

# VEGAS FANFAMILY

## **The Big Weekend: Everybody to the Side of the Pool!**

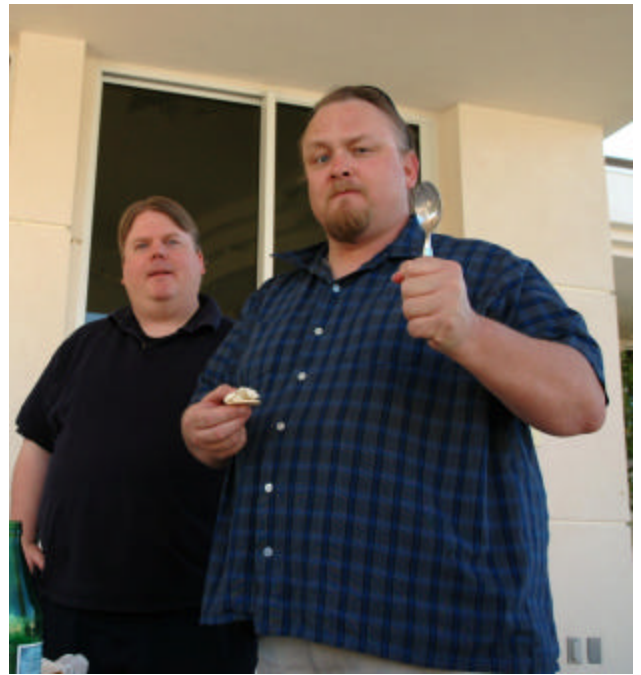
The car hurtles through the 90-degree Vegas Saturday afternoon. The inimitable Kent Hastings was at the wheel of our trusty Chrysler, while Joyce occupied the other front seat and acted as navigator.

Despite the vast distances involved, and a potentially explosive situation at the border checkpoint, we reached the Daughertys' beautiful home around 1 PM to find several fans already soaking up the hospitality. James and Kathryn are generous hosts to say the least and their 7,000-sq.ft.

home is only eclipsed in impressiveness by their gigantic free-form pool with its four waterfalls.

The entry system was a little tricky – it defeated Dick Pelletier, who turned back, discouraged, and went home – but it really isn't that far off the beaten track.

The talk on the back porch turned to trends in conventions as Kathryn Daugherty talked about the



*Kent Hastings (left) and JoHn Hardin (right) share a moment of conversation at the pool party.*

rise, fall and rise in attendance at the Baycon region. When she mentioned "2,500" it put me in mind of the Baycon, the 1968 Worldcon held at the Hotel Claremont on the border of Berkley and Oakland. That con drew about 800, though it took three overflow hotels to hold them.

David Gordon continued to show fascination with how long some of



## What a Weekend!

The Big Weekend dominates this issue of *VFW* and with good reason. It turned out to be a success on all counts and now ranks as one of the high points of local fan activity in recent years. I've incorporated a lot of newsy bits in the overall report rather than breaking them out as separate stories to give folks a better feel for the spree.

There was so much to do that it looked like some of our newer fans, less harden by years of late-night parties and smoky rooms, wilted a little as the festivities rolled onward.

Well, it's good practice for the weekend of April 30. The Even Bigger Weekend will send local Fandom blazing through a Vegrants Open Party, the Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day and the VSFA meeting on Monday evening. (Anyone want to throw a party or something on Friday night before the convention or maybe Sunday afternoon? — Arnie

us have known each other, especially Linda and me. We assured him that, though she lived in Pittsburgh and I lived in New York

James Daugherty talks to Joyce Katz, while Joshua Andrews (far right) thinks of something funny and I (far left) appear to be watching a porno movie on the inside of my wraparound sunglasses.



City, Fandom had brought us into contact in circa 1968 through fanzines and then in person at the next year's Midwestcon.

Dave, Linda and I also talked about fans turned pros. After citing a few notorious examples of erstwhile fans who now high-hat their former comrades, we brought forward some positive examples such as Bob Tucker, Ted White and Greg Benford, all of whom remain true to Fandom even though they are much published professional science fiction authors.

When Dave mentioned meeting Terry Carr at some bygone convention and how friendly he was, it triggered a

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Special Thanks to Alan White (Vegrant Open Meeting and Sunday Social photos), David Gordon (Daugherty Pool Party photos) Joyce Katz (proofreading) and Woody Bernardi (Star Reporter).

Reporters this issue: David Gordon, Linda Bushyager, Kathryn Daugherty 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](http://efanzines.com). No Aliens were harmed in the preparation of this fanzine.

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL. Have a Happy 4/20!

# The Sunday Social Trivia Challenge

Ken Forman, Ben Wilson, Joyce Katz and I put together a nine-question trivia contest for the April Sunday Social. Because the program portion of the meeting focused on pioneers of Las Vegas Fandom, the trivia contest included only questions about Las Vegas Fandom in the 1985-1995 period.

Rebecca Hardin easily won the point-based competition and was proclaimed the Sunday Social Trivia Queen. Take the test, check the answers and see how you measure up when it comes to knowledge of your own, local Fandom.



## The Questions

1. Several fans entered Las Vegas Fandom with different names than they have now. What were the original last names of Peggy Kurilla? Laurie Kunkel, Cathi Wilson and Tammy Springer?
2. On what street did Ken & Aileen Forman live when they hosted SNAFFU?
3. On what street did Arnie & Joyce Katz live when they hosted the Socials?
4. Where did they hold the organizational meeting for the club that became SNAFFU?
5. What was the name of the Vegas one-shots?
6. How many Socials were there?
7. What was the name of the first Vegas Apa?
8. Who was Fan Guest of Honor (GOH) at Vegascon 1?
9. What was the name of SNAFFU's club newszine and who was its first editor?
10. Right from the first, everyone used to go out to eat after SNAFFU meetings. Where was the first eatery that they frequented?
11. What was the name of the Forman's Giant Mutant Dalmatian?

**Answers Are on Page 6**

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wave of nostalgia from those at the party who knew him. I said that he was someone who had done so much in Fandom before and during his career as a science fiction author and editor. It's a shame so little of Terry's fan work is available online; he is already under-appreciated and could even be forgotten if we don't make some of his outstanding creations available to today's fans.

Somehow the talk veered to the current fashion in email scams. I reported the sad specimen I'd received the day before. It was a weak attempt at the Spanish Prisoner con in which someone purports to be an official of a government with \$26 million to get out of the country. If you help, you will get \$5 million or so. Many of these letters claim to emanate from various African nations,

the choice depending on which are in the news, but this one came from one of the smaller Arab countries. What made it so pathetic was that, in the first line, the supposed government man praises Allah – and misspells it “Ahla!”

The fans who hashed over the spam question vacillated between wanting to get rid of spam and not wanting to let the govern-

ment get too cozy with our private mail. Linda thought that outlawing “chain forwarding” of email through a series of address might help.

Nobody swam while I was there, though the three Hardin sprouts showed some interest in the pool and may have done so after we left to prepare the Launch Pad for the Las Vegrants Open Meeting. Woody did unveil his new bathing suit, but did not put this garment to any more practical use than showing off his legs.



If I'd had [Dave Gordon's](#) portrait of Joyce when I did the anthology, I might have used it on the cover..

## At the Daugherty Pool Party Preview — Linda Bushyager

Thanks to James and Kathryn for hosting a dynamite barbecue at their gorgeous home. I'm glad I was wrong and about 10 adults plus 3 children showed up. Those who missed it missed some great food. Kathryn is a gourmet cook and whipped up some special dips and sauce for the meat and tasty deviled eggs, etc.-- she has a huge library of cook-books that was impressive to see. James did the heavy work of grilling the chicken, steak, hamburgers and did an excellent job.

Their house is really gorgeous and huge - I mean H U G E - as someone stated, their kitchen was bigger than his apartment. The pool was really beautiful.

Actually they aren't all that far out in Henderson - it looked like it on the map, but it only took about 1/2 an hour from my house (Jones and Flamingo).

I also want to thank David Gordon for the ride!!

It was also a beautiful day which made it really nice to lounge outside on the patio.

Thanks for having us over and for the hospitality and great food.

— Linda Bushtager

The afternoon flew past, thanks to James and Kathryn's marvelous hosting. The Open House was every bit as enjoyable as anticipated; a great start to the Big Weekend.

Who was there? The census shows: Kathryn Daugherty, James Daugherty, Joyce Katz, Arnie Katz, Woody Bernardi, Kent Hastings, Linda Bushyager, Ron Bushyager, Joshua Andrews, James Taylor, Terry Wilsey, Dave Gordon, John Hardin, Karla Hardin, and the Hardin clan (Collette, Lucas and Asher)

### **The Big Weekend: Las Vegrants Welcome New & Old Faces!**

We no sooner got home from the Pool Party when we got a call from Ben Wilson, out-of-town Vegrant, long-time pillar of Vegas Fandom and a damn good friend. Ben sprang a pleasant surprise when he revealed that he was in a car, had already past Barstow and was heading for Vegas and the Vegrants meeting!

True to their promise, Woody Bernardi and Kent Hastings showed up about 7:00 PM.



Marcie Waldie attended her first Vegrants meeting since her knee replacement surgery..

They helped us lift, carry and set up for what turned out to be a very lively and entertaining Vegrants Open Meeting.

The next arrivals were also a surprise – Ray and Marcie Waldie. Her knee surgery has kept them from the group for some time. I knew she'd returned to work on Monday (4/11), but I hadn't expected her

to feel up to an evening jaunt. I was delighted to be proven wrong.

Woody announced that Joshua Andrews is going to do an "official VSFA newsletter," which sat poorly with me. Considering all the things that VSFA could do, it seemed like a rebuke of VFW.

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## The Sunday Social Trivia Challenge Answers — Arnie & Joyce Katz

1. Fandom has always been a well-stocked hunting ground for marriage-minded female fans and Las Vegas Fandom has been the springboard to numerous marriages. Peggy Kurilla was originally Peggy Burke, Laurie Kunkel was originally Laurie Yates, Cathi Wilson's first convention badge bore the name "Cathi Copeland" and Tammy Springer came into the world as Tammy Funk. We didn't ask this, but at least two current Vegas fans had different *first names* — *Woody Bernardi (Anthony) and DeDee White (Joyce)*.
2. SNAFFU met at the Formans' home on Nordic Light Drive., for the first half-decade or so after its formation. The street number was 7215.
3. Toner Hall, the Katzes' residence, was at the fork in the road at 3701 Bridgeglen Blvd.
4. When Alex Borders distributed the "Grok This" flyers, they summoned prospective fans to a meeting at the Las Vegas Library on Flamingo.
5. The 60-issue run of oneshots that began at Vegas NonCon I in September 1991 had the overall title, "The Vegas All-Stars." We always had a title extension to designate each issue, like "The Vegas All-Stars Bounce Back!" or the like.
6. Counting the Vegas NonCon as the first Social, we hosted 60 of them — every month for five years. Attendance reached as high as 90 on some occasions and unexpected extra entertainments included a fire magician and a strolling guitarist at various times.
7. Before SNAPS, which started at the March Westside SNAFFU meeting, Las Vegrants sponsored a monthly local apa in the mid-1990s called Apa V. Another difference between the two groups is that APA V had a designated subject each month. Fans could write about anything, of course, but they were asked to consider the topic for part of their contribution.
8. VegasCon I wasn't scheduled to have a Fan GoH, but co-chairman Woody Bernardi perceived the benefit and named Bruce Pelz as Fan GoH. Larry Niven was the Pro GoH.
9. *Situation Normal*, an oblique reference to the army term "snafu" from which the club derived "SNAFFU," was the club's newsletter under a variety of editors. Often abbreviated *Sit-Norm*, its first editor was Ken Gregg (known to fellow club members as "Ken-not-Ken), a nod to The Mainspring, Ken Forman. Other editors included Aileen Forman, Gino Ruiz, Rebecca Hardin and Joyce Katz. I was heavy involved with editing *Wild Heirs* (and its reprint fanzine flanker *Heirlooms*) so it seemed right to give others a turn at the controls of *SitNorm*.
10. Post-meeting meals have often been an important part of club meetings in Fandom — and Las Vegas in certainly no exception. The various groups have patronized quite a few different places and even held meetings at one (Skinny Dugan's). The after-meeting favorite during the early years of SNAFFU was the Iron Horse at Palace Station.
11. The gargantuan of the canine world was named Jazz — and he was definitely "all that."  
— Arnie & Joyce Katz

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Although he doesn't yet know much about Fandom, Josh is a mostly amiable person whose energy and enthusiasm are a plus for our local Fandom. It just seems more sensible, at least to me, to channel that fan-power into something that is not already being done.

How about a VSFA club fanzine? The Vegants fill *Crazy from the Heat*, Vegas' monthly fanzine. (It is so monthly, even with only three issues in three years. It's a monthly. Unfortunately, that month is "March.") By the time the Big Guns shoot their annual wad, there's not a lot of room for other contributions.

A fanzine that drew on the talents of local writers and artists (with a lot fewer pages by the likes of me) would be great for Las Vegas Fandom as well as VSFA. Since doing anything is preferable to doing nothing, a VSFA newsletter



Ken Forman was an unexpected, and most welcome, Special Guest at the Vegants Open Meeting. (Photo by Alan White)

would also add to Vegas Fandom.

When Ben got to the Launch Pad at about 8:00, he revealed the rest of his surprise: Ken Forman had made the trip with him. I was sorry Aileen Forman and Cathi Wilson hadn't been able to come, too, but it was hard not to be happy when two such good friends were sitting in my living room.

Ken brought several mementoes of Corflu Titanium, including the very clever convention tee-shirt. The picture is constructed of fanzine publishing paraphernalia.

Ken acknowledged that the unexpected termination of his job has stopped the progress of *Corrupt Marquee*. He claimed the fanzine is still forthcoming. *Crazy from the Heat* is about to start on a new issue. The ball's in my court to write the start of the group editorial, though there are already several articles on file for publication.

My "Mathematics of Fandom" concept, par-

### Support Plans Jelling for Fantasy \* Science Fiction Day!!

With the Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day looming closer, the publicity and promotion effort is coming together very well. Here's what has been done since last week:

1, A Press Release aimed at the Media and a Flyer to lure attendees are done (by me) and going into distribution. If you have places where you can put one or even a stack of flyers, please contact Woody (woodybernardi@yahoo.com).

2. SNAFFU has started collecting books for the giveaway effort at the con. Each book will have info about the club rubber stamped on the inside cover or title page and printed on a SNAFFU bookmark leafed into each volume. If you have books to donate, contact Roxanne Gibbs (missroxanne@cox.net).

3. There will be a special issue of *VFW* given out at the convention.

— Arnie



Rith Davidson had to skip the pool party, but she did get to make her Vegnants debut at the Open Meeting.

tially unveiled in *VFW #21*, came in for some comment from Ken, Ben and Joyce. They offered persuasive arguments that, though the “anchor” numbers look right, the ones in the middle of the progress are too small. So now it goes 40 million enthusiasts, 1 million members of Mega Fandom (people who watch, listen or read secondary content), 30,000 members of Known Fandom (people who purpose some form of fan activity within the context of Fandom) and 1,000 Trufans (people who identify with Fandom and are conversant with its history, literature, traditions and personalities.)

Joyce stated that 1,000 was “too big” and wanted to know how many fans belong to the Group Mind (the virtual fan club of fanzine fans from all over the world).

“That would be about 100,” I replied. “Call it one in 400,000 enthusiasts.” It still sounded too big to her. Only telling her that just one enthusiast in 1.2 million will end up sitting in the same party room with her at the next Corflu. “I still get to sit next to Ted and Robert,” she said sternly, but I could tell she was mollified.

Ken discussed his mailing list, which he has trimmed to 50. That led to talk of something that Fanzine Fandom is losing as it switches from hard copy to digital publishing. Because efanazines.com captures no information, the feedback loop that connects editors and readers is weakening.

We all agreed that the cure, though it might piss off a few excessively fearful types, is fairly simple: require a user to enter their email address prior to being allowed to download a fanzine. Some people might enter fake addresses, but I don’t think most would bother. And it would not only tell each fanzine editor how many fans had downloaded their fanzine, but it would create a potential channel of communication between the editor and all the readers. I can tell you that any unfamiliar eaddress would get a friendly welcoming note from me. I want to know the fans who read my stuff; that’s what makes Fanzine Fandom so special.



Marcie Waldie (left) and Ray Waldie (center) sit beside Kent Hastings at the Vegnants Open Meeting.



As fans streamed into the living room, Ken, Ben and I sought refuge in my office. We had a really pleasant conversation that mostly consisted of talking about concept rock albums that also stand up as individual tracks interlaced with their memories of this year's Corflu.

Back in the main room, James Taylor reminisced about a *Star Trek*-based arcade machine. I recalled it, too, and that brought back memories of one of my favorite early games, the very *Trek-ish* *Star Raiders* for the Atari 400/800 computer. It wedded the strategy portion of computer *Trek* programs and added a first-person shooter.

Teresa Cochran wondered if there'd been any *Star Trek* text adventures. I admitted that Bill Kunkel and I had done design work on *The Kobayashi Alternative* and the complete design for *Star Trek: First Contact* (Simon & Schuster).

That led to more general talk of computer adventure and roleplaying game. Ken mentioned as a great game a product that's always cited as a horrible example of what happens when an otherwise bright person who doesn't know games is allowed to design one. The *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* game (Infocom) is an agony in which Douglas Adams attempts to force the player to re-live his book scene for scene. I gave one example that I knew Teresa would grasp immediately: the player is unable to get out of bed in his own bedroom unless they first turn on the light!

Ruth Davidson made her first visit to Veggrants territory. I don't think her gentle upbringing and seven years in the N3F entirely prepared her for Ken's anecdotes about Victor Gonzalez's soon-to-be-legendary romp through Corflu Titanium, but she seemed to take our group's raffish ways more or less in stride.

Lighting up the Launch Pad were: Ben Wilson, Ken Forman, Alan & DeDee



Ayesha Ashley seems like an especially promising newcomer who will no doubt unravel the reference in the cartoon elsewhere on this page in record time.

White, Ray & Marcie Waldie, JoHn Hardin, James Taylor, Woody Bernardi, Kent Hastings, Teresa Cochran, Kent Hastings, Ruth Davidson and Joyce & Arnie Katz.

### **The Big Weekend: April Sunday Social Recalls Our Roots!**

Joyce and I got to the Tap House, site of the Sunday Socials, a little before the 2:00 PM start-time and found that fans had already started to take seats at the large rectangular

formation of four tables that Woody and other early arrival presumably fashioned.

While waiting for the others, Kent Hastings brought up Forry Ackerman, the residue of a discussion begun at the Daughertys' pool party. We swapped memories about Forry, but it raised a paradox about this



## Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar

**SNAFFU** April 23 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 Sunset.

### **Las Vegas Fantasy & SF Day**

April 30 10:30 AM-6:00 PM

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

**Las Vegrants Post-Con Open Party** April 30 7:30 PM

The informal club invites all fans to an Open Party at Arnie and Joyce Katz's home..

**VSFA** May 2 7:30 PM

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

**SNAFFU** May 13 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** May 13 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.) The featured speaker is Ted Kaehler.

**Sunday Social** April 17 2 PM

VSFA is sponsoring this event, open to all Las Vegas fans, at The Tap House. The theme this time is science fiction and fannish art.

enigmatic founder of Fandom. He is often incredibly generous, especially when least expected, yet he is often cold when it would do him the most good to display the warmer side of his personality. The way he turned up his nose when Silvercon wanted to honor him still rankles; having his agent ask for an exorbitant speaking fee from a con likely to draw 100-150 hurt a lot of feelings and "cost" Forry a weekend of pure adulation from the sweet-



est fan group I know.

Some of the more experienced fans exhorted Mindy Hutchings, who has become a fixture on the local scene, to read *The Enchanted Duplicator*. Joyce even resorted to enumerating Bob Shaw's professional achievements such as the "Slow Glass" stories.

Woody took a more direct, and probably more effective, tack. He read an introduction to *TED* he'd found on the Internet. It detailed some of the references, but it also spoke to the universality of its fannish themes. It made me feel like taking another journey with Jophan, so I hope it had a



Rebecca Hardin (left) and Mindy Hutchings (right) are, respectively, a returned Vegas Fandom stalwart and an energetic and popular newcomer.

similar effect on Mindy and other Vegas fans who have not yet had the delightful experience.

The program could've used more pre-planning, but it came off reasonably well. Woody talked about the late 1980's, the period during which Vegas began to generate local activity but without any connection to the rest of Fandom. He handled the subject well.

I spoke of the transition of SNAFFU from a fledgling club into the vital part of Fandom that it subsequently became. I explained how the coincidences and connections of Fandom had led me to SNAFFU just at the time it most needed to learn about Fandom.

Joyce brought out her prepared trivia questions. The spirited game reinforced my feeling that VFW's Trivia Challenge was more a failure of implementation than a sign that the rising generation of Vegas fans is oblivious to their own history. Rebecca Hardin carried the day as Trivia Champion, but the way Teresa absorbs all the lore and legend, it may not be long before Rebecca has a serious challenger for the title.

A lively newcomer, Ayesha Ashley, joined the meeting toward its conclusion. She immediately charmed everyone. And when she revealed that she'd been a professional singer and can play several instruments, Joyce immediately tried to enlist her for a proposed filking circle.

As a complete novice about Fandom, Ayesha naturally did not know about filk music. Kent tried to clear it up by playing some Love-

craftian parody of "Fiddler on the Roof," but that only elicited a comment about her lack of interest in song parodies. Woody attempted to reassure her that some filk songs use original melodies, but he was on shaky ground with that and I think even he knew it. I put it in terms more familiar to a folk/blues/bluegrass singer by saying that filk often re-used melodies, but that the songs were about Fandom and Science Fiction, not just Weird Al Yankovic-style song

parodies.

I think our combined efforts won her over a bit. Not only did she favor us with a really good snatch of acappella mountain music, but she thought maybe she could become our Bard.

She revealed that she has come to us from the Las Vegas Futurists. I warned her that fans are a lot less serious than that Serious Discussion Group. "They want to change the future," I summarized. "We want to party in it."

I think Ayesha was intrigued by our oddly assorted crowd. I hope she'll delve into it a little and find something that makes her want to join the party.

The May Sunday Social will feature showings of fan and pro art. Contact Woody if you have things you'd like to exhibit.

Attending were: Alan & DeDee White, James Taylor, Woody Bernardi, Kent Hastings, Teresa Cochran, Rebecca Hardin, Mindy Hutchings, Stacey Lawrence, Ayesha Ashley and Joyce & Arnie Katz.

### **SNAFFU Library Committee Swings into Action!**

Things have been quiet since the big discussion and vote about the library, but that shouldn't be taken as any lack of enthusiasm or initiative on the part of the committee appointed to oversee the move to the Launch Pad, the construction of shelves, the creation of an electronic database and the merging of the Katz library with the club's holdings.

Rather, the roadblock has been Joyce's uncertain medical condition. It is still uncertain, but we've going to have the first Library Committee work session in the garage this coming Saturday (4/23).

They're not looking for help *this* time. The goal for this first session is to go through the carton stacks and do a

sort of fannish triage: library stuff, fanzines (which will remain with us), throwaway, sell items, giveaways and things that we *still want* to store. (Hopefully, the latter category will be very small.)

Optimists feel we can do this in one afternoon. I think it'll take two, but once it's done the committee will advance to the next phase, the design and construction of the library bookcases.

### **VSFA Names Secretary!**

At the Sunday Social, VSFA President Woody Bernardi announced that Rebecca Hardin has volunteered to become the group's Secretary and has been appointed to that position.

Woody didn't indicate what her duties might be, but presumably it'll be the usual tracking of meetings and such. VSFA is a rapidly growing group, so adding another officer was inevitable.

### **Joyce Has Big Consultation With Cardiologist on Thursday!**

Joyce Katz's medical misadventures continue on Thursday (4/21) when she meets



with a different cardiologist. Rather than put Joyce through the considerable strain of another stress test, this doctor will probably decide when Joyce will have her angiogram/angioplasty.

### **'Firefly' Showing At Casa Cosmo**

"Firefly" is on the menu at Woody Bernardi's Saturday at 11 AM... Woody plans to start with the two-hour pilot and then watch as many more episodes as the group can stand.

"Firefly" has quite a strong following in Fandom right now. If you missed the series when it was on Fox, this is a chance to see if you agree that it's one of the best TV science fiction series. If you have seen the Fox broadcasts, you may

still be interested in re-seeing the ones you liked — and watching several episodes that Fox never aired.

All you need to do is RSVP to Woody (Woody (woodybernardi@yahoo.com)). Seating is Open, but limited, so letting him know you want to attend is common courtesy.

### **Another Week, Another 12 Pages**

I won't pretend that doing this much this often isn't a lot of effort, but I am enjoying the exertion. Yet as I said to Bill Kunkel recently, a lot of the elimination of duplicating, collating, stapling, addressing and mailing. The part of doing fanzines I like the best, the writing and editing, is now mostly all there is. Put a few letters of comment in my email inbox and I am just a happy little fan.

The inbox was a little light on letters this time, so mend your ways while there is still time to repent. The letter column will return next week along with a lot of news, a couple of views and a pair of old shoes.

Note that *VFW* returns to its customary Wednesday release date this week. See you all in seven days!

— Arnie Katz