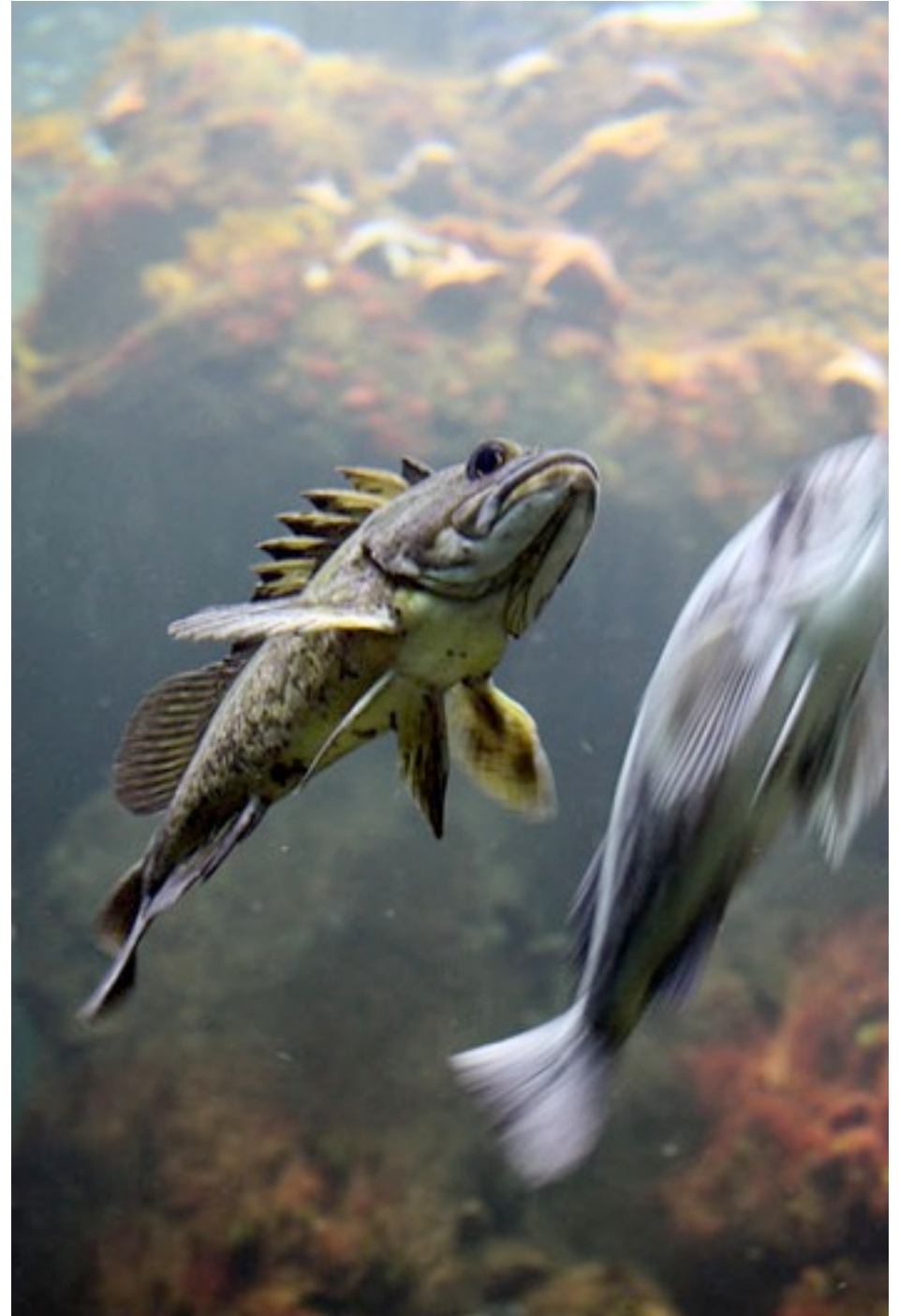
Issue 5 was solid. It was a better presentation, but the copy I was looking at had a big chunk out of the side. There are two reviews of cons, including Ozarcon and Deep South Con. Both are nice, quick little reviews. There is a section talking about Baycon, the 1968 Worldcon, which was still a couple of weeks away. They talked about the music acts that were being signed up. It's weird to think about, but prior to 1968, rock and roll was not a significant part of fandom, and after it, it was. I've heard many point to Baycon as the turning point. Pops was there, but I was not. I was -6 years old!

There is a good section talking about the 6th Annual Science Fiction Film Festival in Trieste that featured *Poem Field*, a significant step forward in the field of computer animation. This is one of the first references to computer graphics and I'm

betting the first mention of it in a fanzine. Amazing!

This was the first issue to go to two full sheets! There is a series of small notes talking about what cons were coming up, about what books were being released and there is a note from Rick Sneary about TAFF and Eddie Jones getting enough signatures. There is a long segment of writing of news from Harlan Ellison. It is also obvious that Ed Meskys was still involved because there is an equally large section of Tolkein news. The backpage is just another selection of news and such which was pretty interesting. I love reading those News and Notes sections of old zines, and *Locus* always had a pretty good one. This one made me realize just how good a zine it was.

The only newszine that has the kind of importance that *Locus* had is *File 770*, and it's always maintained a focus on fandom and is 100 times the zine that *Locus* is today. Yes, *Locus* is beautiful and a center for all those who are in or want to be in the SF industry, but *File 770* tells the story of fandom, which is always the important thing.



Hey, grumpy

photo by Lucy Huntzinger

# Weird Romance, a Science Fiction Musical

## By Howeird

### Contributing Writer

The other day I was watching Season 1 of *Pushing Daisies* and lamenting the fact that they cast two of the most thrilling voices in American musicals history, but Kristen Chenoweth and Ellen Greene rarely are given anything to sing during the series. To get my fix, I looked through my CD collection and pulled out *Wicked*, where Chenoweth does a captivating rendition of “Popular,” followed by *Little Shop of Horrors* and Greene’s “Somewhere That’s Green” and “Suddenly Seymour.” Looking toward the bottom of my alphabetically-arranged CD rack, I saw what is one of my favorite musicals of all time, but also the most forgotten, *Weird Romance*.

It’s actually two one-act musicals, *The Girl Who Was Plugged In* and *Her Pilgrim Soul*, performed by the same cast. Music for both is by the incomparable 8-time Oscar winner Alan Menken (*Enchanted*, *Mulan*, *Hercules*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *Pocahontas*, etc.), lyrics by David Spencer.

Based on the James Tiptree, Jr. short story, *The Girl Who Was Plugged In* begins with Greene as a badly-battered-by-life homeless woman on the street, singing the poignant “Stop and See Me,” a plea for passers-by to just acknowledge her existence. She gets her wish, in spades, when a scientist/CEO (Jonathan

Hadary) recruits her for his latest project. He has been cloning the Perfect Woman, but the clone is “just meat,” and needs another woman’s mind to act as “controller”. So far, none of the other candidates has been able to lose herself in the new persona, but with non-existent self-esteem, Greene’s character succeeds admirably.

Until, that is, the scientist’s son (Sal Viviano) falls in love with Delphi, the clone using Greene’s microwaved mind control. He is completely unaware that the beauty he has fallen for is a clone, and his beautiful love song, “Eyes That Never Lie” is the height of irony.

The son can’t figure out why dad has ordered him to stay away from Delphi, and storms the lab, where he learns the truth. Minds are bent, hearts are broken, and the ending is tragic on many levels.

In *Her Pilgrim Soul*, which is based on the short story/*Twilight Zone* episode of the same name by Alan Bennert, Greene plays the image of a young woman who has materialized inside a research scientist’s breakthrough holographic experiment. As she ages at an accelerated rate, we learn she is a soul from the past, both through her duets with the scientist (played by Jonathan Hadary) and leg work by his research assistant (Danny Burstein) who also sings what may be the ultimate Geek Fight Song, “Need To Know.”

The rapid aging of the mysterious ghostly girl causes the scientist to camp out in his lab, causing his sculptor wife (Jessica Molaskey) to ask if there is another woman in his life, and when she gets an equivocal answer, she creates a not-quite-abstract sculpture called “Abstraction Man,” with a penis where his brain ought to be.

The plot moves rapidly along, and in the end we discover who the girl is, what she is doing there, and everything resolves by the tear-stained finale.

Unfortunately, the CD of the original cast album is out of print. Lyricist Spencer launched a revival off-Broadway in 2004, but it only ran for two performances. A shame – this is a musical which deserves at the very least to be on community theater stages across Silicon Valley.

### Links

Cover art: [www.aislesay.com/WEIRD-CD.jpg](http://www.aislesay.com/WEIRD-CD.jpg)  
Ellen Greene’s IMDB page:  
[www.imdb.com/name/nm0338746/](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0338746/)  
Kristen Chenoweth’s IMDB page:  
[www.imdb.com/name/nm0155693/](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0155693/)  
Alan Menken’s IMDB page:  
[www.imdb.com/name/nm0579678/](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0579678/)  
Alan Brennart’s web site: [www.alanbrennert.com/](http://www.alanbrennert.com/)  
James Tiptree, Jr.’s wiki page  
 (“he” was really Alice Sheldon):  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alice\\_Sheldon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alice_Sheldon)

# *The Night the Lights Went Out in San Ramon*

**By Baron Law**

*Contributing Writer*

DunDraCon, the longest-running gaming con in the Bay Area, was held once again over Presidents Day Weekend at the San Ramon Marriott. It opened on Friday the 13th to a rainstorm that did little to dampen attendees' spirits. I had given a ride to several of my amigos and we checked them in and got the keg up to their room before the storm broke. There's something about that first beer of the con that means you're home and with your tribe.

My roommate soon arrived and we settled into our room, then headed downstairs to get our badges. Like so many of the Bay Area cons, the line for buying a membership on site was actually faster than the line for pre-registered attendees. A late lunch was in the offing and the

crowd of usual suspects had already headed next door to a restaurant by the time we waded through the lines.

Herein lies one of DunDraCon's greatest strengths as a con. There is the usual overpriced hotel food and the usual sterno buffet line of con kibble that you find at many cons. But there is also an entire mall literally next door to the hotel. There you will find reasonably priced Chinese food, a burger cafe, a Peets, a Whole Foods and a Target among other establishments. You can spend the entire weekend in the hotel, or easily walk around the corner and save some money on food and pick up any missing supplies.

Luckily we were back in the hotel by the time the storm knocked out the power over the entire city block. The Marriott staff responded quickly to the outage, placing battery powered

lanterns around the large open gaming rooms and miniatures gaming areas. They also gave out glow sticks in bulk lots to attendees, and the con took on the feel of a rave in places. I wandered through the halls and never saw the gaming stop. Sadly I did not get into the Friday night game run by my friends, the most excellent LARP troupe "Dreams of Deirdre." So I made my way to the party room, where whiskey, friends and the card game "Lunchmoney" kept me happy. For those of you not familiar with the game, picture Catholic School girls beating each other up on the playground for lunch money. Irish accents and calling each other Mary Kate were the order of the night as we pummeled each other unmercifully. The party broke up around 1 a.m. or so and I rolled into bed.



The Saturday morning session started with three LARPs I had signed up for, but although two of them showed empty slots, I was not listed as a player in any of them. I looked up the con staff in charge and mentioned this oversight. I was given a priority slip and was told to show up at game as things were still a bit messed up from the power outage. DunDraCon uses a computer-based randomizing system to assign con goers to their games. You submit a paper slip with your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices for each gaming session and these are entered into the “shuffler” database. Most gaming cons have some sort of system in place to handle this process, as some of the more popular games would otherwise be flooded by players. The problem did not seem to affect the first Friday night gaming session nearly as much as it did the second Saturday morning session. Several others in the room at the start of game also mentioned having submitted slips and not showing up anywhere in the system. LARP coordinator Chris Allen and the GMs for the various games worked hard, and nearly everyone got into one of the three LARPs that morning.

I played in the 7th Seas game, a genre I have run many successful games in myself. It was put on by the “Tempest in a Teapot” troupe and it was well run indeed. I had the honor of playing General Santiago de Saldaña del Castillo, complete with appropriate costuming and puss-n-boots accent. Many a player was unable to retain their game face against the onslaught that was my ready wit and cheesy



accent! I would highly recommend playing in one of Tempest’s games in the future and hope to do so again myself.

After an early dinner in the hotel restaurant I attended the “Mutant Saga Volume II: Los Angeles” LARP. This game was put on by Joe Parzanese and Dave Oberholzer who also happen to be the LARP Coordinators for Kubla-Con, another Bay Area gaming con that is scheduled opposite BayCon and Fanime. I had great fun being a genetically altered 7-foot-tall, 70-year-old Nazi, who had been “reformed.” Along with Professor Mayhem and a silverback gorilla I had given super intelligence to and raised as my son, we were a force to be reckoned with as we evil laughed our way to victory. Mwuhahahahaha! After the game and a quick bite of the con kibble, much partying was had and many “no shit there I was” stories were told.

Sunday morning loomed large and after sleeping in a bit and a big breakfast buffet, I was more than ready to play in the “Team Volare” Warhammer 40k Fantasy LARP. The Team Volare troupe is always a good game and this one was no exception. I played a Witch





Hunter for the church, à la Van Helsing from the movie by the same name. I got to play the loose cannon and was dramatically scary in my black hat and long cape, disrupting delicate political talks only to eventually be suborned by the vampire as her plaything. Luckily the other players decided to save me rather than kill me and the game ended successfully for me.

Sunday evening was “Between,” a Fading Suns LARP put on by the “Groupmind Games” troupe. Although it is a complicated universe, I felt the GMs did an excellent job with the background information and supplemented the character sheets with generic cheat sheets. I was given an amnesiac character for the first half of the game and played him as innocent and carefree, asking all kinds of questions. At some point in the game when our group of

privateers nearly collided with a luxury liner we were trying to board, I was given a brand new character sheet with my memories restored. Apparently I was a “Knight of the Gray Shroud,” that universe’s equivalent to a Jedi, who had been bopped in the head and lost his memories. Although the big ending was a bit muddled due to so many characters trying to achieve so many differing goals, I felt the game went well over all. I would definitely play in another Groupmind Games again.

No matter what kind of convention you attend or are a fan of, Monday is always the saddest day of con. Although there are still games to be had Monday morning you know that soon everyone will go back to their mundane jobs and normal lives. Many of us met up in the hotel restaurant and got the breakfast buffet on the last day. Hugs were exchanged, plans to meet made, and farewells said.

Officially there were 179 registered RPGs, 37 boardgames, 6 CCGs, 12 LARPs, 22 miniatures games, 19 seminars and a host of pickup games in three huge open gaming areas. The dealer’s room was packed with more games than you’ll ever be able to play and enough dice to build a small house out of. But all of that pales beside the friends you meet and the memories made at DunDraCon!





# Gallifrey One Times Twenty

**By España Sheriff**  
*Staff Writer*

Gallifrey One, LA's annual *Dr. Who* convention, celebrated its twentieth anniversary this year with record attendance, hitting 1,300+ members. For me it was only my third year, but in this short span I have become enormously fond of this convention. In 2007 I went on a whim, knowing there would be at least some people I knew but with very little idea what to expect besides that. Even sharing floor space in a smallish room and being a bit of a neo-fan compared to most folks there, it was so much fun that I couldn't believe I had never been before. Now it's on my regular roster and is one of those cons for which I start pining for next year the day after it's over.

This year I traveled down on Thursday night with local fans Lee Almodovar and Johanna Mead. We got a bit of a late start and I arrived at my sister's place at around 4 o'clock in the morning, which she was surprisingly gracious about. Gallifrey should properly be experienced from Thursday evening through Sunday night, but with another full roster of cons looming in the coming months I had decided to be sensible and not take an extra day off work. I meant to get to the hotel as soon as possible Friday but when I woke up, rain was pouring down in torrents so I waited instead and got a ride from my sister's boyfriend,

Andres. Because of this I arrived at the hotel, late but dry, mid-afternoon Friday.

I was amused to see that the lady at reception, Brandy, was the one who had checked me in for AnimeLA a month ago and she had the same delighted look on her face at all the fannishness invading her lobby. It turned out that my room wasn't quite ready yet, so I checked my bags and went off to get my membership and check in to the art show.

I got my badge and hung my art and then wandered across to the main hall which was packed and spilling over into the hallway. Kai Owen and Gareth David-Lloyd of *Torchwood* were doing a Q&A and as I dithered whether to stay and take a peek I heard something about a special guest. I stepped in to check it out, and saw that Naoko Mori, who plays Tosh on the show, was on stage with them. I perched as best I could and listened to the rest of the talk, which was pretty spoilerific for me since I was still about halfway through the season at the time.

When that let out, I got out of the way by heading to the dealer's room, where I bought Issue #1 of *Doctor Who: Unforgettable*, Tony Lee being one of the guests at the con. I also stopped by Hornesmythe to check out their wares and found an extremely reasonably-priced flowered diadem which might go with my alternate, Greek-style toga in a pinch. On

my way out of the dealer's I ran into Tadao, who was amused to point out that I was officially listed as Staff for Registration, probably in a cut-and-paste oversight from last year. I told him that I'd consider putting in a couple of hours on Saturday if I found myself at loose ends.

I decided to grab a bite, relax for a minute and check the program book, so I headed to the hotel restaurant, Latitude 33. The host, Anthony, had also been there during Anime LA (not to mention Loscon) and looked quizzically at me for a second before I confirmed that I had just been there the month before, and shortly before that too. On the way to my table I ran into Kevin Roche and Andy Trembley who reminded me that the Volcano Day party was going on that evening in the usual party suite,



**Phil Collinson Serving Kevin a Drink at the Volcano Day party** photo by Andrew Trembley

hosted by the wonderful Merv Staton and Judith Richardson. I had packed my Loscon Roman toga specifically for this event and assured them I would be there with laurels on.

After eating, I checked into my room, which was conveniently located poolside on the second floor. I like unpacking completely as soon as I can so I can feel well settled in, but I had way overpacked for no good reason so it took much longer than it should have. By the time I was done it was nearly time for opening ceremonies so I bopped down to the convention area and managed to find a decent seat as things got underway. Robbie Bourget took a minute on stage to say a few words and introduce Shaun Lyon who took over from there. He announced that as of that moment we were already 23 members above last year's final count, which produced much applause. He also took a moment to remember Bob May and to announce that our charity auction will be known as the Bob May Memorial Auction from here on out. Some unfortunate news was that Pia Guerra might not make it after all, as she was unable to find her passport (in fact she did not make it).

Then Shaun began calling the guests to the stage. Gallifrey has a high number of guests for a convention its size, including writers, actors, and behind the scenes folks from the shows, so getting them all on stage (and sometimes back off again) can be quite entertaining. The first batch came up as a group and only stayed for a minute since they had dinner reservations, but the second group was a hoot. When Gareth David-Lloyd got on stage he encouraged each

of those coming up next to take a different route. Surprisingly they did just that, some going the long way around to the other end of the stage, others weaving through the audience, with Frazier Hines stealing the show when he wound his way down between the seats just a couple of rows behind me and even took some time to hug a lady on the way. It was all quite hectic and silly, but everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

With the stage full they each announced how many years they had been in attendance, with some like Davies, Kai Owen and Phil Collinson being in their first year, and others in the teens. Paul Cornell, celebrating his twelfth year, read a note from past guest and new showrunner Steven Moffat who managed to steal a little thunder even in absentia. Peter Anghelides encouraged everyone to twitter the proceedings using the #gally tag, which seems to have gone swimmingly looking at the feed, although reception for my phone was poor enough that I wasn't able to play along. Once everyone had their say they dispersed — each taking a separate way again.

I changed into my toga, which involved much fussing and a trip to the hotel gift shop for safety pins and a sewing kit, and headed over to the Volcano Day party in the Porta Aurea room. I meant to check out the convention's official "Fires of Pompeii" shindig downstairs but somehow managed not to make it in the end, since just about everything I wanted came to me instead. The bar was quite busy with sporadic but quick moving queues

forming (good old Brits) and they had several themed drinks with clever Latin names I can't remember anymore.

I got the Blue Box, which looked like mouthwash but tasted lovely, and immediately started running into people including Sara Bruce and Mary Boyle, Mo Starkey and her daughter Mason, Johanna in her Time Agent costume and Bryan Little and Mette Hedin in their Captain Jack Harkness and Gwen Cooper costumes respectively. I also met Johanna's friend Roz, at her first convention, and Mette's pal John O'Connor, a Gallifrey veteran of seven years. I spent a good portion of the evening chatting with Mo, who in addition to being tons of fun is also a wonderful artist who had created a "household gods" art piece and a life-size replica of the marble circuit board (both featured in the "Fires of Pompeii" episode) which everyone who entered the party stopped to admire. Outside Kevin and Andy had built a really nice looking five-foot-tall volcano out of Halloween torches, tinsel and a fan. Unfortunately, the hotel had asked us to keep the door closed so there was not the usual spillage to the deck, which I rather enjoy. Eventually things started to peter out and Merv gave me my traditional bottle of GTFO champagne to hustle me on my way, so John and I escaped with that and finished it off while warming our toes on the hot tub, conveniently located right in front of my room. We chatted about genre and whatnot in one of those great late night/early morning convention conversations until the sun was coming up and

it seemed like a good idea to get some sleep before the next day's festivities.

I woke up a few short hours later and after several long seconds of having absolutely no idea where I was, I remembered, joyfully, that I was at a convention. I was also pleased to see it was not nearly as late as all that. I put on my Captain Hammer tee, representin' some non-Who fandom for the day, and headed off to find bacon and eggs. The hotel restaurant stops serving breakfast at some unreasonable (to me) hour, but as Leigh Ann Hildebrand had discovered during a previous visit, they have a bacon and eggs any style (plus fries, for some reason) option on the regular menu. I got my bacon and eggs, with a fruit substitute and all the coffee I could manage in one sitting, and felt infinitely better.

I wandered more or less accidentally into the Wendy Padbury Q&A which was very entertaining. I also got to listen to John Levene giving an interview to *Doctor Who Podshock*, which was very entertaining. He seems a wonderful fellow.

Afterwards I ran into Mette, who was afraid of coming down with allergies but also clearly food deprived, so she grabbed a sandwich from the hotel gift shop and we headed to the "Something Borrowed" live commentary panel. I caught up on the good stuff I had missed the previous evening, which apparently included two karaoke highlights: a Dalek singing "What a Wonderful World," the chorus modified to "And I say to myself, EXTERMINATE," and Kai Owen doing the Welsh National Anthem, as



**Bryan and Mette as Vashta Nerada**

photo by Andrew Trembley

well as a Gareth David-Lloyd and Kai Owen sketch in character at the Pompeii party.

I got to see Wendy Padbury and Frazier Hines doing a Q&A, and was impressed with their rapport. I'm not very familiar with the Second Doctor's run and am determined to watch more of it now. One of the interesting things about Padbury (or Padders as Hines kept calling her) is that she went on to become a talent agent for some years before eventually

retiring to France. In that capacity she was apparently responsible for discovering young Matt Smith who we will soon see as the eleventh incarnation of the Doctor.

I had arranged with my sister Ashley and her boyfriend Andres to meet up later in the afternoon, since he's a big time geek but hasn't really been to a convention, so I wandered into the Phil Collinson panel and grabbed a seat. Mette stayed with me for a bit before heading off to get ready. John wandered in a bit later and eventually Ashley and Andres showed up. Unfortunately Andres had been called in to work so he was only able to stay for a few hours, but they did get to see the hallway atmosphere and some good costumes including a full-size Dalek which was patrolling the hallways, and I got them to wander by Kevin and Andy's semi-private wine party for a while and they got to see the previous night's decor and admire some more costumes before heading off again.

By now it was well into the evening but the line for the Masquerade looked a little long. So I took the time to change into my ad-hoc Time Agent-esque outfit, which is mostly bits of various steampunk ensembles plus the awesome raygun that Ed Garcia gave me at Loscon. When I got downstairs the Masquerade was over and Toby Hadoke's "Moths Ate My Doctor Who Scarf" was underway. I grabbed a patch of floor in the corner of the room and settled in for a really wonderful show. There were a certain amount of specific British cultural references which really meant nothing to me but the rest was funny and poignant and

extremely well done. I know I'm not the only one who misted up at the end. There's a specifically made for audio version available, I highly recommend any Who fans out there pick it up. I ran into Mette and Bryan and got a chance to see their Masquerade entries (previously Top Secret) which were up to their usual high standards, two full spacesuits from the "Vashta Nerada" episode.

Alas, the party room was closed for a more private event that evening, but there's always someone at the hotel bar at Gally. In this case Jean, Maureen, Merv and Judith. Merv was wearing an amazing Brannigan costume which he had entered in the Masquerade. I got a few drinks there until they announced it was closing (too early) but the convention had a dance going on that night, with a bar set up outside the doors. I had the drink special, which was okay but a little sweet and fruity for my tastes. I ran into John, who pointed out that he had a martini shaker and ingredients so he could make those if that suited better. It did, so he did, and we were back at the dance just in time to see the Dalek hit the dance floor to "Oh, Sheila."

The music was uneven, with far too much Phil Collins and Flight of the Conchords for my tastes. The latter was amusing but as with most gag music not really made for the dancefloor. Still, I managed to stick it out through the end and there were some fun tunes and a lively crowd including a very fetching and clever dress made up to look like the TARDIS. Eventually the DJ announced that was the end of that, and we all reluctantly called it a night.

Sunday morning was kinder to me. I made it to the restaurant while the buffet was still going. I had finished my current book so I picked up a copy of *Jennifer Morgue* by Charles Stross and attempted to read it during breakfast; however, a table behind me, someone was on his cell phone having an amusing but rather loud conversation. I put my book down half in exasperation, half in amusement, and just sat there for a minute until I made eye contact with a woman one table up who apparently couldn't help but hear everything as well. I burst out laughing and she encouraged me to say something, which I probably wouldn't have otherwise. To his credit the gentleman in question was quite abashed, and apologized and wrapped up the conversation. He even apologized again on his way out a few minutes later, so all's well that ends well.

The rest of the day was mostly spent in the main hall. John and his friend Will grabbed some seats and I settled in beside them for a series of entertaining panels before closing ceremonies. First was a comics panel with Tony Lee, Paul Cornell, Gary Russell and Joshua Fialkov, then a very fun panel with Colin Baker and Nicola Bryant. I wandered out for a bit after that and ran into our own Jean Martin, and we both made it back for the Phil Collinson live commentary for "Journey's End," which I wasn't expecting much from, which but ended up with most of the audience, including Collinson, in tears. Closing ceremonies were traditionally quick, and next thing you knew it was time for goodbyes for the folks who had already checked out.

Since Jean and I were both staying through the next day, we headed up to the restaurant in hopes of beating the rush. As luck would have it Merv, Judith, Maureen and Mason were already there, having wisely made reservations. They were kind enough to invite us along, and the restaurant good enough to accommodate the request, and we had a lovely meal with much chatting about all things fannish.

When we were done, Sunday Lobbycon was in full swing with all the remaining guests and attendees downing pints in the bar and the lobby. I had already decided to stay up, since I had to be ready to go at 6 a.m., so I spent the rest of the night drinking and chatting. I'm happy to say that not only were folks still awake when I left the lobby at 4:30 a.m to pack and change, but that an hour and a half later when I rolled my suitcase into the lobby, I glimpsed the last two stragglers fleeing the early birds that had just started to appear.



**Lobbycon with Radar, España, Judith and Merv**  
photo by Andrew Trembley

# Potlatch In Extremely Brief

**By Christopher J. Garcia**  
*Editor*

Christian McGuire called me. I love Christian, nicest guy you'll ever meet who can still snark like an Oscar-night fashion reporter.

"Chris, I call you to Potlatch. Bring the Scarf," he said.

"OK, I'll be there in fifteen minutes," I answered.

When I got the call, I was just about to put my CPAP mask on and go to beddy-bye-birdland, I was in my pajamas, nose prepared and everything! I just threw on a long-sleeved shirt (it was cold out there), got in my car and drove over to The Domain.

As you've probably heard, the Scarf is to raise funds for TAFF, and as a part of the entire process of auctioning it off for grand sums, we're taking photos of folks wearing it. As soon as I arrived, I ran into a mass of folks I knew. There was Deirdre Soirse Moen and Rick. There was Jay Lake, David Levine, Diana Sherman, Kate Yule and a couple of people who I didn't know, but chatted with and they seemed really nice. I got a few photos, notably of Diana in the scarf, and then excused myself to head upstairs.

Yes, I know I was technically ghosting by entering the consuite, but I tried to impact it limitedly. Really, I just wanted to get a few photos and head off to bed. I found España, Christian, and Leigh Ann and we got some photos of the Scarf with Peggy Rae Sapienza, Art Widner, who I hadn't seen since Corflu 2007, David Bratman and John D. Berry. After about twenty minutes, I went with España and we scoped out the downstairs, took some photos, but mostly just chatted with folks.

I love The Domain and I hope we find many more reasons to have cons there. I spent about an hour down with Diana, Grant Winnig, and a couple of others whose names escape me. Later, Leigh Ann and España joined us and when I next checked, it was 2 a.m.! It was a lot of fun chatting, as always, and I'm hoping I'll get a chance to run into folks again. Perhaps at Corflu?



**Potlatch 18 As Seen By Chris**

photo by Chris Garcia

# Potlatch 18 – The Cat's Meow

**By España Sheriff**  
*Staff Writer*

The last weekend in February was a busy one this year. WonderCon, Cinequest and Potlatch served to scatter local fandom all over the map. I chose Potlatch over WonderCon for several reasons, but principally because Ursula K. Le Guin would be present.

Unlike most conventions, Potlatch chooses a Book of Honor rather than a Guest of Honor. Up until this year the book had never been by a living author, but for whatever reason they made two changes this year. Firstly they chose *Always Coming Home* by Le Guin, and they also decided to have two books instead of one, choosing the YA novel *Growing Up Weightless* by John M. Ford to share the honor.

A cozy little convention, it fit nicely into the Domain hotel which I had last visited for Steam Powered. The excellent consuite helped make up for the lack of a suitable hotel restaurant, and the social space in the lobby created a nice alternative to spending all day in the consuite. A small dealer's room was located on the ground floor, with several booksellers including Borderlands, Cargo Cult, Tachyon, and Book Universe, and a couple of jewelers.

Friday after work I took Caltrain from San Francisco to Santa Clara and then a short bus ride to the hotel, quite convenient really. As I waited for the bus, Chris Garcia called

wondering if I would ask Jay Lake to write up a con report. I said sure, as one bafflingly does when Garcia asks for things. As soon as I hung up I remembered I don't really know Jay as such and am far better at badgering drunk friends into doing things they already want to do, than at actually asking for favors. I called Leigh Ann Hildebrand and delegated the job to her instead.



I got to the convention around 8 p.m. and met up with Leigh Ann and Christian McGuire who had had slightly more optimistic expectations of my arrival time, and were more than ready to get some dinner. I checked in and left unpacking for later so we could grab something to eat. Christian selected Bombay Garden from the handy restaurant guide which took up the bulk of the program book. The restaurant was packed when we got there but we were seated within a few minutes and ran into a few other Potlatch folks enjoying the large buffet offerings. On the way back we stopped at Lucky's to pick up some ginger beer

with which to make Little Things, since Leigh Ann had brought some Hangar One Pear Vodka.

If one is a Joy of Life Rewards Member, the Joy de Vivre Hotels provide one with a guest amenity upon check in. In this case that turned out to be a full bottle of white wine each. I had also brought a bottle of wine and the consuite was providing beer and wine as well, so things were looking pretty good on the booze front. Especially taking into account that after the recent excess of Gallifrey One, I was looking forward to a low-key weekend this time around.

I took the time to settle in and unpack before pouring myself some wine and wandering a little to see who was about. Programming was done by that point but the consuite, which is really the heart of this convention, was still full of folks chatting. We spent some time there, then headed back to Leigh Ann's room for a couple more hours. The last hour or so of the evening was spent reading the last issue of *Vegas Fandom Weekly* and pondering the concept of ~~eore~~ ~~classie~~ ~~original~~ "proud and lonely" fandom.

The Domain had thoughtfully provided a free coupon for their breakfast buffet so I had optimistically set my alarm for nine a.m. As I lay there trying to convince myself that I cared even a little about breakfast, Christian called to badger me into getting up, pointing out that I

could go right back to sleep afterwards if I wanted to. It was touch and go for a minute but he pointed out that Leigh Ann would be wearing her glasses for the first time in public (that I know of) and I had to see that, given the big deal she had made over buying the damned things. So I dragged myself out of bed and did the minimum ablutions to get presentable.

The glasses were fetching, but the actual breakfast was the same rather disappointing buffet as last time. The restaurant is simply not set up for convention-style groups. I did manage to get some bacon, eggs and coffee, and free is free, so I shouldn't complain. As we sat there Jay Lake wandered in and sat nearby. I nudged Leigh Ann who turned to Christian and asked him to ask Jay for a report for Garcia. I suddenly felt like I was in elementary school again. Christian, bless his heart, is used to doing this sort of thing, and was more than happy to, so on our way out we all shuffled over to Jay's table and explained ourselves. Of course he said yes. Thank you Jay!

By now the coffee had done its job and I had no interest in going back to sleep. Instead I wandered over to the Dealer's Room which was mainly booksellers with a couple of jewelers for variety. Rina and Jacob Weisman were at the Tachyon table, and next to them was Borderlands, manned by Jude Feldman and Jeremy Lassen, both looking very smartly dressed. I browsed for a bit and then chatted with Diana Sherman at the Tachyon table for a bit until it was time for the next panel, The Scalzi Rule.

I met up with Christian and Leigh Ann and we headed up to the main programming room. About half the con was there and the discussion was quite lively. The "Scalzi Rule" refers to an old post by John Scalzi regarding audience participation in convention panels, specifically the preferability of asking questions instead of making statements. The discussion concluded that the problem actually being addressed was grandstanders and thread hijackers, and that it could most easily be solved by good moderation. Mary Kay Kare twittered @scalzi to get his comments and he replied that he had mostly forgotten about the "Scalzi Rule" but thought the discussion sounded interesting.

After that let out I was tempted to nap, but Le Guin was going to be reading from the Book of Honor at 3:30 p.m. so I had to postpone sleep. I bought a tasty gluten-free brownie from the Tiptree bake sale and wandered back to the dealer's room for a bit. I asked around but no one seemed certain whether Le Guin would be signing or not, so I made a mental note to pick up copies of certain books and headed to the reading.

When I arrived the room was nearly full but I found a seat near the back. There was a screen

upon which they were projecting a Second Life simulcast of the reading. Le Guin read a story and some poems from the Book of Honor, *Always Coming Home*, which I had tried reading before the con but had had a hard time getting into. Read aloud it's far more compelling, matching the oral culture in the story, and I'm tempted now to search out the original version which came with a cassette of the songs and music. When the reading was done Le Guin took questions from the audience in the room and in Second Life. The questions varied from interesting to rather unimaginative, but she answered them all thoughtfully and kindly even when the answer was "I hadn't really thought of that."

Afterwards people started lining up to get books signed so I popped downstairs and bought a copy of *The Lathe of Heaven* for myself, another of *A Wizard of Earthsea* for a friend, and her new book, *Lavinia*, on Jude's recommendation. When I got back, Rina Weisman was in line ahead of me, so we got to chat while waiting. The line moved reasonably fast and soon enough Le Guin was signing my books while I tried to remember my words and not embarrass myself. I got through unscathed



and bounced around for the next hour or so too elated to think about sleeping.

I knew I needed the rest so eventually I headed up to the room for a nap. Of course that meant that when Christian and Leigh Ann were ready for dinner at 6:30 I was barely coherent. I excused myself and got another hour of rest plus a short but very pleasant bath in the big hotel tub, then ate the Basil Chicken that Leigh Ann was kind enough to bring back for me from the restaurant. Feeling much more human I headed down to meet them close to 9:30 p.m. during the Clarion Auction.

Tom Whitmore and Jay Lake were auctioneering with help from Ellen Klages as I scurried up to where Leigh Ann had saved me a seat in the second row. As I sat down she leaned over and said something apologetic-sounding about the seats. I only heard part of it but misunderstood and muttered my own apology for being late. A few minutes later a copy of a Le Guin book came up for auction and Jay mentioned that the author would sign it, while gesturing to my immediate right. I looked over with trepidation and realized that I was sitting beside Le Guin herself. I looked over at Leigh Ann in a panic and she grinned at me — that was what she had been trying to tell me when I sat down.

I spent the next half hour or so simply trying to sit up straight and not embarrass myself, and I was doing just fine until Jay picked up a t-shirt in a plastic bag from the items to be auctioned and made an “excuse me while I whip this out” joke. Whereupon all the wags in the audience rose to the occasion,

including myself. It was only after the “it appears to be large and black” and “Gosh, it’s longer than I expected” witticisms were out of my mouth that my forebrain pointed out that making dick jokes probably fell into the “embarrassing myself in front of a living legend of SF literature” category.

Luckily I wasn’t able to spend too much time dwelling upon my faux pas because mere minutes later an audio copy of *Catwings* came up. Tom mentioned that it was read by the author and Le Guin piped up with “and meowed!” As I paused to consider this, Le Guin meowed.

I looked over at Leigh Ann at the same time that she looked over at me. Beside me, Le Guin continued meowing, with increasing volume and disturbing realism. And as the bidding continued, someone from the back of the room meowed back and there was a brief yoweled cat-talk conversation. I sat very still and considered whether I should just pack up and leave fandom right then and there, as surely nothing would ever top this experience.

The rest of the auction flew past. Leigh Ann scored some Harlan goodness and I bid on and won a handmade-by-Le Guin jewelry bag and a

fun t-shirt. By the time we paid and collected our loot it was pretty late. I ran into Maureen Starkey as I headed to the consuite and we had a good chat before she had to go home for the night. I then made it over to the consuite which was quite busy and full of good snackables. With several knitters in the room the TAFF Scarf came up in conversation and we bemoaned not having thought to bring it. Christian whipped out his phone and called Garcia, who lives just a few minutes away. Mere minutes later in he walked, wearing his jammies, the Scarf in hand. We got pictures of various folks wearing it and then he called it a night so I took it back to the safety of Leigh Ann’s room. As we walked past the lobby area we could see Jay Lake, Diana Sherman and a gaggle of other folks downstairs so we popped down for a while and got some more pictures.

We left them to it and headed back to the consuite for a while until we got thirsty and decided to mix some Little Things. We went to the room and got those, heckling Garcia and company who were still in the lobby. We offered to bring some drinks and one person took us up on the offer, so we ended up spending the next hour or so drinking pear





vodka and ginger beer and chatting about religion, *South Park*, and *Doctor Who*. Eventually people started drifting their various ways so I popped by reception to get a late checkout, and after another short but interesting visit to the consuite I called it a night around one thirty.

When I got to the room I found a spider sitting on the bed and spent about half an hour or so scooping it up with the room service menu, being embarrassingly girly and freaked out at each progressively more alarming failure and finally getting it out onto the balcony. After another half hour or so checking around to

make sure it was gone, I finally got to sleep around two thirty.

Sunday morning I got up at a reasonable time, but not quite early enough to bother with the buffet. Instead I swung by the consuite for coffee and some nibbles. I drifted between there and the dealer's room for the next couple of hours, chatting with folks and making some last-minute purchases. I spent some time people watching from the second floor balcony area, watching Ed Stokke stalking folks with his smoke gun and people just generally coming and going.

Eventually it was time to check out of my room so I left my bags at reception. On the way to do that I ran into Kevin Roche and Andy Trembley, who had spent the weekend at SF Coronation. Andy brought out his camera to get some final pictures of a bunch of folks all wearing The Scarf at once, and as he did so, Leo Schwab arrived to meet us for lunch. The sadness of leaving the con was somewhat softened by a very tasty lunch at Hobee's and a zoom-zoom-y ride back to the city courtesy of Leo and his Mini Cooper.



Michael McLaughlin

# BASFA Minutes: Meetings 967-969

## Meeting 967

February 9, 2009

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

Began 8:01

26 people attended

a party jar was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 966 were accepted as 'pausing for food'

there was no Treasurer or report

the Vice president reported that but *Drink Tank* 201 is out, *Drink Tank* 202 will be out Friday and he is now the 'dancing with the stars' correspondent at work since Steve Wozniak will be on it

The President had nothing fannish to report

### Announcements

[tall] Kevin announced that Cheryl misses us and that the Hugo clipboard is circulating in the room and we'll be discussing part 3 of the Hugo nominations after the meeting

Glenn announced that he is again gainfully employed and working much closer to BASFA

Andy announced that Gallifrey 1, 20 Years to Life will be in LA this weekend - and Friday is Volcano day and Saturday will be the Napa State Prison party

Dave C announced that if you want to see amusing ice cream suggestions visit [www.newsfromme.com](http://www.newsfromme.com)

Adrienne announced that an actor from *Dr Who* won an award in the BAFTA awards

Mo announced that Dann Lopez is NOT in England - and his email account was hacked and zombified

Chris announced the Seattle in 2011 bid has folded [there were follow ons]

### Reviews

Glenn reviewed his new Blackberry Storm as he is very happy with it and having fun with ringtones

Dave C reviewed *Taken* as OK; reviewed *Coraline* as much more interesting, beautiful and worth full price; reviewed Patton Oswalt's *Werewolves and Lollipops* as he's a sf nerd and one of us - and Cargo Cult -could- carry it - and reviewed that Lux Interior, lead singer for the Cramps, died last week of natural causes at 62 [there were follow ons]

Chris reviewed 'The 5 Obstructions', a Danish film, as well-worth Netflix; reviewed *The Inheritance* as great; reviewed Martinez as the city that always sleeps, reviewed *Evil Dead*

*the Musical* as a Pollack-like event, reviewed *Fanboys* as beautiful and the story of his life - brilliant - and the weekend was worth \$97.95

Carole announced that Feb 21 will be a games day at their place

Bill reviewed *Conflikt* as they had a great time there - and worth full price including air fare [plus has had a funny story about it that he only told me, hah!] - and there were follow-ons

Lisa reviewed *New in Town* as fun, worth bargain matinee or Netflix, reviewed *Milk* as excellent, worth full price - and there were positive follow-ons

Connor reviewed *Last Templar* as 4 hours of predictable crap

Adrienne reviewed *Frost - Nixon* as she enjoyed it very much and liked *Milk* better and reviewed *Diana Rigg the Biography* by Kathleen Tracy as she enjoyed it

Howeird reviewed 5 Indy short films as 3 were very good and 2 were not

we then did auctions: CDs for \$10.00, a magazine for \$0.25, off stuff for \$1.25, a calendar for \$1.00, a magazine and a calendar for \$1.25 and a card game for \$4.00

We adjourned at = 9:39

And the rumor of the week was: *Adrienne - still partying like it's 1989*

## Meeting 968

February 16, 2009

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began 8-ish

15 people attended

a party jar was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 967 were accepted as 'badly in need of a cough drop'

there was no Treasurer - but last week we took in \$13.25 in the regular jar and \$12.25 in the party jar

the Vice president reported that *Drink Tank* 202 is out, check efanazines.com for it

The President said 'hi' to Franklin Reynolds who found us because of NESFA friends on the East Coast, after moving here from a small town outside of Boston

The Party Committee reported that he learned how to set up GPS systems and gave away all the club's alcohol at FurCon - took in \$10.00 in donations and 2 memberships

The Hugo Nominations Committee reported that all of BASFA's nominations are on the clipboard and can be perused there

### Announcements

Ed announced that there's an ERPS meeting at Gerry Nordley's place tomorrow night

[tall] Kevin announced that he's going to

Oregon this Friday for 2 weeks

<<The ninjas seemed happy>>

Chris announced that he'll be reviewing the audio book for *Anathem*

Ken announced that the Oscars will be on ABC on Sunday

Adrienne announced that there will be a Bay Area Ghost Hunters get together at 3pm Saturday at Bronco Billy's in Union City

### Reviews

Ken reviewed Gallifrey 1 - 20 Years to Life as lots of people were there, the *Torchwood* panels seemed to be the most popular, and the Pompeii party was a highlight - definitely worth full price; Gerry follow-on'd with ideas for Chris and was called Ken's 2nd brain; Chris gave [evil] Kevin's remote report - that it was worth full price, even if Kevin was sick and the drive home on the 101 with a lot of sullen drivers because the 5 is snowed in is NOT worth full price

Chris reviewed the audio book for *Anathem* as it ate a portion of his life he will never get back, but is better than listening to pledge breaks on NPR - the story was fun, the writing uneven and needed editing; he reviewed 'Dollhouse' as he gives it 5 episodes, then to DVD and is an idea done before [Eric follow-on'd that it was *Babe Recall*; Howeird said he watched it and kept waiting for it to get interesting]; then reviewed *Psych* as the best comedy on TV, reviewed Alameda as a lovely city and reviewed *He's just not that Into You* as NOT a date movie and squick-worthy

Howeird reviewed Kage Baker's *Garden of*

*I den* as very well-written, worth full price and reviewed Joni's birthday party as an inadvertent surprise

Ed reviewed *Coraline* as excellent, he enjoyed the 3D, worth matinee, I follow-on'd that it was very imaginative and worth full price and Trey said he was a bit disappointed and he expected more from it, still enjoyed it and was worth matinee; then Ed reviewed *1635 - the Dresden Incident* as it pushed the series along but lacked action & Matthew Harrinton's Known Space book, *Man Kzinti Wars XIII* as a wonderful story

Glenn reviewed a robber trying to rob a convenience store with a Klingon weapon as a loser that inspires song parodies and reviewed his Valentine Day's dinner as very nice

Adrienne reviewed *Secret Life of a Call Girl* on DVD as OK - worth Netflix; reviewed *Curious case of Benjamin Button* as she was pretty impressed by it and reviewed *Doubt* as well-acted but the plot wasn't exceptional - worth matinee

Bob reviewed *Byzantium* by Stephen R Lawhead as a Christian travelogue

Trey reviewed Arclight's radio play presentation of *Hamlet* as much fun was had by all - and to check their website, [www.arclightrep.art.officelive.com](http://www.arclightrep.art.officelive.com)

we then did auctions: a box of books for \$2.00, a box of tools for \$4.00, a book for \$2.25, video tapes for \$0.25 & \$0.25 & anime DVDs for \$5.00

We adjourned at = 9:22

And the rumor of the week was: *Chris for WTF*

## Meeting 969

February 23, 2009

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began after 8

25 people attended

a TAFF jar was established

a party jar was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 968 were accepted as 'squirm worthy'

Treasurer report = last week we took in \$10.25 in the regular jar and \$10.00 in the party jar

the Vice president reported that *Drink Tank* 203 is out, check efanazines.com for it and he put the audio book of *Anathem* up for BASFA auction and he recommends *Consonant Enigma* - check efanazines for it, too

The President had nothing fannish to report

Glenn asked the sense of the meeting about posting a link to PDFs of stories on the BASFA list and no one objected

### Announcements

Ken announced that there's a Legion of Rassilon meeting at the Carl's Jr at 1st and Trimble, Friday night

Adrienne announced that she heard the secretary make a comment on the Ronn Owens show that morning

Andy announced that there's a drag show

this weekend - Saturday - the SG Imperial Court Coronation to be held at the Gift center Pavilion at 8th and Brannan in SF

Lisa announced that Stitches West is happening this weekend in the Santa Clara convention center

Mo announced that WonderCon is this weekend and she'll be in the Artist's alley

Chris announced that Corflu will be the 2nd weekend in March in Seattle and that Potlatch is this weekend and he'll be missing BASFA for 3 weeks because of Cinequest

Spring announced that next Monday, March 2 will be Read Across America Day

Dave C announced that Potlatch is this weekend at the Domain hotel

### Reviews

Glenn reviewed that having his car hit by someone who ran [in the parking lot here last week] as worth negative full price

Chris reviewed the crappy Denny's at El Camino as worth nothing; reviewed the Hometown buffet as delightful and worth full price [there were awesome follow-ons]; reviewed a really nice place in Berkeley - Eccolo - as there was a party in his mouth and he was invited to it; & reviewed a pamphlet from the Hollow Earth Society - *Are you a Reptilian* as endlessly amusing - and *Dollhouse* sucked

Julian reviewed Boskone [that he visited with Faith] as lots and lots of fun - recommends it - and reviewed the *Ghostbusters* commemorative mug he got at BASFA auction as worth at least what he paid for it

Faith reviewed the *Twilight* panels she saw at-con as highly recommended and reviewed the Museum of the American Indian in DC as 'go - go see it'

Mo reviewed selling a print and using that money to buy 2 Neil Gaiman audio books [*The Graveyard Book* and *Coraline*] as extremely worth while

Lisa reviewed Gallifrey as well-attended and there was a wonderful tardis there, but the drive sucked; there were many follow-on's - Andy commented that the drive down was OK but driving back was brutal; there was a report of a car gutting itself; and even though he was sick, [evil] Kevin still had a fan moment and some fun being 'arm candy'

Adrienne reviewed *The Reader* as OK - worth matinee; reviewed *Slumdog Millionaire* as nice, not her usual thing and worth matinee

Dave C reviewed the Madonna Inn as they have changed some of the decor and it was definitely squirm-worthy

[evil] Kevin reviewed *Alien vs Hunter* on the SciFi channel as crappy - but it had a few good lines and some good dialogue in it - and *Bruce Campbell's Alien Apocalypse* made it look even better

we then did auctions: *Anathem* on CD for \$21.00, a poster and calendar for \$2.00; some stuff for \$1.00, 7 magazines for \$1.00, more magazines for \$0.25; even more magazines for \$1.25; a slinky and candle for \$0.25 & \$0.25 & a Bloom County book for \$11.00

We adjourned at = 9:49

And the rumor of the week was: *Chris is a meta-psycho religious cannibal*

# 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.

**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](http://www.cartoonart.org)

A career-spanning retrospective featuring over 60 pieces of original artwork by the critically-acclaimed artist.

\$6

**Saturday, March 6th-Sunday, March 29th**

***The Twilight Zone Live: Season VI***

Cartoon Room Theater

2263 Mission St., San Francisco

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

The Dark Room Theater proudly presents its 6th year of reinterpreted episodes from the classic television series. Each weekend will feature two new episodes, a new Rod Serling and “commercials” in between.

Fridays and Saturdays at 8PM, Sundays at 3PM.

\$20

**Wednesday, March 11**

***SF in SF Double Feature, with author James Morrow***

Hobart Building

582 Market Street, San Francisco

[www.sfinsf.org](http://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 pm

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](http://sonoracelticfaire.com)

\$50

**Saturday, March 14**

***SF in SF: Frank M. Robinson and James Rollins***

Hobart Building

582 Market Street, San Francisco

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

Frank M. Robinson has had a long, delightful and varied career – he's worked for *Rogue Magazine*, *Harvey Milk*, written a dozen novels, (including the book on which the movie *The Towering Inferno* was based,) and oh, so

much more. He also possesses one of the finest collections of pulp magazines in existence, and he's a heck of a nice guy. James Rollins (aka James Clemens) is the *New Times* best-selling author of many, many thrillers, and the author of several different excellent fantasy series as well.

7 pm

Free

**Saturday, March 14**

***San Jose Super Toy, Comic and Record Show***

Santa Clara County Fair Grounds

344 Tully Road, San Jose

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

240 tables of vintage to modern toys and collectibles.

11 am

\$5

**Sunday, March 15**

***Author: S.G. Browne***

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia, San Francisco

[www.borderlands-books.com](http://www.borderlands-books.com)

Browne signs *Breathers: A New Romantic Zombie Comedy*

3 pm

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 pm Free

**Wednesday, March 18**

**Abney Park**  
Slim's  
333 11th St., San Francisco  
www.abneypark.com  
Post- apocalyptic, swashbuckling, Steampunk  
musical mayhem.  
8 pm \$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 pm 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 pm 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 pm 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 pm 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 pm 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 pm \$15 (till March 28)

**Thursday, April 9**

**Thrillville's 12th Anniversary Show**  
El Cerrito Speakeasy  
10070 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito  
www.thrillville.net  
Plan 9 From Outer Space and Re-Animator.  
Special guests Mr. Lobo and the Queen of  
Trash, Ms. Monster plus, live on stage, Twilight  
Vixen Revue!  
7:30 pm \$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 pm \$15 (till April 25)

**Saturday, May 16-Sunday, May 17**

***Scottish Games & Celtic Celebration***

Robertson Park, Livermore  
www.livermoregames.com \$15

**Sunday, May 17**

***The Tomorrowmen***

Hotel Utah  
500 4th Street, San Francisco  
www.myspace.com/tomorrowmen  
The instro-surf rockers from the future participate in Surf Battle of the Bands, with up to 14 bands duking it out for the reverb crown.  
8 pm \$10

**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**

***FanimeCon***

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

**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 pm \$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 Brazen 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 pm Free

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

**Saturday, August 1**  
***The River City Picnic Dance***  
 PEERS Event  
 Lincoln Park  
 1450 High Street, Alameda  
 www.peers.org  
 Music Man, Edwardian themed event with live  
 music by Bangers and Mash  
 1 pm 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 pm \$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 pm \$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 pm – 10 pm \$20

**Sundays**

***MGI SF&F/Horror/Speculative fiction Writing Group***  
 Personal Residence (email for details)  
 Emeryville  
 groups.yahoo.com/group/MGISFFWriters  
 7:30 pm Free

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

**Mondays**

***Bay Area Science Fiction Association***  
 Coco's  
 1206 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale  
 www.basfa.org  
 8 pm 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 pm, figure out who wants to play what, and typically start playing games no later than 8:30 pm  
8 pm 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 pm \$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 pm-5:30 pm 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 pm-10 pm Free

**East Bay Strategy Games Club**

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

**Wednesdays and Saturdays**

**Hayward Collectibles Show**

22300 Hathaway Ave (rear bldg), Hayward  
www.toysandbaseballcards.com  
Wednesdays 3 pm-8 pm and Saturdays 10 am-5 pm 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 pm 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 pm-9 pm \$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 pm \$20

## Saturdays

### **Rocky Horror Picture Show**

Parkway Speakeasy Theater, 1834 Park Blvd., Oakland

[www.parkway-speakeasy.com](http://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](mailto: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 pm 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](mailto:sfscifi@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Monthly

### **Dorkbot-SF**

[www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/](http://www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/)

Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity.

Free, donations welcome

### **East Bay Star Wars Club**

Central Perk

10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito

510-558-7375

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

Meets the second Friday of every month.

7:30 pm Free

### **East Bay Steampunk**

Various locations (see website for details)

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

Steampunk fans meet up on the third Friday of the month

6 pm–8 pm Free

### **Fantastic Frontiers**

[www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/](http://www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/)

Social club for Sacramento County sci fi/fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.

### **Foothill Anime**

Building 5015, Foothill College

Los Altos Hills

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 pm Free

### **The Gay Men's Book Club**

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia, San Francisco

Please contact Chris, the group leader, at [cobalt555@earthlink.net](mailto:cobalt555@earthlink.net) for more information.

5 pm Free

### **Legion of Rassilon**

Giovanni's Pizza

1127 N Lawrence Expy, Sunnyvale

[www.legionofrassilon.org](http://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 pm Free

### **Micro Gods, Inc.**

Berkeley Public Library, West Branch

1125 University Ave, Berkeley

[mgisciaf.angelfire.com](http://mgisciaf.angelfire.com)

[groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/](http://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 pm-5:30 pm 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 pm

Free

**Religion & SF Book Club**

First United Methodist Church  
1183 "B" Street, Hayward  
Meets the 4th Sunday of the month. Please contact Rev. Randy Smith at RSmith2678@aol.com for more information.

7 pm Free

**Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club**

Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia, San Francisco  
The book for March is *Undertow* by Elizabeth Bear. The Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

6 pm 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 pm 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 pm – 8 pm 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 pm 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 pm Free

**USS Defiance**

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



Walrus Frieze

photo by Lucy Huntzinger

# Bay Area Fannish Calendar – March 2009

| Sunday   | Monday                              | Tuesday     | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|---|--|--|--|
| MGI SFF/H Writing<br>Sakramento Anime  | BASFA<br>Dukefish<br>SV Boardgamers | MGI Boffers | SV Boardgamers<br>BA Role-Playing Soc<br>E.Bay Strategy Games               |  | SF Games   | Rocky Horror   |
| 1<br>Foothill Anime  | 2                                   | 3           | 4   | 5<br>Watchmen Cartoon<br>Art Museum Benefit<br>Screening | 6<br>The Twilight Zone<br>Live: Season VI (thru<br>March 29)           | 7<br>The Sting Swing Ball<br>Silicon Gulch<br>Browncoats                               |
| 8<br>Sac-Con<br>Gay Men's Book Club<br>SF/SF Meetup                                    | 9                                   | 10          | 11<br>SF in SF Double<br>Feature, with author<br>James Morrow<br>Dorkbot-SF | 12<br>SF&F Writers' Group<br>South Bay Steampunk         | 13<br>Sonora Celtic Faire<br>East Bay Star Wars<br>USS Northern Lights | 14<br>Robinson and Rollins<br>Fantastic Frontiers<br>No-Name Anime<br>SF Browncoats    |
| 15<br>Road Trip of Drunken<br>Fantasy Authors<br>Author: S.G. Browne<br>SF/F Book Club | 16                                  | 17          | 18<br>Abney Park  | 19<br>Tangential<br>Conjectures                          | 20<br>East Bay Steampunk<br>USS Defiance                               | 21<br>Jonathan Thomas<br>Mark von Schlegell<br>Micro Gods, Inc.                        |
| 22<br>Religion & SF  | 23                                  | 24          | 25<br>Other Realms  | 26<br>SF&F Writers' Group                                | 27<br>Legion of Rassilon   | 28<br>EndGame Minicon<br>Scholes, Benson<br>USS Augusta Ada<br>Veritech Fighter Cmd 13 |
| 29<br>Jay Lake and Ken<br>Scholes Write In-Store                                       | 30                                  | 31          | 1   | 2  | 3  | 4  |

# Bay Area Fannish Calendar – April 2009

| Sunday                                    | Monday                              | Tuesday     | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                     | Saturday  |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|---|---|----------------------------|---|
| MGI SFF/H Writing<br>Sakramento Anime     | BASFA<br>Dukefish<br>SV Boardgamers | MGI Boffers | SV Boardgamers<br>BA Role-Playing Soc<br>E.Bay Strategy Games |   | SF Games                   | Rocky Horror  |
| 29  | 30                                  | 31          | 1   | 2   | 3<br>Contact 25 (thru Sun) | 4<br>Girl Genius Victorian<br>Mad Science Ball<br>Silicon Gulch<br>Browncoats |
| 5   | 6                                   | 7           | 8   | 9<br>Thrillville's 12th<br>Anniversary Show<br>SF&F Writers' Group<br>South Bay Steampunk | 10<br>USS Northern Lights  | 11<br>No-Name Anime<br>SF Browncoats  |
| 12<br>Gay Men's Book Club<br>SF/SF Meetup | 13                                  | 14          | 15  | 16<br>Tangential<br>Conjectures   | 17<br>USS Defiance         | 18<br>Micro Gods, Inc.  |
| 19<br>SF/F Book Club                      | 20                                  | 21          | 22<br>Other Realms  | 23<br>SF&F Writers' Group   | 24<br>Legion of Rassilon   | 25<br>USS Augusta Ada<br>Veritech Fighter Cmd 13                              |
| 26<br>Religion & SF                       | 27                                  | 28          | 29  | 30  | 1                          | 2   |

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