

PROGRESS REPORT TWO

SPRING 2013

In this issue:

Tabletop Day, pg 2

Writers' Workshop, pg 5

DIY Room Updates, pg 6

Get Your Badge: pg 7

BAYCON 2013 TRISKAIDEKAPHOBICON

MAY 24TH - 27TH, 2013

HYATT REGENCY, SANTA CLARA CA



TOASTMASTER INTERVIEW: VERONICA BELMONT

BayCon: We're excited to have you back at BayCon for the second year in a row, this time as Toastmaster. What did you enjoy about last year's BayCon and what are you looking forward to at this year's convention?

Veronica Belmont: I loved how intimate BayCon is! You really have a chance to dig into the conversations during the panels. I moderated a panel on The Hunger Games last year, for example, and it was about 10 girls under the age of 16, and a few adults. My job as a moderator has never been easier... I just posed two or three questions to the group, and we had an amazing roundtable discussion for an hour!

BC: While many of our members may recognize you from your days at CNET and the *Tekzilla* video podcast, you also co-host the audio podcast *Sword & Laser*, focused on science fiction and fantasy literature. You now also have a video version of the podcast that launched last year, hosted by the Geek & Sundry channel on

YouTube. How did this come about and what makes it different from the audio version (other than the video aspect)?

VB: The main difference is the focus on the authors. The audio podcast has always been news and book club oriented, while the video show has really been a great opportunity to showcase the entire breadth of work of an author. Plus, we have the chance to interview them on camera, which is a great promotional opportunity for them. The audience also loves that we ask their questions directly to the source about their favorite books!

BC: You and Tom have interviewed many prominent SF authors on the *Sword and Laser* video show, including such personalities as George R.R. Martin, Neal Stephenson and Terry Brooks. What are some of your favorite moments from these interviews and who are you hoping to invite to the show in the future?

VB: Having Tad Williams on was a highlight for me, because he is one of my all-time favorite authors. Tailchaser's Song was one of the first fantasy books I'd ever picked up, and so it was an honor to get to interview him.



Plus, he's just a great interview. Gail Carriger was also one of my favorites, because she really got into it. We set out tea for her (many of her novels are set in an alternate reality Steampunk England) and she took lots of pictures with our dragon Lem.

I think our ultimate get at this point would be Neil Gaiman. Hopefully someday!

BC: *Sword and Laser* was originally conceived as an online book club, originating in forum form and now exists as a group on Goodreads, accompanied by bi-weekly installments of the video show. How do you think the advent of social media has affected the way we connect through our interests and what have you seen as the benefits? Are there any drawbacks?

VB: I honestly can't think of any drawbacks. I'm an advisor for Goodreads, so I've had the great fortune to be able to pitch feature requests directly to the source (adding video onto the book club page was one of those requests that ended up working out very well). We've been amazed by how many new people discover the club and the shows every week! I would have killed to have something like that

VERONICA BELMONT INTERVIEW (CONTD.)

when I was a kid, so I totally get that feeling of excitement when you find likeminds online. In fact, I'm always surprised how the forum users come up with new cool ways to use the site. Right now they're planning a writing project where each one writes a few paragraphs of a story and then sends it on to the next person. They've planned the whole thing right in the forums!

BC: The emergence of e-readers and tablets over the last decade along with the still-growing interest in audiobooks has seemingly accelerated the controversial topic of print versus electronic, which you sometimes address on your show. What is your personal reading preference? How do you see things changing over the next decade or so? Will print and electronic literature be able to coexist or are we witnessing the demise of one technology for another?

VB: Well, I could probably write an essay on those questions. Personally, I prefer to read on my Kindle Paperwhite. It's indistinguishable from paper, and I appreciate the convenience. Plus, I have to read so many books for *Sword & Laser* and *Vaginal Fantasy* (my other book club) that it would be impossible to carry them all around with me. I also like to collect first edition hardcovers from authors that I love, especially if they're signed. I think there will always be a place for print, especially for collectors.

BC: Coming from a tech background, you have probably noticed that certain technology first introduced in many classic science fiction novels and TV shows (such

as *Star Trek*) has now become a reality or even surpassed the imagination of the creative prophets of our past. To what degree do you think science fiction has fueled our passion and ideas for scientific breakthroughs and what role does it play in our everyday lives and as we travel into the future?

VB: Yes, I believe science fiction has been extremely formative in our engineering and design sensibilities. Even something as common as a flip phone has deep roots in classic science fiction. On one of my shows, *Fact or Fictional*, we've covered topics like the tractor beam, tricorders, and even time travel have made their way from science fiction to science fact.

BC: What books are you reading right now? Is there any new science fiction or fantasy that you would recommend to our readers, novels by authors who are maybe not as well-known but definitely worth reading?

VB: Right now I'm reading *Downbelow Station* by C.J. Cherryh, but she's clearly a well-established author. Some of my favorite, slightly lesser-known authors include Adam Christopher and Ian Trigellis, though I don't expect they'll stay below the radar for much longer.

BC: We've heard from reliable sources that you enjoy participating in karaoke on occasion. BayCon just so happens to feature karaoke as part of its festivities. Any chance we'll see you up on stage?

VB: I have no idea what you're talking about! Especially if you've heard rumors that I'll sing anything from Phantom of the Opera after a few cocktails. Balderdash!

TABLETOP GAMING WITH BAYCON

Where: Wicked Grounds. 289 8th St in SF

When: Saturday March 30, 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM

We are very excited to share in International Tabletop Day with gaming at Wicked Grounds in San Francisco. We will be sharing our love of all tabletop games and card games like Munchkin, Settlers of Catan, Small World, Ticket to Ride, Killer Bunnies and many, many more.

Please join some of the BayCon staff as we celebrate the games we love. There will be games available there to play but we also encourage you to bring any game that you would like to share. There's nothing like introducing people to a new game!

Please support and thank Wicked Grounds for providing

space by purchasing food or drink from them while you game.

This event is also supported by the San Francisco Vaginal Fantasy Book Club meetup group.



MEET THE TRISKAIDEKAPHOBICON GUESTS OF HONOR

AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR

LOIS MCMASTER BUJOLD

www.dendarii.com

Known for the Miles Vorkosigan Saga, the Chalion Series, and the Sharing Knife series, Lois is one of the most acclaimed writers in her field, having won the Hugo Award for Best Novel four times, matching Robert Heinlein's record.

ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR

CLIFF NEILSEN

www.facebook.com/cliffnielsenillustration

We are pleased to announce our newest addition to Triskaidekaphobicon! Cliff is best known as a fantasy, science fiction artist, a book illustrator and graphic novel artist. He has drawn for Marvel Comics, done cover art for Amelia Atwater-Rhodes, and illustrated numerous children's fantasy stories including one edition of *Chronicles of Narnia!* (Oh, and ask him about *Beloved!*)

FAN GUESTS OF HONOR

CHRIS AND JOHN O'HALLORAN

Chris and John have been active behind-the-scenes in SF fandom for more than two decades. When you aren't not seeing them be Masquerade "ninjas," they help run Consonance, play Taiko drums, and allow themselves to be dominated by their cats.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BAYCON?

Hello BayCon members! We are excited to share a long list of amazing guests who will help us thwart the dreaded number 13 this year.

First: podcasts. Our Toastmaster Veronica Belmont is just half of *Sword and Laser*. Join her and co-host Tom Merritt as they record an episode of the *Sword & Laser* Podcast BOF! *FanBoy Planet* and *Horror Addicts Network* will also be doing live shows during the weekend. If you want to suggest a local podcast for us to invite, please feel free to email programming13@baycon.org and we will do our best have them at BayCon 2013.

Don't forget the panels! Todd McCaffrey will be presenting *The Delphic Oracle*, during which six people answer questions from the audience, with each member of the panel adding one word to the answer for hilarious results. You won't want to miss it! Also, Boston Blake in his *Wonder Woman: The Kink in the Golden Lasso* presentation, portrays WW as a super-powered kinkster, a champion for the BDSM community.

Not to be outdone, joining us again will be last year's Toastmasters Dani Kollin and Eytan Kollin (so hilarity

is bound to happen—remember the toastapults?). Doug Sheppard will share the latest releases in video games. Emerian Rich and the *Wicked Women Writers*, as well as many of the authors who are on board this year, will be doing readings. We are also delighted to have Dr. Kiki Sanford sharing her knowledge of science, and the Knowledge Fairy, Brandie June, to instruct us on how to thrive in a Zombie Apocalypse.

We haven't forgotten our costumers either! This year Liz Martin shares her historical vision for finding the right costume through research. We will also have panels on creating your first costume and picking out the right fabric for an outfit. Look for more as we get closer to the convention.

BayCon programming is working on many more panels and will have the program up on the site as soon as possible. Keep checking www.baycon.org and like us on Facebook to follow programming updates!

—Sally Rose

Programming Division Head

MUSIC AT BAYCON

We have a great BayCon Concert Schedule shaping up, with concerts by great musical guests S.J. Tucker and Betsy Tinney. Two-thirds of *Tricky Pixie*, these talented women will be putting on a powerful show directly after the Masquerade. Katie Tinney, daughter of Betsy Tinney, will also be joined by S.J. and Betsy in her own concert. Katie's sweet, soaring voice has enchanted audiences from San Francisco to Seattle.

Some of the finest filkers in the land will be in the old Bay Area, including the award-winning filk rockers Jeff & Maya Bohnhoff, combining spot-on performances of the rock songs we all know and love with funny and insightful lyrics. Singer/songwriter/guitarist Allison Lonsdale will be back again this year with original songs about sex, science and God, full of metaphors from math, physics and biology, to the supernatural, comic books, Tibetan Buddhism, and role-playing games. Celtic/fantasy singers and multi-instrumentalists Margaret & Kristoph will perform Celtic and Medieval songs with original rocking arrangements. Margaret plays the harp, flute and recorders, and sings like a Scottish angel. Kristoph is an Irish tenor, songwriter, 12-string guitar player, and mandola player. S.J. Tucker will be sitting in with them for a tune or two.

And there's even more filk: harpist/operatic diva Moira Greyland will bring her big harp and bigger voice to delight us; geek rock star/musical educator Tim Griffin will teach us a thing or two; troprock singer/songwriter Loren Davidson will entrance us into a tropical state of mind; and singer/songwriters Paul Kwinn & Taunya Gren will put on a show with their award-winning funny and moving songs.

In celebration of our Writer Guest of Honor's *Chalion* series, fantasy author/songwriter Diana Paxson will sing hymns to the five gods set to tunes from the *Cantigas de Santa Maria*, joined by Margaret and Kristoph.

All in all, a great musical year for Baycon 2013.

CARNIVAL

Join us for a Halloween-themed Carnival on Saturday evening that will start during the last hour of Family Friendly programming and stay open for the grownups to enjoy, even if they aren't kids.

There will be tons of fun with games and face painting and more!

WHY STAY AT THE HOTEL?

Nighttime is for sleeping, or so we've heard.

At BayCon, night programming includes a rich variety of fulfilling fun. Recurring panels and events include but are not limited to the midnight Eye of Argon reading, boffing, karaoke, and the charity casino. For party people, the choice is between the big dances with famous Bay Area deejays and the room parties with all manner of themes chosen by seasoned hosts. For those who want shows, there's an even bigger variety! We've got RHPS, the full Masquerade and poolside movies, to name a few.

Room rates begin at \$103 a night. To reserve online, go to our Special BayCon Discount page at:

<http://resweb.passkey.com/go/BayCon2013>

If you prefer to make your reservation over the phone, you can call the Hyatt Regency toll free at 1-888-421-1442. Be sure to mention BayCon 2013 to get your discount rate.

SHOW OFF YOUR ART!

BayCon is looking for art to be used in all of our publications! This includes the program book, website, flyers, and more. For artists just starting out, this is a chance to get your art out there. For well-known artists, this is a chance to contribute back to the community. Tell your friends, tell your neighbors, tell your co-workers: all artists are welcome to submit. To be considered for publication, your art should fit our theme of triskaidekaphobia. It doesn't need to be about fear of the number 13, however: anything spooky or about any phobia will fit our theme. Please note that we are not interested in items that are gory or bloody. To get an idea of the type of thing we're looking for, think along the lines of 1950's Halloween.

We accept high-resolution JPEG, PNG, TIF, and PDF. Please send all submissions to pubs13@baycon.org.



Room Party. Steve Stiles

WRITER'S WORKSHOP

The BayCon Writers' Workshop is an exciting opportunity for aspiring authors to receive professional critique of their story structure, plot, character development, and style. It's also an excellent introduction to the writing culture, both here in the Bay Area and beyond.

Submissions must be:

- ☞ Speculative fiction, including (but not limited to) science fiction, fantasy, or horror.

- ☞ No more than 7500 words in length.

- ☞ The first 7500 words, including within those 7500 words a brief outline or synopsis, if part of a longer work such as a novel.

- ☞ Formatted using professional manuscript submissions standards. See www.shunn.net/format/story.html for guidelines.

- ☞ Submitted in PDF or RTF format. Your word processor can almost certainly save to one or the other.

- ☞ Among the first twelve received at the submissions e-mail address, writers13@baycon.org, by no later than midnight, April 15th, 2013. We know we can handle at least twelve; if we get more, we will need to ask for extra space and time, and that may not be possible.

Authors must be:

- ☞ At least 18 years of age.

- ☞ Able to follow the moderator's instructions and accept critique in a mature manner.

- ☞ Physically present at their workshop section on time.

- ☞ Willing to read and deliver critique for the other works in their section.

- ☞ Members of BayCon 2013. There is no extra charge for the workshop in addition to membership; please send your member number with your submission. If you don't know what it is, or need to submit payment along with your manuscript, we will be happy to help.

If you have any other questions or concerns--timing, accessibility, or special requests--please don't hesitate to contact us.

—Wanta Kurtcu
Kent Brewster
Perpetrators

BE A GOPHER

Gophers are the rarely noticed convention aides that help keep BayCon running smoothly year after year. The life of a gopher is changeable: one hour might find them stuffing packets in registration, while the next they guard the party floor. In exchange for their service, they receive:

- ☞ some floor space in a crash room (first come, first serve and space is limited)
- ☞ access to snacks
- ☞ BayCon 2014 membership (current membership rolled over with a minimum number of hours of service completed, required hours TBD)

We'd love to see you in the Den in 2013. Remember, gophers are needed on the days immediately before and after BayCon, as well, to help with setup and teardown. If you'd like to join our zombie defense squad, please email: gophers13@baycon.org.

HOST A PARTY AT BAYCON

Did you know it's good luck to host a party at BayCon? I'm not saying a horrible fate will befall you if you don't, but why take the risk?

Send an email to parties13@baycon.org and sign up! After all, the more events we have on the party floor, the greater our chances of getting lucky! ... Wait, that didn't come out right ...

—Julie Barman
Party Floor Maven

BayCon on the Web:

www.baycon.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/23047493820/

Twitter:

[@BayConNews](https://twitter.com/BayConNews)

Flickr:

flickr.com/photos/baycon

Announcements:

baycon-announcements-subscribe@baycon.org

PUT YOUR AD IN OUR PROGRAM BOOK

Ad rates for the Program Book are as follows:

Ad Size	Dimensions	Fan Rate	Pro Rate	Orientation
Business Card	3.5" x 2"	\$40	\$50	Horizontal
Quarter Page	3.75" x 5"	\$70	\$90	Vertical
Half Page	7.5" x 5"	\$100	\$130	Horizontal
Half Page	3.75 x 10"	\$100	\$130	Vertical
Full Page	7.5 x 10"	\$175	\$250	Vertical
Full Page (full bleed)	8.5" x 11"	\$250	\$350	Vertical
Inside Cover (Color)	7.5" x 10"	*	*	Vertical
Inside Cover (Full Bleed, Color)	8.5" x 11"	*	*	Vertical
Back Cover (Color)	8.5" x 11"	*	*	Vertical

The "fan rate" applies to fan clubs and related conventions.

*Please ask for a quote for color inside and back covers.

DEALERS ROOM

Come visit our Dealers Room for a delightful array of treasures, souvenirs, and gifts! Our wonderful merchants offer:

- ☞ clothing and jewelry
- ☞ books and music
- ☞ toys and masks
- ☞ carvings and sculptures
- ☞ collectibles and memorabilia

...all gathered in one place for your purchasing pleasure!

There are still spaces left in the Dealers Room! Please download the application here and email us at dealers13@baycon.org if you are interested.

Dealers Room Hours

Friday, May 24 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 25 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday, May 26 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Monday, May 27 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

(hours subject to change)

MASQUERADE!

Got a costume? Want to show the whole con your amazing work? Give it a shot and strut your stuff in the BayCon Masquerade. Whether you're an old pro or it's your very first costume, here is your chance to show your talent and artistry. All ages are welcome to enter and all levels can compete. Rules will be posted soon on www.baycon.org (keep watching!).

Come to Masquerade 101 on Saturday morning to find out everything you need to know for the show.

This year, our DIY Room will be your resource for costuming, including a fix it station with sewing machines and other things you might need for that last minute repair.

For more information on the Masquerade and other BayCon events, contact programming13@baycon.org.

DIY ROOM UPDATES

Make-Your-Own Boffer Weapon Workshop
Friday Night, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Arduino Workshops • Saturday/Sunday Afternoon

Master Crafter Competitions
Saturday/Sunday 5:00 to 7:00 PM

BayCon 2013 Progress Report 2 is published by BayCon 2013 and is copyright © 2013 by Artistic Solutions, Inc. "BayCon" is a service mark of Artistic Solutions, Inc. No artwork or photos may be reproduced without permission from BayCon, Artistic Solutions, Inc. and/or their respective owners.

REGISTER FOR TRISKAIDEKAPHOBICON

Welcome to Triskaidekaphobicon! If you want to enjoy all the scary happenings, then you need to register! If you've already pre-registered, you can move on and see what fun and spooky events we have in store! If you haven't pre-registered, what are you waiting for? Prices will never be lower than they are right now! You can register online at www.baycon.org (under the Registration tab) or you can fill out and mail in the form handily included in this publication. Youth memberships (ages 8-13) are also available online

and by mail. Kid-In-Tow memberships (ages 4-7) are only available at con due to the necessity of certain information needed for the badge. Children 3 years and under are free but need to be with a parent or guardian at all times. Please send any Registration questions to reg13@baycon.org. See you in May!

—Kathleen McDowell - Admin Div. Head

Jen Allyn - Admin Div. 2nd

Membership 1

Until 4/15/13: \$70 • 4/16/13 – 5/19/13: \$75

At-the-Door \$80 • Youth \$25 • Kid-in-Tow \$5 (at-con only)

Complete and mail this form with your payment to:

BayCon 2013 • P.O. Box 62108 • Sunnyvale, CA 94088

Make checks payable to BayCon 2013. Please type or print neatly:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Fan Name: _____ Email: _____

Business Name: _____ Add me to the BayCon announcements email list.

Address: _____ Privacy request (please do not print my name in

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ convention publications or on the BayCon website.)

Register online at baycon.org/2013/registration.php