

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine

Don't Forget

The Gillespie Gala & Hardin Birthday Bash

Tuesday, March 8 at the home of
Arnie & Joyce Katz
(909 Eugene Cernan St)
6:30 PM

Potluck Supper-

Contributions of Food & Drink
Gratefully Accepted

Special Guests

Bruce Gillespie
Billy Pettit
Earl Kemp

Birthday Guest of Honor

JoHn Wesley Hardin

Open to All Las Vegas Fans
RSVP

Sunday Social to Honor a Great Fan!

The first Sunday Social, sponsored by VSFA but open to all fans, will start a new local tradition of saluting the achievements of local fans. According to VSFA President Woody Bernardi, the first Salute recipient will be one of the greatest fans of all time, in or out of Vegas, Joyce Katz

The first Sunday Social will be held on



Vegas Fandom Weekly #15 March 2, 2005, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107; Email: crossfire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks to Michael Bernstein (photos) and Joyce Katz (proofreading). Reporters this issue: Woody Bernardi, Randy Byers, Joshua Andrews, Linda Bushyager and Joyce Katz

VFW is free for the asking — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU and VSFA websites as well as at efanzines.com

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL.

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Sunday March 13, 2005 from 1 PM to 5 PM at The Tap House bar and grille on West Charleston. We will have the luxury of a private room for the event, so fans will be free to socialize without feeling that all eyes are upon them

Admission to the Sunday Social is absolutely free. You'll be able to buy food and drink from a solid, reasonably-priced menu if desired — or you can pick delicacies off the plates of the fans sitting next to you (assuming you are bigger than they are and can bully them into accepting it).

Unlike existing events in town, the Sunday Social will mix a little formal programming with a lot of informal fannish fellowship. It should be a highly pleasant afternoon of fun — and especially

good for those whose work schedules prevent them from coming to evening meetings of the various Vegas groups.

Vegas Fandom Weekly, complete impartial and objective as always, thinks it's High Time we honored Joyce as not only one of the greatest fans of all time, but a tremendous contributor to Las Vegas Fandom for 15 years.

Credentials that led to her selection include: co-host and —founder of Las Vegrants, former President of SNAFFU, co-host and —organizer of the 60 monthly Socials, co-editor of *Odd, Wild Heirs* and *Crazy from the Heat*, editor of *Potlatch* and *Smokin' Rockets*, co-chairman of the 1969 World Sci-



Joyce Katz (center) poses with her husband (left) and the late William Rotsler at a Corflu party.

*Continued on
page 4*

Exploring Fandom: What is fwa & AFAL?



I don't know if the rest of you read colophons — that's the box at the bottom of page one — but they contain a lot of interesting information. For some readers, the *VFW* colophon may also raise a question or two. Specifically, the meaning of “fwa” and “AFAL,” two organizations in which *VFW* claims membership, may be something of a puzzle.

“Fwa” — the initials are always in lower case for some reason Ted White could probably explain. He is the fan most closely identified with this organization and was a motivating force in its organization a little over two decades ago.

The initials “fwa” stand for “Fanzine Writers of America.” It's a somewhat ironic comment about American parochialism. “Fanzine means any fan-literary endeavor, “writer” means all who write or draw for Fandom and “America” means the whole world.

The fwa is the model of a fannish organization. Since it does absolutely nothing at any time, there is no reason to collect dues. Since there are no dues, there is no membership roster or, indeed, any process for generating one. You

become a member by stating the fact in the colophon of your fanzine.

The only known function of the fwa is to elect its Past President at the Corflu banquet each year. Yes, the *Past* President. At Corflu Blackjack in 2004, fans elected Joyce and I as co-Presidents of fwa for 2003. That way, the fwa's only officer has no duties or power, which certainly limits the possibility that something will go wrong.

Even before we received this honor, I have always said that being Past President of fwa is one of the greatest honors Fandom can bestow. You can't ask for it, campaign for it or wheedle your way into it.

AFAL stands for the Academy of Fanzine Arts & Letters — and it was created during Silvercon 2, right here in Las Vegas! An odd feature of the convention was the presence of a B-movie actress who attended the con to promote her fantasy novel of dubious merit. The book's cover had a seal of approval from a group with a fancy name that none of us recognized. It seemed probable that if the group existed at all, her agent (or boyfriend) was probably the only member.

“We need something like that for Fandom,” said Ted White, more or less, at an afternoon party at Silvercon. He pointed out that if we concocted our own pseudo-literary foundation, we could have the group approve our fanzines.

I'll be brutally honest here. I am not sure why we all felt it was such a good idea, but nonetheless, we did. Afternoon parties at Silvercons were like that.

In any case, we kicked around names until Academy of Fanzine Arts and Letters became the consensus choice. Many fanzines have carried that affiliation ever since.

Unlike the fwa, AFAL does not elect a Past President. After all, none of us are fit to serve at the head of such a prestigious body. AFAL's sole purpose is to appear in fanzine colophons.

— Arnie Katz

Continued from page 2

ence Fiction Convention (St. Louiscon) and the 1994 Corflu and former President of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the Sunday Social to Salute Joyce Katz.

Two Fans Give Computer Gear To the SNAFFU Library!

Less than a day after Roxanne Gibbs expressed the hope that someone would step forward, James Taylor generously offered to give one of his spare computers to the suddenly invigorated SNAFFU Library project.

The machine, a Pentium III 450 MHz Via, will be primarily used for entering data for the collection's card catalogue.

Unfortunately, James' gift did not include such necessary accessories as a monitor, mouse and keyboard. That's when Joshua Andrews, who is not even a SNAFFU member, got into the faanish spirit by donating a monitor, mouse and keyboard!

Josh needs someone with a car to pick up the stuff, which will probably happen in the next couple of weeks.

Galloping Gillespie Greets Vegas Fandom!

Bruce Gillespie, the Australian fan current in the US as a result of a Special Fund, spent last weekend immersed in Corflu Titanium in San Francisco. He wasn't too busy to lob a telephonic greeting to Las Vegas Fandom. Bruce is looking forward to his trip to Las Vegas, which will take place immediately after next weekend's Potlatch convention.

Joyce and I are hosting the Gillespie Gala and Hardin Birthday Bash on Tuesday, March 8. It's open to everyone in Las Vegas Fandom, though we would appreciate an RSVP (to Joyce at joyceworley1@coxnet or give us a call at 648-5677) so we know how much food to buy and how many chairs to borrow.

The party will start at 6:30 so those who

have to get up early for work will get home at a reasonable hour.

JoHn Hardin Joins Library Committee!

SNAFFU President Michael Bernstein has added JoHn Hardin to the SNAFFU Library Committee. Led by Woody Bernardi and Lori Forbes, the committee will oversee the proposed expansion and relocation of the collection.

At this point, everything is still tentative, pending a vote on the proposal by the SNAFFU membership. If the proposal is accepted, the Library Committee will then be able to begin the actual work of clearing space in the garage, building shelves, integrating our collection into the club's and creating a card catalogue to facilitate book lending.

Flu Beats Chili!

Joshua Andrews (email: andrews1701@gmail.com) had to cancel his Chili Cook-Off and Game Day, scheduled for Saturday (2/26) with a Friday post on the local listservs. Unfortunately, Josh's temperature is nearly as hot as the chili was supposed to be, so he was in no shape to play host.

Josh promises that the event will be re-scheduled for a later date once he recovers from the flu.

Joyce Katz's Surgery Delayed

Joyce's week of pre-operative testing did not go well. Her EKG showed an abnormality, as it has in the past due to her heart condition.

The doctor ordered her to take a stress test, but they originally told her that she couldn't get an appointment for several weeks. Her doctor used a little leverage to get Joyce tested last Friday (2/25).

Since this surgery is necessary, but not an emergency, the doctor declined to go forward until something is done about Joyce's heart ailment (beyond diet and medicine).

She (and I) will be going to a consultation session on March 14. At that time, it is likely

SNAFFU (2/24) Meeting Report — Michael Bernstein

The meeting Friday went *very* well, in spite of a few snags.

On the schedule was an author reading by Elizabeth Bear, who recently published her first novel, 'Hammered', which several club members have read and enjoyed.

Borders had ordered extra copies of the book, but now had no idea where they were. As a result, they only had a single copy on hand. Elizabeth arrived with a veritable entourage of friends and family, so there was a pretty large crowd. After settling in and a brief negotiation as to what she should read (we punted and said 'author's choice') she read chapter #2 from a new book she's working on called 'One Eyed Jack'. Several of the chapters have been published separately as short stories in various places. Chapter two is titled 'House of the Rising Sun', and is a vampire story with many musical references. It was a good story, but I can't do it justice here, so I won't try.

Also, chapter one ("One Eyed Jack and the Suicide King") will be appearing in the upcoming March issue of Lenox Avenue <http://www.lenoxavemag.com/lenoxavemag/>

After the reading she gamely fielded a wide variety of questions including whether Jenny's cat in 'Hammered' makes it, and when she had started writing the book (first ten pages were written in 1995). She also told us that two of the less savory characters (Razorface and Valens) had ardent fans already, which was provoking much head scratching from her as to whether these fans understood what these characters were about at all.

There was a lot more, but I've already exceeded my word-budget.

After the meeting we adjourned to a nearby restaurant as is our custom, and we were joined by Elizabeth, her husband, and another friend

Unfortunately, I was sitting at the other end of the table, so have nothing to report of the scintillating conversation that must have ensued.

And that's it! If anyone has anything to add to this report (some of that aforementioned scintillation, for example), please feel free to join the conversation on the SNAFFU-Discuss list. Instructions on how to join the discussion list are on the SNAFFU.org homepage.

Cheers, and I hope to see you all at the next meeting (March 11), when we'll be discussing 'Art and Artists, the cover made me read it.— Michael Bernstein



that Joyce will have an angiogram and a angioplasty, possibly on March 18. Once she recovers from that, they will address the constant pain in her ankle

Lori Forbes Hacked!

Inquiry after receipt of a strange message from Lori Forbes leads to the conclusion that someone is seriously fiddling with

her email and may, in fact, be using her Internet account for their own purposes.

While Lori takes care of the problem, VFW advises that her many friends not take any odd-seeming email at face value.

Fans Try to Rally Filkers!

If you can sing and/or play an instrument and would like to join other local fans for an

evening of filk music, Joyce Katz, Teresa Cochran and Woody Bernardi would like to hear from you.

The three fans want to set up a filk music evening. This would be the first such event in town in nearly a decade/

If you are interested in participating, contact Joyce (joyceworley1@cox.net), who is coordinating the idea.

Chat Back — The VFW Letter Column

Time for another serving of letters of comment. Keep in mind that no fans were actually hurt during this process and all are living happy, productive lives.

All-around Good Guy and current TAFF (Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund) candidate Curt Phillips extends the hand of friendship toward Glitter City:

Curt Phillips

absarka_prime@comcast.net

VFW 12 eyetracked today and it has reminded me rather

forcefully of just how much of a SF magazine geek I am. In the second photo on page 2, my full attention was immediately drawn to the framed pulp cover prints on the wall and the row of SF digests on the shelf near the floor. When I caught myself squinting at the digests and trying to identify which issues of which titles they were, that's when I knew the truth; I'm hopeless. It made me stop and ask myself; if someone were to send me a photo of a very attractive woman standing

alongside of a bookcase full of old pulp magazines, which would I see first, the attractive woman, or the pulps? I'm startled and just a little alarmed to realize that I'm not completely certain of the answer.

The answer probably depends on the situation. If the woman happened to be the sort of woman that Rotsler liked to hang around with during his movie days (i.e., nude...) then my attention would probably be drawn to her first.

But then, what if the bookcase of average pulps were replaced with a stack of early *Planet Stories* and *Weird Tales* in really pristine condition with bright pages and smooth, even cover edges... Well, she'd just have to be Quite the Girl to triumph over those odds. But I digress...

Trivial Pursuit. Liz and I went through a *Trivial Pursuit* craze back in the early '80's. For a time, no one who visited us could escape without undergoing a spirited match.

I'll admit it; I was good at the game. Too Good.



Elizabeth Bear attended the 2/25 SNAFFU meeting. She read from her work, gabbed with fans and joined the post-meeting dinner crowd for extended gabbing.

Before long none of our friends would come over anymore and I reluctantly stored my Trivial Pursuit sets away. I have them still. The basic set, the Disney set, the Advanced set, all the little add-on sets, and so on. I even have *Trivial Pursuit* coffee mugs (for my hot cocoa. Never developed a taste for coffee...) all packed away. And now I know that there's a potential challenger in Las Vegas who might be... *Might* be... worthy competition.

Oh yes, Arnie. We must meet, you and I. There are important Questions to be asked and answered. Thousands of them...

Arnie: The real trick in this question of the lady or the pulpzines is to work things out so that you get both.

Like you, I stopped playing Trivial Pursuit some years ago, but I am willing to come out of retirement should you favor us with a visit here in Las Vegas. (And the spare room is yours, if that's an inducement).

The first fan to send me a LoC is back with some more details about the recent SNAFFU Potluck Feed and Game Day.:

Linda Bushyager
Misscraps@aol.com

The impressive thing about VFW #14 was that you had a report on the Game Day before I could even muster enough energy to write you a report. Actually I was going to write something up today - but here it was already reported. I'm an old fan and tired!

We played a game of Trivial Pursuit after you left. I hadn't played that in about 15 years! Ron and I have limited trivia knowledge, but through a combination of easy questions and bad dice tosses by our opponents, we managed to come to a shaky victory.

One question almost stumped me "Who kissed Burt Lancaster on the beach in "From Here to Eternity." My failing memory was really annoying -- I am a movie buff - so somewhere in my brain was the answer. But

it had a hard time coming out. Just when I was about to give up - suddenly from nowhere came the answer - Deborah Kerr.

How could I forget her name? (I knew who it was but the name wasn't coming to the surface of the brain). She, of course, also starred in the great musical "King and I." (I'm a musical buff too.)

Another question was about my favorite movie -- Sabu's "Thief of Baghdad" -- "What was the blaring difference between it and the older version?" I said "Technicolor," but the answer was "sound." I guess the word "blaring" was a clue.

Arnie: Your miss on that question is all the more surprising, because there is a current British fanzine fan of the same name, though she pronounces it "Carr," I believe.

"Million Dollar Movie," on New York City's WOR, used to show the same movie over and over, like a theater. I guess I saw "Thief of Baghdad" several dozen times, only a little less often than I watched "King Kong."

One of my oldest and best friends in fandom, rich brown, offers a correction and much additional information about the genesis of amateur press associations.

rich brown
DrGafia@Comcast.net

Expected someone else to point this out to you, but since no one has, while your various primers about fandom have generally been well done and a good idea to boot, you made a mistake in the recent one about apas: Don Wolheim started the first fan apa, FAPA, but he *didn't* "invent" the apa out of whole cloth, nor was it the first ever. The mundanes beat us to that one -- hobby printers, starting at the end of the 19th Century, formed several: the National, the United and the American (or NAPA, UAPA and AAPA). You think our feuds are bad? Some of their early ones were fought with six-guns...

Around the time of WWI, H.P. Lovecraft

[Play the Vegas Fandom Trivia Game!](#)

Welcome to the second round of the Las Vegas Fandom Trivia Challenge! All the questions are based on Las Vegas Fandom, so those who know a little about their roots will be able to breeze right through. The rest can check out the correct answer to this issue's question *next* week.

The Rules:

1. *VFW* will print one question per issue, with a point value assigned on the basis of difficulty.
2. Answers may be submitted in person or by email to Joyce Worley (joyceworley1@cox.net). She will report only correct answers, so please feel free to guess.
3. *VFW* will print the names of all those who get the right answer. In the case of ties, everyone wins the same thing (nothing).
4. We'll maintain cumulative standings. At the end of the year, the fan with the greatest number of points will be proclaimed the Vegas Fandom Trivia Champion. The winner will also receive *twice* as much nothing as the weekly winners.

Last Week's Trivia Question

What local fan designed the first SNAFFU mascot? (Two Points)

The first SNAFFU mascot, a Dwarf Miner, was drawn by Greg Dees. The original hangs on the wall at Ken and Aileen Forman's home. A hand-colored copy is displayed on the wall at the Launch Pad.

JoHn Hardin and Ken Forman each earned two points for a correct answer. We had one incorrect answer (identity protected by Joyce).. C'mon Vegas fans, give it a shot this week. It's free, takes almost no time and you might impress your fellow fans with your knowledge of our own beloved city's fannish past.

This Week's Trivia Question

Who was the first chief executive of SNAFFU? (Two points)

was a member of both NAPA and UAPA and there's little doubt that Wolheim got the idea from him, even joining them himself. Since I wrote about it fairly recently, let me excerpt the pertinent paragraph:

"But HPL's most significant contribution to stf fandom was probably his indirect influence in the formation (by Donald A. Wolheim and John B. Michel) of the micro-cosm's first apa, the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA) in 1937. Although differing from mundane apas by limiting members

(starting at 50 but raised to 65 in 1943) and having minimum activity requirements, it seems obvious that the mundane apas Lovecraft belonged to inspired the notion. [Robert] Lichtman agrees: 'I don't think this is speculation at all, but established fact. Via their exposure to HPL and knowledge of his involvement with ayjay, Wolheim at least joined the NAPA and perhaps UAPA for a few years back in the '30s and definitely modeled the original FAPA constitution and organizational structure on NAPA's. If you

have early FANTASY AMATEURs, you find in them reports on the mailings from the Official Critics, a quaint custom he definitely got from NAPA." Sam Moskowitz effectively

confirms this in The Immortal Storm, noting that Wollheim distributed THE PHANTAGRAPH through 'three amateur press associations simultaneously'; since FAPA was

One Fan's Corflu Titanium — Randy Byers

With all the Corflu mentions, held in Las Vegas in 1993 and 2004, I thought something about this year's edition might be enlightening. Fortunately, Seattle fan Randy Byers rose to the occasion with this entertaining report. Randy is co-editor of CHUNGA, "Best Fanzine" in the 2005 Fan Achievement Awards bestowed at Corflu Titanium. This is only one of dozens of great things you can find on Victor Gonzalez's "must read" website, Trufen.net

Well, it seemed like a long way to travel to talk to Arnie Katz on the phone, but I had a great time at Corflu Titanium. Shocking as it may sound, I am exhausted, just having arrived back in Seattle three hours ago. So I'll just make some incoherent noise as a first reaction to the convention.

Mike says there were 120 attendees, which sounds about right to me. The problem with a Corflu of that size is that I wanted to have a long talk with near-enough every one of those 120, but there wasn't near enough time. Barely got a chance to say Boo! to Earl Kemp, for example, and I didn't realize that Gary Mattingly was even at the convention until I got home.

I arrived at the convention at midnight on Friday, so I missed the party for Bruce Gillespie Thursday night and the opening ceremonies on Friday. But I got a charge out of the reaction when I announced on my arrival that I had copies of James Bacon's TAFF report, which the bastard has completed only five months after his trip. He certainly showed me up! Jaws dropped all around me at the news, and a number of copies were hurriedly bought and examined for signs of fraud.

The fan fund auction on Saturday was also a big success, raising good money for TAFF, DUFF, GUFF, and the Dan & Lynn Steffan Are Moving to Portland, Oregon Fund. Andy Hooper, Peter Weston, Jerry Kaufman, and Marty Cantor were the auctioneers, and there were lots of cool zines and goodies on the block. Of the things I got, my favorite is probably NYCON COMICS, a promotional for the New York in 1967 Worldcon bid. The cover is by Ross Chamberlain, and the contents are a twelve page comic strip by Jack Gaughan called Second Stage Fanoclasts, or The Fellowship of the Lens Meets The Menace from Beyond Civilization. Very cool!

The good thing about a Corflu of this size is that I didn't just hang out with people I already knew but also spent quality time with more people that I'm getting to know over time. That included Arnie Katz, even if it was just a brief chat over the phone, when about a dozen of us took turns talking to Arnie from Ted White's busy room. Arnie wanted to know what I thought of the cover of the new CRAZY FROM THE HEAT (another Ross Chamberlain opus), and I had to confess that it had kicked my ass. Good one, Ross!

It would appear that fanzines are alive and well. It feels good to be part of it. I'm not sure Dave O'Neill will feel the same after drinking all that wine on top of the beer last night, but he seemed to have a good time at his first Corflu nonetheless. And thankfully Victor didn't try to use my head as a pillow two nights in a row ...

— R&yXers

the only fan apa going at the time, the other two were almost certainly NAPA and UAPA (although there was one other, the American or AAPA, which for various reasons I do not think figured in)."

The fannish apas, as I said, do differ from the mundane amateur printer hobbyist versions in several ways, including but not limited to the fact that fannish apas generally

Event Calendar

Las Vegrants March 5 7:30 PM

The informal, invitational club meets at the home of Arnie and Joyce Katz.

VSFA March 7 7:30 PM

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

The Gillespie Gala March 8 6:30 PM

A mid-week party and potluck supper for Bruce Gillespie. It's also the JoHn Hardin Birthday Bash. Earl Kemp and Billy Pettit will be here, too. RSVP to Arnie or Joyce (648-5677, crossfire4@cox.net).

SNAFFU March 11 8:00 PM

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

Las Vegas Futurists March 11 7:00 PM

This discussion group looks to the world of tomorrow on the second Friday of each month at Borders bookstore (2190 N. Rainbow Blvd.)

Sunday Social March 13 1 PM

VSFA is sponsoring this event, open to all Las Vegas fans, at The Tap House

Las Vegas S F & Fantasy Day

April 30 10 AM-5:30 PM

A free, one-day convention for all Vegas fans. Woody Bernardi is chairman.

have a limit on the number of members, have activity requirements (the need to publish a certain number of pages in a given timeframe -- "minac") and require that the publications produced be sent to all active members. I suppose we might say that the mundane versions walk like a duck but don't quack like a duck, so I suppose it could be argued that despite calling themselves a duck, from our perspective they seem to be a goose. (I was once under the impression that we invented mailing comments, but that's another practice that began there was imported into ours.)

Arnie: See what happens when I make a space-saving explanation? Rich is, of course, correct that amateur press associations are far older than FAPA. Don Wolheim "invented" the type of apa we have in Fandom, but not the concept itself.

We Also Heard From: Shelby Vick, Ken Forman, Roxanne Gibbs, Randy Byers.

It's 10... and 30!

Looks like it's that time again, when I must draw a line and declare "30," the journalist's code for "the end."

Note that the letter column has appeared in two straight issues. I'd like to shoot for three, but it'll take a few of you writing a little something. Well, I *could* write them myself, like the letter column in the old *Mad*, but then someone (probably Alan White) would send me a letter that read, "The guy who writes the letters should write the rest of the magazine."

Don't forget the Gillespie Gala and Hardin Birthday Bask on Tuesday, March 8. It's time for today's Las Vegas Fandom to show itself — and meet some terrific fans from far away.

Don't forget to tell everyone about *VFW* and send me news and photos. Number 16 will be here next Wednesday.

— Arnie
Las Vegas, NV