

Special Guest ~ Moshe Feder



Moshe Feder Has These Things Going For Him

By Karen Cooper, with help from Kevin Maroney, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Sharon Sbarsky, Seth Breidbart, Stu Shiffman, and Joshua Bilmes.

Moshe Feder is passionate about his interests. He's a serious collector, especially Coca-Cola artifacts which are the main component of his home decor. But he also surrounds himself with posters, books, and all the trappings of a well-read fan. He's animated about food and restaurants, from crazy ingredients to coal-fired pizza ovens. And dim sum and ice cream, entire universes of fervor. Bagels, and lox.

He's enthusiastic about the Mets ***and*** the Yankees; he's an equal opportunity New York fan. His devotion has convinced entire groups of fans to go outside and play it. Yes: Fans. Playing. Baseball. And there's music. He's serious about classical and jazz, Jewish music and British folk, Richard Thompson and Steven Sondheim.

And he's eloquent when discussing New York City's history, buildings, and transit system. He can identify one subway platform from another by pictures alone. He knows the names of the lions outside the public library, and where to find Lewis Carroll's Alice in Central Park. He can tell you what's important about the Chrysler Building, and where the secret apartments in Grand Central Terminal are. Ask him about trains. And the New York World's Fairs.

He's been a fan since at least the early 1970s, though someone thinks they remember meeting him in the late 1960s. He organized fan groups at his college and in his home, recruited friends to the hobby, and introduced everyone to everyone. He put out apazines, knows what happened to the Fanoclasts, and if you're in from out of town, he's certain to have tourist advice and a restaurant suggestion. If he's free, he might even take you around himself.

Moshe has been a pro almost as long as he's been a fan. He started out working for Ellen Asher at the Science Fiction Book Club in the early 1970s, and then moved over to run the Military Book Club. When the call of science fiction came again in 1997, Moshe started at Tor Books, working as David Hartwell's assistant editor. Moshe's worked with the two longest-serving editors in the American SF field.

In 2004, he began developing new writers as a consulting editor at Tor. He acquired Philip Jennings's "Nam-o-Rama" and Brandon Sanderson's fantasy novel "Elantris", a stand-alone novel about a cursed and ruined city. This was the first of six novels that Brandon has written for Moshe.

Moshe continues to bring titles to Tor, including most notably "Space Vulture" (2008), a collaboration by the unlikely team of Gary K. Wolfe (the creator of Roger Rabbit) and John J. Myers (the Archbishop of Newark, New Jersey), and Jeff Meldrum's "Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science" (2009), a non-fiction study of the world's most famous cryptid.

Given his long history in fandom and prodrom and his engaging interest in, well, pretty much everything, striking up a fascinating conversation with Moshe Feder should be the easiest thing in the world. Give it a try and see if I'm right.

