

# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine

## Open House Rocks!

The annual New Year's Eve Open House turned out to be a roaring success. A



group of 11 semi-rowdy fans — well, 10 semi-rowdy fans and Ross Chamberlain — started early and, mostly, partied well into the night.

Joyce prepared a sumptuous blend of end-of-the year traditional foods, snacks, and sandwich makings for this gang of trencherfen. Several others brought dessert stuff, so no one went hungry.

A rebel about so many things, Joyce is a

traditionalist when it comes to end-of-year edibles. Among the items she offered were black-eyed peas and sausages and sauerkraut. These foods allegedly bring good luck.

John and Karla Hardin knocked on the door a little after 7:30 to become the first guests. "Woody is right behind us," John said. I didn't see or hear anyone approaching, so I dutifully closed the door behind the Hardins (to keep our inquisitive cat from



John & Jarka Hardin became *VFW's* Fab Couple of the Week. Having a good photo by Alan White swayed the judge (me) somewhat.

**Vegas Fandom Weekly #7, January 5, 2005**, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107; Email: crossfire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks to Alan White (all photos) and Joyce Katz (proofreading)

Reporters this issue: Woody Bernardi, Roxanne Gibbs and Joyce Katz

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

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

## Contact Information

**Las Vegrants Hosts:** Arnie & Joyce Katz, PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas 89107  
Email: JoyceWorley1@cox.net  
Phone: 648-5677

**SNAFFU President::** Michael Bernstein  
Email: webmaven@cox.net  
Phone: 765-7279

**VSFA Director:** Woody Bernardi  
Email: woodybernardi@yahoo.com  
Phone: 327-3154

dashing into the night).

I had no sooner thrown the bolt when I heard a knock I knew must be Woody Bernardi. I quickly unlatched and opened the door to find a stunned Woody on the doorstep. "Gee," he said, "I heard JoHn say 'Woody is right behind me' and the next thing I heard was the door slam shut and the bolt lock."

Bill Kunkel

and Derek Stazenski arrived next. Unfortunately, Laurie wasn't feeling up to the trip. This was Derek's second fan appearance since the recent job change, so it was especially good to see that he is starting to make a habit of coming around now that his work schedule permits. And, of course, it is al-



The fannish partiers watched the incredible fireworks on the TV at 9 from New York City and at midnight from the Strip.

ways great to see Bill. Joyce and I have celebrated so many New Years with him that it wouldn't seem like a normal year-ender without him.

Alan and DeDee White pepped up the evening considerable when they breezed into the Launch Pad. Alan had his camera going almost as soon as he settled into the

room, still dominated by the insanely twinkling Christmas tree.

Ross Chamberlain must've felt like he'd blundered into an episode of *Cheers* or taken a time machine back 30 years to the New York fan meetings where the arrival of an artist (originally Bhob Stewart and later Steve Stiles) would ig-



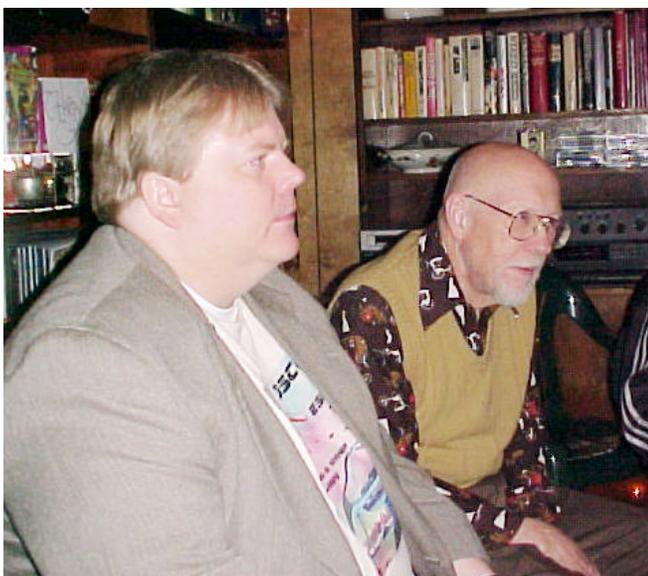
Robbie the Chair enjoys New Year's Eve with Woody Bernardi. (Woody is the one on the right.)



Lex Luthor in a jovial mood? Nope, it's BNF and Vegas stalwart Bill Kunkel.

nite a roaring greeting from the entire group. The notoriously fan artist had barely poked his head into the living room when nine fans bellowed, "Hello, Ross!" at him.

If you can't be the first to get to a party,



Kent Hastings, shown here at the Open House, was Actifan of the Week, Next to him is Ross Chamberlain. Not shown is *Worlds of Tomorrow*.

## Club Calendar

**SNAFFU** January 14 8:00 PM

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

**Las Vegrants** January 15 7:30 PM

The informal, invitational club returns to its regular meeting schedule.

**VSFA** February 8 7:30 PM

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

being the last to arrive is probably the best way to get some extra attention. It's doubtful that Kent Hastings had that in mind, but his advent did complete the company.

Fatigue claimed some fannish victims, but JoHn, Karla, Woody, Kent, Joyce and I watched the celebration on the strip on

## Vegas Fanzine Scene

**The Gay Blade #1**/Woody Bernardi

Irregular, 8 pages, US Quarto

Available free at:efanzines.com .

In some way that I still don't entirely understand, I am responsible for Woody getting off his butt and publishing his first fanzine in years. He apparently bridled at my comparison of him to Peggy Burke, a local under-achiever, and resolved to make me eat my words.

This easy-going one man show is longer on charm, amply supplied by its lovable, bumbling editor, and irritatingly short on technique and polish.

This fanzine could end up fooling a lot of people. It may be much closer to being a solid fanzine than it appears. Woody rushed this issue unnecessarily, which contributed to some glaring layout flaws and typo-ridden copy. Woody also needs to continue to move away from old topics and concerns and focus more on recounting his life and attitudes in the here and now.

Yet *The Gay Blade* has something you can't learn or counterfeit: the spirit of Trufandom. If Woody shakes off the rust by publishing again soon and takes the production side of things more seriously, this could turn into an enjoyable fanzine.

*Vegas fans who are new to the field could do a lot worse than support Woody's efforts with letters of comment and written contributions.*

## VSFA 1/3 Meeting Report

*It looks like the heavy activity on the VSFA listserv is starting to translate into stepped up meeting activity. Twice as many fans attended the January meeting as the December one. Here's Woody Bernardi's report:*

Monday's VSFA meeting was attended by Kent Hastings, Woody Bernardi, Joshua Andrews, Terry Wilsey, Teresa Cochran and Robert Pinneo (a new attendee).

We discussed the registration of VSFA officers with the State of Nevada. We are registered with the state as a Nevada Nonprofit Corp but we still need to register 2 or more officers before we can open a bank account. Since we do have a check from the Plaza Hotel made out to VSFA it would be good to be able to open a bank acct so we can have access to the funds. There is a \$50 fee to register officers with the state.

We also looked at submitting the paperwork for federal nonprofit status and will do so. Another subject was the Readers of the Future program. There is an active chapter in Utah. They provide books to poor rural school libraries. We agreed that this is a worthwhile project for VSFA. We have several librarians in Las Vegas Fandom. I also know two educators at the Clark County School District who are interested in SF as an art form. Also there is the English Professor at UNLV who has taught SF in the classroom. It is my hope that we can get some of these education professionals interested in this as a VSFA project.

Kent showed off his copy of the coffee table edition of "The Worlds of Tomorrow". This is full of glossy photos of pulp era book and magazine covers and is a companion to the movie "Sky Captain and the Worlds of Tomorrow".

We adjourned to Blueberry Hill where four of us enjoyed a late supper and more socializing.

For those who haven't attended VSFA, the meeting blends formal and informal segments. Our meetings never last more than 1 hour and 15 min, but our after-meetings generally go two hours or more. — Woody Bernardi.

Channel 13 (though we could hear the booming explosions in the distance when JoHn opened the front door.

It was a fun, fannish evening. Thanks to everyone who participated — and consider this an early invitation for those who didn't to

get in on the fun when we usher in 2006.

### **Trek Trek Set for January 16!**

Woody Bernardi reports that more than 20 fans have committed to the group trip to *The Star Trek Experience* at the Hilton.

It looks like this will be one of Vegas Fandom's top wintertime events. There's still time to get on board *Enterprise*. Contact Woody immediately by email at: woodybernardi@yahoo.com.

### **Joyce Katz Celebrates Birthday!**

This coming Sunday is the birthday of Joyce Worley Katz. Besides being a leader on the local scene, Joyce is ranked among fanhistory's top BNFs.

### **Done Already?**

My work here is done, at least for this week. Call or write with news — and I'll see you all next week! — Arnie

### **And in the REST of Fandom**

*There's a lot happening in Fandom outside Las Vegas. This column will offer a few tidbits of possible interest to local fans.*

Frank Kelly Freas passed away this week. One of the finest science fiction artists of all time, Freas also had a strong interest in fandom. Freas had become a familiar sight at numerous Midwest regional cons.

A Langley Searles has published a 176-page issue of *Fantasy Commentator* devoted to Fritz Leiber. A buck and a nice request to Langley (48 Highland Circle, Bronxville, NY 10708) will get it. Feel free to mention who sent ya.

Michael Mason, prominent Los Angeles fan, died this week. He chaired Loscon in 2003 and held a range of LASFS offices.