

# FanActivity Gazette

Volume 1 Number 12

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News of Fen of Interest to All Fen

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## Editorial

Once a month: Now with more news of interest to all fen! This month: New column, SF club news.

## Letters of Comment

Dear Neffers:

Thank you for the Fan Activity Gazette, Vol. 1, No. 11 for April...I have been struggling to keep up with all the zines I get, and I see this is the April issue...hope this gets into the May issue! No guarantees, let's get moving.

Heath Row's loc...actually, TéléMedia purchased TV Guide Canada from TV Guide in New York in 1977, and the offices for TV Guide Canada were in Toronto. I applied for work there a number of times, but no luck... TV Guide was published here until November of 2006, where it ceased, citing other sources of similar information on the Internet was making the costs of producing a nation-wide publication, with different TV station listings in each regional edition, too much to overcome. So, TV Guide here stopped just over 15 years ago. One of our local newspapers, the Toronto Star, produces a similar guide of TV listings, but it is for the greater Toronto area, and it is called StarWeek.

Just last Thursday PM, we saw the Season 2 finale of Star Trek: Picard (much enjoyed, it will be hard to predict what they will do in the third and final season), and saw the premiere episode of Star Trek: Strange New Worlds. I think a return to one adventure per episode, as per the Original Series, will make ST:SNW a great success. In that first episode, we see Christopher Pike coming out of a self-imposed 'retirement' to take on the captaincy of the U.S.S. Enterprise. At one point, we are introduced to a Lt. Samuel Kirk in the Life Sciences department. I think Anson, Ethan and the gang had a lot of fun making this series. At some point, Star Trek: Discovery will also return, and we will have three live-action shows to spoil us for choice. (Not counting the two animateds series, which also seem popular.)

The May convention list needs some revision. Anime North, our annual big anime convention, is usually the Memorial Day weekend, but was postponed to July 15-17 of this year because of concerns about the pandemic. Most other information is still the same, but it is always good to go to the convention website to see what is different. [www.animenorth.com](http://www.animenorth.com).

I will get this to you as soon as I can get my hands on the big computer...see you with the next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

## Science Fiction Club News by Heath Row

In the March 2010 issue of *The National Fantasy Fan* (Vol. 10 #1), the National Fantasy Fan Federation published a "Directory of SF and Fantasy Clubs." From the front lines and far afield, this column reports on recent happenings among local science fiction clubs. This installment reports on events that occurred—or will occur—in May 2022.

If you're active in a local club, feel free to send me activity reports and other updates via email at [kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com). And if you don't participate in a local club in the area in which you live, please consider joining! I would, if I lived there.

In Aylesbury, England, the Aylesbury Sci-Fi/Fantasy Meet gathers monthly and will meet again May 26. "Come along and say hi if you're into any kind of sf [or] fantasy," organizers John and Rita said. The group tends to average about 15 participants regardless of visible RSVPs. (<https://tinyurl.com/Aylesbury-club>)

The California Bay Area Science Fiction Association's relocation committee is looking for a new meeting space. Representatives asked members to explore whether local restaurants offer a meeting room and enforce a minimum order per person. Members discussed ride and room shares for those attending Western. Members also discussed the forthcoming *Doctor Who*; TV shows including *The Man Who Fell to Earth*, *Moon Knight*, *Star Trek: Picard*, and *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*; and the movie *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*. The group meets weekly. (<https://www.basfa.org/>)

The British Science Fiction Association recently mailed printed versions of its publication *Vector* and the BSFA Awards 2021 Awards Booklet to members. *Vector* #295 (Spring 2022) focuses on Greek sf and fantasy and features an interview with Nick Magmata's, a roundtable discussion of Greek speculative fiction, reviews, and other articles, essays, and interviews. The awards booklet reprints short fiction nominees in the Best Younger Readers and Best Short Fiction categories, as well as excerpts of Best Non-Fiction nominees. (<http://www.bsfa.co.uk>)

Glasgow in 2024—bidding to host Worldcon in Scotland that year—will host an online discussion May 24 with Oliver K. Langmead focused on his brand new novel *Glitterati*. The conversation focused on glitterati, glamor, and the grotesque, as well as satirical and dark engagements with consumer capitalist culture. (<https://glasgow2024.org/>)

The Kansas City Science Fiction & Fantasy Society will host a reading by Alex Dreese, author of the independently published *Stasis* series, during its monthly club meeting May 21. The group is considering returning to in-person meetings and is looking for meeting space. (<http://kacsffs.blogspot.com/>)

The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, which meets weekly, reported that more than 500 people attended the 2021 joint LosconWestern event. Nick Smith will chair 2022's Loscon 48. Members mourned the death of Dan Decker, who had served as President and on the Board of Directors, chairing Loscon in 1982. An active participant in APA-L, Deckert contributed hundreds of issues of his apazine Entropy to the apa. (<http://www.lasfs.org/>)

The Minnesota Science Fiction Society is planning its Minnstf Summer Picnic in July at Hidden Falls Regional Park on the St. Paul, Minn., side of the Mississippi River. "[O]ur 'meetings' are actually parties," Aaron Vander Giessen said. The group will also hold a club camping trip at Afton State Park and a backyard meeting at a member's home. A member sought a temporary home for two cats. (<https://mnstf.org>)

In Quebec, Canada, the Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association will meet online May 14 to discuss the legacy of Hollywood monster maker Paul Blaisdell, members' favorite time travel stories, and members who've recently died. The group currently meets on the second Saturday of the month except for June and October. (<http://www.monsffa.ca>)

Meeting online throughout the pandemic, the Nashville Science Fiction Book Club recently returned to in-person meetings. The group meets the first Thursday of every month at Bonfire Mongolian Grill in Hermitage, Tenn. May 5, the club discussed S.J. Morden's 2018 novel One Way. (<https://tinyurl.com/NashvilleSFBC>)

The New England Science Fiction Association gathered May 6 to discuss James L. Cambias's 2021 novel The Godel Operation. The club opens its library in Somerville, Mass., to members every Wednesday and Saturday and holds monthly NESFA Writes makerspaces on Mondays for authors of fiction and nonfiction. NESFA will also hold a Game Day on May 29 at the clubhouse. Wednesday night gatherings have yet to resume because of the pandemic. (<http://www.nesfa.org/>)

The North Alabama Science Fiction Association has started meeting in person again. The group meets on the third Saturday of each month at the Madison campus of the Willowbrook Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala. (<https://tinyurl.com/NASFA-club>)

The Northwest Science Fiction Society in Seattle is planning member socials, including a post-convention gathering, at members' homes. (<http://www.nwsfs.com/>)

The Scandinavian SF Association published a new issue of its fanzine SF Forum, which features reviews of novels and short stories nominated for the Nebula. The issue also includes essays on the role of time in The Expanse and Ada Palmer's Terra Ignota novels. The group's book circle will meet May 24 to discuss P. Djeli Clark's 2021 novel A Master of Djinn. Last month, the circle explored Sarah Pinsker's 2021 novel We Are Satellites. (<https://tinyurl.com/SFSF-club>)

Science Fiction and Fantasy South Africa in Johannesburg will meet online May 21. Ron Cowley will join members to discuss the establishment of bases on Mars. (<https://www.sfsa.org.za/>)

The Science Fiction Association of Bergen County (New Jersey) gathered online May 11 for its monthly Infinite Images movie discussion. The group discussed the 1950 Disney animated film, Cinderella. "This was historically a very important movie and very interesting simply as a work of cinema dealing with fantasy, feminism, family, and faerie tales," Phil De Parto said. Earlier in the month, the club met in a member's home to watch episodes from the second season of Legion, a superhero show set in the universe of the X-Men. A couple of months ago, the club watched the first season of the Sci-Fi Channel series Resident Alien. (<https://tinyurl.com/sfabc-club>)

The Somerville Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club in Massachusetts will gather May 17 to discuss Sheri Tepper's 1989 novel Grass, the first book in the Arbai series. The group meets monthly. (<https://tinyurl.com/>)

Members of the Worcester Public Library Science Fiction Book Club in Massachusetts will meet online May 17 to discuss Stanislaw Lem's novel *Solaris*. (<https://tinyurl.com/WPLSFBC>)

Want to find a local club near you? Let us know; maybe we can help.  
Active in a local club? Let us know what you've been up to!

## Fanfaronade: Celebrating Current Fanzines #22 from Justin E. A. Busch

Pablo Lennis 414: "edited by John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana, 47904, email kinethiel@mymetronet.net. A monthly science fiction fanzine available to those seeking it out for \$2 an issue, the sending of a letter of comment, a bruncheba buss, writing or art being in the issue, or exchange of your own publication." [No—I do not know what a bruncheba buss is, but if you do, you may perhaps obtain a copy of the current issue by using it].

This Here... 52: "(mostly) written, edited and produced by: Nic Farey, published on efanazines.com by the Grace of Burns. Locs & that to: 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142, or Email fareynic@gmail.com"

Sometimes the stars—or at least certain fanzine contents—align at a propitious moment. The FAAn Awards, perhaps uniquely among sfnal honors, recognize a difference between genzines and perzines. In order to do this, of course, the two approaches have to be defined. It will probably come as no surprise, given the discussion in last month's *This Here...* regarding what should count as a fanzine, to find a similar discussion regarding the two main kinds of fanzine in this issue. Unusually, though, the same question is also addressed, albeit rather elliptically, in the current Pablo Lennis. As it happens, the two zines not only present but demonstrate, by virtue of their considerable differences in content and approaches, intriguingly different ways of considering the question. Nic has a ("suitably blurry") theory through which to define the two approaches, which he calls "the 'two tents' concept." It's straightforward: "what category we put any given publication into comes down to content and intent, the latter, although the dodgier and more subjective descriptor, yet being perhaps the more useful of the two." Content is what is in the zine; intent is why the content appears. At this point, matters grow murkier, and the discussion expands considerably.

"The clear intent of *This Here...*," Nic writes, "is in no small part to foster open discussion on fannish topics previously only whispered about in smoke-filled rooms - and I do distinguish this from simple gossip and/or snark, which nevertheless is going to play a part, at least when I'm writing it." He contrasts this with *Beam*, which he co-edits with Ulrika O'Brien: "The intent of *BEAM* is to present a broader range of items of interest, ranging from the sercon (eg Jane Carnall on Rama from the most recent ish) to the quite fannish (S&ra Bond's *Corflu GoH* speech, fanzine reviews and conreps if we get them) and the purely personal (Lee Wood's ongoing 'Taranaki Tales' of rural life in New Zealand and Stacey Tappan's inside reporting from *The Met*) from that same #16, all with their own distinct stylings." In each case, achieving the stated goal requires a particular sort of content. Or so it seems.

Intriguingly, Nic exempts letter columns from consideration, even though the character and content of a fanzine's letter column would seem very much to be an indicator of the degree to which that zine is appealing to its readers on a personal or a general level. This exemption seems to be a relic of an earlier approach to defining the difference between genzine and perzine: "a zine (all metrics excluding loccol) which is 80% written by other than the editor(s) is a genzine, and that the reverse metric makes it a perzine." This Nic found unsustainable; too many obvious genzines turn out to be written substantially by one person, and at least some perzines

contain a surprising amount of material written by outsiders. The exemption nonetheless poses problems, and, in fact, it turns out that it is in part the presence, and nature, of the lettercol which provides a key clue to defining the magazine.

Enter Pablo Lennis. In the course of reviewing the most recent issue of my own *Far Journeys*, editor John Thiel notes that “it no longer looks like a perzine, as it has two articles by others, John Purcell and Cy Chauvin, and a letter column with six people in it.” The emphasis here is on the presence of others than the editor in the mix. This, I think, is an important point, although not yet conclusive. What matters here is not merely the presence of external contributors, but the weight born by their contributions within the overall zine. In the current Pablo Lennis, for example, the lettercol is briefer than Thiel’s review column, yet each letter is quite distinct in style and content; each exists within its own world stylistically and as regards content. A lettercol, by its very presence, does suggest that previous issues contain, at least implicitly, an invitation to participate in creating the contents of future issues—which in turn suggests a general approach. But this is not enough; one can easily imagine a fanzine (*The Journal of the E.E. Smith Appreciation Society*, say) which, by its very nature, excludes a wide range of possible epistolary responses in favor of a much more narrowly defined set of acceptable ones. If the acceptable letters are rigidly defined by a single editor, one has a perzine, in fact if not in description. Although John Thiel’s views are often expressed in a manner which brooks little resistance, Pablo Lennis avoids the problem of excessive editorial power through the presence of another kind of content: specifically creative material; more than half of the zine’s twenty-four pages is devoted to fan fiction (three serial episodes and several shorter pieces) and poetry (at least eight pieces). This, to use Nic’s terms, is the content; the intent, driven by the works themselves, is much less focussed, shaped, differently in each case, by each story’s being told in a way which actively resists editorial interference (few fan editors have the skill, or the will, to revise fiction or poetry). The result is a body of work which serves, in effect, to erase the presence of the editor even while the editor is choosing to publish it. This, we might say, is almost the definition of a genzine: a publication in which the material offered provides its own justification independently of the editor’s own response to it.

What counts in determining whether a particular publication is a perzine or genzine, then, is where the reader finds the emotional or intellectual center of gravity. It will be clear that different readers can respond differently to the the same content (indeed, the degree to which this is possible is itself almost another defining criterion), regardless of the editor’s intention. This fact indicates a tension in the way each reader—and each editor—approaches the material at hand, a tension repeated in Nic’s own description of his respective intentions as regards *This Here...* and *Beam* (and which is a significant element in making *This Here...* one of the most interesting of current fanzines).

Recall Nic’s stated purpose in editing *This Here...*: “to foster open discussion on fannish topics.” Such a goal, to the degree that it is realized, invites a genzine approach (hence the enormous lettercol— twelve pages out of twenty-two total): an open discussion is, by its nature, one in which there may be a considerable disjunction between, a) the views of the various readers; and, b) between any or even all of the readers and the editor himself. The feeling this will generate in any given reader is one which diminishes the emphasis on the editor’s own position, or even the editorial presence, emphasizing as it does a considerable diversity of opinion and expression. It takes a strong editorial personality (something which no one will doubt is present in Nic’s case) to accept a kind of chaos within the lettercol and to turn that chaos to account in shaping the character of the fanzine. Too much chaos, and the zine becomes a mess; too much control, and the heavy hand of the editor represses—and is too often seen to repress—the very thing which makes the lettercol (and even the zine as a whole) interesting in the first place. That Nic succeeds, more often than not, in generating and sustaining this constructive chaos, is a tribute to his skill and commitment as an editor, however much one may at times disagree with some of his own arguments and conclusions. *This Here...* is indeed a perzine, but its personality as such comes from its editor’s willingness to invite readers to treat it as a genzine.

The same process is found, in a quite different way, at the heart of Pablo Lennis. As I noted, the lettercol is

small, but this is basically irrelevant. John adopts what might be called a ‘hands-off’ approach to material submitted, and the result, which can be startling to the unwary reader, is that many an issue of Pablo Lennis is in effect a collection of one-item perzines. The result is similar to This Here...’s open discussion, but with rather higher stakes for the zine as a whole (when things go amiss here, the consequences are much more noticeable than in This Here...). But this is precisely what makes it a genzine, despite the apodictic certainty with which editorial positions are expressed. It is not difficult to imagine someone finding a copy of Pablo Lennis missing its cover, masthead, and editorial page; upon reading it, they would no doubt notice the force with which certain opinions are expressed— but they might well have no idea that these are opinions offered by the actual editor, as opposed to simply one contributor among many.

It turns out that distinguishing between a perzine and a genzine is rather less difficult than might at first appear. Now if only we could define a fanzine as well...

Christian\*New Age Quarterly (Volume 25, #3; Spring, 2022); edited by Catherine Groves; four issues, and plenty of extras, for USD 12.50, to PO Box 276, Clifton, New Jersey, 07015-0276). Arriving, conveniently, just as I finished the above discussion, Catherine Groves’s Christian\*New Age Quarterly puts my conclusions to the test. Here we have a zine, edited by one person for decades, with what appears to be a limited focus; surely this an invitation to a perzine approach. Readers, whether of my previous reviews or of the zine itself, will know otherwise; the usual eclectic assemblage of articles offers much of interest. Despite the specificity of the zine’s remit, and the often personal foundation of the articles, it somehow manages to provide (that is, its editor insists upon) essays upon a wide range of often unexpected topics, capping them with critical yet generous letters of comment. It is, in short, another fine example of a genzine.

Robert M. Price begins a new column, Zarathustra Speaks, with “A Glitch in the Matrix,” which he addresses the idea of illusion with a wide range of references ranging from the profound (Ingmar Bergman’s Fanny and Alexander) to the fannish (two Star Trek episodes) to the trivial (Billy Joel), along with an impressive set of elements drawn from philosophy (Zeno), religion (Advaita Vedanta Hinduism), and their intersection (Alan Watts’s Psychotherapy East and West). His conclusion is not what one might expect, given the essay’s opening. Joanne Winetzki reviews Gary Wills’s What the Qu’uran Meant: and Why it Matters briefly, thoughtfully, and with a proper regard for the complexity of both the book and its subject.

The lettercol is, as usual, lively (and features a marvelous response by Catherine to the question, “what did Jesus do to entertain himself?” Surely, Catherine comments, he “must have spent most of his spare time practicing turning water into wine.”

N3F writers may be interested to know that there will soon be an opportunity to do some reviewing for C\*NAQ. Long-time (as in nearly three decades long) reviewer Dan Hahn is stepping down, leaving a significant gap in the zine’s offerings. “If any reader is curious about becoming a staff reviewer,” Catherine writes, “we will gratefully consider critiques relevant to Christian and New Age interests.” There will certainly be room for thoughtful reviews of contemporary scientifantasy books with a religious aspect, of which there have recently been plenty.

## Television

# Rabid Ears: Ravings of a TV Fiend

## By Cathode Ray

Turn on and tune in, you bloodsucking mayflies, for this month’s edition of “Rabid Ears: Ravings of a TV Fiend.” Like some form of monstrous, sluggish, clumsy Palaeoptera rising from the stagnant waters of a loathsome, loamy lowland, this is an occasional column about the newest and most notable science fiction, fantasy,

horror, and other genre television programming options. Let's see what's what—now, and next—on the old boob tube, shall we? While our hungry little lives might only last between five minutes and two days, we can still turn on our televisions. But pray—pray to the dark, horrible squatting gods of the lowlands—that we don't tune in during a commercial break. Or even worse: Buffering...

The April 25 to May 8, 2022 issue of *TV Guide* included a “25 Top Shows” list in the TV Insider section. GHOSTS tied for sixth place with crime drama FBI: INTERNATIONAL, with 6.2 million viewers watching live the week of March 28 to April 3, 2022. Consider it a rising from the dead of sorts, however. In the previous issue, April 11-24, 2022's “25 Top Shows,” GHOSTS was nowhere to be seen in the ranking. Now you see it, now you don't. Perhaps there's a glitch in the Matrix.

Recent weeks saw some noteworthy premieres, finales, and cancellations. SHINING GIRLS premiered on Apple TV+ on April 29. Conspiracy comedy THE PENTAVERATE will premiere on Netflix on May 5. Also on that date, STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS will premiere on Paramount+. Meanwhile, OUTLANDER's finale will air on Starz on May 1. STAR TREK: PICARD will be beamed up one last time on Paramount+ on May 5. And several shows of fannish note have been canceled: LOCKE & KEY will shut up shop after its third and final season on Netflix, SNOWFALL will melt like so much shaved ice after its sixth and final season on FX, and STAR TREK: PICARD will bow out after its third and final season on Paramount+.

The May 2022 issue of *Channel Guide* also reported that Season 5 will be the last of STRANGER THINGS. On the up side, The CW announced several early renewals for its 2022-23 season: THE FLASH (Season 9), KUNG FU (Season 3), NANCY DREW (Season 4), RIVERDALE (Season 7), and SUPERMAN & LOIS (Season 3). Netflix's streaming series VIKINGS: VALHALLA was also renewed for Seasons 2 and 3. Also in *Channel Guide*, the “Returning Favorites” column included FANTASY ISLAND on May 31 on Fox, GHOST IN THE SHELL: SAC\_2045 on May 23 on Netflix, THE SECRET OF SKINWALKER RANCH on May 3 on the History Channel, and STRANGER THINGS on May 27 on Netflix.

*TV Guide*'s Roush Reviews' “Ask Matt” Q&A column with critic Matt Roush includes two recent mis-sives of interest. A reader named Paul—if that even be his real name—inquired whether CBS's GHOSTS could break the mold and receive nominations for an Emmy Award. Roush responded: “[T]he ensemble work on ... GHOSTS ... is so strong ... that it will be a travesty if [it is] overlooked. ... [I]n another time, GHOSTS' Brandon Scott Jones ... would have been [a] slam dunk... for nominations.”

Also in that column, a reader named Jim T.—if that even be his real name and last initial—commented on characters being played by another actor when the original actor left the cast of a program. He contrasted BEWITCHED's Darrin, who was recast at the time, with THE WALKING DEAD's Rick Grimes, who was written out. While we're tempted to suggest that Andrew Lincoln is no Dick Sargent and *certainly* no Dick York, Roush's response was a little more practical—and polite. “Producers seem less inclined these days to alter the reality of their shows any more than they have to,” he wrote. “BEWITCHED was already a fantasy, so changing Darrin's midstream wasn't all that disruptive... . . . Replacing fan favorites from the DEAD franchise with new actors was likely never an option—plus Rick is headed to movie spinoffs.” Um, OK. Isn't THE WALKING DEAD also a... fantasy?

For those Neffers still interested in watching TV via over-the-air broadcast signals, scribe John Hogan offers the feature “Pick the Best Digital Antenna for You,” a product comparison piece that considers four different modern replacements for ye olde rabbit ears. (He even uses the phrase in the article!) “[S]ome viewers are opting out of cable and going back to antennas,” Hogan wrote. “Cutting the cord and relying on an over-the-air antenna can save a considerable amount of money without sacrificing picture quality.” Personally, I'm fond of the Antennas Direct Clearstream 4Max, but that might be because it looks the most like rabbit ears.

In recent days, you might have missed some quality television. *TV Weekly*'s April 24-30, 2022, issue named Showtime's THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH one of its Best Bets for April 24. “This new series adaptation of a novel by Walter Tevis, follows ... a new alien character ... who arrives on Earth at a turning point in human evolution.” On April 27, Season 1 of SKETCHBOOK became available on Disney+; “Disney artists offer instruction on drawing six beloved characters.” (My sources tell me that I am not one of them.)

Metaphysical thriller SHINING GIRLS launched its first three episodes on April 29 on Apple TV+. New episodes are available Fridays. WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS earned *TV Guide*'s “What's Worth

Watching” mention for its April 30 episode on FX. The cable network reaired the program’s 2019 pilot at 2:30 a.m. PT, “in the black of night.” The fifth and final season of 2016-2021 Syfy series VAN HELSING is now streaming on Netflix.

Pencil these in your calendar, fen and fellow freaks: OUTLANDER’s season finale airs May 1 on Starz. It made me chuckle that the Committee of Safety is really a criminal gang. The next day on MeTV, TOON IN WITH ME kicks off its “Famous Feuds Week” showcasing Bugs Bunny’s greatest rivalries. The May 2 broadcast includes 1953’s Oscar-winning TOM AND JERRY short “Johann Mouse.” Extreme miniature golf competition HOLEY MOLEY might not usually merit our attention, but on the May 3 season premiere on ABC, THE MUPPETS—including Fozzie Bear and Miss Piggy—play putt-putt. Also on May 3, season three of THE SECRET OF SKINWALKER RANCH returns to the History Channel to continue exploring “one of the most infamous and secretive hotspots of paranormal and unidentified aerial phenomena,” located in Utah’s Uinta Basin.

*TV Guide* suggests that there are three reasons to watch LUCIFER May 4 on TNT: its supporting cast; the Hollywood hijinks of its 2016 pilot, aired that day as part of a four-hour block; and passionate fans. While TNT only acquired the first three seasons, when the show was originally canceled in 2018, fans rallied behind it, inspiring Netflix to bring it back just one month later. Three cheers to the power of fandom united. Hip hip hooray!

Illuminati-inspired THE PENTAVERATE premieres May 5 on Netflix. A comedy “about a secret society of five men who’ve been influencing global events for centuries”? Hilarious! (With Marvel Comics’ Illuminati also recently showing up in a trailer for DOCTOR STRANGE IN THE MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS, methinks that either public interest in Robert Shea and Robert Anton Wilson’s *The Illuminatus! Trilogy* is on the increase, or a secret globalist cabal wants to desensitize the citizenry to the idea of a secret globalist cabal that wants to desensitize the citizenry. The show also earned a mention in *Channel Guide*’s “The Top 25.”

Also premiering May 5 on Paramount+, STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS features several actors reprising roles from the second season of STAR TREK: DISCOVERY. Channel Guide reported that the new series “follows the voyages of the starship *Enterprise* in the decade before *TOS*.” Fen can expect Capt. Christopher Pike, Spock, Nurse Christine Chapel, and a young Cadet Nyota Uhura. In a word: Wow.

On May 6, Crackle will become the exclusive home of the 2010-2017 series SHERLOCK. If you haven’t watched that excellent program yet, imagine Doctor Strange and Bilbo Baggins acting out the fiction of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Spanish sf drama WELCOME TO EDEN becomes available May 6 on Netflix. PORTALS TO HELL might be worth checking out May 7 on the Travel Channel. Writer Damian Holbrook joined the show’s ghost hunters exploring Fort Mifflin near Philadelphia. “There were about 150 Colonial Americans killed here,” Holbrook wrote. “[S]ome of them are ... still hanging around.”

May 11, THE QUEST becomes available on Disney+. The fantasy competition pits teenagers against each other in the fictional world of Everrealm, “where they must save a kingdom.” Also on that day, NOVA: DINOSAUR APOCALYPSE features Sir David Attenborough and the demise of the dinosaurs.

The first two episodes of THE ESSEX SERPENT will become available on May 13 on Apple TV+. The six-episode series based on a novel focuses on an investigation of a mythical sea serpent. Ach, Nessie. A six-episode adaptation of Audrey Niffenegger’s THE TIME TRAVELER’S WIFE begins May 15 on HBO. “Cursed with a genetic disorder that makes him time-travel unwillingly, Henry often finds himself propelled into the past or future without even the clothes on his back.” Co-starring Claire Abshire (GAME OF THRONES), if only it were *The Time Traveler’s Husband!* Meow. On May 16, anime series VAMPIRE IN THE GARDEN will become available on Netflix.

In NIGHT SKY, coming May 20 to Prime Video, a couple “discovered a chamber buried in their backyard that inexplicably leads to a strange, deserted planet.” And May 27 will bring the first two episodes of OBI-WAN KENOBI to Disney+. The franchise series takes place 10 years after EPISODE III: REVENGE OF THE SITH and stars Ewan McGregor. *Channel Guide* named STRANGER THINGS’ season premiere May 27 on Netflix in “The Top 25.” It’s been three years since Season 3, and Season 4 will come in two parts; the second starts July 1. Finally, May 31 will bring a season premiere of FANTASY ISLAND to Fox, as well as the new TOM SWIFT series to The CW.



Two genre programs earned mentions in the “Cheers & Jeers” column ending the most recent issue of *TV Guide*. Scribe Damian Holbrook cheered OUTER RANGE, a “genre-defying mix of Western and weird. The Prime Video program features “a sinkhole that leads to another dimension.” Hmm... perhaps it leads to LA BREA? And Holbrook jeered The CW for not yet renewing BATWOMAN for a possible fourth season. In fact, he says it’s become “one of the most improved (and entertaining) entries in the Arrowverse... .”

The May 2022 issue of *Remind* magazine celebrates “TV’s Top Moms” and includes material about Hope Lange from THE GHOST & MRS. MUIR, June Lockhart from LOST IN SPACE, and Yvonne De Carlo from THE MUNSTERS; as well as images and stills from THE ADDAMS FAMILY, BEWITCHED, and THE SIMPSONS. Notable birthdays listed in that issue include Orson Welles (May 6, 1915), James Stewart (May 20, 1908), and Vincent Price (May 27, 1911).

On the cover of the Spring 2022 issue of *Sci Fi* magazine, a STAR TREK special issue—attention, Trekkers!—cover lines promote STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS, STAR TREK: DISCOVERY, and a “Spotlight on TV” highlighting PEACEMAKER, THE WITCHER, THE EXPANSE, STATION ELEVEN, FOR ALL MANKIND, and SNOWPIERCER. Inside, the Sci Fi Wire section features a fun article on STAR TREK action figures and TV in Focus catches up on recent episodes of OUTLANDER, SNOWPIERCER, SECRETS OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, LOCKE & KEY, FROM, FOR ALL MANKIND, THE WITCHER, PEACEMAKER, STATION ELEVEN, and THE EXPANSE.

Feature stories include interviews with Akiva Goldsman and Rebecca Romijn on STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS, Jeri Ryan on 25 years of the character Seven of Nine, and David Ajala on STAR TREK: DISCOVERY. There are also articles on DISCOVERY’s titular ship, Season 2 of LOCKE & KEY, the historical fantasy BRITANNIA, the PBS MASTERPIECE adaptation of AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS starring David Tennant (Doctor Who?), live streaming sf show ORBITAL REDUX, and media tie-in breakfast cereals. Delicious.

From across the Big Pond, several recent British magazines included articles of potential interest to Neffers. *Infinity* #47 kicked off with a four-page article on “DIY Magazines,” or fanzines (ahem!). Primarily focusing on media fanzines, the piece dates their history to the 1970s, DOCTOR WHO, and its resulting fandom. The story features such titles as *The Doctor Who Review*, BLAKE’S 7 fanzine *Horizon*, *Skaro*, *Dream-Watch*, and *Frame*. The article ends with a cautionary note: “What little is left of the fanzine publishing world is fighting a losing battle with 21st century.” Harrumph.

Mark Timbs provides a feature on the arrival of American genre television in England in the 1980s, and the impact that programs such as AIRWOLF, AUTOMAN, BATTLESTAR GALACTICA, BLUE THUNDER, BUCK ROGERS IN THE 25TH CENTURY, THE INCREDIBLE HULK, and KNIGHT RIDER had on a generation of British fen. There’s a relatively lengthy feature story about the monsters featured in the 1965-1967 ULTRA Q, “the most expensive television series in Japan at the time.” Richard Molesworth’s column considers the importance of BBC 2’s HORROR DOUBLE BILLS and Alex Cox’s MOVIEDROME. And The review section comments on THE BOOK OF BOBA FETT, DC’S LEGENDS OF TOMORROW, and VAN HELSING.

*SFX* #352 (May 2022) offers three collectible STRANGER THINGS covers. Short pieces address DC SHOWCASE: CONSTANTINE—THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY, a DVD and Blu-ray featuring four original animated shorts, as well as the shows SHINING GIRLS, THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH, and OBI-WAN KENOBI. There are also longer features on STRANGER THINGS, STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS, STAR TREK: PRODIGY, and OBI-WAN KENOBI. Niamh Algar participates in a brief interview about RAISED BY WOLVES. And reviews consider PEACEMAKER (complete with a drinking game!), STAR TREK: PRODIGY, ROAR, STAR TREK: DISCOVERY, RAISED BY WOLVES, THE LAST BUS, and the DOCTOR WHO audio drama DOCTOR OF WAR: GENESIS.

Lastly, *Total Film* #324 (May 2022) sports a cover image from OBI-WAN KENOBI. There’s a short teaser piece on the forthcoming MS. MARVEL Disney+ show. Longer features consider OBI-WAN KENOBI—including a glorious two-page spread photo—whether streaming services could lead to the loss of older, notable films; and Tom Hiddleston and THE ESSEX SERPENT.

The April 25 *TV Guide* crossword, Puzzle #1439, posed some real stumpers: 1 Across is “SCREAM’s horror movie-within-a-movie.” 30 Across is “THE SIMPSONS’ Kiwk-E-\_\_\_\_\_.” 36 Across is “Destructive

Looney Tunes character, for short.” (Paging Neffer Will Mayo!) 23 Down is “STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION counselor.” 29 Down is “Cousin on THE ADDAMS FAMILY.” 44 Down is “Animated TV explorer.” 47 Down is “Greek goddess of discord.” (Attention, Discordians!) And 50 Down is “CHUCKY network.”

*TV Guide Magazine Puzzler* Vol. 2, No. 9, focused on Betty White. While there’s little of interest to fen in that issue, White did have a hand in several sf, fantasy, and horror-adjacent productions. She did voice work for the animated FAMILY GUY, THE GRIM ADVENTURES OF BILLY & MANDY, HERCULES, HIGGLYTOWN HEROES, THE LIONHEARTS, THE LORAX, MICKEY MOUSE, PONYO, POUND PUPPIES, THE SIMPSONS, SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS, TOY STORY 4, and THE WILD THORN-BERRYS. She also performed live-action roles in productions such as ALF LOVES A MYSTERY, ELLERY QUEEN, and RETURN TO THE BATCAVE: THE MISADVENTURES OF ADAM AND BURT.

Until next time, you needle-nosed Neffers, this is “Cathode Ray,” your guide to the best of what’s hidden in the grids. Turn on, tune in, and blast off!

## Motion Pictures: Celluloid Sentience

### By Cathode Ray

This column, “Celluloid Sentience,” is a spinoff of the TV-themed column “Rabid Eyes.” It is a periodic listing focusing on upcoming movie and DVD releases of potential interest to fen of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Release dates occasionally change, and we will do our best to update them in this listing. (Movies labeled with an \* are particularly recommended.) Please check your local listings before you go to the movie theater. And tell ’em Ray sent you! (That’s got to be good for a free medium popcorn, at least!)

If you become aware of any movie or DVD release dates, send them in care of this clubzine, and we’ll do our best to verify and include your submissions. And if you see any of these fantastic flicks, consider writing a review to share with other Neffers.

#### Movie Release Dates

- Around the World in 80 Days* (Animated/Fantasy, theatrical, May 6)
- The Bob's Burgers Movie* (Animated, theatrical, May 27)
- Chip 'n Dale: Rescue Rangers* (Animated/Fantasy, streaming, May 20)
- Cinderella and the Little Sorcerer* (Animated/Fantasy, theatrical, May 6)
- \* *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* (Fantasy, theatrical, May 6)
- \* *Firestarter* (Horror, theatrical, May 13)
- \* *Firestarter* (Horror, streaming, May 13)
- The Friend* (Horror, streaming, May 1)
- \* *Ghost in the Shell: SAC\_2045 Sustainable War* (Animated/Science Fiction, streaming, May 9)
- \* *Holmes & Watson: The Abandoned Case* (Animated, theatrical, May 13)
- \* *Holmes & Watson: The Abandoned Case* (Animated, streaming, May 24)
- Homebound* (Horror, theatrical, May 13)
- The Innocents* (Horror, streaming, May 13)
- Jurassic Tale* (Science Fiction, streaming, May 31)
- Marmaduke* (Animated, streaming, May 6)
- \* *Mondocane* (Science Fiction, theatrical, May 20)
- \* *Petite Maman* (Fantasy, theatrical, May 6)
- \* *Poupelle of Chimney Town* (Animated/Fantasy, streaming, May 17)
- Row 19* (Horror, streaming, May 31)
- \* *Shepherd* (Horror, streaming, May 10)

*The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie Rehydrated* (Animated/Fantasy, streaming, May 1)  
*Teen Titans Go! & DC Super Hero Girls: Mayhem in the Multiverse* (Animated/Fantasy, streaming, May 24)  
*Trip* (Horror, streaming, May 20)  
*The Twin* (Horror, theatrical, May 6)

#### **DVD Release Dates**

\* *The Batman* (Science Fiction; DVD, Blu-ray, and 4K; May 24)  
\* *Belle* (Animated/Science Fiction, Blu-ray, May 17)  
*The Beta Test* (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, May 10)  
*Big Gold Brick* (Fantasy, DVD, May 31)  
\* *The Boys: Seasons 1 and 2 Collection* (TV, DVD and Blu-ray, May 31)  
*The Cursed* (Fantasy/Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, May 10)  
*Dark Night of the Scarecrow 2* (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, May 10)  
\* *DC Showcase Shorts: Constantine—The House of Mystery* (Animated/Fantasy/Horror, Blu-ray, May 3)  
*Death Valley* (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, May 17)  
*Demonic* (Horror, Blu-ray, May 3)  
*Infinite* (Science Fiction, Blu-ray and 4K, May 17)  
*The Last Kingdom: Season Five* (TV, DVD and Blu-ray, May 17)  
*The Last Kingdom: The Complete Series* (TV, DVD and Blu-ray, May 17)  
*Lucifer: The Complete Fifth Season* (TV, DVD, May 31)  
\* *Nancy Drew: Season Three* (TV, DVD and Blu-ray, May 10)  
\* *Poupelle of Chimney Town* (Animated/Fantasy, DVD and Blu-ray, May 31)  
*Row 19* (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, May 31)  
*Slasher: Flesh and Blood—Season 1* (TV, DVD and Blu-ray, May 17)  
*Teen Titans Go! & DC Super Hero Girls: Mayhem in the Multiverse* (Animated/Fantasy, DVD and Blu-ray, May 24)  
\* *Umma* (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, May 24)  
*World Ends at Camp Z* (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, May 10)  
\* *X* (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, May 24)

Until next time, double feature creatures, this is “Cathode Ray,” your guide to the best of what’s crawling in the aisles and on the big screen. Ticket, please!

## Conventions for June Mindy Hunt

Each month we will provide a list of conventions from around the world.

This list is constantly being updated throughout the month. You can find our full events list as well as a calendar at <http://scifi4me.com/conventions-events/>.

During the week, we provide regular updates on our TV channel <http://scifi4me.tv/> with any schedule changes or cancellations. These updates also include any COVID-19 requirements the events are requesting. These requirements are also listed on our calendar for each event.

We are always looking to keep the list and calendar as current as possible. If you know of a local event, big or little, send us and email at [events@scifi4me.com](mailto:events@scifi4me.com) so we can add it and make it the most comprehensive conventions list on the internet.

June 1-5

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

Colossalcon – Sandusky, OH Jun 1-5  
The Overlook Film Festival – New Orleans, LA Jun 2-5  
Monsterpalooza – Dallas, TX Jun 3-5  
A-Kon – Irving, TX Jun 3-5  
Awesome Con – Washington D.C. Jun 3-5  
Bugeater – Omaha, NE Jun 3-5  
ConCarolinas – Charlotte, NC Jun 3-5  
DieCon – Collinsville, IL Jun 3-5  
FedCon – Dusseldorf, Germany Jun 3-5  
Moon City Con – Springfield, MO Jun 3-5  
Niagra Falls Comic Con – Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada Jun 3-5  
Nickel City Con – Buffalo, NY Jun 3-5  
PopCon Indy – Indianapolis, IN Jun 3-5  
Supernatural Official Convention – Rosemont IL Jun 3-5  
The Hellmouth Convention – Los Angeles, CA Jun 3-5  
Fairford Festival of Fiction – Fairford, United Kingdom Jun 3-5  
3 Rivers Comicon – Pittsburgh, PA Jun 4-5  
Alabama Comic Convention/Kimetsu Con – Birmingham, AL Jun 4-5  
Huntington Comic & Toy Convention – Huntington, WV Jun 4-5  
KimoKawaii – Conroe, TX Jun 4-5  
Nashville Comicon – Nashville, TN Jun 4-5  
Cogs & Corsets – Bloomington, IL Jun 4  
Glasgow Comic Con – Glasgow, United Kingdom Jun 4  
Knoxvillecon – Knoxville, TN Jun 4  
New Haven Comic & Collectible Spectacular – Haven, CT Jun 4  
Oshawa Comicon – Oshawa, Ontario, Canada Jun 4  
Wayne NJ Toy Show – Wayne, NJ Jun 4  
Atlanta Comic Convention – Atlanta, GA Jun 5  
Capital Trade Show – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada Jun 5  
Cheshunt Brick Festival – Cheshunt, United Kingdom Jun 5  
Quad Con – Springfield, IL Jun 5

June 8-12

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

Orgins Game Fair – Columbus, OH Jun 8-12  
International Horror Hotel Film Festival and Convention – Cleveland, OH Jun 9-12  
Animagna Atlanta – Atlanta, GA Jun 10-12  
Anime Blues – Memphis, TN Jun 10-12  
Anime Lubbock – Lubbock, TX Jun 10-12  
Anime Marathon – Konigslutter, Germany Jun 10-12  
AnimeCon – Rotterdam, Netherlands Jun 10-12  
Bayou Wars – D'Iberville, MS Jun 10-12  
Ranger Stop Pop Con Atlanta – Atlanta, GA Jun 10-12

Salute to Stargate – Rosemont, IL Jun 10-12  
Scintillation – Montreal, Quebec, Canada Jun 10-12  
Expo Lucha – Philadelphia, PA Jun 11-12  
Nococon – Watertown, NY Jun 11-12  
Sheffield Anime & Gaming Con – Sheffield, United Kingdom Jun 11-12  
Middle Georgia Comic Convention – Macon, GA Jun 11  
Ronin Expo – Los Angeles, CA Jun 11  
San Fernando Valley Comic Book Convention – North Hollywood, CA Jun 11  
Silver Age Comic Con – Reno, NV Jun 11  
Quad Con – Wisconsin Dells, WI Jun 12

June 16-19

VIRTUAL

Toronto Comic Arts Festival – Toronto, Ontario, Canada Jun 17-19

ON-SITE

Cosplacon – Jefferson City, MO Jun 16-19  
Spooky Empire – Orlando, FL Jun 17-19  
4th Street Fantasy – Minneapolis, MN Jun 17-19  
Arkansas Anime Festival – Bentonville, AR Jun 17-19  
Fan Expo Dallas – Dallas, TX Jun 17-19  
Greater Austin Comiccon – Cedar Park, TX Jun 17-19  
Pyrkon – Poznan, Poland Jun 17-19  
Really Pleasant Gaming Weekend – Overland Park, KS Jun 17-19  
Sci-Fi Valley Con – Pittsburg, PA Jun 17-19  
Toronto Comic Arts Festival – Toronto, Ontario, Canada Jun 17-19  
YetiCon – The Blue Mountains, Ontario, Canada Jun 17-19  
Anime Ohio – Sharonville, OH Jun 17-18  
Supernova Comic Con & Gaming – Sydney, New South Wales, Australia Jun 18-19  
EpicCon Russia – St Petersburg, Russia Jun 18-19  
Leeds Anime & Gaming Con – Leeds, United Kingdom Jun 18-19  
Smallville Comic Con – Hutchinson, KS Jun 18-19  
St Louis Mighty Con – Saint Charles, MO Jun 18-19  
Stars of Time Film & Comic Con – Weston-super-Mare, United Kingdom Jun 18-19  
Wie.MAI.KAI – Florsheim am Main, Germany Jun 18-19  
Dover Comic Con – Dover, DE Jun 18  
Oddities & Curiosities – Austin, TX Jun 18  
SuperWorld Comic Expo – Overland Park, KS Jun 18  
London Film Fair – London, United Kingdom Jun 19

June 22-26

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

VidCon – Anaheim, CA Jun 22-26  
PortConMaine – Portland, ME Jun 23-26  
Anime Festival Orlando – Orlando, FL Jun 24-26  
Anime Festival Wichita – Wichita, KS Jun 24-26  
Cosplay America – Cary, NC Jun 24-26

Duke City Comic Con – Albuquerque, NM Jun 24-26  
 Heroes Con – Charlotte, NC Jun 24-26  
 JAFAX – Allendale Charter Township, MI Jun 24-26  
 Planet Funk Con – Davenport, IA Jun 24-26  
 RAGECON – Reno, NV Jun 24-26  
 Sci-Fi on the Rock – St John’s, Newfoundland, Canada Jun 24-26  
 SoonerCon – Norman, OK Jun 24-26  
 SunnyCon Anime Expo – Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom Jun 24-26  
 Supernatural Official Convention – Orlando, FL Jun 24-26  
 Stranger Con – Edison, NJ Jun 25-26  
 Fantasticon – Copenhagen, Denmark Jun 25-26  
 Kaotik Freedom Celebration – Lake Jackson, TX Jun 25-26  
 Mississippi Comic Con – Jackson, MS Jun 25-26  
 OKC’s Pop Culture Con – Oklahoma City, OK Jun 25-26  
 Rail City Fan Fest – Saint Albans, VT Jun 25-26  
 Supernova Comic Con & Gaming – Perth, Western Australia, Australia Jun 25-26  
 Forest City Comic Con – London, Ontario, Canada Jun 25  
 Huntsvillecon – Huntsville, AL Jun 25  
 Oddities & Curiosities Expo – Kansas City, MO Jun 25  
 UTOPIAcon – Bedfordshire, United Kingdom Jun 25  
 London Comic Mart – London, United Kingdom Jun 26  
 Star Wars Collectors Expo – Mississauga, Ontario, Canada Jun 26

## Science Fiction Pro and Fan Birthdays

### Science Fiction Pro and Fan Birthdays

This list of fandom-related birthdays was first published by Bruce Pelz in the *Fantasy Amateur Press Association*. Andrew Porter published and updated the list for *Science Fiction Chronicle*. Updates are welcome!

Unless stated otherwise, all birthdays are in the 20th century.

### June

Adrienne Fein, 6/1/47; Mike Meara, 6/1/48; Allen Spencer Willey, 6/1/54; Lester del Rey, 6/2/15; Robert A. Madle, 6/2/20; Leigh Edmonds, 6/2/48; Lloyd Penney, 6/2/59; Warren Lapine, 6/2/64; Marion Zimmer Bradley, 6/3/30; John Norman, 6/3/31; Steve Schultheis, 6/4/30; Wendy Pini, 6/4/51; Noreen Shaw, 6/6/30; Ron Salomon, 6/6/48; Kit Reed, 6/7/42; Jon White, 6/7/46; John W. Campbell, Jr., 6/8/10; Robert F. Young, 6/8/15; Kate Wilhelm, 6/8/29; Roger Sims, 6/8/30; Elizabeth Lynn, 6/8/46; Leo R. Summers, Keith Laumer, 6/9/25; Lin Carter, 6/9/30; Joe Haldeman, 6/9/43; Drew Sanders, 6/9/49; Jim Glass, 6/9/51; Keith Berdak, 6/9/55; Ed Naha, 6/10/50.

Sylvia Stevens, 6/11/52; Galen Tripp, 6/11/59; Henry Slesar, 6/12/27; Alan Hershey, 6/13/17; Doreen Webbert, 6/13/34; Rebecca Henderson, 6/13/44; Stephen Tall (Compton Crook), 6/14/08; J.F. Bone, 6/15/16; Chandra Sargent, 6/15/53; Murray Leinster (Will F. Jenkins), 6/16/1896; Ted Dikty, 6/16/20; Ted Johnstone, 6/16/39; David Stever, 6/16; Wally Wood, 6/17/27; Sandy Cohen, 6/17/48; Phyllis Weinberg, 6/17/53; Richard Spelman, 6/18/31; Melissa Dougherty, 6/18/67; Robert Moore Williams, 6/19/07; Julius Schwartz, 6/19/15; Bruce Dane, 6/20/50.

William Tuning, 6/21/35; Sally Syrjala, 6/21/48; Mike Morman, 6/21/50; H. Rider Haggard, 6/22/1856; Octa-

via E. Butler, 6/22/47; John-Henri Holmberg, Lillian Stewart Carl, 6/22/49; Fred Hoyle, 6/24/15; Charles N. Brown, 6/24/37; Stephen Silverberg, 6/24/41; Earl Evers, 6/24/42; Susan Ellison, 6/24; John Maddox Roberts, 6/25/47; Hal Shapiro, 6/26/30; Charles Lee Jackson II, 6/26/50; James P. Hogan, 6/27/41; Tim Gatewood, 6/27/59; Joe Schaumburger, 6/28/30; Peggy Rae Pavlat, 6/28/44; Jon M. Gustafson, 6/28/45; Richard Harter, 6/29/35; David Mattingly, 6/29/56; Michael Whelan, 6/29/50; Sam Moskowitz, 6/30/20; Anie Linard, 6/30/29.

To update this list, contact Heath Row at [kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com) via email with the subject "Science Fiction Pro and Fan Birthdays" or something similar.

## May 2022 SF Calendar From Bob Jennings

### June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 National Flip-A-Coin Day	2 National Bubba Day	3 National Donut Day	4 Hug Your Cat Day
5 Hot Air Balloon Day	6 D-Day World War II	7 VCR Day	8 Name Your Poison Day	9 Donald Duck Day	10 National Flip-Flop Day	11 National Corn-On-The-Cob Day
12 National Peanut-Butter Cookie Day	13 Sewing Machine Day	14 Flag Day	15 National Prune Day	16 International Waterfall Day	17 Eat Your Vegetables Day	18 International Picnic Day
19 Father's Day	20 Ice Cream Soda Day	21 Go Skate-Boarding Day	22 National Onion Ring Day	23 National Pink Day	24 Take Your Dog To Work Day	25 Log Cabin Day
26 National Canoe Day	27 Sun Glasses Day	28 Paul Bunyan Day	29 Waffle Iron Day	30 National Handshake Day		

*ACTION COMICS* #1, the most important comic book ever published, came out in 1938 with a June cover date, and introduced Superman to the world. Superman was the very first costumed super powered comic hero. Other costumed characters had appeared in comic form before, particularly The Phantom, introduced as a newspaper strip in 1936, but these other characters did not have super powers.

Created by Jerome Siegel and Joseph Schuster, two science fiction fans from Cleveland, Ohio, the Superman concept had first appeared in their fanzine *Science Fiction* in issue #3, dated January 1933. They had wanted to turn their creation into a syndicated newspaper comic strip, and after several false starts and a number of reworkings, they finally solidified the concept and submitted it to every newspaper syndicate they could find, only to be rejected by every single one.

Meanwhile the pair had sold original comic features to National Allied Publications, which turned out comic books with all original material. This was run by Malcolm Wheeler-Nicholson, who was an inept businessman and was extremely slow to pay his creators. His company was finally forced into bankruptcy and absorbed by his business partners Harry Donenfeld and Jack Liebowitz. Liebowitz asked Siegel to produce features for a new title they were planned, but Siegel did not offer Superman because an editor at the McClure newspaper syndicate had expressed interest in the Superman concept. But, at the last minute, McClure backed out, and its editor suggested they sell it as a free-standing comic book feature. Siegel and Liebowitz made a deal, and Superman became the lead for the new *Action Comics* title.

The first issue of *Action Comics* racked up a phenomenal sell-thru ratio. Despite that, it was five issues later before Superman was allowed back on the cover again. Harry Donenfeld was horrified and outraged that such a ludicrous and patently ridiculous scene should have been used as a cover feature, so more sedate adventure pics were used as the covers for those next five issues.

But when the sales figures started coming in, the appeal of Superman was obvious. He was something unique, an alien from another planet, even though he looked completely human, a being from a super scientific civilization with powers and abilities beyond those of normal humans. In less than a year Superman had his own comic book, the first issue dated June 1939, and later that year Siegel and Schuster got their wish when Superman became a nationally syndicated newspaper strip.

That same year Superman became a radio feature. In 1941 the first of a series of Superman cartoons was produced by the Fleischer animation studios. In 1948 the first of two Superman motion picture serials appeared, and in 1952 he was adapted to television.

The popularity and influence of Superman cannot be underestimated. Without Superman it is doubtful that the comic book business would have survived except for a few niche publications devoted to comic strip reprints. Superman has been the world's most popular comic character for most of his long career, and his stories have been published in almost every nation on the planet.

Superman, created by two Jewish Americans, was never carried in Nazi Germany or in the Soviet Union, and after WWII French socialists tried to ban Superman, arguing that he was the absolute representation of the fascist racial superiority concept.

Through reboots, relaunches, spin-offs, and cross-overs Superman continues to be the ultimate costumed super powered comic hero. People both young and old continue to be fascinated with his character and his adventures and undoubtedly will continue to be as long as there are human beings with a sense of wonder.

