

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS

SF by the BAY

Science Fiction and
Fantasy in the Bay Area

FEBRUARY – APRIL 2020

MAIN LIBRARY

[sfpl.org /sf-by-the-bay](http://sfpl.org/sf-by-the-bay)



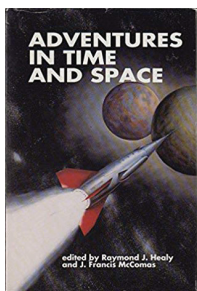
San Francisco Public Library

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SF by the Bay: Science Fiction and Fantasy in the Bay Area

SF by the Bay, the Main Library's grand celebration of Bay Area science fiction and fantasy, opens on February 1 and continues through April 30. In partnership with SF in SF, Borderlands Books, *Locus* magazine, Tachyon Publications, AfroSurreal Writers Workshop, Consonance and other organizations, *SF by the Bay* presents over three dozen programs, including film screenings, author's talks, live dramas, lectures, panel discussions, a folk music concert, book displays, a costume contest, and an exhibit of rare books, magazines, and art drawn from the Main Library's J. Francis McComas Fantasy & Science Fiction Collection, a reference collection of 3000+ books and magazines. With a focus on local authors and culture, the *SF by the Bay* exhibit and programs highlight the San Francisco Bay Area's important contributions to the history of fantasy and science fiction and celebrate this ongoing history in relation to its international and multimedia contexts.

EXHIBIT



SF by the Bay: Science Fiction and Fantasy in the Bay Area

Saturday, Feb. 1 – Thursday, April 30, 2020

General Collections and Humanities Center, 3rd Floor

This exhibit shines a spotlight on San Francisco Public Library's J. Francis McComas Fantasy & Science Fiction Collection, and highlights the San Francisco Bay Area's important contributions to the history of fantasy and science fiction literature, art and film.

SF BY THE BAY DISPLAYS: Related displays are located at the General Collections & Humanities Center and International Center reference desks on the 3rd floor, and in the Art, Music & Recreation Center on the 4th floor.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Reception: SF by the Bay

Saturday, Feb. 15, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Latino/Hispanic Rooms, Lower Level

Join us at the opening reception for the *SF by the Bay* exhibit with Gordon Van Gelder, publisher of *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, as well as co-sponsors *Locus* magazine, SF in SF, Tachyon Publications, Borderland Books, and other special guests.

Reception will be followed by a screening of the silent film *Aelita: Queen of Mars* with live piano accompaniment by acclaimed concert pianist Frederick Hodges at 2 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Science Fiction & Fantasy Costume Contest

Sunday, Apr. 12

Registration: 12 – 1 p.m., Contest: 2 – 4 p.m.

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

Get your most fantastical self ready for SFPL's Science Fiction & Fantasy Costume Contest! Fans of science fiction, fantasy, and cosplay are urged to participate and to cheer their favorite costume entries. Winners will be announced immediately following the contest. Contestants who have pre-registered online will be registered 12 – 1 p.m. on the Koret Auditorium stage. The Costume Contest begins at 2 p.m.

CONTESTANTS MUST PRE-REGISTER. Rules for the contest and online pre-registration forms will be available at sfpl.org/sf-by-the-bay.



Podcast: Our Opinions Are Correct

Thursday, Apr. 16, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Latino/Hispanic Rooms, Lower Level

Annalee Newitz, a science journalist who writes science fiction, and Charlie Jane Anders, a science fiction writer who is obsessed with science, will host their podcast *Our Opinions Are Correct* live at the Main Library as part of the *SF by the Bay* celebration. They will explore the meaning of science fiction and its relevance to real-life science and society.



Tachyon Publications Anniversary

Sunday, Apr. 19, 2 – 4 p.m.

Latino/Hispanic Rooms, Lower Level

Celebrate the 25th anniversary of San Francisco's Tachyon Publications with publisher Jacob Weisman and special guests.

Tachyon Publications, an independent press specializing in science fiction and fantasy books, was founded in San Francisco in 1995 by Jacob Weisman. This event will include a reading from Tachyon authors.

Remembering the 3 Ms and FL: A Talk with Steven Black and Don Herron

Wednesday, Apr. 22, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

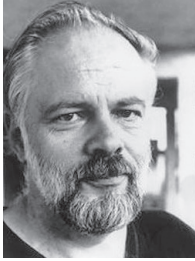
Latino/Hispanic Rooms, Lower Level



Pioneering Bay Area science fiction and fantasy authors Miriam Allen de Ford, Margaret St. Clair, Margo Skinner, and Fritz Leiber are celebrated in a talk given by Steven Black and Don Herron.

Steven Black is the Head of Acquisitions in the Technical Services Department of UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library. **Don Herron** published the Margo Skinner poetry collection *As Green as Emeralds* in 1990 and has led the Dashiell Hammett Tour in San Francisco since 1977.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

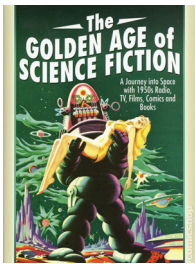


Philip K. Dick in the Bay Area

Wednesday, Mar. 25, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

Authors and PKD experts Erik Davis, Kim Stanley Robinson, Jack Skillingstead and Richard Lupoff discuss Philip K. Dick and the ways his life in the Bay Area influenced his writings. Author Darly Gregory moderates. The discussion is preceded by a screening of two PKD films, *Impostor* and *A Scanner Darkly*, at 2 p.m.



The Golden Age of Science Fiction

Sunday, Mar. 29, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

Local science fiction luminaries Robert Silverberg, Richard Lupoff, and special guests discuss the Golden Age of Science Fiction, a moniker often applied to the late 1930s and 1940s, but which Silverberg proposes better describes the 1950s.



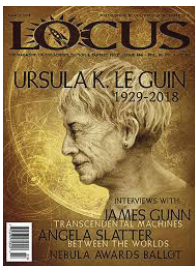
Locus Magazine Presents:

What Will You Read Next?

Thursday, Apr. 2, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

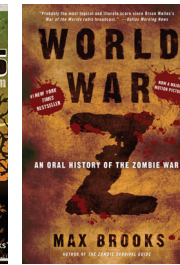
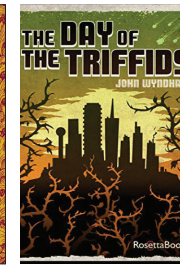
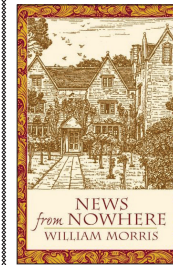
Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

Join *Locus* magazine editors Liza Groen Trombi, Tim Pratt, Francesca Myman and Arley Sorg as they review their favorite books of the past year.



Now in its 52nd year, Oakland-based *Locus* magazine is the Hugo Award-winning trade magazine of the science fiction and fantasy publishing fields. With their annual Recommended Reading List in hand, the magazine's editors will discuss novels, collections, art books, and more. Meet local science fiction professionals, learn more about *Locus*, and join the conversation. Come early to get a free copy of the Year in Review issue of *Locus* (while supplies last)!

PRESENTATION



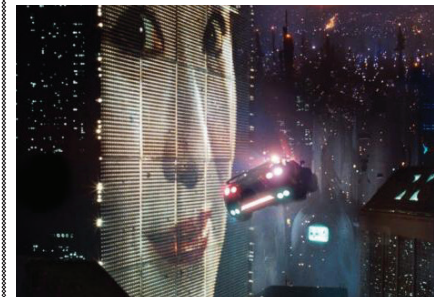
Zombie Apocalypse & the Utopian Tradition

Saturday, Mar. 28, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

Latino/Hispanic Rooms, Lower Level

Phil Gochenour explores the literary history of the zombie apocalypse narrative from its roots in William Morris' utopian novel *News from Nowhere* and anarcho-syndicalist political theory through its reconfiguration in John Wyndham's eco-disaster novel *The Day of the Triffids* and Max Brooks' *World War Z*.

Phil Gochenour received a PhD in comparative literature from Emory University and has held faculty positions at the University of Virginia and Towson State University. Currently he is a Senior Technical Writer for the Engineering Excellence organization at Amazon.



Sci-Fi Film Lecture:

Cities of the Future

Sunday, Mar. 15, 12:30 – 2 p.m.

Latino/Hispanic Rooms, Lower Level

Bivoulab's David Cox and Molly Hankwitz present *Cities of the Future*, a mesmerizing lecture/tour of the future as depicted in educational films, Hollywood movies, and beyond.



East German Film Lecture

Sunday, Mar. 15, 3 – 5 p.m.

Latino/Hispanic Rooms, Lower Level

Film historian Jim Morton gives a fascinating talk on the unique science fiction cinema and cinema culture of the former German Democratic Republic, aka East Germany. Morton is the author of the *East German Cinema Blog* and *Behind the Wall: A History of East German Films and the Country that Created Them*.

PERFORMANCES



Play: *20/20: You Decide How It Ends*

Sunday, Mar. 1, 2 – 4:30 p.m.

Latino/Hispanic Rooms, Lower Level

It's the year 2020. The President has been re-elected, the climate is heating up, and the economy is in meltdown. In this satirical participatory performance, audience members choose from a list of possible future scenarios that they want performed: Impeachment? Coup? Revolution? *20/20* asks what people power looks like in a time of vast uncertainty, when even choosing to do nothing at all has its consequences.

Director, playwright and composer **Stardust Doherty** has directed and co-authored several recent Theatre Maker plays, including *20/20*, which was co-written with **Kari Barclay**. He directed *20/20*'s sold-out performances in San Francisco's 2019 Fringe Festival.

The Theatre Makers Project provides common ground on which diverse communities can collaborate, incubate, and stage newly created and historically relevant participatory plays exploring themes of social, political, economic, and environmental change.



Live Music: *From Middle Earth to Tatooine*

Thursday, Mar. 19, 1 – 3 p.m.

Latino/Hispanic Rooms, Lower Level

Enjoy a live concert of science fiction and fantasy songs, a genre known as filk music. This enchanting program features filk music all-stars Margaret and Kristoph, TJ and Mitchell Burnside Clapp, and Jeff and Maya Bohnhoff. Come hear performers sing about hobbits, Jedi masters, space aliens and more. *From Middle Earth to Tatooine* is presented in partnership with Consonance, the Bay Area's annual filk music festival.



Radio Play: *Ghost Town Mortuary*

Saturday, Mar. 28, 12 – 1 p.m.

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

Anthony Boucher (1911 – 1968) was a renaissance figure in 20th century pulp and genre fiction. Author of such classic tales as *The Quest for Saint Aquin* and *The Compleat Werewolf*, he co-founded, with J. Francis McComas, *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*. In honor of Boucher's many achievements, Steven Black and Randal S. Brandt will discuss the life and career of this Bay Area powerhouse in imaginative fiction and will perform one of his San Francisco-based radio plays, *The Ghost Town Mortuary*.

Steven Black is the Head of Acquisitions and **Randal Brandt** is the Head of Cataloging in the Technical Services Department of UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library, where Randal Brandt works as the curator of the California Detective Fiction Collection.



AUTHORS



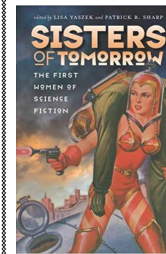
Black Speculative Fiction

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 5 – 7:30 p.m.

Latino/Hispanic Rooms, Lower Level

Bay Area writers and poets will speak about their influences, share current works-in-progress and reveal their 2020 visions. Join the conversation as we explore diverse perspectives from the Black Speculative Literary Arts landscape. Speculative genres presented may include fantasy, science fiction, myth, faerie tales, climate fiction, horror and eco-poetry.

Panel discussion and Q&A moderated by Audrey T. Williams.



Women and Speculative Fiction

Tuesday, Mar. 10, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Latino/Hispanic Rooms, Lower Level

Authors M. Luke McDonnell, Pat Murphy, Madeleine Robins, Lisa Goldstein and Rebecca Gomez Farrell will read from and discuss their works of science fiction and fantasy.



The First Star Trek Movie by Sherilyn Connelly

Thursday, Mar. 26, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*, which premiered on December 7, 1979, Sherilyn Connelly will read from her new work, *The First Star Trek Movie: Bringing the Franchise to the Big Screen, 1969 – 1980*.

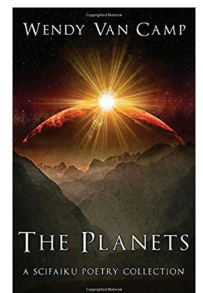


Poetry: Wendy van Camp Reads from *The Planets*

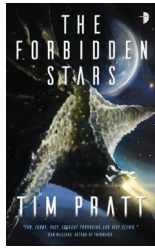
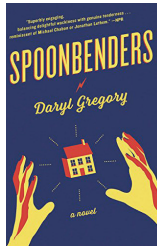
Saturday, Apr. 18, 4 – 5 p.m.

Latino/Hispanic Rooms, Lower Level

Author and illustrator Wendy van Camp reads from her latest science fiction poetry book, *The Planets: A Scifaiku Poetry Collection*. Van Camp writes science fiction, regency romance, and poetry. Her blog "No Wasted Ink" features essays about the craft of writing, poetry, flash fiction, and author interviews.



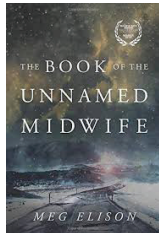
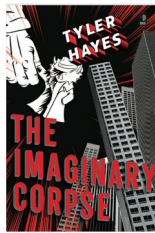
AUTHORS



Daryl Gregory, Tim Pratt and Other Writers

Thursday, April 23, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

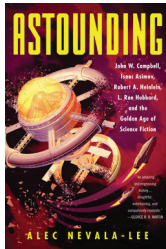
Local speculative fiction authors Daryl Gregory, Tim Pratt and other writers will read from their latest works. Q&A and book signing will follow the readings.



Mike Chen, Tyler Hayes and Meg Elison

Thursday, Apr. 30, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Latino/Hispanic Rooms, Lower Level

Local science fiction/fantasy authors Mike Chen, Tyler Hayes and Meg Elison will read from their works. Q&A and book signing will follow the readings.

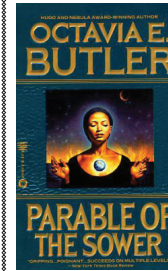


Alec Nevala-Lee: *Astounding: John W. Campbell, Isaac Asimov, Robert A. Heinlein, L. Ron Hubbard, and the Golden Age of Science Fiction*

Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

Acclaimed author Alec Nevala-Lee reads from his work. Nevala-Lee is a Hugo and Locus Award finalist for the group biography *Astounding: John W. Campbell, Isaac Asimov, Robert A. Heinlein, L. Ron Hubbard, and the Golden Age of Science Fiction*, which was named one of the Best Books of 2018 by *The Economist*. Nevala-Lee's works of fiction include a dozen short stories and the thrillers *The Icon Thief*, *City of Exiles* and *Eternal Empire*.

BOOK CLUBS



Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler

Thursday, Feb. 6, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
African American Center, 3rd Floor

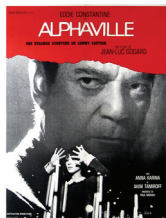
Discuss Octavia Butler's acclaimed post-apocalyptic novel, *The Parable of the Sower*. In this contemporary dystopian work, set in the 2020s, a young African American woman, Lauren Olamina, loses her home in the ravaged southern part of California and heads north in search of community and a better life.



Orlando by Virginia Woolf

Thursday, Mar. 5, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Paley Room, 3rd Floor

Discuss Virginia Woolf's most popular and fantastical novel, *Orlando: A Biography*. Inspired by the life of Woolf's friend and lover Vita Sackville-West, *Orlando* follows the adventures of a passionate Elizabethan nobleman who lives through several centuries and who, in the middle of a long and adventurous life, mysteriously transforms into a woman.



Alphaville

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Latino/Hispanic Rooms, Lower Level

French New Wave director Jean-Luc Godard's classic science fiction noir film follows secret agent Lemmy Caution on his mission to destroy a tyrannical computer that rules over the futuristic city of Alphaville.

Starring Eddie Constantine, Anna Karina, and Akim Tamiroff.

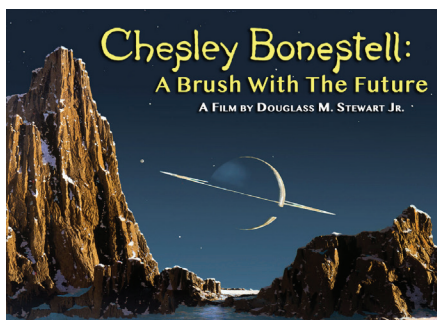
In French with English subtitles. NR, 99 mins., 1965.

Chesley Bonestell: A Brush with The Future

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 5:15 – 7:30 p.m.
Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

The documentary *Chesley Bonestell: A Brush With The Future* reveals a nearly-forgotten San Francisco artist whose mysterious, almost magical, ability to envision distant worlds inspired generations to reach for the stars.

The film will be followed by Q&A with author/filmmaker **James Dalessandro**, photographer/architectural historian **Christina Dikas**, and writer **Wyn Wachhorst**.



Aelita: Queen of Mars

Saturday, Feb. 15,
2 – 4:30 p.m.
Latino/Hispanic Rooms, Lower Level

Hear acclaimed pianist Frederick Hodges accompany a screening of the classic silent science fiction film, *Aelita: Queen of Mars*. Famous for its flamboyant constructivist Martian sets and costumes, this big budget 1924 film by Soviet director Yakov Protazanov presents the story of a young man, Los, who unexpectedly travels to Mars, falls in love with the Martian queen, and participates in a revolt of Martian workers against their overlords.

In Russian with English subtitles, with live piano accompaniment. 112 mins., 1924.



Philip K. Dick Double Feature: Impostor and A Scanner Darkly

Wednesday, Mar. 25, 2 – 5:30 p.m.
Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

This double feature of films based on Philip K. Dick stories will be followed by a panel of local authors discussing Philip K. Dick in the Bay Area.

Impostor at 2 p.m.

Spencer Olham, a designer of top-secret government weapons, is arrested on his way to work by Major Hathaway of the Earth Security Administration. Olham is accused of being an android bomb created by enemy aliens. PG-13, 95 mins., 2001.

A Scanner Darkly at 3:45 p.m.

In the near future a narcotics cop in Orange County becomes addicted when he goes undercover. R, 100 mins., 2006.

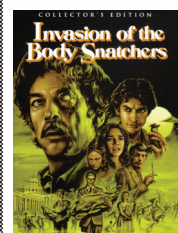


Worlds of Ursula K. Le Guin

Saturday, Mar. 28, 2 – 5 p.m.
Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

This documentary film explores the remarkable life and legacy of the late feminist author Ursula K. Le Guin, best known for groundbreaking science fiction and fantasy works such as *A Wizard of Earthsea*, *The Left Hand of Darkness*, and *The Dispossessed*. Le Guin defiantly held her ground on the margin of “respectable” literature until the sheer excellence of her work, at long last, forced the mainstream to embrace fantastic literature.

The film will be followed by Q&A and panel discussion with the director **Arwen Curry**, **Phil Gochenour**, **Debbie Notkin** and others.



Invasion of the Body Snatchers

Thursday, Apr. 2, 12 – 2 p.m.
Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

A San Francisco health inspector and his colleague discover that humans are being replaced by alien duplicates, one body at a time. PG, 115 mins., 1978.

CINEMA



***The Last Unicorn* with Peter S. Beagle**

Saturday, Apr. 4, 2 – 4:30 p.m.

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

Local fantasy author Peter S. Beagle introduces the classic animated film *The Last Unicorn*. The film's screenplay, by Beagle, was based on his beloved novel of the same name, which *The Atlantic* called "one of the best fantasy novels ever."



Blade Runner

**Thursday, Apr. 9,
12 – 2 p.m.**

**Koret Auditorium,
Lower Level**

A blade runner seeks to terminate four replicants who have stolen a space ship and returned to Earth to find their creator. R, 117 mins., 1982.

THX 1138

Thursday, Apr. 23, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

In this futuristic film by George Lucas, shot around the Bay Area and in BART tunnels, a man named THX 1138 and a woman named LUH 3417 rebel against their rigidly controlled society. R, 86 mins., 1971.



Time After Time

**Thursday, Apr. 16,
12 – 2 p.m.**

**Koret Auditorium,
Lower Level**

H.G. Wells pursues Jack the Ripper into San Francisco circa 1979, after the serial murderer uses the future writer's time machine to escape his own era. PG, 112 mins., 1979.

Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home

Thursday, Apr. 30, 12 – 2 p.m.

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

To save Earth from an alien probe, Admiral James T. Kirk and his fugitive crew go back in time to San Francisco in 1986 to retrieve the only beings who can communicate with the probe—humpback whales. PG, 119 mins., 1986. Additional screening at Bernal Heights, Wed. Apr. 22 at 6 p.m.

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