

Corflu 25 Zanthic



Corflu 2008 Is Almost Here!!

The 25th Corflu, the Core Fandom World Convention, is only a little more than one month away. Fans will converge on Las Vegas' Union Plaza Hotel & Casino. There's a special kick-off party on Thursday, April 24 and the actual con runs Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 25-27, 2008. Quite a few fans will stay through at least Monday morning to revel at the Con Climax Party on Sunday evening.

There's Still Time to Join the Fun!

There's still more than a month to Corflu Silver and that's *plenty of* time to come to the belated realization that you need to join the trufans who've already booked their flight, made hotel reservations and paid their membership.

You can still book everything and get a choice room at the Plaza, which has refurbished extensively since Corflu Blackjack.

And if you decide the day before the con, wing it! We'll work out something.

Corflu Silver

The 25th Corflu
Core Fandom's World Convention

April 25, 26 and 27, 2008
Union Plaza Hotel-Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

Corflu Silver Info

Corflu Silver will be held April 25, 26 and 27, 2008, at the Plaza Hotel, One Main Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Room rates are \$35 per midweek night (Monday-Thursday) and \$72 per Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Reservations must be made prior to **March 22, 2008** in order to obtain the special Corflu rate; after that date, the regular room rates will apply. The phone number for reservations is 800-634-6575.

Membership is \$60 attending (£35). Send checks payable to Joyce Katz to 909 EUGENE CERNAN ST., Las Vegas, NV, 89145, USA.

You can also submit funds via Paypal. It's a good idea to send me (Joyce) an email to let me know that you've done this.

The name of the account is Joyce Marie Katz. Email for the account is JoyceWorley1@cox.net.

CORFLU SILVER

The Auction Needs Your Help!

The Corflu Silver Auction needs your help. This annual event, always one of the most popular hours at Corflu, serves a dual purpose: it is a much-needed income stream for the convention and a way to redistribute the treasures locked away in old collections.

The Corflu Auction only exists as a result of the kindness of fans and, at this point, we need to ask for a little more kindness.

The auction needs material and that can only come from you fine folks. If you have old fan-zines, fannish memorabilia or just something you think fans would want to buy, send (or bring) it to Corflu Silver for the auction.

Send what you have to: Joyce Katz, 909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV, 89145. Please let us know what you have to contribute to the Corflu Silver Auction.

Fan to the Music

Plans for some music-making at Corflu Silver are moving forward. Bill Mills, John Purcell and John DeChancie have banded together and will play a few blues/rock selections, including Bill's *Goin' to Corflu*.

There'll also be a jam session of sorts. Everyone is invited to participate, even those whose musical expertise is limited to the kazoo, the tambourine and the washboard.

Teresa Cochran, who'll play during the jam, is collecting simple instruments with some help from our Esteemed Chairman Joyce. You can bring your own, too.

Take a Hike!

Those who'd like to take in some of the areas Natural Wonders should sign up for Ken Forman's ramble through some of the beautiful country near Red Rock. A former professional guide and conservationist, Ken has conducted similar excursions at each of the previous two Vegas Corflus with great success.

Ken says that this time, he has chosen a middle course between the paved path and wilderness hikes of the past. This one has clearly marked dirt trails and, Ken says, is only moderately strenuous.

Zanthic #2, The Corflu Silver Progress Report #2, March 24, 2008, is written and edited by Arnie Katz (909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145, phone 702-648-5677) on behalf of Corflu Silver, April 25-27, 2008.

Snail Mail Address: Arnie & Joyce Katz, 909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145

Member fwa

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Corflu Silver in '08!

The hike is scheduled to leave from the hotel at 10:30 AM on Friday. This is a compromise between the desirability to hike before the full heat of the day and the desire to sleep as late as possible.

If you'd like to see the outdoors with Ken, drop him a note (kna92399@hotmail.com), so he'll be able to work out the transportation logistics more easily.

Corflu Silver Tee-Shirt * Logo Merchandise

The Official Corflu Silver Tee-Shirt, created by the inimitable Ross Chamberlain, will be available at the convention.

In addition, Bill Mills has deigned a range of Corflu Silver logo merchandise. There are shirts, mugs, pins and more!

Bill has kindly donated all profits from his creations to Corflu Silver, so the con won't lose on the deal if you decide to get in the spirit before you arrive in Las Vegas.

Check out some of his fannish creations at: <http://www.cafepress.com/themillszoo>.

The Committee

Joyce Katz is the chairman of Corflu Silver. She co-chaired Corflu Vegas and worked on Corflu Blackjack, but she still has enough lucid periods to permit her to do it One More Time.

She is abetted by James Taylor, the Right-hand Man and Arnie Katz (me) as Left-hand Man. Bill Mills is the At Large member of the Corflu Silver Committee, although he is significantly smaller than the other three fans mentioned previously.

We're not real big on titles and meaningless bureaucracy, so everybody else is Vice President of *Something*.

The entire committee, even unto those unnamed (yet somehow still illustrious) Vice Presidents, belongs to an informal, invitational Core Fandom fan club, Las Vegrants.

While the club has met twice a month for about 15 years, a number of the members are much newer and will be attending their first Corflu. Their hearts beat to the rhythm of Trufandom (in most cases) and they are revved up and ready to play host at the con and participate in the varied events that make up a Corflu.

LAS VEGAS FANS
HAVE THE STRENGTH
OF TEN,



The Storyteller Project

Much as we enjoy fannish readings — and we may well have a session at Corflu Silver — The Storyteller Project aims to capture some classic fannish anecdotes on audio so that the spirit of the telling is preserved for the enjoyment of future fans (and the nostalgia of current one).

The collection of anecdotes told at Corflu Silver will be made available to all fans following the con.

Bill Mills and I (Arnie) will be doing this as a co-production.

If you'd like to tell a story, contact me (crossfire4@cox.net) and we'll set up things for you. Bill can arrange to tape your story in private if you're nervous about crowds and he is a master at achieving the best possible audio reproduction.

Have a Special Group?

Some groups like to use Corflu as a place for an in-person gathering of its participants. If you let Joyce (joyceworley1@cox.net) know what you need (and how many people will be involved) she will do her best to accommodate you.

SNAPS, the monthly electronic apa, has already requested a room and the Astral League is expected to do so, too.

The First-Timer's Handy Guide to

By
Arnie
Katz

Corflu Silver

One of my goals for Corflu Silver is to expand beyond the circle that has traditionally attended Corflu to like-minded fans who have not yet had the experience and acquired the habit. I don't want to "sell" Corflu to the half-interested or pretend it is other than exactly what it is, but I think there are fans we'd like to know, waiting to met.

Corflu certainly could use some congenial first-timers. Look how much the influx of British fans has done for the con! A couple of dozen new faces would enhance Corflu without swamping it.

The campaign to bring in those newcomers hasn't gone as well as I'd hoped and, frankly, I blame myself. In extolling the myriad virtues of Corflu, I'd fallen into the habit of discussing Corflu in terms that were meaningful to fans who'd been to Corflu, but not necessarily to those who hadn't.

As you know, many of the current Vegrants are relatively new fans with little experience of actual Fandom. Feeling that the best place to begin the outreach was right in my own backyard, I tried to rev up enthusiasm among the fans who come to my house with such regularity.

Initially, my results proved very disappointing. Some eagerly embraced the idea, but enthusiasm was more temperate among the newer fans. As I've endeavored to explain it better, the response improved. In hopes that the same might be true for other fans similarly unfamiliar with Corflu, I offer this simple guide for Corflu newcomers.

If you enjoy fanzines, fannish websites, listservs and other fan-literary activities, Corflu Silver wants you to put Corflu on your fannish itinerary. It's the 25th world convention for fans who share that interest: fun times with like-minded fans,

Corflu differs markedly from almost all other current convention. That's because fanzine fans created it to be the antithesis to large, anonymous, commercialized conventions. Approximately 110 fans will converge in Las Vegas this year for a varied mix of activities.

Corflu has the flavor of conventions when they were tribal gatherings. It doesn't have a bunch of

pros lording it over the fannish masses — though there are plenty of professional writers and artists at Corflu — but Corflu is also free of heavy-handed commercialism, bloated fan politics, officious con-runners, anonymous crowds and most of the other things that tend to cut into fun at cons for Core Fandomites.

In retrospect, my comparison of Corflu to a Vegrants meeting with lots of guests stars may've fostered the erroneous impression that it is just one long party.

Well, it *is* one long party, but it's not nearly as amorphous as that might suggest. While partying, eating and chatting are major Corflu attractions,

thanks to a membership full of colorful, fascinating characters, there are plenty of planned and ad hoc events to fill as many hours as you stay awake.

Corflu has a fairly complex structure, composed in equal part of Corflu traditions and the host's innovations. The single-track programming generally includes a lot of audience participation.

One wonderful Corflu tradition are the consuites, one for smokers and another smoke-free one. They'll both open Thursday evening.

As with so much else at the Core Fandom world Convention, they're totally unlike consuites at "big tent" conventions. The population density never becomes oppressive and there is an endless supply of food and drink available to every Corflu attendee. Nothing is locked away in a green room accessible only to The Elect; no one goes hungry or thirsty at this con.

Although Corflu Silver doesn't official start until Friday evening, locals and early arrivals will have no shortage of activities.

Thursday will feature the Vegrants Party in the consuites at the Plaza Hotel. The Vegrants have passed the hat at their twice-monthly meetings and promise plenty of food and drink to lubricate the socializing. Vegrants meetings have no official business or parliamentary procedures to clog up the evening. Everyone, even those who don't have Corflu memberships, is invited to join in the fun — and maybe catch a little of that Corflu spirit.

A lot of fans will sleep late, recuperating from the previous evening and storing up energy for the coming late nights. The slightly more energetic will tour the local sights or try out one of Las Vegas' many restaurants. Others will go with Ken Forman for a nature hike through some of the Southwest's most beautiful country.

Friday afternoon will feature fannish storytelling as a warm-up for the start of the actual convention. The music-makers may jump the gun to get in some "practice" (jamming), too.

The Opening Ceremonies and the Welcoming Party will take place in the early evening in the meeting room. This includes another Corflu tradition, the random selection of this year's Guest of Honor. It's done that way to symbolize the fact that all Corflu attendees are worthy of honor.

The mercifully brief official kick-off will be

followed by a short and varied hour of music-making under the benign supervision of Teresa Cochran and Bill Mills. A blues-rock group will play several selections and then there'll be a jam that gives everyone a chance to play, even if it's a kazoo or paper-and-comb.

Saturday offers panels, debates, trivia contest and auction. Not only is the programming always pretty lively, but it gives everyone a chance to get together.

We haven't picked the subjects or participants yet — we welcome suggestions — but you can expect discussion of major fannish issues by fans who sometimes know what they are talking about.

Sunday tends to start late due to very late partying the previous night. It's built around the Corflu Banquet, which includes the Guest of Honor speech, the announcement of the FAAn Awards, election of the past president of FWA and a bunch of other reasonably entertaining stuff.

The post-banquet afternoon is mostly given to relaxed, socializing, heartfelt good-byes and maybe some fannish readings and another auction for those who still have some cash.

That's the basic structure, but there are a lot of activities woven around that skeleton. British fans, who will be well-represented at this year's Corflu, have invited us to partake of their sacred ritual of the Astral League, Peter Weston may defend his World Fannish Arm-Wrestling Championship, and other things are best left as surprises.

The cost of membership is very low, too, considering that members get a program book, a restaurant guide, a banquet ticket and access to *two* convention suites.

There are special hospitality events, too. I don't want to kill surprises, but every Corflu has its unique consuite moments. Past Las Vegas Corflus have featured wine-tastings, imported beer fests, barbeques and more.

There's a lot more, but like most things in Fandom, experiencing it is more fun than reading about it. There's still time to arrange joining us at Corflu Silver — and we sure hope you will!

— Arnie Katz

Joyce Katz

Surviving Las Vegas

Las Vegas can be a tough town. Hollywood makes it look like an insubstantial mound of whipped cream topped with glittery sprinkles of sex and sin. Novels depict Vegas as a cesspool of crime and violence. The whole world thinks Las Vegas is one square mile of neon and nudity.

It's fairly hard to locate all these appealing attractions during a short weekend. Actually, the city is a whole lot bigger than you think – the Valley is about 50 by 75 miles, packed with roughly two-and-a-half million permanent residents and all they require to make it feel like home. The schools, churches, hospitals and all that wholesome family life can get in the way of a tourist hunting a good time.

So I'm here to help.

Most fans have been here so may not need this primer. On the other hand, Vegas is in a constant state of flux, so things may have changed a bit.

Upon arrival, don't be tempted to put all your money into the airport slot machines. They have a lower payoff rate than casinos, so save your coins.

The best way to get from the airport to the **Plaza Hotel at Number One Main Street** is to take a shuttle. Cost, even with tip, will be under \$10. A taxi will be two or three times as much. If you rent a car, you have to take a bus to the car rental center, like you do at most other airports in the country. Inconvenient.

If you do plan to drive in Las Vegas, **DON'T DRINK!** The city is very strict about drinking and driving. It is also a violation to have an open container of booze in your car. The city is intense about these anti-drinking laws.

Vegas is also very serious about the speed limits in school zones. Don't speed, but if you must drive too fast, don't speed in school districts – the fine is extremely high.

Self-parking and valet parking are on the South side of the hotel. Valet parking is free, but you are

expected to tip when you pick up the car. One or two dollars is customary.

If for some reason you decide to hoof it around town, don't jaywalk. We kill several tourists for this crime every year. I'm serious about this.

Hotel registration is now located on the **third floor**, adjacent to the public meeting rooms. Non-smokers can completely avoid the casino experience by going direct to the third floor. In the South Tower, the elevators lead directly there. If you go up the North Tower elevators, there is a cross-over on the third floor (well-marked hallways) that leads you to registration.

On Friday afternoon we expect to set up Corflu registration in meeting rooms down the hall from hotel registration (though a lot of you will have picked up your bag and badge-age at the Thursday night welcome party.) If for some reason we aren't there, telephone the Corflu Hospitality Suite to get the room number. If all else fails, call me.

Once you've checked in, registered for the convention, visited the Corflu Hospitality Suites, and checked the program schedule, you may decide to do some sight-seeing. But there are a few things you should know.

The city motto is "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas." That means we'll generally not tattle on you. On the other hand, it does not mean Anything Goes. Vegas has about the same number of stupid laws as any other place. If it's illegal in your home town, it's probably illegal here. In plain language, this means public nudity and illegal substances are crimes here, too. So is public urination and (contrary to popular opinion) prostitution. And, by the way, just in case you decide to try your luck anyhow: Vegas streetwalkers are all believed to be HIV positive.

Don't smoke anything at all in the non-smoking areas of the hotel; that includes all public

meeting rooms. There are designated areas in the casino where tobacco is allowed (and Corflu will have a designated Smoking Hospitality Suite.)

When you go sightseeing, by all means take your camera. On the other hand, casinos will not allow you to take pictures of the gambling machines and tables. I don't know why. They also don't allow computers, calculators or card-counters. I'm pretty sure it's for the same reason.

Free drinks are often offered to people who are gambling. The freebees are not for the spectators, so don't expect or ask for them. And don't mouth off to either Security or Police Officers. They are polite to tourists, but don't act out: Vegas law enforcement is very tough and they have plenty of practice dealing with wise guys.

There's something you need to know when you visit Vegas. Camera surveillance is comprehensive. Both hidden and visible, they're everywhere. You will rarely be out of view of security personnel who monitor everything that happens. It protects you from Vegas dangers, and it also protects us dangerous Vegans from you.

Vegas is probably the safest place in America if you stay on the beaten path. On the other hand, it's never smart to flash a lot of cash, or to wear diamonds and pearls if you plan to explore the dark alleys or the seamy underbelly. (If you're hunting the seamy underbellies, you may want to stock up on rhinestones and gilt to wear, and dollar bills to tuck into their garters.)

There are literally thousands of places to eat in Vegas; it's our second favorite sport. They range from the One Dollar Hotdogs and Cocktail Shrimps, to top-of-the-world Five Star restaurants than will run you a hundred or two per person for dinner. Most places located on the tops of towers or hotels fit in the latter category.

Las Vegas is very relaxed about dress codes. You must always wear shoes and shirts (except at poolside) but very few places require jacket and tie, even in hotel coffee shops and family restaurants. However, you should spruce up a bit if you're going to a show, or somewhere fancy for dinner. I recommend you ask about the dress code when you call for reservations.

Remember, this is the Mojave Desert. You are welcome to it, but you won't be offered a glass of

water unless you ask for it. This isn't rudeness or poor waitressing; it really does save a lot of our dwindling supply.

In the Plaza, there's a good food court on the ground floor of the North Tower where you can get sandwiches, pizza, pastries, ice cream and other cheap edibles. The Plaza Coffee Shop offers a fairly nice assortment of meals in a bright cheerful environment, and your bill will average \$15-\$20 per person. (The coffee shop requires the customer to order their food and pay for it before they sit down. Many Vegas coffee shops are set up this way. I imagine this discourages walk-outs.)

There's also a fancy restaurant on the second floor, offering steaks, etc. The bargain, though, is the Plaza Buffet. For \$7.77 per meal (including dessert and beverage), you get all-you-can-eat of hot, hearty food. It's not gourmet, but Vegas fans have checked it out, and it's wholesome and (mostly) very tasty. (and if you spill food on yourself during dinner, the hotel has a coin-operated laundry.)

Linda Bushyager has prepared a restaurant guide, which should help you locate exactly the dining experience you want.

Las Vegas runs on tips. Many workers actually buy their jobs and receive no salary at all, depending completely on gratuities. You are expected to tip everyone who does anything for you, from the valet, to the restaurant/buffet server, to the bellmen, to the cab or shuttle driver, to the maid who makes up your room. If you request special service anywhere, tipping is expected. If you have a big win at the tables or the slots, you are expected to give something to the dealer or floor manager. (Tips are shared by the casino employees, so it doesn't matter which person you choose.)

The weather in late April should be wonderful. We should be past our rainy season, and the days will be shirt-sleeve warm. You might need a light wrap in the evenings, or if it does happen to rain. A hat is a wise thing, if you are going to walk in the sun. Sunglasses are absolutely necessary; and a good strong sun block is prudent. Your skin will feel dry; so come prepared with a moisturizing lotion.

And bring your sense of fun. That's one thing that's neither illegal nor dangerous; you'll find plenty of it here! -- Joyce Katz

Corflu Silver

MEMBERSHIP

Ted White
Frank Lunney
Joyce Scrivner
Rob Jackson
Murray Moore
Stacy Scott
Richard Coad
Hope Leibowitz
Pat Virzi
Colin Hinz
Chris Garcia
Art Widner
Catherine Crockett
Don Anderson
Jolie LaChance
Peter Weston
Robert Lichtman
Joyce Katz
Arnie Katz
Belle Churchill
Eric Davis
Marty Cantor
John Nielsen-Hall
Audrey Nielsen-Hall
Bill Mills
Roxanne Mills
Earl Kemp
Ross Chamberlain
Jean Weber

Eric Lindsay
Teresa Cochran
James Taylor
Graham Charnock
Pat Charnock
Claire Brialey
Mark Plummer
Gary Mattingly
Patty Peters
Nigel Rowe
Lloyd Penney
Yvonne Penney
Shelby Vick
Jack Calvert
Ron Bushyager
Linda Bushyager
Bruce Townley
Steve Stiles
Elaine Stiles
Peter Sullivan
Sue Anderson
Jay Kinney
Michael Dobson
J. Kent Hastings
Jerry Kaufman
Tony Parker
Judy Bemis
Richard Brandt
Gregg T. Trend

Audrey Trend
John Purcell
Charles Levi
Randy Byers
Mike Glycer
Ken Forman
Aileen Forman
Michael Waite *
Bill Bowers memorial *
Nic Farey
Bobbie Farey
Mary Ellen Moore
Jack Speer
Ruth Speer
Gordon Eklund
Jim Young
Bill Burns
James Charnock
Daniel Charnock
Sandra Bond
Laurraine Tutihasi *
Elinor Busby
Andy Hooper
Carrie Root

* - supporting membership
All others are attending

Help Corflu Silver: Buy Your Membership Now

Let's be honest, there's very little advantage to the individual fan to purchase a Corflu Silver membership in advance. The cost at the door is pretty much the same as it is via PayPal or through the mail.

Yet that's exactly what we're asking you to do. Corflu's expenses occur primarily *before* the convention, so that's when the money is most useful. So, while we'll gladly take your money at the door, paying in front is a great kindness to our tiny treasury.

— Arnie Katz