

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine

Welcome Back to VFW!

The overwhelmingly positive reaction to the first issue — neither pipe bomb did any structural damage to the house and no one has made good on a death threat — emboldens me to return with a second helping. I hope you'll not only read *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, but contribute reports on the city's fans and their doings.

This is your chance to Get in on the Ground Floor, which for some reason is considered to be a good thing. Two weeks ago, "VFW" meant the initials of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, If everyone pitches in and does the part, in a month, VFW will still be the initials of the Veteran of Foreign Wars, but at least we'll have a place to read what's happening in Vegas.

A Tree Grows in Vegas

It doesn't actually grow, because it's artificial, but the Christmas tree is now ready for the annual SNAFFU/Vegrants Christmas party. Seven fans, representing a cross section of the city's fandom, gathered at the Launch Pad on Saturday, November 27 to assemble the tree, festoon it with ornaments from Joyce Katz's vast collection and eat all manner of good food.

The gathering was called for noon. Joyce won a bet that someone would show up before 12:30 when JoHn and Karla Hardin were the first to knock on the door. Following shortly behind their arrival were Michael Bernstein, James Taylor and Alan White.

Joyce benignly directed the crew, led by the inspiringly ecumenical Bernstein, who did a fantastic job with the tree and lights.

The dinner was good, bountiful and a little

strange. Joyce had intended it for 4:00 PM, but it turned out that several people had other commitments that required them to leave earlier than that. The turkey turned out very good and there were many more desserts than we could eat, but some of the side dishes came to the table as separate courses. The potatoes looked particularly lonesome with the turkey a distant, if succulent, memory.

The tree is now ready for the gala SNAFFU-Vegrants Christmas Party, scheduled for Saturday, December 18.

The Wilsons Visit Vegas

Ben and Cathi Wilson made a Thanksgiving trip to Las Vegas to show off their genius daughter Megan to their numerous relatives. They couldn't stay long enough to attend the Vegas Fandom 2004 Tree Trim Party, but they did come to the Launch Pad on Friday afternoon.

The first thing I have to say is that Cathi's dieting has proven spectacularly successful. She is but a shadow of her former self and looks absolutely gorgeous. She claims she isn't cooking quite as much, especially the baking, but Ben looked so mournful at that remark that she will not be allowed to abandon her mastery of the kitchen.

Let's Go See Ethel

Several groups, including VSFA, Starfleet and the Gay/Lesbian Science Fiction Group are jointly sponsoring a trip to the Ethel M Chocolate Factory (2 Cactus Garden Drive, Henderson, NV) to walk through the Botanical Gardens and see the Christmas lights. Assuming the fans

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Special Thanks to Joyce Katz for proofreading and other assistance.

VFW is free for the asking to anyone who requests it — and you may get it anyway.

Members (and Co-Past Presidents, 2003): fwa. Supporter: AFAL.

Contact Information

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haven't snagged enough chocolate, there will be a dinner after the tour.

Things get rolling at 6 PM on Saturday, December 4. Get more information from Joshua Andrews at 759-9303. I hope someone will report on this event for *VFW*.

The Back Fence

Roxanne Gibbs, not seen at either Las Vegrants or SNAFFU meetings for most of this year, is showing heartening signs of regaining a measure of her health. Confined to home and on oxygen for some time, Roxanne made her first successful trip out of the house, according to Michael Bernstein. It may take a while, but someone with Roxanne's spirit won't be down for long. Both Las Vegrants and SNAFFU eagerly anticipate her return to full activity...

Marcie Waldie is anticipating knee replacement surgery. It's not all that pleasant, and rehab is long and arduous, but the eventual relief from pain is the big pay-off...

Derek Stazenski, too long absent from Las Vegrants due to work hours, has scored a major new job — or maybe that should be an old one. He is going back to work as a plumber for the same company that employed him until about four years ago. The club is anticipating his return to the twice-monthly Saturday night meetings...

James Taylor reports that he is helping to organize a group that will read and study the *Ed-das*. It will meet at Borders. Get more details from James at: jmt053@access-4-free.com.

Vegas Couple Plan Westercon Bid

The Daughertys, Fan Guests of Honor at Loscon this year, are rumored to be bidding for a Westercon for Las Vegas. I'm a little skeptical about hotel availability over the July 4th week-

end, but would love to be proven wrong.

Westercon is one of the longest-running regional science fiction conventions and is second in size only to the worldcon among traditional, fan-run cons.

Vegas Fans Shine in FAPA Poll

Two current and one former Las Vegas fans placed in the "top 20" in the annual Pavlat Poll of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. Members vote for their favorites in such categories as "Best Regular Fanzine" and "Best Humorist" in a poll named for the late Bob Pavlat.

Ken Forman finished 15th in total points, Joyce Katz was 11th and I (Arnie) came in 10th.

Tell Your Friends

Reports of fan events and announcements of future ones are eagerly sought. And please tell your friends that they can download *VFW* for free at the SNAFFU and VSFA web sites as well as at <http://www.efanzines.com>.

See ya next week with more news of Las Vegas Fandom. — Arnie Katz

Club Calendar

Las Vegrants December 4 7:30 PM

An informal invitational club primarily, but not exclusively, for fanzine fans.

VSFA December 6 7:30 PM

This formal SF club meets at the Clark County Library on the first Monday of each month.

SNAFFU December 10 8:00 PM

This formal SF club meets on the second and fourth Friday's of each month. This time, it will be held at Borders bookstore on Sahara at 8:00 PM.