

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine

Las Vegas Science Fiction & Fantasy Day Announced for April 30!

Las Vegas Science Fiction ^ Fantasy Day, a one-day convention, will take place at the Clark County Public Library on Saturday, April 30.

Las Vegas Science Fiction & Fantasy Day will take place under the joint sponsorship of the city's three major clubs — SNAFFU, VSFA and Las Vegrants. SNAFFU will also hold a meeting the night before the one-day convention and Las Vegrants are planning a party for Saturday evening, after the con.

The free event will present panels and speeches about science fiction, fantasy and fandom from mid-morning to late afternoon (with a break for lunch.)

It's open to all fans and, it is hoped, will attract potential newcomers to swell the local fan population.

My response to a VSFA listserv discussion about how to get more fans for the local club led to a meeting of some of Las Vegas' most prominent fans to discuss my suggestion. The group included Michael Bernstein, Woody Bernardi, Darmon Thornton, Joyce Katz, and me. (Roxanne Gibbs, still mostly housebound, observed and helped from afar.



Vegas Fandom Weekly #12 February 9, 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 (photos) Joyce Katz (proofreading)
Reporters this issue: JoHn Hardin, Woody Bernardi, Joshua Andrews 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.

Woody Bernardi, selected as chairman, has moved quickly to lock up a classy venue and announcements about some of the pros and fans who will speak will be released over the coming weeks.

Mental Feats, Do Your Stuff!

Stan and Tintin Jackewicz stepped into the spotlight at the 2/5 Vegrants meeting. Stan's daughter, they amazed the group with their Spellbenders magic act. The one-hour show is still in development, but the trio earned hearty rounds of applause and a few gasps of awe for some of its tricks.

Stan's initial contact with fandom came when he was lured to a Social in the early 1990s. At that gathering, he astounded about 60 fans (and gamers) with a version of his professional fire magic act. The Spell-



When Stanley J says to pick a card, a wise fan counts his fingers afterward. The magic show presented some fairly baffling card magic.



Stan, Tintin and Cindy Jacewicz are the Spellbenders.

benders posed much less of a threat to scorch the ceiling, though I appreciated their thoughtfulness in bringing their own silverware.

In my favorite effect, Stan demonstrated his psychic prowess by duplicating, sight unseen, something Ross Chamberlain drew and placed inside an opaque case. Was very worried about this trick when Stan chose Ross to do the drawing. I have seen his work in every media, right down to the lowly Etch-A-Sketch and an irrational fear gripped me that Ross would put his version of the Mona Lisa on that little slip of paper.

As it turned out, he drew a crown — and Stan stunned the audience by duplicating it sight unseen.

Another high spot was Stan's bending of

Exploring Fandom: What's an Apa?

The amateur press association (apa) is a fannish invention that has succeeded spectacularly since Donald A. Wolheim invented the first one, FAPA, in 1937. Wolheim, who later founded Ace Books and had a long writing and editing career, proposed his idea as an alternative to the laborious and expensive process of running a subscription fanzine. Just about all such publications had collapsed at the same time, swamped by the work and cost, and Wolheim felt the Fantasy Amateur Press Association could completely replace general circulation fanzine publishing.

He was wrong, of course. Fans, being resourceful, largely abandoned the pseudo-pro practice of going all-out for subscriptions, cut unresponsive fans off their mailing lists and continued to publish. Yet FAPA has not only continued to this day, but has spawned numerous other apas, too.

An amateur press association is a fanzine trading club. Members send enough copies of their apa contribution for all the members to the official editor (OE), who mails out a full set to each member. Some apas have each member produce a little fanzine and collate them into a stack, while others have one member do the publishing each time while the others send letters and other material for publication.

Mailing comments, multi-participant written conversations, are the apas' secret weapon and biggest drawing card. Many apa members comment on the publications in the previous mailing, often in some detail. These are not reviews, but rather discussions of the content. An interest contribution may draw comments from 30 or 40 fans in the larger group. Discussion lead to other topics and the conversations become a unique, shared experience.

Apas vary greatly in size, ambience and rules. FAPA has a meticulous constitution and four elected officers, while SAPS (Spectator Amateur Press Society) has only one rule: The Official Editor is Ghod." It's more a matter of finding what seems like a congenial group of fans and an appealing ambience and giving it a try.

Most apas are national or even international, with distribution handled via the mail. In the mid-1960s, three New York City fans who'd possibly over-indulged, somehow got their friends to form Apa F. (We named it for the two culbs that met on alternate Fridays — Fano-clasts and FISTFA — and the day itself.) We then helped the Los Angeles fans create the longest-lived, and most successful, local amateur press group, Apa L, which has had weekly mailings for over three decades. Other cities with local apas include Minneapolis, MN, and Madison, WI. Las Vegas had one, too, called Apa V (for Vegrants). It lasted for approximately 60 mailings and folded mostly because most of the participants had other fannish projects, including the group's fanzine *Wild Heirs*. — Arnie

Next issue, I'll have full details about a new local apa that JoHn Hardin, Joyce and I are starting for Las Vegas.

metal kitchen utensils. This included a completely innovative bend in which the center tines of a fork bent toward each other. (Reminder: Please fill out the evaluation sheets Stan distributed and return them to him at the next Vegrants meeting.)

We had two invited guests at the meet-

ing. It was an opportunity to meet local whirlwind Joshua Andrews. He seemed a little more subdued than might have been expected from his fire-breathing in-print persona, but he may have been in mourning for the seeming end of the *Star Trek* franchise.

Dave Gordon was the other first-timer.



Turning cynical fans into marks was the Spellbenders' first, and greatest, trick. Shown here: Arnie Katz (lower left corner), Teresa Cochran (head bowed) and Ross Chamberlain (contemplating the infinite). Su Williams is at the bottom-center, with Joyce Katz to her left and Bill Kunkel to Joyce's left. Dave Gordon is sitting in the row behind Teresa.

He has posted prolifically on the VSFA listserv and attended a SNAFFU meeting (or two), but this was his first look at Las Vegants. The more relaxed ambience gave him more of a chance to display his personality than at the huge Christmas Party or the formal SNAFFU meeting. He is observant, sharp-tongued, cynical and sarcastic, so he fit in quite nicely.

As usual, the conversation raced wildly in seven directions at once. Teresa Cochran brought up *The Enchanted Duplicator*. She has just finished reading Fandom's touchstone prose epic. The discussion was fairly short, but it led to the idea of a get-together built around discussion of the Walt Willis-Bob Shaw fannish masterwork.

Dave Gordon asked a question about a passing reference Joyce made to amateur press associations that led to an ex-

planation of the concept.

That, in turn, gave Joyce a chance to share her latest brainstorm: a local monthly apa. Several fans said they would participate, so I'll have full particulars as soon as we work out the logistics. (They are a little complex, since the apa will be hard copy and yet we also want to give Teresa a chance to play, too.)

Others who attended the meeting: Alan White, JoHn Hardin, Woody Bernardi, Su Williams, Ross Chamberlain and Derek Stazenski.

Try Your Skill at SNAFFU Game Day!

Linda and Ron Bushyager will host a Potluck Feed and Game Day on February 20.

The fun begins at 1 PM for this

SNAFFU-sponsored get-together. It is open to all Las Vegas fans, whether members of that club or not.

Linda kindly offers a few extra details:

"Please plan to bring games you would like to play. We have a few such as Wizard (a great card game similar to "Oh Hell"), Great Dalmudi, Fictionary, Othello, Monopoly, Chess, Checkers, Trivial Pursuit. If all else fails we also have a great collection of DVDs and videos.

"Food will be semi-pot luck. I'll be making spaghetti with meat sauce. Please bring sodas, snacks, and if anyone has special dietary restrictions (such as vegetarians) please contact me.

"Please RSVP (phone: 702-873-7930; email address: LindaBushyger@aol.com) and if bringing friends please let me know.



JoHn Hardin encounters the mental might of Stanley J.

Fannish Nicknames — Vegas and Beyond

Well known fans often acquire nickname, a fact brought forward at the 2/5 Vegnants meeting when Dave Gordon asked why John Wesley Hardin spells his first name with a capital “H” in the middle. I admitted that I’d put the extra capital letter there to differentiate our JoHn from all the lesser ones who have the effrontery to claim the same given name.

“I’ll bet you didn’t know that he,” I said, pointing to Woody Bernardi, “is actually named ‘Anthony.’ Bill Kunke bestowed the moniker on him, because he claimed to see a physical resemblance to Woody Harrelson. “Now everyone except a few members of his immediate family call him Woody,” I summed up.

Ken Forman is the Mainspring, because of his great energy in pursuit of fanac and Ken Griegg will forever be “Ken-not-Ken” because he *isn’t* Ken Forman. DeDee White’s anem is actually “Joyce” — and Joyce Katz is sometimes called “The High Priestess of Fannish Fandom.”

Linda Bushyager and I both had nicknames as young fans but outlasted them. In a neo-fannish act of self-disparagement, Linda called herself “The Klutz.” Fortunately, the rest of us didn’t agree and she eventually dropped it. Ted White dubbed me “Jumpin’ Jack Flash” during the counter-cultural days of the late 1960s. At about the same time, people at college began calling me “Hawk” (short for Hawkeye, a reference to my wretched vision) and that won out over the Rolling Stones reference. Bill Rotsler called me “The Moses of Las Vegas Fandom” but I never actually use that one. In my guise as the editor of a pro wrestling website, I have become known as “The Kingfish” and that is starting to filter into fandom, too.

Lots of fans outside of Las Vegas often have colorful nicknames, too. Some are known by their initials, like “WAW” (Walter A. Willis) or corruptions of those initials (“Juffus” for “Jack F. Speer). The greatest female fan of all time, Lee Hoffman, was sometimes referred to as “The Good-Humored and Condescending BNF,” but generally is known as “LeeH.”

Vegas Fandom, especially Las Vegnants, owe much to the fabulous Los Angeles Insurgents of the 1940s, at least two of whom (Bill Rotsler and Charles Burbee) became closely identified with our city’s fandom in the 1990s. All four of that group’s mainstays had intriguing nicknames. Francis Towner Laney, author of *Ah, Sweet Idiocy!*, was known as The Stormy Petrel and Fran the Iconoclast for his aggressive essay style. Burbee was always “Burb” to his friends, though he claimed a lot of people called him Sweet Old Burbee (and abbreviated it for convenience. When the young Rotsler joined them in the mid-1940s, they christened him “The Amiable Bulldozer,” because he was physically imposing beside the relatively slight Burbee and Laney. Elmer Perdue? His nickname was... Ghod, as in Elmer “Ghod” Perdue. The first time I met Elmer, he walked up to the table where I was having lunch with Felice Rolfe (who had the unlikely nickname of “Grandma”). Resplendent in one of his trademark floral print shirts, Elmer say down beside us. As he did so, he pulled a dollar bill on the table as he murmured, “The Lord giveth.” when the waitress brought Felice and my meals, Elmer rose majestically, raised his arms in benediction and intoned, “...And the Lord taketh away!” Whereupon he scooped up the dollar bill and left. — Arnie

“We have cats so if you are allergic, please take a pill beforehand. (I’ll be locking the cats away.)

“We live near Jones and Flamingo. Easy

access via the Rt. 202 bus (get off at Duneville). From Las Vegas Blvd: Go West past Rio and Palms; pass Lindell Rd., Turn Right at next street - Duneville (next to Sun West

Bank Bldg.). Turn Left at Stop Sign (Saddle Ave.), turn Left at next street (Mitra Ct.) - 3rd house on right (4025 Mitra Ct.)”

Joyce and I are tentatively planning to be there. I may even bring along that odd-looking poster on my office wall — and the game that goes with it. Or maybe there’s someone who’d like to challenge me in *Trivial Pursuit*?

Gillespie Gala Set for March 8!

Bruce Gillespie is coming to Glitter City! The subject of a fandom-wide Special Fund that raised over \$5,000 to bring him from his native Australia to the Corflu and Potlatch conventions has decided he can’t visit the US without seeing the fabulous fannish Mecca of Las Vegas.

Billy Pettit, long-time fanzine and convention fan, will drive him to Vegas on the Monday after Potlatch. The party will also feature the return to Las Vegas of Earl Kemp, who last came to town a year ago for Corflu Blackjack.

With three terrific Guest BNFs (Big Name Fans), what else is there to do but — **PARTY!!**

That’s what we’ll be doing at the Launch Pad (909 Eugene Cernan Street), where Joyce and I hold the Gillespie Gala. It’s scheduled for Tuesday, March 8. Starting at 6:30 PM.

The Gillespie Gala is open to all Las Vegas fans and I urge as many of you as possible to join us if you possibly can. The early starting time should make it possible for even those who get up

early for work to attend for a while.

Not only is this a great chance to meet some pretty amazing outlanders, but it’s also our first real opportunity to show the rest of Fandom that Las Vegas is back and growing again after some parched years.

We do need to ask for an RSVP by phone, in person or via email to either Joyce or me. That’s the only way we’ll have even a remote idea of how many to expect. The hosts will supply an assortment of goodies, but contributions of appropriate edibles (cakes, cookies, doughnuts, cheese, etc) will be gratefully welcomed (and greedily eaten).

A Slice of Fanac

How do you mend a broken heart? Joshua Andrews evidently believes that pizza, soft drinks and some lively gaming competition will do the job. He’s going to host an Anti-Valentine’s Day Party that will feature all three of those elements.

It’s set for Monday evening, February 14. Arrive any time after 5 pm. Donations of soft (and hard) drinks would be welcome.

Josh asks that those who plan to attend RSVP to him by email (andrews1701@gmail.com) or phone (702-759-9303).

Bean Me Up, Scotty!

If you’ve always wondered whether Klingons know how to make chili, you’ll be able to satisfy your curiosity at the *Star Trek* Chili Cook-off. Sponsored by one of the two local Las Vegas *ST* clubs, K’Ehleyr Station, it



Alan White (shown at an impossibly young age in the left corner) is shown with the first science fiction fan Forrest J Ackerman, one-time LASFS projectomaniac Walter J Daugherty and movie director Karl Feund. Now, let’s see if he’ll tell us what mysterious liquid is in the glasses they are raising in toast. Maybe we can even find out why they were toasting in the first place.

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

is scheduled for Saturday, February 26.

Fans are encouraged to bring a pot of their chili with them, but it isn't a requirement.

Joshua Andrews (email: andrews1701@gmail.com) can provide a lot more information about what looks like an entertaining, if slightly gassy event.

Katzenjammer

I've used "Katzenjammer" as my main column title since Andy Main graciously stopped using it in his fanzine and donated it to me. Now, with abundant thanks to Andy, one of the sweetest guys ever to put hand to fanac, I'll use it here in Vegas Fandom Weekly.

I am ashamed. No sooner did I promise Joyce a return to the sanity of four-page issues when I find myself holding a ton of "must publish" material. I think it's a reflection of how much the local Las Vegas fan scene has picked up in the last two-to-three months.

Even postponing the letter column — next week, for sure — there's simply a lot more reports, photos and such that cry out for speedy publication. What can a poor editor do, but bow to the inevitable and lay out those extra pages.

I'm not really ashamed. If I had to be wrong, I'm glad it's about something like this.



Don't think, however, that this means I don't need *your* personal news, event reports and other contributions. My goal, the thing that would really make me happy and repay my effort, would be to have just about everyone in local fandom chiming in with *something* every so often.

More Surgery Ahead for Joyce Katz

After an examination by a foot specialist, it looks like Joyce will need an operation to remove the plate and seven screws currently residing in her right ankle.

The doctor feels that this may not be the answer to the sudden onset of pain and difficulty walking that beset Joyce about two weeks ago. Nonetheless, it's the obvious first thing to do before



progressing to more serious measures. (Her other broken ankle has healed very nicely.)

The current plan is for Joyce to see her regular doctor for pre-operative tests. Then she'll have it done on an upcoming Friday and be home the same night.

This is somewhat similar to the follow-up surgery that Aileen Forman had to have after her broken ankle was surgically repaired.

Event Calendar

SNAFFU February 11 8:00 PM
This formal SF club meets the second and fourth Friday's of each month. This time, it will be held at Borders bookstore on Sahara at 8:00 PM.

Las Vegas Futurists Feb. 11 7:00 PM
This discussion group looks to the world of tomorrow on the second Friday of each month at Borders bookstore (2190 N. Rainbow Blvd.)

Las Vegrants February 19 7:30 PM
The informal, invitational club meets at the home of Arnie and Joyce Katz.

VSFA March 7 7:30 PM
This formal club meets at the Clark County Library on the first Monday of each month.

The Gillespie Gala March 8 6:30 PM
A mid-week party for Bruce Gillespie, open to all Vegas fans. RSVP to Arnie or Joyce.

Las Vegas Science Fiction & Fantasy Day April 30 10 AM-5:30 PM
A free, one-day convention for all Vegas fans. Woody Bernardi is chairman.

Heard Around Vegas Fandom...

Marcy Waldie's medical tribulations continue. Her knee operation, originally scheduled for last Wednesday, got canceled when she *arrived at the hospital* It is now scheduled for 2/9, so everyone should stop and send a good thought to one of Vegas Fandom's most beloved members...

Ben Wilson, former Vegas luminary and co-chairman of 2004's Corflu Blackjack, had some rough sledding recently. Violent coughing from a cold led to a reoccurrence of his chronic back trouble...

Steve Brust sends out good wishes to the rest of Las Vegas fandom. He asserts that his recent silence is due to nothing more sinister than a drive to finish his latest novel...

The flu continues to cut a swathe through Las Vegas Fandom. On the fannish sick list at the moment are Lori Forbes and Lee Reckling.

Can It Really Be?

Is that *really* the bottom of page eight looming into view? Better check the page number. Yup, it's definitely an "8" down there.

That means "good-bye" from me until next Wednesday. Write or call. I get lonely.

— Arnie
Las Vegas, NV