

# *Science Fiction/San Francisco*

A photograph of the San Francisco City Hall at night. The building is illuminated with vibrant rainbow-colored lights (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) that highlight its classical architecture, including the large dome and the portico with columns. The sky is a deep twilight blue. In the foreground, there is a blurred street scene with cars and a white delivery truck, suggesting a busy urban environment.

Issue 146  
November 2013

Connie Willis  
Virginia City  
Lightsaber Class  
Japantown Anime Festival  
Stark Nova  
SF Mermaids Swim  
Hallow Be Thy Game  
Renaissance Faire

# Science Fiction / San Francisco

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### Art Credits

Cover      **City Hall, San Francisco** by Lucy Huntzinger

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# Editorial

**By Christopher Erickson**

*Managing Editor*

Fall is upon us and that means several things: football, fair season (Renaissance Faire and Dickens Fair), the Christmas episode of “Doctor Who” and the start of a new television season. I have been watching the new season of “Once Upon A Time” and so far have found it wonderful. The inclusion of Neverland and the dark undertones of a boy who never grows up is a story that I am looking forward to watching unfold. The other show that I am gleefully following is “Marvel’s Agents of SHIELD.” The survival of Phil Coulson and the conspiracy group that is already starting to unfold is making the show worth watching. The first two episodes have been good and have had lots of references to the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The one show that I wish I could watch at this point is “The Walking Dead” as I have been trying to catch up with the episodes online. I am about a season behind and the story has been getting more interesting as it has also gotten more complex. The other show that I will be interested in seeing is the “Once Upon A Time in Wonderland” spinoff. I am interested to see how the fairy tale world from the parent series interacts with the Wonderland world and the backstory of the Queen of Hearts (who is also Regina’s mother in the parent series).

I have been doing a lot of day trips recently with a recent rash of vacation days that I have had to take. I went to Monterey and spent most of the day wandering from Cannery

Row (walking in the footsteps of John Steinbeck and Ed Ricketts) down to Fisherman’s Wharf to the historic first buildings and adobes of Old Town. There is a good bit of history and culture in Monterey, where the first theater, post office and government buildings were built in California back when the area was the only port into the entire West Coast and all we know was under Mexican rule. The area is a costumer’s dream with plenty of buildings that can be posed with for a Western or Steampunk feel, as well as the hardscrabble cannery days.

I also spent two separate days being a tourist in San Francisco, hitting all of the major sights except for Alcatraz. I spent one day just walking along the Embarcadero from AT&T Park all the way through to Ghiradelli Square and walking to Union Square, Chinatown, Bush Street above the Stockton-Sutter Tunnel (where Miles Archer was shot in “The Maltese Falcon”), North Beach, Lombard Street and back to the Port of San Francisco. Another day I spent going on one of the hop-on, hop-off buses getting a guided tour around the City. I learned that there were a number of movies I didn’t even know were filmed in San Francisco or that I had forgot about such as “Pursuit of Happiness,” “Bullit,” and “The Wedding Planner.” I also learned that there were a number of famous people who called the city home at one time such as O. J. Simpson, Jimi Hendrix and Joe Dimaggio. I also got to

enjoy the neighborhood of Haight-Ashbury more thoroughly and see the Painted Ladies on Alamo Square for the first time. I also spent a whole separate day in San Francisco just to see the Superman 75th Anniversary exhibit at the Cartoon Art Museum and took pictures in Japantown and at the Palace of Fine Arts.

Jean and I also spent a couple of days having fun. We went one day to Santa Cruz and visited Mission Santa Cruz (which includes a building that housed local Native Americans), the Beach Boardwalk (sadly, none of the rides were running, but it was nice to be at the beach with no one around) and the wharf. There is a great indoor miniature golf setup based on pirates that looks like fun. We also spent a day in Fremont at the Mission San Jose, had tea at Tyme for Tea, and watched the Stage 1 production of “Les Miserables” with our friend Cordelia in the cast. We had a great time both days.

I also had to travel back to Minnesota for the funeral of my maternal grandfather, Joseph Alec LeMieux. I got to see family including my brother in Minneapolis and my sister who lives in Houston, as well as my parents who moved to Door County in Wisconsin. I also got to visit with my cousins who I have not seen in more than a decade as well as meet relatives from my grandmother’s side. I had a chance to share a drink with everyone at the local VFW and reconnect with family members. I also took advantage of the time to go back to my

old college stomping grounds on the University of Minnesota. Some of the campus is new and exciting, especially the football stadium, but much of it is exactly as I remember, like the old basketball and hockey stadiums (Williams Arena and Mariucci Arena), fraternity row, Northrup Mall (where I had most of my classes) and the Superblock (where I lived or worked in three of the four residence halls there). The one thing that is missing from the area is the old Oak Street Cinema. The building was torn down and replaced with a residential building and commercial space. The theater was only one room, but was such a wonderful place. I got to see a lot of classic and foreign movies there throughout college and they had double-feature weekends (2 movies for the price of 1) I also got to visit Minnehaha Falls in Hiawatha Park. I have seen the falls when it was frozen during winter, but never really got to enjoy it when it was flowing. It was quite a powerful site to behold.

I have also enjoyed the theater arts recently such and the Ian McKellen-Patrick Stewart staging of “No Man’s Land,” the Shakespeare-in-the-Park version of “Macbeth” and the aforementioned “Les Mis.” We also saw a one-man show based on the life of Johannes Kepler in the planetarium of the California Academy of Sciences.

Enjoy this issue everyone.

## **Join our crew!**

We are looking for writers to cover local events, conventions, fan groups and the fannish scene in general.  
Contact Jean Martin at [SFinSF@gmail.com](mailto:SFinSF@gmail.com)

# Interview with multiple Hugo and Nebula Award-winning author Connie Willis

**By Jean Martin**

*Editor-in-Chief*

Editor's Note: I got the chance to interview Connie Willis, one of the most respected and successful science fiction and fantasy authors of all-time, at the Nebula Awards last May 18. According to Wikipedia, she has won 11 Hugo Awards and 7 Nebula Awards — more "major awards" than any other writer. Her most recent award is for Best Novel at the Hugos and the Nebulas for "Blackout/All Clear." She was inducted by the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2009 and the Science Fiction Writers of America named her its 28th Grand Master in 2011.

This is the third of four author interviews I did at the Nebulas. If you missed my article about the Nebulas, you can find it at: [www.efanzines.com/SFSF/SFSF143.pdf](http://www.efanzines.com/SFSF/SFSF143.pdf). The first interview was with author and screenwriter Nick Sagan, which you can find at: [www.efanzines.com/SFSF/SFSF144.pdf](http://www.efanzines.com/SFSF/SFSF144.pdf). The second was with Mary Robinette Kowal and can be found at: [www.efanzines.com/SFSF/SFSF145.pdf](http://www.efanzines.com/SFSF/SFSF145.pdf).

Special thanks to Christopher Erickson for transcribing this interview from my recording.

**Jean:** What got you into writing in the first place?

**Connie:** *Most writers, there is no clear start date. I had always wanted to be a writer. I wrote stories when I was a little kid. I didn't write that much, I made up stories when I was a little kid and was in love with science fiction from the time I was 13. I kept thinking about being a writer, majored in*



by Jean Martin

*English, all those things and writing all the time, but I am not sure I thought until I was a senior in high school that this might be an actual career. I was thinking more in terms of Emily Dickinson. All the way through college I didn't think of this as a full-time career. There was a writer named Zenna Henderson who wrote in the 1950s and 1960s. She was a teacher and she wrote this small collection of stories called "The People's Stories" and all together I think they only form three volumes but they were wonderful stories. She wrote them during basically her Christmas break and her summer vacation as a teacher. This was how I envisioned my life going, I would be a teacher and be a part-time writer in my summer vacation. The idea that I could make a living as a writer did not occur to me.*

*After I taught a couple of years I had a baby and in those days they could fire you when you got pregnant. Mothers were supposed to stay home and take care of their kids. It sounds insane, doesn't it? At that point I thought "So I am going to stay home with the baby and try to write full time." At that point I wanted to write, but as far as wanting to write, well you can date it from sixth grade reading "Little Women." I always wanted to be Jo March. It's a hard question to answer, but it's something I gradually oozed into. Even when I was selling my first stories, it was not something I was thinking I could do full time, that I could ever earn enough money to do it full time. That's how it worked out, so I was very lucky.*

**Jean:** What were the science fiction novels that you read growing up?

**Connie:** *I actually came to science fiction later than a lot of people. You always hear people saying "I was reading 'Lord of the Rings' when I was six and I was reading Heinlein*

*when I was seven." I did not even know that science fiction existed until I was 13. That was when I stumbled by chance upon a copy of "Have Spacesuit, Will Travel" by Robert Heinlein and read that and loved it. I wanted to read other things like it. He had seven or eight in the library so I read all of those. Then in our library, they didn't have a separate science fiction section. They didn't even really talk about science fiction as a separate thing in those days. They had the library bindings and if it was science fiction it had a little rocket ship and an atom symbol on the spine of the book so I wandered through the library looking for all those atom symbols and rocket ships and found Bradbury and Clarke and Asimov and all these other people and just fell in love with the field. My library carried "The Year's Best Science Fiction." I read all of those and those were full of other authors I had never heard of. That led me to all these other science fiction authors.*

*Heinlein was a huge influence on me. He's a great author and especially a great author for kids because he is more for teenagers. His heroes and heroines are people just like you. They're young and pretty smart, which if you are a geeky kid reading science fiction, you love that they are smart. They're not the people you expect to be heroes, they are high school kids and they end up in these extraordinary situations so you can easily identify with them. Especially, Heinlein was funny, had a light, kind of breezy style and his worlds had high-tech things in them but people really lived in them. When I saw "Star Wars," I immediately thought this is a Heinlein-type world, not that he invented it, but that it was that Luke Skywalker has a banged-up speeder and he is whining that he is supposed to do an errand but he wanted to go to "Tosche*

*Station to pick up some power converters.” They’re just ordinary people living in these extraordinary times. I loved that and I think he is a really good introduction. He was my biggest influence.*

**Jean:** What still inspires you to write after all these years of writing and awards?

**Connie:** *A number of people have said to me, “You’re a Grand Master of Science Fiction, so what is there left to write?” and I’m like, “I didn’t write to get a Grand Master, I didn’t write to win awards. I wrote because I like to write stories.” I still like writing stories and I still get new ideas every day. I have way more books and short stories than I can possibly finish before I die. I would like to write some of them. I say I love writing. I do love writing but I don’t like the process of writing, I find it very difficult. Usually when I am working on a story I hate that story. I only like it once it’s done. I’m just fighting it the whole way. It’s like the difference between practicing dancing and then actually performing a dance. The performing is pretty fun but the actual practicing is a big pain and is difficult and you sprain your wrists and your muscles and you get really sore. Writing is like that, too. I just have more stories that I want to tell and there are so many ideas out there. People are always asking me where I get my ideas and I’m like, “They’re everywhere, there just all around you all the time.” The hard part is turning an idea into a story. That is the part that makes you a writer.*

**Jean:** You write a lot about comedy of manners. What part of human nature do you like to satirize about?

**Connie:** *I heard Seth MacFarland on the Oscars and I thought he was just awful, awful. I thought, “You are making about 50 mistakes of what comedy is about.” One of the*

*biggest mistakes, I thought, was that he didn’t distinguish. He said, defending himself afterward, “I make jokes about everyone and everything so I am not sexist or racist or anything because I laugh at everyone. That makes me free of any of these charges.” I thought, “You’re not allowed to laugh at anything.” For comedy to work, you need to laugh at the things that deserve to be laughed at. You laugh at excess, you laugh at selfishness, you laugh at greed, you laugh at people who take themselves too seriously, you laugh at people who are willfully ignorant. You don’t laugh at helpless kittens and puppies and handicapped people. You can laugh at the foolishness of a handicapped person, but you are not allowed to laugh at anything that makes that person vulnerable or helpless. You’re supposed to be knocking down the smug jerks who are walking around in the world, not the nice people. You can laugh at nice people if they take too much pride in being nice. You’re supposed to be laughing at the things that deserve to be laughed at, not just poking fun at everything. I think he missed that point. I always feel that comedy and anger are closely connected because usually the things I am laughing at are the things I am infuriated by. I am infuriated when people are snotty or trying to convince you how important they are or riding roughshod over people because they can. It’s the same things that make me angry and you can write about it directly and be angry or you can make fun of them and it has the same effect of deflating them and getting back at them.*

*Jane Austen does this. The people she laughs at in her stories are the people who take themselves too seriously, who are too proud, who are too prejudiced, who are too Mr. Collins who sucks up to Lady De Bourgh all the time. He comes to supposedly offer sympathy to the Bennett girls after their sister*

*has run off and he is there not to be sympathetic but to gloat. He's there to rub it into their faces and you hate him, but by laughing at him, you completely defuse his power. That's what I love about comedy.*

**Jean:** You write a lot about time travel as well. What about time travel is interesting to you?

**Connie:** *I love a lot of different things about time travel. For one thing, I love that you can visit periods of history that you couldn't. I wish that I had been born in Victorian England, except for the plumbing. This is a way to visit Victorian England even though I wasn't born there or the Blitz or any other time period. I also think that we can imagine a world where we can go to other planets or travel in space and do all these amazing things: meet aliens, have robots or whatever. Time travel is the one place you can never go. It's not going to happen, it's impossible. These are really stories that are wish fulfillment stories because we know in our hearts that we can never go back and fix things, especially the idea of going back and correcting mistakes that we made in the past, that impulse that makes you wake up at three in the morning and say, "I shouldn't have said that, if only I had done this differently things would have turned out differently." I think that is a really powerful feeling for people. I read a lot of stories about that, about people who regret the past and try to change it. Sometimes them trying to change it makes it much worse but that is something that we all wish we'd done things differently and gotten a second chance, so I think they're second-chance stories when you do time travel.*

**Jean:** You also write a lot about the effects of technology on people and society as a whole. What about that is interesting to you?

**Connie:** *A lot of science fiction is about the technology itself. One of the things always said to me is "That isn't science fiction" and I say "Yes, it is science fiction." They are used to the old kind of science fiction where the science is right there in your face, it's right in front of you because the story is about a scientist building a time machine or it's about people trying to fix a space ship that's heading toward the sun or something. My stories don't usually have the science in front, the science is in the back. What I am most interested in is the people reacting to the science, how the science and technology changes our lives. Usually, I am not interested in the main thing, but the unintended consequences. You invent this thing and it makes it possible to travel everywhere like the teleporter on "Star Trek." You can travel everywhere and that is great. Wow! No more lines at the airport or I can come see my daughter anytime, that would be so great. On the other hand, when I start thinking of all the possible other consequences, you could teleport yourself anywhere, you could teleport yourself into a bank vault and steal all the money or the terrorist in Boston wouldn't have to get a car and try to get away. They'd been there, dropped their bomb and gotten away. Thinking about all of the other possible ramifications, a stalker could walk in on you in the shower, it wouldn't necessarily be a good thing. I am always trying to think of not just the bad things, but the funny things that would happen.*

*My new book is about telepathy. Everybody always wishes to know what everyone is thinking and I'm thinking, "No, you don't. You really don't want that." It would come in really handy. A lot of fights are caused by the fact that you really don't understand what the other person is thinking or what*



*their logic was behind something. My husband and I fought the other day over the fact that he is starting to learn how to quilt on these antique sewing machines and he put this sewing machine right in my way in the middle of my office and we had a big fight over "Get your sewing machine out of my office, this is my office!" Three days later I just said, "Why don't you just set it up in the living room?" and he said "Because there is not enough light in there and I need more light to sew." I thought "This makes perfect sense" because it was the room with the most light in it. I think it is true that a lot of times telepathy would help us and if we would have known that we wouldn't have had that fight because I would have understood why he did it and he would have understood why I was upset as opposed to what I said. On the other hand, there are a lot of times when I am glad that no one knows what I am thinking and we keep a lot of our feelings to ourselves especially our catty remarks and our snide thoughts. There would just be hurt feelings all over the place if people could hear what we are actually thinking. To me that is the most interesting part of science and technology, the part where we have done something because we thought it would do this and instead it did all these other unintended things.*

**Jean:** You've written a lot of stories. Which one means the most to you, that you were happy with, that you would say is your favorite?

**Connie:** *I have two answers to that. One is usually whatever book I am working on at the moment that I really like the best. I am really proud of my book "Blackout/All Clear" which is two volumes but is one book. I have wanted my whole life to write about the Blitz and this is the book where I did the best job, I think, writing about what I really*

*wanted to write about and getting across to the reader what I wanted to communicate. I'm very proud of that. As far as my personal heart's favorite, that would be "Firewatch," my novelette that I wrote way back in the 1980s because it is about St. Paul's and I love St. Paul's. I wanted to do St. Paul's justice and I have had so many people say to me over the years "I went to London and I went straight to St. Paul's because of your story." I got to introduce all these people to St. Paul's and I would ask "Did you like St. Paul's?" They would say, "I loved it. You were right, it's so beautiful!" I'm out there spreading the good word about St. Paul's Cathedral so I am very proud of that story.*

**Jean:** What about the Blitz is appealing to you?

**Connie:** *It is so weird. Some things I understand and some things I don't. I don't think writers always know why they are drawn to certain ideas as opposed to others. For me, the Blitz is fascinating because I like reading about war. I don't really like reading about soldiers and battles, but I like reading stories about people finding themselves in a situation that they didn't cause and that they can't control and seeing what they do in those circumstances and they are such terrifying circumstances. The British people weren't just brave, they were funny. They came up with these funny responses to this terrible thing happening to them. One of my favorite stories one night the Germans bombed Fleet Street, which was the newspaper part of the city and destroyed all these newspaper offices and printing presses. Only one printing press was up and running. Out of all the newspapers in London, only one was able to get its printing press up and running to publish the next morning. Instead of putting in there headline "Horrible, horrible, terrible damage to Fleet Street" the headline was*

*“Bomb injured in fall on Fleet Street” because it’s true, the bomb did blow apart. I thought, “Only the English would do that.” It’s so funny and it’s kind of a poke in the eye of Hitler, you can’t hurt us, you can’t break our spirit. I just loved reading about how brave and funny and smart they were in responding, because, really the odds were totally against them. They should not have won against Hitler. They were a tiny little country, they didn’t have a good enough air force. Hitler had this amazing military machine so it was definitely a giant King Kong thing versus this tiny, little country and they beat him and you’re like “How did they do that?” That’s an amazing story and that’s why I love it.*

**Jean:** You also write about history and psychology. So I guess you’re a history buff.

**Connie:** I love history.

**Jean:** Do you read a lot of psychology books as well?

**Connie:** Some of the books I write, like “Lincoln’s Dreams” is about dream theory and dream psychology. I was interested in that because I really wanted to know where dreams came from, why we dream, what we dream because we dream such odd things. After I did all the research, I came to the conclusion that dreams are giant mental wastebaskets to stick all the junk of the day and throw it in there. While we are sleeping, our mind is sorting all the things that happen to us, everything that everyone said, everything thing we learned, every piece of information. It’s putting it in all the correct pigeon holes and is drawing all of the connections between all the things we learned with all of the other things we happen to know in our brain, which I think is so interesting that is what happens while we are asleep. That’s why you dream that you were in Paris but Paris was by the seashore and there was a

giraffe there and you were in an airplane but not really with your sister and it wasn’t really your sister, it was Angelina Jolie. You think, “Why would I dream this?” and the answer is because your mind is busily sorting and filing and throwing stuff away and the stuff that gets thrown away ends up in your dreams. I am very interested in how the mind works especially with all the new neurochemical stuff where we are finding out how we think, what we think and how it all works.

**Jean:** What do you think it is about your stories that resonates with so many people?

**Connie:** I don’t know. I hope that I write a little like Heinlein. He always had this light, breezy, friendly style and I work really hard on my style so that people don’t have to work super hard to read my books. I learned real early. When you first start, you write stupid stories. Everybody’s writing vampire stories, so you write a vampire story. You don’t really know what you should be writing about. I wrote a couple of personal stories that I didn’t think that anyone else would like because they were really personal to me. They were about something that had happened to me or something some odd thought I had. I mostly wrote them for myself than for anybody else. I found that those were the most successful stories. I thought, “Oh, I see a connection here.” If you speak from the heart and you tell your most personal thoughts, you may find that there are other people out there who feel the same thing and feel the same connection. I think that’s valuable. In Roald Dahl’s “Matilda,” he talks about how books are like ships at sea and they sent a powerful message to Matilda: “You are not alone.”

I love Jo March in “Little Women” who lives in a totally different world. She wears long skirts and bonnets and the

*rules are totally different in society and she lives in a totally different part of the country than I had ever lived in, but what she thought was what I thought about the world. There were these connection points. If you write honestly about what you are thinking and what you are feeling, then you do connect with other people. I hope that is what people like. I don't know, maybe they just like the bombs falling. You never know what people like about your work.*

**Jean:** I just recently did a short story writing workshop. What you are saying, writing from the heart, I did that and I felt so very, very vulnerable.

**Connie:** Yes, it is very scary. But I do think that is the only way. When I have tried to write a story that I thought would appeal to people (Well, "Twilight" is popular; so I will write a "Twilight"-like story), that hasn't worked. When I have written stories where who cares what everybody else is doing, I'm interested in the Blitz, I'm going to write about the Blitz, I'm interested in what it's like to be a maid stuck in Northern England with all these evacuated children and me being really annoyed with all of them and then I find that a lot of people are interested in that too. I would not give that up.

*When you write, and as you get more skillful and you practice and all that, you learn to get the story that is in your head down on paper better. There is usually nothing wrong with the story in your head at all, it's just that writers don't have the skill to get it on to the paper in any kind of recognizable form. The more that I was able to do that, the more people that related to that kind of thing. You wouldn't think that you wouldn't have anything in common with Jane Austen who lived in this little village in early 1800s and the society was very different, but when you watch "Pride and Prejudice" you recognize all these people because you know people just like these people. I think all the trappings can be different. These people can be living on a double sun or in a medieval society, that can all be different, but if the people are the same and have the same kind of thoughts that can be recognizable to other people, probably the thoughts you have had about things, then that is connecting point.*

**Jean:** That is very good advice. Thank you.

# ***The Third Annual Virginia City Victorian Steampunk Ball***

**By Cpt. Archibald ‘Lucky’ Peddycord**

*CO of the Aether Brigade* ([aetherbrigade.com](http://aetherbrigade.com))

Virginia City is about 40 minutes south of Reno by time ship and the route takes you through the picturesque, arid mountains with winding roads and spectacular, unobstructed vistas of the surrounding landscape. My sanity had little protection against the encroaching sense of loneliness as I left the urbanity of Reno behind: I had to pilot my own vehicle and thus I could scarcely utilize alchemy to protect my nerves.

Upon arriving in Virginia City I was delighted to discover that the historic and well-preserved town was covered with genuine, cowboy-filled saloons. Pushing my way through the swinging doors, I mourned my lack of spurs. I nodded to the piano player and settling into a seat overlooking Boot Hill, promptly whet my whistle with some lovely bourbon. Glancing around, I discovered that the saloons here were, as is the custom in Nevada, covered with noisy gambling calliopes. I resisted the temptation to rob the establishment blind with my incredible luck.

Signage around town proclaimed Virginia City a town of “relics & memories & ghosts of the past;” on the contrary, I found it very much alive and throbbing with activity. (No ghosts were aetherically detected during my visit.)

## **A Cavalcade of Steampunk!**

Fortified and renewed, I sallied forth to the street fair taking place outside of Piper’s Opera House to greet the arriving parade of Victorian time travelers. I noted the



## **A promise that delivers**

impressive presence of the Nautilus, a two-story, rolling, metal, submarine-inspired, land vehicle with a water cannon mounted under the canopy on the second story that caused my goggles to vibrate with the distinctive sounds of that 21st century dub step music.

Also among the parade participants (who ranged in age from one to 80) the presence of the Sacramento Steampunk Society and my old friend Doktor Morbius and his delightful, electric, circus carnival-themed carriage (and he had erected a tent to match).

I whiled away the hours sharing beer and stories with those assembled including the creators of the Ladies of Steampunk magazine and the hosts of the event: High Desert Steam, a group that puts on techno-fantasy related events to support





**Suicide Table Saloon**

by Scott London

Charity (a noble pursuit indeed: no idea who this Charity lass might be, but I am sure she must be gorgeous to inspire so much enthusiasm).

As the show and the ball proper neared, the passengers from the train excursion to Carson City returned all looking a bit wind-ruffled from the open-air observation car and it was easy to spot the grins on their faces. I understand that the restaurant car also served some lovely drinks.

### **Fun at the Opera House!**

Piper's Opera House (where the evening's festivities were to take place) was built at a time when Virginia City was rich from the silver mines of the late 19th century and could boast

the highest per capita population of millionaires in the Colonies. 'Twas a beautiful sight indeed and Dr. Belladonna's Silver City Spectacular, put on by Ashram World Dancers, took the stage with quite a variety of acts including hilarious puppets, compelling singers, laughable comedians and lovely dancers. Some of the dancers were rather easy on the eyes.

There were many talented musicians and the stage show segued nicely into the ball itself. Slow Djinn Fez played some rather complex instrumentals and Unwoman capped off the evening with her ever-haunting melodies. I particularly enjoyed 6 Mule Pile-up, a bluegrass band composed entirely of young and handsome folks of both sexes that put me in mind of the soundtrack of "O Brother, Where Art Thou?," not only were they a pleasure to look upon, but I found my toe tapping in spite of the old ghoul bite acting up! (I cannot recommend 6 Mule Pile-up too highly!)



**Nautilus Submarine Car at Burning Man**

by Scott London



**Captain Lucky with Shot Glass**

by Art Koch

## **Have Your Own Adventure Through the Weird West in 2014!**

All in all, it was a lovely day and I only discovered afterwards that Nevada is also covered with cat houses, which is just as well since my allergies can sometimes overwhelm.

So, come on out to the fourth Annual Victorian Steampunk Ball next year and have your own adventure (and also support that lovely Charity)!

*To find out more about Captain Lucky's adventures in Nevada, listen to Aethercast 007: The Cat Houses of Nevada ([aetherbrigade.com/Steamcast-007/](http://aetherbrigade.com/Steamcast-007/)).*



**Piper's Opera House Interior**



# *Learn to use the Force: Lightsaber class teaches how to do lightsaber dueling*

**By Christopher Erickson**

*Managing Editor*

For everyone who has ever wanted to learn how to wield a lightsaber when watching the “Star Wars” movies, there is a class that takes place every Sunday in a small studio in San Francisco. The class is taught by Jedi Masters with everyone learning the ways of the Force, or just practicing how to hold and strike with a lightsaber. The class is the Golden Gate

Knights saber class located at Studio Gracia, 19 Heron Street in San Francisco, on Sundays from noon to 3:00 p.m.

The class is a mix of stretching, lightsaber flourishes, attacks and defense positions (parries), drills and demonstrations with meditation at the end. The class is instructed by Alain Bloch and Matthew Carauddo, both dressed in full Jedi outfits. Matthew is a licensed fencing



**Learning Combat Attacks**

by Christopher Erickson



**Figure Eight Flourish**

by Christopher Erickson



**Practicing Flourishes**

by Christopher Erickson

instructor and Alain is experienced in multiple forms of martial arts. Both instructors lead the class warm-ups and stretching before the practice begins.

The mood of the class is set with musical accompaniment from various pieces of the “Star Wars” soundtracks. The class takes on the feel of being at the Jedi Academy with the musical backing and the lighted sabers being wielded.

After stretching, the class is shown how to do the flourishes, which are the fancy sword play of the spins and figures that fighters perform before they engage in battle. The instructors take students through the motions of forward and backward sword spins as well as figure-eight maneuvers and



**Forward Spin Practice**

by Christopher Erickson

show the class how to build more complex patterns from the simple basics.

The next part of the class is learning the attack and defense technique called the Novastar and Caine’s Saber Combat System (NCSCS). The NCSCS teaches how to strike at the “opponent” or dodge attacks based on a targeting system focusing on areas to strike at without actually hitting the person. The system uses a simple number pattern to designate the attack or defense areas and can be combined to create attack patterns that will look much more random. The system also teaches strikes and parries for more dramatic looks where the attacker will slash completely across the body and the





**Reverse Spin Practice**

by Christopher Erickson

defender will duck, jump or move to the side to avoid the attacks.

With learning all of these flourishes and the NCSCS, Jedi students get to practice against each other or in drills with instructors including attack and defense patterns and using two

different grip types (one that is more traditional in broadswords that has long looping strikes and the other with an inverted grip that creates faster movements and quick strikes).



**Meditation Circle**

by Christopher Erickson

The beginner and intermediate learners are then usually treated to a demonstration by the advanced members and other instructors of stage choreography where the instructors stage a fight that they had worked out during the week leading up to the class.

The final part of the class is a meditation session where all the members of the class sit down to form a circle and recite the Jedi mantra with the lights out and their lightsabers on.



**Jedi Salute**

by Christopher Erickson

This is a fun way to get a bit of exercise and get into a martial art without the pressure that usually goes with learning a more formal martial art form.

Information on the class can be found at [goldengateknights.com](http://goldengateknights.com) and [www.facebook.com/groups/goldengatejedi/events/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/goldengatejedi/events/). More information and DVDs sales of the NCSCS can be found at [sabercombat.com](http://sabercombat.com).



# *Japantown Anime Festival*

**By Robbie Pleasant**

*Staff Writer*

San Francisco's Japantown is known for being a center for Japanese culture, which also means a place for anime fans to meet. Never is that clearer than during the Japantown Anime Festival, a one-day event held last September 29 at the Japantown Peace Plaza that celebrates anime and its fans.

Attendees of all ages went there to enjoy the festivities, which began a little before noon and lasted throughout the day. Of course, there were cosplayers aplenty; while most tended to wear more casual outfits, some broke out their best works of sewing and crafting to compete in the contest, which consisted mostly of walk-ons, but offered a somewhat large prize.

Aside from the competition, the stage by the pagoda was always busy with various presentations. There were performers such as the Angel Hearts group, as well as the occasional amateur volunteer, and presentations such as kendo demonstrations. It ensured that there was always something to see, although the quality varied.

Outside of the main stage, there wasn't much provided by the event, but there's still plenty to do at Japantown. Most made their way to the Kinokuniya Book Store or Japan Video, before heading to the arcade or shops for things like clothes or swords. There's plenty to do, although not too much as to keep one away from the main events for long.



**Watanuki and Chii from xxxHolic and Chobits**

by Robbie Pleasant



**Kyoko from Madoka Magica**

by Robbie Pleasant

Food options were plentiful as well, though not exactly varied. Those willing to spend extra for quality and a show could try to go to Benihana's, although most would find themselves stopping at one of the many Japanese restaurants around the plaza. The amount of places made sure that no one had to wait too long for a meal.



**Persona, To Aru Kagaku no Railgun and Durarara!! Cosplayers**

by Robbie Pleasant

All in all, while there may not have been too much in the way of activities, it still offered a good way to spend the day. The atmosphere was great, there was no shortage of great people to meet and spend time with, and there were enough presentations to keep people entertained. It was a Saturday well spent.



# *Interview with Chris Mark, Author of “Stark Nova”*

**By Yvette Keller**

*Contributing Writer*

## **How long have you been writing fiction?**

Like a lot of writers I started seriously attempting writing back in High School. I continued on with short stories until the end of college when I attempted my first truly terrible novel (I've since incinerated that computer to keep the evil spirits of bad writing at bay). If there's one thing I know it's that practice and patience pay off over time. I think it is extremely important to keep creating (even a little something) every day, even if you never show it to anyone. This can be as tiny as a single sentence you create out of the blue and jot down in a notebook. Then later on down the road you can flip through those sentences and see if something you wrote sparks a bigger idea.

## **How long did “Stark Nova” take from inception to eBook?**

That is a very good question ... I first had the idea for what eventually became “Stark Nova” back in college when I thought it would be interesting to do a sort of outer-space, James Bond-style story. This “Space Bond” concept rattled around in my head for a long time with the occasional scribbling of notes but no real traction. Then a while ago I started writing Stark Nova as an internet web serial originally entitled, “Intergalactic Espionage for Idiots.” But before I could really put it online my friends and family told me that they thought the writing was strong enough to be a real book



versus a web serial. So I began a new full book outline for what became this novel. All in all, the actual writing, revising and tweaking of this book took about five years from start to publication. In fact it has been finished for over a year before release just to make sure I was happy with all the polishing and finetuning of the story and characters. I'm extremely happy I waited so long to write it because I think as a younger man I would have written something more macho and less fun.

**I know that you have worked in film for many years, why isn't "Stark Nova" a screenplay or TV pilot?**

The honest answer is that from my experience in the entertainment industry and in living in LA ... EVERYONE thinks their idea will make a great screenplay or TV show. It is extremely competitive and it all just seemed like a big ocean of people waving their arms and shouting ... "Me! Me! Pick me!" When in actuality from my experience there are only a few factors that really drive the greenlight creative decisions in the entertainment industry. The primary one is, "Is this a safe bet?" Meaning, is this a property that is either already known and loved, Sherlock Holmes is a great example of this (either the BBC version, or Robert Downey Jr or "Elementary," etc.) Alice in Wonderland is another (forget public domain for now ... just think brand identity). Everyone already knows and loves Sherlock Holmes and Alice in Wonderland, so there is very low risk involved for the high expense and gamble of creating a new movie or show. Another is bankability ... do the studio heads think your intellectual property will yield a decent return on investment. "The Avengers" movie is a prime example of something already existing in comic book form with a built in audience that gave a 1.5 billion dollar return on 200 million dollar investment. It

is called, Show "Business" after all and the studios want to keep their business growing. The only other way I know of to really get your own ideas out there is to already be entrenched in another successful program so the executives have a high comfort level with you. Like J.J. Abrams' "Alias" leading to "Lost" or Joss Whedon's "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" to "Firefly." I think it would have been nearly impossible to bring something like "Firefly" to the screen if Joss wasn't already Joss.

**Well, now I have to ask, because readers want to know: Are you really on a first name basis with JOSS WHEDON?!?!?**

No comment.

**How does the "art of the director" affect your writing?**

I've been told that my writing is very visual. That my prose paints very vivid images in people's heads even though I don't rely on overly descriptive passages. To be honest, as a writer, I'm not certain exactly how I'm doing that. To me it is a natural way to write, but I'm certain that it has something subconsciously to do with my filmmaking eye and how I lay down what I'm seeing in my head onto paper.

**How has living in the SF Bay Area affected your writing or your writing career?**

I have to admit living up here is a little quieter than my life in Los Angeles was. I think that gives me more free time to focus on my craft and less pressure to just pump something out. Also, I really love the feel of the Bay, which is why I decided to set the opening of "Stark Nova" up here in the San Francisco area. Many of the places mentioned in the first quarter of the book are lifted directly from buildings and locations I've visited. For example with a GPS I could tell you

the exact coordinates of where Tac was hiding and where they boarded Stark's ship because I've stood there many a time in the past and looked out at San Francisco across the waves.

**When did you first “meet” Stark Nova?**

Earlier I mentioned I had been scribbling random notes of my space spy in notebooks for years leading up to the writing of Stark Nova, and originally Stark was very different. He was much tougher and a lot less fun. Then in 1999 they released the movie, “Star Wars: The Phantom Menace” to really mixed reactions. Some liked it, some hated it. Personally, I thought it was ok, but it didn't really feel like the amazing universe with great characters George Lucas had created back in the 1970s. Then it hit me. “The Phantom Menace” was almost entirely humorless. All of the characters (with the obvious exception of JarJar) were too cool for school. What really made the original “Star Wars” so great (aside from the groundbreaking special effects and music) was that the characters were lovably flawed. They fell down trash compactors and insulted one another all the while supporting each other in a common fight against evil. In this way we as an audience embraced these characters because they were like us. They made mistakes, had visible humorous flaws and we loved them for that. So when I sat down to really create Stark Nova and his companions I decided that the new Stark Nova should be extremely flawed and the way he covers up his own insecurities is through humor.

**The humor in this book is one of the things I enjoyed the most: How does your own personal sense of humor compare to Nova's?**

First off, thank you. I'm glad you found the book so humorous. When you write, you are never really certain if

something is funny or not until someone else reads it. Sadly there is probably more of me in Stark Nova than I would like. I'm known (both good and bad) for my dry sardonic humor and for jokes, which have gotten me in a lot of trouble in the past. As for the humorous writing, one of the things that always surprises me is that none of the “jokes” in Stark Nova are planned out. Anything funny just sort of spontaneously happens while I write. In fact, my chapter outlines are devoid of any humor and mostly act as a rough roadmap of the hard events that need to occur in that chapter. How they unfold and the little things that happen in between are all an organic surprise that occurs while I write or when I am having imaginary conversations in my head.

**Katherine, your human protagonist, reads as not the sharpest tool in the shed. How did her intellect affect how the novel developed or vice versa?**

Ok, so I'm going answer this question in a moment, but I think this is an excellent springboard about the evolution of the novel because Katherine Hunt is absolutely key to the core of what is “Stark Nova.” So when I was developing both the early and final version of “Stark Nova” (the book) I decided I needed an everyman (or every woman) to be the audience's eyes and ears. Someone we could identify with and follow through space after Stark. This way Stark and Gig could talk directly to you the reader though Katherine, but she also had to be her own person. Originally I was thinking, what if you told a James Bond story through the eyes of the Bond Girl versus following James around directly. How would you feel when he vanished out of nowhere to follow a lead, or when he would show up and surprise you with drinks. But in exploring that path I began to feel that the traditional Bond Girl is little

more than a sexy accessory for James (and often the ideal male sexual projection of a woman) rather than a flesh and blood character. So enter Katherine. The anti-Bond Girl, Bond Girl. I know a lot about her, a lot more than I mention in the book, because I'm hoping there will be ongoing books to dish out more about her and Stark in the future. In my opinion she's not really a dim bulb. She is a person who has grown stagnant. I personally feel that everyone in life has a path we are meant to travel. However a lot of the time people can stray from their personal path and end up somewhere they really don't belong. Then due to any number of financial, or emotional, or physical reasons, they stop moving. They stop following their path in life and they grow dull and apathetic and begin to cling to routine as an excuse. This is Katherine at the beginning of this book. Katherine didn't know it, but her path is one of the most extraordinary of all and it begins when she meets Stark. You can start to see her wake up a little during the whole Omniunicorp adventure in the beginning. Although her growth is subtle, in the end she is the one who (SPOILER ALERT!) finishes off Rebecca and realizes just how honestly happy she is in her hospital bed at the end. This sentiment of Katherine finally being on the right track is punctuated in the final sentence of the Firesprite chapter. One of the main focuses in the next book is about Katherine training at Omacron to learn what it means to be an intergalactic spy. There she becomes more and more accustomed to how things work, while still remaining a fish out of water to all the new experiences she has to overcome.

**Your story has AIs, androids and space travel in it, but it also has vying galactic governments, spies and military**

**aspects. Do you think of your novel as SF? A spy or mystery novel? A humor novel? And Why?**

Yes. Next question ... No seriously. In general I think of "Stark Nova" as a rollicking fun science fiction adventure. I grew up in the 1980s and I have a massive love affair for the films of that era. "Back to the Future," "The Goonies," "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "The Empire Strikes Back." I love a fun adventure. That was the main focus of "Stark Nova." Write the kind of book you do not want to put down because you are having a fantastic ride with some great friends (Stark, Katherine and Gig). I cannot stand authors who write to sound smart and put on airs, or immerse their books into overwhelming gravitas to add weight. My personal goal is to write fun books that are easy on the eyes. Meaning the reader should simply consume the pages not having to stop and try and figure out what they just read. My test for this is when you are reading a book and you suddenly recognize that even though your eyes kept going, your brain checked out three paragraphs ago and you realize you have no idea what you just read. My goal as a writer is to write really engaging fiction that you can effortlessly swim through and come out stimulated and feeling good on the other side.

**Without spoilers, what are your future plans for Stark Nova's universe?**

I wouldn't call this a spoiler but the next book picks up a few months after the events of the first one with Katherine now completely entrenched in training to become a spy. The actual opening pages are a lot more exciting than that, but I don't want to give anything away yet. The over-arching plan is to have three books to a story cycle. Meaning, "Stark Nova" is the first of three that will deal with a specific overall event or



theme. After reading Stark Nova you may have noticed that there are more than a few loose ends out there (the mole, the Stark Nova effect, mind reading aliens, the Zeolite epilogue) and some history with the main characters that needs to be resolved. I also peppered this book with clues and hints to where the next two books might go. Then, if there is interest, there will be another three-book cycle to cover another event. But for right now, I am focused mostly on book two's outline revisions and the first chapters. To be honest, the possibility of future books will be dependent on public interest in "Stark Nova." So if you enjoyed the book definitely get the word out! That's why the price is so low (for now) to make it easy for everyone to discover this book.

**What else would you like prospective readers to know about your new book?**

Read it. Love it. Tell a friend. Thank you.

# *“Stark Nova” by Chris Mark – A Review*

**By Yvette Keller**

*Contributing Writer*

What if debonair James Bond was a Galactic Spy rather than a mere British Agent?

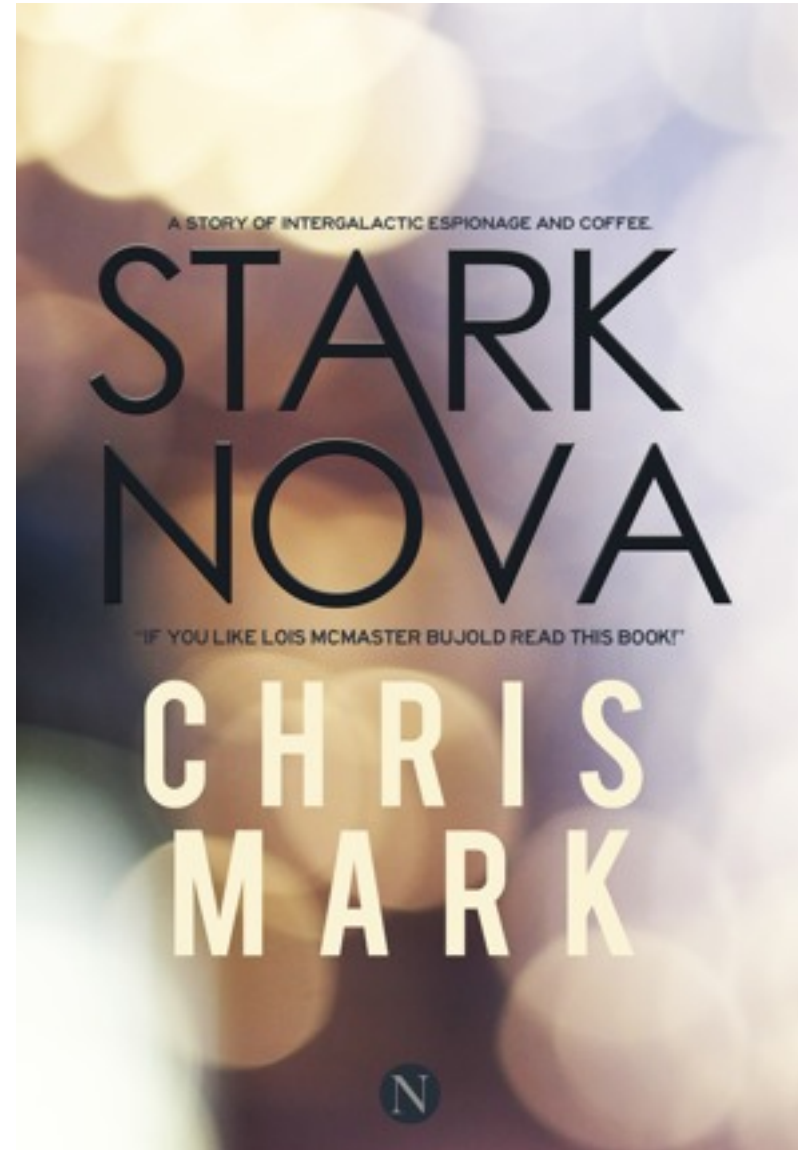
What if you discovered that he had defected from The Galactic Empire, and left (his Dad) Darth Vader’s forces in order to spy for The Alliance?

What if he was then joined by The Companion from “Doctor Who,” and a sidekick like a hyper-efficient mashup of Marvin the Paranoid Android and the Boy Wonder?

If all that was true, you’d probably be reading “Stark Nova,” by Chris Mark.

The new eBook, “Stark Nova” is like nothing – and everything – you’ve ever read before. The plot and characters of the book seem comfortably obvious, almost – but not quite – to the edge of being trite. Only a few hundred words into the novel, however, and any reader familiarity with detective and space tropes merely makes it possible for the author to twist and turn his story in hilarious and unexpected directions.

The protagonist, Katherine Hunt, is an office temp in the San Francisco Bay Area who quickly learns two things: 1) She doesn’t know who she is working for, and more importantly, 2) she also doesn’t know who makes the coffee. The book’s namesake, Stark Nova, is the used car salesman of the spy world. He’s a little obvious with the overdramatic lechery, but so fast with the brilliant escape plans that Katherine soon believes he is the crème de la crème of spies.



Initially reluctant to leave present day earth, Katherine gets dragged along on Stark's latest mission. Their one-step-ahead of the bad guys course takes them to space stations, alien planets and asteroids. Their elite team includes Gig, Nova's assistant, and Tac, in charge of transportation (and a little bit more).

The characters manage to bond – or not – over following clues and getting captured. Their relationships are all expressed with a dry humor that will make readers laugh out loud. It is compelling to read the encounters with both allies and adversaries in Mark's clear and modern writing. The realistic language makes it seem as if the extended mission just happened yesterday ... or might happen tomorrow. Mark's dialog is cinematic, conveying exactly what a reader needs to hear, see and feel from moment to moment in the story, but it is also lean, never bogging down in profuse description.

One of my favorite aspects of the book was the way plots and subplots seemed easily anticipated, but at the very moment I thought, "I know where this is going," Mark took his cue to introduce highly amusing surprises. I also enjoyed the way all the minor characters in Mark's story have their moment in the limelight, from an AI who is in denial about being a "ship," to an all-too-trusting jump-gate operator.

The novel feels written by an author who wants to amuse himself by writing a fun, easy read. Unlike longer, darker and more serious space-spy novels, like the Vorkosigan Saga, "Stark Nova" is a pure adventure, with recognizable characters, that can be appreciated by any reader.

"Stark Nova" was released on September 30, 2013, as an Amazon.com exclusive eBook: [www.amazon.com/Stark-Nova-ebook/dp/B00FKGHT5I](http://www.amazon.com/Stark-Nova-ebook/dp/B00FKGHT5I).

# Mermaids Swim in San Francisco

**By Tony Gilbert**

*Foggy Wharf LLC ([www.foggywharf.com](http://www.foggywharf.com))*

If you have ever walked by Aquatic Park in San Francisco on a winter morning, and seen swimmers without wetsuits, enjoying the water as if it were someplace tropical, you may have asked yourself, “What are they doing? Are they crazy?” I’m one of those crazy swimmers, and I wrote a short story

about how Bay swimmers transform into mermaids, called “Hannah and the Secret Mermaids of San Francisco Bay.” To celebrate the launch, we had a mermaid swim and book party on Sunday, October 13, with seven “real” mermaids in the water and on shore, plus a few young fans in mermaid



photo by RD





photo by Chris Spangenberg



photo by RD



photo by RD





photo by RD

costumes. I also swam with the mermaids, wearing my trusty GoPro camera on my head. (You can view the GoPro video at: [youtu.be/nXWtyOJZg4Y](https://youtu.be/nXWtyOJZg4Y). The water temperature was about 56



photo by RD

degrees, but we were all laughing, and had some hot Irish coffee afterwards. The book is available on Amazon, and the book's website, SF Mermaid, is at [www.sfmermaid.com](http://www.sfmermaid.com).

# *Hallow Be Thy Game*

**By Jack Avery**

*Editor Emeritus*

Fans of weird, gothic and spooky fine art will find lots to admire at the new show *Hallow Be Thy Game* at the Bash Contemporary Gallery in San Francisco.

Appropriately themed for the Halloween season, the show runs through November 9 in San Francisco with artwork from artist duo Ransom and Mitchell as well as Stefanie Vega, Larissa Kulik and Danny van Ryswyk.

The standout piece is the new work by local artists Jason Mitchell and Stacy Ransom. One of their largest pieces at 51x71 inches, “It Will Be Ours” dominates the back wall of the gallery with their trademark combination of photography, prop and scenery making, digital manipulation and old-master lighting.

The image is of a dryad or nature spirit who is rushing toward a small feral boy watching an old television. The setting of barren civilized decay the boy inhabits is being torn apart by the onrushing power of nature. Huge insects and millipedes accompany the dryad, twining through her hair and branches. The level of detail work is amazing with bright red mushrooms accenting her hair, branches intertwined with limbs as she reaches for the boy with fingers transformed to claws made of twigs.

The whole effect is reminiscent of a photorealistic version of something John Totleben might have drawn in “Swamp Thing” back in the day.

The duo’s work is often compared to photographic version of old masters and this is no exception as in person the subtle shafts of light can be seen flowing across the work, as if the sun were peeking through the canopy to the forest floor.

Knowing their previous work, I suspect that this is going to be one of a set of images as they tend to do several works connected by a storyline. They did have one portrait of the main model accompanying the work, “Reckoning,” but I expect to see a couple more large works joining this one in future shows.

These new works are joined by a few that have already been seen in last fall’s *Smoke & Mirrors* solo show at Varnish Fine Arts that I reviewed in issue three of *From Alien Shores*. As this is a spooky show, the works chosen focus on the pair’s body-horror-themed work with “Nos Fiere Quod Seminat,” “Her Burdens are Her Pleasures,” “The Truth Lies Within,” “A Perfect Fit,” and “My Head is Where My Heart Was.”

Another work by the duo is a nice portrait of a lovely little girl wearing a sort of Snow White dress. But this being Ransom and Mitchell, they use their mastery of lighting to transform her into the most evil-looking child possible for the appropriately titled “Up To No Good.”

Ransom and Mitchell have a very involved process to create their art. They hire models, build incredibly intricate sets and props, and then process the resulting photographs





**It Will Be Ours** by Ransom and Mitchell

courtesy of Bash Contemporary Gallery

digitally to create works that look like paintings with the details of photographs. All of their work has a strong narrative element in that they are creating characters that inhabit fantastic worlds that cannot exist, and yet seem to have been photographed from life.

Part of the process used in “It Will Be Ours” involved photographing real insects and creating the dress and makeup worn by the model. During the exhibit opening, the gallery hosted not only the artists, but also the model in full attire as well as props and some of the live insects used.

This is a busy month for the artist duo, they have a second show, *die Familie* in Oakland at the Zero Friends Gallery and their solo show *Across From Familiar* is at the Roq La Rue Gallery in Seattle. The Seattle show seems to be mostly older work, much of which was part of the Varnish Fine Arts show. The Oakland show, however is work from the last six months where the duo transformed artist friends into a series of portraits of bizarre characters with a slightly steampunk, disturbed neo-Victorian vibe. The gallery is only open by appointment except on the first Friday of each month when it is open to the public from 4:00–9:00 p.m. That show runs through November 29.

Another impressive local artist participating in the San Francisco show at Bash Contemporary is Stefanie Vega. While Ransom and Mitchell dominate the walls of the gallery, Vega’s work dominates the open space. Her work is both meticulous and disturbing and, like Ransom and Mitchell, is infused with storytelling.

Vega’s work is dark and gothic, consisting of mixed-media dimensional assemblages of taxidermy, doll parts, fabric arts and sculpture. Inspired by traditional nursery rhymes and fairy



**Dorian Gray** by Stefanie Vega

courtesy of Bash Contemporary Gallery



tales, Vega even writes short verses detailing the stories behind her artworks.

Each of her pieces is a character, a red-eyed and red-mouthed doll with often with taxidermy bird feet and bird wings and a disturbing story told with poetry and objects and



**Bleeding Bird** by Stefanie Vega

courtesy of Bash Contemporary Gallery

little skeleton crows with glass eyes. You want creepy dolls? Stefanie Vega pretty much has the creepy doll motif down cold with her strange chimera.

My favorite of hers was “Dorian Gray,” based on the famous story. Only in Vega’s version, Gray is a creepy, bird-footed doll who is imprisoned, like many of her creations, in an elaborate bird cage with barb wire-wrapped bars. Tiny mirrors and two tiny portraits hang suspended from the top of the cage. Both the roof and the floor of the cage are made of clocks, trapping the doll between two symbols of passing time. The clock on the bottom was even running. (I suspect the clock on the top was supposed to run as well, but might need a new battery.)

The running clock is typical of the level of detail that Vega puts into her work. She has handmade cages, handmade platforms and frames and boxes, handmade doll’s clothes and other props each with an incredible attention to the most minute of detail.

“Bleeding Bird” for example, not only features a handmade doll, but she sits inside a circus wagon Vega has constructed that comes complete with a music box that plays the Alfred Hitchcock theme and has a poem telling the doll’s story written by the artist. “The Task” not only has the doll, set inside a bird cage with barbed wire bars, knitting a tiny garment, but Vega has hung several completed knitted sweaters from the bottom of the cage.

Two of the pieces came in custom frame boxes similar to a retablo shrine. “La Santa de la Piedra” or the Patron Saint of The Misunderstood and “La Santa de la Aves” or the Patron Saint of the Worried” come with verses describing the aid they can provide, but the outré nature of the pieces seems like they





**La Santa De Las Aves** by Stefanie Vega  
courtesy of Bash Contemporary Gallery



**King Krow** by Stefanie Vega  
courtesy of Bash Contemporary Gallery

would inspire more dread than confidence in their help.

Other standout works include “King Krow” whose figure wears a crown of bones and a cloak of feathers while huddled inside his barb-adorned bird cage and “The Dolly Beast,” which looks a bit more normal than the rest until one notices it’s a satyr.

To quote Blue Oyster Cult, Vega’s works come from a bedtime story for the children of the damned.

The local artists are joined by two digital artists from Europe to round out the show.

Larissa Kulik’s work is more abstract than the previously mentioned artists and is the most varied in the show, with each work being quite different from the others, but sharing muted tones and an existentialist theme while being descended from the surrealist school.

“Egg” and “Dragonfly” I found to be reminiscent of some of the artwork of John Jude Palencar. Her work ranges from the Alice in Wonderland inspired “Big Small” to the completely surreal “Egg.”

Honestly, she was my least favorite artist in the show as I found her art a bit too obtuse. The meaning that she was trying to communicate was simply beyond me.

It’s certainly weird and certainly competently done but although her work fits in with established fantasy art styles, her work just isn’t for me.

Dutch artist Danny van Ryswyk’s work is a bit more photorealistic, but is still clearly fantastic. Inspired by a UFO sighting he had as a boy, his work explores the otherworldly.

His monochromatic work is entirely computer generated, but is inspired by Victorian style, vintage photography and more than a bit of H.P. Lovecraft.



**Dragonfly** by Larissa Kulik

courtesy of Bash Contemporary Gallery

In “The Vague Forms of a Dream”, a masked woman appears to be transforming into a tentacled creature as butterflies flit around and a glass case full of skulls sits in the background while in “Strange Days Have Found Us” the head of a woman in Victorian dress is replaced by stalks of eyeball-topped tentacles. In “The World Within” a woman is attached by cables from her head to a brain in a jar sitting on a nearby table.





**The World Within** by Danny van Ryswyk

courtesy of Bash Contemporary Gallery

His figures almost fall into the “uncanny valley” in that they are almost, but not quite, photorealistic and that adds to their otherworldliness.

I made a point of seeing the show because I admire the narrative element of Ransom and Mitchell’s work. I feel that looking at their art is like reading a novel; there is an extended story being told with characters, world-building, plot and action. If there was a flaw in the show, it was that I thought we were only getting excerpts from their novels because not all of the pieces belonging to a sequence were being shown.

Vega was an artist I’ve not experienced before, but I liked her work as each piece was like a short story, a little tale, a glimpse into the life of her characters. Van Ryswyk’s work was interesting, but I felt I was only getting half the story while Kulik’s work was too abstract for me to grok.

Bash Contemporary Gallery is located at 210 Golden Gate Avenue. You have to knock at the door to be let in as the gallery is located in the Tenderloin. The gallery website is [bashcontemporary.com](http://bashcontemporary.com).

*Jack Avery is the editor of From Alien Shores, a zine that explores genre media from around the world. It is available for free download from [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com). The latest issue features reviews and articles by Jean Martin, España Sheriff, Ray Hoey and Avery on subjects ranging from Canadian and Australian fantasy TV, Spanish and Chinese film, Spaghetti Westerns, European music, BBC audio drama, American theater and more all with a genre focus.*



# ***Fabulous Gloriana: A Review of the Northern California Renaissance Faire***

**By Christopher Erickson**

*Managing Editor*

The village of Willingtown descended upon Casa De Fruta once again this year as royalty, knights, peasants and traders created the market atmosphere in this season's Northern California Renaissance Faire. There were lots of familiar sights and sounds and a number of new arrangements this year as well.

Certainly, one of the big draws for the faire is the shows. There are always numerous shows to see throughout the run of the faire. There are plenty to watch even if you just go for a single day. I actually managed to catch a number of them from the run of this season. The main one that I finally saw after several missed opportunities was the Dirty Laundry show. The



**Tea With Queen Elizabeth and Shakespeare**

by Christopher Erickson



**Dirty Laundry Show**

by Christopher Erickson



**Last Call Performing**

by Christopher Erickson

act involved two washerwomen (with faux missing teeth) performing songs and making jokes around romance and sexual innuendo and audience participation where they got volunteers from the audience to perform acts of bravery such as declaring love for one of two washerwomen and chasing her around or shouting “I can do anything in my man pants!” while wearing an oversized pair of briefs.

Another entertainment that I caught was the performing troupe Last Call. They performed at the Coughing Sheep Tavern Stage and sang songs of drinking and merriment at the close of one day. It was a great way to cap off the day with songs about drinking so you can have “one for the road” without actually drinking.



**Pipe and Bowl Dancers**

by Christopher Erickson

The Centre Stage at the food court is also always a good place to watch entertainment while eating food or having a beverage. The show that I caught while having some food was the Pipe and Bowl dancers. They showed off their set dancing and it was a nice visual treat to go with the gastronomical one I was enjoying.

The one show that I couldn’t walk away from was the Broon show, especially since he called me out from the crowd as I was walking by. Since he had pointed me out by name, I had to watch his show. I have seen it before, but it was still entertaining and funny.

I always catch the Silk Road Caravan belly dance troupe. This year was even better as they had a number of new





**Broon**

by Christopher Erickson



**Salty Siren Stage**

by Christopher Erickson



**Group Bellydancing**

by Christopher Erickson





**Gallows Humor**

by Christopher Erickson

dancers and several that I had not seen perform in a few years as well. The band also had new songs. The performers were even more captivating this year as there were several duo and group performances that were done at the shows that I caught. It was amazing seeing two or more people move in unison. The music and the dancing was captivating.

The one area I did manage to finally view was the Salty Siren Stage at the Dockside Alley. The area is a strictly 21-and-over area due to the adult nature of the show and adult beverages being served in the tavern-like atmosphere. The shows were more risqué and the crowd was much rowdier. I saw three shows in the area: the Merry Wives of Windsor, the Magnificent Humble Boys and Gallows Humor. The Merry



**Puritans Performing for the Queen**

by Christopher Erickson

Wives of Windsor performed several songs with suggestive lyrics and had direct banter of an adult nature. The Magnificent Humble Boys also put on a much more mature show with their act. Gallows Humor had a nice show with a belly dancer while performing drinking and carousing songs of a lecherous bent.

The performances are not confined to the stage. There are a number of areas where the participants do improvisational skits. If you are paying attention, you can catch a very interesting show out in the open. One of the groups to watch is the Puritans. I caught them performing the story “Jesu and the Three Bears” for Queen Elizabeth, as three of the religious reformers were acting out the narration, pretending to be



**Puritan and Whore at Dockside Alley**

by Christopher Erickson

objects from the story (bowls, chairs, beds) and Jesu proceeded to eat, jump on the bed (including dropping the Goodly People's Elbow ala The Rock) and break chairs, all to instruct on why Jewish people don't eat pork. The Queen found it very entertaining, but corrected them that the tale was from the Apocrypha and was actually entitled "Judas and the Seven Deadly Sins." I also caught one of the Puritans trying to convert over a lady of the night, but without much luck as he was the one converted. Another funny moment is when the reformers were interacting with Conan, trying to get him to go on pilgrimage.

The washing well near the entrance is always a fun visit where you see the peasants plying wares that most people



**Story Maker Booth**

by Christopher Erickson

would not want to buy (such as fish heads), advertising trades such as Elizabethan dentistry and generally harassing each other. You could also see the members of the court, with yeoman of the guard trying to win favor with the ladies-in-waiting and the noblemen playing games and entertaining each other with stories of their heroic acts.

There was a whole new area for family entertainment with a stage just for family-friendly acts with magic by Bosch the Conjuror and tales of fantasy by Mad Jack and Kate. There was also a side area for the Suspended Reality aerialists. There was an Enchanted Garden with a fairy enclosure that was set up for young ones to explore the home of a fey and interact with sprites and play. Next to the Enchanted Garden was a





**Fairy Home**

by Christopher Erickson



**Blacksmith Booth**

by Christopher Erickson



**Fairy Den**

by Christopher Erickson

setup called Story Maker with a booth where there were a number of props where stories could be made up by both the patrons and the participants who were made up to look like traditional clowns with white greasepaint and colorful costumes.

One of the encampments immediately visible was the German military camp. Tents were set up for the soldiers to sit in the shade. Racks of period weapons were on display for people to look at as well.

Another new set up was the blacksmithing booth. The blacksmith was making chain links with a live forge to heat the metal and an anvil to shape the metal. The blacksmith always had a crowd around as he was explaining the process



and demonstrating how to form the metal using the hammer and tongs in conjunction with the anvil.

There was also a new Friends of Faire Garden. The garden was moved to rear of the food court area. Tours were conducted for everyone to see. There was a nice shaded area with a mister to cool everyone down, colorful plants to give it a calm, serene feel, and beautiful decorations and murals depicting the Tudor Rose and dancers. The fencing had colorful slats with a Tudor Rose painted on the gate. Amenities were available for the membership price of \$30 such as free snacks (pickles, pretzels and peanuts), drinks (ice, water and Gatorade), clean privies, discount soft drinks, a parcel check and other items.



**Friends of Faire Garden**

by Christopher Erickson



**Sitting Area of Friends of Faire Garden**

by Christopher Erickson



**Friends of Faire Sitting Area**

by Christopher Erickson





**Marty McFly**

by Christopher Erickson



**Animal Knight**

by Christopher Erickson



**A Pair of Elevens**

courtesy of Christopher Erickson

There were plenty of wonderful costumes this year as well. A number of people were decked out in their great kilts. There were plenty of women in belly dance costumes too. More than a few wizards and hobbits were seen wandering the village. There were a few time travelers to boot, with Marty McFly and The Doctor being seen. There were also a number of

outfits from outside of England, as Italian courtesans could be seen, travelers from the Silk Road, and wanderers visiting from the Orient. Barbarians and pirates were also found in the town. There were several fantastical creatures such as satyrs and other creatures.

The big highlight for Jean this year was tea with the Queen. Jean was dressed in her Venetian-style courtesan outfit and it was much admired by Good Queen Bess and her court. Her Majesty addressed the gathered subjects and informed them of the true meaning of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," that it was a cautionary tale of listening to one's parents. The Bard did point out that it was a tale of star-crossed true love, but the Queen won the debate.

The Northern California Renaissance Faire had many wonderful things to offer this year, with many new attractions and many sights and sounds to enjoy.



**Courtesan and Vagabond**

courtesy of Christopher Erickson



# Letters of Comment

## John Purcell writes:

Well, it's a rainy Saturday afternoon here in SouthCentralEastern Texas, with wind howling around the eaves and waves of rain washing the windows. A good time to write a letter of comment or three on fanzines.

I just checked [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com) and noted that the first SFinSF was posted in 2005 by Jack Avery. It has been quite a run now, hasn't it? What I like is that your zine has carved out its niche in the world of fanzines, producing quite a few notable fans in the process: the obvious one — as if we could avoid him — is Chris Garcia, but also Jack and España Sherrif, and been an outlet for fans who have been hanging around fandom for a while longer, such as Lucy Huntzinger, Tom Becker, Spike, Andrew Trembley and others whose names temporarily escape me. Oh, well. Even so, this is a good list of names of good people. Well done, I say. Well done.

## Jean Martin responds:

*Chris Garcia was already Chris Garcia before he and I started co-editing SF/SF in the fall of 2005. I think he started The Drink Tank in 2005 as well. Yes, we've got great people come and go (and stay!) these past eight years. I can't believe it's been that long already! It seems like there weren't that many fanzines in the Bay Area (or fannish web sites, webcasts or podcasts in general for that matter) then. Now there's so many. It's great that people have gotten more involved in communicating about fandom and creating community.*

Over these 145 issues the dominant feature has been the sheer activity level of Bay Area Fandom. It never ceases amaze me at how much you folks do up there/over there. But that's a good thing: better to be active than bored by inactivity.

*Yes, there are so many activities here that we maybe cover just a small percentage of what goes on. We can't be everywhere and we often concentrate on the same things. So it's good that we do get people every now and then that offer glimpses of other things that we don't normally get to feature such as the mermaid swim in this issue.*

Say, I mentioned his name a moment ago, but it was good to briefly — and I mean briefly, possibly five minutes at the most — Tom Becker at LoneStarCon 3. I never did see Spike since she was involved with an aspect of the con I never had much of a chance to get to: the programming. The program items I was involved with went well — which reminds me, I need to send you folks the latest issue of Askew, my paper-only personalzine — and were fun, but since I was in charge of the fanzine lounge and helping my wife with her art displays, I barely made it to any other programming items. That fact still bothers me. I sure wish I could have meandered more around the con to meet all the people I was looking forward to seeing again. After all LSC3 was my first WorldCon in 35 years.

*That's the trouble with volunteering to run things at conventions. One doesn't get to roam around and experience panels, events and the like. I'm sure it's fun and fulfilling to*

***be a part of the running of a convention. Maybe someday I'd like to experience that. The closest thing I've done is running the Fanzine Lounge at BayCon in 2010 when Chris Garcia couldn't do it. It was a lot of work and it involved being there a lot when I wanted to run around and see people, go to panels and take photos. It was a great experience, though, and something different.***

I did, though, have the pleasure of meeting Mary Robinette Kowal in San Antonio. The woman snuck up on me, too. I turned around in the Fanzine Lounge Saturday afternoon, and there she was, taking apart and peering into the 80-year old Remington typewriter I had schlepped to WorldCon. See, the advance mechanism was jammed, and she collects typewriters — she told me she now has 18 antique typewriters — and works on them, too. Mary came to the same conclusion as the rest of us who had tinkered with it: unless we had "real tools," we couldn't take it down to where we could probably unjam that baby. \*sigh\* With that old Remington not working, that blew some of my Fanzine Lounge plans right out of the water.

***As much as I think antique typewriters look cool and are a great historical artifact, I really wouldn't want to use them. I learned to type on manual typewriters and I couldn't wait to get my hands on an electric one. And when personal computers became more available, I was among the first in the Philippines to get one for my own use. I sure don't miss carbon paper and correction fluid!***

Well, it surprises me that I have no further comments to make considering that this is a 95-page issue! But a monster issue results when you have so much going on in your area, plus club members write about their travels and such, and take so many delightful pictures. Be thankful that this is an electronic fanzine. Back in the day, producing a fanzine like

this would have cost you a pretty penny. An issue like this might have required selling your little brother. Thankfully such a situation no longer exists. Let us all bow in the general direction of Bill Burns, who makes these e-zines possible.

***Sending big thanks to Bill Burns as well. I did a heavy metal fanzine in the early 90s, and not only was it expensive, it was also a pain to lay out, deliver to the printer, pick them up from the printer, distribute them all over the Bay Area, and mail them to my press contacts and bands we wrote about.***

In the meantime, thank you for pubbing and posting, and I hope we have the chance to meet at a convention someday.

***Thanks for reading our zine and hope to meet you somewhere, someday too.***

**Lloyd Penney writes:**

Enough of Facebook for the day! I have locs to write! Next up is a loc for you, on SF/SF 145. Must feel constructive on this middle day of our Thanksgiving weekend.

***Oh, happy thanksgiving! I didn't know yours was earlier.***

October is an extraordinarily busy month. Two shows yesterday, and as many as four next weekend, definitely going to three. It's always the case, as if so many things were planned, time didn't allow for it, and all these plans were jammed into October, assuming the snow would start flying in November. Well, that's what I think about up here. With this coming December, I will mark 36 years in fandom ... let's hope I can make it to 40.

***That's great that you've been in fandom for 36 years. And I thought my 10 years this month is a long time. But as I've mentioned in the past, if I knew about fandom earlier, I***

*would have been in it earlier. But things come in their own time.*

The Wunderkammer looks great and terribly steamy, great photos, Jack. Too bad the event wasn't more spectator-friendly, and there was too much competition from other events, like Burning Man. Sometimes, 52 weekends a year just isn't enough. Great cars, too! A few weekends ago, we went to the Milton Steam Era event, with giant steam tractors and engines in operation. Very steamy, but nothing to do with Steampunk, unfortunately.

*Steampunk continues to be very popular and most new events nowadays are Steampunk or have a Steampunk bent to them. As much as I love Steampunk, I'm nowhere near as fluent in the language and culture as some people are. I guess that comes with me being more of a generalist than a specialist. I'm in almost all of the different fandom subgenres and so I can't be an expert at all of them. For an expert in Steampunk, this issue includes an article written by Captain Lucky of the Aether Brigade in a very Steampunk style.*

No more comments, except for an addendum to my letter. Besides the promised big Steampunk event and CostumeCon next year, the International Space Development Conference takes place in Toronto in 2015, and the 2017 Bouchercon, the World Mystery Convention, will be here in 2017. We will be meeting with the Bouchercon chairman shortly ... it will be nice to feel useful again.

*Oh, wow, a mystery convention? I didn't know one existed. But I guess that's to be expected. I've loved mysteries since I was a kid and still devour them to this day. I prefer historical and scifi/fantasy mysteries, though, which is not surprising.*

Steampunk magazines come and go, but sometimes they arrive with some great promise. I have found a Steampunk zine from Steampunk New Zealand called Aether, and issue 1 is now available for download. Go to [www.aethrnz.co.nz](http://www.aethrnz.co.nz), and the first issue is downloadable as a .pdf. It's about 24 Mb in size, very graphic heavy, but it looks quite promising, and I have already promised to write a letter.

*The newly formed San Francisco Steampunks just launched a new zine called the Portsmouth Squire Occasional. It's a newspaper done as if it were published in an alternate Steampunk universe set in the San Francisco area. The first issue is can be found here: [www.flickr.com/photos/shadarko/sets/72157636782305133/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/shadarko/sets/72157636782305133/)*

I have also found out that we might have a Steampunk store to shop at in the new year ... can't think of the name right now, but it will be situated in the town of Peterborough, WNW of Toronto. We might need to have a little road trip in the spring.

*I just dreamt last night that I went to Toronto to visit relatives and got totally lost and had nowhere to stay. I don't think you and Yvonne were in my dream. But it was odd as I've never dreamt of Toronto before. I went there a couple of times in my youth and I remember buying and reading a lot of comic books (first time I had access to so many of them!) as we didn't really do anything while we were there. Oh, we did go shopping. I'd never seen a mall before then and it was quite exciting.*

I'm done for now, and many thanks. See you next time.

*Thanks for reading our zine and writing to us. See you next time too.*



# ***BASFA Meetings 1208-11***

## **Meeting 1208**

September 23, 2013

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco's, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began at 7:59 pm - with the question - "what did the fox say?"

26 people attended

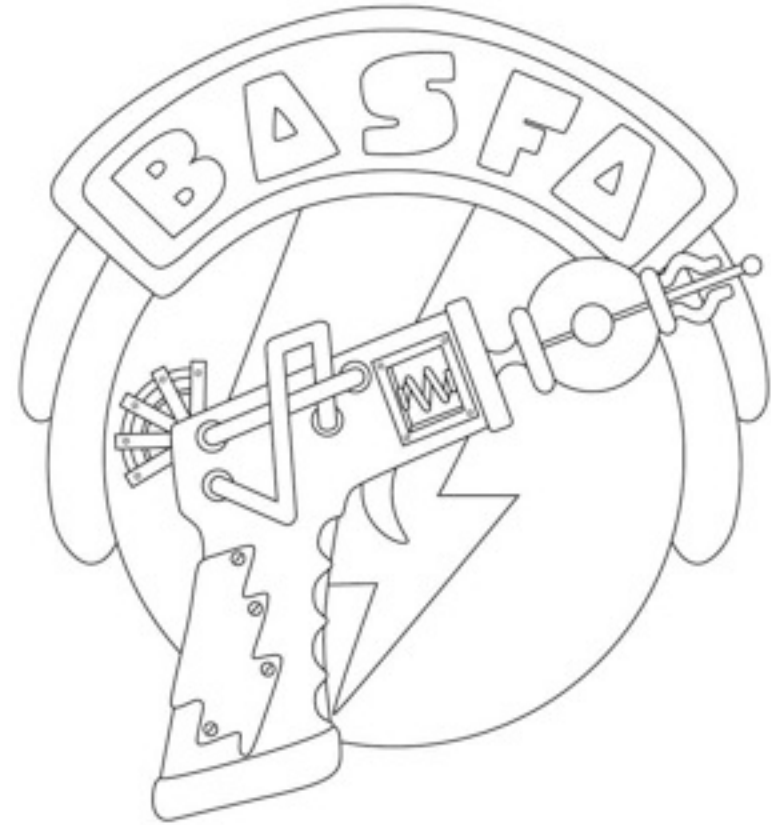
A Nippon 2007 jar was established

The minutes of meeting 1207 were accepted as "next week"

The Treasurer reported that last week we took money

The Vice President reported that there is a new "Drink Tank" out - and soon there will be another "Drink Tank" out - and the "Drink Tank" after that will be a tribute issue for Delphine Woods & a new "Exhibition Hall" is out

The President had nothing fannish to report



BASFA logo by Miko Simmons

### **Announcements**

Ken announced that the Legion of Rassilon meeting will be at the IHOP on Steven's Creek near Lawrence on Friday Sept 27 at 7:30

JC announced that Nerdvana Podcast will post part 2 of their young adult podcast this Wednesday - and announced that his mother retired at the age of 71

Doug announced that he had a stroke - but is here - and that it left him with aphasia [so he has had a “buffering” sign made] - & he also has a new business = Gridlore Studios

John O announced that he finished his photo sets from Worldcon/LonestarCon; [tall] Kevin followed, saying that the livestream from the Hugos is now up online

Diane announced that Anton Schwartz will have his jazz quartet playing at Studio Pink House on Friday, Sept 27 at 8pm at 14577 Big Basin Way in Saratoga

Bradley announced that he has the complete showcase now

Andy announced that shinies will be on display at the Pacific International Quilt Festival at the Santa Clara convention center, Oct 17-20

Chris O announced that Les Mis will be at Stage One in Newark, CA for the next 3 weekends, check [www.stage1theatre.org](http://www.stage1theatre.org)

[fuzzy] Chris announced that Lynda says “hi”

## Reviews

[fuzzy] Chris reviewed “The Family” as really, really good & reviewed a TV show = “The Neighbors” as funny & reviewed “The Borgias” as sweet and messed up

JC reviewed Diane’s hands as “hands of magic” and recommended her

Andy reviewed 3 days of no internet and a gay cowboy rodeo as an absolute blast, lots of fun and worth full price - plus sponsoring belt buckles & [evil] Kevin reviewed the mud as interesting & their social experiment worked well

I reviewed “Riddick” as a fun movie, worth full price, possibly twice and less misogynistic than I expected; Trey commented that he was disappointed by it because Riddick regenerated too quickly

Dierdre reviewed the Milford writer’s workshop [held in Wales] - saying it was held on an organic farm ... with sheep - and was just awesome fun and worth triple the price

[another] Barbara reviewed Robin Hobbs books as Hobbs is now her favorite author - especially the “Liveship” Trilogy - it’s all very worthwhile reading

JC reviewed iOS 7 as overall a slightly new look and recommends turning off push

Dave C reviewed the TV show “Sleepy Hollow” as one desperate lurch after another

Then we did auctions

We adjourned at 9:23 pm

And the rumor of the week was: “2 buck ain’t that cheap”

## Meeting 1209

30 September 2013

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco's, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

President, Vice President and Secretary gone AWOL

Treasurer presiding

Adrienne Foster, acting minute taker

Began at 8:01 p.m., with Dave G. bringing up the minutes for last meeting

20 people attended

A party jar was established, but the containers were switched

The minutes for meeting 1208 were accepted as "whatever"

Treasurer said at meeting 1208 we took \$8.90 in the regular jar, nothing in the party and \$22.75 in the new one for Nippon 2007. Nippon 2007 is still in debt for approximately \$30,000 and has come to the science fiction community for help.

There was a proxy report for the VP. There's a new "Drink Tank" out and sleep is underrated.

The proxy for the president said he had nothing fannish to report.

## Announcements

Ken, the proxy for JC, said Nerdvana had an emergency podcast to cover the broadcast of "Agents of SHIELD."

Kevin R. said someone was selling "Serenity" and "Firefly" for \$7.00.

## Reviews

Yochanan said "Sleepy Hollow" surprised him and gave it a B+. Mo said she'll give it six episodes before coming to a conclusion.

Yochanan thought "Agents of SHIELD" was disappointing. Dave C. also thought it was lackluster. Mo said it was so Marvel. Valerie enjoyed it and thought it should be used for teaching dialog. Bill said he and Carole are willing to go for the second episode. Dave G. didn't think there was enough Scarlett Johansson.

Yochanan believed "The Crazy Ones" was well worth it. Mo loved it, too.

I reviewed "We're the Millers" as worth matinée.

The Giants game on Fan's Appreciation Day was absolutely awesome. The G-boys tied and won it during the bottom of the 9th inning.

Mo and I had a marathon viewing of the first season of Orphan Black on Blu-Ray. It was brilliant. Mo thought the lead actress was incredibly versatile.

Lisa Harrigan and family were back from their five week driving trip through the South and raved about Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico.

They also saw Houston Space Center and enjoyed indulging in the old technology being exhibited there. They



took the Level 9 tour, which allowed them to see a few more things than are usually available.

The Harrigans also visited the Harry Potter Experience in Orlando, Florida. It's not good for people prone to motion sickness or who have bad backs. Lisa didn't care much for the storyline. Valerie followed on that she really enjoyed the Harry Potter park and sampling the pumpkin juice and butter beer.

The Harrigans also saw the Kennedy Space Center. Lisa thought the displays were beautiful and enjoyed the simulation of a space shuttle in flight. She thought vehicle assembly was awesome. Yochanan followed on that he thought Kennedy Space Center was better than Johnson.

The Harrigans took the train back home and were amused when it got "held up." They also passed the Grand Canyon and said it's still looking good.

Carole said she was pleasantly surprised to get some compliments on her work at LoneStarCon 3.

Bill said "Sandman Slim" is a novel with a lot of gratuitous, bloody violence. He said it worth the cost of shipping home from LSC3, but not anymore of his time.

Diane said the book "Monster Hunter Legion" was fun and worth full price.

Dave C. went to the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library book sale to find the marina area crowded with people for the America's Cup. He concluded sailing is a lot slower than baseball.

He also talked about colonoscopies.

Mike Mc. highly recommended his dentist, Gerald Bittner, Jr. DDS.

We did auctions.

Rumor of the Week: "Nice government you have here, pally. It would be a shame if anything happened to it."

We adjourned 9:28 p.m.

## Meeting 1210

October 7, 2013

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco's, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began at 8 pm - with pure pazaak

23 people attended

A party jar was established

The minutes of meeting 1209 were accepted as "still lacking sufficient Scarlett Johansson"

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$17.00 in the regular jar

The Vice President reported that there is a new "Drink Tank" out - and a new "Exhibition Hall" is out - and that a "Journey Planet" will be out soon

The President had nothing fannish to report

The Sports Committee proxy [Chris Garcia] reported that he is happy with the Oakland A's and them beating whatever team Helen Montgomery is rooting for

## Announcements

Ken announced a rumor and announced that he is disappointed with Comcast

JC announced that he & Beth will be celebrating their 3rd anniversary & announced that they have finished signing their home mortgage paperwork & announced that they have done episode 19 of Nerdvana Podcast

Dave C announced that KFJC is holding their October fundraising drive - call 650-941-6800 to make donations

Howeird announced that the Palo Alto Players are doing audition sign-ups for "Young Frankenstein the Musical" & announced that his side's class action suit against AT&T was decided in his favor

Ric announced that Tuesday night will be a Cafe Stritch staged reading of a "Midsummer Night's Dream" at 7pm & announced that fanboy planet podcast, episode 327 is available now & mainly is able "Agents of Shield"

Sarah announced that Oct 17 at 7:30 pm will see a comic book slam at Art Boutiki

Chris announced that Alton Brown is doing a food show, Oct 24 at 7pm - check for information at [altonbrown.com](http://altonbrown.com)

Aatheus announced that the Haunted Hoedown on Oct 26 is in the Bottom of the Hill Bar in SF

Yochanan announced that he misplaced his journal - and was told that Mo has it

Dave G announced that 13 minutes ago Mo posted on Facebook that she was missing Adrienne

## Reviews

Bradford reviewed "Gravity" as very recommended and the 3D is very good, although the science is sketchy

Howeird reviewed the Stage One production of "Les Mis" as extraordinary - although the costumes are just okay - highly recommends it - check [stage1theatre.org](http://stage1theatre.org)

Yochanan reviewed "Sleepy Hollow" as episodes 2 & 3 have moved his opinion to disappointing

Sarah reviewed "Riddick" as she was slightly disappointed by it, but it's still worth full price

Andy reviewed the Otamatone as the world's weirdest, cutest instrument - it's cute and very fun & the amusement value if worth full price

Ric reviewed some uplifting Youtube videos for "Doc Savage Detarnished" as highly recommended & also reviewed "A Bigger Black Box" as recommended - check [www.cardsagainsthumanity.com](http://www.cardsagainsthumanity.com)

[evil] Kevin reviewed a meal at Sides Hardware and Shoes in Los Olivos as fairly expensive but amazing food; check [www.brothersrestaurant.com](http://www.brothersrestaurant.com)

Adrienne reviewed a book - "My Life as a White Trash Zombie" as engrossing

Dave C reviewed Bon Temps as lackluster

Then we did auctions

We adjourned at 9:15 pm

And the rumor of the week was: "waiting for Mo"

## Meeting 1211

October 14, 2013

Trey Haddad, President

Chris Garcia, Vice President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Held at Coco's, 1206 Oakmead Parkway (Lawrence Expressway/101 Fwy), Sunnyvale

Began at 8-ish - with dinner interrupted

26 people attended

A party jar was EVENTUALLY established

The minutes of meeting 1210 were accepted as "BASFA is a not-so-elaborate Ponzi scheme"

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$5.40 in the regular jar & \$4.60 in the party jar

The Vice President reported that there is a new "Klaus at Gunpoint" & a new "Drink Tank" will be out tomorrow - and Beth is already moaning about Garcia's grammar

The President had nothing fannish to report

Adrienne had a question; Carole had a question

### Announcements

Adrienne announced that she has pads to give away

Ric announced that there will be a Nov 26 PechaKucha at Cafe Stritch & announced that fanboy planet podcast, episode 328 is available now & announced that lost episodes of Dr Who have been found & announced that there will be a wine tasting on Oct 19 from 11am - 5pm at the Traviseo Winery &

announced a death & announced that Wendy & Richard Pini have finished Elfquest and that Miracle Man will reappear

Debbie announced that Gail Carriger will be at the Willow Glen Hickleebee's Nov 5 at 7pm

JC announced that episode 19, part 2 of Nerdvana Podcast will be up Wednesday & announced that his nephew Will is going to be on a reality TV show

[evil] Kevin announced that Barbot 2013.75 will be Oddfellows Hall on Oct 25-26 at a kick-off for Bay Area Science Fest - check [barbot.us](http://barbot.us)

Bradford announced 3 comic conventions will be in the months and year to come - Sac Con Dec 8 at the Sacramento Scottish Rite Center; East Bay Comic Con Feb 16 2014 at the Concord Hilton & Big Wow Comic Fest May 17-18 at the SJ Convention Center

Bill announced that Convolution is Nov 1,2,3 at the Hyatt Regency

Stacy announced upcoming psychic events as Oct 25 is Ship of Spirits, Oct 26 is the Monster Ball & Nov 2 is a Mare Island ghost walk - then Adrienne followed, saying that Pleasanton holds ghost walks in October

Chris announced that a new Krispy Kreme place opening & that JC is broken

Ken announced that the Retrodome has a new home at the Century 21 on weekends from Nov 1 thru Dec 29, check their schedule at [www.theretrodome.com](http://www.theretrodome.com)

Yochanan announced that Oct 19 there will be a Jewish film festival - check [svjff.org](http://svjff.org)

Lisa announced that Big Harold is in the hospital and already on the mend



## Reviews

Ken reviewed the new Dr Who episodes as very good - Mo thinks their quality is great

JC reviewed "Hitchcock" as very, very good

Josh reviewed a PenWAG meeting as lots of fun; reviewed "The Smoking Pig" as he was really impressed & reviewed Tapsilong Bistro as also worth full price

Dave G reviewed the McHenry grand reopening gala as quite entertaining

Ric reviewed the "Midsummer Night's Dream" reading as very good & reviewed "Walking Dead" season 4 opener as things went nuts fast

Bill reviewed "Throne of the Crescent Moon" by Saladin Ahmed as very well written and worth retail

Yochanan reviewed "Once Upon a Time in Wonderland" as disappointing & Mo also saw it and enjoyed it but thought it was a lesser work

Dave C reviewed "Shattering Conventions" by Bob Calhoun as he's a fun writer & had lots of fun with the book - recommended & reviewed "Afterlife with Archie" as hilarity ensues

Bradford reviewed "Iron Sky" as a pleasant take on funny Nazis & reviewed APE as he enjoyed it - please go to it and Mo agrees

Beth reviewed the season 2 opener of "Arrow" as they removed his clothes early on & reviewed the Dream Inn in Santa Cruz as outstanding and their pool was nice - pricey but recommended

Then we did auctions

We adjourned at 10:04 pm

And the rumor of the week was: "BASFA hates letting the president vote"

# 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.

**Follow the calendar on Twitter:**  
**@sfsfcalendar**

New listings are highlighted in red.

Ongoing events are toward the back.

## Thursdays-Saturdays, through November 23

### ***Shocktoberfest 14: Jack The Ripper***

The Hypnodrome

575 10th Street, San Francisco

[thrillpeddlers.com](http://thrillpeddlers.com)

Thrillpeddlers are pleased to announce our annual Halloween Extravaganza

“Shocktoberfest 14: Jack the Ripper” – An Evening of Horror, Madness, Spanking and Song commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Jack The Ripper murders in London.

8 pm \$30-\$35

## Friday-Monday, November 1-3

### ***Convolution 2013***

Hyatt Regency SFO

500 Leisure Lane, Burlingame

[con-volution.com](http://con-volution.com)

GOH Wendy and Richard Pini, Richard Kadrey. Featured guests Unwoman, Toby Froud.

\$45

An artist of wild imagination and singular poetic vision, puppeteer Basil Twist creates absorbing works that connect classic stories with profound music and mesmerizing visuals. His meditative *Dogugaeshi* explores an ancient Japanese art, where unseen puppeteers deftly manipulate hand-painted screens to reveal marvelous characters and landscapes, accompanied by Yumiko Tanaka on shamisen. Various times \$48 and up

## Saturday, November 2

### ***PEERS Le Bal des Vampires***

Alameda Elks Lodge

2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda

[peersdance.org](http://peersdance.org)

The annual vampire-themed event with two floors of dancing featuring Bangers and Mash and Nightfall Club, halftime entertainment skit show and Victorian parlour.

6:30 p.m. \$25 (until October 13), \$30 (until November 1)

\$50

## Wednesday-Sunday, November 6-10

### ***Basil Twist: Dogugaeshi presented by Cal Performances***

Zellerbach Hall

University of California, Berkeley

[calperfs.berkeley.edu/performances/2013-14/theater/intergalactic-nemesis-book-one-target-earth.php](http://calperfs.berkeley.edu/performances/2013-14/theater/intergalactic-nemesis-book-one-target-earth.php)

## Friday-Sunday, November 8-10

### ***Conquest Avalon***

Sacramento Red Lion Hotel Woodlake Conference Center

500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento

[www.conquestsac.com](http://www.conquestsac.com)

Tabletop gaming convention.

\$50

## Friday-Sunday, November 8-10

### ***The Official Star Trek Convention by Creation Entertainment***

Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport

1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame

[www.creationent.com/cal/st\\_sanfrancisco.html](http://www.creationent.com/cal/st_sanfrancisco.html)

Official Star Trek convention with many celebrities

\$75

**Thursday, November 14**

***The Intergalactic Nemesis Book One: Target Earth presented by Cal Performances***

Zellerbach Hall

University of California-Berkeley Campus,  
Berkeley

[calperfs.berkeley.edu/performances/2013-14/theater/intergalactic-nemesis-book-one-target-earth.php](http://calperfs.berkeley.edu/performances/2013-14/theater/intergalactic-nemesis-book-one-target-earth.php)

A science fiction comic book come to life onstage as a vintage-style radio play, *The Intergalactic Nemesis* is a theater production single-handedly defining the new genre of "live-action graphic novel." The family-friendly show features live actors, hand-drawn comic-book artwork projected two stories high, and fun retro Foley sound effects, with a live keyboard score. The story, packed with pop culture references to cult favorites like *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Star Wars*, pits three heroes against a force of alien sludge monsters set to invade Earth, in a spectacle the *Austinist* describes as "totally nuts and a ton of fun!"  
8 p.m. \$18 and up

**Saturday-Sunday, November 16-17**

***Sci-Fi X Fest Convention***

The Bal Theater

14808 East 14th Street, San Leandro

[www.baltheatre.com](http://www.baltheatre.com)

The Historic BAL Theatre and Bay Area Film Events presents the new annual Sci-fi X Fest Convention. Harken back to the early days of sci-fi Conventions! Where you could enjoy the dealers, films, panels, speakers, celebrity guests and fun in a more intimate environment! Bay Area Film Events and the Historic BAL Theatre bring you a space-age blast.

\$100

**Saturday, November 16**

***SF in SF: Kim Stanley Robinson & Cecelia Holland***

The Variety Preview Room, 1st Floor, Hobart Building

582 Market Street, San Francisco

[sfinsf.org](http://sfinsf.org)

Reading followed by Q&A.

6:30 p.m.

\$5-10 suggested donation

**Saturday, November 16**

***GBACG Prohibition Speakeasy Crawl***

Various, San Francisco

[www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html](http://www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html)

Break out the beaded gowns and rolled down stockings. On this chauffeured joy ride through San Francisco, taste some of Prohibition's finest forbidden delights. Costume: 1920's.

Check website for price

**Weekends, November 23-December 22**

***The Great Dickens Christmas Fair and Victorian Holiday Party***

[santarosatocon.com](http://santarosatocon.com)

Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building

1321 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa

More than 100 booths of toys, comics and games. Free parking

11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

\$5

(\$10 for early entry @ 10 a.m.)

**Weekends, November 23-December 22**

***The Great Dickens Christmas Fair and Victorian Holiday Party***

[dickensfair.com](http://dickensfair.com)

Cow Palace

2600 Geneva Avenue, Daly City

Victorian Christmas Card come to life with Charles Dickens characters come to life in London. Tickets on Sale in September, check website for prices

**Various, November 29-December 19**

***Another Hole In The Head Genre Film Festival***

[anotherholeinthehead.festivalgenius.com/2013/films](http://anotherholeinthehead.festivalgenius.com/2013/films)

Balboa Theater and New People Theater  
San Francisco

Annual festival of horror, dark fantasy, sci-fi and exploitation cinema from emerging and established filmmakers. Various dates and times, check website for prices and showtimes



**Sunday, December 8**

***Sac-Con***

Scottish Rite Center  
6151 H St, Sacramento  
[www.sac-con.com](http://www.sac-con.com)

Comic, toy, and anime show, \$10 early bird entry at 9 a.m.

10 a.m. \$6

**Friday-Sunday, December 13-15 & 20-22, 2014**

***California Revels: The Spirits of Haddon Hall***

Scottish Rite Temple  
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland  
[californiarevels.org/](http://californiarevels.org/)

This year's Revels takes place on the English country estate of Haddon Hall after The Great War. Spirits of past generations celebrate the solstice as the owner prepares to sell. Can they convince him to keep the Hall? Music, dancing, storytelling and annual rituals all performed. Check website for ticket prices and times.

**Saturday, December 21**

***Gaskell Festive Holiday Ball***

Scottish Rite Temple  
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland  
[gaskellball.com](http://gaskellball.com)

Holiday ball featuring the music of Franklin Beau Davis and the Brassworks. Formal attire required (19th to 21st century)

7:30 p.m. \$20

**Saturday, December 28**

***GBACG Holiday Bustle Tea***

Palace Hotel  
2 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco  
[www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html](http://www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html)

Back by popular demand! A holiday bustle tea for the most fashionable of New York Society. Once again at the Garden Court in the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Costume: 1870-1890.

Check website for price

**Friday-Sunday, January 3-5, 2014**

***Sac-Anime***

Sacramento Convention Center  
1400 J St, Sacramento  
[www.sacconventions.com](http://www.sacconventions.com)

Anime show.

Check website for ticket prices

**Saturday, January 4, 2014**

***PEERS 12th Night Ball***

Alameda Elks Lodge  
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda  
[peersdance.org](http://peersdance.org)

Ball celebrating the end of the Christmas season with guests from Charles Dickens's novels, a reading by Charles Dickens and Victorian Era dancing and music by Bangers and Mash.

8 p.m. \$15 (advanced), \$20 (at the door)

**Thursday-Monday, January 16-20, 2014**

***Further Confusion 2014: FurCon Vs. The World***

[furcon.org/2014/](http://furcon.org/2014/)

San Jose McEnery Convention Center  
150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose  
Anthropomorphic costuming convention  
\$45 (until June 30), \$50 (until December 31)

**Friday, January 17, 2014**

***Edwardian World's Faire***

The Regency Ballroom  
1300 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco  
[edwardianball.com/2014-events](http://edwardianball.com/2014-events)  
Fair inspired by the artwork of Edward Gorey.  
8 p.m. - 2 a.m. see website for pricing (tickets on sale October 31)

**Saturday, January 18, 2014**

***Edwardian Vendor Bazaar Daytime Shopping***

The Regency Sutter Room  
1270 Sutter Street, San Francisco  
[edwardianball.com/2014-events](http://edwardianball.com/2014-events)  
12 p.m. - 5 a.m. see website for pricing (tickets on sale October 31)

**Saturday, January 18, 2014**

***The Edwardian Ball***

The Regency Ballroom  
1300 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco  
[edwardianball.com/2014-events](http://edwardianball.com/2014-events)  
Ball inspired by the artwork of Edward Gorey.  
8 p.m. - 2 a.m. see website for pricing (tickets on sale October 31)

**Saturday-Sunday, January 25-26, 2014**

***Animation on Display***

Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport  
1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame  
[www.aodsf.org](http://www.aodsf.org)

Celebrating Japanese animation (anime), video games, recent American cartoons, and their related interests.

\$25 (till September 14), \$30 (till January 1),  
\$35 (at convention)

**Saturday, February 1, 2014**

***PEERS Middle Earth Ball***

Alameda Elks Lodge  
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda  
[peersdance.org](http://peersdance.org)

Ball inspired by “The Hobbit” and “Lord of the Rings” with music by Celtic-fusion rock band Avalon Rising..

8 p.m. \$15 (advanced), \$20 (at the door)

**Saturday, February 8, 2014**

***GBACG A Venetian Carnival***

Location TBD  
[www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html](http://www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html)

Enjoy an evening of appetizers, desserts and dazzling feats of skill in the glittering atmosphere of the Venetian Carnivale.

Costume: 18th Century, all classes or 18th Century Fancy Dress. Masks required!

Check website for price

**Friday-Monday, February 14-17, 2014**

***DunDraCon***

San Ramon Marriott  
2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon  
[www.dundracon.com](http://www.dundracon.com)

Gaming convention

Check website for price

**Friday-Monday, February 14-17, 2014**

***Pantheacon***

San Jose Doubletree  
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose  
[pantheacon.com](http://pantheacon.com)

Pagan convention. This year’s theme is Networks of Community and Diversity, Pleasure & Service.

\$55 (Till September 1), \$65 (till January 1),  
\$75 (after January 1)

**Friday-Sunday, February 21-23, 2014**

***Potlatch 23***

Sainte Claire Hotel  
302 South Market Street, San Jose, California  
[potlatch-sf.org](http://potlatch-sf.org)

Literary SF convention supporting Clarion West.

\$50

**Saturday, February 22, 2014**

***Gaskell Winter Ball***

Scottish Rite Temple  
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland  
[gaskellball.com](http://gaskellball.com)

Vintage ball featuring the music of Franklin Beau Davis and the Brassworks. Formal attire required (19th to 21st century)

7: 30 p.m.

\$20

**Saturday, March 1, 2014**

***PEERS Gotham City Black and White Ball***

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo  
100 N. Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo  
[peersdance.org](http://peersdance.org)

Ball held at Stately Wayne Manor with familiar guests in black tie featuring Swing Era dancing and music by Sarah and Swingtime.

8 p.m.

\$15 (advanced), \$20 (at the door)

**Friday-Sunday, March 7-9, 2014**

***Consonance 2014***

Crowne Plaza San Jose/Silicon Valley  
88 Bellew Drive, Milpitas  
[consonance.bostoncalifornia.com](http://consonance.bostoncalifornia.com)

Filk convention convention. Guests: Margaret Davis, Kristoph Klover, Johathan Turner, Robin Holly, Mark Osier, Rika Koerte

\$50 (until February 14)

**Friday-Sunday, March 7-9, 2014**  
**FOGcon 2014**  
 Walnut Creek Marriott  
 2355 North Main Street, Walnut Creek  
[fogcon.org](http://fogcon.org)  
 Literary SF/F convention. Theme: Secrets.  
 Guests: Seanan McGuire, Tim Powers. Ghost:  
 James Tiptree, Jr.  
 \$65

**Friday-Sunday, March 7-9, 2014**  
**Wizard World Sacramento Comic Con**  
 Sacramento Convention Center  
 1400 J Street, Sacramento  
[www.wizardworld.com/home-sacramento.html](http://www.wizardworld.com/home-sacramento.html)  
 General comic book and pop culture  
 convention  
 Advanced price: \$65, Onsite price: \$75

**Friday-Sunday, March 28-30, 2014**  
**Conquest SAC**  
 Sacramento Red Lion Hotel Woodlake  
 Conference Center  
 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento  
[www.conquestsac.com](http://www.conquestsac.com)  
 Tabletop gaming convention.  
 See website for pricing packages

**Saturday-Sunday, March 29-30, 2014**  
**Twisted Terror Convention**  
 Sacramento Doubletree by Hilton  
 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento  
[twistedterrorconvention.com](http://twistedterrorconvention.com)  
[www.facebook.com/TwistedTerrorConvention/info](https://www.facebook.com/TwistedTerrorConvention/info)  
 Horror/Sci-fi convention.  
 \$45

**Saturday, April 5, 2014**  
**PEERS Downton Abbey Ball**  
 Alameda Elks Lodge  
 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda  
[peersdance.org](http://peersdance.org)  
 Ball (circa 1910-1920) hosted by the Earl and  
 Countess of Grantham featuring vintage  
 ballroom dance music performed by Bangers  
 and Mash.  
 8 p.m. \$15 (advanced), \$20 (at the door)

**Saturday, April 26, 2014**  
**Gaskell Spring Ball**  
 Scottish Rite Temple  
 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland  
[gaskellball.com](http://gaskellball.com)  
 Vintage ball featuring the music of Franklin  
 Beau Davis and the Brassworks. Formal attire  
 required (19th to 21st century)  
 7: 30 p.m. \$20

**Friday-Saturday, May 3-5, 2014**  
**Corflu 31**  
 Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center  
 1021 Koger Center Boulevard, Richmond, VA  
[corflu.org](http://corflu.org)  
 Fanzine fandom convention.  
 \$80

**Saturday, May 3, 2014**  
**PEERS Once Upon A Time: A Fairy Tale  
 Masquerade Ball**  
 Masonic Lodge of San Mateo  
 100 N. Ellsworth Avenue, San Mateo  
[peersdance.org/](http://peersdance.org/)  
 Fairy tale and fantasy inspired ball featuring  
 vintage ballroom dance music performed by  
 Bangers and Mash.  
 8 p.m. \$15 (advanced), \$20 (at the door)

**Saturday-Sunday, May 17-18, 2014**  
**Big Wow Comicfest**  
 San Jose McEnery Convention Center  
 150 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose  
[bigwowcomicfest.com](http://bigwowcomicfest.com)  
 Comics convention.  
 Pricing TBA

**Friday-Monday, May 23-26, 2014**  
**KublaCon**  
 Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport  
 1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame  
[www.kublacon.com](http://www.kublacon.com)  
 West Coast's largest gaming convention.  
 Pricing TBA



**Friday-Monday, May 23-26, 2014**

***BayCon***

Hyatt Regency Santa Clara  
5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara  
[baycon.org/2014](http://baycon.org/2014)

General interest science fiction/fantasy  
convention.

\$60

**Saturday, June 7, 2014**

***PEERS Space Cowboy's Ball***

Alameda Elks Lodge  
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda  
[peersdance.org/](http://peersdance.org/)

Browncoat inspired ball featuring vintage  
ballroom dance music performed by Bangers  
and Mash.

8 p.m. \$15 (advanced), \$20 (at the door)

**Saturday, June 21, 2014**

***Gaskell Summer Ball***

Scottish Rite Temple  
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland  
[gaskellball.com](http://gaskellball.com)

Vintage ball featuring the music of Franklin  
Beau Davis and the Brassworks. Formal attire  
required (19th to 21st century)

7: 30 p.m. \$20

**Friday-Sunday, June 27-29, 2014**

***Evolution Expo 2014***

Oakland Marriott City Center  
1001 Broadway, Oakland  
[sciencefictionentertainment.com/event-attendees/evolution-expo-overview/](http://sciencefictionentertainment.com/event-attendees/evolution-expo-overview/)

Convention about hard science in science  
fiction

\$50

**Thursday-Sunday, July 3-6, 2014**

***Westercon 67/CONduit 24***

Marriot City Creek Hotel  
75 South West Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah  
[westercon67.org](http://westercon67.org)

General interest science fiction/fantasy  
convention

\$50

**Saturday, August 2, 2014**

***PEERS Alameda 1902 Picnic Dance***

Lincoln Park, 1450 High Street, Alameda  
[www.peersdance.org](http://www.peersdance.org)

Picnic and dancing to celebrate the year that  
Alameda officially became an island with  
music by Bangers and Mash.

11 a.m. Free

**Thursday-Monday, August 14-18, 2014**

***Loncon 3***

International Conference Centre, ExCel,  
London Docklands  
[www.loncon3.org](http://www.loncon3.org)

The 72nd World Science Fiction Convention.  
Guests of Honour: Iain M Banks, John Clute,  
Chris Foss, Malcolm Edwards, Jeanne Gomoll,  
Robin Hobb, Bryan Talbot.

\$170 (until September 30)

**Saturday, August 16, 2014**

***Gaskell Midsummer Ball***

Scottish Rite Temple  
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland  
[gaskellball.com](http://gaskellball.com)

Vintage ball featuring the music of Franklin  
Beau Davis and the Brassworks. Formal attire  
required (19th to 21st century)

7: 30 p.m. \$20

**Friday-Monday, August 29-September 1,  
2014**

***CelestiCon***

Fremont Marriott  
46100 Landing Parkway, Fremont  
[celesticon.com](http://celesticon.com)

CelestiCon offers four days of family-friendly  
gaming in the San Francisco Bay Area.  
Hundreds of game events, along with exciting  
special guests, sponsor prizes and gaming,  
gaming, gaming

\$35 (before March 1)

## Ongoing

### Daily

#### ***Cartoon Art Museum***

655 Mission Street, San Francisco

[www.cartoonart.org](http://www.cartoonart.org)

Current exhibitions: Chuck Jones, Drawing on Imagination (till May 5)

11-5 p.m. \$6 (Closed Mondays)

#### ***The Walt Disney Family Museum***

104 Montgomery Street, San Francisco

[www.waltdisney.org/](http://www.waltdisney.org/)

Current exhibitions: Alice in Wonderland starts May 1.

10-6 p.m. \$20 (Closed Tuesdays)

#### ***San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour***

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia, San Francisco

[www.sfgghosthunt.com](http://www.sfgghosthunt.com)

Closed Mondays & Tuesdays, and on November 21-22 for Thanksgiving.

7-10 p.m. \$20

#### ***Nightly Nerd Show***

KCSF Radio, 90.9 FM

[nightlynerdshow.tumblr.com/](http://nightlynerdshow.tumblr.com/)

Radio show covering nerdy topics

5-6 p.m.

#### ***VIZ Cinema***

1746 Post Street, San Francisco

[www.newpeopleworld.com/films](http://www.newpeopleworld.com/films)

VIZ Cinema is a 143-seat underground cinema inside New People in San Francisco. Its programming focuses on the latest and hottest films from Japan, as well as classics, favorites, documentaries and anime.

Please check theater for showtimes and tickets.

### Sundays

#### ***Cloondara Fighter Practice***

Golden Gate Park

47th Avenue @ Fulton, San Francisco

[www.westkingdom.org](http://www.westkingdom.org)

The Shire of Cloondara (San Francisco, CA) holds fighter practice Sundays at 12:00 p.m. (if there are no major SCA events and the weather permits)

12 p.m. Free

#### ***Bad Movie Night***

The Dark Room Theater

2263 Mission Street, San Francisco

[www.darkroomsf.com](http://www.darkroomsf.com)

Featuring bad movies old and new.

8 p.m. \$5

#### ***Sakramento Anime Society***

Rancho Cordova Library

9845 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova

[www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org)

Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs. 3-6 p.m.

#### ***East Bay Strategy Games Club***

EndGame

921 Washington Street, Oakland

[www.endgameoakland.com/event-calendar](http://www.endgameoakland.com/event-calendar)

Various games played throughout the week, check website for times and games.

Free

### Fridays and Sundays

#### ***SF Games***

Taqueria San Jose, 2830 Mission Street, San Francisco (Fridays, 7 p.m.)

Zephyr Cafe, 3643 Balboa Street, San Francisco (Sundays, 2 p.m.)

[www.sfgames.org/](http://www.sfgames.org/)

SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week.

Free

## Mondays

### ***Bay Area Science Fiction Association***

Coco's  
1206 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale  
[www.basfa.org](http://www.basfa.org)  
8 p.m. Free

### ***Sacramento Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club***

Midtown Crepreville  
1730 L Street, Sacramento  
[www.sacgeeks.com](http://www.sacgeeks.com)  
A laid-back, friendly social club for people to discuss, recommend, share and trade their favorite SF and fantasy books. NOT a book-of-the-month club.  
6:30 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](http://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

### ***Principality of Mists Fighter Practice***

Twin Creeks Sports Complex  
969 Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale  
[www.westkingdom.org/as46/mar/sunnyvale-fighter-practice](http://www.westkingdom.org/as46/mar/sunnyvale-fighter-practice)  
SCA event. Non-members must remember to fill out a waiver form. In case of rain, call from 3 pm on to determine if the facility will be closed that day. 408-534-1169. .  
7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Free

## Wednesdays

### ***Steam Federation - Bay Area Steampunk Society***

Various - check website or Facebook page for information  
[steam-federation.com/%20cal2.html](http://steam-federation.com/%20cal2.html)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/steamfederation/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/steamfederation/)  
General gathering for craftwork, discussions and general fun.  
Free

## Thursdays

### ***CAS: NightLife***

The California Academy of Sciences  
55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco  
[www.calacademy.org/events/nightlife/](http://www.calacademy.org/events/nightlife/)  
Every Thursday night, the Academy opens its doors for NightLife, a chance for adults to explore the museum in a whole new light. Dance to some of San Francisco's most popular DJs, enjoy food and cocktails, and mingle while you delve into the Academy's world-class exhibits and get up close and personal with aquarium critters.  
6 p.m. - 10 p.m. \$12 (21+)

### ***Fanboy Planet Podcast***

Cafe Stritch  
374 South First Street, San Jose  
[www.fanboyplanet.com](http://www.fanboyplanet.com)  
Live from Cafe Stritch, it's the *Fanboy Planet* Podcast with Planeteers, Derek McCaw, Ric Bretschneider and Nate Costa.  
7 p.m. Free

## Fridays-Mondays

### ***Haunted Haight Walking Tour***

Meets at Coffee To The People  
1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco  
[www.hauntedhaight.com](http://www.hauntedhaight.com)  
Reservations required.  
7 p.m. - 9 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](mailto: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.

### **Monthly**

#### ***Dorkbot-SF***

[www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf](http://www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf)

Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity.

Free, donations welcome

#### ***Foothill Anime***

Building 5015, Foothill College  
Los Altos Hills

[foothill.anime.net](http://foothill.anime.net)

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

#### ***Silicon Gulch Browncoats***

Various locations (see website for details)

[www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org](http://www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org)

Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.

Noon - 2 p.m. Free

#### ***The Bawdy Caste Presents "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"***

The Clay, 2261 Fillmore Street San Francisco/  
The Guild, 949 El Camino Real Menlo Park

[www.bawdycaste.org](http://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

#### ***Barely Legal Presents "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"***

Camera 3 Cinema

288 South Second Street, San Jose

[barelylegal.rhps.org/](http://barelylegal.rhps.org/)

Barely Legal provides the shadow cast for the South Bay for the classic midnight movie every first Saturday of the month in Downtown San Jose.

Midnight

#### ***Time Warp Cartel Presents "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"***

The Vine Cinema

1722 First Stree, Livermore, CA

[www.timewarpcartel.com/](http://www.timewarpcartel.com/)

Time Warp Cartel provides the hijinx for the East Bay and Tri-Valley area of the classic midnight movie every first Saturday of the month in Downtown Livermore.

Midnight

#### ***QSF&F Book Club***

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia, San Francisco

[www.borderlands-books.com/](http://www.borderlands-books.com/about_events.html)

[about\\_events.html](http://www.borderlands-books.com/about_events.html)

Meets the second Sunday of the month.

5 p.m. Free

#### ***East Bay Star Wars Club***

Central Perk

10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito

510-558-7375

[www.facebook.com/groups/35116614719/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/35116614719/)

Meets the second Friday of every month.

7:30 p.m. Free

#### ***Fantastic Frontiers***

[www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/](http://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.

**No-Name Anime**

Saratoga Library  
13650 Saratoga Avenue  
Saratoga  
[www.nnanime.com](http://www.nnanime.com)

Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.

Free

**SF Browncoats**

Cafe Murano  
1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco  
[www.sfbrowncoats.com](http://www.sfbrowncoats.com)

SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.

Noon Free

**Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club**

Borderlands Books  
866 Valencia, San Francisco  
[www.borderlands-books.com](http://www.borderlands-books.com)

Meets the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Jude at [jfeldman@borderlands-books.com](mailto:jfeldman@borderlands-books.com) for more information.

6 p.m. Free

**Night of the Living Book Club**

Books, Inc.- Mountain View  
301 Castro Street, Mountain View  
[www.booksinc.net/night-living-book-club](http://www.booksinc.net/night-living-book-club)

Monthly book club discusses classic and contemporary selections from suspense, thriller, and horror fiction genres. Meets every third Sunday of each month.

5 pm Free

**USS Defiance**

5026 Don Julio Blvd, Sacramento  
1566 Howe Ave, Sacramento  
[www.myspace.com/d2121978](http://www.myspace.com/d2121978)

Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.

7 p.m. Free

**USS Northern Lights**

[sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights](http://sites.google.com/site/ussnorthernlights)  
Contact [firstjedi2000@yahoo.com](mailto:firstjedi2000@yahoo.com) for specifics.

The 'Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International and a swell group of science fiction fans. We do more than Trek. Usually meets the third Friday of the month, with social event TBD.

7 p.m. Free

**Micro Gods, Inc.**

Berkeley Public Library, West Branch  
1125 University Ave, Berkeley  
[mgisciaf.angelfire.com](http://mgisciaf.angelfire.com)  
[groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/](http://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.

1 p.m. - 5 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](mailto:RSmith2678@aol.com) for more information.

7 p.m. Free

**Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club**

Inklings Books and Things  
1855 41st Avenue, Capitola  
[www.inklingsbooksandthings.com/](http://www.inklingsbooksandthings.com/)

Meets every fourth Tuesday of each month.

6 pm Free

**Sci-Fi Book Group with Kym**

Barnes & Noble  
El Cerrito Plaza, 6050 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito  
[store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/store/2113](http://store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/store/2113)

Meets the fourth Friday of the month.  
7 p.m. Free

**Legion of Rassilon**

Carl's Jr.  
2551 N 1st St , San Jose  
[www.legionofrassilon.org](http://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.  
7:00 p.m. Free

### ***USS Augusta Ada***

Round Table Pizza

3567 Geary Blvd, San Francisco

[trek.starshine.org](http://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

### ***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

### ***Queered Science Book Club***

Au Coquelet Restaurant

2000 University Avenue, Berkeley

[queeredscience.weebly.com](http://queeredscience.weebly.com)

[www.facebook.com/groups/qsbooks/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/qsbooks/)

Monthly book club that focuses on science fiction, fantasy, and magical realism that includes trans\*, queer, genderqueer, and strong female protagonists and themes.

Meets the last Saturday of each month.

4:30 P.M.

Free

For even more events in the Bay Area, check out Bay Area Geek Guide: The San Francisco Bay Area Guide to Geek Events & Nerd Culture: [bayareageekguide.com](http://bayareageekguide.com)



# Bay Area Fannish Calendar – November 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Bad Movie Night</i> <i>Sakramento Anime</i> <i>SF Games</i> <i>Cloondara Fighter Practice</i>	<i>BASFA</i> <i>SV Boardgamers</i> <i>Haunted Haight</i> <i>Sacramento SF/F Book Club</i>	<i>MGI Boffers</i> <i>Principality of Mists</i> <i>Fighter Practice</i>	<i>BA Role-Playing Soc</i> <i>E.Bay Strategy Games</i> <i>SV Boardgamers</i> <i>Steam Federation</i>	<i>CAS: NightLife</i> <i>Fanboy Planet Podcast</i>	<i>SF Games</i> <i>Haunted Haight</i> <i>Vampire Walking</i>	
27	28	29	30	31	1 <i>Convolution 2013 (thru Sun)</i>	2 <i>PEERS Le Bal des Vampires</i> <i>Silicon Gulch Browncoats</i> <i>Rocky Horror (*2)</i>
3 <i>Foothill Anime</i>	4	5	6 <i>Basil Twist: Dogugaeshi (thru Sun)</i>	7	8 <i>Conquest Avalon (thru Sun)</i> <i>Star Trek Convention (thru Sun)</i> <i>East Bay Star Wars</i>	9 <i>Fantastic Frontiers</i> <i>No-Name Anime</i> <i>SF Browncoats</i>
10 <i>QSF&amp;F Book Club</i>	11	12 <i>Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club</i>	13	14 <i>The Intergalactic Nemesis Book One: Target Earth</i>	15 <i>USS Defiance</i> <i>USS Northern Lights</i>	16 <i>Sci-Fi X Fest)</i> <i>Robinson &amp; Holland</i> <i>Speakeasy Crawl</i> <i>Micro Gods, Inc</i>
17 <i>SF/F Book Club</i> <i>Night of the Living Book Club</i>	18	19	20	21	22 <i>Legion of Rassilon</i> <i>Sci-Fi Book Group</i>	23 <i>USS Augusta Ada</i> <i>Veritech Fighter Cmd 13</i> <i>Queered Science Book Club</i>
24 <i>Religion &amp; SF</i>	25	26	27	28	29	30

Science Fiction/San Francisco is the monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area – [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com).