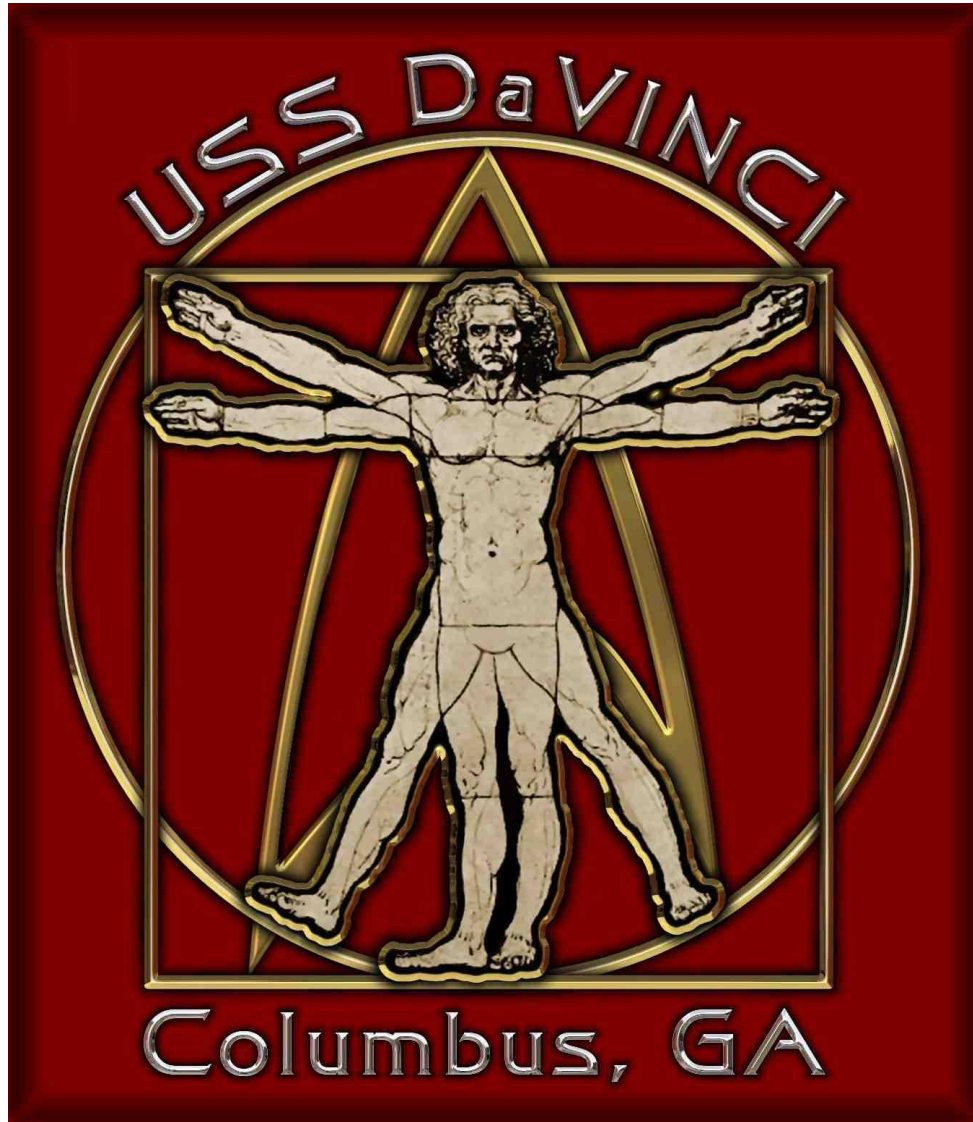


# DAVINCI PILOT

*Newsletter of the USS DaVinci, NCC-74671, Columbus, GA*

*Volume 32 Number 09 – May 2026*



*A Local Chapter of Starfleet, the  
International Star Trek Fan Association*

**\*\*Starfleet's 2018 Electronic Newsletter of the Year\*\***

**\*\*Starfleet's 2019 Chapter of the Year\*\***

**\*\*Starfleet R2 Summit Best Website 2022 \*\***

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LTCDR Randy Dunn

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

\*\* 18 May, Night Out/Membership Meeting, Deorio's, 6:30 pm



THE INTERNATIONAL  
STAR TREK FAN ASSOCIATION, INC.



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## Small Plush, Big Meaning The Unicorn Explained



Unicorn Plush Photo obtained from screenshots of Launch Day footage.

Last month's Pilot featured an article about two plushies spotted at Mission Control during NASA's *Artemis II* lunar mission. The reason for one plush was obvious as it was Artemis, a white cat from *Sailor Moon*. But the other plush, a unicorn wearing a mask, prompted much speculation. Why was it there? Was it another fictional character, or a mascot, or something else? What meaning was attached to it? The popular theory at the time was that it represented Helios, a winged unicorn from *Sailor Moon*.

Sources in Houston provided screenshots of an official response from NASA personnel explaining the details of the masked unicorn. It turns out this little plush holds a lot of meaning. In an e-mail, NASA's Dr. Stanley Love explains why this unicorn was given a spot of honor on the CAPCOM desk during the Artemis II mission.

The unicorn is named Eugene. He was provided by Jennifer Grassman, a NASA Engineer and Flight Controller, who bought the plush, made the mask, and brought him to the office. Eugene is the physical embodiment of a joke from when the Orion spacecraft was still under development. Things were not going well, to put it mildly. People in the office started joking "it'll take a rainbow ninja unicorn to save Orion." Eugene resided in the conference room as "a humorous reminder of the importance of our work."

Unfortunately, Jennifer Grassman did not live to see the spacecraft she worked so hard on fly round the moon. She lost her battle with cancer at the fairly young age of 58 on June 7, 2024. She was not there to see Artemis II launch, but Eugene the Rainbow Ninja Unicorn was. That little masked plush sitting unobtrusively under the CAPCOM sign at Mission Control was a tribute to someone who gave their all to make the Orion spacecraft a reality.

Such a small unicorn, yet such significant meaning for the NASA personnel who knew Jennifer Grassman. As Dr. Love says in his e-mail, "Observers besides you are probably wondering about Eugene. Please help spread the word." Let's take a moment to remember Jennifer Grassman, and all the others through the decades who have worked so hard to make NASA dreams a reality. Let's never stop reaching for the stars.



Love, Stanley G. (JSC-CB611)

to me

15:28 (2 hours ago)



Thanks for reaching out. Yes, I'm the guy who brought Artemis the cat to Mission Control. I hope I don't get in trouble for it.

The rainbow ninja unicorn isn't an anime character. His name is Eugene and he's a tribute to the late NASA engineer and flight controller Jennifer Grassman.

Years ago, when the Orion spacecraft was part way through development, its hardware and software designs had so many flaws that we wondered if it would ever fly. The joke in my office was "it'll take a rainbow ninja unicorn to save Orion." Jennifer bought the plushie, sewed its little ninja mask, named it, and kept it in the conference room as a humorous reminder of the importance of our work.

Sadly, Jennifer died young of cancer a few years ago. She can't be in Mission Control to see Orion fly successfully around the Moon. But we put Eugene there to watch and cheer in her place.

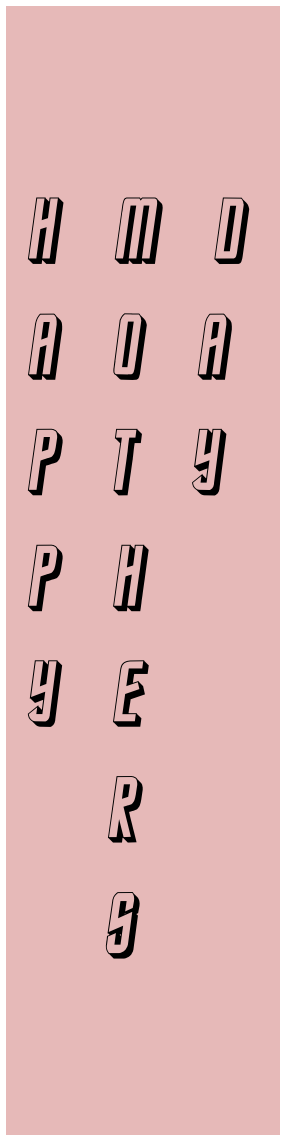
Observers besides you are probably wondering about Eugene. Please help spread the word.

Sincerely,

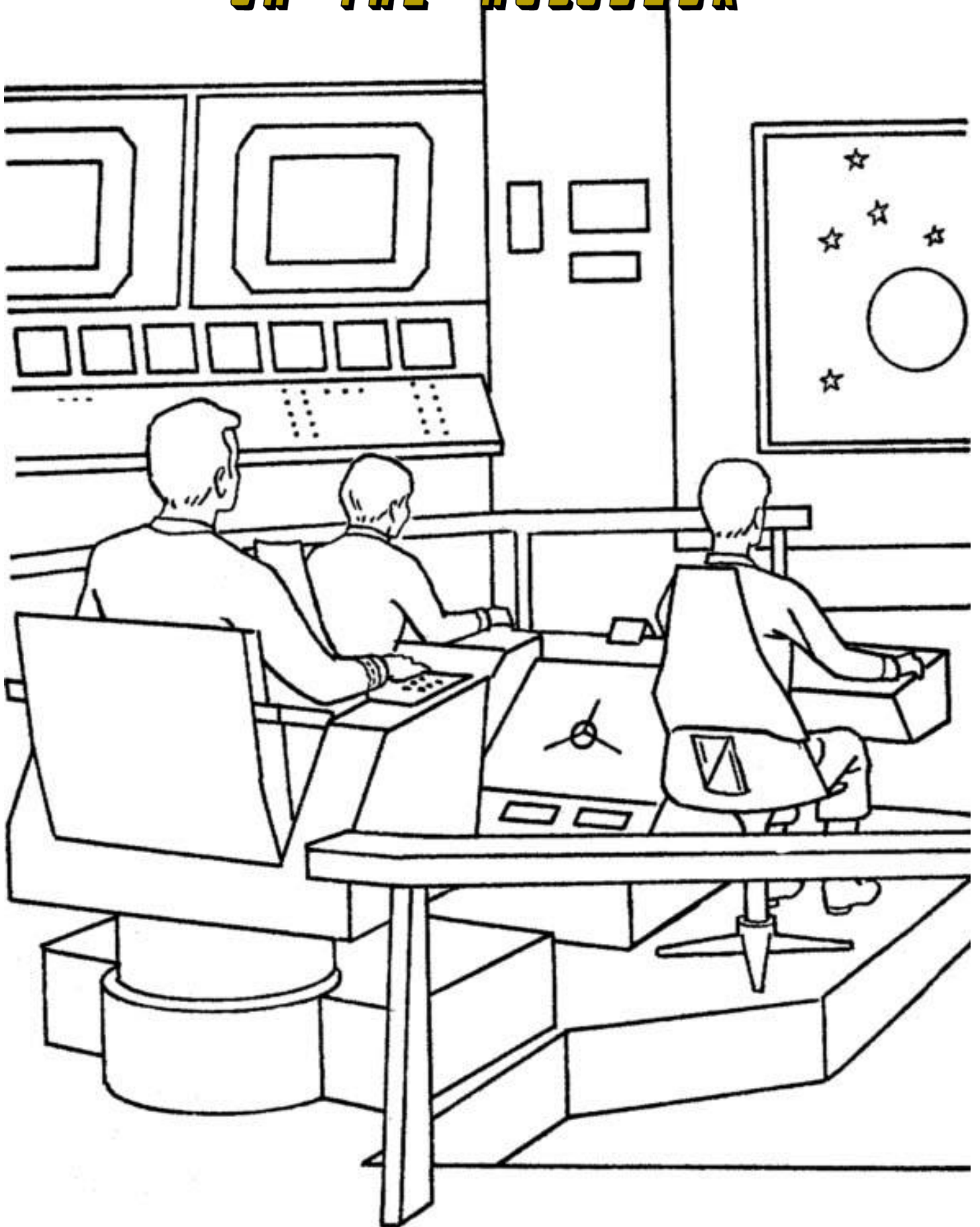
Stan Love

Artemis 2 Lead Capcom

Above: Screenshot of e-mail sent by Dr. Stanley Love explaining Eugene the unicorn plush.



# ON THE HOLODECK



Spotted by Freddy Heller  
in Gibraltar.

Guess this answers the  
question of what Khan did  
after his Star Trek career  
drew to an end.



## COMIC CORNER NEWS

This is a partial list of Sci-Fi, etc. conventions for 2025. If you know of any upcoming convention or event of interest that's not yet listed, please feel free to submit it.

### May

- May 3-4 **Superstar Comic Con** - Savannah, Georgia ( [superstarcomiccon.com/](http://superstarcomiccon.com/) )  
May 4 **CCS Comic Con** - Stone Mountain, Georgia  
( [charliescollectibleshow.com/event/ccs-comic-con-and-free-comic-book-day-comics/](http://charliescollectibleshow.com/event/ccs-comic-con-and-free-comic-book-day-comics/) )  
May 7-10 **Furry Weekend Atlanta** - Atlanta, Georgia ( [furryweekend.com/](http://furryweekend.com/) )  
May 22-25 **MomoCon** - Atlanta, Georgia ( [www.momocon.com/](http://www.momocon.com/) )  
May 30-Jun 1 **Smoky Mountain Terror** - Kingsport, Tennessee ( [www.smokymountainterror.com/](http://www.smokymountainterror.com/) )

### June

- May 30-Jun 1 **Smoky Mountain Terror** - Kingsport, Tennessee ( [www.smokymountainterror.com/](http://www.smokymountainterror.com/) )  
Jun 13-15 **Rangerstop & Pop** - Atlanta, Georgia ( [www.rangerstopatlanta.com/](http://www.rangerstopatlanta.com/) )  
Jun 20-22 **JoeFest & Comic Convention** - Augusta, Georgia ( [www.joefestusa.com/](http://www.joefestusa.com/) )  
Jun 20-22 **Metrotham Con** - Dalton, Georgia ( [metrothamcon.com/](http://metrothamcon.com/) )  
Jun 26-28 **Region 2 Summit** - Jackson, Mississippi ( [www.facebook.com/events/866733629702076/](http://www.facebook.com/events/866733629702076/) )  
Jun 26-28 **Mississippi Comic Con** - Jackson, Mississippi ( [www.mississippicomiccon.com/](http://www.mississippicomiccon.com/) )

### July

- Jul 12-13 **Savannah ComicCon** - Savannah, Georgia ( [www.savannahcomiccon.com/](http://www.savannahcomiccon.com/) )  
Jul 18-20 **Atlanta Comic Convention** - Atlanta, Georgia ( [atlcomicconvention.com/](http://atlcomicconvention.com/) )  
Jul 20-22 **Southern-Fried Gaming Expo** - Atlanta, Georgia ( [gameatl.com/](http://gameatl.com/) )  
Jul 26 **AugustaCon** - Augusta, Georgia ( [theaugustacon.com/](http://theaugustacon.com/) )

## August

- Aug 1-3 **Starfleet International Conference** - Houston, Texas ( [ic2025.sfi.org/](http://ic2025.sfi.org/) )  
Aug 1-3 **Georgia Pop Culture & Horror Con** - Columbus, Georgia  
( [gapopandhorrorcon.com/](http://gapopandhorrorcon.com/) )  
Aug 8-10 **Monsterama Con** - Atlanta, Georgia ( [monsteramacon.com/](http://monsteramacon.com/) )  
Aug 21-13 **Megaplex** - Orlando, Florida ( [megaplexcon.org/](http://megaplexcon.org/) )  
Aug 28-Sep 1 **DragonCon** - Atlanta, Georgia ( [www.dragoncon.org/](http://www.dragoncon.org/) )

## September

- Aug 28-Sep 1 **DragonCon** - Atlanta, Georgia ( [www.dragoncon.org/](http://www.dragoncon.org/) )  
Sep 12-14 **Ancient City Con** - St. Augustine, Florida ( [www.ancientcitycon.com/](http://www.ancientcitycon.com/) )  
Sep 13-14 **Collect-A-Con** - Atlanta, Georgia ( [collectaconusa.com/atlanta-2/](http://collectaconusa.com/atlanta-2/) )  
Sep 20 **Cobb County Brick Convention** - Marietta, Georgia  
( [www.brickconvention.com/cobbcounty](http://www.brickconvention.com/cobbcounty) )  
Sep 20-21 **Ocala Comic Con** - Ocala, Florida ( [www.ocalacomicon.com/](http://www.ocalacomicon.com/) )  
Sep 26-28 **Necronomicon** - Tampa, Florida ( [necrofl.org/](http://necrofl.org/) )  
Sep 26-28 **Fanboy Expo** - Orlando, Florida ( [fanboyexpo.com/orlando/](http://fanboyexpo.com/orlando/) )  
Sep 27-28 **South Alabama Comic Con** - Mobile, Alabama ( [www.southalabamacomiccon.com/](http://www.southalabamacomiccon.com/) )  
Sep 28 **Florida Horror-Fest** - Fort Myers, Florida ( [floridahorrorfest.com/](http://floridahorrorfest.com/) )

## October

- Oct 11 **Con of Horrors** - Cartersville, Georgia ( [cartersvillecomiccon.com/](http://cartersvillecomiccon.com/) )  
Oct 11 **Appalachian Horrorfest** - Knoxville, Tennessee ( [appalachianhorrorfest.com/](http://appalachianhorrorfest.com/) )  
Oct 17-19 **Multiverse** - Atlanta, Georgia ( [www.multiversecon.org/](http://www.multiversecon.org/) )  
Oct 17-19 **Smoky Mountain Anime Fest** - Gatlinburg, Tennessee  
( [www.smokymountainanimefest.com/](http://www.smokymountainanimefest.com/) )  
Oct 19 **Georgia Horror-Fest** - Grovetown, Georgia ( [georgiahorrorfest.com/](http://georgiahorrorfest.com/) )  
Oct 25 **Alabama Horror-Fest** - Dothan, Alabama ( [alabamahorrorfest.com/](http://alabamahorrorfest.com/) )  
Oct 25 **Tennessee Horror-Fest** - Clarksville, Tennessee ( [tennesseehorrorfest.com/](http://tennesseehorrorfest.com/) )  
Oct 25-26 **Vampire Fan Weekend** - Orlando, Florida ( [www.creationent.com/cal/tvd\\_orl/](http://www.creationent.com/cal/tvd_orl/) )  
Oct 31-Nov 2 **Spooky Empire** - Orlando, Florida ( [spookyempire.com/](http://spookyempire.com/) )

## November

- Oct 31-Nov 2 **Spooky Empire** - Orlando, Florida ( [spookyempire.com/](http://spookyempire.com/) )  
Nov 2 **Atlanta Comic Convention** - Atlanta, Georgia ( [www.atlantacomiconvention.com/](http://www.atlantacomiconvention.com/) )  
Nov 8-9 **PalmCon: Treasure Coast** - Port St. Lucie, Florida ( [palmcon.net/treasure-coast](http://palmcon.net/treasure-coast) )  
Nov 14-16 **CONjuration** - Duluth, Georgia ( [www.conjurationcon.com/](http://www.conjurationcon.com/) )  
Nov 14-16 **Superstar Comic Con Savannah** - Savannah, Georgia  
( [galaxycon.com/pages/superstar-comic-con-savannah](http://galaxycon.com/pages/superstar-comic-con-savannah) )  
Nov 15 **Augusta Anime Fest** - Augusta, Georgia ( [augustaanimefest.com/](http://augustaanimefest.com/) )  
Nov 28-30 **Starbase Indy** - Indianapolis, Indiana ( [www.starbaseindy.org/](http://www.starbaseindy.org/) )  
Nov 30 **SW-FloridaCon** - Fort Myers, Florida ( [swfloridacomicon.com/](http://swfloridacomicon.com/) )

## December

- Dec 6 **Sarasota Anime-Fest** - Sarasota, Florida ( [sarasotaanimefest.com/](http://sarasotaanimefest.com/) )  
 Dec 6-7 **Enchantment Con** - Jacksonville, Florida ( [www.enchantmentcon.com/](http://www.enchantmentcon.com/) )  
 Dec 7 **Charlie's AnimeCon** - Fort Myers, Florida ( [www.charliesanimecon.com/](http://www.charliesanimecon.com/) )  
 Dec 14 **Huntsville Anime-Fest** - Huntsville, Alabama ( [thehuntsvilleanimefest.com/](http://thehuntsvilleanimefest.com/) )  
 Dec 18-21 **Anime Weekend Atlanta** - Atlanta, Georgia ( [awa-con.com/](http://awa-con.com/) )  
 Dec 19-21 **Holiday Matsuri** - Orlando, Florida ( [holidaymatsuri.com/](http://holidaymatsuri.com/) )



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Here are just a few of the following DaVinci personnel, Star Trek celebrities, and historical events that are celebrating birthdays or anniversaries this month.

Grace Lee Whitney Dies at 85 (Yeoman Janice Rand, <i>The Original Series</i> )	1 <sup>st</sup>
Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson (Pendari Champion, <i>Voyager</i> )	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Leonardo da Vinci Dies (1519)	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Marc Alaimo (Dukat, <i>Deep Space Nine</i> )	5 <sup>th</sup>
Santiago Cabrera (Chrisobal “Chris” Rios, <i>Picard</i> )	5 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Star Trek: Strange New Worlds</i> Premieres (2022)	5 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Enterprise</i> NX-01 Makes First Contact with the Axanar (2151)	5 <sup>th</sup>
CDR Alan Shepard Becomes First American In Space (1961)	5 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Star Trek</i> Premieres [alternate timeline] (2009)	8 <sup>th</sup>
<b>ENS Sandra Adams</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>CPO Lisa Neal</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>
Eugene Cordero (ENS Sam Rutherford, <i>Lower Decks</i> )	12 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Star Trek: Enterprise</i> Final Episode (2005)	13 <sup>th</sup>
Betty Miller Becomes First Woman To Fly Solo Across Pacific Ocean (1963)	13 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Skylab</i> Space Station Launched By NASA (1973)	14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>RADM Jeff Kirkland</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>
Final Mercury Flight, <i>Mercury-Atlas 9</i> , Launches (1963)	15 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Star Trek Into Darkness</i> Premieres [alternate timeline] (2013)	16 <sup>th</sup>
Andreas Katsulas (CDR Tomalak, <i>The Next Generation</i> )	18 <sup>th</sup>
Jacqueline Cochran Becomes First Woman To Break Sound Barrier (1953)	18 <sup>th</sup>

<i>Apollo 10</i> Launches (1969)	18 <sup>th</sup>
Helen Sharman Becomes First Briton In Space (1991)	18 <sup>th</sup>
John Billingsly (Dr. Phlox, <i>Enterprise</i> )	20 <sup>th</sup>
Kathryn Janeway is Born	20 <sup>th</sup>
David Ajala (Cleveland “Book” Booker, <i>Discovery</i> )	21 <sup>st</sup>
Charles Lindbergh Makes First Solo Nonstop Flight Across Atlantic Ocean (1927)	21 <sup>st</sup>
Amelia Earheart Becomes First Woman To Fly Solo Nonstop Across Atlantic Ocean (1932)	21 <sup>st</sup>
<i>Star Trek: The Next Generation</i> Final Episode (1994)	23 <sup>rd</sup>
<i>Star Trek: Voyager</i> Final Episode (2001)	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Doug Jones (Saru, <i>Discovery</i> )	24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>ADM Freddy Heller</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>
NASA Astronaut Sally Ride (1951)	26 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Discovery</i> Becomes First Space Shuttle To Dock With The <i>International Space Station</i> (1999)	29 <sup>th</sup>
Colm Meaney (Chief Miles O’Brien, <i>The Next Generation</i> , <i>Deep Space Nine</i> )	30 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Star Trek: Discovery</i> Final Episode (2024)	30 <sup>th</sup>
NASA Launches <i>Surveyor 1</i> Lunar Probe (1966)	30 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Mariner 9</i> Mars Space Probe Launched (1971)	30 <sup>th</sup>



## NIGHT OUT LOCATIONS

<b>May</b>	<b>DeOrios</b>	<b>Alternates:</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Five Guys</b>	<b>Country’s BBQ</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>Fuji</b>	<b>Chef Lee’s</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>Raising Cane</b>	<b>El Carizo</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Red Robin</b>	
<b>October</b>	<b>Cheddar’s</b>	
<b>November</b>	<b>Firehouse Subs</b>	
<b>December</b>	<b>Black Cow</b>	

## TAURUS - FERENGI



Very Materialistic,  
Not Afraid of Hard Work  
To Get What They Want

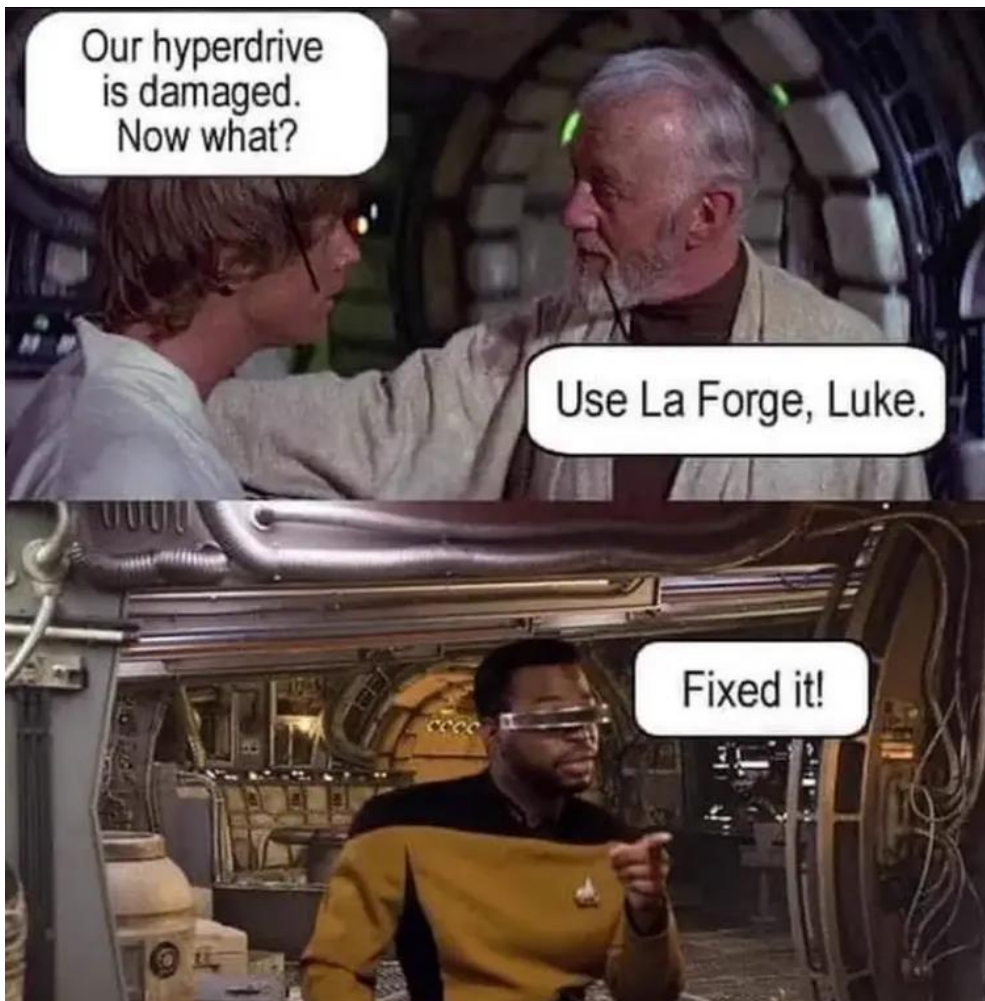
Apr 21 – May20

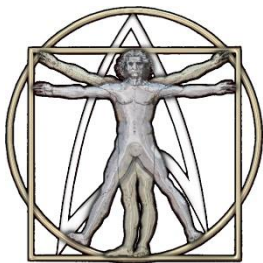
## GEMINI - TRILL



Value Friendship Above All,  
Can Be Inconsistent

May 21 – Jun 21





# MEMBERSHIPS

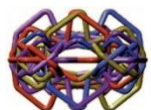


Many of you do not know when your membership in Starfleet is due for renewal. So to help you remember, the following lists your **family** expiration dates.

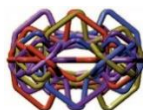
Please note that if the date is highlighted in **RED**, your membership has expired and you need to renew as soon as possible.

If highlighted in **BOLD** your membership is nearing its expiration, so please renew soon.

Name	Starfleet	Name	Starfleet
Sandra Adams	Nov '26	Leiko Koone	Apr '27
Wilbert Adams	Nov '26	Charles Koone	Apr '27
Robert Anthony	—	Sue Koone	Apr '27
Michael Allen	<b>Expired</b>	Everett Leonard	Mar '27
Richard Biniasz	<b>Expired</b>	Gregory Newer	Mar '27
Steve Brown	—	Joe Perry	Nov '26
Steve Cushing	<b>Expired</b>	Karen Pynenburg	Mar '27
Randy Dunn	<b>Expired</b>	John B Morell	Sep '28
Freddy Heller	LTM	Harold Stewart	Mar '27
Todd Kes	Nov '26	Mike Watkins	Apr '27
Jeff Kirkland	Nov '26	Paula Lee	<b>May '26</b>



## LINKS



Here are a few important web sites relevant to the DaVinci:

- USS DaVinci                      [www.usdavinci.org](http://www.usdavinci.org)
- Starfleet International       [www.sfi.org](http://www.sfi.org)
- Starfleet Database            [db.sfi.org/](http://db.sfi.org/)
- Starfleet Region 2            [region2.org/](http://region2.org/)

## LATITUDE VAULT

Opening Balance                \$219

Closing Balance                \$219



# DAVINCI T-SHIRTS

DaVinci t-shirts are still available! The cost is very reasonable: YM to L (\$11); XL (\$12), 2X (\$13), 3X (\$14), and 4X (\$15). Please contact Joe if you'd like to purchase a shirt.

Here is what the shirts look like:



**Operations**



**Science**



**Engineering**

Here is what we currently have in stock:

<u>Operations (Red)</u>		<u>Science (Blue)</u>		<u>Engineering (Yellow)</u>	
Medium	2	Youth Medium	1	Youth Medium	1
Large	0	Small	1	Small	1
XL	3	Medium	2	Medium	4
2X	2	Large	0	Large	1
4X	1	2X	0	XL/2X	0/1

**THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT AND  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE AT**

**Deorio's**

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Stewart Chiropractic  
801 South Railroad Ave. Suite 203  
Opelika, AL 36801

Cell # 706-326-2409  
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# ONE MORE THING THEN DISMISSED



THE NEXT DAVINCI NIGHT OUT AND  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE AT

**Deorio's**

ON MONDAY 18 MAY AT 6:30 PM  
COME FOR THE FOOD & FRIENDSHIP!!