

TAKE THE LEAP

Progress Report #4

COR41U

LAS VEGAS

Gold Coast casino and resort

FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 3 2024

FUELED BY CHEAP PISH AND FANAC

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

This final PR is intended to give you all the useful arrival information, a fair bit of what to expect (and where to go) when you get here, and for those participating remotely the Zoom and Discord protocols which will be in place, so **PLEASE READ THIS!**

I'll note that hotel room bookings are now closed at our group rate (the deadline was February 2, and you were *told* about this) so if you've been foot-dragging you're now on your own for getting accommodation. We'll still help where we can, and it may still be possible to change existing bookings to triple or quad occupancy if anyone feels like accommodating fellow fans.

Looking forward to seeing everybody!

Nic Farey

Website: <https://corflu.org/>

Inquiries: vegas41@corflu.org

RANDOMLY IN THIS PR:

Membership cut-off date (page 2)

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Updated membership list (page 8)

How Not To Be Guest of Honor (page 3)

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Everything Else you need to know...

MEMBERSHIP CUT-OFF

We won't be accepting attending or supporting memberships (or upgrades into either) after Friday February 23rd, for the sensible reasons that (a) we have to advise the hotel of final numbers for the banquet, and (b) we need to lock down the publications print order.

Virtual memberships will still be accepted, but bear in mind that since we'll all be a bit busy with actual conrunning from the 29th on, that might be a bit catch as catch can if you leave it that late.

FAAN AWARD VOTING DEADLINE

Ballots must be received by midnight Pacific time, February 24th. It would be rather nice if COR41U members would turn out with a better than usual percentage, which in recent years has struggled to exceed 25%.

ARRIVAL

Most of you are flying in, so here's the deal with the airport:

Shuttles cost \$15 one-way, \$30 round trip per person to the hotel and their booths are located outside of baggage claim at both terminals. If you're on your own this is a good enough deal, but for two or more a taxi will be cheaper.

The taxi flat rate to the Gold Coast is \$29, and the cab stands are also adjacent to baggage claim - you'll have no trouble getting one. A small caveat is that there's a few drivers (usually lease rather than company employees) who will try to tell you that the flat rate isn't in effect for spurious reasons. That's both incorrect and

illegal - the flat rate applies whatever route is taken. Feel free to call in a complaint to the Taxicab Authority (whose phone number is displayed in every cab) if this happens, and inform the airport staff (there will be someone on duty at the cab line directing passengers) or if you've got to the hotel and are being scammed, tell *their* security immediately. I should stress that this isn't especially likely to happen, but still...

Rideshare: Seriously? If you do want to do that, I must advise that their rates are notoriously variable and often likely to be more than a proper taxi.

Car rental: If you're planning to rent a car when you get here, there's a large facility just south of the airport where most of the rental companies are located. There's a free shuttle from the airport to the rental center (follow the signs or ask an airport employee) which you may have to wait in line for, but ey, it's *free*.

Driving: We'll assume you all have GPS - either tap in 'Gold Coast' or the actual address: 4000 W.Flammingo Rd, Las Vegas 89103.

Self-parking at the Gold Coast is free.

WE'RE HERE, NOW WHAT?

Hotel check in time is 4pm, though you may be able to get in earlier, possibly with an additional fee. Con packages will be distributed in the consuite(s) which as far as we know right now will be rooms 1065 and 1066 (and all that?) but in any event will be located on the 10th floor and shouldn't be hard to find. Hopefully we'll be open by mid-afternoon.

Thursday evening boasts our welcome/Nic & Jen's anniversary/pizza party in the consuites.

WEATHER

We're expecting (well, Accuweather is expecting) partially cloudy conditions with daytime highs in the low 60s and overnight low 40s Fahrenheit. (17/6C)

TRANSPORT IN GENERAL

RTC buses aren't that bad of a way to get around. Single ride fare is \$4, a 2 hour pass \$6, 24-hour pass \$8, 3 day pass \$20.

Taxis are more usually the way to go, though. For first-time visitors to Vegas (or those who've forgotten the form), Vegas works on a stand system rather than a dispatch system. That is, taxis stage and wait at hotel locations (and the airport, of course) and are in fact not allowed to stop for a street hail. Thus there's a cab stand at the Gold Coast, although being a smaller property there aren't always that many staging there. The valet/bellman on duty will happily call one for you, or you can call a cab yourself. Naturally I suggest Lucky Cab (702-477-7555) since you'll talk to an actual dispatcher and not an AI somewhere in Indonesia. Calling Lucky also avails you of sister companies Western and Nellis, so it shouldn't take long to get a cab there for you if there aren't any waiting at the given moment.

HAT BRIBE

The Corflu tradition has always been to draw the name of the Guest of Honor at random (excluding those who've already been there, done that), and this fills many with paralysis and trepidation, so in times past a "hat bribe" was conceived for any eligible attendees to opt out in advance. For COR41U this will be \$20, payable to Jen any time before 7pm on Friday.

FRIDAY EXCURSION

Sadly we had to cancel the planned bus trip to the Ice Age Fossil Park as they're only open weekends at the moment. The time slot is still available for members to do as they please and visit any of the many other attractions Las Vegas offers. The first programme item Friday is at 3pm.

VISITING ARNIE KATZ

by JoHn Wesley Hardin

At 9ish on Saturday morning, we'll take a trip to visit Arnie Katz at the North Las Vegas Care Center. It's about a 15-minute freeway trip from the Gold Coast. Those who want to pay their respects to the Godfather of Vegas fandom will gather in the consuite at 8:45-9:00AM, we'll carpool to North Las Vegas and hang out until Arnie is sick of us, then come back to the hotel in time for lunch.

EATS!

Ask us for recommendations! Both the steakhouse and the Chinese/Dim Sum restaurants at the Gold Coast are deemed very good. Our extensive Chinatown on Spring Mountain Road is just a couple blocks north of the hotel, and walkable if you're fit and able (ie not me). As a general resource, <https://vegas.eater.com/> is very good.

As much as it goes against typical fannish disorganization and procrastination, we highly recommend that you make reservations ahead of time at your chosen posh venue, especially for dinner, but advisable at any time, since the best spots will be popular. If you turn up anywhere with 10 people and are either told there'll be a three-hour wait or simply "forget it", there will be those of us happy to say "I told you so"...

FANAC.ORG SCANNING STATION

This will be located in Hospitality 2 (the overflow) and will be operating at times determined by Joe and Edie according to demand and availability. Notices will be posted in the consuite - or just ask them.

DISCORD: A CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE GAME

by Claire Briailey

1. Welcome to Corflu; your adventure starts here. Are you:
 - a virtual member? *Go to 7*
 - a supporting member? *Go to 7*
 - an attending member? *Go to 5*
 - not a member yet? *Go to 2*
2. Do you want to participate in this year's Corflu?
 - Yes. *Go to 4*
 - No. *Go to 3*
3. You're welcome to play the rest of this game but it's not going to be very exciting for you.
 - I didn't mean it. *Go to 1 and try again...*
 - You never let me have any fun. *Go to 24*
4. At www.corflu.org you can find out how to join; if you're already a virtual or supporting member and

want to upgrade to another level of membership, just pay the difference. *Then go to 1*

5. Are you still planning to attend in person?

- Yes. *Go to 6*
- No (cue wailing and gnashing of teeth). *All is not lost: go to 7*

6. Hurrah! Do you want to be able to interact with other members beforehand, and during the con with those who can't be there in person?

- Yes. *Go to 8*
- No; it'll be quite bad enough having to see other people in person. *Go to 3*

7. Sorry we won't be seeing you in Las Vegas, but at least there's Discord.

- Yay. *Go to 10*
- Oh hell, no. *Go to 3*
- What's Discord? *Go to 9*

8. That's good; you'll be on the Discord server, then?

- Of course. *Go to 10*
- I would rather be eaten by ravens. *Go to 3*
- The what now? *Go to 9*

9. Discord is a way to chat to people in text which quite a lot of cons use these days and which Corflu's been doing since 2021 (thanks to Peter Sullivan). It enables members who are there in person and online to chat together, or leave messages for one another for later, before the con starts and while it's happening – even during the programme without disturbing the participants – in a way that's a bit like having a set of programme rooms or social hang-out areas for different conversations to be happening in at once. It's all written down (just ignore the voice channels) because we are fanzine fans, after all. *Now go to 10*

10. Have you already got a Discord account?

- Yes; I use it often. *Go to 11*
- Possibly, maybe even more than one, but I can't remember anything about it really. *Go to 12*
- No... *Go to 14*

11. Have you used Discord before on the device you'll be using during Corflu?

- Yep. *Go to 17*
- Nope. *Go to 13*
- Dunno. *Go to 12*

12. On the computer/tablet/phone/Etch-a-Sketch that you'll be using at the con, do what you think will enable you to access Discord if your account is co-operating.

- Who knew; that worked! *Go to 17*
- No, nothing. *Go to 15*

13. You have choices! At <https://discord.com> you can download a version for your computer or open Discord in your browser – or else you can go to your relevant app store and download the app for your device. *Then go to 12*

14. At <https://discord.com> you can create an account (via the Login button). If you hadn't done this before, you can download a version for your computer or open Discord in your browser – or else you can go to your relevant app store and download the app for your device.

- OK, I think that all worked. *Go to 17*
- I'm lost and hate everyone and everything. *Go to 16*

15. I hate to say this, but it might be easier to set up another account. *Go to 14*

16. Sorry.

- I still want to try to make this work. *Go to 22*
- Now I understand why some people don't like Discord. *Really, I'm sorry. Go to 3*

17. We're nearly there, honest. Are you already a member of the Corflu server?

- Yes, and I don't even know why I'm playing this game; I thought there'd be more puzzles. *Go to 19*
- No. *Go to 20*
- I have no idea. *Go to 18*

18. Open Discord and see whether there's a server icon with 'COR41U' on it.

- Oh yes, so there is. *Go to 19*
- Denied! *Go to 20*

19. So, looking at the Corflu server in Discord, can you already see categories for members, business of Corflu, and program? (Seriously, ignore the voice channels.)

- Yes. *Go to 23*
- No. *Go to 21*

20. Making sure you're logged into your Discord account, open the link <https://discord.gg/>

[cMKZy5axAS](#) on your relevant device. *Then go to 21*

21. Post in the #helpdesk channel to ask for access to the Corflu 41 channels. If you've only just joined (there'll be an announcement in the #welcome channel) you might want to wait for a couple of hours, if you can, so that I can spot you've arrived and give you access right away. Please don't be offended if I ask whether you're a member!

- Right, I'm in. *Go to 23*
- I still don't know what I'm doing here... *Go to 22*

22. In PR2 you'll find another article explaining a bit more about how to get set up, change your settings, and find out more detail and how to participate – without the distractions of this format.

- I see now. You got a bit carried away here, didn't you? *Maybe. Now go to 23*
- I'm still really stuck and I just want someone to explain. *Send me a direct message and I'll try to help. And go to 24, or if things worked out then maybe even back to 1...*

23. You're all set to hang out in the text channels and start chatting, then!

- I know. I've been doing that for months. *What are you like? Go to 24*
- Oh, now I'm not sure I'm not going to do something stupid. *Go to 22*

24. I hope to see you on Discord soon, and/or at the con, and if neither of those things work then a) sorry and b) I hope to see you somewhere else soon. *Now go to #consuite or the hospitality suite or wherever you usually go to grumble*

ZOOM ACCESS

by Tommy Ferguson

I think Corflu is getting quite good at this virtual thing! Since Concorde I've learned a thing or two about the hosting of the convention on Zoom and Nic has certainly picked up on this. I'll be dedicated tech support for the weekend.

You do need someone on site dedicated to making the set up work and, more importantly, keeping it working. At Corflu Craic we had the set-up all arranged, had tests the night before and on the day and yet, as is the way, there were still technical

issues! So even with the best will in the world there will always be hiccups – so bear with us.

So how will we present the con this time around?

- I'll be in charge, and have stepped back from some programme items, to ensure that I will be around to help out.
- I'm bringing all my own tech – from laptop, cables and cameras which I know will work. Given sods law however, I've asked Rob Jackson to bring some of his stuff as well.
- I'll be manning the decks, DJ style, as each of the programme items gets under way – ensuring that recording is happening, and that those who are zoomed in can see and hear everything.
- We'll use the same zoom number and passcode for all of the programme items – as well as setting the laptop and camera up in the Con Suite.
- I'm conscious there are people who prefer not to be on camera, or identified, so will factor that into consideration.
- New! I'm planning on having at least two, if not three, cameras on the go – one facing the panel / lectern, one facing the audience and another for tech support (I.e. facing me.) If this causes any issues I'll revert to one.

Check Your Zoom Version

If you have used Zoom before, be aware that it is surprisingly poor (considering it is an internet application) at “nagging” you to install the latest version. Go to the “Check for Updates” option in your current Zoom software and download the most recent version if it says an update is available.

Logging in

Follow the link to the Zoom channel, which will be e-mailed to all members (virtual, supporting and attending) just before the convention starts, and which will also be on the #key-links channel in Discord and the program book. If you haven't used Zoom before, it's best to create a free Zoom login (username and password).

Panel Items

For panel items: Due to lag, cumbersome nature of interaction and over hassle - I will mute users during these, both so we can all hear what's being

said in the programme room and so we can get a decent recording (though see auction below.)

You can have your video on or off during Panel items.

Panel item recordings will probably not be uploaded to YouTube until after the weekend, but we will put a notice on the Discord as they become available.

Auction

We expect to be able to take bids from remote buyers via Zoom as well as from the audience. The Zoom moderator will coordinate external bidders, and all bidders must notify the Zoom moderator they intend to bid. Make all bids in Zoom Text Chat first the moderator will relay these. Remote bids made via other media (e.g. on Discord) will not be noticed, as the Zoom moderator can only monitor one channel at once. More details will be announced on Discord and at the beginning of the auction itself.

Other Zoom Features

We will have Closed Captioning/Subtitles available in the main Zoom channel. You can switch them on or off for yourself using the icon along the bottom. Auto-generated subtitles have improved greatly, to the point where they are pretty usable most of the time, but they may still struggle with proper nouns and esoteric fannish terms.

Zoom Text Chat exists. Use it like you would use whispering in your neighbour's ear at a live panel. For questions during panels, put the question in Zoom Text Chat first, and unmute yourself when called. If we can work out how to do it without generating an audio feedback loop, we will aim to feed the Zoom audio into the PA for the programme room.

Time zones

Those of us at the con should have sympathy for those on Zoom in the UK or Elsewhere. They may mostly be going to bed when we are getting busy, so they might join us at odd hours. You can work out the numbers yourself.

(Thanks to Peter Sullivan from whose Corflu Concorde notes some of this was cribbed.)

CONSUIE NOTES

by Jacq Monahan

What could possibly top the 10th floor of the Las Vegas Gold Coast Hotel and Casino?

Not one, but two Consuites, one main and one satellite right across the hall. We'll feed and (fire) water you, snack you and heart attack you – calories don't count in Sin City. From Friday to Monday, you'll nosh on all manner of chips and candy, cheese and fruit, cookies and pastries, and enough hot and cold caffeine to wash it all down. There will be ice in a bathtub to chill everything out.

A preliminary schedule of Consuite events includes:

- A Friday Retirement Celebration in the evening.
- A Sandwich Saturday taking place at noon.
- A Saturday Beer Tasting during late night – NOT to interfere with Just a Minac!
- Sunday morning pre-banquet bites.

Of course, the coffee, tea, sodas, beer, and spirits will flow throughout the weekend.

Show up with an appetite and we'll keep the main suite full of munchables from the early morn until late night (hours to be determined). We've got enough personnel to man the Consuite(s) for maximum coverage. This year's motto: **“TO SERVE FAN”**

BABY BEAR'S PROGRAMME

by Sandra Bond

I don't see very much point in touting the joys of the convention programme to you in the final PR a mere week or two before the actual convention. After all, if you're reading, we have you hooked now; you're either attending in person, most likely, or if not that, probably virtually.

On the other hand --

On the other hand, I think we have a *bloody* good programme for you. Some past Corflus have failed to negotiate the slalom between Daddy Bear (Too Bloody Much On, sometimes even multiple

streams in the same room) and Mummy Bear (Everyone In The Bar All The Time).

At Corflu 41 we are Baby Bear, and our programme is Just Right: just enough to entertain and provide food for thought, without throwing things at you every second of every day and giving you the choice of fearful missing-out or running yourself ragged trying to experience everything. What's more, we are focusing -- insofar as Corflu programming ever has a focus -- on the future of Corflu and its community; because we think Corflu is a tradition worthy of perpetuation, and we want to help perpetuate it. We hope you'll agree, and chip into this worthwhile debate.

Mark Plummer Himself allows as how it looks a Pretty Interesting Programme, and it would take a more daring fan than I to get into a debate with Mark over that (or, indeed, over anything...)

AUCTION NOTES

by Andy Hooper

Here's some notes about the fanzine auction at Corflu 41: I'm working on a catalog of the fanzines already donated to Nic by Alan White and we should have some rare and novel items available for bid. I liked the way that John Purcell ran the auction at his Corflu in College Station -- he put some "extra" lots out on a table with sheets for recording bids, which allowed us to sell a lot more fanzines than we could have got through in the "live" auction. I hope to do something similar at Corflu 41.

So, should you bring a bag or box of fanzines with you to donate to the auction? Sure, but be aware that I might end up selling some of them on eBay after the convention. There's only so much we can get through in 90 minutes, but finding a new home for old fanzines is pretty much my full-time job these days. Proceeds will help to pay for Corflu 41 but could also be passed on to Corflu 42 and the Corflu 50. If you have questions about a potential auction item, you can write to me at fanmailaph@aol.com.

SUNDAY BANQUET

In good old Vegas tradition, we're offering a substantial Italian lunch banquet, consisting of:
Caesar Salad with Parmesan Cheese & Croutons
Pasta Salad

Baked Ziti with Sausage

Chicken Marsala

Cheese Tortellini with Alfredo Sauce

Chef's Selection of Vegetables

Ciabatta Rolls

Tiramisu Cake and Mini Cannolis

Freshly brewed coffee, decaffeinated coffee, tea, and iced tea.

The banquet will be set up adjacent to our main program room as apparently it's easier (and cheaper!) for the hotel to do this rather than do a reset of theater style to banquet rounds.

AFTER-PARTY

For the exceptionally hardy (and possibly clinically insane) there will be an informal after-party at Nic & Jen's house, 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas 89142, at 6pm, Monday March 4th.

If you come by taxi the dispatcher and driver will ask you for the nearest major cross streets, which are Nellis and Vegas Valley. That cab fare should be around \$35-40. If driving yourselves the best route from the Gold Coast is via Desert Inn Road, as your GPS should be telling you.

We'll see how many show up and order take-out from the Great Greek just up the road.



MEMBER LIST

ATTENDING

James Bacon **

Lenny Bailes

John Bartelt

Tom Becker

John D. Berry

S&ra Bond

Jeanne Bowman

William Breiding

Claire Brialey

Bill Burns

Mary Burns

Linda Bushyager

Ron Bushyager

Chris Clay

Ross Chamberlain

Rich Coad

Tee Cochran

Eli Cohen

Leigh Edmonds

Jen Farey

Nic Farey

Doug Faunt

Tommy Ferguson

Lori Forbes

Aileen Forman

Keith Freeman

Linda Gerstein

Eileen Gunn

John Wesley Hardin

Roy Hessinger

David Hodson

Andy Hooper

Lucy Huntzinger

Rob Jackson

Jerry Kaufman

Gail Kolthoff

AC Kyle

Gary Mattingly

Petrea Mitchell **

Jacq Monahan

Mary Ellen Moore

Murray Moore

Ulrika O'Brien

Mark Olson

Mark Plummer

Carrie Root

Alan Rosenthal

Nigel Rowe

Karen Schaffer

Joe Siclari

Cora Silva *

Nathan Silva *

Spike

Edie Stern

Geri Sullivan

James Taylor

Suzanne Tompkins

Pat Virzi

Michael Ward

Alan White *

DeDee White *

Ted White

Ben Wilson

Cathi Wilson

* Sunday only

** Not in-person

SUPPORTING

Zi Graves

John Hertz

Marcin Klak

Kerry Kyle

David Langford

Perry Middlemiss

Heath Row

Alison Scott

VIRTUAL

Steven Cain

Rowan Jenkins

Hal O'Brien