

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine

We're a Hit... I Think

"So far, so good" is the way things look from the editor's chair of *Vegas Fandom Weekly*. Fans seem to be getting into the spirit and I've even gotten a couple of encouraging Letters of Comment. (One came from Robert Lichtman, who was Fan Guest of Honor at Silvercon I.),

I'm still working out the distribution scheme. Michael Bernstein (SNAFFU), Woody Bernardi (VSFA) and Joyce Katz (Las Vegrants) have helped mightily, but I'm sure there's a less work-intensive way to handle distribution and notification.

VFW can't succeed without your help. When you attend an event, call or write and tell me a little about it. If an event is coming up, feed me the details and I'll publish them.

And it's not just "big events." VFW also needs news about individual fans. If you've changed jobs, gotten married, are expecting a baby or played host to out-of-town fan visitors — to name just a few possibilities — tell me about it.

Christmas Party Plans Progress

Saturday, December 18,

Las Vegas Fandom will enjoy its most popular tradition — the annual SNAFFU-Vegrants Christmas Party. This is the biggest event on Las Vegas Fandom's social calendar.

Joyce and I (Arnie) again honored to be selected to host the big shindig. Members of both SNAFFI and Las Vegrants have not only helped decorate the tree (see *VFW #2 for the whole story*), but are pooling their efforts to make this year's party one to remember.

The Alien Auction, refined over many years, is open to all who bring a gift (not over \$15 and re-gifting is permitted). Someone pulls the names of participants out of a hat.



Each fan can either pick a present from the gift hoard or choose an already opened present. You can't take a gift from the person who took it directly from you and a gift possessed three times by the same fan is "locked in" and retired from the game.

People have learned to take it all in good fun and the gifts are often quite fascinating. The Aliens Auction lasts approximately an hour, so there's plenty of party for those who don't feel like taking part.

Vegas Fandom Weekly #3, December 8, 2004, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107; Emails: crossfire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks to Alan White (all photos) and 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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The SNAFFU-Vegrants Christmas Party will take place at the home of Arnie & Joyce Katz, 909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas. We'll start at 7:00 with the Alien Auction at 7:30.

We have designated the living room-kitchen-dining room area as a Smoke Free Zone, for the physical and mental comfort of all.

Please let us (Joyce and Arnie) know if you plan to attend so we can prepare for the proper number of people. You'll find email and phone contact info in the box at the top of page 2.

Vegrants Rev Up for the holidays

Food, the mid-1970s remake of *King Kong* and the recent LosCon were among the topics that flitted through discussions at the December 4 Las Vegrants meeting at the Launch Pad. Besides hosts Arnie and Joyce Katz, attendees included Alan & DeDee White, JoHn & Carla Hardini, Ross Chamberlain, Bill Kunkel, Woody Bernardi, Teresa Cochran and (making his Vegrants re-

turn after over a year) Derek Stazenski.

Woody Bernardi told us about the LASFS meeting he went to while in Los Angeles for the LosCon over the Thanksgiving weekend. It sounded like business as usual at one of fandom's oldest fan clubs. Nearly 50 fans spent the majority of the meeting auctioning off the four parking spaces in front of the group's clubhouse.

This gave the always genial host of Las Vegrants — that's me folks — the idea of selling seating position in the Launch Pad's living room for the twice-monthly Vegrants meeting.

"The plastic chairs are \$5 and the nice wooden one is \$19," I announced to my fellow Vegrants. "And the two cushions on the love seat will cost you \$25."

All I got for this flash of LASFS-like enterprise — look, Joshua, a *Star Trek* reference! — was knowing stares from the rest of them. No one reached for a wallet. Carla Hardin gave me a piece of Joyce's pineapple raisin cake, which diverted my attention from



Fiddler on the Tree Michael Bernstein puts a finishing touch on the Christmas Tree for the annual Las Vegas Fandom Christmas Party.

the discussion of seat charges. Short-term memory loss took care of the rest.

SNAFFU Braces for Annual Elections

The January 14th meeting of SNAFFU, which will be held at the Borders on Sahara and Decatur, will see the selection of a new President and Vice President for the coming year.

Expect some candidates to make themselves known at the meeting on Friday (12/10). **VFW** welcomes statements from any candidates who would like to make their views known prior to the vote.

VSFA Looks at a Fascinating Book

Woody Bernardi reports on the December VSGA meeting:

At this sparsely attended meeting – just three fans -- Kent Hastings and I talked about our trip to Loscon. Current business followed, including the fact that that club is applying for IRS nonprofit status.

Unfortunately, Jennifer did not make it with her Pulp art collection, but Kent had *Worlds of Tomorrow*, authored by Forest J. Ackerman and Brad Lineweaver, (Kent's co-author on *Anarquia*). *WoT* is a coffee table oversize edition, the companion to the movie *Sky Captain and the Worlds of Tomorrow*, which many fans have seen.

This book is just chock full of colorful reprints of pulp era artwork from prozines and novels alike. It's an incredible piece of work and is currently available and retails for \$40. Kent said that anyone could go to

Woody Bernardi's Loscon Notes

After I arrived and registered, I went over and spoke with Katheryn Daughtery who was sitting at one of the Fan Tables. The co-Fan Guest of Honor was pleasant and polite.

Next, I met up with Brad Lineweaver, the LA area SF author). Brad is Kent Hastings' co-author on the recent published novel *Anarquia*. As always, it was a pleasure to spend time with him.

I also ran into John Hertz, who told me where the Fanzine Lounge would be. (He was in charge of it.) When I ran into Don Fitch a little later, I got to look smart by sharing this information with him.

I played guide for Teresa Cochran on Saturday. I was able to help our blind Vegas fan to get to a couple of program items that interested her. (See *Teresa's notes for a little more detail on this.*)

I also introduced Teresa to the always-charming John Hertz. He mentioned the blind fanzine fan of greatest note, Ed Meskys. To my surprise, Teresa said she had encountered Ed online outside the context of science fiction and fandom.

Len & June Moffatt and Mike Glycer, all of whom have been prominent fans for over 30 years, were among the members of a panel called "Fannish Legends." Bill Rotsler and Charles Burbee, both closely associated with Vegas Fandom in their later years, were among the fans whose memories the panel invoked.

On Sunday, I saw James Daughtery sitting behind a San Francisco Fandom table. After we shook hands, Jim said that "many of us want to see things happen in Las Vegas." James is listed as the bid chair for the Westercon '08 in Las Vegas bid, wife Katheryn, Christian McGuire and Elayne Pelz also listed on the bid committee.

The Dealer's room had a large used book display, "Massorgia Books" owned by Marty and Alice Massorgia. They are longtime LA fans. The Huckster Room also had dealers selling new books and other items like jewelry, t-shirts, movie posters and other SF memorabilia.

While talking to Alice on Friday, I also got to talk with Alex Borders, one of the founders of modern Las Vegas Fandom. It was Alex who posted the flyers for the very first meeting of SNAFFU. Alex was in very good spirits each time I saw him. – Woody Bernardi

Woody has promised a full con report in the next issue of his fanzine, so Stay Tuned.

Teresa Cochran's Loscon Notes

Woody Bernardi was my tour guide on Saturday. We both wanted to go to some fannish panels, one on "fannish legends." Woody also walked with me to the fanzine lounge, where I was introduced to some folks I've met in cyberspace. So I'm very grateful, and he was a fantastic guide. He's a natural at it.

Also, a funny experience. There was one guy who helpfully tried to get me an official sighted guide on Friday. I was sitting in a panel when a woman sat down next to me and I heard her talking clock.

After the panel, she said, "I'm your sighted guide." I told her I'd heard a talking clock and she said she was visually impaired; she could see a good deal, but was legally blind. We became fast friends. Between my chaotic flitting and our mutual desire to chat, there wasn't much official guiding going on, which was perfectly fine by me. She even introduced me to her friends, and before I knew it, there was an entourage of folk following us upstairs to my room to see my electronic Braille gadget. This was a little to the annoyance of my roommates, who were trying to plan a party and thought these were early arrivals.

But it all worked out. I did my favorite con activities: talking, eating, drinking, and singing. — Teresa Cochran

Amazon.com and order if they are interested. He can also make his copy available for browsing at the VSFA meetings.

The meeting was short, so we were out of there by 8:15. Our next meeting will be on January 3, 2005 at 7:30 pm, also at the Clark County Library on E. Flamingo.

— Woody Bernardi

He's Both Hot and *Not*

Stan the Inferno has cooled off in one sense, but is blazing in another. The recent married Vegrant member has sjelved his infamous fire magic act first seen by fans at one of Vegas' monthly Socials. He has found a new career angle. Working with his wife TinTin and alone, he is now the master of mental prestidigitation! That's spoon bending and other miraculous mental feats.

Stan recent showcased his act for a convention of top magicians and got a great response. Expect to see him giggling around Las Vegas in the very near future.

Backence

JoHn Hardin has a new job. He's doing

technical support for the Clark County School system... Joshua Andrews is organizing a movie trip to see *Alexander*... Looks like the Bushyagers will be at the Christmas Party since conflicting plans have changed..

Tell Your Friends

Please tell your friends that they can download **VF**W for free at the SNAFFU and VSFA web sites as well as at <http://www.efanzines.com>.

See ya next week — Arnie Katz

Club Calendar

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.

Las Vegrants December 18 7:30 PM

This time, the meeting is part of the Vegas Fandom Christmas Party..

VSFA January 3 7:30 PM

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