

Angels Flight

USS Angeles / March 2020



Chateau Picard

Angelas explores 'Star Trek' legend's vineyard
Stories and photos, pages 20-25, 35; inside the villa, Page 36



USS Angeles

ussangeles.org, www.sfi.org

Send renewals to Jennifer Cole at
1741 Centinela Ave., No. 105
Santa Monica, CA 90404.
Renewal costs \$12. Make checks
payable to the USS Angeles.

COMMANDING OFFICER

Fleet Capt. Dave Mason
805-570-4325
davemason1701@gmail.com

FIRST OFFICER/ MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Adm. Jennifer Cole
ussangeles@gmail.com

SECOND OFFICER/RECRUITMENT

Cmdr. Jeremy Kranz
mr.jeremykranz@gmail.com

ALSO ON THE COMMAND STAFF:

Janice Willcocks (Founder), Capt. Gloria
Rodriguez, Cmdr. Karen Hoagland,
Cmdr. Chris Mulrooney and Lt. j.g.
Lisa Sobien (Assistant Chiefs of
Communications).

Angels Flight

Angels Flight is the quarterly newsletter of
the USS Angeles, the Los Angeles chapter
of STARFLEET International, Region 4.

EDITOR

Dave Mason

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Lisa Sobien

COPY EDITOR

Janice Sobien

REPORTER

Dave Mason

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Ryan Bondy, Sue-Ellen Fox,
Lisa Sobien, Dave Mason

ARTIST

Janice Sobien

ON THE COVER: Jon Lane visits
Adm. Jean-Luc Picard's home, aka the
villa at Sunstone Vineyards & Winery
in Santa Ynez. **Photo by Dave Mason**

Stories, original photos © 2020 by the USS
Angeles



Our mascot

Magpie has a lot of respect for USS Angeles members. She always looks up to us! She joined the Command Staff during its Jan. 4 meeting at Starbase Karen, where CS members Karen Hoagland and Chris Mulrooney live with Magpie. For a photo of the Command Staff, see **Page 10**.

Dave Mason/
Angels Flight

Data stream

Renewals

■ March

Emery "EJ" Jakab
Chris Mulrooney
Candi Ogasawara
Lisa Sobien

■ April

Cliff Gardner
Jon Lane

■ May

James C. Jones II
Brian Nomi
Jack Plummer

Birthdays

■ March

5: Karen Hoagland
9: Emery "EJ" Jakab
27: Paul Szymborski

■ April

12: Dakota C. Jones
20: Jennifer Cole

■ May

25: Paul Lester

New members

Kristine and Dennis
Cherry

STARFLEET

■ To renew with
STARFLEET or to
join the international
association, please go
to www.sfi.org.

— *Compiled by*
Adm. Jennifer Cole

Online



Website

Scan this on your
hard copy or click
on this link:
ussangeles.org.

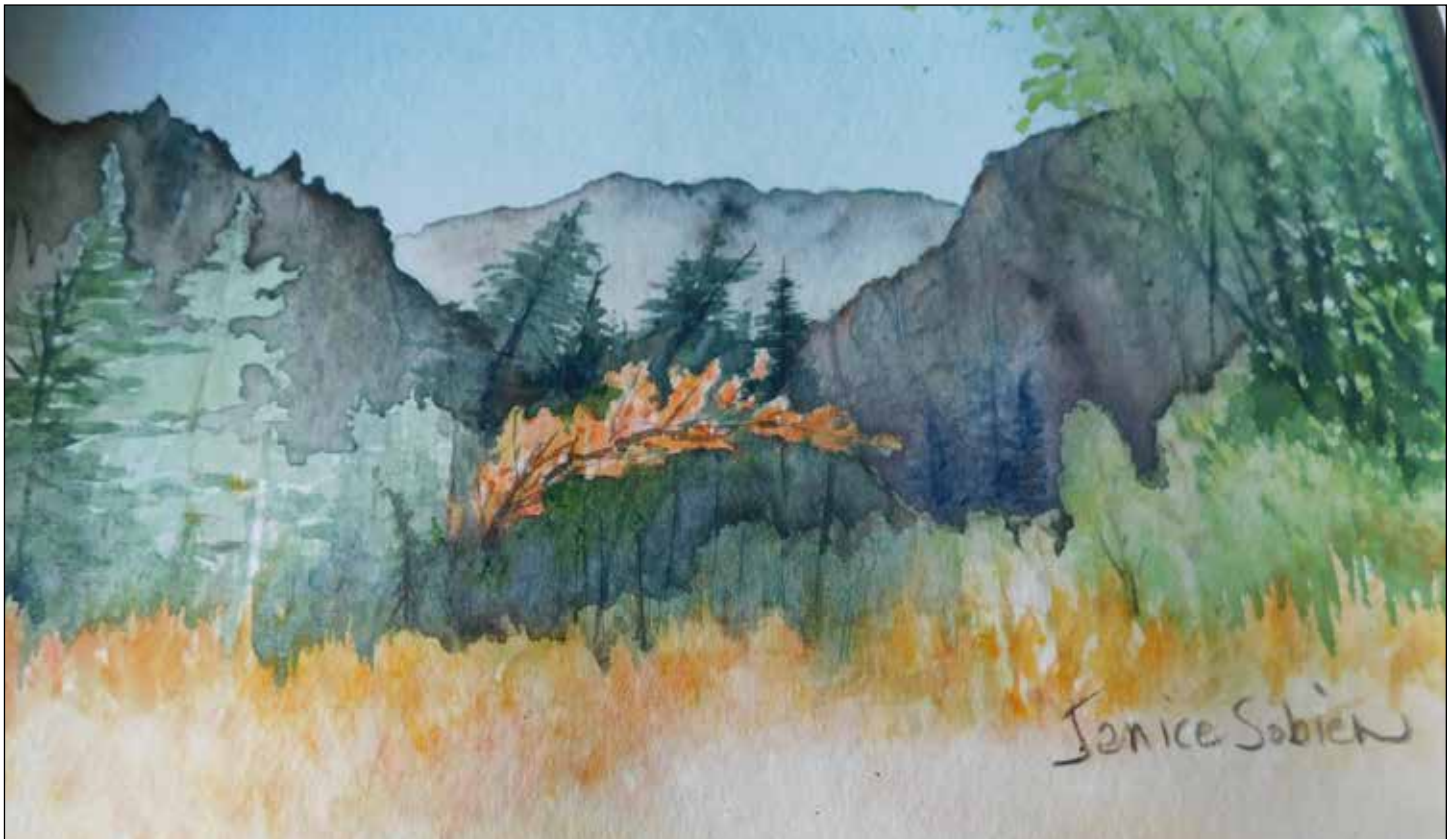
Webmaster Chris
Mulrooney recently
rebuilt the website,
and Jeremy Kranz
assisted him. Dave
Mason and Lisa
Sobien are also on
the website team as
content producers.



In this issue

USS ANGELES

 NCC-71840



Watercolor painting © 2019 by Janice Sobien

World of 'M*A*S*H' and 'Planet of the Apes'

Janice Sobien, a USS Angeles member and a professional watercolorist, painted this scene of Malibu Creek State Park when she was at the Visitors Center during our club's November mission. The Angeles returned there in January. **Page 26**



Lucasfilm



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

Use the Force, Luke and Janice

■ Far left, Mark Hamill is back as Luke in "Star Wars: Episode IX – The Rise of Skywalker." The Angeles saw it in West Hills.

Page 31

■ Left, Janice Willcocks holds onto a "Star Wars" board game at the USS Angeles Winter Holiday Party.

Page 14



Calendar

March

14: The USS Angeles 25th Anniversary Party at 2 p.m. at Founder Janice Willcocks' home, 4221 Via Alondra, Palos Verdes Estates 90274. "Star Trek" makeup legend Michael Westmore will answer our questions on a speaker phone. Watch for the link to the SignUp Genius page in an email from Potluck Coordinator Lisa Sobien.

28: Mission to see "Hollywood Dream Machines: Vehicles of Science Fiction and Fantasy" exhibit at noon at the Petersen Automotive Museum, 6060 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90036. The exhibit features everything from the Batmobile in ABC's 1966 "Batman" series to the DeLorean in the 1980s "Back to the Future" movies. Tickets cost \$16 for general admission, \$14 for seniors and \$11 for children. Parking costs \$17. For more information, go to www.petersen.org.

April

4: Command Staff meeting. Send suggestions for activities to Dave Mason at davemason1701@gmail.com. You also can contact any Command Staff member.

10-12: Mission to Wonder Con at the Anaheim Convention Center, the filming site for Starfleet headquarters on "Star Trek: Picard." The center is at 800 W. Katella Ave., Anaheim 92802. Dave Mason will be there all three days. To join Dave, please email him at davemason1701@gmail.com. For more information, go to www.comic-con.org/wc.

18: The USS Angeles will gather at noon for lunch at the California Science Center, 700 Exposition Drive, Los Angeles 90037. Afterward, we'll visit the space shuttle Endeavour and the



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

The Batmobile from the 1966 "Batman" series graces a Jean, Nev., casino that Dave Mason and Lisa Sobien visited last summer. The USS Angeles will see the Batmobile March 28 at Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles.

Events at a glance

March 14: Angeles anniversary party in Palos Verdes Estates

March 28: Sci-fi cars exhibit at the Petersen Automotive Museum

April 4: Command Staff meeting

April 10-12: Wonder Con in Anaheim

April 18: California Science Center in Los Angeles

May 1-3: Nichelle Nichols Farewell Convention in Burbank

May 8: "Black Widow" screening in West Hills

May 22-25: STARFLEET International Conference in San Mateo

June 13: "Star Trek: Exploring New Worlds" exhibit in Los Angeles

June 27: "Wonder Woman" screening and mission to The Grove and the Original Farmers Market.

■ Check for calendar updates at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ANGELES-CHAT> or ussangeles.org or www.facebook/groups/angeles. You may also contact Dave Mason at davemason1701@gmail.com and 805-570-4325 or Lisa Sobien at lisa_sobien@att.net and 714-612-0571.

various permanent exhibits. We'll also see "Touch the Stars 3D" at 3:30 p.m. on the IMAX screen. The IMAX film is about the robotic spacecraft used to explore our solar system and the galaxy beyond. Admission to the museum

is free, but fees are charged for IMAX movies. "Touch the Stars 3D" costs \$8.95 for general admission and \$7.95 for museum members, with discounts for students and seniors. For more

See CALENDAR on Page 5



Westmore to return

“Star Trek” makeup legend Michael Westmore will speak to the USS Angeles during our 25th anniversary party.

Westmore plans to call us and talk on a speaker phone at the event, set for March 14.

We’ll meet at 2 p.m. at Founder Janice Willcocks’ home, 4221 Via Alondra, Palos Verdes Estates.

At the party, we can talk to Michael about his work on “The Next Generation,” “Deep Space Nine,” “Voyager” and “Enterprise,” as well as previous TV shows and movies.

We had great chats with Westmore when he spoke to us by phone in 2019 at Jeremy Kranz’s house and in person in 2018 at the same place. We appreciate Michael talking with us again.

— Fleet Capt. Dave Mason



Michael Westmore addresses the USS Angeles in 2018. Lisa Sobien/ Angels Flight

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 4

information, go to california-science-center.org.

May

1-3: Nichelle Nichols Farewell Convention at the Marriott Burbank, 2500 N. Hollywood Way, Burbank. The convention begins with a party on the evening of May 1. Tickets cost \$40 for general admission on May 2 or 3, \$150 for a banquet on May 2 and \$10 for the May 1 party. Other ticket packages vary from \$75 to \$1,500. To purchase, go to uhura.space.

8: Mission to see Marvel’s “Black Widow” at the AMC Fallbrook 7, 6731 Fallbrook Ave. West Hills 91307. The time will be announced later. Afterward, we will have dinner at the nearby

Chile’s. “Black Widow” stars Scarlett Johansson as Natasha Romanoff in her quests between the Marvel movies “Captain America: Civil War” and “Avengers: Infinity War.” For more information, go to <https://www.amctheatres.com/movie-theatres/west-hills/amc-fallbrook-7>.

22-25: STARFLEET will hold its annual International Conference at the Marriott San Francisco Airport Hotel in San Mateo. Registration includes admission to BayCon 2020. The discounted price for STARFLEET members is \$75 until March 9 with the promo code, BOLDYGO. To register, go to ic.sfi.org/2020reg.

June

13: USS Angeles members will see “Star Trek: Exploring New Worlds” at noon at the Skirball Cultural Center,

2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles 90049. The exhibit, which opens April 30, will feature more than 100 rare artifacts, set pieces, props, photos and interactive videos honoring the 50-plus year history of “Star Trek.” Admission to the museum and the “Star Trek” exhibit costs \$20 for general admission and \$17 for seniors 65 and older, students with ID and children 13 and older. The price is \$7 for children ages 2 to 12. We’ll start our away mission with lunch at the center’s Zeidler’s Cafe or may pick up a grab-and-go meal at Zeidler’s Cart. For more information, go to www.skirball.org.

27: Mission to see “Wonder Woman 1984” at Pacific Theatres at The Grove, 189 The Grove Drive, Los Angeles 90036. While there, we will explore The Grove and the neighboring Original Farmers Market, 6333 W. Third St. Time to be announced.

— Fleet Capt. Dave Mason

Future missions

Sci-fi cars await USS Angeles

By Fleet Capt. Dave Mason

Steer clear of that DeLorean!
Unless you want to go back to the future.

The USS Angeles will see the “Back to the Future” car and other vehicles at the “Hollywood Dream Machines: Vehicles of Science Fiction and Fantasy” exhibit at the Petersen Automotive Museum, 6060 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles.

The Angeles will meet at noon March 28 at Drago Ristorante in the museum. (If the Italian restaurant proves too pricey, we can look elsewhere for lunch.) Afterward we’ll visit the “Hollywood Dream Machines” exhibit, which is billed as the largest display ever of cars from sci-fi movies.

Besides the DeLorean DMC-12 from the 1980s “Back to the Future” movies, we’ll see two Batmobiles, one from the 1966-68 ABC series “Batman” and the other from the 1989 “Batman” movie starring Michael Keaton.

We’ll also see a hover car from “Blade Runner,” the TRON Light Cycle from the “Tron” movies and vehicles from “Mad Max.”

And we’ll look at the museum’s other exhibits of present and past cars such as the 1947 Ferrari 125s, the first Ferrari; and exhibits such as “Alternating Currents: The Fall and Rise of Electric Vehicles.”

The museum’s first floor is dedicated to the artistry of cars. The second floor focuses on the technology, design and other aspects of the automotive.

The third floor is all about automotive history, including the cars in Hollywood.

Tickets cost \$16 for general admission, \$14 for seniors and \$11 for children.

Parking costs \$17.

For more information, go to www.petersen.org.



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

Fans dress as Zatanna, Captain Marvel and Black Panther at Wonder Con.

Angeles to head to Wonder Con

By Fleet Capt. Dave Mason

The USS Angeles is heading to Starfleet headquarters for Wonder Con!

The convention will take place April 10-12 at the Anaheim Convention Center, which served as Starfleet HQ’s exterior and reception area in “Star Trek: Picard.”

I will be there all three days. If you would like to join me, please email me at davemason1701@gmail.com.

The convention center is at 800 W. Katella Ave., Anaheim, CA 92802. It’s appropriate that “Star Trek: Picard” was filmed there, given that

fans have been dressing in “Star Trek” uniforms for years at Wonder Con.

The convention is a more user-friendly version of Comic Con International: San Diego.

There are panels similar to those in San Diego, but without the endlessly long lines.

Many of the most popular panels, such as the traditional Wonder Con session for “Marvel’s Agents of Shield,” are held in the center’s massive arena.

For more about Wonder Con, go to www.comic-con.org/wc.

Future missions



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

Nichelle Nichols awaits fans at her table in the dealers room at Wonder Con in 2019. Known for her groundbreaking role as Uhura, Nichols will be honored during the Nichelle Nichols Farewell Convention.

Convention to honor Uhura

By Fleet Capt. Dave Mason

A “Star Trek” and NASA legend will be honored when the Nichelle Nichols Farewell Convention takes place May 1-3.

Nichols, many other “Star Trek” actors and several USS Angeles members will gather at the convention at Marriott Burbank, 2500 N. Hollywood Way, Burbank.

Nichols has inspired fans in her groundbreaking role as Lt. (and later Cmdr.) Uhura, the Enterprise’s communications officer. She was one of the first black actresses to be in a non-stereotypical role, and that impressed everyone from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to a girl who would grow up to be a “Next Generation” actress, Whoopi Goldberg.

After “Star Trek” was canceled, Nichols continued to chart a course in the stars.

She became a contractor for NASA and successfully recruited the first women and minorities who became astronauts.

In addition to Nichols, “Star Trek” guests at the convention are Walter Koenig (Chekov), Marina Sirtis (Deanna Troi), Nana Visitor (Maj. and later Col. Kira on “Deep Space Nine”), Doug Jones (Saru on “Discovery”), Sonequa Martin-Green (Cmdr. Michael Burnham on “Discovery”) and Rekha Sharma (Cmdr. Landry on “Discovery”).

Martin-Green and Wil Wheaton (Wesley Crusher on The “Next Generation”) will speak at the May 2 banquet in Nichols’ honor.

Tickets cost \$40 for general admission on May 2 or 3, \$150 for a banquet on May 2 and \$10 for a Friday night party.

Other ticket packages vary from \$75 to \$1,500.

Angeles to see ‘Black Widow’

Black Widow is finally getting her own movie, and the USS Angeles will see the popular Avenger in action.

We’ll watch Marvel’s “Black Widow” May 8 at the AMC Fallbrook 7 in West Hills. The time will be announced later.

Afterward, we will have dinner at the nearby Chile’s.

“Black Widow” stars Scarlett Johansson as Natasha Romanoff in her quests between the Marvel movies “Captain America: Civil War” (2016) and “Avengers: Infinity War” (2018). She sacrificed her life to save half of the lives in the universe in “Avengers: End Game” (2019).

Others in the “Black Widow” include Rachel Weisz, Florence Pugh as Yelena, David Harbour, Ray Winstone and O-T Fagbenle.

The movie is directed by Ned Benson and written by Cate Shortland. It is considered the first stop in the Marvel Cinematic Universe’s new Phase 4 saga of films. Future movies include “The Falcon and the Winter Soldier” and “WandaVision,” both set to be released this fall.

— Fleet Capt. Dave Mason



Marvel Studios

Natasha Romanoff (Scarlett Johansson) fights to save the galaxy in “Avengers: Infinity War” (2018). Natasha will return in “Black Widow.”

Future missions

STARFLEET brings its IC to West Coast

It's a rare event for the West Coast, but STARFLEET is holding its annual International Conference in San Mateo.

USS Angeles members plan to be at the IC, set for May 22-25 at the Marriott San Francisco Airport Hotel in San Mateo. Registration includes admission to BayCon 2020, a fan-run convention at the same hotel.

The IC is the event where STARFLEET conducts its annual business, presents awards and holds related activities.

The discounted price for STARFLEET members is \$75 until March 9 with the promo code, **BOLDYGO**.

To register, go to ic.sfi.org/2020reg.

— *Fleet Capt. Dave Mason*

'Wonder Woman' sequel awaits us

The USS Angeles will watch "Wonder Woman 1984" June 27 at Pacific Theatres at The Grove, 189 The Grove Drive, Los Angeles 90036. The time will be announced.

While there, we will explore The Grove and the neighboring Original Farmers Market, 6333 W. Third St.

"Wonder Woman 1984" stars Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman/Diana Prince and Chris Pine (the new Capt. Kirk) as Steve Trevor, Pedro Pascal as Maxwell Lord and Kristen Wiig as the villainous Cheetah. Connie Nielsen plays Hippolyta, Diana Prince's mother.

Gadot did a great job playing Wonder Woman in the first "Wonder Woman" movie (2017), "Justice League" (2018) and "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" (2016). She's a worthy successor to Lynda Carter of the 1970s CBS series "Wonder Woman."

"Wonder Woman 1984" is co-written by its director, Patty Jenkins, and Geoff Johns, a former president and chief creative officer of DC Comics. Fans know Johns as a talented writer of various DC Comics books.

For more information, go to www.pacifictheatres.com/grove.

— *Fleet Capt. Dave Mason*



CBS Studios

A new Skirball Cultural Center exhibit will honor the legacy of "Star Trek" and its heroes, including Spock (Leonard Nimoy) and Capt. Kirk (William Shatner). The Angeles will see the exhibit on June 13.

Exhibit explores 'Star Trek'

USS Angeles members will see "Star Trek: Exploring New Worlds" at noon June 13 at the Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles.

The exhibit, which opens April 30, will feature more than 100 rare artifacts, set pieces, props, photos and interactive videos honoring the 50-plus year history of "Star Trek."

Admission to the museum costs \$12 for general admission and \$9 for seniors 65 and older, students with ID and children 13 and older. The price is \$7 for children ages 2 to 12.

We'll start our away mission with lunch at the center's Zeidler's Cafe or may pick up a grab-and-go meal at Zeidler's Cart. (The museum closes at 5, so we want to allow enough time to the "Star Trek" exhibit and other attractions.)

For more information, go to www.skirball.org, which describes the center as "a place of meeting guided by the Jewish tradition of welcoming the stranger and inspired by the American democratic ideals of freedom and equality."

— *Fleet Capt. Dave Mason*

Suggestions welcome

The USS Angeles welcomes suggestions for activities.

Please email them to Commanding Officer Dave Mason at davemason1701@gmail.com.

[gmail.com](mailto:davemason1701@gmail.com).

You also can contact other Command Staff members.

You'll find their names on **Page 2**.



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

Jeremy Kranz is succeeding Janice Willcocks as the Angeles Second Officer.

Jeremy named Second Officer

By Fleet Capt. Dave Mason

Jeremy Kranz is the new Second Officer of the USS Angeles.

I appointed Jeremy to succeed Janice Willcocks, who recently stepped down from the position but will serve, at her request, as a non-voting member of the Command Staff.

Of course, Janice will always have the title of Founder for her inspired work in starting the USS Angeles in 1995. And she plans to continue to host Angeles parties such as the March 14 event marking our club's 25th anniversary.

Previously, Jeremy was the Angeles



JANICE

activities. Jeremy will also assist in other areas and write stories for Angels Flight.

Congratulations, Jeremy! And thank you, Janice, for all that you have done for our club!

Recruitment Officer. As Second Officer, he will continue to do his recruitment work and something else he's already done on his own initiative: develop ideas for new

Michael Garcia named VRC

Michael Garcia has been named the new vice regional coordinator for STARFLEET's Region 4.

Michael, the former vice commander of STARFLEET, will now focus his attention on a region that consists of California, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii. STARFLEET is an international association of which the USS Angeles is a longtime member.

Michael was appointed to his new Region 4 position by David Nottage, the regional coordinator who last year ran unopposed for re-election.

Michael succeeds Bob Van Tuinen.

"Mr. Van Tuinen served with dignity and great participation," David wrote in an email sent to Region 4 commanding officers. David said Michael's duties will include overseeing the regional awards.

Congratulations, Michael!

— Fleet Capt. Dave Mason



Dave Mason/Angels Flight
Michael Garcia is the new VRC.

Scanning...



Lisa Sobien/Angels Flight

USS Angeles Command Staff

The USS Angeles Command Staff gathers for its quarterly meeting Jan. 4 at Karen Hoagland's home in West Hills. From left are (front row) Karen Hoagland with her dog Magpie, Dave Mason and Jennifer Cole; (back row) Jeremy Kranz, Gloria Rodriguez, Janice Willcocks, Chris Mulrooney and Lisa Sobien.

Janice Sobien now copy editor

Janice Sobien is a new copy editor for Angels Flight.

When help was needed for the December issue, Janice volunteered to edit stories and review the final layouts.

She did a great job, and her position has become permanent.

Janice, who also likes to take pictures, is a professional watercolorist, and her beautiful painting of Malibu Creek State Park appears on **Page 3**.

Welcome to Angels Flight, Janice!

– Fleet Capt. Dave Mason



Janice Sobien receives her promotion to crewman from Dave Mason. Janice, a new member, has shown initiative and volunteered to help Angels Flight as a copy editor.
Lisa Sobien/
Angels Flight



In memoriam

D.C. FONTANA (1939-2019)

Spock, you owe her

Writer went to the heart of characters

By Fleet Capt. Dave Mason

Dorothy Catherine Fontana knew what made Mr. Spock tick. The Sussex, N.J., native demonstrated her understanding of him and other characters in some of the best “Star Trek” episodes.

And she wrote five episodes during the first season of “The Next Generation,” including the pilot that she co-wrote with creator Gene Roddenberry, “Encounter at Farpoint.”

She also co-wrote the episode “Dax” for “Deep Space Nine” and a “Star Trek” novel about Spock’s first mission on the Enterprise, “Vulcan’s Glory.”

D.C. Fontana died Dec. 2 in Burbank after a brief illness. She was 80.

The USS Angeles dims its lights in her honor.

Fontana aspired since her childhood to be a novelist and began her career as a writer of horror and adventure stories. After earning an associate of arts degree at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, she entered



From the internet

D.C. Fontana wrote about Kirk and Spock in great “Star Trek” episodes.

Hollywood as a junior secretary at Screen Gems, known for 1960s TV shows such as “Bewitched.”

Fontana beamed up to the “Star Trek” universe as Roddenberry’s executive secretary, but she soon became a writer on the show. The second episode of “Star Trek” that aired, “Charlie X,” was written by Fontana, who used the gender-neutral initials “D.C.” to succeed in the sexist,

male-dominated TV and writing industries.

Fontana became the “Star Trek” story editor and wrote episodes that showed her elaborate knowledge of how Spock, Kirk, Dr. McCoy and the rest thought, talked and interacted. That said, she knew when to break the rules, when to let the characters guide her and when to do both.

See D.C. FONTANA on Page 13

In memoriam

RENÉ AUBERJONNOIS (1940-2019)

Odo and more

'DS9' actor proved he was full of character

By Fleet Capt. Dave Mason

Just like Odo, René Auberjonois was a lovable curmudgeon.

He cracked jokes and made sarcastic comments without smiling at "Star Trek" conventions in Las Vegas. His wit was concise, dry and sharp.

Auberjonois let other actors do most of the talking when he shared the convention stage with them. He listened intently, and when he did talk, he got right to the point.

"I never had to take William Shatner out to the woodshed," he said last summer at the Vegas con about working with the "Star Trek" actor on "Boston Legal."

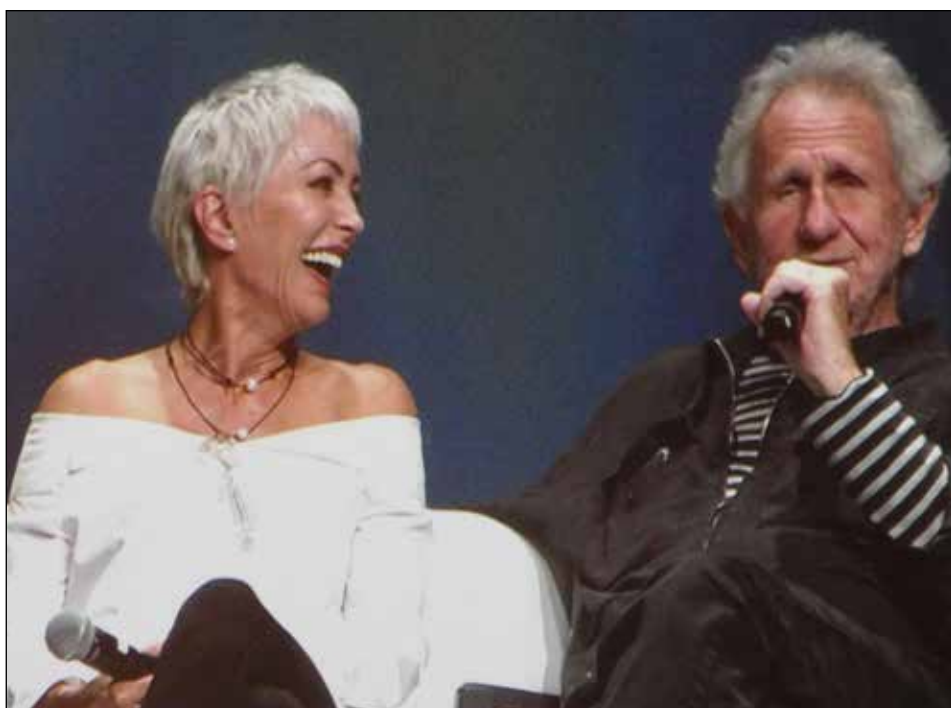
The audience laughed at the short line because fellow "Deep Space Nine" actor James Darren (Vic Fontaine) had just referred to the "woodshed" when he explained how he stood up to Shatner during a conversation on the set of ABC's "T.J. Hooker."



AUBERJONNOIS

Sitting on stage, Auberjonois made the joke and soon put down his mike. He knew how to quickly but gracefully glide into and out of the spotlight.

I realized Auberjonois' modesty when I went up to his table in the dealers room in Vegas in 2018 and asked him about his latest projects. He seemed to always be working. He shrugged his shoulders and simply



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

René Auberjonois (Odo) makes his fellow "Deep Space Nine" cast member Nana Visitor (Maj. Nerys Kira) laugh during his final appearance at a Las Vegas "Star Trek" convention. .

said, "Oh, I don't know. You can look me up on imdb."

It was a short and sweet answer from an actor who could take a few words and make them last.

Auberjonois died Dec. 8 in Los Angeles from lung cancer. He was 79.

The USS Angeles dims its lights in his honor.

The character actor was both patient and direct. Fans discovered that when he was on convention stages and taught audiences how to pronounce last name, which is Swiss.

It's "oh-BEAR-shun-wah."

Auberjonois was born June 1, 1940, in New York City.

He was the son of Princess Laure Louise Napoléone Eugénie Caroline (Murat), who was born in Paris, and Fernand Auberjonois, a native of Switzerland.

It was a family of artists, which included everyone from a well-known Swiss painter, Auberjonois' grandfather, to his father, a Pulitzer Prize-nominated writer and Cold War

See ODO on Page 13

In memoriam

D.C. FONTANA

Continued from Page 11

In “Journey to Babel,” she explored Spock’s half-human, half-Vulcan background as he weighs the safety of his ship against the survival of his father, Sarek. In “This Side of Paradise,” she found a logical reason to make Spock smile. Spores allowed the Vulcan to fall in love, and the story allowed actor Leonard Nimoy to explore his character’s repressed emotions.

In “Friday’s Child,” Fontana examined the challenge of interacting with a pre-warp culture.

She resigned as the “Star Trek” story editor at the start of the third season to focus entirely on writing episodes for

“Star Trek” and other shows.

Fans and critics agree that the third season was the worst for the original series with episodes such as “Spock’s Brain.” But Fontana brought some relief by writing one of the season’s best episodes, “The Enterprise Incident.” That is the story in which Kirk (William Shatner) retrieves a cloaking device from a Romulan ship while Spock distracts the commander by showing romantic interest in her.

But it turns out that Spock’s feelings



NIMOY

for the commander, played brilliantly by Joanne Linville, are genuine.

Once again, Fontana made Spock surprise us.

Later, she joined fans in their celebration of “Star Trek” by writing an episode of the independent series “Star Trek: New Voyages.” The 2006 episode was “To Serve All My Days.”

She also became a senior lecturer at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles and a Writers Guild of America board member.

Fontana, whose TV writing career included “The Six Million Dollar Man,” “Bonanza,” “Dallas” and “Babylon 5,” will be remembered for her impact on the “Star Trek” universe.

Certainly because of her stories, Spock was never the same again.

ODO

Continued from Page 12

foreign correspondent.

After World War II, Auberjonois and his family moved to Paris, where he decided at age 6 to become an actor.

The reason? He had just conducted his classmates in a performance of “Do You Know the Muffin Man?” As he took a bow, he realized he hadn’t really been conducting. He was acting. And he was hooked.

In the U.S., renowned actor John Houseman was among Auberjonois’ neighbors and gave him his first theater job at age 16 as an apprentice at a Stratford, Conn., theater.

Auberjonois went on to graduate from Carnegie-Mellon University. He later acted with theater companies such as the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles.

His first Broadway role came in 1969 when he played a flamboyant, gay fashion designer in “Coco,” starring Katharine Hepburn as Coco Chanel. He won a Tony for the part.

Around that time, Auberjonois also played Father Mulcahy, the chaplain in the 1970 “M*A*S*H” movie, which

In some of Odo’s most powerful scenes, Rene Auberjonois demonstrated the character’s passion for doing the right thing.

was filmed at the Malibu Creek State Park site that the Angeles recently visited.

In a nod to the “M*A*S*H” role, the writers of the “Deep Space Nine” pilot had Odo calling out that a doctor was needed to help a patient who was lying on the promenade. Mulcahy made the same call to get a doctor for a soldier on the ground in the “M*A*S*H” movie.

That was one of the stories that Auberjonois told at conventions.

Auberjonois also served as Clayton Endicott III, the self-important but insecure chief of staff on “Benson.” That was the 1980s “Soap” spinoff in which star Robert Guillaume’s character rose from a butler to lieutenant governor during seven seasons.

Auberjonois also was a presence in animated movies. He was the voice of the chef who sings “Les Poissons,” a

gruesome song about preparing fish for cooking, in “The Little Mermaid.”

In the early 2000s, he played the nonsense managing partner on “Boston Legal.”

More recently, he played an international security official in several episodes of CBS’ “Madame Secretary.”

On “Deep Space Nine,” Auberjonois played a mysterious character: Odo, the station’s shapeshifting security chief. Odo didn’t tolerate fools, but Auberjonois showed the emotions beneath that tough surface, especially his secret love for Major Kira Nerys and his empathy for others.

In some of Odo’s most powerful scenes, Auberjonois demonstrated the character’s passion for doing the right thing.

His character evolved greatly during the series’ seven seasons, and Nerys and he became a couple. In the end, he sacrificed having a life with her to lead his people after the Dominion War.

In his last scene on “Deep Space Nine,” Odo walked into the giant ocean that was the Great Link as Kira watched from a rock. As usual, Auberjonois effectively walked into and out of the spotlight.



Gifts & thefts

Angeles celebrates winter holidays with enthusiastic party

By Fleet Capt. Dave Mason

NORTHRIDGE — Janice Willcocks held on tight. She pulled and pulled, but Lisa Sobien won the tug-of-war and seized Stars Wars: Escape from the Death Star.

Only to lose the board game to another thief.

The notorious Paul Szymborski!

The USS Angeles got into the Christmas spirit by giving and stealing during our annual Winter Holiday Party on Dec. 14.

We enjoyed our gift exchange, potluck, and annual awards and promotion presentation at Jeremy Kranz's home in Northridge.

And we had our best turnout for an Angeles activity since December 2017.

The attendance by 19 members set the stage for an enthusiastic gift exchange, which was overseen by Lisa Sobien.

Lisa gave numbers to participants to determine our order in getting presents. We had a choice of opening presents or stealing one from another member.



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

Janice Willcocks, left, and Lisa Sobien have a tug-of-war over the "Star Wars" game. Janice stole it from Lisa, but Paul Szymborski (back) took it from Janice!

A present could be stolen a maximum of two times.

The third person with a gift couldn't lose it.

And there were presents that we definitely wanted to keep!

Candi Ogasawara really wanted to hold onto a bag that was designed like a "Star Trek: The Next Generation" uniform, complete with pips.

"I'm a poor college student," Candi said, pleading for mercy as Lisa approached her.

That was a good effort by Candi, but Lisa went ahead and took the bag.

Fortunately, Candi did get another bag, this one with a "Star Wars" theme.

By the way, Candi, formerly Candi Rosales, became married.

See PARTY on Page 15

Celebration



Dave Mason/Angels Flight photos

Angeles members show the gifts they got at the Winter Holiday Party. From left are (front row) Lisa Sobien, Kathy Carder, Maria and Matt Cox, Candi Ogasawara and Chris Mulrooney; (back row) Donna and Cliff Gardner, Kristine and Dennis Cherry, Gloria Rodriguez, Paul Szymborski, Jeremy Kranz, Sue-Ellen and Carl Fox, Kat Campbell and Janice Willcocks.

PARTY

Continued from Page 14

Congratulations!

There were many pleasant surprises at the Northridge party.

Kat Campbell ended up with two sets of movie tickets.

Maria Cox received a Jose Cuervo mix.

And Cliff Gardner got a wine bottle with a label that represented the “Mirror, Mirror” episode of the original “Star Trek” series.

Other presents varied from a pizza cutter, shaped like the USS Enterprise, to comic books.

Donna Gardner had an unexpected experience as she opened a gift that kept on giving.

There were wrapped gifts within the

More on activities

- More photos from our gift exchange. **Pages 16-17**
- Members receive awards and promotions. **Pages 18-19**
- The USS Angeles visits Chateau Picard. **Pages 20-24, 35-36**
- Members watch “Star Trek: Picard.” **Page 25**

gift, and some of them were diversions from the true gift.

Donna, a good sport who laughed with the rest of us, got to the bottom of it and found a book and bookmark.

The treasure hunt paid off on a night of holiday cheer.

We had a great time during the party, an especially sweet one with the party’s desserts.



Cliff Gardner proudly shows the wine bottle he received during the USS Angeles gift exchange. The label is a depiction of the “Mirror, Mirror” universe.

Celebration



Dave Mason/Angels Flight photos
Kat Campbell expresses her surprise over getting two sets of movie tickets at the Winter Gift Exchange.



From left: Maria Cox receives a Jose Cuervo mix. Donna Gardner goes through boxes within boxes. Paul Szyborski talks with Sue-Ellen Fox.

Celebration



Dennis and Kristine Cherry, who have returned as USS Angeles members, enjoy the Winter Holiday Party. At right, they and Gloria Rodriguez enjoy the party.

Dave Mason/
Angels Flight photos



Lisa Sobien shows the “Star Trek: The Next Generation” bag she got during the gift exchange. Lisa also received the Jake Sisko Communications Award at the party for her work on Angels Flight and the Angeles website.



Chris Mulrooney shows one of the gifts he brought to USS Angeles members. They were models of the USS Enterprise, 1701-B, colliding with the Nexus in “Star Trek: Generations” (1995).

Celebration

Winners

Members receive awards, promotions

By Fleet Capt. Dave Mason

NORTHRIDGE – The happy holiday spirit prevailed during the Angeles' annual awards and promotions.

I announced the recipients at the Winter Holiday Party Dec. 14 in Northridge. Command Staff member Gloria Rodriguez read the certificates aloud. She designed the beautiful certificates and wrote their content. Thank you, Gloria!

Founder Janice Willcocks pinned pips on party host Jeremy Kranz and Paul Szyborski who were promoted to full commander and lieutenant junior grade, respectively. (Thank you, Janice!)

Both Paul and Jeremy have hosted great Angeles parties and made contributions to Angels Flight and ussangeles.org. They've also submitted ideas for missions. The USS Angeles appreciates their dedication and enthusiasm.

In addition, Jeremy has worked as our recruitment officer, going out of his way to find new members. He is also a valued member of our Command Staff, and since the party, he succeeded Janice as the Second Officer. **(Story, Page 9.)**

During the winter party, I announced new member Janice Sobien's promotion to crewman.

In addition to participating in activities, Janice went a step further and volunteered to be a copy editor for Angels Flight. **(Story, Page 10.)**

She also has suggested ideas for missions, and I'm impressed with her initiative.

Janice Sobien didn't attend the party, but I presented the promotion certificate to her that night as Lisa and



Lisa Sobien/Angels Flight

Kathy Carder shows her Order of Surak award, which she received at the Winter Holiday Party at Jeremy Kranz's home in Northridge.

Janice's husband, Andy, watched at the couple's home in Anaheim. (Janice and Andy are Lisa's parents.)

At the party in Northridge, Kathy Carder received the Order of Surak for her work at the annual Loscon blood drive and participation in AIDS

Walk Los Angeles. Coincidentally, the longtime chairs of the blood drive were at our party: Kristine and Dennis Cherry!

The couple, who were Angeles

See AWARDS on Page 19

Celebration

AWARDS

Continued from Page 18

members some time ago, rejoined our ship at the party. Welcome back!

Kris praised Kathy for all her hard work over the years at the blood drive.

Likewise, I've been impressed with Kathy's dedication to helping others and representing the compassion and empathy that are at the heart of "Star Trek" idealism.

The awards presentation continued with Lisa Sobien, Jennifer Cole and Chris Mulrooney getting the Jake Sisko Communications Award for their contributions to our newsletter, Angels Flight, and our website, ussangeles.org.

Chris is the webmaster, and Lisa is an associate editor of Angels Flight and a website team member. Both are assistant chiefs of communications.

Jennifer has also been an Angels Flight associate editor and has worked with Chris on the financial aspects of the website.

Their efforts have contributed greatly to our award-winning newsletter and strong website.

Congratulations go to all of the award and promotion recipients.



Lisa Sobien/Angels Flight photos

Janice Willcocks pins a pip on Jeremy Kranz during his promotion.



Paul Szymborski proudly shows his promotion to lieutenant junior grade.



Dave Mason listens as Gloria Rodriguez reads a certificate during the awards and promotions segment at the party. Gloria designed the certificates.



Chris Mulrooney won the Jake Sisko Communications Award for his work as the Angeles webmaster. Dave Mason/Angels Flight



Jean-Luc's chateau

Angeles visits
filming site



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

Janice Willcocks beams down to Sunstone Vineyards & Winery, a Santa Ynez site for “Star Trek: Picard.”

By Fleet Capt. Dave Mason

SANTA YNEZ – Make it so! The USS Angeles felt the “Star Trek” spirit as we visited retired Adm. Jean-Luc Picard’s vineyards and home in La Barre, France. And we discovered a secret!

Don’t tell anyone, but La Barre is actually Santa Ynez.

The “Star Trek: Picard” filming location is Sunstone Vineyards & Winery in northern Santa Barbara County.

See CHATEAU on Page 21

Cover story



Dave Mason/Angels Flight photos

From left, Jon Lane, Paul Szymborski, Jeremy Kranz, Janice Willcocks and Lisa Sobien visit Sunstone Vineyards.

CHATEAU

Continued from Page 20

Janice Willcocks, Jon Lane, Jeremy Kranz, Lisa Sobien, Paul Szymborski, Jenny Taylor and I beamed down there Feb. 22 to visit the site where chateau scenes for several “Star Trek: Picard” episodes were filmed in late April.

Besides tasting the winery’s delicious red and white wines, we listened to a singer-guitarist and posed for photos around the tasting room and vineyards. And Lisa and Paul played several games of Connect Four, in which the object is to connect four circles of the same color within a grid. A photo on Page 23 gives a clearer picture.

We also enjoyed the winery’s tastings

of olive oils, especially one with a blood orange flavor.

Afterward, we enjoyed a buffet at the nearby Chumash Casino Resort, but before leaving for the buffet, Jon, Lisa and I received a surprise as we tried to photograph the villa on the top of the hill. That serves as Jean-Luc’s home in “Star Trek: Picard.”

We unexpectedly were given permission to walk up the steep hill and approach the villa. It was worth the climb! Both interior and exterior scenes were filmed there for “Star Trek: Picard,” which streams on CBS All Access. **(Photos of the villa are on pages 22, 23, 35 and 36.)**

Built in the early 2000s, the villa has architecture inspired by the Tuscan

See CHATEAU on Page 22



Jenny Taylor enjoys the wine tastings (six glasses for \$20).

Cover story

CHATEAU

Continued from Page 21

region of Italy, but the building consists of reclaimed materials from France. The limestone facade is made of cobblestones from the south of France, and the interior has beams from a French factory that general manager Dave Moser told me was owned by Britain's Queen Victoria.

I interviewed Moser, who gave me a tour inside the villa, for an exclusive Santa Barbara News-Press story that ran on Jan. 23, the day "Star Trek: Picard" premiered.

The two-story, five-bedroom villa was a private residence for winery founders Fred and Linda Rice until Mrs. Rice's death in 2010. Mr. Rice recently became the CEO again of the family-operated winery.

As Moser gave me a tour, he pointed to artifacts such as a thousand-year-old limestone kitchen sink and the wine cellar door, which was at a French prison during the era of Napoleon. He compared going through the building to "walking through history."

The site also has 21 acres of vineyards and the dramatic backdrop of the Santa Ynez Mountains.

The setting seems ideal for "Star Trek: Picard," the series that has had surprising plot twists. In addition to Stewart, the series stars Isa Briones, Santiago Cabrera, Michelle Hurd, Alison Pill, Harry Treadaway and Evan Evagora. The series also is featuring guest appearances by actors reprising their "Star Trek" characters: Jeri Ryan as Seven of Nine, Jonathan Frakes as Will Riker, Marina Sirtis as Deanna Troi and Jonathan Del Arco as Hugh.

The USS Angeles may revisit the site. Jon Lane and I learned that the winery is offering tours inside the villa for \$175 per person. There has to be a minimum of eight people in the tour.

For \$205 per person, the tour includes lunch inside Picard's home, where you might be tempted to say: "Tea. Earl Grey. Hot!"



Dave Mason/Angels Flight photos

Lisa Sobien visits the rear side of the villa at the top of the vineyards. "Star Trek: Picard" filmed scenes at this site in late April.



Jenny Taylor, left, and Janice Willcocks enjoy the wine tastings.

Tune in

New episodes of "Star Trek: Picard" streams at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays on CBS All Access. For a free trial, go to www.cbsallaccess.org.

More 'Picard'

- More photos, **pages 23-24, 35.**
- USS Angeles views the first episode in Fullerton. **Page 25**
- Photos inside Adm. Jean-Luc Picard's home. **Page 36.**

Cover story



Dave Mason/Angels Flight photos
Paul Szymborski gives the Vulcan greeting outside the tasting room. Below, Jon Lane visits a vineyard.



Dave Mason/Angels Flight
From left, Janice Willcocks, Jon Lane and Jeremy Kranz enjoy the winery.



Lisa Sobien/Angels Flight
Dave Mason stands behind the villa, where weddings take place.



Trae Patton/CBS ©2019 CBS Interactive Inc.
Sir Patrick Stewart is right at home.



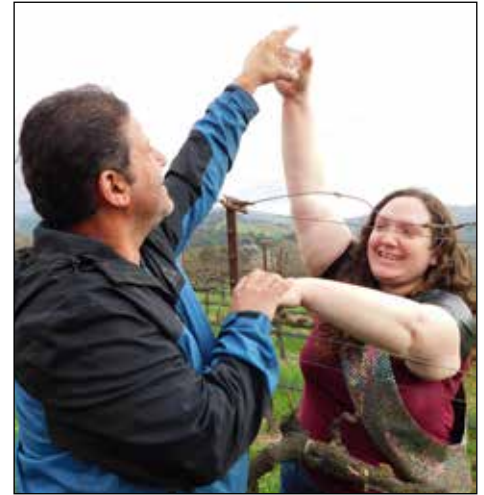
Dave Mason/Angels Flight
Lisa Sobien wins Connect Four.

Cover story



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

Qapla! Lisa Sobien beams down to a vineyard in her Starfleet uniform with a Klingon sash. Worf would be proud.



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

Paul Szymborski and Lisa Sobien compete for a glass of a rare domestic vintage: Santa Ynez H20.



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

The winery features 21 acres of vineyards and the dramatic backdrop of the Santa Ynez Mountains.



Lisa Sobien/Angels Flight

USS Angeles members and others go up to the counter for their tastings of various white and red wines.



Lisa Sobien/Angels Flight

Dave Mason chuckles as he leads a discussion about "Star Trek: Picard" and USS Angeles activities at a Fullerton party. **Story, Page 25.**

Cover story



Sue-Ellen Fox/Angels Flight

The USS Angeles gathers in Fullerton to watch the premiere episode of “Star Trek: Picard,” which was filmed at Sunstone Vineyards & Winery in Santa Ynez. From left in the front row are Gloria Rodriguez, Dave Mason, Lisa Sobien (holding Dave’s story and photo on the winery in the Santa Barbara News-Press) and Janice Sobien. From left in back are Jennifer Cole, Dennis and Kristine Cherry, host Carl Fox and Andy Sobien.

Angeles watches ‘Picard’

By Fleet Capt. Dave Mason

FULLERTON — After nearly 20 years, Jean-Luc Picard is back in action.

The USS Angeles watched as a young woman asked for help from the retired admiral at his winery, Chateau Picard, in La Barre, France.

That was the start of a mystery during “Star Trek: Picard” a CBS All Access series that takes the “Next Generation” hero on a new adventure.

Ten of us watched the first episode on the big screen Jan. 25 at Sue-Ellen and Carl Fox’s home in Fullerton.

After and before the screening, I talked about the episode’s filming location in Santa Barbara County. Chateau Picard is the Sunstone Vineyards & Winery in Santa Ynez.

In January, I walked through the villa and interviewed



SUE-ELLEN

general manager Dave Moser for an exclusive story in the Santa Barbara News-Press. The visit also gave me information in advance of a USS Angeles away mission that took place Feb. 22 at the winery.

In addition to seeing the first “Star Trek: Picard” episode, we enjoyed a great potluck featuring lasagna, chicken, sandwiches and more at the gathering in Fullerton.

Besides Sue-Ellen, Carl and me, those attending were Jennifer Cole, Gloria Rodriguez, Lisa Sobien, Janice and Andy Sobien, and Dennis and Kristine Cherry. Thank you for hosting, Sue-Ellen and Carl!



Anges member Brian Nomi stands on an ambulance at the "M*A*S*H" filming site at Malibu Creek State Park. Dave Mason/Angels Flight

Back to 'M*A*S*H'

Story, Page 27

Away missions

USS Angeles explores Malibu Creek State Park

By Fleet Capt. Dave Mason

MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK — The USS Angeles found the “goodbye” message left by B.J. Hunnicut.

We saw the message, written in rocks, in what was supposed to be Korea. But it was actually Malibu Creek State Park, where we hiked a 1-mile route to the “M*A*S*H” filming site on Jan. 11.

Sasan Sheibani, a docent, led 11 USS Angeles members and guests to the site, where we took photos and ate our sack lunches at the tables where the mess tent once stood. A nearby display showed where the tents were for the Swamp (Hawkeye’s, B.J.’s and Frank/Charles’ room), the Operating Room, Officers Club, etc. Rosie’s Bar was actually just behind the tents and near a road.

Kat Campbell worked with Sasan to organize the mission, and we appreciate their work and the help of another docent, Amanda. (Kat, a USS Angeles member, is also a docent.)

We took photos, and member Brian Nomi got a bird-eye’s view by climbing on top of a “M*A*S*H” ambulance!

And we found another ambulance and a jeep.

We also walked up a hill to the helicopter landing site and saw where docents had recreated the “goodbye” message in rocks. They reproduced the message that B.J. (Mike Farrell) left Hawkeye (Alan Alda) in the series finale.

After lunch, Ryan Bondy and Kelly Kwon hiked back along the better known, 2.5-mile trail to the “M*A*S*H” site. Others at the away mission were Kat, Janice Sobien and



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

Brian Nomi enjoys visiting Malibu Creek State Park during an Angeles mission.

her friend Konnie Kim, Lisa Sobien, Jennifer Pesqueira, and Jon Lane and his son Jayden.

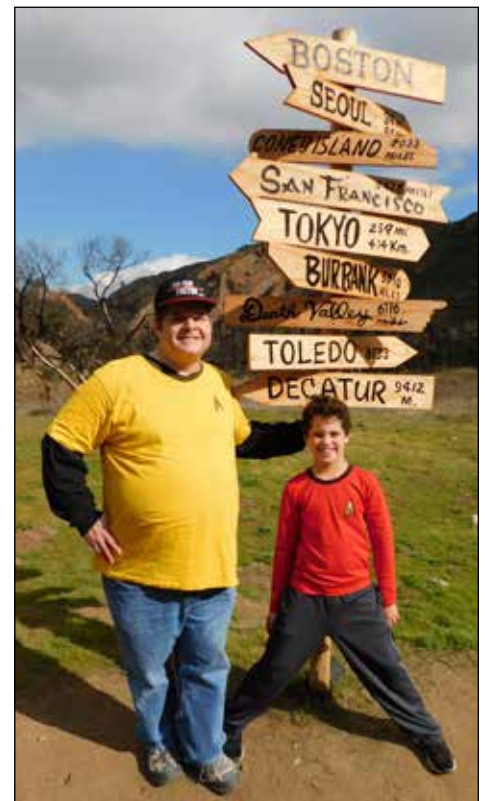
We were impressed by the site and the surrounding park, but Kelly and Konnie said the area doesn’t actually resemble Korea.

But from 1972 to 1983, the “M*A*S*H” cast and crew effectively depicted the horrors of war and the strength of the military family that endured it.

After seeing the “M*A*S*H” site, some people needed to leave. The rest of us hiked to the Visitors Center and explored the rock pool, which was where Charlton Heston and Michael York swam, respectively, in “Planet of the Apes” (1968) and “Logan’s Run” (1976).

And Western outlaws played by Paul Newman and Robert Redford took a leap of faith – or rather desperation – as they jumped off a cliff to escape from a relentless posse. The characters from “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” (1969) landed in the rock pool.

See PARK on Page 28



Jon Lane and his son, Jayden, stand in front of the recreation of the “M*A*S*H” signs pointing to various destinations.

Away missions



From left at the “M*A*S*H” filming site are Kelly Kwon, Ryan Bondy, Kat Campbell, Jennifer Pesqueira, Janice Sobien’s friend Konnie Kim, Janice Sobien, Lisa Sobien and Dave Mason. More photos on pages 29 and 30. Sasan Sheibani/Angels Flight

PARK

Continued from Page 27

During our hike to the rock pool, we saw some young people doing some rock climbing with ropes. I learned later they were part of a tradition that includes Capt. Jonathan Archer of “Star Trek: Enterprise.” The series shot a rock climbing scene with Archer (Scott Bakula) and his friend in the fourth season episode “Home.”

And “Star Trek: Deep Space Nine” used the park for the episode “Time’s Orphan.” It served as the Bajoran colony world where Molly O’Brien



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

A tree stands at Malibu Creek State Park.

follows up her cartwheel by roaming off and entering a time portal.

Rosalind Chao, who played Keiko O’Brien, Molly’s mother and

Miles’ (Colm Meany) wife, acted years earlier in the park. She played Soon-lee, Klinger’s South Korean girlfriend, on “M*A*S*H.”

At the Visitors Center, we saw an informative video and displays about the productions in the park. I was surprised to learn the 1966 “Batman” movie, starring iconic actors Adam West and Burt Ward, was filmed there.

Sasan told me how the park has the dual role of preserving nature and honoring cinematic history.

The park manages to do both in a beautiful area that was naturally made for the small and big screens.

Away missions



Sasan Sheibani, a Malibu Creek State Park docent, stands in front of a “M*A*S*H” ambulance. Sasan led the USS Angeles to the filming site. Next to him is a map of the “M*A*S*H” tents.

Dave Mason/
Angels Flight photos



Above, docents recreated the “Goodbye” sign that B.J. Hunnicutt (Mike Farrell) made from rocks in the series finale of “M*A*S*H.” Left, Jennifer Pesqueira, Ryan Bondy and Kelly Kwon stand on the bridge featured in movies such as “Secretary” (2002). Maggie Gyllenhaal, the film’s star, stood on this bridge. It was also featured in “Love Me Tender” (1956), starring Elvis Presley.

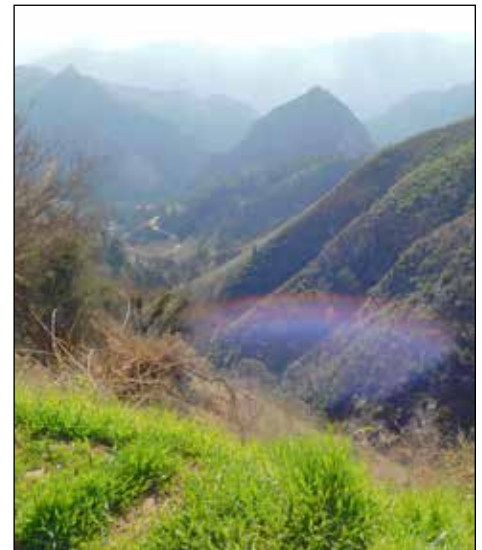
Away missions



Dave Mason/Angels Flight photos



Ryan Bondy and Kelly Kwon enjoy their visit to Malibu Creek State Park.



Malibu Creek State Park features beautiful scenery.

Above, the rock pool at Malibu Creek State Park is where Charlton Heston and Michael York swam respectively in “Planet of the Apes” (1968) and “Logan’s Run” (1976). At right, Brian Nomi, left, and Dave Mason, right, get a front row view from an ambulance.



Ryan Bondy/Angels Flight



Jayden Lane sits in an ambulance on the “M*A*S*H” filming site.

Away missions



Far left Daisy Ridley stars as Rey in “Star Wars: Episode IX – The Rise of Skywalker.” Left, Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) returns to advise Rey in the film.

Lucasfilm photos

Go, Rey, go!

Angeles enjoys ‘Star Wars’ film

By Fleet Capt. Dave Mason

WEST HILLS — Jennifer Cole swung into action with her light saber.

Not for combat, but to celebrate the triumphant conclusion of the 42-year “Star Wars” saga for Luke Skywalker and his friends with “Episode IX: The Rise of Skywalker.”

Fourteen USS Angeles members gathered to see the movie Dec. 28 at the AMC Fallbrooks 7 in West Hills.

We enjoyed watching the film at the theater, where we saw the late Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, Anthony Daniels and Billy Dee Williams reprise their classic roles as Leia Organa (in archival footage), Luke Skywalker, C-3PO and Lando Calrissian. Fisher stands out in her scenes, and it was great to see Leia in action one more time.

And Joonas Suotamo continues to do well as Chewbacca. He’s the successor to the late, great Peter Mayhew.

Angeles members also liked the story about the newer characters



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

USS Angeles members see the latest “Star Wars” movie in West Hills. From front to back are Jennifer Cole, Paul Szymborski, Lisa Sobien, Kat Campbell, Kristine and Dennis Cherry, Matt and Maria Matt Cox, and Ryan Bondy.

See ‘STAR WARS’ on Page 32

Away missions



Ryan Bondy/Angels Flight

From left, Kat Campbell, Matt Cox, Maria Cox (kneeling), Kristine Cherry, Dennis Cherry, Dave Mason, Lisa Sobien, Jennifer Cole (with the light saber) and Paul Szyborski gather after seeing the latest “Star Wars” movie.

‘STAR WARS’

Continued from Page 31

Rey (Daisy Ridley), Finn (John Boyega), Poe (Oscar Isaac) and Kylo Ren (Adam Driver). J.J. Abrams directed and co-wrote the story, which answered questions and gave us a crucial character detail we didn’t predict.

That detail – spoiler alert! – is in the next paragraph.

Rey is the granddaughter of Emperor Palpatine! Who knew?

In addition, it was great seeing Harrison Ford one more time as Han Solo in a scene that marked the redemption of Kylo Ren/Ben Solo, who was healed by Rey and reconnected with his mother, Leia.

And Ridley was impressive as her



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

Jennifer Cole, left, and Karen Hoagland stand in Chili’s.

character, Rey.

That was especially true as she became the embodiment of all Jedis in the final battle with Emperor Palpatine (Ian McDiarmid).

After the movie, we enjoyed dinner and celebrated Kristine Cherry’s and



Lisa Sobien/Angels Flight

Dave Mason enjoys the dinner after the movie.

my birthdays at a nearby Chili’s.

Others attending were Dennis Cherry, Lisa Sobien, Karen Hoagland, Dan and Mary Hovey, Ryan Bondy, Matt and Maria Cox, Paul Szyborski, Jennifer Taylor and Cheryl Templeton.

We felt the Force was with us!



Nicholas Meyer, co-writer of “Star Trek IV: Voyage Home,” participates in a time travel panel at Loscon. Next to him is the panel’s moderator. Dave Mason/ Angels Flight

Loscon

Con explores A.I., Mars and more

By Fleet Capt. Dave Mason

LOS ANGELES – Does artificial life already exist? I realized the question was more complicated than I thought as I listened to a panel of a half-dozen experts at Loscon.

I raised my hand in the back of a Loscon room and asked the panel, “At what point does artificial intelligence show self-awareness?”

Five experts stayed quiet. One expert raised the possibility that

See LOSCON on Page 34



Kristine Cherry, left, sits outside the Loscon Blood Drive with Kathy Carder.

Con report

LOSCON

Continued from Page 33

may have already happened, but the other experts inadvertently started to answer my question later when they discussed the ability of self-driving cars to learn.

Artificial intelligence was among the big issues tackled at Loscon, which took place Nov. 29 to Dec. 1 at the Marriott Los Angeles Airport.

USS Angeles members Kathy Carder, Susan Fox and I attended the Nov. 29-Dec. 1 convention at Marriott Los Angeles Airport.

Also there were Kristine and Dennis Cherry, who each year chair the convention's blood drive. The former Angeles members rejoined the USS Angeles a month later. (Yay!)

The convention's ideas extended to time travel, and I went to a panel featuring Nicholas Meyer, who co-wrote "Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home" (1986).

I sat in the front row and asked Meyer questions. He said he wrote the funny part of the movie on old Earth, starting with Spock's line about the Bird of Prey landing in the latter part of the 20th century. Spock said that was "judging by the pollution content."

When I reminded Meyer that others and I believe "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan" and "Star Trek IV" are great movies, he smiled and said, "I would agree with that!" (Meyer directed "Star Trek II" and completed uncredited work on co-writing/rewriting that movie. He also directed and co-wrote "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country.")

Other convention highlights included Susan and I participating in a filking drumming circle. (Filking is sci-fi and fantasy-inspired music.) I also enjoyed going through the dealers room, where I bought several sci-fi paperbacks at low prices.

In addition, I saw David Raiklen, the award-winning composer and producer who has addressed the USS Angeles.



Dave Mason/Angels Flight

Many sci-fi books were sold for low prices in the Loscon dealers room.



USS Angeles member Susan Fox attends Loscon.

He was on one of the panels.

And I went to author Valerie Frankel's panel on comic book heroines.

She gave a detailed list covering everyone from Wonder

Woman to Black Widow.

I particularly enjoyed the artificial intelligence panel, which got me thinking about the definition of "self-aware." Is "self-aware" only a strong conviction of "I think, therefore I am"?

Or is a computer showing self-awareness when it asks us a simple question? Does it "know" when it is asking the question? Does it "know" when it is answering a question? If so, is that self-awareness?

The artificial intelligence panel explored the question further by discussing self-driving cars and their problems in treating bicyclists with less caution than pedestrians.

The problem is that the cars were programmed to use caution simply around something not on wheels. The cars had to be retaught to think of bicyclists as pedestrians.

Hmm. Isn't learning the same thing as self-awareness?

The experts didn't insist computers, self-driving cars or robotic devices are alive. But they raised questions that could lead to even more questions tomorrow.

As "Star Trek: Picard" suggests, we must consider how we will treat synthetic life. Will they be our slaves, or will we treat them with respect and protect their rights? That answer will say everything about who we are.



RAIKLEN

More from the cover story



Photo courtesy Sunstone Vineyards & Winery

Welcome to Jean-Luc Picard's home

From left, Lisa Sobien, Dave Mason and Jon Lane get permission to visit the villa at Sunstone Winery & Vineyards. This is where Picard's home was filmed for "Star Trek: Picard." Below are a seating area and wine library at the tasting room.



Lisa Sobien/Angels Flight photos

More from the cover story



Dave Mason/Angels Flight photos

At left is a thousand-year-old limestone sink in the villa that serves as retired Adm. Jean-Luc Picard's home in "Star Trek: Picard." At right is the kitchen in the villa, which is at Sunstone Vineyards & Winery. Dave Mason took the photos on this page during a private tour in January for a Santa Barbara News-Press story.



Dave Moser, general manager of Sunstone Vineyards & Winery, said this is probably the bedroom where Adm. Picard wakes up after dreaming about Data.



This is the dining area. The limestone in the villa's walls is reclaimed material from the south of France.



This is the villa's living room. The building formerly served as the residence for Fred Rice, his late wife Linda Rice and their children. Mr. and Mrs. Rice founded the winery, and Mr. Rice recently resumed his role as the CEO.