

# Science Fiction/San Francisco

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email: SFinSF@gmail.com

Editors: Jean Martin, Chris Garcia  
Copy Editor: David Moyce  
Calendar Editor: España Sheriff  
Compositor: Tom Becker

Glyphs

by Lucy Huntzinger

## Contents

|  |  |    |
|--|--|----|
| News and Notes.....                            | Chris Garcia.....  | 2  |
| Editorial.....                                 | Chris Garcia.....  | 4  |
| Letters of Comment.....                        | Jean Martin.....   | 6  |
| Real Men Love Harry Potter.....                | Al “Rackstraw” Megas..... Photos by Al “Rackstraw” Megas.....  | 8  |
| Mrs. Darcy's High Tea at the Ritz Carlton..... | Jean Martin..... Photos by Jean Martin.....                    | 10 |
| Secret Agents Have a Ball in the Village.....  | Jean Martin..... Photos by Jean Martin and Matt Rollefson..... | 15 |
| Still Can't Stop the Serenity.....             | Al “Rackstraw” Megas..... Photos by Jean Martin.....           | 19 |
| <plokta.con 4.0>.....                          | Tom Becker..... Photos by John Dallman and Alex Ingram.....    | 21 |
| BASFA Minutes: Meetings 988-989.....           |  | 28 |
| Bay Area Fannish Calendar.....                 | España Sheriff..... Photo by Lucy Huntzinger.....              | 31 |

### Art Credits

Page 30

Lucy Huntzinger

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# News and Notes

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

The biggest news of the last week, and perhaps the entire year, was the death of Charles N. Brown, co-founder and long-time editor of *Locus*. It could certainly be argued that he was the most significant person in the field of science fiction living in the Bay Area. He passed in his sleep flying back from Readercon. There were many outpourings of appreciation for Charles throughout the week. He was 72.

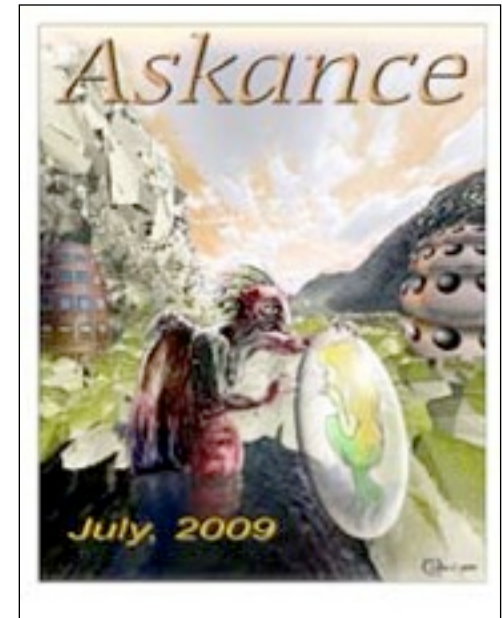
Personally, I always liked Charlie, even with my feelings towards *Locus*. We talked about it a couple of times and he was the kind

of guy to whom you could say things like, “You know, I think *Locus* lost its way,” and he’d not get offended, but he’d also fully know that you were wrong and would tell you so. That was the last conversation I had with the man, though it trailed around and we got back to opera and my appreciation for the NCN series from the Met at various movie theaters. He was a good guy and I’m sad I won’t get a chance to chat with him at Anticipation.

That’s the other big news of the moment. Anticipation sent out schedules to participants and as always, there’s a lot of complaining, though it seems to be slightly heavier this year. I was heavily scheduled, and while I expected that, it was tight-packed with many panels going back-to-back-to-back-to-back. It’s rough, but it happens. You can read about my schedule in issue 218 of *The Drink Tank*.

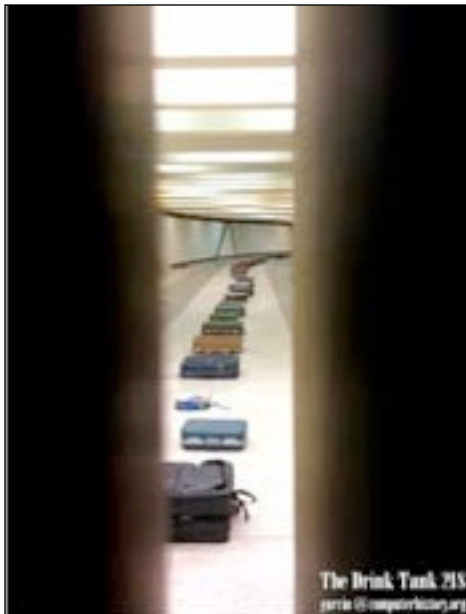
Happy birthday to Vanessa Van Wagner. She’s good people and I haven’t seen her in ages, but I thought I’d take a moment to give my best!

You can read more in my Editorial, but the latest Harry Potter film did rick-dickulous numbers for its midnight showings. There’s talk about many of the theaters starting a regular midnight showing year-round for new releases. There were even some theaters with a 3:15 a.m. showing, one of which I went to!

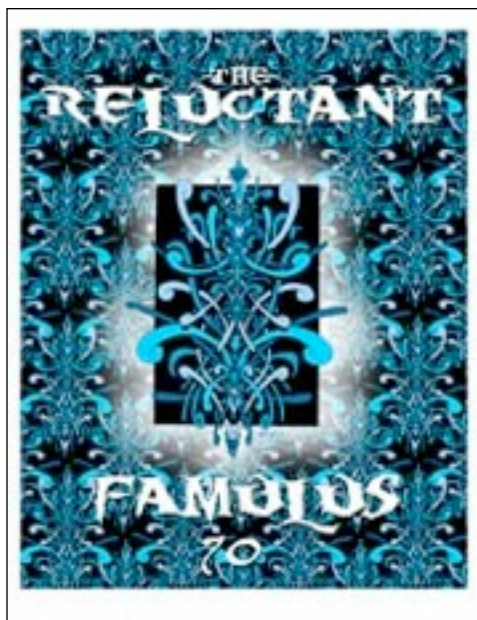


eFanzines.com has been busy, as always. *The Drink Tank* has put out a new issue with a cover that I found via Jason Bentley. It’s a shot from the deep caverns of the BART system and a bunch of suitcases. Apparently there was a tunnel dug between two stations that was never completed and they were using it to train bomb-sniffing dogs, thus, the suitcases. It was pretty awesome. There’s also content from Taral Wayne and Steven Silver. It’s a decent issue.

John Purcell’s *Askance* came out last week with a focus section on Silent Films. I had a piece on my two favorite silent avant-garde films. Steven Silver had a piece on Mabel





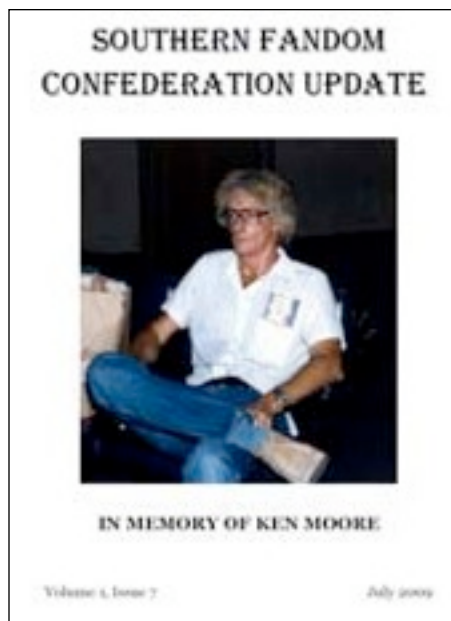


Norman. Mabel was an awesome actress, but she was something of the Britney Spears of her time by being involved with the William Desmond Taylor murder and a shooting by her chauffeur later. She also got tuberculosis and that pretty much ended her career and killed her. A fine issue. There's also a lot of look at the passing of Ken Moore.

The winner for trippiest cover of the year goes to Brad Foster's cover for Thomas Sadler's *The Reluctant Famulus!* It's gorgeous, like all of Brad's stuff, and it's a solid issue with pieces from Sheryl Birkhead, Taral Wayne, John Purcell, Gene Stewart and Robert Sabella. It's a good zine and one that I sometimes pass up for no good reason. I'm glad I gave this one a read and I should try and send a LoC pretty soon. John's review of *The Medieval Machine* is particularly good.

The *Southern Fandom Confederation Update*, edited by Warren Buff, has a new issue out on eFanzines.com. There's more on Ken Moore, though sadly, I've only had a chance to skim it. There's too much stuff going on.

*Home Kookin'* #4 is out. It's a fine issue, though sadly I had trouble LoCing it for some reason. It's a zine out of Vegas from Mr. Arnie Katz and the Las Vegrants crew. It's even



created at a Las Vegrants meeting. I guess it's somewhat in the tradition of the drunken one-shot, only as a continuing series. It's also got Nic Farey. I like that guy.

Petrea Mitchell's zine *Picofarad* gets overlooked. It's a really good little zine that I sometimes overlook myself. I will try and rectify that in the near term.

Fan Photos are all the rage these days, and Andy Porter did a marvelous thing and put up a mess of them on Flickr. [www.flickr.com/photos/25946936@N00/sets/72157621438518020](http://www.flickr.com/photos/25946936@N00/sets/72157621438518020) is where you can find photos from the 1930s through to the 1990s of faces that are both little-known and well-remembered. I'm nowhere to be found in them, though my buddy Mark is in one of them, and we were rarely apart that whole weekend, so I'm betting I'm somewhere hidden in the shot! It's good stuff.

WOOF, the Worldcon Order of Faneds, is coming back. After taking 2007 and 08 off, as I understand it, WOOF has returned and I'm going to be a part of it...I think. I've got a PR and an issue of *Journey Planet* that if I don't finish, I'll be doomed. If you're interested, take a peek at Lloyd Penney's LJ for more info.



images courtesy of eFanzines.com

# Editorial

**By Christopher J. Garcia**

*Editor*

Harry Potter mania is running wild!

There's no other way to put it, and I wish I'd had my camera because no one will believe me when I describe the following scenes. It's a strange world, even for a guy who used to do the old sitting outside the theater thing.

I went by the Cupertino Square mall around 6 p.m. on Tuesday. That was a full six hours before the first screening. I wanted a Cinnabon, what can I say? There was already a line. Not just one line, but about six lines, stretching down the corridor. There were thousands of kids, girls, guys in glasses, Moms, Dads, some uncles I'm sure, all there waiting in these giant lines. I had never seen so many people waiting for midnight movies. There were so many of them, and they were all eating! Every hand held either a wand or a taco. There were people just chowing down. Cinnabon did a brisk business. I was only there for a few minutes and people were actually streaming in. There were lines at the kiosks and at the regular box office. The entire place was nuts.

I left and did my thing for a few hours, going to the Mercado 20 around 10:30 or so. They had four or five showings, all of them sold out. The lines were massive. I left and went back to the Cupertino Square. There, the

lines had all gone; everyone was in the theater. The trail of their dead lay behind them. There were hundreds, and I mean hundreds, of cups and pieces of waxed paper and containers of all sorts pushed up against the wall where one of the lines had been sitting. It was as if they'd given up and each passing train of people had pushed their detritus off to the next line over, who simply lined it against the wall as they entered the theater. There was a huge line at the ticket window, all waiting to see if there were any tickets left despite the "All Harry Potter Midnight Screens Sold Out" signs.

I went over to the kiosks, found that there was a 3:15 a.m. screening, and bought a ticket for that. The garbage cans were piled high, as if the garbage these animals had used in their hours of waiting on line was being offered as an abstract statue to Harry and Co. in gratitude for a midnight screening. One, close to the front of the original line, towered over my head, maybe eight feet in height, four and a half over the top of the can. They must have turned off the air conditioning because the slightest wind would have thrown it all to the ground.

I left, ran home and took a brief nap. I knew I needed to get myself to sleep fast, so I popped in *Stop Making Sense*, the classic Talking Heads concert film that always manages to put

me to sleep. I watched it in my room on VHS every night for nearly a year when I was a kid. Usually, I'd fall asleep by the time they got to "Girlfriend is Better." This time, I didn't even make it through "Psycho Killer."

I woke up at 2:45 and flew over to the theater. There were some kids milling about, talking about the movie. A couple of them were in very expensive-looking gowns representing Slytherin. It'd figure. I got a parking space less than an arm's span away from the entrance. Nice! I walked up and showed my ticket. One of the other screenings was just letting out. There were girls who'd obviously been crying, and a few guys carrying young kids who had been so excited going in that they had rope-a-doped themselves, probably right around the middle of the first turn of expectations. I entered the theater, the same one I'd seen *Forever Plaid* in a week before. There were about a hundred people in the audience. At 3:15 in the morning. A two hour and thirty minute movie starting at 3:15 in the morning.

And it was amazing.

I won't say that it was the best of the Harry Potter movies, but they've finally discovered something: they don't have to show everything. They slashed and burned at the novel, cut significant portions and left many things unspoken. It was pretty spectacular the way

they got folks into the moments, knowing that if they hadn't read the books, they would be lost, but no one who mattered had not read the book. The book was the key to the previous film, and I could see why folks might have been turned off by that, but here, it worked beautifully. There was something for everyone, and a lovely amount of Michael Gambon (100 times better than Richard Harris ever was) and the even more entertaining Jim Broadbent. I did think they failed to do enough with Helena Bonham Carter, who was freakin' hot!, but they did even more with her than Rowling did in the book. They worked with it, and I thought that they did an amazing job taking what would have required five hours and cutting it into less than three hours.

The audience, though it was 3:15 when we started on our adventure, was amped. They

reacted, laughed brilliantly, cried when it was called for, a girl in her twenties behind me was sobbing like they'd cancelled a Cure concert, and at the end of the showing the audience gave it a standing ovation.

For five minutes.

That was nuts.

I realized that this would have normally been the Employee Screening, and I noticed a few of the folks in the theater were in their outfits. This was a unique way to see a film, and for the last two films (the last book is being split in half) I may try to see it this way on purpose!

Now, here's the thing, and why I don't feel bad about dedicating an entire Editorial to *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*: we need this. These are hard times. Every time we think we're coming up for air, something

reminds us that it's all still there. There's so much crap, so many problems, less money than we expected, more bills than we recalled, far too long a tunnel to hold our breath through. The reason this was so crazy: everyone wanted to get away. This was a place where there was still magic, still grandeur, still a way for good to defeat evil. A place where promises still mattered and could not be broken. This one was so much bigger than life because life needed to be a little smaller for a while. For two hours, it was.

So, how big will the next one be? Who knows. I'm thinking that it can be even bigger because people know that'll be the end: the last of the films after the last of the books. Nothing else to look forward to...Well, at least until there's another *Twilight* movie to clamor to.

## **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)

# Letters of Comment

## **Robert Lichtman writes:**

Hi Chris, I routinely check out each new issue of *SF/SF* as they get posted to see which fanzine you're writing about in your "This Old Fanzine" column. As you know from past mini-LoCs, it's that column which gets me to writing in response to the zine — since most of the rest of it doesn't, to be honest, really grab me most of the time. So I was pretty surprised to see that in #89 you're writing about me and *Trap Door*! Not only that, but you're writing about one of my favorite issues. (Yes, I have favorites, although after the first few back in the '80s I think immodestly that they're all pretty good.)

*Jean Martin responds: Hi Robert, good to hear from you about Chris's last "This Old Fanzine" column. It's my turn to respond to LOCs but I'm sure Chris is happy to hear from you as well, seeing as he thinks very highly of Trap Door. As far as zines go, I think SF/SF is an entertainment news zine about events in the Bay Area, with our audience being general fandom, specifically those who are actively involved in attending said events (or those who just enjoy reading about them). From what I've seen of other zines, most offer features or even fiction that are geared toward other writers (and artists), particularly fanzine writers. So I can understand how most of our articles wouldn't interest you, especially as you say below that*

*you don't attend very many organized fannish activities. But I'm glad you check us out anyway.*

"When the history of BArea fanzine fandom over the last 20 years is written, *Trap Door* will likely be held up as one of the true pinnacles of the form." That made me smile, because although I live in the Bay Area I'm largely a fannish hermit and could just as well be a resident of...say, Hagerstown, Maryland. Most of the "organized" fan activity around here seems to happen down in your neck of the woods, which is too far away for me to attend (and across a bridge difficult to access because of the never-ending congestion on its approaches). And I don't go to local conventions, either, with the exception of the occasional Potlatch — and even there I tend to come for an afternoon and evening, check out the dealer's room, visit with friends, and bug out.

*As we've discussed often in this zine, there's room for all sorts of fannish involvement in fandom. One can be more out there with people and at events or one can just stay home and enjoy sci fi and talk and/or write about it. Or a mix of both.*

Of #16 you write, "This issue feels like a tribute to both Boggs and Burbee, which is excellent." Indeed, it was exactly that since they died within a few weeks of each other — a

double whammy from my point of view since each was, in his own fanwriting niche, among my very favorites. Few people seemed to notice, even those who knew Burbee well, but there's an "Easter egg" on the Harry Bell cover for that issue (a cover I'd been holding for several years waiting for *something* just right to insert into that open trapdoor Harry incorporated into it). The partially visible text is from Burbee's famous "watermelon joke," a joke which isn't really all that funny (a little racist, a little sexist) and which achieved its fame due to the extended riffing Burbee would do when building up to telling it — riffing that was funnier and more enjoyable than the joke itself.

"Memories of Elmer' from Charles Burbee, which is a sort of double tribute as it was the last article from Burbee and it was a tribute to Elmer Perdue..." As I noted in my editorial column in #16:

"Memories of Elmer' is Charlie's final article, and it must be pointed out that it's a work in progress. He began writing pieces of it in 1989 but due to the deterioration of his health he was unable to bring it to completion. During my 1994 holiday visit, he turned over to me all the different pieces he'd produced and invited me to spin it together. This I've done, and I believe the result does justice to Charlie's intent. Please note that while I determined the

order in which the various vignettes appear, the writing is Charlie's."

There's a connection between two of your observations: "I should mention here that Robert Lichtman insists on illustrated title pieces for his articles" and "There's not a lot of Rotsler in this issue. There's one image illustrating Ed Burbee's piece on his father. Most zines from the mid-90s have tons of Rotsler stuff. Then again, so did zines from the 1960s, 70s, and 80s. Interesting..." The reason there's only one Rotsler in this issue is that I never asked Bill to do the custom headings I got instead from Stiles, Steffan and Smith (among others). He drew the one heading up Ed Burbee's "Oration at the Scattering of My Father's Ashes" while we were sitting in a big rental van with Arnie and Joyce, Ken Forman and Ben Wilson on our way back to Las Vegas from Amboy. But the lack of Rotsler in this issue is an exception. I have hundreds of Bill's drawings in my art files, and in *Trap Door* I use

them to fill the little spaces that crop up at the ends of articles. In the issue before this one there are four, and in the following issue five.

***Thanks for sharing more of your stories and explanations about the articles and artwork.***

Of the other articles in this issue, Gary Hubbard's ten-page Corflu Vegas report is one of my favorite accounts of *any* Corflu. Paul Williams's article, "Ask Me About My Brain Injury," is really sad because it's the opening chapter to what's happened to Paul since. He wrote in it, "The rehab people suggest that there could still be aftershocks from a brain injury any time in the first year and a half. I'm not expecting them, not scared of them." It took longer, but as you may know Paul suffers now from dementia as a long-term result of that injury. You can read about it at [paulwilliams.com/index.html](http://paulwilliams.com/index.html).

***Sorry to hear that Paul's condition has deteriorated. Brain injuries are sad and scary.***

***I know someone (name withheld for his privacy) who's been suffering aftershocks from his brain injury long after doctors said he'd have them, to the point where it seems like he'll have to deal with them for the rest of his life.***

You conclude your article with these observations: "So yes, *Trap Door* is an excellent zine. It's one that you should go and look up on eFanzines.com, though only issues 21-25 are currently available. They're all really good too. Come to think of it, I haven't LoCed any of them lately. I've got to fix that..." It's been over a year since I published, but in fact you *did* write a LoC on the last one. I recently edited it and you can look for it in the upcoming issue, out sometime this summer.

Thanks again for a wonderful write-up!

***That's so awesome that you've been publishing high-quality zines for so long and that you still keep doing it! Best of luck with publishing your next issue.***



# Real Men Love Harry Potter

By Al “Rackstraw” Megas  
Staff Writer

What makes a man in today’s world? If a man were to follow every bumper sticker and other great cliché about what “real men” do, he’d have to shed tears, knit, cook, last all night, have manners, not apologize, wear kilts, love Jesus, be incapable of denying a woman’s worth, and (of course) not eat quiche. It may seem like quite a tall order to abide by all these creeds. However, a unifying message is clear. Security in one’s manhood is all the rage.

A number of years ago, when *Order of the Phoenix* was yet to come out in theaters, I heard the reaction of one man behind me to the trailer as he spoke to someone he was with: “Ooh, another Harry Potter movie? I don’t know why people like it! How many are they going to make?” Forgive the man’s non-geekish ignorance, we can answer that quite simply. There are seven books in the series but the plan is to split the final story, *Deathly Hallows*, into two films. My fellow movie-goer from that day will have to suffer the existence of only three more movies, including *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*



Bellatrix Lestrange

by Al “Rackstraw” Megas

which opened on July 15th.

As for this man’s other wonderment, the question why people like the series, there may be as many different reasons as there are fans. The primary allure is, perhaps, the plight of realistic schoolchildren and families in a world where magic secretly coexists with modern society as we know it. Some enthuse about the fictional sport of Quidditch, a game played on flying broomsticks involving knocking enchanted “quaffle” balls through high altitude, field goal hoops. Others might list the classic British mystery characteristics as favorite story elements. Furthermore, parents can appreciate the thought-provoking morality lessons in each book, not to mention the enthusiasm with which kids plow through record-length children’s literature. (Book 5 is nearly 900 pages in length!)

So it’s good stuff for children and families, but what about grown men? I could certainly see members of my gender scoffing at the frilly, feminine aspects of the adventures. Boys didn’t ride on broomsticks before author J.K. Rowling came along. Characters have cutesy names like Helga Hufflepuff and



Neville Longbottom. Even Dumbledore, the most fearsome wizard of the story, has a secret, effeminate side and Hagrid, the gigantic, rough and tumble gamekeeper is mostly there to be loveable.

So could a Harry Potter movie be, in any way, shape, or form, a man's movie? The simple answer is, of course it can! Rowling's is also a world of tactical magic and the search for courage when the call to arms comes. It's all very manly stuff. Truly, these stories have something for everyone.

Being too old for children's books, I was first exposed to the works when *The Sorcerer's Stone* hit theaters. At first, I was mannishly reluctant to take much interest. The story of a wizard boy with out of control powers who did random things like speak to snakes seemed kind of slapped together.

As the years went on, though, and things like the snake-talking turned out to be not random in the least, but intricately thought out, I began to comprehend the underlying value. Adult friends of mine sometimes expounded on the works. After *Prisoner of Azkaban*, I decided to take a break from the movies until I had read all the books. It definitely proved to be the case that Harry Potter was a story for the ages.

Now, *Half-Blood Prince* is the first of the movies I've seen on opening day after having read the book first. It was also my favorite of the seven novels.



**Harry Potter Costumes in the Audience**

by Al "Rackstraw" Megas

Seeing it amid the crowd of young fans actually heightened the experience. High school age girls would whoop and laugh at the slightest, suggestive smile from Ginny Weasley, Harry's love-to-be. Creative cosplaying was also fun to see.

In conclusion, grown men should not be embarrassed to admit they enjoy Harry Potter. It may not be for everyone. I wouldn't go so far

as to proclaim that loving it is a requisite to be a "real man," but its worth should not be denied.

*Editor's Note: Al attended the midnight premiere of Half-Blood Prince at CineArts on Santana Row, San Jose.*

# Mrs. Darcy's High Tea at the Ritz Carlton

By Jean Martin

Editor

*Pride and Prejudice* is undoubtedly Jane Austen's most famous novel. I've read it and seen several movie and TV versions of it. I like the story but it's not my favorite. *Sense and Sensibility* is the one I like best, not just the novel but in film as well. The one with Emma Thompson, Kate Winslet, Hugh Grant and Alan Rickman is my favorite Jane Austen adaptation. When it was announced that Hugh Grant was going to portray Edward Ferrars, I was excited because Hugh is my all-time favorite actor and Edward Ferrars one of my favorite literary heroes. The most recent version of *Sense and Sensibility* (2008) produced by the BBC is almost, if not as, great. Dan Stevens also made a creditable Edward Ferrars and David Morrissey was a younger and more dashing Colonel Brandon.

But I digress. The theme of the Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild's (GBACG's) Mrs. Darcy's High Tea last June 14th was *Pride and Prejudice*. Specifically, it was intended as a "sequel" to the novel, as Mrs. Darcy (née Elizabeth Bennett) hosts her first tea as the new bride of Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy.

I was excited when my friend and GBACG event organizer Deborah sent an email out asking if anyone wanted to take on any roles for the tea party. I figured that the role of Mrs.



Regency Ladies and Gents

by Jean Martin

Darcy would already be taken, so I volunteered for either the practical Elinor Dashwood from *Sense and Sensibility*, her more emotional sister Margaret, the mature and steadfast Anne Elliott from *Persuasion*, or the young and whimsical Catherine Morland from *Northanger Abbey*. For some reason, I identify with all these characters even though they have such different personalities. This implies that I don't know

myself very well. Plus, according to the "Which Jane Austen Character Are You?" test on Facebook, I'm most like Elizabeth Bennett. Based on the fact that I've done a lot of personal growth work for over ten years and am very self-aware, the logical answer is that these heroines were all created by the same author so they seem to have the same core characteristics and values — characteristics and





**GBACG Organizer Deborah and her Mother**

by Jean Martin

values that I indeed possess and manifest in the many different ways these women do.

Well, it turned out that no one else wanted to roleplay, so I had my pick. Deborah even offered me the role of Mrs. Darcy! I was thrilled, because it seemed like a dream come true to portray Jane Austen's most famous heroine, and I do enjoy playing hostess. But the day before the event, Deborah emailed me again and said that the real hostess of the tea, who had suggested the theme and was involved in the planning process, was going to play Mrs.

Darcy after all. I was disappointed but I was determined to have fun anyway.

I'd been meaning to check out the high tea at San Francisco's Ritz Carlton for over ten years, and it would be even better to be doing so in a Regency costume with my fellow Jane Austen and costume enthusiasts. I had a great time at the GBACG Edwardian tea last year at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco so I was expecting to enjoy this one as well.

Then, when Deborah picked me up with her mother and fellow dancer and costumer Gloria on the way to the Ritz on Nob Hill, she told me that I could play Mrs. Darcy after all. The hostess could not make it due to a costume disaster. I felt really bad for her so I muted my enthusiasm a bit. I also was a little bit anxious because I had not done any research for the part. But I was excited as we walked into the lobby of the Ritz, which I'd been to a long time ago. It was as chaotic as other Ritzes I've seen. I don't know why they have a lobby setup where you don't know who's who and where's what. They probably want to make their hotels look more like homes, but where's the front desk? Whom do I ask where anything is?

Luckily, there were already other GBACG members milling around a side hallway. There was a beautiful and impressive china plate collection inside a huge glass and wood display cabinet against one wall that made for a nice backdrop for photos. While waiting for everyone to arrive and for our tables to be ready, we all took photos of each other and admired each other's costumes.

I recognized a lot of the people, who are regulars at GBACG events. They were mostly women, but the handful of men who came were dressed to the nines. I have to say that men in Regency costume just make me swoon (that, and kilts). There's nothing more manly, elegant and even sexy than male Regency fashion. The style is not as simple and modern as Edwardian, as conservative as most Victorian attire (the precursor of the suit and the tuxedo), as frilly and flamboyant (almost effeminate) as Georgian/Baroque, nor as elaborate as Renaissance-wear. For the story on the origin



**Mr. Bingley and Jane**

by Jean Martin



**Jeannette, Mrs. Darcy and Aunt Gardiner**

by Jean Martin

and rise of men's Regency fashion, check out the movie *Beau Brummell: This Charming Man* with James Purefoy. James is excellent as usual, and he shows us how the self-styled arbiter of Regency fashion dressed up in the morning. The dressing process is quite a sight for us ladies to behold. And gentlemen can get some valuable tips.

I met a very friendly couple, Cat and Doug, who looked just like Jane Bennett and Mr. Bingley. So I dubbed them as such and got along really well with Jane whom I adopted as my "sister" for the day. But there was no Mr.

Darcy, unfortunately. Those are quite big shoes to fill. Consensus states that Colin Firth is still the undisputed, ultimate Mr. Darcy (which he played in the 1995 *Pride and Prejudice*, and a more modern version in *Bridget Jones's Diary*). Matthew Macfadyen in the 2005 remake with Keira Knightley was quite bland by comparison.

As I welcomed guests as they came in and introduced myself to those who were already there, I had to explain my "husband's" absence. I tell you, it was quite a surreal experience greeting guests at the Ritz like it was my home. I was warming up to the role and having fun with it. I made up the story that Mr. Darcy was out fox hunting and that's why there was a dearth of men at the tea as well. It seems to me,

though, that in reality (at least in the Bay Area), Regency events attract way more women than men. Which is strange to me because I think there were a lot of manly pursuits and noble heroes in that time period to inspire modern men, from naval officers, scientists and world explorers to poets, artists and musicians. Think of Captain Aubrey from the Patrick O'Brian novels (and the *Master and Commander* movie), Bernard Cornwell's Richard Sharpe from the Peninsular War (excellently portrayed by Sean Bean in the ITV series), Horatio Hornblower fighting Napoleon's fleet (the BBC and A&E production with Ioan Gruffudd), Lord Byron and the Romantic Poets...

We finally entered the tea room after there were enough of us gathered in the hallway.



**Mrs. Darcy and Friends**

courtesy of Jean Martin



There were around 50 in attendance and we filled up half the tiny and cramped space. I was intending to sit with Deborah's party but her table began to fill up as more of her friends arrived. And since I was still flitting around greeting guests as they came in, I moved my reticule and other personal items to the next table and joined Jeannette and Julie, whom I know from their *Lord of the Rings* costume/dinner group. Julie offered to roleplay Elizabeth's Aunt Gardiner. She and I had a good time being in character when we were talking. However, their table began to fill up as



**Sandwiches and Sweets**

by Jean Martin

well and I decided I wanted to meet new people anyway. So I wound up, finally, in the table closest to the window, which was great because I didn't know anyone at all there except for Nancy and her husband Aaron. I had met them very briefly at the Bay Area English Regency Society's (BAERS's) War and Peace Ball last October (when I had played another dream role of mine, Natasha Rostova). I sat in the middle of two groups at the table, Nancy and her friends, which included Cat and Doug, and a mother and her three grown children. It was nice to see families sharing the same interests and doing things together.

We finally were served our food and tea, which were just okay, but the sandwiches and sweets were presented on elegant silver tiered trays and a variety of teas came in beautiful teapots. The food and tea were much better at the Palace Hotel. I've been to several Ritz Carltons and have had tea at the one in Half Moon Bay (which I love because of its awesome spa). I haven't really been impressed with their food. I did enjoy the lovely music provided by the harpist.

It was hard to socialize and move around as the room was so small and the tables and chairs were so close together. I would have expected Pemberley, Mr. Darcy's home, to have a bigger salon for tea parties. So after we were done with our food and drink, most of us got up and started taking photos again in front of the china display cabinet. We even managed to get a group picture of everyone.

I was then able to appreciate everyone's costumes in more detail. I belatedly realized



**Gloria in Red**

by Jean Martin

that Regency costumes come in an array of colors and styles. The great thing about Regency fashion is that there is so much variety that the women then were (and now are) able to choose styles to suit their personalities, preferences and even ages. One's dress could also be more feminine, flamboyant or elegant, as one desired. At the tea, the younger ladies wore white and lighter colors and the more mature women wore darker colors, as was historically correct, and there was even one stunning riding outfit. Deborah had made her light blue outfit as well as her mother's red

Indian-sari inspired frock, Gloria was wearing a striking red ensemble and looked like an empress, and I wore a white long-sleeved gown with light blue flowers and white lace.

I was sad to leave the Ritz as my carpool group had to go when the event officially ended. Mrs. Darcy is lucky to live in a house like this; I can just imagine what it would have been like to marry someone like Mr. Darcy and live in a palace like Pemberley. Julie remarked sometime during the afternoon that it was a little bit suspicious that Elizabeth didn't like Darcy much until her Aunt Gardiner took her to visit Pemberley. I suppose that might have had something to do with it, but I take the romantic view and believe that Elizabeth fell in love with

Darcy after she got over her preconceived notions about him and got to know the wonderful man inside. I'd live with my own Mr. Darcy anywhere (well, anywhere pretty near water and trees and not too cold!)... an abode like Pemberley would just be icing on the cake.

Although the food wasn't up to par, the rest of the event was a smashing success. What a wonderful way to spend an unusually warm and sunny afternoon in the City! I felt like we were in our own more elegant and genteel world in the midst of the hustle and bustle of San Francisco.

For more information, visit: [www.gbacg.org](http://www.gbacg.org) and [www.baers.org](http://www.baers.org).



Harpist

by Jean Martin



# Secret Agents Have a Ball in the Village

**By Jean Martin**  
*Editor*

I've always wanted to be a Bond Girl and missed my chance a few years ago when the Period Events & Entertainments Re-creation Society (PEERS) did its first Secret Agent Ball. But I got another opportunity when

PEERS held another one on June 6th of this year.

So I planned which Bond Girl I wanted to be. It was a toss-up between Aki (Akiko Wakabayashi) and Wai Lin (Michelle Yeoh). These two women happen to appear in two of my favorite James Bond movies of all time, *You*

*Only Live Twice* and *Tomorrow Never Dies*. (I recently watched all 20 Bond movies in a row.) I finally opted for Wai Lin since I'm a Michelle Yeoh fan and Lin is probably the strongest and most capable Bond Girl on film. She certainly did a lot of incredible martial arts and chase sequences in that movie.

I decided to find a silver gown like the one she wore in the Carver Media launch party in Hamburg. Luckily, I found one almost similar to it on eBay.

Finally, the day of the ball arrived and I got to the San Mateo Masonic Hall in time for the dance lesson. I was happy to see several friends, and wound up chatting with them and taking photos of the other PEERS roleplayers instead of taking the class.

The theme of the ball was *The Avengers'* two secret agents, John Steed and Mrs. Peel, winding up in "the Village" from *The Prisoner*. Both of these were surreal British TV shows from the 1960s. Emily looked amazing as Mrs. Peel. She did her makeup and hair so accurately that when I looked at her, I thought she looked just like Dame Diana Rigg. T. portrayed Steed complete



Xenia Onatopp, James Bond and Wai Lin

by Jean Martin



**Inspector Gadget**

by Jean Martin

with the bowler hat and walking stick. Steve was Number 6 from *The Prisoner* and tended the bar. It was funny to see Number 6 so compliant at the Village.

An interesting coincidence is that this ball was held on the same weekend that I was at the real “Village” in Portmeirion, North Wales, two years ago. Portmeirion was even more colorful, scenic and mysterious in person. (My article on my sci fi and fantasy tour of London and Wales is in issue 49 of *SF/SF*.)

Other roleplayers were Jane as Russian spy Xenia Onatopp, Richard as the Sean Connery James Bond, Ari as Modesty Blaise, and running the ball for the evening was James as Number 2. Maimone was Inspector Gadget and he did several skits during the breaks between dances. He was in character all evening, though, and showed everyone his funky gadgets, including a clever shoe phone.

There were more skits that evening than usual but they were all entertaining.



**Blofeld and Cat**

by Jean Martin



**Inspector Clouseau Searching for the Pink Camera**

by Jean Martin

Some even involved patrons who did improv with the “official” cast. Memorable “extras” included Bond villain Blofeld (with a white cat, of course) and Inspector Clouseau who was so helpful trying to find my camera when I thought I had lost it. (He said he was good at finding pink things like the Pink Panther.) Arielle made a lovely Mrs. Peel in her more recognizable catsuit costume. I’d love to have a costume like hers someday. And Amy B.





**Steed and Mrs. Peel**

by Jean Martin

was hilarious as a Russian spy complete with a Russian accent. She cracked jokes all night as she cracked her whip. As part of the “official” cast, I helped announce a few dances and did some roleplaying with the other characters, especially James Bond, who was not the right version for Wai Lin, but made for an interesting tableau. It was like Sarah Jane Smith meeting up with the Tenth Doctor instead of “her” Doctors.

There were a lot of lovely costumes from the 1950s through the 1970s. These

time periods are usually not my forte as I prefer anything before the 20th century. And I’m not so fond of Swing dancing and Swing balls attract a different crowd (more modern ballroom dancers and less vintage dancers) than I’m used to. So I wasn’t really expecting to have as much fun as at other balls.

However, attendance was high and I had a surprisingly awesome time not just socializing, but admiring costumes, participating in and watching skits, and also dancing! I was asked to dance a lot and met some new people. Swing can be fun with good partners, I danced a stylized tango with Mike, and I got to do the Fox Trot, which is one of my favorite more “modern” dances. I also love Latin dances but there weren’t very many that evening and I didn’t get to do the Rumba at all. I did get to Cha Cha with Rollie. All in all, these dances were a refreshing change from our usual historical balls... although we have been doing a lot of fantasy and Steampunk events lately, it seems. So I wasn’t surprised to see some of my anime acquaintances including Mel and Tom.

Sara and Swingtime provided the music for the evening and her band was really good. And it was nice and different that Sara actually sang some of the songs.



**Number 6 Tending Bar**

by Jean Martin

During one of the intermissions when the band took their break, professional vintage dance troupe Danse Libre performed several demo dances. The ladies were dressed in gorgeous, colorful costumes while the men all wore tuxedos. They were wonderful and did several numbers including a Tango, Polka and Fox Trot in formation.

But the biggest hit of the evening was a very original and smoldering hula hoop Tango by Vanessa (as the male) and Danielle (as the female). I’d seen



**Danse Libre's Rowyn and Lee** by Matt Rollefson

their first attempt at this on YouTube, but live, it was even more incredibly engaging and entertaining. Afterwards, the DJ during the break (Lee Presson of Lee Presson and the Nails) played "Secret Agent Man" by Devo. The song was bouncy and modern. Vanessa spontaneously went to the middle of the dance floor with her hula hoop and did one of the most amazing dances I've ever seen at a ball or dance club. It was fresh, hip and spunky. She seemed like she was having a lot of fun as people cheered her on and clapped along. What made her dance even more unforgettable was that it was all unplanned! She is quite a talented and versatile dancer.

I unexpectedly had a great time at the "Village" that night, and I think Wai Lin would be quite happy with her new life as a retired Secret Agent, with such lively entertainment and charming cohorts for company.

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



**Hula Hoop Tango**

by Matt Rollefson



# Still Can't Stop the Serenity

**By Al “Rackstraw” Megas**  
*Staff Writer*

Everyone was in high spirits as ever at Can't Stop the Serenity last June 30th. As always, a more than respectable number of Browncoats, the self-styled fan organization of Joss Whedon's tragically short-lived sci fi TV series,



**Emcee and Organizer Johnny** by Jean Martin



**Arielle Selling Raffle Tickets** by Jean Martin

*Firefly*, filled a theater to near capacity for a fundraising screening of the movie sequel *Serenity*. This year's San Francisco screening took place at the Victoria Theatre in the Mission District.

It may seem like a letdown that the traditional “Ballad of Serenity” sing-along did not take place. However, this was more than made up for by the inclusion of the all-new attraction, *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*, Whedon's endearing, super-villain story (originally aired on the Internet), written in haste during the writers' strike of 2008!

More persistent traditions included the charity raffle and costume contest.

Main organizer Johnny Absinthe was the emcee and announced the winners for both along with Arielle Kesweder. Our very own editor, Jean Martin, participated in the costume contest as Inara the Companion for her first CSTS appearance. A girl in a Kaylee costume



**Winning Kaylee Costume** by Jean Martin



Inara and Mal courtesy of Jean Martin

who quoted a saucy line from the movie won the prize for best costume.

The two movies proved a winning combination. Unfortunately, the DVD froze up just at the scene in *Serenity* when the crew watches the recording about Miranda and what the Alliance was trying to cover up. The technical problem was repaired but we missed seeing most of that particular, crucial

monologue. The legion of fans filling the theater dutifully filled in the viewers who had never seen the movie before... an estimated three people.

One of them was Sonya Pall, a friend from SF who was largely unfamiliar with Joss Whedon. She remarked on how dissimilar the two features (*Serenity* and *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*) were, apparently finding them to be an odd pairing. I explained the relationship (I didn't ask if she'd noticed Nathan Fillion as captains in both), and she became slightly agog. "Those were by the same writer?"

Another year, another fun CSTS.



Dr. Horrible Costume Contestant by Jean Martin

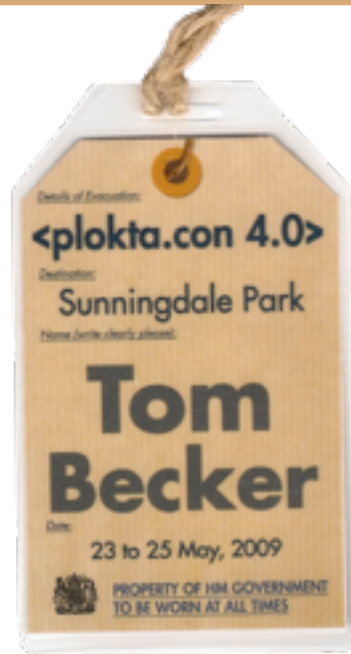
*Editor's Note: CSTS is a global fundraising event benefiting Equality Now. For more information, visit [www.cantstoptheserenity.com](http://www.cantstoptheserenity.com). Also, that evening after the costume contest, Jean Martin announced the upcoming PEERS Space Cowboys Ball on September 5th, which is to be based on the Firefly episode "Shindig." See [www.peers.org](http://www.peers.org) for details.*



Browncoats Having Fun by Jean Martin



# <plokta.con 4.0>



## By Tom Becker

### Compositor

plokta.con was held over the Memorial Day weekend (a bank holiday weekend in the UK), which meant we'd have to miss not just BayCon but WisCon. But I've always wanted to go to one. The *Plokta* Cabal puts on a plokta.con only occasionally, when it works out for them. By their standards it's a relaxacon, which means not overdoing anything unless it's fun and involves superfluous technology. For example, registration was run on a coffee table in the lobby, so the committee members could sit on the sofa and socialize while we picked up our badges. Never mind that the badges were

designed to look like a name tag, printed on two sides and laminated with cut corners. It probably took something like twelve separate operations to make each badge.

Spike and I flew to London the weekend before the con and went to Croydon. The customs official questioned us about our destination, and told us flatly that Croydon was not the kind of place where he would want to go on vacation. I guess he isn't on the *Banana Wings* mailing list. Anyway, we had a wonderful time hanging out with Fabulous Croydon Fandom and noshing on gourmet sausages, cheese and veggies at Casa de Fishlifter. Then everyone went to the pub and we hung out some more while sampling the great selection of real ales on tap. Eventually I had to walk back to the house so I could finish the layout for *SF/SF* and tune in to the Internet broadcast of the KFJC Battle of the Surf Bands.

The next day we flew to Belfast and spent four days touring in Northern Ireland. On our last day we met with the Belfast SF fans, including Tommy Ferguson, Eugene Doherty, and several fans we had not met before. It is the same group that Walt Willis and James White were in, and it is still meeting regularly every other Thursday night. The Belfast fans have a wide variety of interests, and were very welcoming to us. We talked until 1:00 in the morning, and would have gone on longer

except it was closing time. The pub where we met was historic, with beautiful stained glass, carved wood, and leather upholstery. This is not unusual for Belfast, which has many gorgeous pubs, but it was very nice. I definitely could see going back and visiting more pubs, having more of the food (which was very good, even by California standards), and searching for the Tower of Trufandom, which is rumored to be in the vicinity.

When we arrived at Sunningdale for plokta.con, we were picked up at the train station by Ian Sorensen, who took us to the hotel and gave us ten minutes to check in and drop off our bags so we could go back to the train station. Ian and Spike had cooked up a plan to eat at Rosemary Lane, one of Yvonne Rowse's favorite restaurants. This seemed like a great idea, but I hadn't quite realized that it



plokta.con Registration

by John Dallman



**Northcote House**

by John Dallman

was not near Sunningdale at all, but back in London, and actually on the other side of London. Off we went, and an hour and a half later, including a train ride and two tube transfers, there we were at the restaurant. The food really was delightful. One of the features of the restaurant was its good list of California wines, which basically meant we could have the same wines that we had at home, but it was good anyway. The conversation flowed like the wine, and we had such a good time that the train ride back, wedged between commuters, seemed to take only a few minutes.

The con was held at an interesting venue. It's the British National School of Government. The school is on the grounds of Sunningdale Park, a country estate west of London and south of Windsor. The accommodations are like very nice dorm rooms. The rooms are small, and they feel even smaller because every room has a large desk (for studying, of course), but they have large private baths, and everything is quality materials and in good shape. The conference center is a modern building that

looks like a high tech office building, except it is missing the offices, leaving only the conference rooms and a library.

The largest conference room was used for the main program, another room for workshops, and the smallest room was set up as a bar. The bar is a focal point of a British convention. It is essential to have both in the same building, so fans interested in the program don't go thirsty, and fans socializing in the bar don't miss out on the program. The bar was just a few folding tables, a refrigerator, a cash register and a staff person. You could get bottled beer, mixed drinks, canned sodas, or my

favorite, a small bottle of bitter lemonade with real quinine in it.

Another unique feature of the venue was the coffee service. The bar staff would sell you a paper coffee cup for £2, and then you would go back out into the lobby where there were high tech automated coffee machines that could make espresso, cappuccino, or an americano. The £2 price was a bit steep for a cup of coffee, but they told us we could have unlimited refills, at least until we wanted a new cup.

The program started Saturday morning at the civilized hour of 11:00. The theme for the convention was school, of course. The committee dressed up in appropriate costumes,



**The Committee**

by John Dallman



with Alison Scott as the Headmistress, Steve Davies as the Fencing Master, and so on. I was relieved to see they had things covered, because I was traveling light and did not bring any British schoolboy attire. Not that I had any in the first place. Then I saw the Nurse, Miss Sue Mason, and I realized there are some things worth wearing short pants, constricting ties and scratchy wool jackets for.

I skipped a couple of the next program items. They looked great, but I didn't feel up for a discussion of the latest really cool British TV show I never heard of and how it compares to other really cool British TV shows I've never heard of. I don't have any excuse, since even I know that British TV has been truly



Tom Becker

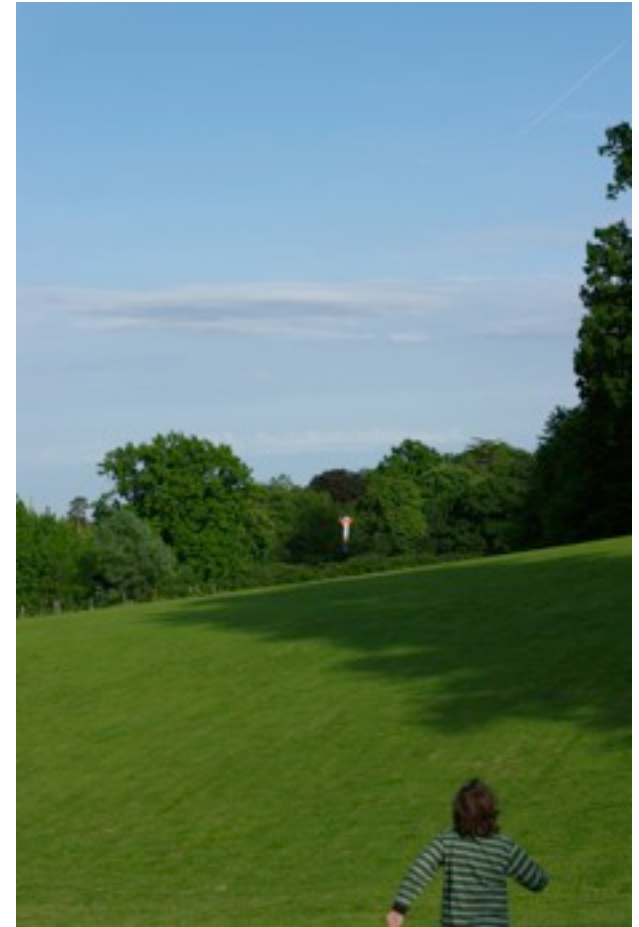
by John Dallman

fantastic lately, and I'm sure it's all on the Internet somewhere.

Instead, I visited the dealer's room, which was just Brian Ameringen by himself, but he sells very interesting British books that I just don't see anywhere else. Maybe he imports them from alternate timelines. I also hung out in the hallway which was very lobby-like, or the lobby which ran the length of the building. It was nicely set up with couches and tables and chairs and there were almost always three or four groups having conversations. Inevitably the topic turned to politics. They asked me questions about my President, and whether we might get an actual health care system.

At some point, people started coming in and giving us updates on the rocket launch. First they were having trouble generating enough hydrogen. Then they tried following the instructions and generated enough hydrogen to get the rocket to go in the air, but it went up only a couple of feet. Then they tried generating twice as much hydrogen as they were supposed to, and had a very satisfying launch. Then it was time for dinner and I was gathered up by some fans who drove to a nearby gourmet pizza place.

Back at the con, I went to the men's room and there was James Bacon with his head in the sink. Knowing James, I didn't think anything unusual of this. But then I went to the program and in walked James as Bob Shaw, to do one of his legendary Serious Scientific Talks. His hair was slicked back and looked just like Bob's. I don't know if the faded orange jacket was a recreation; it could have been original.



Rocket Descending

by John Dallman

The talk got a large audience. Everyone listened attentively as James spoke softly and slowly. And seriously. A Serious Scientific Talk must be serious and reasonable and factual. Occasionally the audience would fail to catch some subtle point, and mistakenly thinking they had just heard something outrageous and irresponsible, laugh out loud. When that happened James would look up quizzically, clearly wondering what that was all about. He had perfect comic timing. There was one





**Launch the Children**

by Alex Ingram

strange moment where James posed a question and then abruptly went on to the next thing without answering it. All was made clear at the end when a fan stood up and asked if James was reading from a particular edition of the talk, and then explained that that edition, unlike the original edition published in *his* fanzine, was missing a line. I wonder how James could have practiced the talk so many times, as he must have to get the timing and intonation right on every line, and not noticed a line was missing. But then a holy text is not less holy if a line is lost, and I have to admire James's dedication and performance.

I'm not sure how to describe the *Plokta* version of QI. Apparently it's very much like the version on British TV. What we saw was a quiz show, with Cambridge fan Michael Abbott perfectly cast as Stephen Fry. Michael asked questions of a panel of fannish experts, with

points awarded for correct answers and subtracted for incorrect answers. The questions required both scientific and cultural knowledge. For example, the first question was to identify a person with a combined Erdős number + Bacon number  $< \infty$ . It became very clear that the panel of fannish experts, although very intelligent and well read, was hopelessly in over their heads. But it was fun anyway. GOH Paul Cornell, who was on the panel, pointed out that Spike had actually gotten a question right. In the end she was the winner with an astounding score of 0. I think we have to give some credit

to Paul Cornell for being the most observant, and also a real gentleman.

At 10 p.m. it was getting dark, and we went out to the meadow for the second installment of the *Plokta* space program. Alison Scott handed out paper lanterns. Teams of two opened them up, one person holding the bottom and another carefully lifting up the top. When they were ready, a pyrotechnician would come by and light the candle in the bottom. The candles burned fast and hot, and soon the lantern was tugging at the launch crew's hands and wanting to lift off. Lanterns drifted up into the night sky,



**Lantern Wide**

by Alex Ingram



**Michael Abbott Chairing QI** by John Dallman

forming a new constellation, until they hit a crosswind and darted off to the northwest. It was a beautiful sight. (The *Plokta* cabal got permission for the sky lantern release, and Sunningdale is far enough from Heathrow that there was no risk to aviation. But it sure made it obvious that England is a very different place from California. I couldn't imagine ever doing something like that at home, even in the winter.)

The late night program was "Children's Literature Night," with everyone invited to come as a character from children's literature and watch a screening of a St. Trinian's movie. There were a lot of people in costume. I'm not sure what the original authors would have thought of their characters all getting together and hanging out in the bar, but it was quite a scene.

Sunday I skipped what I'm sure was a really awesome panel about rebooting old science fiction TV series. It would have been interesting whether or not I had seen any of the shows they were talking about. I also missed a



**Chris, Charlotte & Wilbur, Crazy Dave, John Dowd, Kari as Anne of Green Gables, Julian** by John Dallman



**Paul Cornell** by John Dallman

belly dancing workshop, live-action video game charades, and a "stitch & bitch" workshop. What was I thinking? In retrospect, all the program items looked really good, and I should have made myself go to all of them, even if that meant I'd have to be in two places at once for the workshops and panel discussions. But I wasn't not anywhere at all. I hung out in the lobby, had some very nice conversations, had several more refills on my £2 cup of coffee, and prepared to be on a panel.

I hadn't met Paul Cornell before this convention, but his Guest of Honor speech was like meeting up with an old friend. He sat on the steps to the stage and chatted with us about the difference between how he interacts with his cricket teammates and with fellow SF fans, about religion and his experiences creating the character of Faiza Hussain (a British Muslim woman with superpowers), about writing for TV and how he really wants to write science fiction novels. All this dovetailed very nicely with his metaphorical story, published in *Plokta*, "Science Fiction," about the difficulty





**Harry Plokta and the Half-Cut Prince**

courtesy of Ian Sorensen

of writing it when it isn't fiction anymore.

I found both of my co-panelists at the back of the room and we started talking, until the current panel shooed us out so they could talk about Web 2.0 and social networking. We repaired to the lobby and planned our panel, and apparently missed the flame war demonstration.

For dinner, the cabal catered with the hotel to have a barbecue. The tickets were a ridiculously cheap £5. For that it was a single serving, not all you could eat, but the food was quite tasty, especially the veggies grilled in spicy hot curry and the seafood brochettes, and they didn't run out of anything. The weather continued to be amazingly good, but there was a shortage of seating outside, so a bunch of us found tables in the bar, ordered beers and bottles of wine, and generally had a good time.

When Ian Sorensen was over here for Corflu, he told me he'd been asked to create a musical for plokta.con, and he needed ideas. It was supposed to have a school theme — "Anything but Harry Potter," he said. But I wasn't that surprised when the plokta.con program announced "Harry Plokta and the Half-Cut Prince." Ian asked me to help film the musical, which meant he gave me a Flip video camera, and I had to sit in front, and I could not run away. Actually it was a lot of fun. Ian's approach was to write new lyrics for well-known songs and pre-record them, so with a little bit of prompting everyone could sing along, even the cast. This was a good thing because they didn't get to rehearse. The plot, although clearly based on traditional texts, had

some really nice twists. It would go over well at a WisCon, that's for sure.

Monday morning I caught Mike Scott's and Julian Headlong's discussion of the best SF of 2008. Or, more accurately, the novels short-listed for the major SF/F awards. I liked the discussion but the main thing I got from it was how big and diverse the field has grown. Mike and Julian are very well read, but even they had not read all the works nominated for the Hugo, Nebula, Clarke, BSFA and Locus awards. Most, but not all. And at the end they went down a list of all the other SF/F awards they hadn't read anything for, including some



**Howl's Moving Castle**

by John Dallman





**Nick, plus Child**

by John Dallman

awards such as the Tiptree that I think qualify as major. I guess that's life in the 21st century.

On Saturday there was an Extreme Papercraft workshop, to put together a model of Howl's Moving Castle, in honor of Diana Wynne Jones, the other GOH, who unfortunately was not able to attend. The model turned out to be even more insanely difficult than expected. Work continued Sunday. It was finally finished on Monday, and brought outside into the beautiful sunshine, so we could see it in its full glory.

The "I Can See Your House From Here" panel was inspired by the Cabal trying out the new Microsoft Live maps and finding that the aerial view of Steve Davies' house was clearly taken when the Cabal was over. They could see their cars parked in front, the tent was set up in the back yard, and the cover was off the hot tub. I was on the panel with Dave Clements and Nick Gibbins. Nick in particular was awesomely well prepared, and showed several map mashups that combined geographical information with other information such as

house prices and the locations of registered sex offenders. I showed the Google Street View of the front of my house, so people could see how Google had blurred all the license plate numbers on the parked cars. I talked a bit about how we need to be concerned about the business models of companies that retain a lot of information; they may have good policies, but if they go bust, someone less scrupulous could end up with the data. Finally, I mentioned how the British dealt with surveillance before, by creating a massive and very successful campaign of deception, Operation Fortitude. Maybe it is time for a modern equivalent. We already know that the *Plokta* Cabal possess

inflatable cows and are not afraid to deploy them.

I can't describe Ang Rosin's Agony Aunt panel, save that her deadpan was perfect and it was wickedly funny.

Then there was the closing panel. Prizes were given out, and the con was over. Our flight was the next day, so we hung out and talked with Abi Brown and Square Bear, and had a friendly dinner with the Dowds at a posh Chinese restaurant in Sunningdale village. The conference center was back running on school hours, including a 9 a.m. checkout time. Just as well; we made all our connections with plenty of time, and that night we were back home.



**Ang Rosin**

by John Dallman



**Abi**

by John Dallman

# BASFA Minutes: Meetings 988-989

## Meeting 988

July 6, 2009

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco's, 1206 Oakmead Parkway  
(Lawrence Expressway/101 fwy), Sunnyvale

Began 8:04 [with Adrienne missing something]

21 people attended.

Secretary's report: we accepted the minutes of meeting 987 as *lost in ... well ... something*.

The Treasurer reported that at meeting 986 we took in \$9.25 and at meeting 987 we took in \$31.00 and \$7.75 in the party jar.

The VP reported that there is a new *Drink Tank*, there'll be an *SF/SF* out soon and will have a new 'zine out "soon", probably called *Exhibition Hall*.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

## Announcements

Glenn announced that Westercon 64 will be in SJ.

Adrienne announced that NorCal ParaCon 2009 was cancelled and the Bay Area Ghost Hunters will hold a meet-and-greet July 18, 1pm at Tarquay's Roadhouse.

Chris announced that Robert MacNamara died and announced that there may be silly things happening with 2010 and Pasadena [there were many follow ons, something about people being dropped on their heads].

Julie announced that she was kind of here and she has webcomics at her website, [www.spiralsheep.com](http://www.spiralsheep.com).

## Reviews

Westercon was reviewed - Glenn mostly sat a table - liked the hot weather, didn't like the construction on his floor and said there were WAY too many panel tracks - thanked the BASFAn who donated a gob of money to fund the bid party/birthday party and thanked Joe for his wine stewardship; Carole reviewed it as pretty good, that it should have had a party floor and not parties scattered over several floors and the Masquerade could have been done better; Bill reviewed it as a good trial run for DiscworldCon and he had fun with filking.

Andy reviewed a website [autotunethenews.com](http://autotunethenews.com) as incredibly bizarre, funny and robots are cool - worth the cost of the Internet.

Chris reviewed his weekend as Linda's cats didn't try to murder him this weekend, he saw *Twilight* again; reviewed a season of *Mad Men* as awesomely great - with pizza; reviewed a book - *Casino Moon* as fantastic, enjoyed a 4th of July parade and reviewed a new iPod/iPhone app: "Pocket God" as OMGRotFLBBQ!! and was really fun and crazy; reviewed a play, *The Women* as good with so so production values and had an absolutely fantastic meal at Luna's in Concord

I reviewed *Transformers 2* as there were not enough explosions to keep the plot from hurting my brain, worth Netflix; Trey follow-on'd that it had flaws but that Optimus Prime kicks bot.

Fred reviewed *Hangover* as funny, despite the plot holes, and reviewed Billy Burkes as a good place to eat in SJ.

Bill reviewed *Spamalot* as a good time was had by all and definitely worth 2nd tier full price.

Dave G reviewed the King Tut exhibition as he's still dead but looks better than Michael Jackson - worth full price and a 2nd visit; Spring follow-on'd that a group of 10+ gets a discount and Mo recommends Lords of Creation if it gets up this way.

Adrienne reviewed *Public Enemy* as the script lacked focus, but the acting, sets and costumes were excellent; reviewed *Saturn's*

*Children* as it didn't really appeal to her and Chris follow-on'd that he connected with the prose and liked it.

Lisa reviewed the Half Moon Bay 4th of July parade as fun; reviewed *Imagine That* as warm and friendly and wonderful; reviewed *My Sister's Keeper* as a tear jerker, worth seeing.

Mo reviewed *Kopps* as a gentle movie, very cute, worth watching.

We did auctions: birthday auctioned off Lisa for \$4.00 to Chris, and birthday auctioned off Trey for \$6.00 to Chris; then books for \$0.25, \$2.00, \$0.25 and magazines for \$0.35 and \$1.5.

We adjourned at = 9:36 pm.

And the rumor of the week was: *next week's meeting will be a good time to go and pee.*

## Meeting 989

July 13, 2009

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco's, 1206 Oakmead Parkway  
(Lawrence Expressway/101 fwy), Sunnyvale

Began 8-ish [so very nice and cool].  
25 people attended.

We established a party jar.

Secretary's report: we accepted the minutes of meeting 988 as *insufficiently lacking in ambiguity*.

The Treasurer reported that at meeting 987 we took in \$21.55.

The VP reported that there is a new *Drink Tank* out on efanazines.com and he needs help [everyone meow'd] and thus he needs "things" [steampunky or alternate history for *Exhibition Hall*].

The President said "hi" to Anne, visiting us for the first time.

The Sports Committee deferred to Dave G who reported that Sanchez threw a no-hitter.

## Announcements

Chris announced that Charles N. Brown died.

Mike announced that he has free tickets to the next Monday SJ Giants game.

Adrienne announced that she's arranged for a walking tour of Old Montreal during Anticipation - on Friday of con - at a discount - and she needs to sell 20 tickets.

Conner announced that he's in need of computer repair.

Henry announced that issue #134 of the *Gnarly News* is out.

Dave C announced that there's a new season of *Mythbusters* out and they will be testing the ST "Gorn cannon."

[tall] Kevin announced that Lisa DID make it home.

Lisa announced that Mythcon is next weekend in UCLA.

## Reviews

[tall] Kevin reviewed Westercon as a fine convention, albeit hot - then after con there were 3 days of van and plane drama - and did he mention it was HOT? He and Lisa really liked "My Big Fat Greek Restaurant" that they got to know FAR too well; Dave C agreed that it was hot & he was not impressed by the food in Tempe & Andy mentioned that FiestaCon is almost certainly in the black.

Glenn reviewed the SFSFC meeting as good - and the BBQ was incredible, he did lots of Westercon 64 stuff and had a good time.

Dave C reviewed funerals as Billy Mays is everywhere and that he got outgeeked at a sf trivia panel game & reviewed the food at the Harris Ranch coffee shop as Sizzler-like.

Andy reviewed the fan fic crowd for *Torchwood* as bug fuck crazy and reviewed the Obon festival [their costumes sounded GREAT] as there was lots of taiko, he ate at Kumako Ramen and had curry crab ramen that was to DIE for - and all was definitely worth full price and recommended.

Henry reviewed the Computer History Museum's curator as awesome and he learned a lot from the tour and recommends it.

Conner reviewed *Rejected* as very impressive and twisted & reviewed *Blazblue* as a very pretty 2D fighter - and the kitty character sounds like fun.



Chris reviewed *Forever Plaid* as the group was just fantastic and the camera work less so; he saw more *Twilight* and reviewed *I Love you Beth Cooper* as a cute and entertaining flick - reviewed the TV show *Dance Your Ass Off* as possibly the worst program ever, did some writing and reviewed a copy of the 1979 *Guinness Book of World Sports Records* as he had colored in it - and it was possibly a way-overdue library book.

Ken reviewed *Stacks* in downtown Campbell [closes at 2pm] as very good - he had a chocolate chip Belgium waffle - worth full price and recommended & reviewed *Torchwood* "Children of Earth" as a must see.

Adrienne reviewed *Medium, Season 1* as "well done" - and better than *Ghost Whisperer*.

Trey reviewed Comcast as full of fail, as he couldn't see the replay of the Sanchez no-hitter

- and reviewed *Warehouse 13* as not completely terrible.

We did auctions: books and stuff for \$4.00 and a 4-box set of *Science* for \$5.00.

We adjourned at = 9:49 pm in memory of Charlie Brown.

And the rumor of the week was: *Celebrity deaths usually come in 3's, trust Billy Mays to throw in an extra one for free.*



Day Torches

by Lucy Huntzinger

# Bay Area Fannish Calendar

Life is complicated; putting on an event is even more so. Please check before attending, as events are sometimes canceled or times and locations changed.

New listings are highlighted in red.

Ongoing events are toward the back.

## Thursday, July 23

### **25 Years of Clarion West Celebration**

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia St, San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

Honoring the 25th anniversary of the Clarion West Writers Workshop, Borderlands will be featuring former students of the workshop: Amelia Beamer, Vylar Kaftan, Pat Murphy, Tim Pratt, and Rachel Swirsky.

7 p.m.

Free

## Thursday, July 23

### **Thrillville: Shatfest!**

4 Star Theater

2200 Clement, San Francisco

www.thrillville.net

Thrillville's tribute to William Shatner double feature! *Kingdom of the Spiders* (1977) and *Impulse* (1974). Live on stage, the Twilight Vixen Revue and The Shatner Butt Girls.

7:30 p.m.

\$12

## Friday, July 24

### **Author: David Morell**

Dark Carnival

3086 Claremont Ave, Berkeley

www.darkcarnival.com

Morrell signs his new novel, *The Shimmer*

5:30 p.m.

Free

## Friday, July 24

### **World Premiere of Hayao Miyazaki's Ponyo**

Wheeler Hall

University of California, Berkeley

ieas.berkeley.edu/cjs/miyazaki.html

World premiere of Miyazaki's new film.

6 p.m.

\$12

## Thursday, July 23

### **Author: Lee Konstantinou**

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia St, San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

Konstantinou reads from his debut novel *Pop Apocalypse*.

7 p.m.

Free

## Saturday, July 25

### **Author: David Morrell**

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia St, San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

Morrell reads from his new thriller, *The Shimmer*

5 p.m.

Free

## Saturday, July 25

### **SF in SF: Kage Baker**

Hobart Building

582 Market Street, San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

\$5 suggested donation helps raise money for Variety Children's Charity - leave a fiver at the door, or buy a drink!

7 p.m.

Free

## Saturday, July 25

### **A Conversation with Hayao Miyazaki, Legendary Filmmaker**

Zellerbach Hall

University of California, Berkeley

ieas.berkeley.edu/cjs/miyazaki.html

Miyazaki is making a rare American trip to receive the second annual Berkeley Japan Prize for lifetime achievement, presented by the Center for Japanese Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He will be presented with the award on July 25, and will participate in a talk hosted by Japanese popular culture scholar Roland Kelts (*Japanimerica*).

6 p.m.

\$25

**Tuesday, July 28**

***The Long Now Foundation: The Food of the Future***

Cowell Theater

Fort Mason Center, San Francisco

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

Pamela Ronald and Raoul Adamchak discuss a visionary new approach for the future of agriculture: combining genetic engineering and organic farming.

7 p.m. Check website for tickets

**Tuesday, July 28-Sunday, August 2**

***Disney's Beauty and the Beast***

The Willows Theater

1975 Diamond Blvd., Concord

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

Presented by the students of the Willows Conservatory SummerStage summer camp at the Willows Theatre.

Check website for tickets and showtimes

**Saturday, August 1**

***Author: Richard Kadrey***

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia St, San Francisco

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

Kadrey reads from his new novel *Sandman Slim*

3 p.m. Free

**Saturday, August 1**

***Good Omens Con 3***

Endgame

921 Washington, Oakland

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

Guest GM: Carl Rigney. Admission is free but please bring a can of your favorite canned food to be donated.

9:30 a.m.

Free

**Saturday, August 1**

***Endgame 8th Anniversary Party***

Endgame

921 Washington, Oakland

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

10 a.m.

Free

**Saturday, August 1**

***The River City Picnic Dance***

PEERS Event

Lincoln Park

1450 High Street, Alameda

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

*Music Man*, Edwardian themed event with live music by Bangers and Mash

1 p.m.

Free

**Tuesday, August 4**

***Author: Steve Englehart***

Clayton Books

5433 D Clayton Rd, Clayton

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

Meet comics legend Steve Englehart.

7 p.m.

Free

**Saturday, August 8**

***Writers With Drinks***

The Make-Out Room

3225 22nd St., San Francisco

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

Dorothy Allison, Adam Savage, Mary Miller,

Clint Catalyst and Steve Barnes. All proceeds benefit the Center for Sex and Culture. Guest host TBA.

7:30 p.m.

\$3-\$5 sliding scale.

**Saturday, August 8**

***Kin-Yoobi Con***

Chabot College

25555 Hesperian Boulevard, Hayward

[www.gzronline.com/kin-yoobi-con09.htm](http://www.gzronline.com/kin-yoobi-con09.htm)

Anime convention, featuring a vendor room, cosplay contest, gaming and much more. Guests include Robert Axelrod and Steven Savage.

9 a.m.

\$12 (till August 1st)

**Saturday, August 15**

***New People/J-Pop Center Grand Opening***

Japantown

San Francisco

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

The long awaited Viz Media overhaul of the Japantown Center finally wraps up. Details TBA.

**Friday, August 28**

***The Phenomenauts***

The Phoenix Theater

201 Washington Street, Petaluma

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

All ages show, with the The Re-Volts

8 p.m.

\$12



**Saturday, September 5**

***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. Date changed from October due to a scheduling conflict.

7 p.m. \$15 (till August 30)

**Thursday, September 10**

***Thrillville: Lucha Beach Party!***

Balboa Theatre

3630 Balboa St

www.thrillville.net

Thrillville takes its show on the road and mixes Lucha with beach party mayhem. Mil Mascaras Vs. The Aztec Mummy plus STOMP! SHOUT! SCREAM!

7:30 p.m. \$12

**Saturday, September 12**

***Writers With Drinks***

The Make-Out Room

3225 22nd St., San Francisco

www.writerswithdrinks.com

Lev Grossman, Jeremy Adam Smith and John Shirley. All proceeds benefit the Center for Sex and Culture.

7:30 p.m. \$3-\$5 sliding scale.

**Thursday, September 17**

***Thrillville: Lucha Beach Party!***

Camera 3 Cinema

288 S. Second St, San Jose

www.thrillville.net

Thrillville takes its show on the road and mixes Lucha with beach party mayhem. Mil Mascaras Vs. The Aztec Mummy plus STOMP! SHOUT! SCREAM! Live surf music by Aardvark and a special appearance by the Rockabilly Models.

7:30 p.m. \$12

**Saturday, September 19**

***The Tomorrowmen***

Thee Parkside

1600 17th Street, San Francisco

www.myspace.com/tomorrowmen

All ages happy hour show

5 p.m. Free

**Sunday, September 20**

***The Tomorrowmen***

Hotel Utah

500 4th Street, San Francisco

www.myspace.com/tomorrowmen

Surf Sunday with Pollo Del Mar and Secret Samurai from San Diego.

8 p.m.

**Friday-Sunday, September 25-27**

***From the Land Beyond***

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street, Sacramento

www.sacramentocomics.com

Guests announced so far include Ray Park, Crispin Freeman, Jake Busey and more. Friday night concert by Warp 11.

\$20 (till September 15)

**Saturday, September 26**

***Seelie and Unseelie Fairy Court Gathering***

GBACG Event

Redwood City

www.gbacg.org

Are you a good fairy or a bad fairy? Pick your side at the gathering of the Seelie & Unseelie Fairy Courts in an end of summer evening garden party! Location in Redwood City. Suggested costume: Fantasy

Details TBA

**Sunday, September 27**

***Handcar Regatta***

Railroad Square

Santa Rosa

handcar-regatta.com

The 2nd Annual 2009 Great West End & Railroad Square Handcar Regatta & Exposition of Mechanical & Artistic Wonders. Featuring live music, craft show, vendors and other entertainments. Costumes encouraged.

Free

**Friday-Sunday, October 2-4**

***SiliCon***

The Doubletree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place, San Jose

www.siliconventions.com

The theme this year is Heroes and Villains. GOHs are Ken Lally, Christy Marx, Sarah Clemens and Hilary Ayer. Toastmaster is Kevin Roche.

\$50 (till August 1)

**Saturday, October 3**

***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. (Date changed from September.)

7 p.m. \$15 (till September 27)

**Saturday, October 10**

***Writers With Drinks***

The Make-Out Room

3225 22nd St., San Francisco

www.writerswithdrinks.com

Anthony Sworfford, Roz Savage, Doug Dorst, Rachel Pollack and Linda Watanabe McFerrin. All proceeds benefit the Center for Sex and Culture.

7:30 p.m. \$3-\$5 sliding scale.

**Saturday, October 17**

***Dark Shadows Picnic***

GBACG Event

www.gbacg.org

Gather for a reunion of all the members of the Collins family (of the *Dark Shadows* TV show) from past, present, future, and parallel time. Honor the dead and undead alike with a pleasantly vampiric picnic. Suggested costume: 1795, 1840-41, 1897, 1966-71, and 1995 ("the future"), Vampire.

Details TBA

**Saturday, October 17-Sunday, October 18**

***Folsom Renaissance Faire***

Folsom City Lions Park

403 Stafford Street, Folsom

folsomfaire.com

Renaissance Faire

\$14

**Thursday, October 22**

***Thrillville: Gorefest***

Camera 3 Cinema

288 S. Second St, San Jose

www.thrillville.net

Featuring two brand new B-movie classics from Monogram Releasing and the B Movie Nation: *Poultrygeist* and Kevin Tenney's *Brain Dead*. Live music by Aardvark and Actual Rafiq.

7:30 p.m. \$12

**Saturday, October 24-Sunday, October 25**

***All-Hallows Fantasy Faire***

Mother Lode Fairgrounds

220 Southgate Drive, Sonora

sonoracelticfaire.com/hallowsfaire.html

Sonora Celtic Faire presents the first annual All Hallows Fantasy Faire. Details TBA

**Thursday, October 22**

***Thrillville: Gorefest***

Balboa Theatre

3630 Balboa St

www.thrillville.net

Featuring two brand new B-movie classics from Monogram Releasing and the B Movie Nation: *Poultrygeist* and Kevin Tenney's *Brain*

*Dead*. Live music by The Deadlies.

7:30 p.m.

\$12

**Thursday, October 29-Sunday, November 1**

***World Fantasy Convention***

The Fairmont Hotel

170 South Market Street, San Jose

www.worldfantasy2009.org

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 (till August 31)

**Friday, October 30-Sunday, November 1**

***Yaoi-Con***

San Mateo Marriott

1770 South Amphlett Blvd, San Mateo

www.yaoicon.com

A celebration of male beauty and passion in anime and manga. 18+.

\$50 (till Sep 26)

**Saturday, November 7**

***Le Bal des Vampires***

PEERS Event

Alameda Elks Lodge

2255 Santa Clara Ave, Santa Clara

www.peers.org

Vampire themed event with live performance by Bangers and Mash.

7 p.m. \$20 (till September 30)

**Friday, November 27-Sunday, December 20**

***The Great Dickens Fair***

Cow Palace Exhibition Halls  
2600 Geneva Ave, San Francisco  
www.dickensfair.com

A holiday adventure into Victorian London. \$22

**Ongoing**

**Daily**

***San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour***

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel  
1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco  
www.sfgghosthunt.com  
7 p.m. – 10 p.m. \$20

**Sundays**

***MGI SF&F/Horror/Speculative fiction Writing Group***

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

***Sakramento Anime Society***

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

**Mondays**

***Bay Area Science Fiction Association***

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

***Dukefish***

Jake's of Sunnyvale  
174 E. Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale  
Group meets weekly to play German-style strategy board games such as Settlers of Catan, Carcasson and other games, plus an occasional game of bridge breaks out. Meet up at 8:00 p.m., figure out who wants to play what, and typically start playing games no later than 8:30 p.m.  
8 p.m. Free

**Mondays and Wednesdays**

***Silicon Valley Boardgamers***

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

**Tuesdays**

***MGI Boffers & Outdoor Games***

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

**Wednesdays**

***Bay Area Role-Playing Society***

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

***East Bay Strategy Games Club***

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

***Fanboy Planet Podcast***

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



## Wednesdays and Saturdays

### *Hayward Collectibles Show*

22300 Hathaway Ave (rear bldg), Hayward

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

Wednesdays 3 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Free

## Fridays

### *FyDy SyFy*

Eclipse Lounge, Hyatt Regency

5 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco

Casual meetup in the atrium lobby bar.

5:30-7:30

### *SF Games*

Muddy's Coffeehouse

1304 Valencia Street, San Francisco

[vax.hanford.org/dk/games](http://vax.hanford.org/dk/games)

SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week. Also has a regular cards night at Atlas Café, 20th and Alabama Streets, Tuesday nights from 6:30-10.

7 p.m. to midnight

Free

## Fridays-Mondays

### *Haunted Haight Walking Tour*

Meets at Coffee To The People

1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco

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

Reservations required.

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

\$20

## Fridays and Saturdays

### *Vampire Walking Tour*

Meets corner of California and Taylor, San Francisco

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

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

8 p.m.

\$20

## 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 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

### *Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Group*

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street, San Francisco

Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jade Livingston at [sfscifi@yahoo.com](mailto:sfscifi@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Monthly

### *Clockwork SF*

New location TBD

[www.myspace.com/clubclockwork](http://www.myspace.com/clubclockwork)

A Steampunk Parlor: Gothic/Darkwave/Synthpop w/DJ's MzSamantha, Fact 50, Melting Girl and Greg. 21+

9 p.m.

\$5 after 10 p.m.

### *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 p.m.

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 p.m. Free

***The Gay Men’s Book Club***

Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia, San Francisco  
www.borderlands-books.com  
Please contact Chris, the group leader, at cobalt555@earthlink.net for more information.  
5 p.m. Free

***Legion of Rassilon***

Carl’s Jr.  
2551 N 1st St , San Jose  
www.legionofrassilon.org  
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.  
7:30 p.m. Free

***Micro Gods, Inc.***

Berkeley Public Library, West Branch  
1125 University Ave, Berkeley  
mgisciaf.angelfire.com  
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/  
Family Club for fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Movie, Anime & Manga. Meets every 3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for updates.  
2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free

***No-Name Anime***

Saratoga Library  
13650 Saratoga Avenue  
Saratoga  
www.nnanime.com  
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.  
Free

***Other Realms Book Club***

Books, Inc.  
1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame  
www.booksinc.net  
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month.  
6:30 p.m. Free

***Religion & SF Book Club***

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

***Rocky Horror Picture Show***

The Clay, 2261 Fillmore Street San Francisco/  
The Guild 949 El Camino Real Menlo Park  
www.bawdycaste.org  
The Bawdy Caste presents the classic midnight movie the first Saturday of the month, alternating between the Clay in San Francisco and the Guild in Menlo Park.  
Midnight

***Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book Club***

Clayton Books

5433 D Clayton Road, Clayton  
www.claytonbookshop.com  
Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month.  
7:30 p.m. Free

***Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club***

Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia, San Francisco  
www.borderlands-books.com  
The book for August 16th is *Camp Concentration* by Tom Disch. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.  
6 p.m. Free

***SF Browncoats***

Cafe Murano  
1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco  
www.sfbrowncoats.com  
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.  
Noon Free

***Science Fiction Santa Rosa Meetup***

Borders Books  
2500 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa  
groups.yahoo.com/group/scifisantarosa/  
Regular meetup for North Bay fans on the second Sunday of the month.  
1:30 p.m. Free

***Silicon Gulch Browncoats***

Various locations (see website for details)  
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org  
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.  
Noon - 2 p.m. Free

***USS Augusta Ada***

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

***USS Defiance***

5026 Don Julio Blvd, Sacramento  
1566 Howe Ave, Sacramento  
www.myspace.com/d2121978  
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.  
7 p.m. Free

***USS Northern Lights***

Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for location.  
sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights  
The 'Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International and a swell group of science fiction fans. We do more than Trek. Usually meets the second Friday of the month, with social event TBD.  
7 p.m. Free

***Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE***

Round Table Pizza  
4403 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento  
916-338-2300  
Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.  
6 p.m. Free







# Bay Area Fannish Calendar – July 2009

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| <i>MGI SFF/H Writing</i><br><i>Sakramento Anime</i>  | <i>BASFA</i><br><i>Dukefish</i><br><i>SV Boardgamers</i> | <i>MGI Boffers</i>   | <i>BA Role-Playing Soc</i><br><i>E.Bay Strategy Games</i><br><i>Fanboy Planet Podcast</i>  |   | <i>FyDy SyFy</i><br><i>SF Games</i>   |  |
| 28   | 29   | 30   | 1  | 2   | 3   | 4<br><i>Rocky Horror</i><br><i>Silicon Gulch</i><br><i>Browncoats</i>  |
| 5<br><i>Foothill Anime</i>   | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9<br><i>Author: Gregory Benford</i><br><i>SF&amp;F Writers' Group</i>   | 10<br><i>Author: S.G. Browne</i><br><i>SF Underground</i><br><i>Comix Experience</i><br><i>East Bay Star Wars</i><br><i>USS Northern Lights</i> | 11<br><i>Author: Ray Garton</i><br><i>Bustles at the Beach</i><br><i>Fantastic Frontiers</i><br><i>No-Name Anime</i><br><i>SF Browncoats</i> |
| 12<br><i>Author: Rudy Rucker</i><br><i>My Neighbor Totoro</i><br><i>Gay Men's Book Club</i><br><i>SF Santa Rosa Meetup</i>     | 13<br><i>Coraline 3D (thru Thu)</i>                      | 14<br><i>Porco Rosso</i>   | 15<br><i>Author: Joe Landsdale</i><br><i>Princess Mononoke &amp; Kiki's Delivery Service</i><br><i>Fire Arts Festival (thru Sat)</i> | 16<br><i>Tangential Conjectures</i>   | 17<br><i>Midnites For Maniacs</i><br><i>Triple Bill</i><br><i>Azkatraz (thru Tue)</i><br><i>USS Defiance</i>                                    | 18<br><i>Author: Jay Lake</i><br><i>Group Signing: Footprints</i><br><i>Micro Gods, Inc</i><br><i>Clockwork SF</i>                           |
| 19<br><i>Star Trek</i><br><i>Family Event: Man on the Moon Story Time</i><br><i>Castle in the Sky</i><br><i>SF/F Book Club</i> | 20<br><i>Moon Landing Anniversary Event</i>              | 21   | 22<br><i>Other Realms</i>  | 23<br><i>25 Years of Clarion West Celebration</i><br><i>Thrillville: Shatfest!</i><br><i>Lee Konstantinou</i> | 24<br><i>Author: David Morell</i><br><i>Miyazaki's Ponyo</i><br><i>Legion of Rassilon</i>   | 25<br><i>David Morrell</i><br><i>Kage Baker</i><br><i>Hayao Miyazaki</i><br><i>USS Augusta Ada</i><br><i>Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</i>         |
| 26<br><i>Religion &amp; SF</i>   | 27   | 28<br><i>Food of the Future</i><br><i>Disney's Beauty and the Beast (thru Sun)</i> | 29   | 30  | 31  | 1  |

# Bay Area Fannish Calendar – August 2009

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday                     | Wednesday   | Thursday                                      | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|--|-----------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| <i>MGI SFF/H Writing</i><br><i>Sakramento Anime</i>            | <i>BASFA</i><br><i>Dukefish</i><br><i>SV Boardgamers</i> | <i>MGI Boffers</i>          | <i>BA Role-Playing Soc</i><br><i>E.Bay Strategy Games</i><br><i>Fanboy Planet Podcast</i> |   | <i>FyDy SyFy</i><br><i>SF Games</i>                           |  |
| 26   | 27   | 28                          | 29  | 30  | 31  | 1<br><i>Richard Kadrey</i><br><i>Good Omens Con 3</i><br><i>Endgame 8th Anniv</i><br><i>River City Picnic Dance</i><br><i>Silicon Browncoats</i> |
| 2<br><i>Foothill Anime</i>                                     | 3  | 4<br><i>Steve Englehart</i> | 5   | 6<br><i>SF&amp;F Writers' Group</i>           | 7   | 8<br><i>Writers With Drinks</i><br><i>Kin-Yoobi Con</i><br><i>Fantastic Frontiers</i><br><i>No-Name Anime</i><br><i>SF Browncoats</i>            |
| 9<br><i>Gay Men's Book Club</i><br><i>SF Santa Rosa Meetup</i> | 10   | 11                          | 12  | 13<br><i>Tangential</i><br><i>Conjectures</i> | 14<br><i>East Bay Star Wars</i><br><i>USS Northern Lights</i> | 15<br><i>New People/J-Pop</i><br><i>Center Grand Opening</i><br><i>Micro Gods, Inc</i><br><i>Clockwork SF</i>                                    |
| 16<br><i>SF/F Book Club</i>                                    | 17   | 18                          | 19<br><i>Clayton SFF Book</i><br><i>Club</i>  | 20  | 21<br><i>USS Defiance</i>                                     | 22<br><i>USS Augusta Ada</i>   |
| 23<br><i>Religion &amp; SF</i>                                 | 24   | 25                          | 26<br><i>Other Realms</i>   | 27  | 28<br><i>The Phenomenauts</i><br><i>Legion of Rassilon</i>    | 29<br><i>Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</i>   |
| 30   | 31   |                             |   |   |   |  |