

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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The Sunken Garden

by Lucy Huntzinger

Contents

News and Notes.....	Chris Garcia.....	2
Editorial.....	Jean Martin.....	3
Letters of Comment.....	Chris Garcia.....	6
This Old Fanzine: <i>Myrddin 3</i>	Chris Garcia.....	8
Azkatraz Brings Out Believers.....	Michael Boehm..... Photos by Michael Boehm.....	10
Moonfest Achieves Liftoff.....	Howeird..... Photos by Howeird.....	14
Super-Con Features Goods and Guests.....	J. Yochanan Urias..... Photos by J. Yochanan Urias.....	19
Pirates Plunder and Carousel in Vallejo.....	Jean Martin..... Photos by Jean Martin.....	22
BASFA Minutes: Meetings 990-991.....		26
Announcing the SF/SF Summer Picnic.....	Jean Martin..... Photo by Michael Gray.....	28
Bay Area Fannish Calendar.....	España Sheriff..... Photo by Lucy Huntzinger.....	30

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

While I'm not 100% certain, I'm fairly sure no one's ever gone from 0-to-convention in less than a week. The fact that the FyDySyFy crew has even started down the path is amazing, and the amount of distance they've gone even in the four days since it started is fantastic! If you've ever done a website for a con, take a look at www.trepidation2009.com right now. They've done that in less than two days. There's info, there's silliness, there's content! You can say, "Well, they're a week out and they've not even managed to announce any GoHs!" and I can respond, "They've only started a few days ago and they've got more info than most cons have after three months of work!" It's really impressive. Leigh Ann and España are spearheading the thing, with Radar doing the programming, Johanna as Gaming Head, Jack Avery as Head of Publications, and a couple of others whose names are escaping because that's what happens when I write without the internet at my fingertips! The con will be held at the SF Hyatt Regency from July 31st at 3 p.m. to August 1st at 3 p.m. Jason Schachat will be the Fan Guest of Honor. I'm sure reports will be in the next issue.

Worldcon will also be right upon us once this issue is out. I'm so excited. I've been preparing for panels so much, I haven't even



courtesy of eFanzines.com

packed! I'll be fine though. The highlights for me include Au Pied de Cochon with folks like Niall Harrison, Kevin and Andy, The Lovely and Talented Linda, Graham Sleight and I'll finally get to meet Sharee Carton! That's awesome! There are panels, at least two of which I'm very excited for. I only wish that Jack Speer was going to be there to chide me on the inconsistency of my spelling, and not having Charles Brown around will be tough.

Sadly, I had a panel scheduled with Gail Carriger, but she won't be there. It was the Steampunk panel, which would have been great to have her on. It turns out that she's not attending. Such is our lot.

Hey, eFanzines has been a little slow. I've only managed one *Drink Tank* because I've been working the layout of *Journey Planet* and

the Reno PR #0. It's been crazy, but the issue I did put out had Lee Lavell and Taral Wayne, so it's gotta be good!

In a lovely piece of fannish history, eFanzines.com is now the home of copies of *Futurian Observer*. It's a newszine from Australia in the 1940s. The bare roots of SF Fandom Down Under presented just as a new Aussiecon looms! It's a great read.

In what's becoming a very frequent zine, *Home Kookin'* from Arnie Katz and Co. has its fifth issue out. It's a fun read, and I really enjoy the pictures. It's hard for me to see the wonderful images without wanting to hop in my car and drive south to Vegas for a fannish weekend, but alas, it ain't that easy...

Speaking of Vegas, Scott Anderson announced that Xanadu II will be happening next March. It had been scheduled for one week earlier than the last week in March where they now sit, but they didn't want to conflict with the Final Four. Good call, though I'm not sure how much the audiences overlap. Once again, I'm not sure if I'll be able to make it. I'm planning on going to Eastercon around that same time, but it does sound like fun and they've changed hotels, as I understand it. You can find out more at www.xanadulasvegas.com.

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor

The famous and incredibly popular Comic-Con just wrapped up last weekend and photos from friends and their friends have been popping up all over Facebook. Surprisingly, I didn't see very many posts on Facebook during the actual convention. Perhaps people were too busy running around and lining up for panels and events. Or maybe most people didn't have iPhones or laptops with them. I'd have thought, however, that at a con as eventful as Comic-Con most people would have iPhones or some sort of smart phone so they could post updates of what they were doing.

I've never actually followed Comic-Con before while it was happening, but this year, there were several guests I was interested in. I didn't want to read pages and pages of blogs and reports. I just wanted photos. IMDB delivered on that and I liked that they just had a page or two of thumbnails for each day and they were updated after each day.

Why did I not go to the con, you might ask? I probably have mentioned

this in past editorials and articles, but I find that Comic-Con is more of a media con and it is too big for my tastes. WonderCon, Comic-Con's local version, is becoming bigger and bigger every year. And this year, I got a migraine from just attending one day. There were just too many people walking around, and lines for panels were extremely long. The wait is often an hour or more. I didn't even get into the *Star Trek* panel until the very end when the cast members and producer were leaving the stage.

So imagine that times ten! I believe that, nowadays, Comic-Con draws over 100,000 people to San Diego over the course of the four-day con. It's almost impossible to even get a hotel room anywhere in the city during that time period, not to mention actual tickets to the con. When I went my first and only time in 2005, I did have a great time because I went with a group of friends and we performed in the masquerade. But being in the masquerade meant that most of Saturday afternoon and evening was devoted to just that one event. There

wasn't time to line up for panels and other things I wanted to do. And the rest of the time, it was difficult to connect with friends and hang out. I walked the general vicinity of the convention center with a friend one night trying to find a party, any party, and couldn't find one.

To me, the high cost (hotel, airfare, tickets, dining, etc.), stress of too many people, difficulty of hanging out with friends, and inconvenience of getting into panels is just not worth it. I heard that this year, some lines for popular panels took three hours! And there's not even a guarantee that you can get in. Most people get into the big halls way ahead of the panels they actually want to see. But that means, for me, having to sit through panels of TV shows I don't watch and movies I won't ever see. It's just a big waste of time, I think. Two panels in a row is enough for me and then I get restless and bored and want to move around and see and do other things. Also, what do people do for bathroom breaks and food and water? Being stuck in a huge room with

thousands of people for an entire day just sounds like being in prison.

And it requires a lot of advance planning. Most people buy their tickets and book their hotel rooms six months before Comic-Con, before they even know who the guests are going to be. There are very few celebrities I would go to all this trouble for. Every year after Comic-Con, I kick myself for not going because I missed one person or another. Memorable ones include Lucy Lawless (*Xena*) and Deepak Chopra. But I tell myself that my life is in no way incomplete because I didn't see these idols of mine in the flesh.

This year, I would have wanted to see Peter Jackson (*Lord of the Rings*), David Tennant (*Doctor Who*), and John Barrowman (*Torchwood*). I briefly contemplated going after I heard they would be in attendance. But tickets were already sold out and July is a very busy time for me at my work (we're not usually allowed to take vacation days then). I did see photos of the three of them and David and John looked even more handsome in person. John especially has such a radiant smile and David looks more relaxed than his Doctor Who persona. Peter Jackson looks so much better now that he's not overweight. He actually seems a lot

younger. So I did get a vicarious thrill seeing their photos on IMDB.

There were lots of other movie and TV personalities who were there to promote their latest projects. I'm looking forward to *New Moon* (the *Twilight* sequel), Johnny Depp's *Alice in Wonderland*, and Robert Downey Jr.'s *Sherlock Holmes* and *Iron Man*. But did I really need to be in San Diego to see trailers and clips? The answer is a big, fat no. I like Robert Downey Jr. as an actor but I don't consider myself a fan, and I do not like Johnny Depp. Yes, I'm a strange female who doesn't like Johnny Depp.

There were also some cast members from *Battlestar Galactica: Caprica* including Edward James Olmos. I've never considered him handsome before but he looked great in one picture with one of my Browncoat friends. There was also a panel on *Being Human*, which will be shown on BBC America soon. But I've already seen all of Season 1 and have raved about it in a previous editorial. I hope they don't edit (read: censor) too much out of it. I have to admit Russell Tovey being naked a lot in the series got to be a bit much. But I think they intended to show how vulnerable he was after he changed back to being human after being a werewolf.

A couple of sword and sandals epics were also previewed: *Clash of the Titans* and *Spartacus* (with Lucy Lawless!). Both remakes, of course. I hope they live up to the originals. Well, the original *Clash of the Titans* wasn't very good but I loved it anyway.

So, yes, Comic-Con is a media con. And not a hang out with your friends, wear costumes, do interesting things and generally just PARTICIPATE kind of con! Comic-Con is a con where you pretty much line up to sit and watch panels or meet celebrities.

Lots of people must have a great time, seeing as how they go back every year. These friends' posts certainly attest to that. I guess it helps if one has a lot of patience, is an extrovert, likes hanging out in groups (which helps with waiting in line and finding social activities outside con) and/or enjoys the panels and meeting celebrities. I'm an introvert, not a group person, like to do my own thing, and like to run around like crazy doing things. I also don't like wearing costumes at big conventions because it just gets too hot and uncomfortable. I know I'm missing out on all the fun and I wish I could enjoy Comic-Con more. I haven't ruled out going again someday. Perhaps I will when I feel like there's a good reason for me to go and feel like

braving it again — maybe if I got invited to join a masquerade entry that I would really be interested in. Some of my masquerade compatriots were in a Disney Cheerleaders entry (heroes vs. villains) this year and they won Best Presentation. Their costumes were amazing and their routine was complicated but seamless.

It seemed like most of my friends were at Comic-Con around July 23-25, but I had a lot to do locally with the few friends who were in town. And I have to say that I actually had a super fantastic weekend. I got to see Errol Flynn's *Robin Hood* for the first time on my first jaunt to the spectacularly beautiful, Art Deco Paramount Theatre in Oakland. Then I got Buzz Aldrin's autograph at the USS *Hornet's* Apollo 11 40th anniversary event (my first foray into

the USS *Hornet* Museum in Alameda). I also checked out Friday Night Waltz (on a Saturday) in Oakland for the first time. I found the people there were very friendly, the music great and I danced almost all night. I do enjoy vintage dancing! But I also got to learn the more "modern" Blues dancing and Lindy Hop. I had a smile on my face the entire evening. A lot of firsts for me that weekend!

I did forget to go to a costumed picnic at the Rosicrucian Museum in San Jose. I neglected to put it on my calendar and only remembered when I saw photos from it on Facebook. I was too tired anyway after an eventful Friday and Saturday, and needed at least the Sunday to rest, but I still would have wanted to go. This is the second picnic at that museum I've missed (both in

July). I've been wanting to do something similar for a year now. I've never been to the museum and I'm interested in Egyptology and loved the Brendan Fraser *Mummy* movies. The photos from both those picnics looked awesome with folks in Steampunk and other period costumes in front of beautiful spots outside the museum.

Thus, I have decided that I will finally organize a costumed picnic at the Rosicrucian Museum. Costumes are admired but not required (Steampunk, Egyptian or 1920s explorers à la *The Mummy*) and please bring your own food, drinks and blankets. Chris has agreed with me to make it an *SF/SF* event. Our first *SF/SF* Summer Picnic! It will be on Sunday, August 30th. More details to follow.

Letters of Comment

Did somebody say Lloyd Penney?

Dear Jean, Chris, David, España and Tom:

I am already two issues behind...haven't done that in a while. I am getting my preps completed for the Montréal Worldcon, and while I have breaks, or insomnia (like right now, I am typing this at about 2:30 in the am), I will do a little writing. Here's something on issues 88 and 89 of *SF/SF*.

88...the header art reminds me that *Endeavour* finally got off the ground, and is heading towards the International Space Station. As we get set to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first moon landing, by the time the shuttle gets to the ISS, Canadian space history will be made, with two Canadians in space at the same time, Julie Payette in the shuttle, and Bob Thirsk, putting in a six-month stint at the ISS. Yvonne and I will be at the Canadian Air & Space Museum to speak directly to the astronauts on Monday. Should be a great time.

Chris Garcia replies: Wow! That's cool. It seems that, after a lull of several years where space exploration held little sway (possible because everybody was making too much money!) Space has made a comeback. I'm excited for us to get back to the Moon.

As you go through the entire CanFancylopedia, have a look to see how many times my name appears...I went through

my entire fanzine collection to add things and complete entries. Also, my apazines go back to the 1980s, for TAPA and The Final Frontier and APAPlexy. Good to see another steampunk convention on the go...this past weekend was Polaris 23, the local media SF convention, a fairly good time. They have announced that one of the themes of Polaris 24 will be steampunk; we'll see how good they are in producing this. We might need to give them some help. The Saturday night of Polaris 23, we were in the parking lot, admiring the stars, nebulae and planets with a couple of automatic tracking telescopes, and the ISS flew across the sky. It's big enough to see some shape from the ground, and not just a blob of light.

I will do that! I've not heard much about Polaris, but a lot of folks I know went. I'm excited for SteamCon in Seattle and Steam-X in San Jose-ish. It'll be a good chance for me to get out Exhibition Hall, my newest zine.

I have promised photos, have delivered only some; if you were to go to my Facebook page, you'd find other photographs of me, not only from Anime North, but also Polaris. You're welcome to them, and Chris, if you need them for your planned Steampunk zine, go for it. I am now only three years behind in *Girl Genius*...the story is very interesting, and Foglio's artwork is so detailed. There's a great bookstore especially for graphic novels and art

books in town called The Labyrinth; I should check them out to see if they can obtain the *Girl Genius* books.

I will need those photos! And you should move Heaven and Earth if that's what it takes to get the Girl Genius books. They're that good!

Ah, yes, *Emerald City* 97. Cheryl was indeed brutal but honest in her commentary, and said many things others wouldn't have dared to say. People who mightn't have ever read a fanzine around here somehow got to find out what was in this fanzine...some were outraged and angry, and others smiled thinly, and agreed quietly. I wouldn't have called Torcon 3 the worst con ever, or the worst Worldcon, but the chairman of the BoD had gotten rid of anyone with any hands-on Worldcon experience. I know that Terry Fong admitted that he was out of his league with running programming, and he has worked hard to make up for that lack; he has a senior position with Anticipation, and the convention will do just fine. I also know the guy who ran the Trailer Park track.

I thought that her issue on ConJose was even more honest, though not nearly as brutal. I hope Anticipation goes off without a major hitch. I've had my problems getting through to staff, but at least they looked at my schedule and fixed things.

More Steampunk goodness at conventions... I think Steampunk and Burning Man seem to be similar themes, but the Victorian style of clothing was thick, with several layers of proper dress. I sure hope that if I bring my Steampunk costume to Montreal to wear at some of your panels, Chris, I don't sweat through it. Let's hope the Palais's air conditioning is working.

I am a delicate flower so the air conditioning better be on and set to HIGH!

89...I seem to recall that the collection of fanfic came from a collector who was completely unaware that there were other areas of fandom such publications could come from. Not being aware of litfandom seems unlikely, but I've seen people who denied that science fiction could ever come in a book format.

I've never heard that, though I've heard plenty of arguments the other direction!

New bids...I've heard of another Japanese bid for 2017, a Russian bid for 2015, South African fans saying they'd like to have Worldcon in Johannesburg, Minneapolis fans making Worldcon noises again, a Texas bid,

and I have a sneaking suspicion about a Worldcon in western Canada somewhere...the Worldcon is where so many bids make their announcement, and I'm interested to see just who makes their declarations.

The Japanese bid sounds like it'll be pretty good. I heard very few complaints about 2007. 2015 is likely to have some crowding as there are a couple of bids rumored, and Johannesburg would be a great place for a con, though I'd still prefer Sun City. And Texas...Yeehaww! I can't wait!

Happy anniversary to you all for this fine, informative fanzine. You never really know what's going on in your own local fandom until you add it all up, and get to see it in summary. The calendar is such a good idea, and helps your readers to see what's coming up. I could use this for Toronto, but I'm busy enough.

España does so much great stuff and I sometimes think she doesn't get enough credit. Well played, Miss Sheriff, well played.

The 40th anniversary of the first lunar landing was celebrated here at the Canadian Air & Space Museum at Downsview Park...we had

Canadian aviation pioneers, a replica of the Avro Arrow, and a replica of the Silver Dart, the first plane to ever fly in Canada, celebrating this year 100 years of powered flight in Canada. That was on July 20, and we had a great time.

I celebrated the anniversary of the moon landing by fondling the Apollo Guidance Computer. It only seemed right.

All done, I think...I'm fretting about the fanzine lounge being okay, and making sure I have everything I need, because it's not like I can go home and get it, the way I could with Torcon. I have downloaded the programming guide that is already available off the website, and there's a lot of panels I'd like to see, if it's possible. So, I hope lots of people sign up for the fanzine lounge...I don't want to feel like I've got to stay there all day.

See you all in about two weeks. We will have ourselves a time.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

And I can not wait for Anticipation!

This Old Fanzine: Myrddin 3

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

World Fantasy is coming to San Jose in October. I'm helping out by putting together the Dining Guide. I remembered that I had a zine that was all about the first World Fantasy, so I went digging through all my things.

It was nowhere to be found.

I looked all over among all my zines and other printed materials and I couldn't find it. I was defeated, and when I went to work on Monday, I went looking for my Comcast bill so I could pay it. Oddly, the first thing on top of the pile in that drawer was *Myrddin* #3! These things happen.

The date was October, 1975. A one-year-old Christopher J Garcia was crawling around, and in Providence, Rhode Island, a bunch of writers were getting together. It was the first ever World Fantasy Convention, attended by many of the most important and interesting people in the history of the field: Frank Belknap Long, Fritz Leiber, Lester Del Rey, Forry Ackerman, Lin Carter and Gahan Wilson, among others. That lineup right there would be enough

to get me rolling, but there were many, many more. They set the stage for what would be the future of World Fantasy. A ton of pros coming together. It seems to have been roughly the equivalent of the Eaton Conference, only not.

Editor Lawson Hill says that he wanted it to be an All World Fantasy issue, but it didn't happen. That's not a bad thing because it left room for fiction, poetry and art that I think really set the scene for the issue. There's an amazing Phil Normand piece on page 5 that's just fantastic. It's a waiter bringing dinner to Cthulhu and it's funny and brilliant. It's the kind of piece you can set an entire issue around, though in this case, it just seems to be a mood piece.

The bulk of the issue is a report on the first World Fantasy, complete with picture and an included record of the keynote speech. That's the kind of thing a caring editor can do to make a zine significant long after its initial reading phase. (At the time, typically six months to a year. Now, that can be narrowed down to the space of weeks for all but the most significant zines.) The World Fantasy convention report was written

by Dirk W. Mosig. The focus of the convention and the report was on Lovecraft. It seems to have had an impressive array of not only speakers, but of topics. There were dramatic readings, including one with Wilson, Leiber and Donald Sydney Fryer. They gave out awards called the Howards, which I think are now the World Fantasy Awards. I wish they'd kept calling them the Howards.

The biggest problem with *Myrddin* is the format. It's square, about 8 by 8, and read upwise instead of sidewise. It's kinda like a calendar in that concept. It does make it slightly difficult to read, though it is so unique and does give something of a difference to the material, that I don't think I'd say it detracted from the overall.

The dozens of photos are amazing. Faces I'd seen when I was younger and ones that I was too young to ever remember. So that's what H. Warner Munn looked like! It's photos that have always informed us of what the past actually looked like, and in zines of the 1970s and 80s, you start to see them pop up more and more often.

There's a long piece of fiction from T.E.D. Klein, and it's pretty good. There's a fine article about collecting Lovecraft from Kenneth W. Faig, Jr. that I think is really good reading. It's the kind of article that looks at the macro through the micro, as it were. I'm a big fan of it.

Perhaps the coolest thing about this issue is that it provides an excellent metric: number 478 out of 1000 issues

printed. There aren't a lot of zines today that print 1000 issues.

This issue is particularly important because of the depth of coverage, both in words and pictures, given to the first World Fantasy. With the exception of Worldcons, which are extensively covered in zines like *File 770*, *Challenger* and other fannish masterworks, there aren't a lot of cons that get written up like that anymore. To

get something of a full picture, you need to dig through blogs and eFanzines and so on. In fact, I don't even think I did a very thorough job of covering Costume-Con in 2008, despite dedicating a long-ish issue of *The Drink Tank* to it. This is the answer to the question *Why collect this stuff?* Because sometimes, it fits in so nicely with what we're doing today.

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

Azkatraz Brings Out Believers

By Michael Boehm
Contributing Writer

There is a school of thought in this city that once you pass on to the afterlife and are subject to Judgement, the value of your existence will be based not on how many tax-deductible charitable donations you made to the Red Cross, nor how many Hail Marys you recounted. Rather, the merit of your life will be measured by just how far and how frequently you managed to break from the everyday, mundane, crushing normality of modern existence. This approach to transcendence has brought us the Beat Generation, Critical Mass, Sfzero, Burning Man, and the entire Castro district. By this measure, the participants of Azkatraz, the official Harry Potter Fan Convention for 2009, are holy saints.

I was asked to cover the convention for *SF/SF* partially because I occupied something of a sweet spot within the genre. While I am a lifelong, card-carrying fan of fantasy literature, my tastes in that genre run more towards Tolkein or Robert Jordan (though I will be the first to admit the *Wheel of Time* series carried on far longer than it should have). Though I am sincerely embarrassed to admit it, I have never cracked a Harry Potter book. The films have been enjoyable enough, and I always tell myself that when I have a free week I will take JK Rowling's magnum opus down from the



Fashion Show

by Michael Boehm

shelf. But somehow, I have never gotten around to that. Which left me in a perfect, open-minded state in which I approached the Azkatraz convention.

For several days in July, hundreds of devoted Harry Potter fans descended upon our fair city from various locations across the globe. While most were from America, there were several international travelers; at least one person had come from Australia, and another from Denmark. They occupied the tony Parc 55 hotel near Union Square, treating the debutantes and captains of industry who are the usual denizens of that establishment to quite an unusual sight. Robed, bearded, bespectacled,

costumed, or simply inspired, they came. Some came prepared to debate politics, religion, philosophy, setting, characters, style, or other arcane topics as they relate to the boy wizard and his novels. Others came to display their skills with music, art, or costuming. But all came to bask in the presence of a shared motif.

I arrived at the hotel early on a Sunday evening, intending to view the fashion show. Downtown traffic was snarled more fiercely than usual. Waiting for the light to turn, I watched angry, tired people shuffle out of the Westfield mall, bags clutched to themselves, listlessly waiting for the Muni bus. Another weekend of crass consumerism had come to an



Bertie Botts Costume by Michael Boehm

end, and they had nothing further to look forward to than an evening of “reality” television.

Stepping inside the Parc 55, however, revealed an altogether different reality. Cheerful people in colorful regalia paraded forth to the wild applause of an appreciating audience. The fashion show was in full swing. Hundreds of hours of labor had been devoted to these pieces, and the results were frequently kaleidoscopic, occasionally chilling, and always impressive.

After the contestants had gone back to their dressing rooms to await the final results of the judging, I mingled about, attempting to socialize as best as a Muggle could in this cosplay world. I asked all the obligatory questions: Where were they from, how did they come up with their costumes, whom did they represent? I ran into a pair of gentlemen dressed as the Malfoys, junior and senior. When asked why they had chosen these roles, I was informed that the Malfoys had chosen *them*.

“People were coming up to me before I had even read The Books, telling them I reminded them of Lucius,” he said, retaining the regal posture and elite cadence of speech of the elder Malfoy even while talking about the character in third person. “So when I did get around to reading The Books, I knew what I had to do.”

The Books. Capital-T-capital-B. Again and again I noted the reverence all the conventioners had for the works of Mdme. Rowling. I was impressed and cowed by their attitude, but I couldn’t quite synch up with it. I was missing something.

There were Dumbledores, Harrys, Ginnys, Hermiones, Snapes, and other associated lead characters. There was the obligatory contingent of Death Eaters. There were associated Hogwarts students. But there were other, truly imaginative costumes. One woman’s clever costume was “Bertie Bott,” based on a brief mention of the Every Flavor Jellybeans in The Books. A couple came as Azkaban prisoners, elegantly blending wizard robes with the striped-pajama inmate style. I marveled at the

scene before me. The pageantry and pomp were impressive, but I still wasn’t quite “getting it.”

In a funk, I wandered down a hotel corridor and found myself in a room where Harry fans were creating art, relaxing, and chatting. In one corner, a couple of teenage girls played the Harry Potter game on a Wii. In another, a pair of young men was having an animated conversation over whether the theology in the HP movies was logically inconsistent with Christianity, or could somehow be reconciled.



Moaning Myrtle and Professor Lupin
by Michael Boehm

On a table was a pile of fan-created art that convention-goers had created spontaneously throughout the course of the weekend. I shuffled through it, amused by the talent and wit on display. But I still felt like an outsider, or a visitor to a museum.

Back in the main convention hall, I spotted one gentleman who stood out from the others by merit of the sublime nature of his costume. He wore a red-and-gold striped Gryffindor tie hung loosely over a T-shirt that bore the words “Undesirable #2.” Tall, bespectacled, distinguished, and clearly quite intelligent, he struck me as someone with a fascinating tale to tell. He did not disappoint.

“My first Harry Potter convention I went to almost by accident,” he told me. “I was in China studying a SARS outbreak, and I went online in my hotel room to book my flight back to the US. I found the website for the convention, and before I knew it I had booked a ticket to the convention city instead of back home. As soon as I clicked on the ‘confirm’ button, I was wracked by agony. What was I doing? I told no one I was going. To my colleagues with me at the time, I told them I was meeting my family for an impromptu vacation in Orlando. My family, on the other hand, received the story that the outbreak was worse than expected, and I needed to stay in China for an additional week.

“I went to the convention, and it was the most amazing experience of my life. I went straight home afterwards, and felt that I was all right now; I had gotten it out of my system, and didn’t have to worry about it any more. But a



Jeannette, Diane and Friend by Michael Boehm

few months later, I started getting the itch again. I would catch myself looking at the web page for the next convention. Eventually I gave in and booked another ticket. I told everyone I was going to a medical researchers’ conference, but instead I went to the Harry Potter convention — and it was even better than the first. I’ve gone every time since, and I haven’t regretted it. But I just can’t bring myself to tell anyone back home about it.”

As he talked to me, I was stunned by the hope and longing he expressed. There was

something here he and the others came looking for, something they staked their existence on, something that gave their lives meaning that was missing from the mundane, Muggle-filled world. I was distracted, however, by a scene going on behind him. A woman in a head-to-toe silver outfit, with ghostly makeup and antlers, was leaping and cavorting with Severus Snape while an appreciative audience cheered, laughed, and called out “Patronus! Patronus!”

It was then that I began to understand. I thought of Naples.

Back in 2005 my wife and I spent several weeks in Italy. We decided to rent a car in Rome and drive south to Naples, so as to better see the countryside. That evening in the hotel room I cracked the *Fodors Guide* and read the following opening line to the chapter on our destination:

“Drive in Naples only if you are in training for the demolition derby.”

Ha, I thought to myself, *those funny travel writers. Nice to see they have a sense of humor.* It couldn’t be that bad.

Turns out, they were not joking at all. Whereas in most of Italy, traffic lights and signs are regarded as a nuisance, the Neapolitans see them as a challenge. Cars crammed themselves into every available square foot of asphalt or sidewalk; drivers honked and cursed in frustration as young Italians frog-walked their Vespas through the scant inches in between vehicles; every intersection was a game of Chicken, where right-of-way went to the one with the most machismo. It was totally insane.

After spending a few days there, however, I began to appreciate the style. I started to “grok” it, if you will. It all began to make a strange kind of sense. It was terribly liberating. If you really don’t want to wait for that red light, go ahead and push on through! If you want to drive the wrong way down a one-way street, go for it! No one will call you on it; in fact, it is expected. It became addictive, and for weeks after our return to the States I found myself tempted to squeeze past traffic via the breakdown lane, or go up on the sidewalk.

The Harry Potter convention had a similar vibe. It was weird, and crazy, and wonderful, but when everyone around you buys into it, it all begins to make beautiful sense, a sense that you can’t explain to someone who has not experienced it. To paraphrase William Gibson, it was a shared consensual hallucination of Quidditch and Diagon Alleys; it was at least as real as the “reality” shows most of America was watching that night.

A blast of music and the resonant thump of bass announced the beginning of the Costume Ball. We all raced into the ballroom, where an incredulous DJ was marveling at the unrestrained enthusiasm of the revelers. We danced, we leaped, we tossed our bodies about; young and old, rich and poor, educated and ignorant, we were all united by our passion. It had the best aspects of a rave and a revival meeting, combined into a frenzied mass of love. When Journey’s classic anthem burst forth from the speakers, the crowd truly went wild, cheering and dancing. We all sang along.

*Strangers, waiting, up and down the
boulevard*

*Their shadows searching in the night
Streetlight people, living just to find
emotion*

Hiding somewhere in the night

Don’t stop believing

Hold on to that feeling

Don’t stop believing...

Let me tell you something: I have stayed at five-star resorts in Costa Rica. I have lounged on the beach at the Ritz Carlton in Maui. I have stood on the deck of the *Norwegian Pearl* and watched people watching icebergs calve off into Glacier Bay. I have skied down Mont Blanc with Olympic athletes. I have visited every theme park in California and Florida. But never anywhere in my life have I seen people more authentically, ecstatically, delightfully happy as at the Harry Potter Costume Ball. And

that kind of pure happiness is completely contagious. I had drunk the Kool-aid, tapped into that vibe, and sunk my teeth deep into the wellspring of joy these people discovered.

After the DJ, shaking his head in wonderment, packed his boxes of discs and yielded the stage, it was time for the “Wizard Wrock” bands. Ministry of Music was up first, its five male members busting out rockin’ original tunes, all within the milieu of Harry Potter. They were to be followed by Wingardium Leviosa, but I was already there. When a Voldemort Doppelganger took the microphone and assailed us with powerful vocals, I hollered and waved like a madman. The hour was late, but no one cared. We were in Harry’s world, and nothing else mattered. I had found the reason people came to the convention: for the sheer, unadulterated joy of it.



Dancing at the Ball

by Michael Boehm

Moonfest Achieves Liftoff

Story and Photos by Howeird Staff Writer

LUNAR, the Livermore Unit of the National Association of Rocketry, held a model rocket launch on the runway of Moffett Field in Mountain View as part of NASA Ames's Moonfest on July 19th.

There were models of all descriptions, including two flying crayons, a miniature LEM module mounted on a bottle rocket, a rocket-propelled porta-potty, and a whole slew of Saturn V's in various sizes.

Moonfest was mobbed with people, mostly families, which worked well because all the exhibits were aimed at children. Unlike many of NASA's other events, instead of being held at the exhibit hall outside the main gates, Moonfest took up all of the parade ground on the main campus, as well as the tent-like conference center across from Hangar 1.

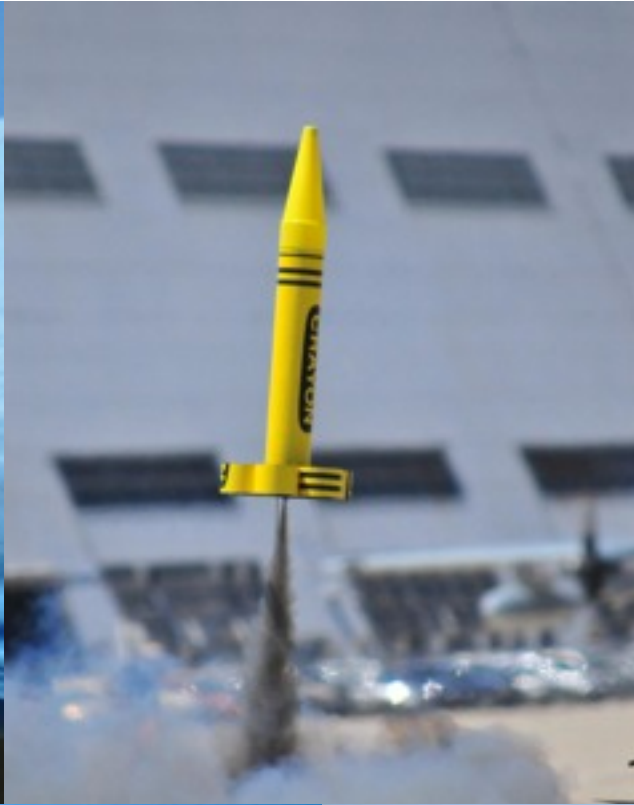
LUNAR's next launch will be Saturday, August 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Moffet Field. lunar.org





**NO
PEDESTRIAN
ACCESS**







Super-Con Features Goods and Guests

By J. Yochanan Urias
Contributing Writer

The month of May is very busy with several big-name science fiction and fantasy conventions. In addition to BayCon and Fanime, there is a fan-run comic book-themed convention called Super-Con. This annual convention was held at the San Jose Convention Center South Hall (the blue and white striped tent-like structure) on May 16 and 17, 2009. While this con is not as big or flashy as some of the aforementioned cons, it is still a

great place to find collectables and get autographs.

One of the individuals running this con is a very good friend named Scott Armstrong. We met Scott through another great convention held in Los Angeles called Gallifrey One (this con is held in February and has been featured in detail in past issues of *SF/SF*). In Scott's words, he is the co-promoter of the one of the largest fan-run comic book conventions in California

Super-Con does have a large number of comic book sellers, but it also has many collectable sellers always willing to make good deals. Last year I found some cool *Battlestar Galactica* figures, *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* items, and others. This year I picked up some original Ultraman toys and a puzzle, as well as some very inexpensive *Stargate* and *Watchman* figures, and a *Toy Story 2* plush three-eyed alien. This was the first year we attended both Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday we had a chance to see the cosplay (costume contest). It was really a lot of fun and very nice. It was not very fancy or

elaborate; the contestants just lined up and did their skits rather quickly and with good humor. The judging was very quick and the prizes were given out, all within less than half an hour. Some of the contest winners included a Tom Baker Doctor and some very funny zombie redshirts from *Star Trek* (the Original Series). There were costumes as varied as Wolverine,



Peter Mayhew and C. Andrew Nelson

by J. Yochanan Urias



Best in Show Winner Ryo Ohki from Tenchi Muyo

by J. Yochanan Urias

Atomic Man from *The Simpsons*, a Jedi, a Sith, a crazy sports fan, *V for Vendetta*, and many anime characters. In fact, the Best in Show was awarded to a rather large Ryo-Ohki from the Anime *Tenchi Muyo*. As stated, the cosplay was fun to watch and, I'm sure, to participate in. Guest Jane Wiedlin (from the Go-Gos and *The Surreal Life*) hosted it enthusiastically. Next year we are definitely considering entering our son in the contest. In addition to award



Margot Kidder aka Lois Lane

by J. Yochanan Urias

certificates, many costume winners also were awarded boxes of goodies donated by various dealers.

There was also a section of the hall dedicated to anime sales and items. Some of the guests included actors who voice anime. These were very well received and from the cheers and screams, they seemed to have some very vocal and enthusiastic fans, especially Crispin Freeman, a voice in *Hellsing* and *Resident Evil: Degeneration*. There were many comic book artists also.

One of our favorite things at Super-Con is meeting many interesting sci-fi guests. This year we enjoyed talking to Margot Kidder from the *Superman* movies. She was a very gracious and friendly person to talk to. She even stopped talking to another attendee to rush over to tie my son's shoe. She said, "I'm a grandmother, I love children, and love to help them. I can't help myself!" After I got her autograph, she took some pictures with my family. Another favorite guest was Marina Sirtis (Deanna Troy from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*). She was also very gracious and nice. She took a picture with my son even though I hadn't paid for an autograph yet. I needed to ask

my wife which picture we should choose, as there were so many nice ones. The next day I did get the autograph and she took some more pictures with our family.

There were many other guests in attendance, including Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca), C. Andrew Nelson (Darth Vader in some of the newer *Star Wars* incarnations), Bruce Dern (*Silent Running*), Julie Catlin Brown (*Babylon Five*), John Wesley Shipp (the *Flash* TV show), Sergio Aragonés (*Mad Magazine* and *Groo* illustrator), and so many others. Every year there are many media guests, and it's impossible to get all the autographs due to the cost involved, but we try

to pick a few special



Marina Sirtis with the Yochanan Family (Yochanan, Channah, Little Yochanan and Veda)

by J. Yochanan Urias

ones. Last year we got an autograph from Jorge Garcia (Hugo “Hurley” Reyes from *Lost*).

One of the best things at Super-Con is that there aren't the huge crowds you find at many other cons. We couldn't even get near Jorge at Comic-Con in San Diego, but here at Super-Con we were able to get his autograph, chat and really get up close and personal with him.

Unfortunately, because there aren't the crowds that you find at other cons, I overheard a complaint that some of the guests were disappointed at the lack of sales. I hope many more people will attend Super-Con in the future so that we won't lose this really great and worthwhile convention in San Jose.

Scott Armstrong also mentioned that there is an upcoming convention called Hayward-Con on September 19, 2009.

His business partner Steve Wyatt runs that convention. Scott and Steve have done this con together for ten years. This is the 30th anniversary of Hayward-Con, and the last in the Hayward's Centennial Hall. They are promoting this anniversary by offering free admission for the convention. The full info is up at www.super-con.com. My family and I are already planning to attend. Hope to see some of you there.



Various Comic Booths

by J. Yochanan Urias



Star Trek Red Shirts Zombie Skit

by J. Yochanan Urias

Pirates Plunder and Carouse in Vallejo

By Jean Martin
Editor

I really enjoyed my first time at the Pirate Festival in Vallejo last year and so I was looking forward to going again this year. This time, I went on Saturday, June 20th. The fair was once again held at the Vallejo Waterfront and it was just as good — but different, because I hung out with a new group of Filipino friends whom I just met recently. In fact, I'd just met them two days before the event!

I didn't really have any Filipino friends



Janine and her Minions

before, because there aren't very many of my compatriots who are into dance, fantasy, sci fi, etc. (The only one I knew before meeting this new group was Jade.) I also don't know very many people who live in my area, the Peninsula, who are into those things. So I often go to events by myself and just meet friends wherever I go.

However, that has changed since I met

Pat (who doesn't look

Filipina at all) at BayCon. She introduced me to several of her Filipino friends who are all into sci fi and fantasy. I suppose the younger generation has caught up. In my high school and college days before I moved to the U.S., there were only a handful of us in the Philippines who had these



My Pirate Crew

by Jean Martin

interests. Two days before the Pirate Fest, Pat introduced me to her friends who were all going and who also happen to live in the Foster City area. We all compared notes on events we'd been to and restaurants we frequent. We were all amazed that I had not met them until then!

I initially had plans to carpool with some new acquaintances I had met at the GBACG Regency Tea the weekend before, but the lovely couple of Cat and Doug were coming from San Jose and



Pirate Ship

by Jean Martin

pirate finery, and then we walked to the fairgrounds.

As soon as I walked through the pirate ship masthead that served as the entrance, I ran into my captain, Alex, the captain of the Black Fleet Star Pirates' Guild. He dropped a chocolate gold coin into my blouse, which he does with all the fair maidens, but it was cold so I had to fish it out. Besides, I was supposed to be a ruthless pirate queen and not a damsel in distress.

We walked over to the big stage to the right hand side of the fairgrounds where a whole group of pirate men and lasses was singing bawdy and rollicking tunes. I recognized several of them from a similar show at Dickens Fair. I ran into Vivien, a dance acquaintance and occasional SF/SF photo contributor.

From then on, it was hard to keep our group together, as we all wanted to do different things. I, of

course, wanted to see and take pictures of everything. I lost my group several times as I walked through the numerous vendor stalls. I didn't want to buy anything yet because I didn't want to have to carry anything the rest of the afternoon. But I did purchase a new leather holster for my pistol as the one I brought with me kept falling down my thigh.

Then I ran into Cat and Doug and I hung out with them for a while. We went to the food area, and Cat and I bought some delicious treats from the chocolate fondue vendor. Then we lined up for meat pies and lemonade. I love the meat pies, made by the same company that provides them

f o r



Pirate Performers

by Jean Martin

planned on leaving the fair early. So I thought it would be better for them to not have to make a detour to pick me up, and also then, I could stay later. So Andre picked me up early and then we picked up P.J. We then went to Alameda to pick up Janine and another Filipina, Stefanie, who I just met then. I felt really comfortable with them on the drive all the way up to Vallejo. Not only did I have similar interests, but there was also the shared cultural background.

We got to the Vallejo Waterfront and the place was already packed. Luckily, we were able to find parking. Janine finished putting her costume together, I was already completely attired in my



Ant, Erik, Jade, Deb and Friends

by Jean Martin

play different roles. Then I saw Mel and her fellow anime costumer friends, and Jade and her group, which included Erik, Ant and Deb. (If you stay long enough in the food area, you'll see people you know!) Even so, there were fewer people whom I knew than last year. But the fair was very well attended and it was pretty crowded. I guess it attracts a lot of people because it's free.

When I finally decided to leave the food court, I saw Vanessa in a gypsy outfit doing her hula hoop dance. She entertained the crowd and so I had an idea to put a dollar bill in one of her boots — which she took off — and then other people started giving her money too. The scenario was very gypsy-like.

I caught up with my group at Overstreet's where Janine was helping Stefanie pick out a bodice. She tried on several and they all looked great on her. I've tried Overstreet's bodices before and they've felt too tight for me... almost like corsets. I like breathing too much.

I went to the hat store across the way and was blown away at the amazing selection of Renaissance, Pirate, Steampunk and even modern hats. I'm a hat collector and I have a huge weakness for hats (and boots, and swords...). I tried several on and narrowed the choices down to three. I couldn't decide so I called my friend Thad to see if he was around so he could help me. Just then, Alex, Shayne and Ralph walked by and they pretty much all agreed on the same hat. Thad came and liked the same one, which happened to match the outfit I was wearing. Thad offered to stash the hat I'd come with in his car. Then he showed me the store he had bought a sword from last year — and I espied this beautiful cutlass that just begged to be taken home by me. So I bought it. It's a gorgeous sword and is now on display in my apartment. It would be great for future photo shoots.

Speaking of photo shoots, Thad and I took photos of each other in front of the various piratey props scattered near the entrance to the fairgrounds. There was an entire pirate ship as well as a deck complete with pirate actors. I really didn't take a lot of photos, though, as there were just too many people walking around and in the way of a clear shot. I

Dickens Fair. The food at Pirate Fest is among the best of all the faires, I think. They have more variety and great quality. A lot of people congregated in the food area. Although there were lots of long tables and chairs, it was still difficult to find seats.

More people arrived in the afternoon and I mostly saw people I knew in the food court. I ran into Nancy and Aaron as well as Mia. I had just seen the three of them at the Regency Tea the previous weekend. It was quite funny to see the same participants I'd seen in their elegant afternoon tea attire last week in swashbuckling and rugged pirate wear. We costumers love to be versatile and

mostly just walked around enjoying the sights and sounds.

Sometime in the afternoon, there was a shooting demonstration from a pirate ship on the water. There were small boats flying British flags and officers trying to subdue this big pirate ship flying a pirate flag. Well, guess who won.

There were lots of entertainers singing, dancing and marching around. I found Gregory in a very nice tent portraying the Governor of the island. He was wearing an elaborate 18th century costume complete with a long curly black wig. He looked far more elegant than the disreputable surroundings and people at the fair, but someone has to establish order and keep the peace. There were several ladies lounging in chairs near him, who I assumed were the Governor's family and friends.

We left earlier than I expected. We were all tired and didn't want to stay

until the end. It gets windy on the waterfront later in the day anyway. The Fair was a lot of fun with all the activities and the people I hung out with. It was big enough to have a lot to do but small enough to just walk around and enjoy in one afternoon. I'm already looking forward to next year.

But the day didn't end there. My group went back to Alameda and we ate at this amazing Japanese restaurant, Kamakura. Yes, Janine and I were still in costumes, but no one even seemed to notice. Then they took me to Tucker's, an old-fashioned ice cream parlor. I just loved the place. I really liked the ambience and they even had Filipino ice cream flavors like mango, macapuno, and ube! But I can't eat dairy so I had the raspberry sorbet in a chocolate-dipped waffle cone. The sorbet was so fruity and fresh and the waffle cone was crispy and homemade. What a fabulous end to a wonderful day!



The Governor

by Jean Martin

For more information on the Pirate Festival, visit:

www.norcalpiratefestival.com

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 990-991

Meeting 990

July 20, 2009

Meeting 991

July 27, 2009

Meeting convened, 23 people. No Pres, Secretary or Treasurer. Chris doubled as VP and Pres, Glenn was the emergency holographic secretary in exchange for a pun license (Thanks, Eric!).

Party jar moved, failed to be amended to MAFF and passed.

Minutes from #990 were read by Eric Larsen. There were corrections: cup donated by Sally Woerhle as party of parting gifts from the fannish Jeopardy game, Adrienne said that the restaurant she reviewed was called “Tarpy’s Roadhouse” and that the place they stayed was a high end motel not a high motel. The minutes were accepted as *Now available from Cargo Cult Books*.

A proxy for the treasurer said that he wouldn’t be at the meeting. We have money.

VP: There is a new Drink Tank out.

Announcements

Leigh Ann: Trepidation 2009 next weekend at the Hyatt Regency in SF and handed out humorous flyers for it. See community.livejournal.com/trepidation2009.

Lisa: Mythcon 41 will be in Dallas next July.

Adrienne: At first didn’t know she was up because, as she said, “I can’t be two, I’m deux!” followed by laughter, wailing, gnashing of teeth and banging of heads against walls and tabletops. Followed this by saying that she had sold enough advance memberships, so the Montreal Ghostwalk is on. Passed around a flyer for the UFO con.

Mike: He will be running the Ra tournament at Pacificon.

Dave C: As reported by the Huffington Post, Jon Stewart is now America’s Most Respected Newsman. There were a number of follow-ons.

Reviews

Evil Kevin: Spent the weekend doing slides for work and watching *Being Human* which is about various monsters wanting to be human. He liked it, though maybe not enough to make an effort to see every episode.

Glenn: Spent Saturday doing the hard labor with his neighbors of clearing brush along the road they live on. Went to the PENSFA party

that night and had a good time, with many people wanting to talk about Westercon 64. Gave a “worth full price” review to Patricia McKillip’s *Alphabet of Thorn* saying that the main character had rather fannish experience of having gotten so involved in a pet project that it drives away real work.

Lisa: Went to Mythcon 40 and liked getting to know the guests of honor. Elevators were a bit scary though. Stayed in the William Tell Room (cue Overture here) at the Madonna Inn on the way back.

Mike M: Reviewed the comic *Cursed Pirate Girl* by Jeremy Bastian and pubbed by Olympian Publishing. www.jeremybastian.com as very good and drawn at size, not scaled down.

Stellen: Reviewed the Berkeley Kite Festival as fun and free. There were many very large animal kites and precisely controlled four string kites - including a ballet to music. A long tubular kite on the ground looked like a sandworm surrounded by Fremmen (kids).

Dave C: At Chris’ request, introduced Stellen as the one who put our name in lights. (Literally, Stellen had made a plastic BASFA sign with a laser cutter at Tech Shop and put a changing colored light underneath it.) Dave then reviewed *The Boy Who Kicked Pigs* by Tom Baker (yes, that one) as a sick little story and a great listen. The story being just over one

disc long meant that there was a bunch of extra material on the disc such as interviews with Baker on being the Doctor. // Reviewed *The Radioactive Redhead* a worth full price comedy satirizing various SF tropes.

Leo: Liked *Secret of Monkey Island* for Xbox 360 as very clever, imaginative game. At \$10, well worth full price.

Rick: Warned that *In the Loop* as dangerous to the ribs and that he and Deirdre laughed nonstop through all two hours.

Leigh Ann: Sort of liked the computer game *Lost Odyssey* as “awkward but

charming”, particularly the parts where you have to RPG through a funeral service.

kMarkkk: Took the Damn Tour at Hoover Dam. Wonderful from geek machinery and art deco viewpoints. Worth full price of \$30 and even a trip back with a new camera. There were many follow-ons.

Dave C: Said that *Torchwood* “Children of the Corn^{H^H^H^H} Earth” was worth paying for BBC. The aliens are back for more. So were the people wanting to do follow-ons.

Chris: Did not leave his apartment all weekend. Enjoyed *True Stories* by David Byrne and got a lot of stuff he missed when he saw it

as a kid. // Thought Randy Savage had a lot of obscure bits (and therefore was good). // Very impressed (and somewhat surprised by this) by HBO *True Blood*. // Made chili with ginger wife.

Auctions: Rick’s plum jam, t-shirt, apple mints, DVD, Jay Lake book, Marvel Origins book, Trepidation PR, Ken’s Birthday auction.

Adjourned with the rumor *Bugrit. Millenium, hand and shrimp.*

If that rumor or any others comes true, we’ll be the first to tell you

on *Waiter! Waiter! Don’t pelt me!*

The First Ever Science Fiction/San Francisco Summer Picnic! Steampunk Picnic and Egyptian Museum Tour Sunday, August 30th, 11 am – 6 pm

**RSVP by August 15 to sfinsf@gmail.com
and say if you want to do the picnic, a
museum tour, or both.**

Costume theme is Steampunk, Egyptian or
1920s a la *The Mummy* movies. (Costumes
admired but not required.) Prizes. Trivia
contest. Please bring your own food and drink
for the picnic, and blankets to sit on.

Rosicrucian Egyptian
Museum & Planetarium
www.egyptianmuseum.org
1664 Park Ave., San Jose, CA 95191
\$9 general adult admission

Announcing the SF/SF Summer Picnic

By Jean Martin

Editor

The First Ever Science Fiction/San Francisco
Summer Picnic!

Steampunk Picnic and Egyptian Museum Tour
Sunday, August 30th

11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Rosicrucian Museum, San Jose

Please RSVP by August 15 to sfinsf@gmail.com and let me know if you want to do the picnic, a museum self-guided tour, or both. I need to know how many people will be doing the picnic so we can stake out a big enough space on the first-come, first-serve museum grounds. Also, I will need to tell the museum how many people will be going inside so they'll have enough docents.

Please read the important details below regarding costumes, picnic, time schedule and museum info. I look forward to seeing you at this event. Feel free to invite other people. I'm sure it'll be a lot of fun!

Costumes

The costume theme is Steampunk, Egyptian or 1920s a la *The Mummy* movies. There will be a costume contest but costumes are, of course, admired but not required. There will also be a trivia contest. Prizes will be awarded for both contests.

Picnic

Please bring your own food and drink (it is not a potluck event). Bring blankets to put on the ground, if you have them. Do not eat in the Peace Garden or Akhenaten shrine. Dispose of all food and liquids before entering the museum and after the picnic.

Schedule

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Food and conversation
1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Costume contest and trivia contest
2 p.m. - whenever Museum and planetarium. (Of course, you're free to go into the museum at any time; and see the planetarium show at 2 p.m. or 3:30 p.m.)

Museum Info

1664 Park Ave., San Jose, CA 95191
(directions, public transportation and parking info can be found on the web site)

www.egyptianmuseum.org/

Open Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

\$9 general adult admission (\$1 discount for members of AAA, AAM, KQED and Military); see website for senior and children pricing.

The planetarium is free but you'll need to pick up a ticket when you pay for admission. Backpacks and large bags are not permitted inside the museum. No video, tripod or flash photography is permitted inside the museum.

Facebook Event Link

www.facebook.com/n/?event.php&eid=108797013049&mid=dc5b70G2adb0febG2d67e82G30

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.

Saturday, August 8

Writers With Drinks

The Make-Out Room

3225 22nd St., San Francisco

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

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 Grand Opening

1476 Post Street

San Francisco

www.newpeopleworld.com

The long-awaited grand opening of the J-pop Center Project.

Friday, August 28

The Phenomenauts

The Phoenix Theater

201 Washington Street, Petaluma

www.thephoenixtheater.com

All ages show, with the The Re-Volts

8 p.m. \$12

Sunday, August 30

SF/SF Summer Picnic

Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum & Planetarium

1664 Park Ave., San Jose

www.egyptianmuseum.org

Steampunk Picnic and Egyptian Museum Tour.

Please bring your own picnic food and blankets

to sit on. Costume theme is Steampunk,

Egyptian or 1920s a la *The Mummy* movies.

(Costumes admired but not required.) Prizes.

Trivia contest. RSVP to sfinsf@gmail.com by

August 15.

11 a.m. \$9 for museum admission

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. GOH are Ken Lally, Christy Marx, Sarah Clemens and Hilary Ayer. Toastmaster is Kevin Roche.
\$55 (till September 15)

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

Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour

Meets at Coffee To The People
1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco
www.hauntedhaight.com
Reservations required.
7 p.m. - 9 p.m. \$20

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

Meets corner of California and Taylor, San Francisco
www.sfvampiretour.com
Led by Mina Harker. Tour is canceled if there is heavy rain.
8 p.m. \$20

Biweekly

PenSFA Party

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions. Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.
PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first. Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Group

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street, San Francisco
Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jade Livingston at sfscifi@yahoo.com for more information.

Monthly

Clockwork SF

New location TBD
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/
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
Meets the second Friday of every month.
7:30 p.m. Free

Fantastic Frontiers

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

Foothill Anime

Building 5015, Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.
12 p.m. Free

The Gay Men's Book Club

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
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
The book for August 19th is The Runelords by
David Fairland. 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



The Sunken Garden

by Lucy Huntzinger

Bay Area Fannish Calendar – August 2009

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