

Join the Club!

Group welcomes fellow Japanese animation fans

Club name: The Delaware Animé Society

What they do: The Delaware Animé Society is for those with an interest in Japanese animé (animation), manga (comics), music and pop culture to meet with like-minded people. The group, which welcomes animé fans of all ages, has two chapters, one for southern Delaware, which meets in Dover, and one for northern Delaware, which meets in Bear.

“Some people get into the big robots, some enjoy the love stories or the action,” local member Michele Lapinski said of the appeal of animé. “It depends on what you like.”

For those who are not full-fledged aficionados, well-known animé titles include Cowboy Bebop, Dragonball, Pokémon, Sailor Moon and Inuyasha; those and some others can be seen on television’s Cartoon Network.

DAS meetings, however, provide an opportunity to see harder-to-find titles. “We don’t show anything that’s on TV,” Lapinski said.

When and where they meet: The southern chapter meets from 2 to 8 p.m. the second Saturday of every month at Superior Comics, 121 W. Loockerman St., Dover; their next meeting is Saturday, March 12. Meetings begin with an hour of Dance Dance Revolution and other video games followed by showings of regular series and random picks suggested by members.

The March 12 meeting will include Kodocha, Fruits Basket, Vision of Escaflowne and Full Metal Panic. The showings are appropriate for ages 13 and older; group guidelines decry choices with sexual content or excessive violence.

The society is part of the Animé Advocates program through U.S. distributor ADV Films and receives promo DVDs monthly. They are also on distributor Funimation’s mailing list.

If you go...

Who: The Kent County Theatre Guild

What: A production of Norman Beim’s *On a Darkling Plain*

When: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, March 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19, and 3 p.m. Sunday, March 13

Where: The Patchwork Playhouse, 140 E. Roosevelt Avenue, Dover

Tickets: \$12 for adults and \$10 for senior citizens and students

Target audience: Adults, due to language

Reservations/information: Call 674-3568 or visit www.kctg.org

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Special events: The group is affiliated with Kosaikon, a mini animé convention held twice a year at West Chester University in Pennsylvania, with the next date set for Saturday, March 26. Local members also plan to participate in an animé marathon during the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C., in April; the group holds an annual Halloween party for both chapters; and gets together to attend other area anime conventions during the year.

Number of members: About 60 in both chapters; about 12 to 15 typically attend southern chapter meetings.

Dues: No joining or admittance fees

Who to contact for more information: Email Michele Lapinski at empressmish@yahoo.com or visit www.geocities.com/delawareanimesociety. The group also has a Live Journal community www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?userdeanime and a Yahoo ML at www.yahoo.com/group/delawareanimesociety.

Compiled by Joanna Wilson, Lifestyles editor

