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# USS SOLSTICE



## Retrograde Review

### Solstice Launch Party By Stephen Rocco

USS Solstice, NCC-1221 will be celebrating the commissioning of the ship on the most appropriate of days to do so, the Winter Solstice, 12-21-2019.

The event is still in planning, however it is likely to be a pot-luck, BYOB afternoon at the home of the ship's XO, Stephen Rocco, followed by a trip to the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh for a private planetarium show, The Stars Across the Federation, tentatively scheduled just after the Science Center closes to

the public at 7:00 PM.

From there, those who wish to continue to celebrate into the night will be once again welcomed into the XO's home.

The entire crew of the USS Solstice is invited, along with the crew of its mothership, the USS Venture, NCC-1655, and the local Pittsburgh chapter whose name may or may not still be the USS Inferno.

The Regional Coordinator, Admiral Wayne Auguston, has been notified and invited to attend but has neither con-

firmed nor denied that he will accept the invitation.

More information will be distributed as the plans for the day are solidified and will be made known to all invited by the command staff of the USS Solstice.



### Attention Crew: This is your Captain speaking by Glenn Smith

Stardate 2019,10... Ahh who cares?.... Hello Starfleet, Federation Citizens, and other Species. Welcome to the USS Solstice first newsletter. This is your Captain speaking. "A long time ago in a galaxy far far away...." Well actually it really was not THAT long ago (9 months) and Johnstown, Pa. is really not THAT far away.... but you get the point... a wild idea was born! For us to boldly go where many have go before....The birth of a NEW starship! But this starship will make history for it is the first Walker class starship that STARFLEET Inc. has had; USS SOLSTICE NCC-1221.

With tremendous support from my Captain (& our sister support ship, USS VENTURE), I was

offered command of this new vessel. With the help of my two closed friends, Stephen Rocco (who is my First Officer) and James (Jimmy, have you ironed out the warp core problems yet?) Zimmerman, we decided to complete the proper forms and submit them to STARFLEET.

Needless to say, we had many concerns- one being lack of a full crew. Several other members of the Venture crew, decided to take on this new challenge with us. We had many ups and downs during our time in space. From crew members embarking and disembarking, to away missions that have gone awry. It was not all chaos!

We have had several away mis-

sion that have made the public aware of us. Such missions that we have beamed down to included the Carnegie Science Center for the Apollo 11, 50th Anniversary, in which we were guest presenters, to 3 Rivers Con. From Steel City Con, to various library events for their summer reading space theme. Here we not only educated the public about Star Trek, but in various space education.

With that said, I can not be more proud of my crew and ecstatic over what we have accomplished in such a short time.

Helmsman! Warp 6. Course heading Second star to the right and straight on to morning.... Punch it.....

# Solstice Beams Down to The Carnegie Science Center

On July 19th and 20th, the crew beamed down to the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh, Pa to help pay tribute to the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

The Solstice was personally invited by a staff member of the Carnegie Science Center, which was a great honor.

On Friday night, members of the crew set up a telescope (an 11 inch Schmidt Cassegrain) on the 4th floor balcony, educating the public about stargazing and allowing families to view Saturn and its majestic

ring system. The crew also peaked Jupiter and its four Galilean moons (which are easily visible in any scope). In total, the crew spent over 4 hours demonstrating the telescope.

On Saturday, the Solstice was gifted a table in the lobby area, where members had the opportunity to educate the public on the Apollo 11 mission and the Saturn V rocket. Lego model of the Saturn 5 rocket and Lego Lunar Lander (complete with cornstarch surface!) were on hand as demonstration aids.

In addition, Crewman Abigail Kroll provided face painting to children, which was very popular.

Several of the crew had the opportunity to view the Apollo 11: First Steps Edition on their famous Rangos Giant Cinema, the largest screen in Pittsburgh. This 47 minute documentary features newly discovered audio recordings and never before seen 70mm footage.

After the Science Center closed for the evening, the crew was allowed to hold their monthly meeting in the building.

## Upcoming Events

- October Meeting  
October 19th
- Halloween Party  
November 2nd
- November Meeting  
November 16th
- Steel City Con  
December 6-8th
- Launch Party  
December 21st
- Star Trek DnD  
TBD



# Chapter News

In recent chapter news, the bylaws were passed during the July Meeting. If you need a copy, please see the member section of the Solstice's website.

The rank recognition program was also passed at the July meeting. To view the current requirements for advancing in rank, please see the member section of the Solstice's website. First Officer Stephen Rocco intends to create an individual points sheet for each member of the crew. This sheet will be available on Google Docs soon. Please

check your sheet often to verify accuracy.

The ship's VRCP (Vessel Readiness Certification Program) is nearly complete. Currently we are lacking a Cadet to certify the Cadet Corps. If you know of any young person who would make for a great cadet, please ask them to join the crew.

During the August meeting, two officer positions were voted on. Richard Donoghue was approved as Chief Financial Officer. Amy Riegner was approved as Chief of Commu-

nications.

Over the summer, Second Officer Allison James transferred to the USS Inferno. We wish her luck in her new endeavor as the Inferno's First Officer. Elections for a new Second Officer were conducted in August. Amy Riegner won and was appointed the new Second Officer.

Matthew Barclay was appointed by CO Glenn Smith to the position of Stellar Cartographer (aka Webmaster). If you notice any errors on the page or would like to update your

profile, please contact Matthew.

Matthew is also trying to develop a STARFLEET Marine Corps (SFMC) Unit on the Solstice. If you are interested in joining the SFMC, please contact Matthew.

An Activities Committee was created during the August meeting. Its members include James Zimmerman, George Edwards, Joyce Pagley, Richard Donoghue and Jesse Pierce. Please be on the lookout for posts or polls from the Activities Committee.



## Recent Promotions

- Lieutenant James Zimmerman
- Lieutenant Matthew Barclay
- Lieutenant JG Joyce Pagley
- Ensign Stephen Shotts
- Crewman Travis Spencer
- Crewman Kristin Spencer
- Crewman Jessica Jacoby
- Crewman Abigail Kroll
- Crewman Tom Kroll



# Kecksburg UFO Festival

The Kecksburg UFO Festival was the site of a summer Away Mission on July 26th to 28th.

The Kecksburg UFO, sighted on December 9, 1965, is said to be "Pennsylvania's Roswell," spawning plenty of conspiracy theories. In a 2005 report, NASA determined that

the UFO was a fallen Russian satellite. Or is it? - Especially since initial reports of the crash were lost to the ages.

Celebrating their paranormal past, Kecksburg hosts an annual festival with guest speakers, fireworks, games, and vendors. Solstice crew set up shop

with their own table, selling merchandise and mingling with the crowds.

While the UFO may remain a mystery, it was no mystery that the crew enjoyed themselves.



# Steel City Con

Over the weekend of August 16, 17, 18, the crew parked their shuttle at Steel City Con, held at the Monroeville Convention Center in Monroeville, PA. Steel City Con is a triennial event held in April, August and December.

Special Star Trek Guests of the August Convention included George Takei, Gates McFadden, and Jason Isaacs. Other Special Guests included Ron Perlman, Ray Park, Ernie

Hudson, and Lea Thompson.

Many of the crew took the opportunity to meet with the celebrities, purchase an autograph, take a photo-op, or sit in on a panel.

The psychedelic colored tribble, made by members of the crew, made its debut. It easily became a top seller. Convention go-ers really enjoyed that they purred. The Klingon crewman on the ship were quite displeased with the color-

ful tribbles and their natural colored cousins, preferring that they would be flushed out the nearest airlock.

The crew also sold miniature starship magnets made from nuts, bolts, and washers.

The crew was joined by a stow-away from the Kecksburg UFO Festival. Despite being shy at first, we learned that our new friend is quite the traveler, with his next stop being the Raid of Area 51. We wish him

godspeed and safe travels.

On Sunday, the Klingons invaded! After several rousing rounds of Klingon opera and debates of Shakespeare, they merrily went on their way to find glory in battle.

The Solstice will be orbiting Steel City Con again in December. Special Guests include Neve Campbell, Carmen Electra, Sean Astin, Cary Elwes, and the Grand Negus himself, Wallace Shawn.



CO Glenn Smith with Lt. Matthew Barclay hanging out with their new friend from Kecksburg.

# Holodeck Program: Pittsburgh Renaissance Festival

On Stardate 0914.19, the crew of the USS Solstice ran Holodeck Program “Pittsburgh Renaissance Fair” along with guest Maria Dutilly, Captain of the USS Inferno.

The Holodeck computer was very accurate in its depiction of a typical Western Pennsylvania climate, changing from chilly rain to hot humidity in a matter of hours along with an ever-present overcast sky. Towards the end, some of the crew lamented that the environmental controls could have been set to a cooler temperature.

Despite the climate, the crew enjoyed themselves, partaking in ancient games like throwing dull axes at a wooden wall and hitting a misaligned level with a sledgehammer in an attempt to “get it up.”

Other festivities enjoyed included the local food, like replicated giant turkey legs and over-priced carbonated beverages.

The crew enjoyed several of the local performances. Of particular highlights include the Irish bagpipe band the *Craic*, *Cast in Bronze* featuring a pi-

ano /bell hybrid instrument named a “carillion,” cheering for the beautiful yet michevicious Lilith during the joust and Lt Cmd Rocco being accosted by a “German Brother.”

Several of the crew picked up items to add to their personal cosplay collections.

After the festival, the crew ran supplemental holodeck program “campfire,” hosted by Ensign Shotts. This program included quirky activities like “cornhole” and “grilling.”

Overall, the crew ranked the Holodeck programs a Huzzah!



## Member Spotlight: Ensign Steve Shotts

Break out the bloodwine for our first ever Member Spotlight! In this edition, we travel to the Klingon Empire and celebrate Ensign Steve Shotts. Ensign Shotts has been a core member of the Solstice since its inception, active in attending events and stepping up to

lead away missions when needed. In addition, Ensign Shotts is among the avid cosplayers of the crew, with an especially awesome Klingon cosplay. In July, Ensign Shotts passed the Officer Training School exam with Honors, earning his

rank of Ensign. In September, Ensign Shotts was kind enough to open his home and host the crew for a cookout/meeting. Thank you, Ensign Shotts, for being a steadfast and engaged member. You bring honor to our group. Kapla!



## Around the Fleet

**Starfleet Headquarters:** The official election process has begun. Expect an email to view your online ballot from the company Simply Voting. If you became a member after August 1, 2019, you are ineligible to vote in this election. If you need a paper ballot or have any questions or concerns please contact the Inspector General Stephen Stott at [ig@sfi.org](mailto:ig@sfi.org). The voting period runs from September 1 to November 14.

Additionally, Starfleet Academy has been given a facelift, both cosmetically and organizationally. The office generally referred to as the Office of the Academy Commandant will be renamed the Office of Educational Services. The Chief of Educational Services will cease to hold the title and position of Commandant, STARFLEET Academy, but will continue to serve on the Executive Committee. Admiral Carol Thompson has been appointed the

new Commandant of STARFLEET Academy and Major General Shane Russell will continue to serve as COTRACOM. To see the full announcement, please visit the Starfleet Members Only Facebook page and view the post made by David Goldsberry on September 1st. Speaking of the Starfleet Members Only Facebook page, a mentorship program has been launched. To join, click on the

mentorship tab and fill out the survey to receive mentorship. **Region 7 Headquarters:** The 2019 Region 7 Conference will be held in Cherry Hill, NJ at the Crowne Plaza. Dates are October 25-27th. Weekend tickets are \$47 and include all programming, parties and Friday night sandwich buffet. Hotel rooms are available for \$119/night. For more information please visit the Region 7 website.

### Academy Graduates

(June 2019-September 2019)

- Matthew Barclay
- Richard Donoughe
- Michael Hubbell
- Tom Kroll
- Joyce Pagley
- Amy Riegner
- Stephen Rocco
- Stephen Shotts
- Glenn Smith



George Edwards at Three Rivers Comic Con

# MEGO is back!

By George Edwards

If you grew up in the 70's you either had or knew someone that had these figures. The company started in the 50's and in 1971 the company shifted direction from dime store toys to become famous for producing licensed action dolls (Star Trek, Planet of the Apes, Charlie's Angels), celebrity dolls (Cher), and the Micronauts toy line.

In 1982 they filed for bankruptcy and were gone in 1983. MEGO was offered the Star Wars toy line but turned it down which I think was the beginning of the end. After a 30 plus year absence, MEGO has a return to the toy market. They started with a deal to be exclusive to Target but have

other markets. The first few wave of figures had classic horror, Charmed, Bewitched, Happy Days, Cheers and STAR TREK.

I am very happy to hear that with Star Trek, MEGO has the rights to all TOS, TNG, DS9, VOY and ENT. I loved these toys as a child and still are my favorite of all the different Star Trek toy lines.

In the 70's they released KIRK, SPOCK, SCOTTY, McCOY, a KLINGON in the first wave with a UHURA being added at a later date. The next two waves concentrated on the aliens, releasing an Andorian, a Talosian, a Mugato, a Romulan and few others.

Today, we have seen many

of the old figures redone plus they have released a SULU and a CHEKOV to round of the original crew plus Kirk, Spock, Uhura and Sulu from the Mirror Mirror episode. In more recent releases they have improved on the old outfits and the figures have a look more constant with the show.

The figures are great for kids to play with and for the adult collector, look great displayed. The latest release will be the WRATH OF KHAN set with a new head sculpt of KIRK and SPOCK plus a KHAN figure.



# In Memoriam: Aron Eisenberg

Beloved Star Trek: Deep Space Nine actor Aron Eisenberg passed away on September 21, 2019 at the age of 50.

Eisenberg was best known for his role of Nog, nephew of Quark and the first Ferengi to join Starfleet. In addition, Eisenberg played several other

small roles in the Star Trek universe, including Kar on Star Trek: Voyager and Fmaxnor on Star Trek: Renegades.

Despite standing only five feet tall, Eisenberg's portray of Nog reached immeasurable heights. He challenged what it meant to be a Ferengi.

Eisenberg was nominated for Best Guest Actor in a Syndicated Series in the Online Film & Television Association Awards for his work on DS9.

Outside of acting, Eisenberg was an avid professional photographer and enjoyed coaching youth soccer.

Eisenberg leaves behind his wife, Malissa Longo and two sons, Christopher Ryan Eisenberg and Nicholas Lawrence Eisenberg.

Rest well, Aron. May you fly far beyond the stars. 🌠



## Star Trek: Picard

Filming has concluded (as of September 1st) on the much anticipated Star Trek: Picard, which heralds the return of Patrick Stewart's Jean-Luc Picard.

Picard will have the following premise: 20 years after the events of Star Trek: Nemesis, Jean-Luc Picard finds himself deeply affected by the death of Data and the destruction of Romulus.

Along with Patrick Stewart,

fans can anticipate the return of other Star Trek actors. Currently Brent Spiner, Jeri Ryan, Jonathan Del Arco, Jonathan Frakes, and Marina Sirtis are slated as either recurring or returning actors. Jonathan Frakes is also expected to direct several episodes.

Star Trek: Picard will consist of 10 episodes and is intended to carry on for multiple seasons. It is expected to premiere on CBS All Access in early 2020.

Alex Kurtzman, executive producer and writer, has stated that the show will be "a more psychological show, a character study about this man in his emeritus years."

Will Star Trek: Picard live up to the hype? Jean-Luc Picard has become such a magnetic and beloved character in the franchise. Hopefully this series will add to his legacy.

## Happy Birthday!

### July

- 9 Matthew Barclay
- 15 Kathleen DeSantis

### August

- 1 Tom Kroll
- 2 Stephen Shotts
- 10 Travis Spencer
- 14 Jessica Jacoby
- 22 Jessica Burkley

- 25 Michael Hubbell

### September

- 22 Barbara LaRocque
- 25 Stephen Rocco
- 27 Abigail Kroll

# For Your Padd: They Called Us Enemy

By Amy Riegner

Published on July 16, 2019, *They Called Us Enemy* is an autobiographical graphic novel of George Takei's childhood spent in a World War II era Japanese American internment camps.

For those that read Takei's other autobiography *To the*

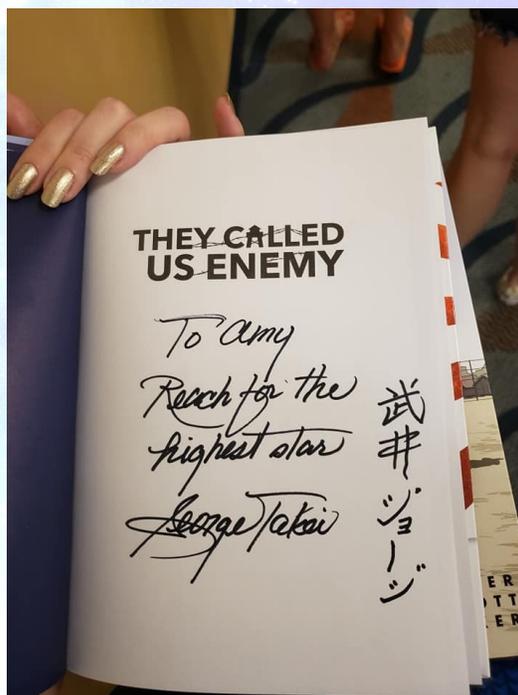
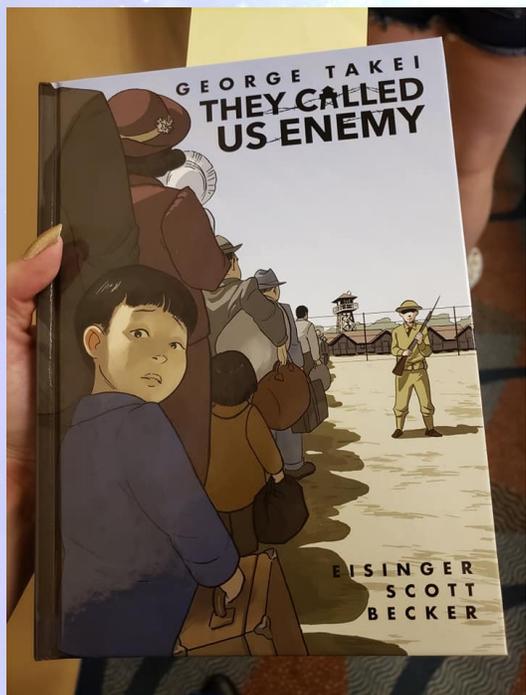
*Stars* or seen his Broadway musical *Allegiance*, the story may be familiar. For those that haven't, Takei and his family were taken from their Los Angeles home in the spring of 1942 and transported across the country to the Rohwer War Relocation Center in Arkansas. Takei was 5 at the time. He

was almost 9 before the war ended and his family was released.

As a professional librarian, I would personally recommend this title to young adults. Being that it's a graphic novel makes it more accessible to younger readers. The artwork

is also reminiscent of manga, obviously paying homage to Japanese culture.

The story is haunting, giving us a glimpse into a period of time where a society, encumbered by fear, infringes upon the freedoms on its own citizens to mollify other citizens. Other



## Upcoming Starfleet Renewal Reminders

- December 2019

Michael Hubbard

Steve Shotts

- February 2020

Jessica Burkley

To renew, please visit [SFI.org](http://SFI.org)

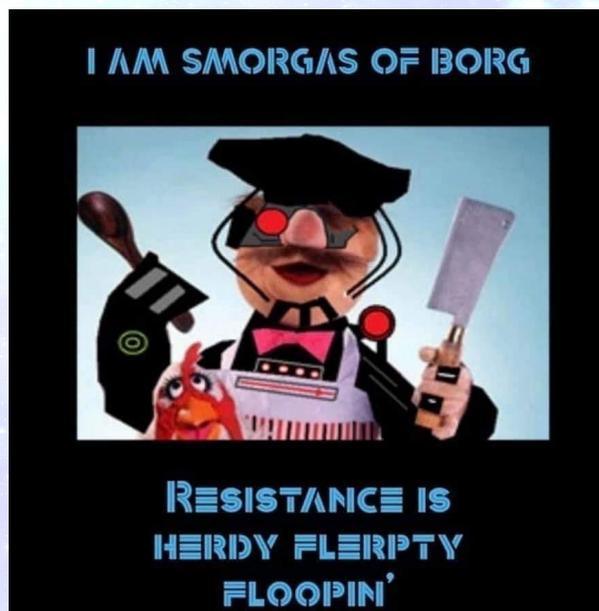
overarching themes include family ties, community and American pride.

Takei's struggle to make sense of his situation is prevalent throughout the story. When he reaches young adulthood, he begins to question the actions (or inactions) of his father. Why did his father not do more to protect the family? It's something Takei took a lifetime to understand.

The Japanese interment camps were certainly a dark chapter in America's history. *They Called Us Enemy* allows the reader to learn

a bit about this often not discussed period of history. I think it also lends credence to the saying "those that do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

Takei was a special guest at the August Steel City Con, which gave me the unique opportunity of having a recently published New York bestseller auto-graphed. He was even kind enough to sign it in English and Japanese. I also purchased the hardback edition, a convention only special. Now I can be the envy of all my librarian friends. :)



## USS Solstice

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We meet at 6pm the 3rd Saturday of every month at the Greengate Panera Bread– 300 Greengate Center Circle, Greensburg, Pa. Join us!

\*Time and dates subject to change. Please check our FB page for meeting updates.



## Our Organization

The U.S.S. SOLSTICE – NCC 1221 is the Greensburg, PA-based chapter of STARFLEET International fan association. We are a ship in the 7th Fleet. We are a friendly, community-minded organization looking for Star Trek fans to join our club. If you are interested in joining the USS Solstice, please contact us!

## Our Mission

- We go to conventions
- We participate in public service events
- We attend social events with other Star Trek and other Sci-Fi fans
- We have game nights or movie nights
- We encourage you to attend STARFLEET Academy and learn something new
- We hold a (fictional) rank or position within a local, regional or international organization.
- We raise funds and take donations for charity that are near to our hearts, to inspire young minds, and to promote the club.

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## End Credits

This publication, “The Retrograde Review” is a quarterly, fan made publication, distributed by the USS Solstice.

The USS Solstice is a meeting chapter of Starfleet, the International Star Trek Fan Association. For more information on the Star Trek Fan Association, please visit [sfi.org](http://sfi.org).

The USS Solstice is a member of the 7th Fleet. For more information about our fleet, please visit [www.region7.com/web/](http://www.region7.com/web/)

If you are interested in taking courses with Starfleet Academy, please visit [sfi.org/academy/login/index.php](http://sfi.org/academy/login/index.php)

If you wish to submit an article for the next publication, please send them to Amy at [akr4764@gmail.com](mailto:akr4764@gmail.com) by December 20, 2019.

If you wish to nominate a member for the member spotlight, please send your submissions to Amy at [akr4764@gmail.com](mailto:akr4764@gmail.com) by December 1, 2019. Submission need to include the member’s

name and a brief list of accomplishments. All nominations will be confidential.

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