

SPECIAL SECTION: HOW TO HAVE FUN OUTDOORS

Philcon Illustrated

PHILADELPHIA'S 73RD CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY AND HORROR

THE GERM-FREE
Home of
2009!
BLUEPRINTS
INSIDE



TIME-LAPSE RADIO • CLOCKWORK HORSES • SOVIET SUPREMACY BY 1967?
MENTAL HEALTH BY LIE-DETECTOR • THE COMING ERA OF UNDERSEA JAI-ALAI



Promise of a golden future

Yellow uranium ore from the Colorado Plateau

is helping to bring atomic wonders to you

Long ago, Indian braves made their war paint from the colorful sandstones of the Colorado Plateau.

THEY USED URANIUM—Their brilliant yellows came from carnotite, the important uranium-bearing mineral. Early in this century, this ore supplied radium for the famous scientists, Marie and Pierre Curie, and later vanadium for special alloys and steels.

Today, this Plateau—stretching over parts of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona—is our chief domestic source of uranium. Here, new communities thrive; jeeps and airplanes replace the burro; Geiger counters supplant the divining rod and miner's hunch.

From hundreds of mines that are often just small tunnels in the hills, carnotite is hauled to processing mills. After the vanadium is extracted, the uranium, concentrated in the form of "yellow-cake," is shipped to atomic energy plants.

A NEW ERA BECKONS—What does atomic energy promise for you? Already radioactive isotopes are working won-

ders in medicine, industry, and agriculture. In atomic energy, scientists also see a vision of unknown power—which someday may heat and light your home, and propel submarines, ships, and aircraft. The Indian's war paint is on the march again—toward a golden future.

UCC TAKES AN IMPORTANT PART—The people of Union Carbide locate, mine, and refine uranium ore. They also operate for the Government the huge atomic materials plants at Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Paducah, Ky., and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where radioisotopes are made.

FREE: For an illustrated story of the fascinating uranium country of the Colorado Plateau, write for the booklet "Mesa Miracle." Ask for booklet B.

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UCC's Trade-marked Products of Alloys, Carbons, Chemicals, Gases, and Plastics include

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BAKELITE, KRENE, and VINYLITE Plastics • DYNEL TEXTILE FIBERS • LINDE Oxygen • SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICALS

Contents



The Future is *better* than it used to be.



The Philcon 2009®

Program Book

November 20th thru 22nd
The Crowne Plaza Hotel
Cherry Hill, NJ

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A Statement by the Editors: Every possible effort has been made to provide an accurate and full description of all Convention events in this Guide. Where errors or omissions occur, they reflect changes in plans made after the Guide went to press.

A color PDF of this Program Book is available on the Philcon website, <http://www.philcon.org>.

Many of the period advertisements and artwork in this year's Philcon publications are from the collection of Charles Shopsin, showcased at his website *Modern Mechanix* (<http://blog.modernmechanix.com/>). MM is a terrific resource for advertisements, especially those of a mechanical, engineering, scientific or retro-futuristic bent, and many are available for purchase through Ebay through the website. We are very grateful to Mr. Shopsin for his permission.

All other materials were acquired from sources offering use under Creative Commons licenses.

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*For All That Is
Dark and Dangerous This Fall*
DARK QUEST BOOKS PRESENTS:

The Halfling's Court:
A Bad-Ass Faerie Tale



Motorcycles, Magic,
and Mayhem...Fae on Wheels

Danielle Ackley-McPhail
illus. by Linda Saboe
978-0-9796901-6-7



And the cult classic...

The Evil Gazebo

Attend the official Book Launch and you could
win an Autographed Amy Brown Figurine
or Hand-Bound Copy of *The Evil Gazebo*

Pondering the penultimate
question: Does it bite?

Bernie Mojzes
illus. by Linda Saboe
978-0-9746645-6-0

~All Philcon Attendees~

Help award-winning authors Danielle Ackley-McPhail and Bernie Mojzes celebrate at the

All That Is Dark And Dangerous Launch Party And Raffle
Saturday November 21, from 7pm to 9pm in the Con Suite

Also Featured...

Available in the Dealer's Room,
on www.darkquestbooks.com
and other major book vendors.



from Morrigan Books

Dead Souls

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You're dying to know...
Edite by Mark Deniz
978-9-1977605-8-4



Welcome to Philcon!

It all starts with something weird.

A dead butterfly on a time traveler's boot changes spelling and election results on his return to the future. Or, a robot who thought he was a man, finding reality is controlled by a paper tape in his chest. Or, an expedition to the arctic, that discovers a nameless horror. Or even a young Earth, where mankind is only one of several dominant species.

Your imagination is sparked, so you go and tell your friend to read about this amazing thing, and you go searching for more for you and your friend to discuss. He or She finds some for you to read. Or view. They tell their friends of what they have found. Soon there is a group of you, reading and viewing, sharing and discussing. You start to schedule times to get together to hang out. The group grows, the meetings become more formal and a Club is born. There is confidence in numbers, now the club wants to share their interests with the wider public. They throw a convention.

That's why you came here this weekend. Sure, you could have stayed at home and surfed the net or watch DVD's or console game. But the online experience pales in comparison to the thrill of the crowd. You and your friends have common interests and love to get together to enjoy sharing your knowledge and point of view with each other. This love of a common interest is the glue that binds Philcon and other Fannish events together.

That's a great and lasting thing, always to be appreciated and never to be forgotten.

In 1936, some friends got together in Philadelphia to discuss all the weird stuff they were reading. There was even a New York contingent. They hung out, played cards, looked at art and technology (a printing press) and sang Filk songs. Then they went home. That was the first Philcon and we've been throwing them nearly continuously for over 70 years since then. We have professionals and amateurs, old hands and young up-and-comers. All here for the same reason; to have fun sharing. This is what you are a part of, this grand tradition of sharing the weird and interesting with friends. Thank you for coming out and participating.

Whether you are a Filker singing of space or dragons, a Horror fan looking for a new scare, a Science Fiction Fan, geeking on alien hardware, or any of the other millions of flavors of fandom, hard scientist to candy colored anime fan, we welcome you and encourage you to mix, meet, mingle, and even marry (one of the ways to make new fans, hey, it happens!).

So when you are attending a panel, event, exhibition, or just hangin' in the public spaces, look around. There are friends you haven't met all around you. Don't hesitate to make those new friends and share your interest; that's why you're here and that's why we're here.

My name is Rock Robertson, I am the chair of Philcon 2009. Welcome. Tell me more about that weird thing.

Philcon Committees and Staff

Chair: Rock Robertson
Treasurer: Todd Dashoff
Fixed Functions Director: Mark Trebing
Exhibits/ Fan Tables: Todd Dashoff

Programming

Program Division Manager: Gary Keith Feldbaum.
Program Operations: Sue Ellen Colter. **Staff:** Susan deGuardiola. **Anime Program:** Brian Price. **Art Program:** Wendy Mitchell. **Fandom Program:** Hugh Casey, Sue Ellen Colter. **Filk Program:** Roberta Rogow.
Gaming Program: Robert Hranek, Gary Feldbaum.
Literary Program: Co-Heads: Oz Fontecchio, Darrell Schweitzer. **Literary Programming Assistants:** Roman Ranieri, Hildy Silverman, Wendy Penasa, Jerry Crosson, Lee Weinstein, Diane Weinstein, Nathan Lilly. **Media Program:** Hugh Casey, Sue Ellen Colter, Nikki McGeary, Rebecca Marcus. **Science Program:** Margaret Trebing. **Science Programming Assistants:** Hank Smith, Wayne Rector. **Cutting Edge Program:** Hugh Casey, Sue Ellen Colter, Suzanne Rosin, Rebecca Marcus, Nikki McGeary. **Anime:** Brian T. Price.

At-Con Operations

Administration: Lynn Cohen-Koehler. **Operations:** Danny Liebreman, Lynn Cohen-Koehler. **Logistics:** Robert Schweir, John Desmond

Information

Head: Suzanne Rosin. **Staff:** Robin Goldblum, Jefferson Eng, Linder Ranieri, Amy Bailey, Lynati, Lynn Cohen-Koehler

Registration

Committee: Rich Ferree. **Assistant:** Dave Cantor. **Staff:** Ira Donewitz.

Den

Sara Paul, Gene Olmsted, Kathleen Morrison, Larry Kramer.

Con Suite

Con Suite Co-Heads: Don Field and Shelly Handen. **Assistant:** Bruce Bloom. **Staff:** Candace Pinto, Wayne Rector, Mark Roth, Jim Tigar, Winona Whyte-Schwier.

Hotel

Hotel Liaison: Dennis McCunney. **Assistant:** Elaine Brennan.

Publications

Emily Tullis, Terry Graybill. **Design and Layout:** Brian Siano. **Ad Sales:** Lewis Wolkoff. **Editorial Assistant:** Nikki McGeary.

Guest Liaison

Rachael Schechter. **Assistant:** Suzanne Rosin.

Masquerade

Masquerade Director: Dora Buck. **Assistant:** Marcy Huston. **Green Room Manager:** Byron Connell. **Repair Table:** Tina Connell. **MC:** Rob Himmelsbach. **Clerk:** Marcy Huston.

Gaming

Bobby Edoo, Nate White, Wil Bishop, Robert Preston, Andrew Welsh.

Filk

Everything: Roberta Rogow.

Not Necessarily Kids' Activities

Head: Deb Lieven. **Assistant:** Phillip Thorne. **Staff:** Kelly Lemmon, Rebecca Marcus, Christine Norris, Mary Thorne.

Dealers' Room

Committee: Devra Langsam. **Assistant:** Lillie Tanksley.

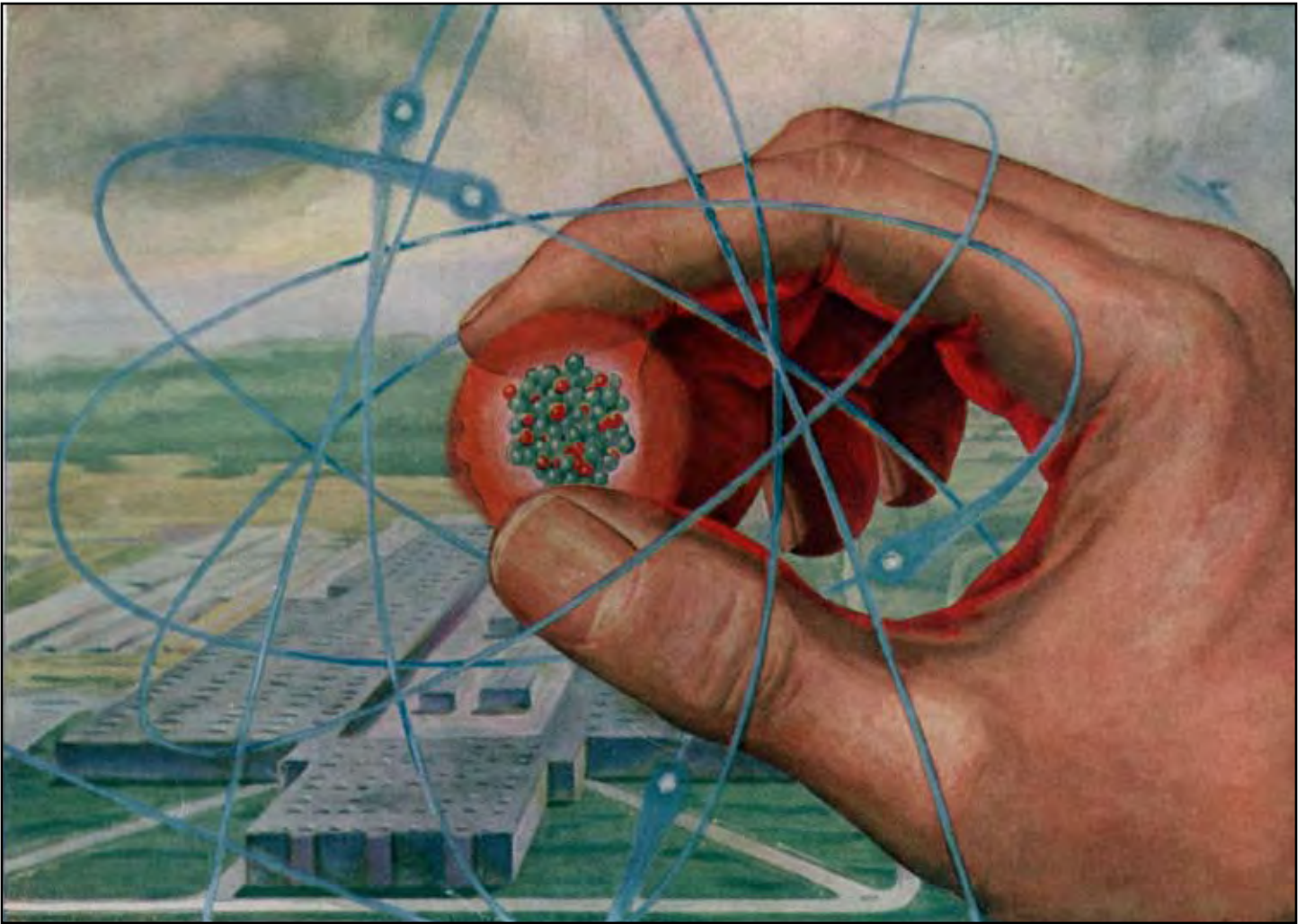
Greenroom: Rosemarie Freeman. **Assistants:** Jerry Crosson, Evan Phillip.

Tech Staff

Tech Director: Syd Weinstein. **Lighting Designer:** Michael Rafferty. **Sound Designer:** Martin Gear. **Tech Staff:** Larry Schroeder, Lisa Hertel, Stephanie Fine. **Tech Staff-House Mgr.:** Seth B. **Tech Staff/Supplier:** Jim Housell.

Art Show

Art Show Director and ASFA Liaison: Joni Brill Dashoff. **Assistants:** B. Shirley Avery, Andrea Senchy. **Art Show Staff:** Bonnie Atwood, Ted Atwood, Yoel Attiya, Lisa Hertel, Heidi Hooper, Judy Kindell, Saul Jaffe, Jim Reynolds, Sharon Sbarsky, Vicki Smith, Peggy Rae Sapienza, Jannie Shea, Harold Stein, Sara Weinstein. **Mail-In Art:** Lynn Perkins. **Print Shop Director:** Rachelle Lerner. **Assistant:** Neil Lerner. **Art Show Sales:** Donna Dube. **Auctioneers:** Eric "Dr. Gandalf" Fleischer. **Assistant:** Helen "Halla" Fleischer. **Art Show (de)Construction:** Bob Hranek, Martin Deutsch. **(de)Construction Staff:** Thomas Endry, John Desmond, Mike Fisher, David Goeddert, Peter Hottenrott, Rhea Hoch, Mark Hertel, David Nathanson, Jim Reichert, Tommy Reichert, Liz Reichert, Adam Reuter, Erwin Strauss, Michele Weinstein.



Message from the President

My name is Rock Robertson and I am the President of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, the parent organization of Philcon. On behalf of the society, Thank You for coming to Philcon 2009.

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society or PSFS was founded in October 1935 as an offshoot of an earlier club. The first Philcon was held one year later, indicating a focus on the social aspect of science fiction fandom. As one of the oldest literary science fiction societies in America, PSFS has held monthly meetings continuously except during World War Two. Since then, the stream of meetings has been uninterrupted as has the stream of great speakers who have appeared at PSFS meetings.

While PSFS focuses on literary science fiction, we also love fantasy and horror and we keep an eye on emerging media, as our favorite stories are translated into films, television series, animation, anime, graphic novels and all other forms of storytelling. We have a monthly book discussion group and an annual Hugo Award panel. PSFS also sponsors the Philip K. Dick Award for best Original SF Paperback, given at the Norwescon Convention.

We have also developed strong ties with local conventions (such as Zenkaikon and Fairiecon) as well as local faninsh groups (such as Phillygeek and Phillyfantastic). PSFS members also gather to attend special events and promote Philcon in the local area. Most often, gatherings are followed by a group meal, a great way to get to know your fellow enthusiasts.

PSFS meetings are generally held monthly in the University City area of Philadelphia, usually occurring on the 2nd Friday of the month. The format consists of a business meeting followed by a guest speaker. After the meeting, we have an informal meal at a nearby diner. Yes, we love to have that communal meal.

In Closing, I invite you to come to a PSFS meeting if you are in the local area or even just passing through at that time of month. Go to our website <http://www.psfs.org> for meeting dates, times, location and featured speaker. You will find a robust community of like minded enthusiasts keeping a great social tradition alive. Join us.

Thank you again for your participation in Philcon 2009. We hope to see you next year for even more fun!



THE 10TH OCCASSIONAL NORTH AMERICAN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA • AUGUST 5-8, 2010

Raleigh Convention Center • Marriott Raleigh City Center • Sheraton Raleigh Hotel

GUEST OF HONOR - ERIC FLINT

Author of the *Belisarius* and *1632* series
Editor of *Best of Jim Baen's Universe*

ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR - BRAD FOSTER

Six time winner of the Best Fan Artist Hugo
Founder of Jabberwocky Graphics

FAN GUEST OF HONOR - JUANITA COULSON

Filk Hall of Fame inductee
Co-Winner of Best Fanzine Hugo (1965) for *Yandro*

TOASTMASTER - TONI WEISSKOPF

Publisher of Baen Books
Winner of the Rebel, Phoenix, and Rubble Awards

ReConStruction will feature:

Anime!

Art Show!

Con Suite!

Dealers' Room!

Filk!

Films!

Gaming!

Kaffeeklatches!

Masquerade!

Panel Discussions!

Southern Hospitality!

Much more!!!!

MEMBERSHIP RATES THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2009:

If you voted in Site Selection:

	Standard Rate	Friend of the Bid	Presupporter
Attending	\$55	Automatic	\$35
Supporting	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic

If you did not vote in Site Selection:

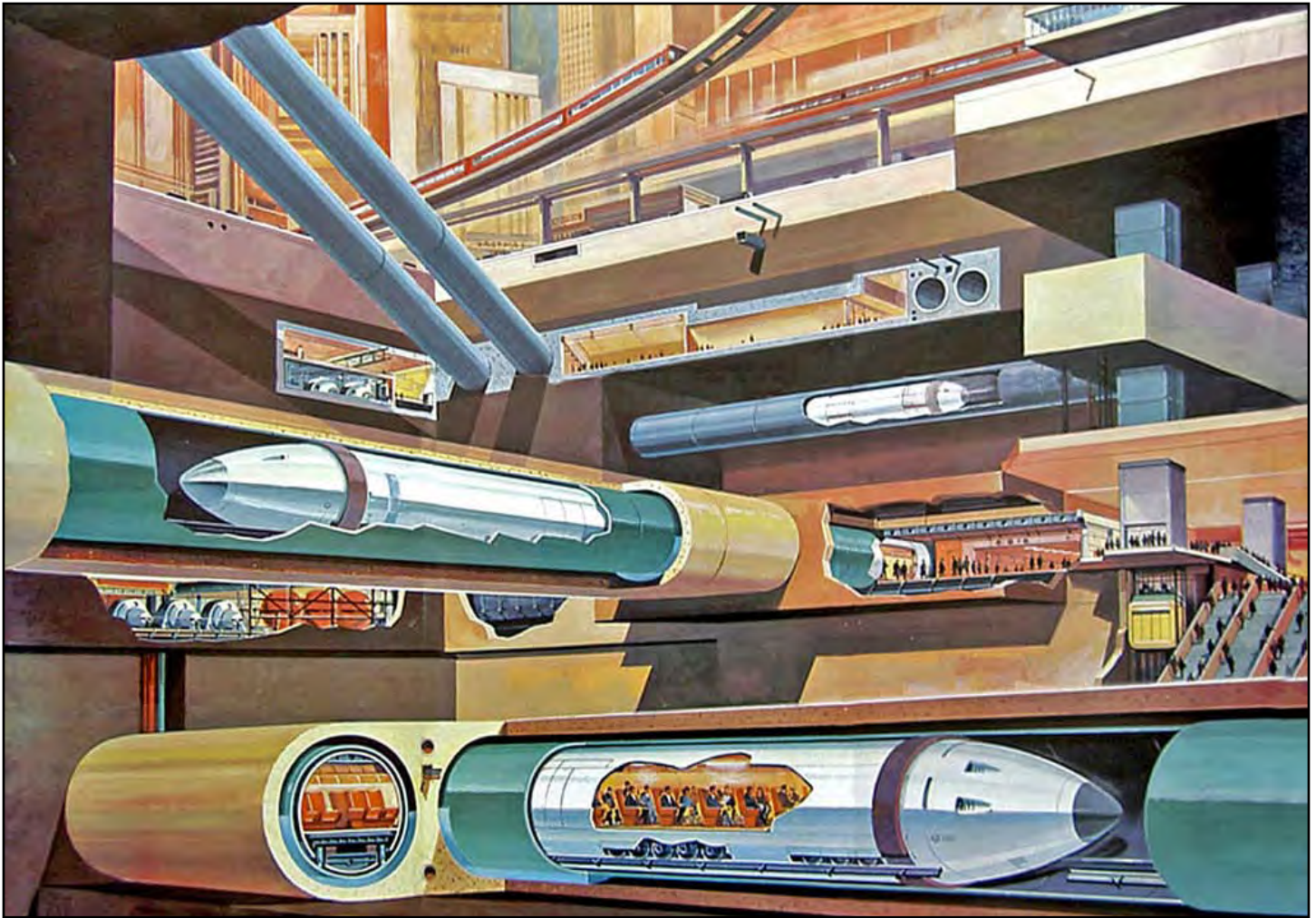
	Standard Rate	Friend of the Bid	Presupporter
Attending	\$95	\$45	\$75
Supporting	\$30	\$10	\$20

www.reconstructionsf.org
info@reconstructionsf.org

Mail check or money order to:
ReConStruction
PO Box 31706
Raleigh, NC, 27612

ReConStruction is hosted by the Southern Alliance of Fandom Enthusiasts, Inc. (SAFE), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

"World Science Fiction Society", "WSFS", "World Science Fiction Convention", "Worldcon", "NASFiC", "North American Science Fiction Convention", "Hugo Award", and the distinctive design of the Hugo Award Rocket are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.



How to Enjoy Philcon

Your stay at Philcon will be much happier and more fulfilling if you keep these Rules of Conduct in mind.

Convention Area consists of the Dealers' Room, Art Show, Masquerade, gaming, function rooms, and Con Suite as well as the hallways and lobby levels around them.

No alcoholic beverages are allowed in any Convention Area. The **only** exception to this will be at the Meet the Pros Party Friday Night.

Please remember that the **State of New Jersey's drinking age is 21**. Philcon and the hotel will be enforcing this law. Anyone serving alcohol to anyone below the age of 21 will have their membership revoked, no refunds.

Please note: **All parties must be in designated areas**. Parties in other areas will be closed down.

Smoking is only allowed in those rooms and areas designated by the Crowne Plaza Hotel. All function rooms of Philcon are non-smoking!

Damage to the Hotel or Convention property will be the financial responsibility of the perpetrator. Parents

and legal guardians will be responsible for any damage done by minors.

Nothing shall be thrown over the Lobby railings or down escalators or stairs.

Badges must be worn in a visible location within the Convention Areas at all times or you will be asked to produce it. Lost badges will be replaced for a \$20.00 fee. Proper photo identification must be provided.

No presentation on stage will be permitted unless approved by the Committee.

No Weapons: i.e. guns, gun replicas, swords, knives, lasers, model lasers, paint ball or splatter gun, or anything that could be perceived as a weapon by the public

Age Range	Called	Policy
0-6	Babies and Toddlers	Must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
7-12	Children	Must be supervised by an adult at all times, when not in Children's Programming.
13 and up	Teenagers	May roam the convention at will. Presence of Adult is not required.

will be permitted at Philcon. Laser Target Designators or Laser Pointers are not allowed in the Convention area (with the exception of guest speakers) due to the possible injury they may cause. The Philcon Committee has the final say on what constitutes a weapon. Unfortunately, we must reserve the right to revoke the membership, without refund, of anyone who refuses to comply with this policy. **The only partial exception is for registered participants of the Masquerade**, who may wear a weapon, excepting guns and operational lasers, from one-half hour before to one-half hour after the Masquerade. All Masquerade weapons must be affixed to the costume. Participants may use (draw, brandish, gesticulate with or otherwise waggle about) weapons as part of their performance onstage, but at no other time.

All rules and regulations pertaining to **Art Show** and bidding are clearly set forth in this Program Book and at the Art Show. The Art Show committee has final say over any conflicts that may arise.

Please do not photograph the materials in the Art Show, as this may infringe on the copyrights of the individual artists.

All costumes must cover and conceal any revealing body parts.

No interference with Hotel or Philcon Security will be permitted.

The **Philcon Children's Policy** is intended to provide for the safety and comfort of all members.

It is requested that all parents fill out **Child Identification Cards** at registration. The card is intended to help identify lost children and who their parents are. The card will have the child's name, parents' names and contact information, and physical description of the child. The physical description will include: hair color, eye color, height, ethnicity, and other distinguishing characteristics. The cards will be kept in a secured box, available only to the Con Chair, Vice-Chair, Heads of Registration, Head of Babysitting and Children's Programming and the Office. The cards will be destroyed at the end of the convention by shredding.

NOTE: No children under the age of 16 will be admitted except in the company of their parent or adult guardian. A waiver of the conference's responsibility will be required of the parent or legal adult guardian. Proper ID will be required to register at Philcon!

During panels, do not be obnoxious in the audience. Listen to the discussion, and be respectful when you offer your own opinion or ask a question. Anyone causing continuous disruptive behavior can and will have their membership revoked, without refund.

It is the hotel's policy that **pets are prohibited in any area of the hotel** (this includes guest rooms). Service animals, such as guide dogs, are exempt from this in accordance with the laws of the **State of New Jersey and the Township of Cherry Hill**.

Any **disruption** in the Convention Areas, as well as any violations of the Convention rules, will result in immediate expulsion from the Convention. No refunds will be given.

Regardless of anything else, you must comply with all laws of the State of New Jersey, the Township of Cherry Hill, the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Philcon.

Is Your TV Set Ready for the new UHF Channels?



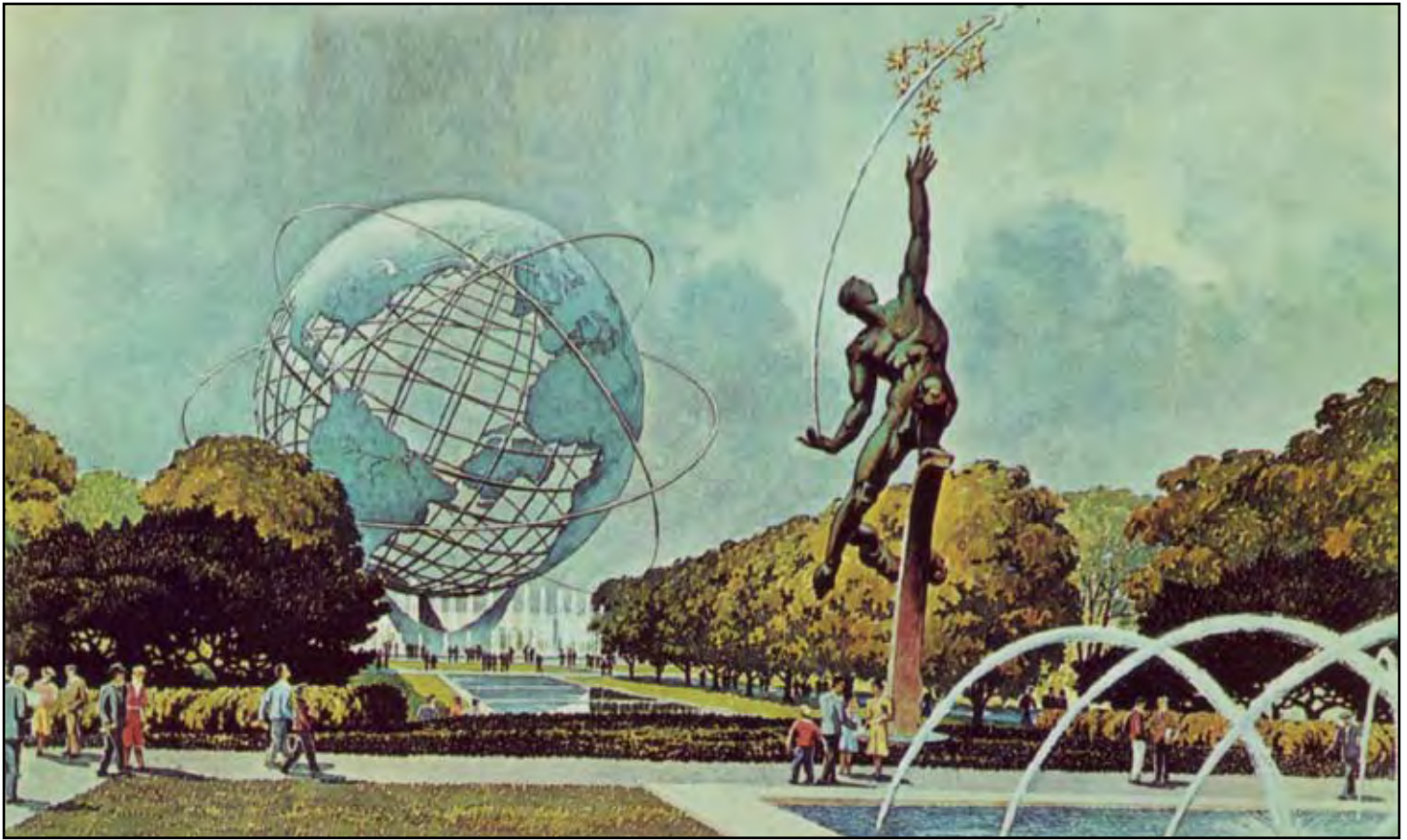
That's right! As new UHF channels go on the air in your area, you will receive them all... with no sacrifice of existing channels... with no internal changes in your set. The Mallory Converter can be connected to any set in a few minutes, right in your home.

The heart of the Mallory Converter is the Mallory UHF Tuner... an outgrowth of a tuning principle pioneered by Mallory in the early days of television. This Tuner provided a practical answer to the problems of UHF reception within weeks after the television "freeze" was lifted. It made possible the production of

both Converters and new, all-channel receivers in time for the first commercial UHF telecasts.

The Mallory Converter is a visible demonstration of engineering accomplishment. Many other Mallory products work behind the scenes—for example, the vibrator power supply in your car radio... the timer control in your automatic washer... the contacts in your home thermostat. Common to all of them are Mallory engineering research and Mallory precision quality that mean better performance and lower costs for a host of products in the fields of electronics, electrochemistry and metallurgy.





Art Show Bidding Rules

The work of amateur and professional artists is on display at Philcon.
Stop by and buy some for your home or place of work.

The **Art Show** is an exhibit of original SF, Fantasy, and Fannish art in two-dimensional and three-dimensional forms (that is, sketches, paintings, and sculpture), executed by professional and amateur artists. You only need your Philcon badge to come in and view the art, and vote for your favorite artwork by popular ballot.

To bid on artwork you must:

1. Be a registered member of Philcon, as evidenced by your Philcon badge.
2. Register at the Art Show Control Desk to receive your bidder number.

All artwork (other than that marked "NFS" i.e. Not for Sale) is for sale by competitive bid, both written and voiced. A **Print Shop** for direct sales of photoprints, lithographs, and other items is located in the front of the Art Show.

Bidding and Bid Sheets

Each piece of artwork is tagged with an ID/bid sheet that lists the title of the piece, the medium, and the name of the artist. The color of the bid sheet indicates the sale status of the artwork:

- Blue bid sheet: Artwork for display only, not for sale.

- Yellow bid sheet: Limited edition photoprint or multiple-copy artwork for sale at preset price only. A print with a yellow bid sheet will have one line for a written bid. The first written bid, which must match the sale price, buys the print. Usually, the artist will have submitted additional copies of the print for direct sale in the Print Shop at the same preset price.
- White bid sheet: Original art for sale to the highest bidder, beginning at minimum bid. At the bottom of the white bid sheet for original art will be lines on which the bidder can write a bid.

Each bid must be at least as high as the minimum bid specified by the artist and higher than any preceding bid. Write your name, bidder number, and the amount of your bid legibly on the bid sheet.

Please do not cross out any written bids. Ask the staff for assistance instead.

Philcon offers the option of QUICK SALE. If and only if there are NO WRITTEN BIDS on a piece, that piece may be immediately purchased for the Quick Sale price with the caveat that the physical piece may not be removed from the Art Show before 6 PM on Saturday.

The Print Shop is a separate display area of photoprints (reproductions of original art), lithographs, and

Artists of the Philcon 2009 Art Show

Eras Anderson	Morgan Crone	Heidi Hooper	Mark E. Rogers
Burt Aulisio	Charlene Taylor	John E. Kaufmann	Mark Roland
ASFA Auction	D'Alessio	Karl Kofoed	William Saloka
TAFF Auction	Loren Damewood	Delaware Valley Lego	Jannie Shea
Alan F. Beck	Donna Dube	Users Group	Luke Stelmaszek
Joseph Bellofatto	Elionwyr	Kathleen Lowe	Karen Telefsen
N. Taylor Blanchard	Shoshana Epsilon	Bernie Mojzes	Jim Tigar
Peri Charlifu	Helen "Halla"	Christine Myshka	Frank Wu, AGOH
Lorraine Charowsky	Fleischer	Thomas Nackid	Brianna Wu
David E. Christman	GAK	Karil Nowak	J. Andrew World
Alan M. Clark	Crystal Hanna	Nicole Pelligrini	
Sarah Clemens	Lisa Hertel	Lynn W. Perkins	
Daniel Cortopassi	Bill Hodgson	Ray Ridenour	

other multiple-copy artwork for direct sale at a pre-set price. All copies of each item will be displayed on a single extended hanger. Bring your selected items to the Print Shop sales desk. Our staff will complete the sale with you.

Suggestions for Bidding

Keep track of all bids you make. When placing a written bid on more than one item, assume that you will be the winning bidder on all of them. This way, you can avoid buying more art than you can afford.

Pace your Bids. If you have reached your limit of Art Show purchases, wait until you have lost an item to a higher bidder before bidding on another item.

Check Your Bid Sheets. Return to the Art Show shortly before it closes on Sunday at noon to check the bid sheets and see which items you have won by written bid and which will go to voice auction.

Close of Written Bidding and Voice Auction

Written bidding will close at 12:00 noon on Sunday. The Art Show will be cleared of people at that time. Any artwork with TWO or fewer bids will be sold to the bidder who made the highest written bid. **Artwork with THREE bids or more will be entered in the voice auction.**

The voice auction will be held on Sunday afternoon from 1 P.M. until 2 P.M. in or near the Art Show. Please consult your pocket program for the exact location.

At the voice auction, **the art is open to further bids by other people.** Therefore, a bidder should attend the voice auction to make further bids on pieces he or she wants to buy. The bidder making the highest bid by voice will buy the art at that price. If there are no voice bids, the art will be sold to the bidder who made the highest written bid.

Art Show Sales

Art Show sales will be on Sunday afternoon from 1:30 to 3 P.M. in the Art Show room.

At this time, you must pick up and pay for all items of art you have won by written bid or voice auction. Cash, Visa, MasterCard, travelers' checks, and personal check with ID will be accepted for payment in accordance with rules set by the Philcon Treasurer. Proof of ID (at least one photo and proof of address) will be required for all buyers at time of payment. You must pick up and pay for your own purchases.

We will track down anyone who fails to pick up and pay for art s/he bought at Philcon.

Remember: You bid, you buy. Be serious. Do not bid unless you intend to buy. A bid is a legal obligation to buy the art you bid on at the price you bid.

TAFF Auction!

Come bid on random cool stuff! Fossils! Artwork! Get your name inserted as a character in a science fiction novel! At this year's Philcon, the art show auction will share the stage with a TAFF auction!

TAFF is the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund, which raises money to send, in alternating years, a lucky fan from North America to the UK national convention, or a European fan to Worldcon. Running in this year's TAFF election is our artist guest of honor, Frank Wu. His competition is the duo of Anne K.G. Murphy and her fiancé, Brian Gray. The winner of the TAFF election is whoever gets the most votes by December 22, midnight PST. You can vote with a \$3 donation to TAFF, or find out more at <http://taff.org.uk>

Meanwhile, you can come down to the TAFF auction and bid on some random cool stuff!



Masquerade Rules and Information

Costuming has been a long-standing part of Philcon.

Please read if you'd like to participate.

Surprise the audience. **Never surprise the Crew.**
No fire or flame is allowed on stage – **No Exceptions.**

Smoking is prohibited in all designated masquerade areas.

No messy substances – wet, dry, or oily – that might ruin the costume of another contestant will be permitted in the green room or on stage.

The masquerade is PG-13. No flagrant nudity, please. "No costume is no costume."

Each entry will be limited to 60 seconds on stage.

There are no live mikes on stage. We encourage recorded music and dialog or text to be read by the MC.

Each contestant may appear only once on stage. You may enter more than one costume so long as it appears on a different body.

Entrants competing with Re-Creation costumes must provide documentation for the judges. Please provide **copies only** of your source materials. Do not bring books or videotapes.

Weapons

Nothing may be brought on stage that might endanger the entrants, audience, judges, or crew. Display of weapons on stage requires the Masquerade Director's **prior** clearance. Entrants displaying weapons without clearance will be disqualified.

Special effects

Nothing may be brought on stage that might endanger the entrants, audience, judges, or crew. Special effects must be clearly outlined in advance to the masquerade staff in order to determine that they are (1) legal and (2) safe. **Safety is our primary concern.**

No flash photography is permitted while contestants are on stage. Safety is our primary concern.

Any exceptions to these rules **MUST** be cleared in advance by the Masquerade Director. Only the Masquerade Director may approve exceptions.

When in doubt, ask the masquerade staff.

Masquerade Registration

Masquerade registration will take place at the Con, on Friday afternoon and evening and on Saturday morning and early afternoon. **All entries must be received no later than Saturday afternoon.**

Please fill out your entry forms clearly and legibly, as others will have to read them.

In a group entry, every member must sign the release form. Turn in any instructions or text for the MC, Re-Creation costume documentation for the judges, music, and instructions for the tech crew with the masquerade registration form.

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Music and Voice

We cannot handle tapes. We can handle Audio CD's, Data CD's with .wav or .mp3 files, and USB Flash sticks with .wav or .mp3 files. All Audio CD's must have the audio track as the first track on the disk (and preferably the only track on the disk).

No Voice from the stage. All dialog must be on the CD or read by the MC.

Competition Skill Divisions

The Philcon masquerade uses the following skill divisions, to assure that entrants compete against others with equal experience. **However, any entrant may elect to enter in a higher skill division.**

Young Fan (youth). Any contestant **13 years of age or younger** who is not part of an adult group.

Novice (beginner). Anyone who has **not won an award** for a costume in the masquerade at a major regional convention (like Philcon).

Journeyman (Intermediate). Anyone who has won **3 or fewer awards** for different costumes in the masquerades at major regional conventions.

Craftsman/Master (Advanced). Anyone who has won **more than 3 awards** for different costumes in the

masquerades at major regional conventions, world science fiction conventions, or Costume-Cons, or who has won Best in Show at a WorldCon or Costume-Con masquerade. Professional costumers also must enter in this division.

Competition Categories

The Philcon masquerade has two categories of costumes: **Original and Re-Creation.**

Original Costume: A costume whose **design is the creation of the contestant**, even though it may be inspired by an SF, fantasy, mythological, or other source.

Re-Creation Costume: A costume whose **design is copied** from a film, television show, theatrical presentation, comic, or other medium showing at least **one** good view of the costume. Re-Creation costumes are **duplicates or adaptations of the published design work of someone other than the contestant.** They require documentation of the source. A picture or written description must accompany your registration form.

Workmanship Judging

Workmanship judging is optional. It takes place in the masquerade green room before the show begins. It allows the workmanship judge to consider exceptional accomplishment in crafting the costume. This is the place where attention to detail may be recognized. Let your Den Mom know if you want your costume or a part of the costume judged for workmanship.

Suggestions for a Successful Competition

Please be kind to yourself before the masquerade. Get some sleep.

Register early for the masquerade and turn in all appropriate materials at that time, properly labeled. Come to the tech rehearsal and let the masquerade staff know what you will need for your presentation to run smoothly.

Please eat. You will be in the green room or on stage for about 4 1/2 hours. Eat and drink something a few hours before show time.

Check in at the green room and let your den mom take care of you, and your excess belongings (like glasses). Let the stage crew retrieve any props you leave on stage. If your costume needs a repair, the repair table will try to take care of you – don't panic, the repair kit is quite complete and the repair person is very good. If you have a problem, let your den mom or the green room manager know. Stay in your den so your den mom can find you when it is time to go on. Let the stage crew help you on and off stage so you don't trip or fall.

Stick around for the awards – it might be your name they call.

Rehearse, rehearse, REHEARSE! Remember, this is a costume competition, not a talent show. **Never bore the audience!** Don't forget to enjoy yourself!

Let us know what we can do to help you to make your presentation everything you want it to be. And **Thank you for being a part of the Philcon 2009 Masquerade!**



Philcon Dealers for 2009

Danielle Ackley-McPhail – Dark Quest Books – new sf & fantasy

Danielle Ackley-McPhail – Sidhe na Daire – new sf & fantasy

Daniel Adler – Game Knight – jewelry, games & toys, music

Rob Balder – Erfworld – comics, tee-shirts, buttons, games & toys

Beth Blonski – new sf & fantasy

Ann Boyle – new sf & fantasy

Chris Braak – Threat Quality Press – new sf & fantasy

James Chambers – new books, comics

Corsets by Casta Diva – corsets

Michael D'Ambrosio – new sf & fantasy

Chris Logan Edwards – Tigereyes Press – new sf & fantasy, collectable hardcovers

Lorry Filson – Elf-a-Wear – costumes & supplies, jewelry, tee-shirts

Gary Frank – self-published novels

Jack Gonzalez – Shuttered Lamp Publishing/Fantastic Voyages – new sf & fantasy

Jean Gonzalez – Somewhere in Time – used sf, collectable hardcovers

Art & Becky Henderson – Henderson Books – collectable hardcovers

Ira Kaplowitz – A.G.H.I.T.W. Bookstore – used sf, collectable hardcovers & paperbacks, videos

Rebecca Kaplowitz – Sense of Wonder Books – jewelry, used sf, videos

Brian Koscienski – Fortress Publishing – new sf & fantasy, magazines, comics, & other books

Tod Langley – new sf & fantasy

Devra Langsam – Poison Pen Press – costume books, cookbooks, juvenile fantasy, mysteries

Nancy Leibovitz – Calligraphic Buttons – custom buttons, bumperstickers

John Lohr – Howling Wolf Lost Pulp Classics – new sf & fantasy, collectable hardcovers

Brian Pedersen – Garden State Horror Writers – new sf & fantasy

Nicole Pellegrini & David Carrozzino – original artwork & prints, jewelry, mysteries, other books

Tony Ruggiero – new sf & fantasy

Monique Saint-Germain – Madd Hatter's Treasure Chest – costumes

Darrell Schweitzer – new & used books, collectable hard & paperbacks, art & illustrated books, magazines, tee-shirts, ancient coins

Melissa Simone – Clearwire Wireless 4G Internet – wireless internet connections, portable wireless modem devices

Larry Smith – Larry Smith Books – new sf & fantasy, mysteries, art & illustrated book, collectable hardcovers

Gerry Stampfel – new sf & fantasy

Chris Stuppi – Griffon's Claw Armoury – weapons

Susan Tharp – Sybil's Closet – costumes

Ray & Barb Van Tilburg – Off-World Designs – tee-shirts, Philcon souvenir shirt

Michael Walsh – Old Earth Books – new sf & fantasy, collectable hardcovers

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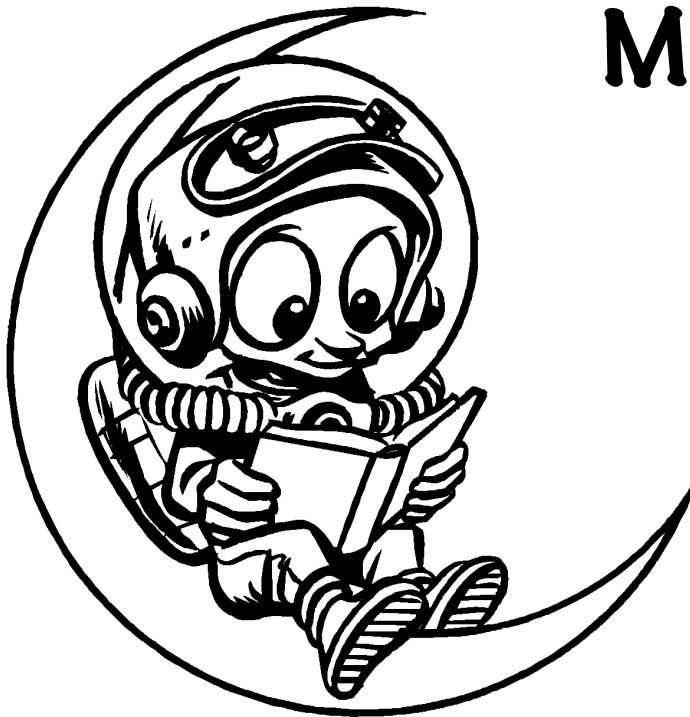
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Catherine Asaro: Renaissance Woman

Propped against the bookcase in Catherine Asaro's home office is the framed diploma for her Harvard Ph.D. in chemical physics. Nearby, dangling from the door-knob, is the bag stuffed with the tights and leotards the attractive brunette wears when she pulls herself away from her writing for ballet classes. A former professional dancer, this versatile California native has little time for the ballet bar these days. Instead, she's fielding speaking offers and meeting deadlines for her novels contracted by New York publishers.

Winner of the Nebula® Award for her novel, *The Quantum Rose*, Catherine blends space adventure, science, romance, and strong characterization into her fiction. Her latest science fiction novel is *The Ruby Dice* (Baen Books, April 2009), and her most recent fantasy is *The Night Bird* (Luna, June 2008). She also writes thrillers, including *Alpha* and *Sunrise Alley*.

Catherine's latest book, *Diamond Star* (Baen, May 2009), is about a rock star in the future. The book's release has seen the culmination of what Catherine describes as "one of the most exciting collaborations I've ever done." Working with the Baltimore rock band Point Valid, she and the band recorded twelve original songs for a music CD that offers readers a soundtrack to the book. In April 2009, Starflight Music released the CD, also titled *Diamond Star*, performed by Point Valid—Hayim Ani, Adam Leve, and Max Vidaver—with Catherine as a guest artist. Catherine wrote the lyrics for most of the songs, and Hayim wrote the music with Point Valid. Catherine also composed several cuts on the album, and Hayim offered her several of his original compositions, which she gladly accepted.

Catherine's short fiction has appeared in *Analog* magazine and various anthologies, including "Walk in Silence," "A Roll of the Dice," and "Aurora in Four Voices," which all won the *Analog* Readers Poll for best novella, and were nominated for both Nebula and Hugo Awards. Her novella, "The Spacetime Pool" (*Analog*, March 2008), is currently up for the Nebula. Catherine has also published reviews and essays and authored scientific papers in refereed academic journals. Her

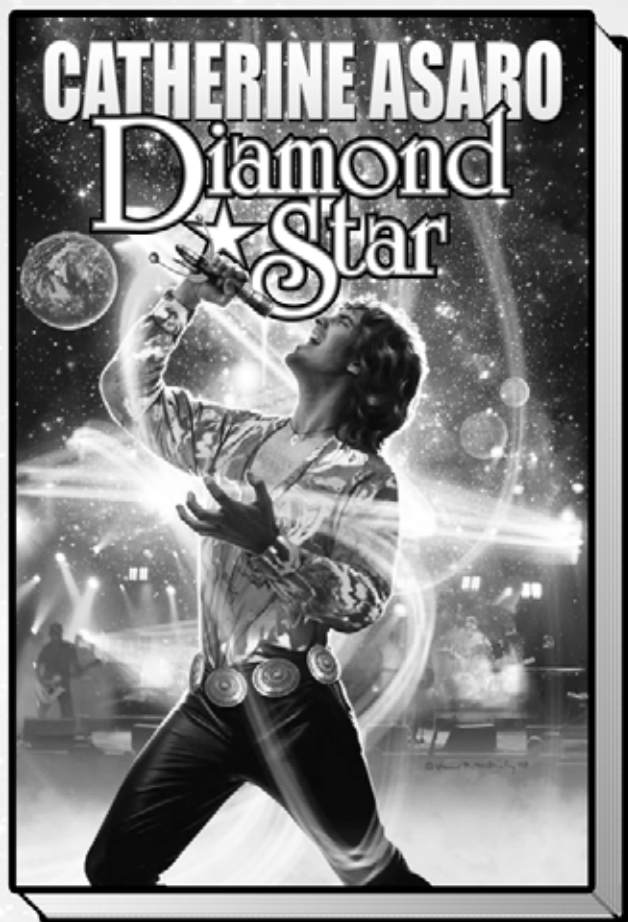
paper, "Complex Speeds and Special Relativity" in the *The American Journal of Physics* (April 1996) forms the basis for some of the science in her fiction. Among the places she has done research are the University of Toronto, the Max Planck Institut für Astrophysik, and the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. She was a physics professor until 1990, when she became a consultant and writer.

In Catherine's youth, the arts were her focus. She studied ballet from age of five, trained in classical piano, and spent hours curled up with books. She successfully pursued London's Royal Academy of Dance syllabus through the first professional level and enrolled at UCLA as a dance major. Then she discovered she loved math and science. "I hadn't studied it much in high school, but at UCLA I ended up taking a lot of science and math," she remembers. "I struggled at first and sometimes I felt like I had no clue. Then one day I read the chapter in my chemistry book on quantum theory—and I was hooked. It felt more right than any other subject I had studied." She went on to earn a BS with Highest Honors from UCLA, and a Master's in physics and a doctorate in chemical physics from Harvard.

Catherine attributes her ability to entertain a broad reading audience in part to upbringing. "My father is one of the four scientists who postulated that a comet hitting the earth caused mass extinctions, including the demise of dinosaurs. My mother was a student of English literature who loved to write, so from the beginning I was influenced by both the sciences and arts." While pursuing her degrees, Catherine continued to dance, founding the Mainly Jazz Dancers and Harvard University Ballet. Perennially on deadline, she now focuses more on her writing than research, but she often speaks on the intersection of science and art at venues such as the Library of Congress and Georgetown University.

Born in Oakland, California, Asaro grew up in El Cerrito, north of Berkeley. A challenger of rules since her childhood, she explores the boundaries of genre fiction in her novels. "It's like stretching different muscles for dance class," she says, adding that dancing and

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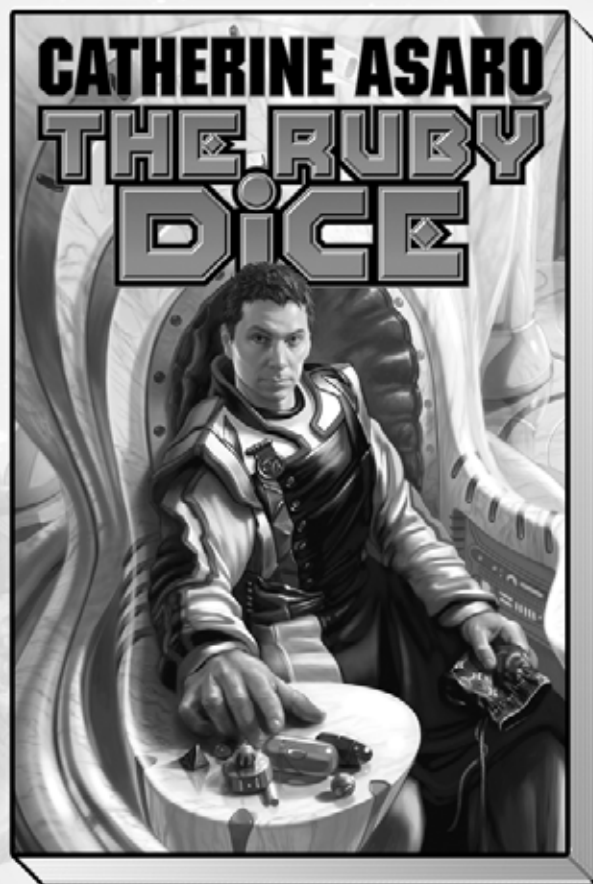
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A Star is Born— of Galactic Proportions!

Del has "rock star" written all over him. A voice the gods bestow only once in a generation. Musical taste that runs to the raw and beautiful beat of the Undercity. And an empathic sense that lets him play the emotions of a coliseum crowd like a fine instrument. He's also gorgeous—and fairly humble for a guy who happens to be the brother of the Skolian Emperor and Heir of the Ruby Throne! Which is the problem. All Del wants is to make his music on Earth, but there's an unrelenting galaxy out there trying to either kill him or bow down to him as ruler. Plus, Del has a few inner demons of his own.

MAY 2009



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math aren't as dissimilar as people may think. "There is a beauty in seeing a math problem come together just as there is in performing a ballet. And the discipline it takes to do ballet well is similar to that needed to do math." But no matter what the style of her novels, she writes from the heart. "The flashy adventure is fun," she says, "but the characters mean the most to me, both as a reader and as a writer."

Catherine is also proud to coach the Howard Area Homeschoolers, whose students have distinguished themselves in numerous national math programs, including the USA Mathematical Olympiad, MathCounts, and the American Regional Mathematics League. She has served two terms as president of Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, Inc. (SFWA). She is married to John Kendall Cannizzo, an astrophysicist at NASA. They have one daughter, a ballet dancer who studies maths at Cambridge University in England.

Bibliography

Diamond Star

Executives from Prime Nova Media are thrilled to discover Del Arden, an unknown musician from a rustic backwater planet who combines musical talent with a sultry sensuality that makes him popular with fans across the spectrum. What they don't realize is that his "backwater" world happens to be home of the ruling Skolian dynasty— that Del is heir to one of the most powerful political empires in the galaxy. His family wants him to stop, governments want to control him, the music industry wants to exploit him, his fans want to own him and his enemies want to kill him -- or worse. Need drives Del to the brink of destruction: the need to prove himself to his family, friends, and critics -- coupled with the most dangerous need of all -- the desire for revenge against the Traders who have systematically devastated his family.

The Ruby Dice

Two men, two empires. Jaibriol rules the Eubian Concord: over two trillion people across more than a thousand worlds and habitats. Kelric rules the Skolian Imperialate. Ten years ago, Jaibriol lost his parents in the final battle of the Radiance War between the Concord and the Imperialate. Neither Jaibriol nor Kelric want war, but neither is complete master of his realm. And each hides a secret that, if revealed, might be his downfall.

Unbeknownst to most of his people, Jaibriol is a psion with telepathic abilities. Kelric had been a prisoner and slave on the planet Coban, part of neither empire, until he managed to escape.

Neither man knows how much longer he can keep his secret—nor how much longer they can hold back the impending war and an even greater threat that could destroy hundreds of inhabited worlds.



Triad (Schism and The Final Key)

Schism (Triad, Book I) is the tenth novel in Catherine Asaro's multiple-award-winning Skolian saga, and represents an excellent entry point into the series. An epic 2-volume story of how the Ruby Dynasty reached maturity, *Triad* reveals how a war of galactic proportions first explodes between two great empires.

Schism is how it all began, harkening back to the early years of the Skolian Empire, back to the beginning of the war between Skolia and the Euban Traders. Twenty-three years have passed since the fateful vote in the Skolian Assembly that Roca missed in *Skyfall*. It created the first open hostility between Eube and Skolia.

Strife has riven the first family of the Skolian Empire. Sauscony, the daughter of Roca and Eldrinson, is ready to seek her fortune as an officer-in-training in the Skolian military. When her father forbids her to undertake such a dangerous path, Soz chooses duty over family. Eube hopes to make this divide permanent, leaving the Empire ripe for conquest. In *The Final Key*, the Skolian Empire comes under all-out assault from its nemesis, the Euban Concord (Traders), who have undermined the Empire via subterfuge and assassination, leaving it ripe for conquest. The Skolian Empire's only hope? A young woman barely out of her teens who hasn't even completed her training as a cadet.

Skyfall

Skyfall is a stand-alone novel that predates the chronology of Catherine Asaro's other books — and is an excellent book for new readers to start with.

Eldrinson Valdoria is a bard and leader on the planet Skyfall, a world with a culture considered primitive by the starflung civilization of the Imperialate. As adept



Donald Wolcott

At age five, Donald Wolcott received a special Christmas present—a used piano. That gift began a life-long passion. He started lessons in classical piano, but the young prodigy soon expanded his horizons beyond Beethoven and Mozart. When he joined his middle school's jazz band, he was exposed to the genre that dramatically reshaped his music.

In high school, Donald became the pianist for the jazz ensemble, a position he held until graduation. A versatile musician who likes to push boundaries, he branched out to rock and taught himself the bass, guitar, and drums. He formed the band "Three Easy Payments," and performed with them over the next four years, singing lead vocals, playing bass and keyboards, and writing songs. He was also learning the business side of his career, serving as the producer and manager for the group.

In 2005, Donald received acclaim from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia as a top soloist in their annual jazz festival. In 2006 he was accepted as a bassist into the Montgomery County Honors Jazz Ensemble. In 2007 he earned an honorable mention for jazz performance in the National Distinguished Scholar Competition, and in 2008 he received the coveted "Maestro Award" at the Washington D.C. Heritage Music Festival.

After his high school graduation in 2008, Donald accepted a scholarship to Towson University, where he currently majors in Jazz Performance and is the pianist for the Towson Big Band, the school's premiere jazz ensemble. In the fourteen years he has been playing music, Donald has become an in-demand pianist in the Baltimore/ Washington D.C. area. He plays for musical theatre productions, composes arrangements of songs on commission, and often performs for weddings, parties, and corporate events. He also teaches private piano, bass, guitar, and drum lessons.

In 2009, Donald joined author Catherine Asaro as her keyboard accompanist for the Diamond Star Project centered around the publication of her twenty-fourth novel, *Diamond Star* (Baen Books, May 2009). In April 2009, Starflight Music released a companion music CD, also titled *Diamond Star*, by the alternative band Point Valid. The CD offers readers a soundtrack for the book, which is about a rock star in the future. Donald plays keyboard for Catherine to showcase the project with his exciting arrangements and delightfully jazzy style.

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Cell: 443-519-6366
BSBGC@aol.com



with a sword as he is with a ballad, he is also an undiscovered telepath of great power.

Roca Skolia, a former dancer, is now the Councilor for Foreign Affairs in the Imperialate's governing Assembly -- and she is also heir to the Ruby Pharaoh of the Skolian Imperialate. Caught in a political struggle with her warlord son, she ends up stranded on Eldrinson's world. Trapped on Skyfall, she finds herself drawn to Eldrinson, whose thoughts are as clear as the words he cannot write. As their attraction deepens into a love that the laws of both their peoples forbid, the flames of war ignite among the stars.

The Moon's Shadow

Born of a clandestine liaison between a renegade daughter of the Skolian Imperialate and a scion of the genetically engineered Eubian Traders, Jaibriol Qox grew up in exile, unaware of the powers that coursed through his noble blood.

In the waning days of the bloody Radiance War that ravaged the galaxy, Jai was captured and returned to the Traders to play a role as a puppet Emperor in their scheme to consolidate their domination of space.

Now Jai must walk a razor's edge, to seize the power that is his by birthright without succumbing to its dark seduction and wield it for the good of all, and to avert a conflagration that threatens to engulf a thousand worlds.

Spherical Harmonic

Separated for decades by circumstance and political machinations, the Ruby Dynasty, hereditary rulers of the Skolian Empire, struggle to bring together the tattered remnants of their family in the shadow of a disastrous interstellar war. Too many have died, others are presumed lost, yet they must move quickly if they are to resume their rightful place as rulers of Skolia.

Ascendant Sun

Ascendant Sun is a stand-alone novel in the same universe as the Nebula Award finalist *The Last Hawk*. In the aftermath of the Radiance War, all surviving members of

his family are prisoners of Earth or the Trader empire. Only Kelric remains free. With no more than his clothes to his name and no one he dares trust, he must find a way to claim his title before his enemies discover his identity. His devotion to his family sustains him as he launches a silent, one-man battle against the Trader empire, initially as a weapons officer. Kidnapped and sold as a pleasure slave, he must overcome ever greater obstacles across three empires, as he strives to save his people.

The Quantum Rose (Nebula Award Winner)

Kamoj Argali is the young ruler of an impoverished province on a backward planet. To keep her people from starving, she has agreed to marry the boorish, brutal ruler of a neighboring province. But before the wedding takes place, a mysterious stranger from a distant planet sweeps in and unwittingly forces Kamoj into marriage, throwing her world into utter chaos.

The Radiant Seas

The Radiant Seas continues the story of Soz and Jaibriol, each the heir to an interstellar empire, as their lives become entangled again in the machinations of the Skolian Imperialate. They are beginning to pick up what's left of their lives, in exile on a deserted planet with their children, when the fate of much of the known universe comes to rest on the shoulders of their fragile young family. Interstellar war erupts, and Jaibriol is snatched away to be the unwilling ruler of the Highton Aristos. Soz must fight her way at the head of an invading space fleet to rescue him from his own empire—without revealing that they are married. With interstellar civilization poised on the brink of destruction, it is the devotion of these two lovers, their sacrifices and their heroism, that might just found a new order.

The Last Hawk

The Last Hawk tells the tale of the lost heir to the Empire. Fleeing the heat of battle in a wounded spacecraft, Kelric crash-lands on a proscribed planet where a matriarchy rules through the medium of a complex game. The women in power help to heal him, but destroy his ship and determine that he can never leave—for his knowledge of their world, if revealed to the Empire, would cause the rapid fall of their civilization. And so his rescue turns into an imprisonment of years, decades, a time in which he finds love and a challenging place in the universal game.

Catch the Lightning

In the distant future, the Skolian empire rules one third of the human galaxy, and is the most powerful of all. For the ruling family has the power of telepathy, and through it, the ability to communicate faster than light across the interstellar space. But their most determined enemy, the Traders, who thrive on human pain, need to

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interbreed with a Skolian to gain their powers. And now they have her.

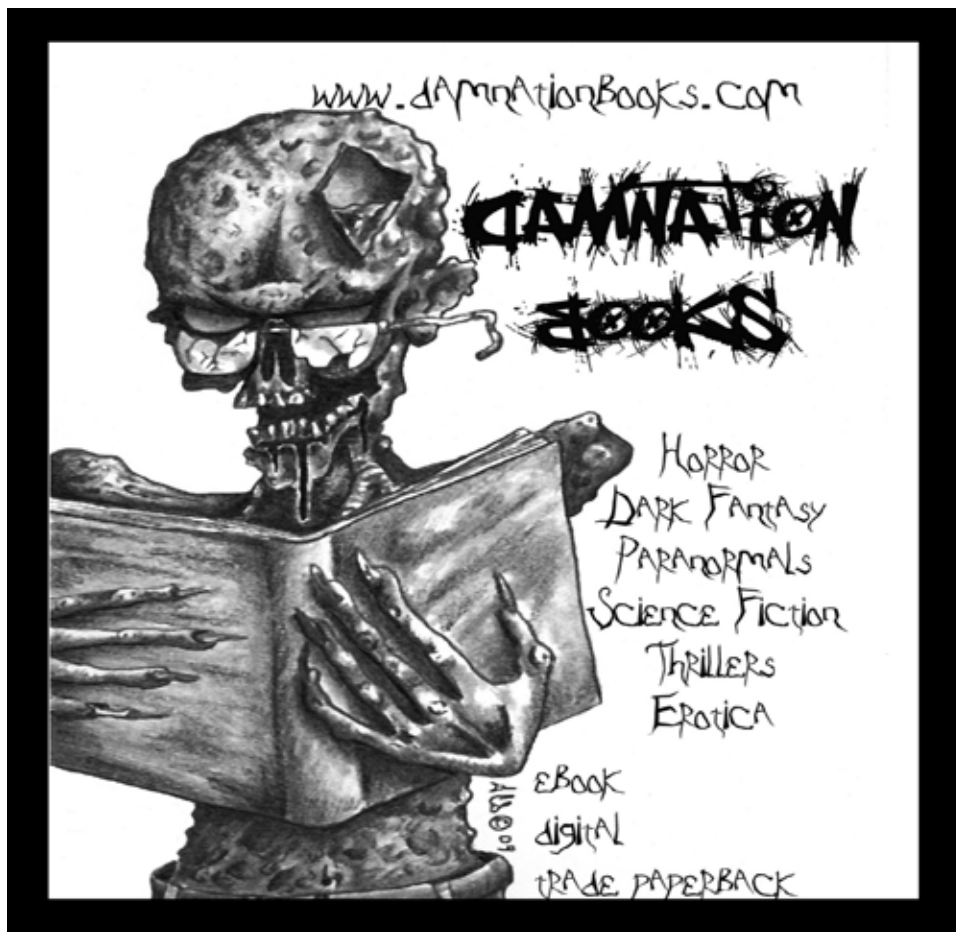
Primary Inversion

The Skolian Empire rules a third of the civilized galaxy through its mastery of faster-than-light communication. But war with the rival empire of the Traders seems imminent, a war that can only lead to slavery for the Skolians or the destruction of both sides. Destructive skirmishes have already occurred. A desperate attempt must be made to avert total disaster.

The Night Bird

For centuries, the women of Aronsdale have lived freely among the green and misted valleys. In a society where women typically own most property and businesses, Allegra is preparing to take over the family dairy farm because she doesn't think her skills with magic will be strong enough to earn her a place in the Aronsdale court. But her life—and Aronsdale's independence—is threatened when Jazid nomads invade, carrying Allegra into the desert as a prized trophy... or worse. From the moment feared Jazid warrior Markus Onyx sees the alluring beauty, he knows he has found his queen.

But even the promise of love cannot quell Allegra's determination to save her homeland. Allegra's beauty made her a captive. Her power would set her free.



The Fire Opal

Deep in the Taka Mal desert, priestess Ginger-Sun carries the power of the shape mages. Whispers abound: is she descended from the beloved Sunset Goddess? Or are her nighttime rituals filled with evil? Ginger herself is uncertain, until an exotic stranger is left for dead at her feet.

Then her magic begins to burn.

By choosing to help the stranger, Ginger entwines herself in events beyond her control. Or so she believes. When pushed to the brink, she learns that her magic can summon unfathomable powers. But unless Ginger masters her dark powers, violence will reign in Taka Mal... and in her soul.

The Dawn Star

High in the Misted Cliffs lives a magic unlike any other. With no teacher to guide her, no mentor to discourage her from the impossible, Mel Dawnfield pushed her magic to its limits—and surpassed them. Only to find that her powers aren't enough to halt burgeoning rebellion within her husband's fledgling realm—or a plot devised to strike at the very heart of Mel's family.

The lines have been drawn.

Mel's mage strength has become greater than any power ever known, but dare she forge her spells into weapons to protect her people, her husband? For her magic might transform the brutality of war into the birth pangs of a peaceful empire... unless it proves the death blow to her world.

The Misted Cliffs

One generation after war had nearly destroyed three nations, evil was returning. And only Mel Dawnfield's daring sacrifice could stop it.

The promise of peace rested on this young woman's noble vow: to marry Cobalt the Dark—heir to a family of legendary cruelty. With only her uncontrolled spells to guide her, isolated in Cobalt's solitary home in the Misted Cliffs, knowing poisoned blood ran through her husband's veins, Mel struggled to embrace her unexplored mage powers and unveil the light in her shadowy new world—including the radiance hidden in her husband's soul. In the final battle, Mel's ability to harness her magic would mean the difference between a harmonious world...and annihilation.

The Charmed Sphere

What was the use of being a powerful mage if you couldn't learn the spells?

Once Chime had been the most promising mage in the land, feted and celebrated for her potential and future role in the kingdom. Then Iris,

her young competitor, made a stunning leap in skill and turned Chime's world upside down.

Now no longer the most powerful, no longer promised to a prince, and still unable to harness her magic properly, Chime was set adrift. As was the new king's cousin and former heir, Lord Muller. Yet when the neighboring kingdom threatened war, Muller and Chime were tasked with uncovering the plot.

Could this quest be the opportunity for redemption - or would it lead them to their deaths?

Irresistible Forces (anthology)

Edited by Catherine Asaro, *Irresistible Forces* features six award-winning and bestselling authors of romance, science fiction, and fantasy.

Appearances in anthologies

"The City of Cries" in *Down These Dark Spaceways*, edited by Mike Resnick.

"The Topaz Desert" in *Lace and Blade*, edited by Deborah Ross

"Moonglow" in *Charmed Destinies*, with Mercedes Lackey and Rachel Lee

"The Shadowed Heart" in *Best New Paranormal Romance*, edited by Paula Guran

The Journey Home, a collection of ten paranormal romance short stories about soldiers coming home. Fifty percent of authors' royalties will be donated to Support Our Soliders America, Inc. (SOS).



Point Valid with Catherine Asaro

When Music Arises from the Fusion of Stars

by Charles Gannon

Diamond Star, the CD, might well have been given the subtitle: “Musical Energy Erupting from a Fusion of Creative Minds.” Energy, creativity, imagination, and drive are the obvious keynotes when interviewing award-winning author Catherine Asaro (who also happens to be a physicist and dancer) about her collaboration with the rock band Point Valid, led by Hayim Ani, vocalist and lead guitarist, Adam Leve on drums, and Max Vidaver on guitar. In 2009, the collaboration expanded to include Donald Wolcott, who added his expertise in jazz and musical arrangement to the project. The differences in background and experiences of these artists emerge not as a collision of styles, but as a harmony of complimentary visions that allowed them to bring a unique blend of diversity and common-mindedness to their project.

The *Diamond Star* Project is part of a trailblazing trend in SF/F genre publishing. While new media have certainly changed the face (or rather, ‘sensuscape’) of the book market, I cannot find a prior example of so seminal and purposive a marriage of printed word with popular music. Alan Parsons may have celebrated Isaac Asimov’s work with the album *I, Robot* (and other artists have crafted similar homages since), but these were fundamentally afterwords: musical responses to an earlier book, with little or no input from the author.

The reverse is true in the case of the *Diamond Star* CD. Not only does the CD feature songs that appear within the novel (which recounts the terrestrial experiences of an interstellar empire’s scion-turned-rockstar), but the lyrics, many of the vocal performances, and executive production of the project came straight from the

author, Catherine Asaro. The musicians used the book as a direct inspiration for the music and arrangement of various tracks, creating what seems, at the moments of closest collaboration, to be a “soundtrack” for the often cinematic story of *Diamond Star*.

Other authors have also recently brought out CDs based on their novels, including Kevin Anderson (with Rebecca Moesta), and Margaret Atwood. With increasing numbers of books promoted by video-trailers, audio-books enjoying ever-increased distribution, and other multi-media fusions, the *Diamond Star* CD not only marks a new zenith of synergy between manuscripts and music, but may be another major step toward a truly multimedia sensuscape.

Charles: Catherine, tell us a little bit about when and how you decided that *Diamond Star* should have an accompanying CD. Was that part of the plan from the beginning, or did it grow with the story? What was the inspiration for blazing this inter-media trail, and how did you go about finding Point Valid?

Catherine: Well, *Diamond Star* is about a rock star in the future. I was in the throes of writing the book when it hit me: “Duh. It’s about a singer; you need songs.” So I wrote lyrics. They came easily—or so I thought. Then I listened to songs to hear how their lyrics fit the music. And I thought: “Okay, it’s not easy.” I needed to consider the music, too.

Music has saturated my life. I’ve played classical piano, I’m trained as a dancer in ballet and jazz, and I’ve listened to rock all my life. That doesn’t make me particularly knowledgeable about composition, but it did help me write a bit of music to help me redo the lyrics. When I played the songs and read the lyrics to some friends, they suggested I find a band to do the pieces.

I knew Hayim Ani from the homeschool community where I teach. We “met” via email and then at Starbucks. Right away, he understood what I was trying to do. He brought his guitar and played me a piece he was working on. I liked his sound, the “classic” rock singer’s tenor. We started with one song, “Carnelians,” and it grew from there into a full CD with his band, Point Valid. I wrote the lyrics for most of the songs, and they wrote most of the music. Hayim also contributed three of his originals, and I did the music for three songs.

In 2009, Point Valid dispersed to pursue their college educations in different parts of the world. Hayim and Adam are in Israel, and Max is in Maryland. In February, I began working with Donald Wolcott, a jazz pianist who arranges the songs and plays them on keyboard when we perform live. We’ve taken the *Diamond Star* Project to cons and have done concerts in other venues as well. It took me a while to get over my stage fright; I never expected to end up performing these songs. But each concert gets better, and I’m enjoying it a lot. We sometimes perform with Russell McCray on sax. Recently, we did a show at Necronomicon with a rock band formed by drummer Paul Vincenti, one of the top science fiction and fantasy artists in the US, with Jason Price on guitar and Craig MacDougal on sax.

Charles: There are so many potential influences upon this project that I won’t even try to guess at them. So please share them with us: which artists/composers/producers did you have in mind when you were crafting *Diamond Star*? Where should we listen for their influence?

Catherine: It’s hard to pinpoint any person or style. Hundreds of artists have shaped my inner landscape. My influences are rock music, both classic and current; jazz and blues; and classical music, particularly works for ballet and piano. Hayim has described his influences as including Ani Difranco, Breaking Benjamin, The Shins, Angels and Airwaves, Pearl Jam, The Used, Iorn And Wine, A Perfect Circle, Weezer, and anything by Bach.

Donald can play anything from jazz and big band to classical to rock to musical theatre. Jazz especially is his forte. He exposed me to it in a way I’d never known before. Although I’ve always liked jazz, I never had a full appreciation for the genre. The more I learn, the more I love the style.

Charles: Concept or “homage” projects (more than half of Alan Parsons’ work comes to mind) often display a great deal of stylistic unity across their many tracks, with motifs being reprised throughout. This does not seem to be the way you approached this CD: what informed the choice to make each track more *sui generis*?

Catherine: For me, the tracks have unity because they fit the book so well. However, their eclectic nature is partly deliberate. My readership ranges from thirteen-year-old teens to eighty-plus retired engineers, with just about every demographic in between, male and female. So I told Hayim, “And all we have to do is write songs that appeal to all those groups!” I was joking, but we did keep that in mind as we worked.

Donald’s arrangements have a distinctive flavor influenced by his years of jazz, and that gives our work together more stylistic unity. His keyboard compositions have so much richness, it’s hard to believe he does that all with ten fingers. In addition to his arrangements of *Diamond Star* material, we cover songs by artists such as Nora Jones and Sade as well as jazz standards. We just finished an EP of five songs, four covers and one original by Donald and lyricist Tomas Clark. Donald plays all the instruments, including keyboard, bass, guitar, drums, and percussion. So those also have more consistency in style. We might eventually expand that into a CD for another book of mine.

Note: The rest of this article gives the songs from the *Diamond Star* soundtrack, with comments on the songs by Catherine. **Point Valid** refers to Hayim Ani, Adam Leve, and Max Vidaver. Guest artist Dave Nachodsky played the bass for Point Valid unless otherwise specified.

The songs in this article are from the CD *Diamond Star*, copyright © 2009 Starflight Music.

Parts of this article were adapted from Dr. Gannon’s interview of Catherine and Hayim for SF Site online: <http://www.sfsite.com/05a/ca295.htm>

“In Paradisum” and “No Answers”

Charles: Catherine, your vocal in the “In Paradisum” prelude to “No Answers” has a decidedly different sound from the rest of the tracks: it is almost ethereal. Tell us what inspired you to include this piece, and how you see it fitting in with the themes and overall mood of *Diamond Star* the CD, and *Diamond Star* the novel?

Catherine: The song “No Answers” is about death and rebirth. In a sense, the main character of the book, Del Arden Valdoria, wrote it about his own death. “In Paradisum” is a Gregorian chant used in Latin Requiems, a song about angels leading the dead into paradise. It also refers to a scene in the book where Del is talking to his lover about what the Latin Requiems mean to him. In the context of the book, the contrast between chant and the harder rock sound of “No Answers” highlights the difference between a life-shattering event in his life and his conception of true death.

The decision to use “In Paradisum” came in part from a conversation Hayim and I had while we were waiting outside the studio. He was studying Gregorian chants, and we discovered we had both independently had the idea of using one in a rock song. I recorded the vocals while he was Israel, so on the day we mixed the song, we were emailing him MP3s of the mixes, and he was sending me comments on Facebook chat. CD production via online social networks; it’s a new world!

Donald and I recently went in the studio and redid “No Answers with In Paradisum,” using his arrangement, which is significantly different from the original, and my rewrite of the music. On that version, I sing the entire piece, both the chant and the rock song, and Donald plays all the instruments and does the backup vocals. We’ll be doing that one during our concert on Saturday night.

A slideshow video of the CD version of “No Answers with In Paradisum” is at <http://tinyurl.com/NoAnswersIP>.

In Paradisum

Gregorian Chant

Vocals: Catherine Asaro

Keyboard arrangement for live performance: Donald Wolcott

In Paradisum deducant te Angeli;

in tuo adventu suscipiant te Martyres,

et perducant te in civitatem Jerusalem

English translation

May angels lead you into paradise;

Upon your arrival, may the martyrs receive you

And lead you to the holy city of Jerusalem.

No Answers

Lyrics: Catherine Asaro

Vocals: Hayim Ani (on the CD), Catherine Asaro (live performance)

Music: David Michelsohn, Catherine Asaro, Point Valid

Instrumentals on CD: Point Valid

Keyboard arrangement for live performance: Donald Wolcott

No answers live in here alone

No answers on this spectral throne

Nothing in this vault of fears

This sterling vault, chamber of tears

Tell me now before I fall

Release from this velvet pall

Tell me now before I fall

Take me now, break through my wall

No answers will salvage time

No answers in this tomb sublime

This winnowing crypt intertwined

This crypt whispering in vines

Tell me now before I fall

Release from this velvet pall

Tell me now before I fall

Take me now, break through my wall

No answers could bring me life

Yet when I opened my eyes

Beyond the sleeping crystal dome

Beyond it all, I had come home

Tell me now before I fall

Release from this velvet pall

Tell me now before I fall

Take me now, break through my wall

“Emeralds”

Catherine: “Emeralds” is about jealousy. It’s one in a series of songs the main character in *Diamond Star* wrote about his life and family. I was having trouble with this song when I wrote the book. My lyrics didn’t feel right. I didn’t finish it until the day Hayim did the vocals in the studio, after the band had put down the instrumental tracks.

I was sitting on the floor with my computer, writing, while a few feet away, Hayim was singing “Emeralds,” With that music going all around me, saturating my senses, I could finally finish the song. Hayim would sing a verse, then ask for the next part and make comments on how it fit with the music. So I was writing “Emeralds” as he was singing it. Music somehow helps release my creativity, and being surrounded by the actual song even as I was working on it felt incredible.

Emeralds

Lyrics: Catherine Asaro

Vocals: Hayim Ani

Music: Hayim Ani, Adam Leve, Max Vidaver

Instrumentals: Point Valid, with guest artists Dina Eagle on violin, and

Catherine Asaro and Russell Wilson on keyboard

Green as the bitter nail they drove into my name
 I won’t try to fail just to satisfy their game
 Don’t listen to their lies; I’ll never turn my back on you
 Never wait ‘til someone dies to promise my heart is true
 Emerald drops, emerald tears
 It’s you they see in their green-shaded mirrors
 Emerald drops, emerald tears
 The darkness feeds on their green-bladed fears
 Night veils the secret hollow in the silvered lagoon
 Body rising from the water under silent moons
 They waited in whispering reeds, green within, predators
 without
 But my brother intervened; he answered my crying shout
 Emerald drops, emerald tears
 It’s you they see in their green-shaded mirrors
 Emerald drops, emerald tears
 The darkness feeds on their green-bladed fears
 I didn’t desert you, despite what they crowed
 You still believed I was true; they learned what our love knows
 Emerald drops, emerald tears
 It’s you they see in their green-shaded mirrors
 Emerald drops, emerald tears
 The darkness feeds on their green-bladed fears

“Diamond Star”

Catherine: The first music I wrote, not just for the CD, but ever, is the piece I initially intended to be “Diamond Star.” But it didn’t sound enough like a rock song. So I asked Hayim if he could do something, and he and Max came up with the music on the CD.

In the book, “Diamond Star” isn’t actually the most important song to Del, the main character. The name of his first album is *The Jewels Suite*, and its first single is “Sapphire Clouds.” Then “Diamond Star” unexpectedly appears on the charts, much lower than “Sapphire Clouds,” but still a surprise given that wasn’t released as a single. Much to Del’s annoyance, his record label cuts up the song, rearranging it into a commercial pop hit instead of the experimental work he intended. That becomes his first #1 song.

I got the idea from the song “Light My Fire” by The Doors. They put the seven minute version on their first album, but when it was released as a single, their label cut out the instrumental solos and reduced the song to less than three minutes. Nowadays a seven minutes isn’t a big deal, but back then it was apparently pretty experimental.

A slideshow video of “Diamond Star” is at: <http://tinyurl.com/DiamondStar>.

Diamond Star

Lyrics: Catherine Asaro

Vocals: Hayim Ani (on the CD); Catherine Asaro (live performance)

Music: Hayim Ani and Max Vidaver

Instrumentals on CD: Point Valid, with guest artist Shalom Dov Ber Eagle on cello and Evan Margolis on bass.

Keyboard arrangement for live performance: Donald Wolcott

Angel, be my diamond star
 Before my darkness goes too far
 Splinter through my endless night
 Lightening my darkling sight
 You’re a diamond, a diamond, a diamond star
 Brighter than the crystal caves
 Sunlight glancing on the waves
 Swirling dance upon my heart
 Longing while we’re held apart
 You’re a diamond, a diamond, a diamond star
 Take it slow, a daring chance
 Swaying in a timeless dance
 Shimmering radiance above
 Softening this lost man’s love
 A diamond, a diamond, a diamond star
 A diamond, a diamond, a diamond star

“Sapphire Clouds”

Catherine: “Sapphire Clouds” is about childhood innocence and its loss. I think of it as a companion piece to “No Answers,” which deals with death and rebirth. The songs are similar in that both have non-traditional structures, both mix hard rock with a softer, more haunting sound, and both open with a female *a cappella* vocal. The start of “Sapphire Clouds” is a mother singing to her young son; the child laughs; then the grown man sings. The abrupt break in the middle matches a traumatic, life-changing break in Del’s life.

The female vocal is from some music I wrote when I was figuring out how lyrics fit to music. It started as a dance tune done to synthesized keyboard music. Hayim had another vision of “Sapphire Clouds” that we both liked, so we went with that, and I rewrote the original music as the nursery rhyme that opens the song.

He also made an intriguing change to the song. My original version had the line “Running, running, running,” which represented Del as a child running with joy through fields outside his home. Hayim sang, “Running, running, running ... away.” At first I said, “No, you can’t do that. It changes the meaning.” But the more I thought about it, the more it fit. I’ll leave it to readers to decide if and how that change affects their hearing of the song.

Sapphire Clouds

Lyrics: Catherine Asaro

Vocals: Hayim Ani, with Catherine Asaro

Music: Hayim Ani, Adam Leve, Max Vidaver, Catherine Asaro

Instrumentals: Point Valid, with guest artist Reuven Weisberg on flute

Female vocal:

Running through the sphere-tipped reeds
Suns like gold and amber beads
Jumping over blue-winged bees
Don’t catch me, please
Running, running, running

Male vocal:

Running through the sphere-tipped reeds
Suns like gold and amber beads
Jumping over blue-winged bees
Don’t catch me, please
Cause I’m running, running, running
I’m running, running, running
I’m running, running, running ... away
Flight of bubbles everywhere
Pollen dusting in my hair
No more troubles anywhere
Sapphire clouds above the air
And I’m running, running, running
I’m running, running, running
I’m running, running, running ... away
Memories fade in life’s strain
Winds of age bring falling rain
Cornucopia of lives
Of years and joys and grieving sighs
Recall sapphire clouds on high
Drifting in this endless sky
Childhood caught and kept deep inside
To treasure after days gone by
And I’m running, running, running
I’m running, running, running
I’m running, running, running ... away



“Rubies”

Catherine: In the book, the character Del writes “Rubies” about his family, the Ruby Dynasty. In real life, it was the second song I wrote. At the time, I didn’t realize instrumental tracks don’t usually follow the melody of the piece, since I’d never really listened to instrumentals composed solely for vocals. So I included the melody in the music I worked out on my computer.

I had trouble playing the computer composition on the piano because the computer allowed me to put in more notes than came naturally to the physical act of playing. Also, the piece required technique that, realistically, was beyond my current level. So I hired a pianist, Russell Wilson, who plays for the US Marine band. He played what I’d written with some improvisations, but the melody itself remained in the song. When it came time to sing it, I realized how much I had constrained myself. It was quite an experience trying to match my vocals exactly the melody he played.

I also had no idea it wasn’t an easy song to do until Dave Nachodsky, our recording engineer and co-producer on the album, told me he considered it a difficult piece to tackle as one of the first songs I ever recorded. In addition, on the CD I have a three part harmony with myself. I hadn’t realized that for a beginning singer, harmonizing properly with yourself (or anyone else) isn’t as simple as it sounds. I learned a lot in the studio, working on that song.

“Rubies” was one of the first songs I asked Donald to arrange. Right away, he asked, “Do you really want me to do the same melody as you’re singing?” When I said no, he came up with a beautiful arrangement. It’s like a gift, hearing these musicians create incredible music for my songs.

Rubies

Music and lyrics: Catherine Asaro

Vocals: Catherine Asaro

Keyboard on CD: Russell Wilson

Keyboard arrangement for live performances: Donald Wolcott

Born to live in a Vanished Sea
 Lost to seeds of a banished need
 Caged in desperate hope for all days
 Rubies must give their souls in all ways
 Living bound by your empathy
 Shelter found in your trinity
 Love imprisoning hope for your days
 Rubies must give their souls in all ways
 Hiding deepest vulnerabilities
 Cursed by your mind’s abilities
 For within you lies the hope for all days
 Rubies must give their souls in all ways

“Breathing Underwater”

Catherine: Many singers include covers in their performances, that is, their versions of songs by other artists. I wanted the character in the book to do several, including “The Sound of Silence,” by Simon and Garfunkle, and “Because the Night,” by Patti Smith and Bruce Springsteen. But the first “cover” he does is a song called “Breathing Underwater” by a band called ... Point Valid. It’s one of Hayim’s original compositions, and it appears on the *Diamond Star* CD.

Readers can see a full video of the song, with storyboard by Hayim, at: <http://tinyurl.com/BreathingUnderwater>.

Breathing Underwater

Music and lyrics: Hayim Ani

Vocals: Hayim Ani

Instrumental: Point Valid, with guest artist David Michelsohn on bass

Now I know, with all the blood that’s on the floor
 Things will never go back to the way they were before
 And there may be a man who says tomorrow’s not today
 But I know no joy that will take this pain away

Yet when I close my eyes I feel the warmth of the sea
 I fall into sleep but you’re there to catch me
 Your arms are outstretched; you’re loving no other
 Together we’ll learn how to breathe underwater

Just a little boy left in a house of pain
 Wondering where all the ashes went
 Now I’m standing in a spotlight of shame
 Staring at my black and empty frame

Yet when I close my eyes I feel the warmth of the sea
 I fall into sleep but you’re there to catch me
 Your arms are outstretched; you’re loving no other
 Together we’ll learn how to breathe underwater

And when I close my eyes I feel the warmth of the sea
 I fall into sleep but you’re there to catch me
 Your arms are outstretched; loving no other
 Together we’ll learn how to breathe underwater

You’re arms are outstretched; as warm as the sea
 Just hold me girl; together we’ll breathe



“Starlight Child”

Catherine: “Starlight Child” is special to me. It’s the music I initially composed for “Diamond Star,” but it fit the song “Starlight Child” better. In the book, the main character writes it for his nephews; in real life, it’s dedicated to my daughter. As with “Rubies,” I made the vocal line part of the music. In this case, after we added guitar, bass, and drums, the song felt complete. So I left it as an instrumental. This is the only print publication besides the book that includes the lyrics.

Although the version of “Starlight Child” on the CD is rock, I can hear the classical influences in the music. I was hoping to jazz it up more, but I didn’t know how. The first time Donald played it for me, he did it straight, like the rock song. But he also heard the classical backing of the song. He played it again, making it sound like Bach, with trills and everything. I mentioned I had wanted to jazz it up, so he played it a third time as if it were a jazz song. It was all delightful.

Sometime later we did an interview with Mike Zipser on Fast Forward tv, and Donald played “Starlight Child” at the end. He started the piece as if it were classical and gradually shifted into a jazzy style. A video of his performance is on YouTube at: <http://tinyurl.com/StarlightChildWolcott>

By the time this program book comes out, I hope to have a slideshow up of the CD version, too, probably at: <http://www.tinyurl.com/StarlightChild>.

Starlight Child

To my daughter, Cathy

Music and lyrics: Catherine Asaro

Instrumental on CD: Russell Wilson on keyboard, Joe Rinaolo on guitar,

Dave Nachodsky on bass, Michael Williams on drums

Keyboard solo and arrangement for live performance: Donald Wolcott

When the forever snows
Tightened their embrace
While my dreaming thoughts froze
You rose with newborn grace
Nothing ever will compare
Nothing ever will come close
Your eyes, your skin, your shining hair
Starlight child, my heart knows
Angel, you’re starlight, starlight child
Baby, you’re starlight, my starlight child
When your laugh stills the world
Miracles arise
Unexpected, a hidden pearl
Heals my stricken eyes
Nothing ever will compare
Nothing ever will come close
Your eyes, your skin, your shining hair
Starlight child, my heart knows
Baby, you’re starlight, starlight child
Glistening starlight, my starlight child
The ices of sleeping death
Melt within your candle’s light
Your trust, your smile, your lilting breath
Starlight child, my heart flies
Angel, you’re starlight, a starlight child
Baby, you’re starlight, my starlight child
Angel, you’re starlight, miraculous child
Streaming starlight, my starlight child

“Carnelians”

Catherine: The book has two versions of “Carnelians,” but initially I only wrote one. When Hayim worked out the music with me and the band, we spent a lot of time on the arrangement, and I ended up rewriting some of the lyrics. I liked the result; both I and the band consider it one of the strongest pieces on the album. But it was too different from the original, which plays a vital role in *Diamond Star* and my upcoming book, *Carnelians*. So I rewrote *Diamond Star* to make two versions of the song integral to the plot. The story is stronger for it; the reasoning that led Hayim to suggest another version of the song also fit with why the main character would write two. This is the second version with the rewritten lyrics.

A slideshow video of the song is on YouTube at: <http://tinyurl.com/CarneliansSong>.

Carnelians

Lyrics: Catherine Asaro

Vocals: Hayim Ani, with Victoria McDaniel (on CD); Catherine Asaro (live performance)

Music: Hayim Ani and Adam Leve

Instrumentals on CD: Point Valid

Keyboard arrangement for live performance: Donald Wolcott

You dehumanized us; your critics, they died
 You answered defiance with massive genocide
 Hunt us as your prey, assault and enslave
 Force us bound to stay for pleasures that you crave
 I'm no golden hero in the blazing skies
 I'm no fair-haired genius hiding in disguise
 I'm only a singer; it's all that I can do
 But my voice is rising; I can sing the truth
 They strangled our summers, your Carnelian Sons
 You anguished the mothers in your war of suns
 With a heart that freezes, you shattered my kin
 You thought you were leaving no one who could win
 I'm no golden hero in the blazing skies
 I'm no fair-haired genius hiding in disguise
 I'm only a singer; it's all that I can do
 But I'm still alive; I'm coming after you
 I'll never kneel beneath your Highton stare
 I'm here, I'm real; I'll lay your guilt bare
 I'll never kneel beneath your Highton stare
 I'm here, I'm real; I'm your nightmare

“Boxcar Madness”

Catherine: One day while we were working on the CD, Hayim and I were sitting in my house, talking about the songs. He was idly strumming his acoustic guitar, and he started singing one of his originals, “Boxcar Madness.” Although he hadn't written the song for the book, the lyrics fit well. At my request, he agreed to let me use it in *Diamond Star*, and he also offered two of his other songs, “Etch-A-Sketch” and “Breathing Underwater,” which I gladly accepted.

Boxcar Madness

Lyrics and lyrics: Hayim Ani

Vocals: Hayim Ani

Keyboard arrangement: Ayelet Lobel

Instrumentals: Point Valid, with guest artist David Michelsohn on bass

This is the first day on your dimming stage
 This is the last smile you'll ever see
 Look at all the widespread hate
 Comes from the anger that fuels our race
 Would you love me if I was somebody else?
 Would you hate me if I choose to be myself?
 Turn away as struggles take me, better learn to pray
 Gone insane from crossing out this bitter memory

Leaving a loved one, ignoring the pain
 Holding your hand out despite all shame
 Lying on cold stone rather than on dreams soft
 Jumping high fences not to get caught
 Scream to the whole world but nobody's there
 Even if they were I doubt they'd care

Turn away as struggles come I hear you scream my name
 Gone insane from crossing out just what you meant to me

I can't go home. I can't go home.

Love me.

Quietly you walk right in and out of my dreams
 No need to sing; I hear your eyes hum everything
 I can't go home. I can't go home.

Would you love me if I was somebody else?
 Would you hate me if I choose to be myself?



Charles Gannon is a distinguished Professor of English at St. Bonaventure University, a Fulbright Senior Specialist, and a member of the SIGMA SF think-tank. He is the collaborator on the next *Starfire* novel (Baen), has forthcoming fiction in *Analog*, Pournelle's *War World* series, and the *Defending the Future* anthologies, and has authored and edited for GDW's award-winning games “Traveller,” and “2300 AD.” His book *Rumors of War and Infernal Machines: Technomilitary Agenda-Setting in American and British Speculative Fiction* won the 2006 ALA Award for Outstanding Nonfiction Book.

Etch-a-sketch*Music and lyrics: Hayim Ani**Vocals: Hayim Ani, with Miriam Ani**Instrumental: Point Valid, with David Michelsohn and Hayim Ani on bass*

Writing little notes on the Etch-a-Sketch of life
 Carving secret hopes on sand dunes in your mind
 Water will come now and wash it down the drain
 Oh the sketch will shake and your thoughts will fall away

Leaves turn brown and fall to the ground
 Fading lights you're all alone tonight

Well I want to be hated
 That would justify my world of pain
 And I know you feel like Satan
 Protective hands watch the candles wane

Sliding slowly down on the slip-an-slide of time
 Looking for footholds now on the glass wall passing by
 Where's the lifeguard? Is that the sound of loneliness?
 Coming from my heart, my heart of emptiness

Trees fall down without making a sound
 Angry eyes lie

Well I want to be hated
 That would justify my world of pain
 And I know you feel like Satan
 Protective hands watch the candles wane

Hold back the storm and close your eyes waiting for the light
 You pawn away forgotten dreams for thought-provoked misery
 Always seem outnumbered against the star-filled sky
 But wait the sun is rising; when it shines, begin to fly
 So fight no more and raise your hands; in the rain we'll dance
 Turn to east with heads held high; watch the new sunrise
 ...whoa in your eyes.

“Carnelians Finale”

Catherine: The “Carnelians Finale” is the most important song in the book. This was the original version of “Carnelians” and also the inspiration for my next book *Carnelians*, which will be out from Baen in 2010 or early 2011.

By the time we were ready to cut the song, Hayim had moved to Jerusalem. So I hired Michael Belinkie for the vocals. A member of the Navy Sea Chanters with a four octave range, he has experience as both a rock and opera singer. His voice worked well to represent the character in the book, who prefers to sing rock but is operatically trained. Michael also did a great job portraying the character's fury. It's not any easy song, and I was gratified to hear it come out so well.

David Dalrymple, a grad student at MIT, orchestrated the music. He worked out many of the instrumental tracks with his Kurzweil keyboard at MIT, and I did the rest of the tracks on a similar keyboard in the Baltimore studio. At the suggestion of Adam Leve, the Point Valid drummer, I also wrote a counter melody that I played under the main melody sung by Michael. It took many hours to get the effects we wanted, and the result has been one of the most requested songs on the CD, especially by those who have read the book.

A slideshow video of the instrumental version is at: <http://tinyurl.com/CarneliansFinale>.

Carnelians Finale*Music and lyrics: Catherine Asaro**Vocals: Michael Belinkie (on CD); Catherine Asaro and Donald Wolcott in live performance**Orchestration with synthesizer on CD: David Dalrymple**Instrumental on CD: David Dalrymple and Catherine Asaro on keyboard, Adam Leve on drums, Joe Rinaolo on guitar, and Dave Nachodsky on bass*

You dehumanize us; your critics, they all died.
 You answered defiance with massive genocide.
 You hunt us as your prey; you assault and enslave.
 You force us bound to stay for pleasures that you crave.
 You broke my brother, you Carnelian sons.
 You tortured my mother in your war of suns.
 You shattered my father; you killed my brothers.
 You murdered my sister, expecting no others.
 Well, I'm no golden hero in the blazing skies.
 I'm no fair-haired genius hiding in disguise.
 I'm only a singer; it's all I can do.
 But I'm still alive, and I'm coming after you.
 I'll never kneel beneath your Highton stare.
 I'm here and I'm real; I'll lay your guilt bare
 I'll never kneel beneath your Highton stare.
 I'm here and I'm real; your living nightmare.



There are very few people in this world who should be given the keys to the universe. Frank Wu is one of those people.

And why not? He's most certainly a ghenius; a visionary looking so far forward that the superlative evolved an extra *h*.

That's Frank Wu.

While others may operate on a gigaflop scale, Frank's mind bolts through a sea of ideas at petaflop rates, processing input and putting out masterfully inventive output seemingly at will.

Well, almost.

You see, like all great artists, Frank has the trouble of focus. Once, while he was drawing in the fanzine

Frank Wu: A Biography

By Chris Garcia

Frank's a four-time, four-time, four-time, four-time Hugo winner for Best Fan Artist, not to mention coming within two nominations of knocking perennial winner Dave Langford off the ballot for Best Fan Writer in 2008. Frank has also won the Illustrators of the Future award and has had illustrations in magazines around the world. His style is fresh and funky and fun and flashy, and he can tug at the heartstrings if the illustration calls for it. I once spent an afternoon fighting off depression brought about by his piece *Losing Memories*.

If you've ever tried to herd cats through a single opening in a wall a mile away while a million shiny things stand between you and the hole, then you might understand what it's like in Frank's brain. There are thousands of ideas for paintings, for stories, for plays, for screenplays, for strange meals, for new national anthems, you name it, I'm fairly certain that Frank has thought about it seriously at some point in the last twenty four hours.

lounge at CorFlu, I said his name three times and received the answer of deep silence. I took a seat next to him and repeated the process. Crickets chirped. I placed a finger over the edge of the drawing and Frank practically jumped.

'I didn't see you there.' He said.

Such is Frank Wu the artist.

I also happen to hate Frank, as he's turned into a writer with imagination that goes far beyond anything that's ever blipped across my screen. He's had stories in *Abyss & Apex* and the *Visual Journeys* anthology. His first story sale was for an anthology called *Daikaiju*, an Australian thingee that was All Giant Monsters, All the Time. Frank's story would be considered a work of fever-dream ghenius if one was unaware of Frank's mind operating on a plane where only quantum computers and obsessive-compulsive Jazzbos dare to tread. "The Tragical Historie of Guidolon, the Giant Space Chicken," is

not only a story of a Giant Space Chicken...I'm sorry, a Cosmic Avian Avenger, who comes to Earth, but it's the story of a Giant Space Chicken who directs a movie about a Cosmic Avian Avenger who comes to Earth.

Yep, it's meta alright.

The story is silly, with backlot golf cart chases, brawls between a giant octopus and a giant jellyfish, and a lead character who is something like Orson Welles if he had been bathing off of Three Mile Island at exactly the right moment. Frank debuted it with a reading at LosCon 2005 which left the audience gasping for breath.

Perhaps it was hearing those words read aloud that brought Frank to his next obsession: *Guidolon: The Motion Picture!* The Tragical Historie of Guidolon: The Giant Space Chicken came to life as a short film, with many of those who participated at the original reading reprising their roles. The result was a slapstick animated short that wouldn't die, so Frank did the only logical thing: he turned it into a feature. While it's not yet completed, the material is brilliant and it'll set the world afire once it hits the streets!

Frank's written other pieces for fanzines like the

Nova-winning *Zoo Nation* and Hugo-winning *Emerald City*, and the steaming pile of fanzine that I edit called *The Drink Tank*. His work has ranged from political to artsy, often at the same time. My personal favorite of his pieces dealt with the things we are finding due to today's culture of recording. This was a work worthy of a historian, published in a zine edited by a historian who could never in his wildest dreams put together a piece that smart and wide-ranging.

Frank once played a homeless man in a silly little film I produced. It was a part with a single line, but Frank took that character and made it his own, building around a theme of the seven deadly sins and delivering the line, which was only half-caught by the camera, with a force of will that actually made him one of the stars.

I've never been fishing with Frank Wu. I've always regretted that.

Frank is probably one of the great talkers in fandom, and that is saying something. Frank can turn a thing of hot wings and chick-





en tenders at a sports bar into a surrealist mélange of high scientific ideas, TV theme songs, strange diagrams and general whackiness. When dining with Frank, it would be wise to bring a stenographer because the ideas will be flying, sometimes literally, and you'll want to make sure you have a record of it so when you steal...I mean reference them.

There are truths about Frank Wu, his passion for Cold War knick-knacks and Aramaic cooking notwithstanding, that the world just doesn't know. He collects things, a lot of things, and is the guy who maintains the Frank R. Paul website. He also served as the inspiration for *The Karate Kid*. Frank's collaborated with Jay Lake on a story collection called *Greetings from Lake Wu*. Frank has a PhD. Frank also knows the lyrics to most of the songs of the last century. Frank doesn't drink, though a number of people I've spoken with have claimed that he's drunk 24/7. I personally think they just can't deal with the reality he's dropping.

More people might know The Wu than anyone else I know. I've gone to cons with Frank and he greets and is greeted by more people than I knew were in fandom. He's also a hugger. I've been to gatherings where the last five

minutes are devoted entirely to Frank giving goodbye hugs. What's amazing about Frank is that he can know everyone and they all know him and through him there is a gathering of souls. He is the guiding force behind the concept of the Food Amoeba, a nebulous group that goes for food at cons. You'll even see people who didn't know each other the day before, but after one meal in the Frank-guided amoeba and they're fast friends. Frank has a field of 'getting-to-know-you' around him.

There is a dark side to Frank Wu, there must be. I mean, you don't know that many people and do such great work without being evil. Frank may seem innocent, but could he actually be the devil himself.

Nah.

So, that's Frank Wu. When you're walking down the hall of the con, go ahead, touch him. Offer him a seat at your table and start a conversation of 1970s animation or biological catastrophism and the impact on the science fiction stories of Theodore Sturgeon. Knit him a hat, it's cold out there. Most of all, enjoy Frank, it's incredibly easy to do.



The Official Wu-graphy:

Frank Wu is an award-winning artist, writer and animator. His Hugo award-winning fantasy and science fiction art has materialized in many magazines and fanzines, including *The SFWA Bulletin*, *Strange Horizons*, *On Spec*, *Fantastic Stories*, *Talebones*, *Darkling Plain*, *Altair*, *E-scape*, and *Nth Degree*. He's also painted science fiction and fantasy art covers for books by Jerry Oltion, Mark Siegel, Jennifer Barlow, Daniel Pearlman, and Jamie Rosen. 2003 saw the release of a small press book of stories by Jay Lake, illustrated by Wu; the collection is entitled *Greetings from Lake Wu*. Frank won the **Illustrators of the Future Grand Prize** and the **2004 Hugo Award for Best Fan Artist**. (Thus Frank is the only Grand Prize winner in either the Writers or Illustrators of the Future contest who's also won a Hugo.)

He also has four scientific papers on DNA replication to his credit, along with humor published in *The Journal of Irreproducible Results* and *The Annals of Improbable Research*. His story about "Guidolon, the Giant Space Chicken" with delusions of grandeur, was published in the 2005 anthology *Daikaiju! Giant Monster Tales*. Recently he unleashed a new Director's Cut of a short animated version of *Guidolon*. When not creating stuff, Frank can be found hanging out with monks, hunting for mastodon bones in New Mexico and dinosaur bones and fish fossils in Wyoming, holding Laura Palmer's diary, riding in banana-shaped mopeds, touching art when the museum guards aren't looking, searching for a river of molten lava to drop keys into, or walking the earth, meeting people, getting into adventures, you know, like Caine in *Kung Fu*.





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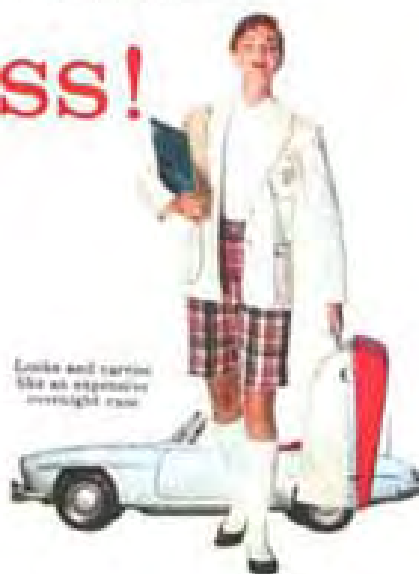
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Meet L.A. Banks

New York Times Best-selling author L.A. Banks has penned over 35 novels and 12 novellas in a wide range of genres and is the recipient of the 2008 Essence Magazine Storyteller of the Year Award, as well as the 2008 Best 50 Women in Business Award for the State of Pennsylvania. Recently she was featured as a speaker on the HBO Special on Vampire Literature and Legends as a prelude to the True Blood premier.

A native of Philadelphia, Banks is a graduate of The University of Pennsylvania Wharton undergraduate program, and alumnae of Temple University's Master of Fine Arts in filmmaking program. Ms. Banks began her career in corporate marketing for several Fortune 100 firms and worked as an executive for over a decade at Xerox, Hewlett Packard, and Digital Equipment Corporation. She then subsequently evolved her veteran marketing experience into a solid entrepreneurial career as a marketing consultant within the economic development and community-based organization environment. In 1992, Banks added another facet to her career, entering the publishing industry. She writes under the pseudonyms; L.A. Banks, Leslie Esdaile, Leslie E. Banks, Leslie Banks, and Leslie Esdaile Banks. She has won several business as well as literary awards, and writes in genres as diverse as romance, women's fiction, crime suspense, and paranormal. She has contributed to magazines, newspaper columns, and has written commercial fiction for a variety of major publishers: St. Martin's Press (NYC), Simon and Schuster (NYC), Kensington Publishing (NYC), BET/Arabesque (NYC), Genesis Press (MS), Parker Publishing, Harper, and Tor. Her non-fiction work includes the riveting and motivational story of Banks's life journey in her contribution to the Chicken Soup for the African American Soul anthology.

Banks' writing career took a new twist in 2000 when she won the coveted contract with Paramount/Showtime in collaboration with Simon & Schuster/Pocketbooks to write a book series for the popular cable network television series, Soul Food. Banks was also contracted to write the Universal Studios/Dark Horse Press novelization of the movie, *Scarface*, which takes a look at the

main character Tony Montana's life two years before he emigrated from Cuba to American in 1978. In addition, Banks penned a four-book crime thriller for Kensington/Dafina, beginning with *Betrayal of the Trust*, under her alternate pseudonym, Leslie Esdaile Banks. From there, Banks transitioned into another hot genre—the world of paranormal fiction, where she is currently penning a 12-book Vampire Huntress Legend series under the pen name L.A. Banks for St. Martin's Press, as well as a hot new werewolf series, Crimson Moon Novels debuting spring 2008. Banks is also moving into graphic novels and manga for her thriving Vampire Huntress Legends series, as well as a young adult paranormal sheroes and heroes series.

Currently Banks writes full time, always working on multiple projects and anthologies simultaneously, and she resides in Philadelphia. Her main website is <http://www.leslieesdailebanks.com/>.

The Vampire Huntress series (<http://www.vampire-huntress.com/>)

Minion

The Awakening

The Hunted

The Bitten

The Forbidden

The Damned

The Forsaken

The Wicked

The Cursed

The Darkness

The Shadows

The Thirteenth

Love At First Bite (anthology)

Stroke of Midnight (anthology)

The Crimson Moon series (<http://crimsonmoonnovels.com/indexmonitor.php>)

Bad Blood

Bite The Bullet

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A UNIT OF THE BELL  SYSTEM SINCE 1882

L.A. Banks's career was born out of tragedy. Years ago, her six-month-old daughter was severely burned, she was going through a divorce, she lost her job when she took time off to be with her daughter, and she was broke. Yet somehow, in the midst of all the grief, she turned to writing – creating page after page of entertainment that kept her girlfriends so entranced they submitted the complete manuscript to publishers without telling her.

Today, L.A. Banks is the New York Times bestselling author of the Vampire Huntress Legend series. She has written using the names: L.A. Banks, Leslie Esdaile, Leslie E. Banks, Leslie Banks, and Leslie Esdaile Banks for major publishers including St. Martin's Press, Simon and Schuster, Kensington Publishing, BET/Arabesque, Genesis Press, Parker Publishing, Harper, and Tor. This fall she will present the multi-cultural cast of characters from her Vampire Huntress Legend series in a series of graphic novels. A manga prequel to book one in the series also will be released, showing the heroine when she was younger and when she first joined the team.

In addition to the Vampire Huntress series, Banks's fourth book in her ongoing wolf series (*Crimson Moon Novels*), is set for release in October 2009. Banks has

times that I could write because I had a small child at home who was on a rigorous medication/therapy schedule. Therefore, I had windows of time that I had to use for writing and household chores while she slept. That also meant I couldn't squander that "free time" watching TV or gabbing on the phone, or even sinking into feeling sorry for myself. I had to use the time productively, and I found that when I did, not only did I feel better, but I also had something worthwhile to show for it daily. It's amazing how consistency pays off. If you chip away at something daily before long you have a whole book.

WRR: Vampires and werewolves are characters in your books. You state that "the vampire represents a lot of what we see in society. They're scarier because of that; because the vampire can be anybody. He just blends in and looks perfectly normal. Like serial killers often look like normal people... the fear factor is that they're among us." Why do you think readers are so drawn to this fear factor, and how do you use it to your advantage when creating your characters?

BANKS: I think it's human nature to want an adrenaline rush. Maybe it's something that's an evolutionary throw-back, needing to flex the flight or fight instinct, who knows? But it's no different than the way people

From Tragedy to Triumph: An Interview with L.A. Banks

by Janice Gable Bashman

(Reprinted from the *Wild River Review*)



over 35 novels to her credit, 10 novellas, and numerous short stories in genres such as crime suspense, paranormal, romance, and women's fiction. Between the tour schedule, writing schedule, on-line social networking/blogging schedules, and answering email, it is more than a full-time job, but Banks is not complaining. She loves her work.

Wild River Review chats with L.A. Banks to get some insight into her work, the psychology behind her characters, and why the universal themes she addresses keep her readers coming back for more.

WRR: You experienced great difficulties at the beginning of your writing career. What lessons have you learned from these experiences, and how have they enabled you to grow?

BANKS: Aside from the many spiritual lessons like "letting go and letting God," being able to get still and stay in the moment, and holding onto one's faith that things will work out no matter what – the first "writing" thing I learned was that you never know what creativity is locked inside of you until you try. But the experience of "the process" also taught me lessons about consistently writing every day at the same time of day to build a habit, a writing muscle, you know? I had only certain

love scary rides and roller coasters at the amusement park – we inherently know (or believe) that we'll be returned to the platform unharmed, laughing, and shouting, "What a rush!" I think books with scary content do that for readers. It let's us blow off steam in a safe way, let's us imagine kicking ass, getting even with the "bad guys," seeing justice served, it gets our blood pumping and hearts racing.

That's why we go to the movies to see *Independence Day* and genre films of that sort, because in the end we want to cheer as a group... we want to see somebody kick the monster's butt, we want the good guy (well, with a little bad boy in him) to get the girl, and we want our chaotic world to be restored to order. Humans have been telling scary stories of great danger, defeat, and triumph since we built campfires outside the caves while the wolves were howling in the hills near us.

WRR: What about the werewolf? You state it has the ability to be totally primal and act on its own instincts and that people gravitate to the werewolf because "it's an interesting look at our own psyches." Explain.

BANKS: Ah... the werewolf. This creature, like the vampire, has morphed in recent years as well. Initially it was a crazed, flesh destroying (and eating), slobber-

ing beast – not sexy at all and to be feared the way one might a rabid dog. That was circa *An American Werewolf in London* (and all films before that). Now, juxtapose that view to the recent film *Underworld* (the last one in the trilogy thus far). The werewolf is this sexy, primal hunk who can transform into a beast when provoked, bearing fangs, ripping out guts, supersized with super strength... but always the passionate, sensitive lover to his woman (it sounds so absurd but it's true).

Before this shift, vampires had taken the mantle as the perfectly dangerous lover – the forbidden, kinky, deep dark sensualist. Move over, vamps, somebody in pop culture let the dogs out. So we now have the phenomena where injustice, rage, plus the phase of the moon, means that the otherwise mild-mannered individual who is playing by the rules of society just gets fed up and rips your face off. Generally, if you follow the lore and read the stories (or watch the movies), the werewolf clans are the permanent underclass, hidden in the shadows, and are badly treated by society in general... but they have a secret strength that threatens polite society. They are chaos on steroids. I think that's the appeal. At a time when many people are feeling abused by the system, powerless to go against the oil barons and banking cartels, et al., mentally one can escape and imagine having great freedom (like that of the wolf), with the power of a naturally majestic animal, while also being able to rip your boss's face off (if you feel like it).

WRR: You always help your characters along with “mother-wisdom from an elderly secondary character because [you] have so strongly leaned on those ‘old wisdoms’ to get [you] through tough times.” Why is this important?

BANKS: It's a paradigm that has been a helpful rubric in my life, and ironically, it is also a literary paradigm as laid out on Joseph Campbell's *The Hero with A Thousand Faces*. There is always a mentor, a Yoda, a Sensei, a learned master that helps the young initiate along their path of trials and tribulations until they emerge victorious.

WRR: Your books address many universal themes: the struggle of good versus evil; the love of humanity and family; how each life can make a difference; “choice and action bear consequences”; “the coming together of people, regardless of race or religious preferences, to uphold worthy causes [and] to function as a world family.” Why are these themes important to you, to your readers, and to the world?

BANKS: I think these themes are important to me personally (and to others),

because without the belief that good triumphs over evil, then there is no hope left. What is life without hope? We'd all be trudging through life in a depressed, “why bother” stupor. But there's something defiant and empowering in believing that, no matter how the deck is stacked against you, no matter how much more powerful the bad guys are than you – there is some sort of cosmic justice out there, something, to level the playing field in the end. That's why actions and consequences are such a repetitive theme in all master stories, because that combination appeals to the theme of “justice,” and our sensibilities regarding whether or not justice was served.

I believe we also all want to feel that our small universe within the great macrocosm matters – and that



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the tiny specs of our life (comparatively), along with our loves, our family, as well as all our hopes and dreams prove that we were here and that we made a difference... that we each matter. To believe otherwise is again a terribly hopeless thought. And I also think that (even if we don't show evidence of higher ideals in our own lives) we want to imagine ourselves free of petty distinctions or limiting differences, free of prejudice, free of fear to rebel against the social mores of our particular place in society. We want to (in our souls) transcend the human condition, I believe... and even if we aren't strong enough to openly do so, we want to read about (or see) those who do. It all goes back to hope. Seeing someone transcend the limitations of their birth to make a difference for being born gives us all something to rally around.

WRR: Your character Carlos (in the Vampire Huntress series) states that "knowledge is power." How do you think this philosophy applies on a global scale?

BANKS: The more I know what is going on in the world, the more it affects my choices, how I vote, how I spend my money, how I relate to others. I am empowered by what I know, laid bare and ignorant by what I don't know. As a thinking person, can you throw plastic on the ground and not recycle when you've seen the devastation being wrought on the environment? Can you not care that people are being slaughtered in other countries, or that we had CIA



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black sites and sanctioned torture? When you know stuff, there's a burden to that knowledge. Sometimes I frankly don't want to know, because knowing keeps me awake at night. Ignorance is bliss, is a true statement. But once you know... there's no going back to ignorance.

WRR: You stated that love is the greatest way to defeat evil.

BANKS: That's been evidenced time and time again... look at the great masters who used love, you can take Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Mother Theresa in recent history, or go back to Biblical times – these individuals loved humanity even through its lowest common denominators. Even when some were killed, jailed, otherwise abused, they became larger movements after their deaths. They won. Their causes won. They moved people, they drew in people, and they transformed people through the power of love. Fear, hatred, oppression – that's pure evil and it never lasts. Love endures.

WRR: Your heroine Damali "is a woman in her own right with her own calling, and the power to shift the balance between good and evil by the sheer force of her inner being and will. She represents The Light... love, and the uniqueness found in every person....We all have this capacity, I believe, even when we don't know it." You have a very positive take on the world and on the human condition, yet so many suffer across the globe. Do you believe that we each have the power to "shift the balance between good and evil by the sheer force of [our] inner being and will"?

BANKS: Yes. Plainly stated, yes. There have been untold examples of how one person made a difference, how one person fed the masses... one old lady who took in boys from the street corner and mothered the motherless, how one firefighter saved a whole floor of people trapped in the World Trade Center only to perish himself.

There is horrific news, to be sure... but there are also so many people who give of themselves every day in small, but important, ways. What of the teacher who is transforming young minds? She may never know if one of her kids will be the next Einstein or President of the United States. What of the crossing guard who makes sure all her little ducks get across the street safely? Maybe one will be the next surgeon to save the life of the person who will develop a cure for cancer. That's just it, we don't know. The fabric of life is tightly woven, I believe. It's a tapestry where there are too many intersecting lines to just toss any life aside. It's the not-knowing that is the majestic spectacle we have to watch for and witness. This is why I feel that it is deeply important to encourage everyone.

WRR: It's only recently that there's been a surge of books focusing on African-American culture. Why do you think it has taken so long for writers and the publishing industry to recognize and fulfill this need, and how do you envision a literary future that addresses this culture?

BANKS: There have always been a strong list of non-fiction titles, but it's in the area of fictive narratives that's seen an evolution. I think when it came to fiction there was a built-in set of assumptions about what would be of interest and what would "play" well in the African American community based on historical sales. Before recently, there had been books by renowned African American authors (ex. Alex Haley, Eldridge Cleaver, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, et al.) that dealt with the issues of the era they wrote in, namely human rights, Civil Rights, etc. Then along came Terri McMillan, who issued in an entire era of women's fiction that dealt with relationships, and from there urban fiction or "street fiction" blew up with groundbreaking titles like *The Coldest Winter Ever*.

But after a while, the one-dimension titles offered no longer satisfied the complete palate of the African American market segment. For instance, Zane became a phenomenon because, when she first hit the scene, there was no "black erotica." What the fervent acceptance of the "firsts" in a genre should have told the publishers – who, by the way, are always a step behind the marketplace – was that there is a hunger in the African American community for all sorts of books. There is a leader in every genre. Zane took erotica by storm; Terri McMillan took women's fiction by storm; Walter Mosley (*Devil in a Blue Dress*) took mystery by storm; Octavia Butler took sci-fi by storm... what that should have told the industry was that the palate of the African American reader is eclectic, open, and not a monolith any more than any other group is. It is why multi-cultural vampires did well, and I suspect if you picked any genre and did it well as a first (and put some marketing behind it so that people knew it was there), it too would blow up.

Think of it this way, using the metaphor of music – what if there was only one radio station that played hip hop music all day and all night? What if there was no pop, no blues, no jazz, no country, no R&B, no classi-

Janice Gable Bashman

Janice Gable Bashman is co-author (w/Jonathan Maberry) of *Vampire Hunters and Other Enemies of Evil* (Citadel 2010) and contributing editor of *The Big Thrill* (the newsletter of the International Thriller Writers). She is a regular contributor to the *Wild River Review* and also writes for leading publications, including *Industry Today*, *Food and Drink Quarterly* and *The Novel and Short Story Writer's Market*. Her writing won multiple awards at the 2007 Philadelphia Writer's Conference.



The Wild River Review is an international website and 501C3 non profit organization based in Princeton, New Jersey. It is the creation of a team of professional writers and artists in all genres: short and long fiction, poetry, nonfiction, feature writing, and graphic stories. With powerful writing and graphics, the *Wild River Review* explores complicated issues through the power of first hand stories and interviews. In a climate of repeated media flashes and quick newsbyte stories that focus on trauma and terror, *Wild River Review* also believes that there are many underreported issues, positive initiatives and poetic visions that deserve increased coverage in order to effect positive change throughout the world. The journal's website is <http://www.wildriverreview.com/>.

cal, just the same songs played over and over and over again. Then imagine if a new station came to town that had R&B and neo-soul. Then another one sprang up that offered opera, then another that played top 10. Can you imagine how all of a sudden the people who'd stopped listening to the radio would eagerly return to it or how those forced to just "put on the only game in town" would quickly change channels?

I think that's what we'll see in the future. First there's a fragmenting based upon personal tastes that transcend race, then, all of sudden, that segmenting winds up not just shelved in the African American section (sticking with the music metaphor, akin to being played on traditional African American stations), but shelved (or played) in the section that denotes the genre. I think that's where things are moving – just like in the music industry, initially "African American" artists were only played on stations that catered to that market. Now you hear Beyonce's cuts on all stations.

Books are going in that direction, too. When the *Vampire Huntress Legends* series first came out, it was shelved in the African American lit section of the major bookstores. Now it's with general Sci-Fi and Fantasy books. That makes it accessible to all people and says, implicitly, it doesn't matter who the author is or the ethnic origins of the characters – if you like a good story about vampires and vampire slayers, you might like this.



Meet Cory Doctorow

Cory Doctorow (craphound.com) is a science fiction novelist, blogger and technology activist. He is the co-editor of the popular weblog Boing Boing (boingboing.net), and a contributor to Wired, Popular Science, Make, the New York Times, and many other newspapers, magazines and websites. He was formerly Director of European Affairs for the Electronic Frontier Foundation (eff.org), a non-profit civil liberties group that defends freedom in technology law, policy, standards and treaties. He is a Visiting Senior Lecturer at Open University (UK); in 2007, he served as the Fulbright Chair at the Annenberg Center for Public Diplomacy at the University of Southern California.

His novels are published by Tor Books and HarperCollins UK and simultaneously released on the Internet under Creative Commons licenses that encourage their re-use and sharing, a move that increases his sales by enlisting his readers to help promote his work. He has won the Locus and Sunburst Awards, and been nominated for the Hugo, Nebula and British Science Fiction Awards. His latest novel, New York Times Bestseller *Little Brother*, was published in May 2008, and his latest short story collection is *Overclocked: Stories of the Future Present*. In 2008, Tachyon Books published a collection of his essays, called *Content: Selected Essays on Technology, Creativity, Copyright and the Future of the Future* (with an introduction by John Perry Barlow) and IDW published a collection of comic books inspired by his short fiction called *Cory Doctorow's Futuristic Tales of the Here and Now*. His next novel is *Makers*, due from Tor Books/HarperCollins UK in October, 2009.

Little Brother was nominated for the 2008 Hugo, Nebula, Sunburst and Locus Awards. It won the Ontario Library White Pine Award, the Prometheus Award as well as the Indienet Award for bestselling young adult novel in America's top 1000 independent bookstores in 2008.

He co-founded the open source peer-to-peer software company OpenCola, sold to OpenText, Inc in 2003, and presently serves on the boards and advisory boards of the Participatory Culture Foundation, the MetaBrainz

Foundation, Technorati, Inc, the Organization for Transformative Works, Areae, the Annenberg Center for the Study of Online Communities, and Onion Networks, Inc.

In 2007, Entertainment Weekly called him, "The William Gibson of his generation." He was also named one of Forbes Magazine's 2007/8 Web Celebrities, and one of the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders for 2007.

He is presently working on a new young adult novel, *For the Win* (about union organizing in video games).

On February 3, 2008, he became a father. The little girl is called Poesy Emmeline Fibonacci Nautilus Taylor Doctorow, and is a marvel that puts all the works of technology and artifice to shame.

Note: Many of Cory's works, while available as physical objects, are also available as downloads in a variety of formats. Please consult his website <http://www.craphound.com> for more information, including many of Cory's uncollected essays.

Cory Doctorow's Futuristic Tales of the Here and Now

IDW adapted six of my short stories for comic book, publishing them as singles in 2007. In 2008, they published the full collection in a single set of covers, and I released them as a Creative Commons download under the Attribution-ShareAlike-Noncommercial license. Collected in this volume are adaptations of my award-winning stories "Craphound," "Anda's Game," "When Sysadmins Ruled the Earth," "After the Siege," "I, Robot" and "Nimby and the D-Hoppers."

Little Brother

Little Brother is my first young adult novel, a story about hacker kids in San Francisco who use technology to reclaim democracy from the Department of Homeland Security after a terrorist attack and the concomitant crackdown. It was published by Tor Books on April 29, 2008.

Overclocked: Stories of the Future Present

My second short story collection is *Overclocked: Stories of the Future Present*, from Thunder's Mouth Press. It contains six of my favorite, net-centric tales: "Print-crime," "When Sysadmins Ruled the Earth," "Anda's Game," "I, Robot, I, Row-Boat," and "After the Siege."

Someone Comes to Town, Someone Leaves Town

My third novel was *Someone Comes to Town, Someone Leaves Town*, a contemporary fantasy about wireless networking, revenge, and secrets. The book came out on July 1 from Tor, and as with my previous books, I've released it online simultaneously with the print release, under a Creative Commons license. What's more, I've released it under a Creative Commons Developing Nations license, allowing for even more flexibility for residents of developing nations.

Eastern Standard Tribe

Eastern Standard Tribe was published in March 2004. In the short time since, many of the elements of the story have started to come true. The book concerns itself with the conspiracies of management consultants around the world who form secret allegiances on the basis of the timezones that they choose to sleep in -- everyone who keeps New York time all over the world ends up all palsy-walsy and savages those degenerates on Pacific time.

A Place So Foreign and Eight More

This is not technically a novel, but rather a collection of my short fiction. This book won the 2004 Starbust Award for Best Canadian Science Fiction Book, and sports a kick-ass introduction by cyberpunk legend Bruce Sterling. Many of the stories in this have won or been nominated for prestigious awards, including the Nebula and Sturgeon awards.

Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom

My first novel was published in January 2003. It concerns the machinations of technologically advanced immortals who have occupied Walt Disney World's Haunted Mansion and who aim to preserve it from the depredations of modernizers who would renovate it.

The book won the 2003 Locus Award for Best First Novel and is a finalist for the 2004 Nebula for Best Novel.

Content

Content is my first nonfiction collection, collecting over a dozen essays, speeches, and white-papers on subjects ranging from copyright to science fiction writing to DRM, Wikipedia to Facebook and Metadata. It sports an introduction by one of my all-time heroes: John Perry Barlow. It was published in September, 2008 by Tachyon Books.

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Publishing Science Fiction

Karl Schroeder and I co-wrote this comprehensive guide to science fiction publishing that was published in 2000. Despite its age, it has held up remarkably well, especially the pieces on how to write your stories and prepare your manuscripts. I get a lot of questions from starting writers about how to break in, and I always point them to this book.

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Back in 2003, I was the first writer to use a Creative Commons license in connection with a commercially published novel—my first novel, *Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom* (Tor) was released as a freely shareable e-book the same day it came out in stores. It's now gone through several printings, has made me a fair bit of money, been widely translated—commercially and noncommercially—and it's been followed by three more novels, including the *New York Times* bestseller *Little Brother* (Tor Teens, 2008), all of which are also available as free, remixable downloads. Two more novels are on their way on the same terms.

I've also published two collections of short fiction reprinted from magazines, *A Place So Foreign and Eight More* (Four Walls Eight Windows, 2004) and *Overclocked* (Thunder's Mouth, 2007), both critically well received, award winning and excellent sellers. Finally, I've also done a collection of essays, *Content* (Tachyon, 2008), and IDW published a graphic novel collecting six of my stories adapted for comics, *Cory Doctorow's Futuristic Tales of the Here and Now* (2008), under these very same terms.

Free e-books work for me. I've been a full-time writer since I quit my day job as European director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation (a charity that works for online civil liberties) in January 2006. Since then, I've made my living through a combination of royalties and licenses (foreign translations, film options, etc.); earnings from Boing Boing, the popular blog I co-edit and co-

bookseller. After all, I have three or four million people a day who read my blog. I could just self-publish all my material and get it directly into the hands of my readers, and pocket the lion's share of the income.

I'm a contrarian on both of these propositions: that I'm losing money by giving away e-books, and that I'm losing money by using a publisher. I have a nice little Goldilocks gig going—not too hot, not too cold, just the right amount of DIY, independent publishing and just the right amount of professional support and administration from my publisher to sell. But I'm as curious about both propositions as anyone. While it's fun to argue about whose intuition is more correct, I think facts on the ground beat a priori assumptions every time. So I've come up with an idea to get some facts in evidence, while making some money and raising a little hell.

The Experiment

Here's the pitch: the book is called *With a Little Help*. It's a short story collection, and like my last two collections, it's a book of reprints from various magazines and other places (with one exception, more about which later). Like my other collections, it will be available for free on the day it is released. And like my last collection, *Overclocked*, it won't have a traditional publisher.

Let me explain that last part: **Overclocked** was published in January 2007, just weeks after Advanced Marketing Services, the parent company of Publishers Group

Doctorow's Project: With a Little Help

Cory Doctorow kicks off a unique publishing experiment.

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own; speaking fees; column writing; and the occasional grant, teaching gig or residency. Mine is the semirandom hodgepodge of income sources that characterizes most of the freelancers I know, as skills, circumstances and capacity dictates.

Still, this business of my giving away e-books is a controversial subject. I encounter plenty of healthy skepticism in my travels, and not a little bile. There's a lot of people who say I'm pulling a fast one, that I'd be making more money if I didn't do this crazy liberal copyright stuff, or that I'm the only one it'll ever work for, or that I secretly make all my money from doing stuff that isn't writing, or that it only works because I'm so successful. Of course, when I started, they said it only worked because I was so unknown.

People want **proof** that this works—that I'm not deluded or a con artist. But it's hard to prove. I don't have a time machine I can use to republish all my books without the free downloads and compare royalty statements. And the skeptics aren't the only people who claim I've got it wrong. There are also the True Believers. The True Believers are the people who say that I'm a fool to give 90% of the cover price of my books to the publisher and

West, which distributed Thunder's Mouth, the publisher for **Overclocked**—went bankrupt. You remember Advanced Marketing Services. What a mess. First, a senior executive was arrested and convicted of fraud for falsifying the company's earnings, then the company tanked, and the resulting whirlpool threatened to suck half of New York publishing down with it. As a result, Thunder's Mouth went through a series of mergers and acquisitions. My editor and then his replacement both left or were let go (I never found out which). By spring, no one was communicating with me.

Later that year, I did a kind of self-financed minitour, piggybacking on speaking gigs, and every time I went into a bookstore it seemed like I was seeing another edition of the book with a different publisher's name on the spine. The book's currently listed in Perseus's catalogue, for which I am glad. The royalty checks keep coming, and the book continues to do well, but I could no longer be said to have any particular relationship with this publisher. As far as I can tell, it is listing the book in its catalogue and filling orders, but not much else.

This makes *Overclocked* into a fine control for my little experiment. It is a **good** book. It sold well and was critically acclaimed. But it is solidly a midlist title, a

short story collection published by a house turned upside down by bankruptcy. It will be the baseline against which I compare the earnings from *With a Little Help*. And those earnings will be diverse—like the musicians who've successfully self-produced albums in a variety of packages at a variety of price points (Radiohead, Trent Reznor, David Byrne and Brian Eno, Jonathan Coulton), I have set out to produce a book that can be had in a range of packages and at a range of price points from \$0.00 to \$10,000.

P&L

Doctors swear an oath to do no harm. For this project, I've taken an oath to lose no money. That means that my capital expenditures have to be as low as possible. In the ideal world, every object I make available will either cost nothing to produce or will be physically instantiated only after it has been ordered and paid for. With this in mind, let me run down the packages.

E-book: free, in a wide variety of formats

I have always released my books in three formats (text, HTML and PDF formatted for two-column portrait printout), and my readers have always followed up by converting them to an astonishing long tail of other formats for their preferred readers. I maintain the three canonical files, updating them to fix typos, etc., but I don't attempt to do this with reader-conversions; it'd be way too much work. One advantage to having so many geeky readers is that they find it rewarding and easy to hack together automation tools for me. Vaskin Kissoyan, a reader in the U.S., recently sent me a beta of a package called "Ange" that he's written to single-source my master text files into HTML, PDF and EPub, so that all I need to do is make an edit in the text file and run the script, and it converts the updated file to all the other formats and uploads them for me. There's a reason this collection is called *With a Little Help*!

Audiobook: free, in a wide variety of formats

I've always taken great pleasure in reading my works aloud. I've done 150-plus installments of a podcast of me doing just that. But I'm no pro. However, many of my friends are pro voice actors, and I've called on them to each record one of the stories from the book. The impressiveness of the roster is incredibly gratifying to me, including as it does such voice talents as Wil Wheaton, Mary Robinette Kowal and Leo Laporte, as well as pals like voice actor Emily Hurson and CBC radio personality Jesse Brown; colleagues like Spider Robinson, JC Hutchins and Hugh Spencer; and fans like Roy Turnbull.

Not only am I an amateur when it comes to readings, I'm a total noob when it comes to mastering audio. Again, a reader saves my bacon: John Williams of DC's Wryneck Studios is a talented sound engineer who got fed up with the poor quality of my podcasts, so he's been mastering them for me for some months now. He'll be doing the same for all these disparate recordings, and I've offered him a cut from the net of sales of the CD/DVD versions of the audio.

These recordings are Creative Commons licensed, and I'll be approaching all the major science fiction and tech podcasts—to which I am a frequent contributor and guest—to include as many as they'd like in their feeds. Science fiction podcasting is pretty concentrated, and I expect that I'll reach a good 300,000 fans with this expedient. There's also some supplementary material in

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the audio edition: the introduction, written by Internet rock star Jonathan Coulton, will be read aloud by him as well; the afterword, written by my agent, the publishing veteran Russell Galen, will likewise be voiced by him.

Donations: whatever happens

I have never solicited donations for my works before, despite the urgings of True Believers who would like to see my publisher cut out of the loop, because I wanted to be sure my publisher was **in** the loop. This time around, I'm the publisher, so let's see what people are interested in giving.

Print-on-Demand trade paperback: \$16 (approximately; price TBD)

Lulu.com produces beautiful books, objects that look every bit as good as the Lightning Source trade paperbacks that Ingram will sell you, provided you know what you're doing when you design them. A designer, I am not. But John Berry, who designed my essay collection, *Content*, for Tachyon, is. He's a legendary typographer and type designer, and is also a pal of mine (the book is called *With a Little Help*, remember) and he's agreed to do the interiors and help with the overall package for a percentage of the net from book sales.

For the covers, I've approached four different cover artists: Hugo winner Frank Wu, SF writer and painter Rudy Rucker, veteran Rick Lieder and Tor.com honcho Pablo Defendini, who produced the art-heavy serialization of my forthcoming novel, *Makers*, for tor.com as well as running up a stupendous fan-art poster for my last novel, *Little Brother*. The book will be available with all four covers, and I will also be on the lookout for suitable pieces of art to license for limited-edition covers that I'll sell at a premium for a week or two.

I'm also offering a custom-cover package for people running events or giveaways: for a setup fee (I'm thinking \$300, but that's not fixed in stone), I'll sell you as many copies at Lulu's cost as you'd like with your own cover on it.

Proofing and copyediting are less onerous here than they would be in a work of original fiction. All of these reprints have already been through a copyedit and proofing pass at the magazines where they were originally published. But I'm also lucky to be the son of Dr. Roslyn Doctorow: my mom is a king-hell proofer who routinely finds typos and even character-name switches that are missed by my editors, copyeditors and proofers. Naturally, she's not charging me for the service (thanks, Mom!).

Now, lots of people have used POD as a way of avoiding a lot of sunk costs in publishing ventures. But I want to see how far I can push it. With my previous books, my readers have sent in typos as they discovered them and I've fixed the electronic texts immediately, storing up lists of changes for my publisher to incorporate in future printings. But POD means that I can fix typos as soon as they're reported, and what's more, I can add an acknowledgment to the reader who caught it **on the page where the correction appears**, as a footnote. I have

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a feeling that readers will happily buy a second copy of the book in order to have a printing in which their name appears.

Premium hardcover edition: \$250, limited run of 250 copies

My office is in Clerkenwell, in London, close to several artisanal binders and some damned fine printers. My favorite binder is the venerable, family-owned Wyvern Bindery, which has agreed to bind a fine limited edition of *With a Little Help* for £20 a copy, in quantities of 20. The interior pages will be printed by Oldacres of Hatton Gardens, which will do them on all-rag stock for £17 each. Of course, hand-bound hardcovers are pretty common stuff. So, in keeping with the "nothing exceeds like excess" ethos of the project, I've come up with three very



Photo: Paula Mariel Salischiker, pause.co.uk

nice bonuses for the books.

First, embossed on each cover will be an original illustration of me as a superhero in cape and goggles, drawn by Randall

Munroe, creator of the immensely popular XKCD Web comic (Randall frequently features me as this character in his strips, and it's become such a running gag that I'm routinely greeted at speaking gigs by fans bearing goggles and capes for me to wear).

Second, also embossed into each cover will be a rectangular indentation, just the right size for an SD card containing the full text of the book and all the audio. I'm going to use the nifty SanDisk cards that fold in half and plug right into your USB slot, for PCs that don't have built-in SD readers. The cards are glued into the cover with a dot of rubber cement, and so you have to decide whether to leave the book in "mint" condition and download the electronic material, or to play with the new toy—the perfect collectible conundrum.

Finally, every book will have unique endpapers made from paper ephemera solicited from writer friends, ranging from William Gibson and Neil Gaiman to Kelly Link and Eileen Gunn. These have been coming in all summer and they run the gamut from the wrenching (Jay Lake's cancer diagnosis) to the uplifting (Joe Haldeman's watercolors) to the uproarious (Kathe Koja's second-grade report cards). These will also be scanned and made available as a free, Creative Commons–licensed Flickr set.

Commission a new story: \$10,000 (one only)

I probably underpriced this, but it's too late now. The idea was to give my readers the chance to commission a story to be added to the collection at a later date—thus benefiting from an additional burst of publicity and possibly selling a second copy of the "expanded edition" to people who wanted to get the complete text. I thought \$10,000 was a nice high number, but attainable, maybe the kind of thing a co-op of readers could come together to buy, a little existence-proof of the wonders of crowd-sourcing, etc. As a sweetener, I threw in a half-page ad for a "mutually agreeable" cause, product or service.

But back in June, as I mentioned this over lunch with Mark Shuttleworth, the South African tech millionaire responsible for the Ubuntu Linux project (and also the first civilian to go into space as a tourist, courtesy of the Russian space agency), and he immediately bought it. And a few readers have come forward since to say

they'd have happily gone \$10,000 to commission their own story. Makes me think I'll ask for \$20,000 next time around. I think this is what the economists call "price discovery."

Advertisements: TBD

Since the paperbacks are print-on-demand, and the electronic files can be trivially modified, I'm going to sell a single ad unit on a time-limited basis: a half-page, or 500 pixels square, or five lines of text (depending on the image), at a price to be determined, in month-long increments. After a month, I'll remove the ad from the downloads and the print templates.

Donations of books: TBD

Since the publication of *Little Brother* in spring 2008, I've run a donation program for my books wherein I ask librarians, teachers and people who work in other "worthy" institutions (halfway houses, shelters, hospitals, etc.) to put their names down for free copies. I publish this list online and mention it in the introductions to all the digital copies of the works. Public-spirited readers who want to donate a copy go to the list, pick and then order a copy for them from their favorite bookseller, electronic or physical. They send me the receipt and I cross off the names. I've sold several hundred hardcovers this way, which comes into real royalties, a substantial lift to my sales figures, and many, many happy readers. Up until now, I've paid an assistant to do the hard work on this, going through the solicitations to ensure they come from legit people, updating the Web page as requests are filled. This is expensive and cumbersome. This time around, my agent, Russell Galen, has offered the services of his agency to handle that, and Lulu has offered to automate the process somewhat.

The Results

That's how the money is going to come in. To be honest, I have no idea how much money that will be (\$10,000 has already come in, of course). But I do know what I'll do about it. I'm going to disclose it, all of it, every month, in a running tally in a monthly column in *Publishers Weekly*. And incidentally, this article is grossing me all of \$900, less my agent's 15% commission, and the columns \$400 hereafter. I will then put this into an appendix, which will be added to new editions of the book and compared to the revenues from *Overclocked*. That's as close to an apples-to-apples comparison as I can come up with, but I think it will speak well to the question: what's the best a writer like me can do on his own, versus with a traditional publisher for whom he does everything he can to aid in book sales?

There's plenty more details, of course—how I'm going to use Twitter, what I'm going to do to get this into bookstores, the marketing and publicity plan. But many of those details will fill a column on their own. One thing I need to mention, though: I'm seriously considering writing a book about the experiment, no matter how it turns out, selling it to a traditional publisher and adding the advance to the balance sheet.



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Kyle Cassidy has spent the last year traveling across North America photographing Fantasy and Science Fiction Authors in the places they write. He reports on

What a Long (and Wonderful) Strange Trip it's Been

I'm sitting on the sofa in Neil Gaiman's living room. It's late and we're watching *Doctor Who* and for the first time, after weeks on the road, things start to sink in.

Just a few short months before I'd been standing in the lobby of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, very close to where you're probably standing right at this very moment. I was feeling rather lost because I'd been abandoned by the friend who insisted that I come to a Science Fiction Convention so that he could try and get Gardner Dozois' autograph. I knew no one, and probably worse yet, I knew pretty much nothing about science fiction. Oh, I'd read *IAMSF* and *F&SF* and *Galaxy* as a teenager, but the intervening decades had taken me far away. I could talk casually about *Foundation*, or *Dune*,

or Tolkien, but I didn't know who Elizabeth Bear was or anything about Slipstream, Steampunk or New Weird. I'd never seen Babylon 5, or DS9 and had no opinion on whether or not Vampires could beat Werewolves in a fair fight. While my dearth of knowledge was deep, it was not bottomless. I did know two things. First, I knew that Michael Swanwick was the most famous science fiction author in Philadelphia, because I'd looked it up on Wikipedia, and second, I knew that he was standing right in front of me, because I recognized him from Wikipedia.

"Michael!" I cried out — enthusiasm addled by desperation. He turned around and looked at me, the puzzled expression on his face is eternally paired with not recognizing someone that you should recognise or being asked

the capital of a country you didn't know existed while on a TV game show. "Hello!" he said and stuck out his hand, I took it like a life jacket. "I'm coming to your thing," I told him inelegantly. I meant of course his reading that afternoon. It's not easy to miss the only name you're familiar with in a huge catalog. He looked at me with more non-recognition. An old friend not seen in years? A famous author from out of town? Some crazy fan? Somewhere in his mind a gear whirled, a decision was made, and he said: "Do you have directions?"

Directions? I thought, *Am I not here? Is this not the place?* Apparently not, as he drew a sheet of paper from his briefcase and handed it to me. *I'll see you there then!* He said, and escaped into a crowd of friends and fans. The sheet of paper, it turned out, was an invitation to



Michael Swanwick: *I can write anywhere, I carry a notebook around with me everywhere. But when I write other places, I'm just writing a first draft really, just scribbling it down into the notebook. Writing is all a practice of putting words through my fingers again and again, and this room is where I do that. When I first started out, I got a Variable Space IBM Selectric, a really beautiful machine -- top of the line, and I'd write on the Selectric until I stalled out, then I'd take that sheet and go over to the computer, and start copying it from the very beginning and just keep writing until I'd passed where I stopped and keep going until I stalled out again, print that out, and go back to the Selectric, back and forth and back and forth and what happens when the words pass not only through your mind but through your fingers several times is that you catch mistakes -- only god knows how many drafts I do working a little bit past where it's been frozen into immobility, but a good guess is maybe 40 drafts of every page.*

I do not recommend this system to anybody.

a party he was throwing for out of town authors. Had he mistaken me for an out of town author? Or had I looked so sad and desperate that this offer of compassion was to keep me from the roof of the hotel?

Not being a fool, I attended several panels, bought a *Night Stalker* comic book, had some sushi across the street, and headed to Michael Swanwick's party for out-of-town authors that evening.

The house was filled with the most interesting cast of characters, all of whom greeted me with either great enthusiasm or pleasant indifference. After a quick circumnavigation of the room I paused to hastily email my absent friend that not only had he missed out on meeting his hero Gardner Dozois by standing me up at a science fiction convention, but at that very moment I was at a PARTY with Gardner Dozois who was now reclining on a lounge chair with a grey cat in his lap.

At some point in the evening I asked Michael if I might see his Hugo awards, I'd read that he had five and I'd never seen one. He jubilantly led me up to his office, turned on the light and as the photons bounced from the

myriad surfaces there and struck the rods and cones of my eyes, I knew what my next book was going to be.

*

There's probably some relation between the fact that I'm a visual artist and the fact that I try to find visual answers to questions. What can you tell about a person from their surroundings? This line of thinking had resulted in a very successful documentary photography book about American gun culture and numerous gallery shows, and now I was suddenly very curious as to the relationship between the piles of stuff that filled this room and the shelves of awards on the wall.

"Can I come back," I asked, "and photograph you in your office?"

"Of course!" he replied, "but not until I have had a chance to clean it."

"Oh, please don't," I begged.

Sagaciously, he replied: "You cannot stop me from doing so, nor will you be able to tell that I have."

Several weeks later I returned with strobes and lenses and an assistant and discovered that I actually could tell that he had been cleaning — a path had been

Chip Delany: *I refer to my office affectionately as my "nest", and if you look around it's easy to see why. When I first put it together it was a lot more organized than it is now there was a large shelf in the corner of what under this pile to the left is actually a desk collapsed about a year ago and the space has never really recovered. A lot of the books that are lying in piles on the desk are books that have fallen off of that, I've lifted some of them. The Nebula awards and the Hugo award were all on the shelf and fairly well organized at that particular point. But once they fell down I've never really quite gotten it together and I've been so busy writing that I don't have time to spend six days and shovel the place out like the stables of Aegias and get a new shelf and clean it all up.*

I like the place, I like it, it seems to keep me writing which I guess is what an office space has to do and that it accomplishes very well -- as they say, if it's not broke don't fix it, so I've not tried to fix it, because for it's main purpose, it's not broke.



made from the door to the desk and perhaps some other little things, but everything that made that space wonderful to me remained intact. The little bits with stories, mementos and motivators. I was interested in the connection, if any, between space and creativity — did someone write better in a particular space? Did tidy offices produce tidy prose? It seems I wasn't the only one curious. After seeing the results Michael began calling other authors on my behalf, everyone was curious to see everyone else's writing space. And it wasn't just writing spaces, but rather, adventures.

Before long I was in Florida, looking for alligators with the Haldemans, watching Piers Anthony shoot his

bow and arrow, then later and elsewhere, photographing Cathrynne Valente's wedding, and, as it turns out, watching *Doctor Who* on Neil Gaiman's sofa.

I'd found an incredibly welcoming and friendly group of people, a community of great talent, curiosity, and kindness. It's taken me from this hotel lobby across the country. It hasn't felt like work so much as it's felt like making new friends.

As the *Where I Write* adventure rolls into its second year, I'm very grateful for the opportunity to share some moments from it.



Neil Gaiman: Apparently I write in the Gazebo. I've come full circle. I had it built in about 1993, maybe '94 and worked there very happily through about 98, 99, and then went off it — I'd written there for four or five years and wound up getting a cabin out on the lake, it was about a twenty minute drive and I'd go there and then there came a point where I realized that I hadn't been out there for about a year and then someone who did go out there came back enthusiastic that there was now wireless Internet out there and I thought "Well, that's doomed, isn't it?" And that was that.

But before that, *Anansi Boys* was written in the local Caribou Coffee, again because it didn't have wireless and nobody knew where I was and I was getting away from the house. One afternoon I was in there and the manager said "I hear that you're a famous author, and that you're writing a book in here!" I said, "Oh, why, yes I am." And I never went back.

But the real reason I went back to the gazebo last year was primarily because I could take the dog down with me and it seemed like a good place to go. And I love the feeling that I'm getting out of my house, I love the feeling that I'm going to work which may be a rather silly thing but it does actually put a break in and it does also tell me that I've gone to work. If I'm down at the bottom of the garden and I'm playing solitaire then I'm obviously not working. Whereas if I'm sitting in my kitchen on a computer doing email and I stop and I'm playing solitaire I've no idea if I'm working or not. So I think it's a good thing to have a work space.

The problem with having that writing space is of course that it gets really cold here in the winter. So you wind up with a sort of strange extra set of problems -- not all the time -- but when it gets seriously cold -- of how do you warm it up? And very often at that point, Lorraine, my long suffering assistant will volunteer and will go down 40 minutes before I'm going to write and will turn on various heaters and I'll have a blanket on my lap and dress up very warmly and I'll sit down there and write and if the interior temperature goes up to 50 degrees I'm doing very well -- it can be incredibly cold outside. But it's also true that when it's down in those kind of temperatures I'm much more likely to phone my friend Johnathan and ask him if he minds if I borrow his normally empty house in Florida, and I'm much more likely to zoom down to Florida, with the dog, and write.



Clockwise from top left: Harry Harrison works tirelessly, John Scalzi doing *Whatever*, Lois Bujold tends her Hugo farm, Tobias Buckell on the streets of Ohio, Mike Resnick's vast writing space, and Piers Anthony who practices archery every day to keep up his arm strength at age 74.

Kyle Cassidy is the author of the acclaimed photo documentary book *Armed America: Portraits of Gun Owners in Their Homes*, which was named one of the 100 best books of 2007 and one of the 10 best art books of that year by the editors of Amazon.com. Most recently, he worked on *Who Killed Amanda Palmer?* with Neil Gaiman, who wrote charming stories to illustrate some of Kyle's ghastly and whimsical portraits of musician Amanda Palmer. You can get that from www.whokilledamandapalmer.com. For more portraits from the *Where I Write* series, go to www.wherewrite.org and to follow along on the adventure as it continues, you can find Kyle's blog at www.kylecassidy.com.

Publishers and Editors interested in *Where I Write* should contact Meg Thompson at LJK Literary Management at megan@ljkliterary.com. Authors interested in participating should contact Kyle directly at kyle@kylecassidy.com.

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Artist's conception of rocket-driven X-5 leaving troposphere where "clouds" are ice-crystal "mares' tails" and entering stratosphere where stars shine in daylight. Rocket's fire is yellow and white and this trail of vapor lingers from wing tips.

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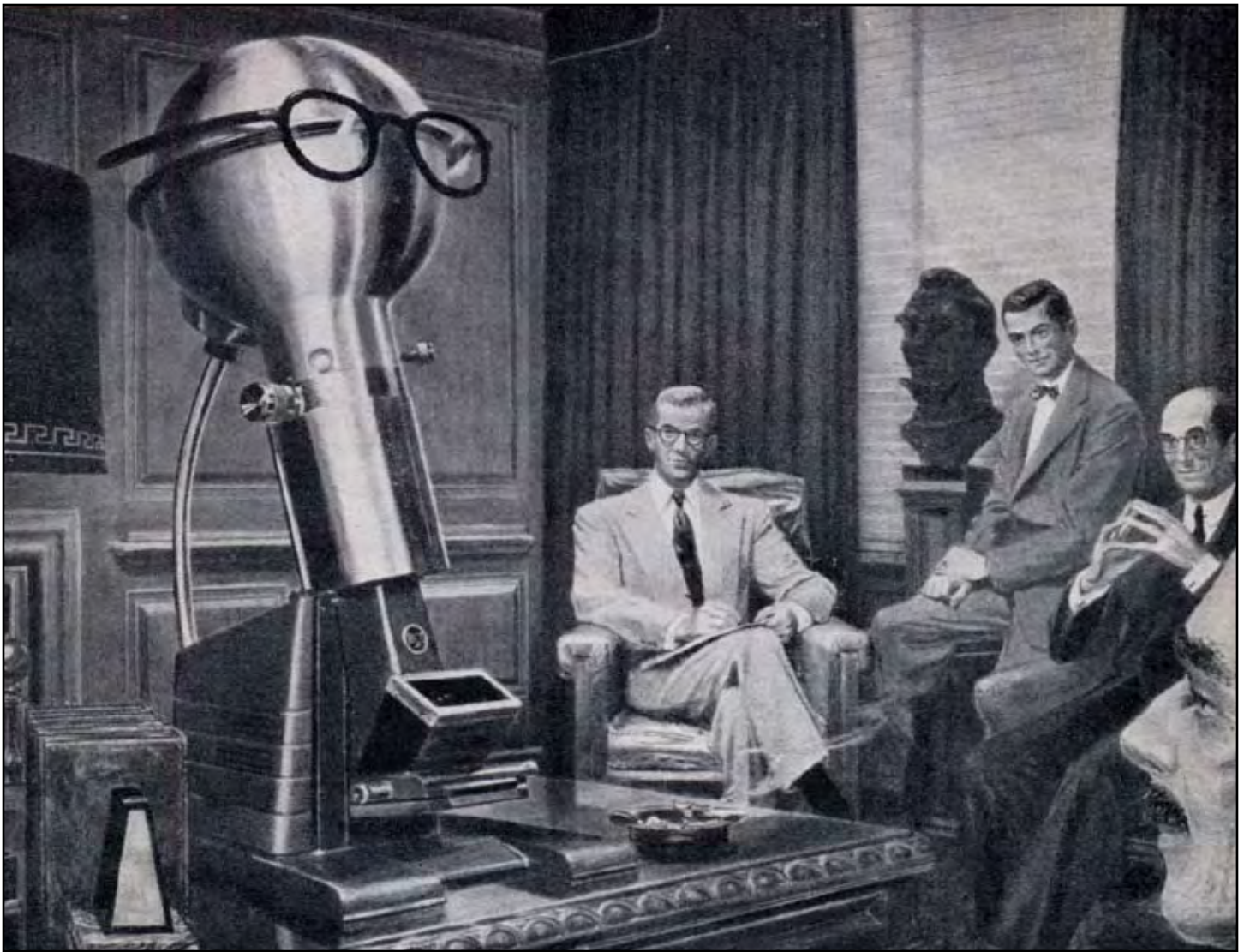
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"Worldcon," "WSFS," "World Science Fiction Convention," and "World Science Fiction Society" are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.



Philcon Panelists

Your experience at Philcon will be even more enjoyable
when you learn more about our panelists.

Award-winning author **Danielle Ackley-McPhail** has worked both sides of the publishing industry for nearly fifteen years. Her works include the urban fantasies, *Yesterday's Dreams*, its sequel, *Tomorrow's Memories*, and the novella, *The Halfling's Court: A Bad-Ass Faerie Tale*; the anthologies, *Bad-Ass Faeries*, *Bad-Ass Faeries 2: Just Plain Bad*, and *No Longer Dreams*, all of which she co-edited, and contributions to numerous anthologies and collections, including *Dark Furies*, *Breach the Hull*, *Space Pirates*, and the upcoming science fiction anthologies *So It Begins* and *Barbarians at the Jumpgate*. Her non-fiction works include a chapter on writer's groups for Dragon Moon Press's *The Complete Fantasy Writer's Guide: The Author's Grimoire*, a single-author writing volume *The Elements of Fantasy: Magic*, and a standing column, *If We'd Words Enough and Time*, for the sadly defunct website, *Fictionauts*. Danielle is a

member of The Garden State Horror Writers, the electronic publishing organization EPIC, and Broad Universe, a writer's organization focusing on promoting the works of women authors in the speculative genres. Danielle lives somewhere in New Jersey with husband and fellow writer, Mike McPhail, mother-in-law Teresa, and three extremely spoiled cats. To learn more about her work, visit www.sidhenadaire.com.

Walter Amos first developed an interest in Japanese animation with the premiere of *Star Blazers* in 1979 on WTAF TV 29 in Philadelphia, after already succumbing to science fiction in general. He attempted to catch a movie version of this series at Philcon 1984, but missed it and instead was introduced to the amazing work of Hayao Miyazaki in *Lupin III Castle Cagliostro*. Unknown to many anime fans, the Japan 2007 Worldcon committee is comprised of many top anime cre-

ators who got their start in Japanese literary SF. Walter hosted several panels at the 2001 Worldcon, the Millennium Philcon, about one of the finest SF anime series around based on a popular Japanese SF anthology, along with the producer of the series who is on the 2007 Worldcon staff. He hopes in the future to bring greater understanding between literary and anime SF fans by emphasizing how many well known anime shows began life as Japanese prose SF. Walter's education is in physics and for most of the last seven years worked on trajectory server software for the Space Shuttle Mission Control Center in Houston, Texas. He is currently back in the Northeast working with orbital GPS satellite software.

A transplant from sunny California to the chilly hills of Ohio, **Camille Anthony** is the author of numerous paranormal erotica novels including: *AOEM Dinner for 3*; *Tales of the Quiet Kitty* books 1 thru 4; *Women of Steel*

series; *Swept Off Her Feet*, *Light on Her Toes*, *Werewolf Journals 1 - 6*; *The Bunny Tails Series 1-3*; *Food for the Gods*. Camille has been writing almost as long as she has been reading. Her stories contain the heat of real life romance that doesn't stop at the bedroom door. Her favorite authors are Lois McMaster Bujold, Angela Knight, MaryJanice Davidson, Jim Butcher (Yay, Harry Dresden!) and David Weber. She loves imagining what life and love will be like in mankind's future.

John Ashmead has worked as an assistant editor for *Isaac Asimov's SF Magazine* and been involved with local SF for many many lunar time units. He works as a computer consultant, making sure you get your bills and commercials on time (no thanks necessary: the work is its own reward). He is currently working on getting his doctorate in physics: his thesis is on the role of time in quantum mechanics. His life's ambition: to create a really practical time machine.

The board games presented by Role Interactive are the creative works of **Keith D. Atkins**. From creation and design to writing and artwork, Mr. Atkins has delivered. Out of the 25+ years of gaming experience, Mr. Atkins has spent 11 years in a game master role designing and writing adventures and campaigns for players ranging from ages 13 to 40. Holding two degrees in engineering, Mr. Atkins naturally applied his analytical thinking and ingenuity toward established board games to identify their strengths and weaknesses. The application of his research is the creation of a better gaming experience. "My imagination is the size of Texas," Keith D. Atkins often says. "Let me show you what I see."

Eric Avedissian is a writer and game designer who first started playing roleplaying games during the early 1980s. He designed *Ravaged Earth: The World of High Powered Pulp*, published by Reality Blurs in 2008 for the Savage Worlds gaming system. Avedissian has a BA in Journalism from Glassboro State College and is an award-winning reporter for a New Jersey weekly newspaper where he covers politics and local government.

Jared Axelrod is a freelance author and illustrator. His written work has been published in the anthologies *Sovereign Summer*, *Salt*, *End Of Time* and the upcoming *No Subscription Necessary*, as well as *Neometropolis* and *Escape Pod* magazines. He was a founding writer for 365tomorrows.com, a website that publishes a new work of fiction every day. He was the writer and producer of the popular podcast *The Voice of Free Planet X*, that ran for three years and 160 episodes. His second podcast, *Aliens You Will Meet*, has met with similar success, both in its original audio form and as live puppet performances. His illustration work can be seen on the cover the novel *Brave Men Run*, and accompanying the original audio version of the novel *Playing For Keeps*. He is not domestic, he is a luxury, and in that sense, necessary.

Dave Axler is a long-time convention fan who's been a Philcon regular since the early seventies, when he came to his first Philcon to interview GoH John Brunner for local radio station WXPB. In the years since then, he has written an M.A. thesis entitled *Fandom*

Is A Way of Life: A Folkloristic Ethnography of Science Fiction Fandom, designed the gaming weather system for TSR's "Greyhawk" campaign, arranged for Frank Herbert to be a speaker at Philadelphia's first Earth Day celebration, ushered at six Hugo Awards Ceremonies, served as DJ for three consecutive Disclave "Senior Prom" dances, was awarded the coveted "Stud Muffin" ribbon by the 1996 Los Angeles Worldcon Committee, and is known as "Lord DaveAx" in the Brotherhood Without Banners. In so-called real life, he is a bit-herder, a collector of books, music, and art, a member of the Zipper Club, and an avid oenophile. He also hosts the infamous annual "Alphabetical Hallowe'en Party."

Rob Balder is a professional cartoonist, singer/songwriter, game designer and web entrepreneur. The title track from Rob's first CD, *Rich Fantasy Lives*, was co-written with Filk Hall of Famer Tom Smith, and won the Pegasus award for Best Filk Song of 2007. Rob's songs have often been heard on the syndicated *Doctor Demento Show*. In January 2006, he co-founded The Funny Music Project, which won the 2009 Parsec Award for Best Speculative Fiction Music Podcast. Rob is the creator of the clip-art comic strip *PartiallyClips*. A book collection of the strip, *Suffering for my Clip Art: the Best of PartiallyClips, Volume 1* was published in 2005.

He is the Associate Editor of *Nth Degree*, a popular fanzine covering genre fiction, gaming, comics, fandom and more. Rob also teamed up with Pete Abrams of Sluggy Freelance to create *Get Nifty*, a stand-alone card game which debuted in stores in 2006. His current major project is a full-color Fantasy webcomic called *Erfworld*, co-created with illustrator Jamie Noguchi. *Time Magazine* named *Erfworld* one of its Top Ten Graphic Novels of 2007.

Alan F. Beck has been an artist, designer and illustrator for over 30 years doing work for many major corporations including book covers and magazine illustrations in *Space & Time* and *Nth Degree* magazines. His work has been exhibited in art shows and Science Fiction/Fantasy conventions all across the country. He has won numerous awards and honors including two Chesley award nominations and a Hugo award nomination, and received a "Body of Work" Award at LA Con IV WorldCon Art Show, Anaheim, CA. His paintings and prints can be found in collections in the US, Canada and Europe. Art influences include N.C. Wyeth, Norman Rockwell, Salvador Dali, René Magritte, Wojtek Siudmak, Richard Powers, and Chesley Bonestell. Alan's work tends to be realistic, surrealistic and frequently humorous. Artwork and concepts are produced using acrylics, watercolor, pastels, 3-D modeling and image manipulation programs. Current projects include the "Mouseopolitan Museum of Art" series, and he has just released a children's book *The Adventures of Nogard and Jackpot*. See more at www.alanbeck.com.

Matt Black is a fan, just like you, except that he is a glutton for punishment. His love of *Star Trek* led to managing regional fan clubs and planning national fandom events. His love of *Star Wars* led to film school and running conventions with Galactic Entertainment. Matt's latest love, that for the space

western *Firefly/Serenity*, has immersed him in the Browncoat (Firefly fan) community. As a member of the Pennsylvania Browncoats (www.pabrowncoats.com), he has organized several "shindigs" including a Bedlam Bards concert, a *Serenity* charity screening for Equality Now and the 2007 Browncoat Ball in Philadelphia, PA. When it comes to organizing fandom events, Matt Black is a repeat offender. We repeat, he will offend again.

J.R. Blackwell is a writer, photographer and performance artist who lives in Philadelphia. She is one of the founding members of 365tomorrows.com which produces a new piece of science fiction daily. Her stories have been published by *Aoife's Kiss*, *Kaleidotrope*, *Bewildering Stories*, *Static Movement Magazine*, *EMG Magazine*, *HeavyGlow Magazine* and *Escape Pod*. Her essay "Evidence of a Baker" was published in *The Gospel of the Flying Spaghetti Monster*. J.R. has produced the covers to the novels *Playing for Keeps*, *The Case of the Singing Swor* and *The Case of the Pitchers Pendant*. Her photography has been featured in *SubLit Magazine* and *Flames Rising*. She holds a Master's of Liberal Arts from the University of Pennsylvania.

Taylor Blanchard is primarily self taught. He received a Bachelors degree in Astrophysical Sciences from Princeton University in 1977 and an MFA in stage design from NYU 1980. He has been working as a Science Fiction and Fantasy illustrator since 1984. His work has appeared on the covers of books, magazines, games and CD's in the United States, Germany and Italy. Although he continues to work as Art Director and Primary Artist for Science Fiction publisher FoxAcre Press, Taylor has recently changed his primary focus to Wildlife and Nature art. Taylor is married and resides in Ewing NJ with his wife Kathei and cat Agate. He loves wolves, skiing, chocolate, motorcycles, the Grand Canyon, more skiing and the color red. His website is <http://www.ntaylorblanchard.com/>.

Tina Blanco-Finan has been in fandom since the early 80's, a Dr. Who fan a little longer than that, and she's been Costuming and Sewing even longer than that. She's been a professional costumer for two years. Now she spends her time at Pearl Art and Craft, running the frame shop. When asked, her husband Tony would sum up her "bio" by saying "I can do it in just one word, FREAK!"

Desirina Boskovich graduated from Emory University in 2005, with a degree in creative writing. In 2007, she attended the Clarion Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Workshop. Her work has been published in *Realms of Fantasy* and *Clarkesworld Magazine*, and is forthcoming in *Fantasy Magazine*, along with *Last Drink Bird Head* and *The Leonardo Variations*, edited by Jeff and Ann VanderMeer.

Marilyn "Mattie" Brahen has published fiction in magazines such as *Marion Zimmer Bradley's Fantasy Magazine*, *Space & Time*, *Scheherazade* (in Great Britain) and others, as well as in the anthologies *Crafty Cat Crimes* and *The Ultimate Halloween*. Her first novel, *Claiming Her*, received good reviews, and her second novel, *Reforming Hell*, a sequel published earlier this year, was also well-received. She has had reviews in the *New York Review*

of *Science Fiction*, and two essays appeared in the *Neil Gaiman Reader* from Wildside Press. Mattie also enjoys art and making music, as a guitarist and a singer-songwriter. She lives with her husband, editor and author Darrell Schweitzer, and their three cats, Lovecraft, Tolkien and Galadriel, in Northeast Philadelphia.

While at MIT, **J.J. Brannon** studied biophysics and molecular biology/genetics. He works in the R&D department of a thin-layer chromatography manufacturer in Newark, DE, where he designed a TLC/DNAgram reader and helped revise Delaware's paternity testing laws. He owns nearly 20,000 comics and is unsure whether Harv Bennett fashioned the "Kobayashi Maru" test in "Wrath of Khan" from JJ's outwitting the *Star Trek* "impossible survival" scenario in MIT's computer labs. In 1986 he collaborated on the unsold screenplay "Lord Greystoke's Detective" with Richard B. Stout. His round-robin message-board collaboration was incorporated by Michael F. Flynn as part of Flynn's 2007 Hugo-nominated "The Dawn, the Sunset, and All the Colours of the Earth" novelette.

Steve Brinich has been involved in fandom for about twenty-five years, mostly active in filk and gaming and an interested onlooker in a lot of other areas. He chaired Conterpoint Four, the eleventh East Coast Filk Con, which was held in Rockville, Maryland the weekend of 22-24 June 2001. He's currently on the con-com for Conterpoint 2010, to be held at the same site next June.

Stephanie Burke, known to friends and readers as Flash, has a warped, twisted sense of humor, and she isn't afraid to let it show. From pregnant men to six-foot cockroaches, she's covered the gamut of the weird, the unusual, and the just plain strange. She has about five million books currently in publication with one house or another, all under the name of Stephanie Burke. She says she won't use a pen name -- she'd have to learn how to spell it. Stephanie is the co-founder of the charity organization Write 4 Hope where she is hoping to help make a difference, not just talk about it... though talking is what she does best. Visit her website at www.theflashcat.net and be sure to join Flash's 'Flame Keeper' loop at Yahoo Groups -- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FlameKeeper/join>.

Laura A. Burns is contract engineer on NASA's Landsat Data Continuity Mission and worked on the James Webb Space Telescope for 11 years. She spent the summer of 2007 in Beijing, China at the International Space University. She is an avid sci-fi/fantasy fan and has contributed to several podcasts. She is also the head of the Parsec Awards Steering Committee.

Tobias Cabral is a clinical psychologist, whose private practice (Serenity Psychology Services) is located in Langhorne, PA. He completed his undergraduate work at New York University and his Doctoral studies at Widener University's Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology. A lifetime fan of Speculative Fiction as well as an aviation and space enthusiast, Dr Cabral has endeavored to incorporate these interests into his practice. He strives to create a "fan-friendly" environment for clients who may be accustomed to the neg-

ative judgments and misunderstandings of 'mundanes,' and so to help them harness the boundless imagination and hope and creativity of thought which SF embodies.

James Cambias was born and raised in New Orleans, and still thinks of it as home, despite a 20 year absence. He earned an A.B. in History of Science at the University of Chicago (class of 1988). After college he worked briefly for two book publishers, but has been

As with most writers, the most interesting things in his life happen inside his head.

Hugh Casey has been involved with organized fandom for a number of years, and is known far and wide throughout the lands as a "Big Geek". This is a title that he wears proudly. He has served as Vice President and President of The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, Vice-Chair for Philcon in 2002, and Chairman of Philcon in 2003. Since running

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a full-time writer since 1991. His published work includes more than a dozen roleplaying supplements, and 16 short stories -- mostly in F&SF or anthologies. His story "Balancing Accounts" is in this year's *Year's Best SF* collection. He lives in western Massachusetts, where he writes, plays roleplaying games, and cooks. Since 2004 Mr. Cambias has been a partner in Zygot Games, a company specializing in science-based card and board games.

Philcon, he has been seen gibbering in a corner, eating flies and spiders that happen to come his way. He is also the founder of Parents' Basement Productions, a motion picture production company specializing in no- to low-budget short films for the Internet. They have currently released two films online: *Teddy's Big Escape* and *Young Geeks In Love*. Both can be viewed online at YouTube.com. Hugh can be visited online at his website, www.

hughcasey.com.

Kyle Cassidy is the author of the acclaimed photo documentary book *Armed America: Portraits of Gun Owners in Their Homes*, which was named one of the 100 best books of 2007 and one of the 10 best art books of that year by the editors of Amazon.com. Most recently, he worked on *Who Killed Amanda Palmer?* with Neil Gaiman, who wrote charming stories to illustrate some of Kyle's ghastly and whimsical portraits of musician Amanda Palmer. You can get that from www.whokilledamandapalmer.com. For more portraits from the *Where I Write* series, go to www.wherewrite.org and to follow along on the adventure as it continues, you can find Kyle's blog at www.kylecassidy.com.

James Chambers is the author of more than forty published short stories of fantasy, horror, and science fiction. His short story collection, *Resurrection House*, was recently published by Dark Regions Press. In August 2005 Die Monster Die Books published his first

short story collection, *The Midnight Hour: Saint Lawn Hill and Other Tales*, created in collaboration with illustrator Jason Whitley. His work has appeared in the anthologies *Crypto-Critters (Volume 1)*, *Dark Furies*, *The Dead Walk*, *Hardboiled Cthulhu*, *Hear Them Roar*, *Lost Worlds of Space and Time (Volume 1)*, *No Longer Dreams*, *Sick: An Anthology of Illness*, *Weird Trails*, and *Warfare*; the chapbook *Mooncat Jack*; and the magazines *Bare Bone*, *Cthulhu Sex*, and *Allen K's Inhuman*. His tale "A Wandering Blackness," one of two published in Lin Carter's *Doctor Anton Zarnak*, *Occult Detective*, received an honorable mention in *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror*, *Sixteenth Annual Collection*. He has also written numerous comic books including Leonard Nimoy's *Primortals*, the critically acclaimed "The Revenant" in *Shadow House*, and most recently a *Midnight Hour* story for the comics anthology *Negative Burn*. He also edits reference books on subjects such as careers, crime, medicine and health, and the paranor-

mal. He lives in New York with his wife, two children, and a Boston Terrier. His website is www.jameschamberonline.com.

D. E. Christman says: "I'm an artist that simply wants to scare the hell out of you. And I take great pleasure in doing so. I've been creating my darkened images for as long as I can remember. My work has been described as "Twisted, demented and wonderfully creepy", a description I take great pride in.

"I make my living through my company Grendel's Den Design Studio, producing art and design for print and web. I'm also the owner of Zombie Monkey Projects (a blog of odd things for odd people) and Philly Frights (covering all things spooky in Philadelphia), a club DJ (under the name Dave Ghoul) when time permits, the co-founder of the Philly Zombie Crawl and Philly Zombie Prom, co-organizer of the Philly Pirate Cruise, Art Show Assistant for the HorrorFind Weekend Art Show, Prepress and Graphics Manager for Dancing Ferret Discs, and am also regarded as one of Philadelphia's premier zombie experts.

"Today I live in Philadelphia with my lovely ass-kicking wife Stephanie, our 8 lbs. terror of a terrier Pepper and the monkey on my back called coffee. Please visit www.GrendelsDen.net for more about me and my company Grendel's Den Design Studio."

Ariel Cinii (pronounced "SIN-eye") has been part of science-fiction fandom for over 30 years as a fan, filker, artist and apa-hack. Familiar filk favorites include "Droozlin' Through the Cosmos", "Flying Stone" and "The Alternate Side" (about parking in New York City). She's on committee for CONTATA; New York's iteration of the Floating Northeast Filk Con; writes as Sodyera on LiveJournal and for APA-NYU (once in print, now on-line). She now seeks representation for her science-fantasy novels.

Neil Clarke is the editor and publisher of *Clarkesworld*, a Hugo and World Fantasy Award nominated online magazine. In 2007, he opened Wyrmp Publishing and resurrected Jeff VanderMeer's award-winning Ministry of Whimsy Press. He has also been online bookseller and has worked for over twenty years as an educational technologist in various schools and universities. He currently lives in Stirling, New Jersey with his wife and two children. *Clarkesworld* and Wyrmp can be found online at www.clarkesworldmagazine.com and www.wyrmpublishing.com, respectively.

John Cmar, M.D., has been long enthralled with horrible infections that could spell doom for humankind, as well as sanity and skepticism in the practice of medicine. He is currently an Instructor of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and an Infectious Diseases specialist at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore. In his role as Associate Program Director for the Johns Hopkins Internal Medicine residency program at Sinai, he teaches an annual course series in Evidence-Based Medicine, among many other duties. He also does Infectious Diseases outreach in Baltimore television and print media. John is also a science fiction and fantasy fan, avid gamer, and podcast enthusiast. He has made contributions to many podcast projects, and can be currently heard as "The Bad Doc-

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tor" on *The Secret Lair* (<http://www.theseconlair.com/>).

Nikki Cohen has been working in the often bizarre world of costuming and theatre for nearly 20 years. With her company, May-Faire Moon, she specializes now in corsetry, with frequent forays into fantasy and specialty wedding gowns and period costumes. She has studied graduate costume design at the University of Massachusetts, and at Carnegie Mellon University. She lives in Philadelphia with her three psychotic cats, an irrepressible blue collie, and a ghost named Marianne. She is an avid geek, and is working on her first novel. She can usually be found at her shop at the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire (where she's also Local Madame of the International Wenches Guild, Local #9), or online at www.MayFaireMoon.com. She also finds writing about herself in the third person disturbingly amusing.

We presume that **Sue Ellen Colter** is very modest.

Byron Connell, a long-time SF fan, is a historian by training. He likes to help at masquerades rather than entering them – entering once a decade is about right! However, since being part of the Torcon best-in-show entry, when he does enter, he does so in the Master division. Byron has run masquerades at several Costume-Cons and Philcons, but he was shocked when it was suggested that he direct the Anticipation masquerade. He is a member of the Sick Pups (the New Jersey-New York Costumers' Guild), the SLUTs, (St. Louis Ubiquitous Tailoring Society), and the Armed Costumers' Guild; this makes him an Armed SLUT Puppy. Byron is a past President of the International Costumers' Guild, which honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award. (He still doesn't know why.) He likes hard SF, alternate history, alternate worlds, and fantasy (not necessarily in that order).

Tina Connell has been reading SF for over 50 years, and has been active in SF fandom for at least 30. She and her husband collect SF books and art, and costume as a hobby. She is usually found backstage, presiding over the Masquerade Green Room Repair Table. Her costumes have appeared at several regional and CostumeCons, and in two winning World-Con masquerade groups, at TorCon and LA Con 4.

Caroline Cox is a Ph.D. astronomer and currently teaches high school physics and astrophysics. She has taught at the University of Virginia and has worked as an Education Specialist for the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. She has written a number of science humor pieces for the *Annals of Improbable Research* with her husband, Eric Schulman.

Patricia M. Cryan is, by turns, a retailer who never sleeps, a walking library of children's literature, a fan of hard science, harder science fiction, and literary horror tales, and a freelance editor who makes strong folk cry at regular intervals. She serves as General Partner for Mike's Comics (<http://www.mikescomics.com>), a mail order and Internet company which carries books, audio productions, toys, comics, and other collectibles in the genres of science fiction, fantasy, horror, and mystery, as well as roleplaying game supplies, fantasy

greeting cards, and much, much more. She and her partner Michael A. Salvo are the authorized North American distributors for the new *Blake's 7* audio adventures series produced in conjunction with The Sci Fi Channel, and are actively working with the producers to get a new *Blake's 7* television series back on the airwaves. Patricia is a member of The New England Children's Bookselling Advisory Council. Her most current literary project involves editorial work on *The Edgecliff Storybook*; an excerpt can be found at <http://www.edgecliffabbey.com>.

Charlene Taylor D'Alessio has been illustrating in the Fantasy and Science Fiction genre for over 25 years. She is known for her exquisite painted Ties, whimsical, colorful and humorous fantasy paintings of Cats, Dragons, Owls, & Hamsters and miniature astronomical pieces. A graduate of Syracuse University College of Art, she taught art for many years. Now she paints full time and exhibits her artwork at over 30 SF cons a year and attends eight. Charlene also takes portrait commissions and special requests by F&SF fans. Her most recent published piece is "Merlin's Dilemma" published as a puzzle by SunsOut. She is also illustrating a children's book. Her wonderful husband Angelo (also a SF fan) is very patient and supportive of her artwork.

Michael D'Ambrosio is best known as the author of the Fractured Time Trilogy (*Fractured Time*, *Twisted Fate* and *Dark Horizon*); his new Space Frontiers series with *The Eye of Icarus* and *Dangerous Liaisons* from Helm Publishing; and a new adult horror novel entitled *Night Creeps*. Michael worked for several years as a nuclear field engineer, traveling throughout the United States and Europe on a regular basis. Currently, he is employed at the Salem Nuclear Generating Station in New Jersey as a controls technician. He served several tours in the Middle East as a member of the Pa. Air National Guard and attributes some of his experiences there as inspiration for many of the scenes in his books. Michael is currently working on *The Devil's Playground*, his fifth book and the second in his new Space Frontiers series. Look for more information about Michael at www.fracturedtime.com.

Susan de Guardiola (<http://www.blank.org/susan>) is best-known for her role as a masquerade emcee at the 1997 and 2004 World-cons as well as numerous East Coast local and regional conventions. She is a social dance historian who may often be found in musty li-

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brary stacks researching dance from the 16th to the early 20th century, which she teaches at workshops and dance events across the United States. Susan also makes costumes and blogs about both dance history (at Capering and Kickery, <http://www.kickery.com>) and the rest of her life (at Rixosous, <http://www.rixosous.com>). In her spare time, she herds students, reviews fiction for *Publisher's Weekly*, and plays high-speed online Scrabble.

Ef Deal publishes fantasy, SF, and horror, mostly in small doses, and teaches writing in South Jersey. Her work has been published in *Eternity Online*, the *Fortean Bureau*, *Flashshots: Daily Genre Fiction*, and *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*.

Keith R.A. DeCandido is the author of more than 40 novels, most of them in the media universes of *Star Trek*, *Farscape*, *Supernatural*, *StarCraft*, *World of Warcraft*, *CSI: NY*, *Resident Evil*, and a ton more. This year, he was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Association of Media Tie-in Writers.

Tony DiGerolamo is a New Jersey screenwriter, novelist, comic book writer, game designer, improv comic and actor. He is best known for his work on *The Simpsons* and *Bart Simpson* comic books and *The Simpsons Books of Wisdom*, but his biggest credit is as a joke writer for *Politically Incorrect* with *Bill Maher*. Tony has written the award-winning short film, *Ten Cents a Minute*, as well as the features *The Evil Within* and *Mafioso: The Father, The Son* starring Leo Rossi. His novels, *Fix in Overtime* and *The Undercover Dragon* are available through Padwolf Publishing (www.padwolf.com). After publishing his own comic books (*Jersey Devil*, *The Travelers* and *The Fix*) with SJRP (www.thefixsite.com), he eventually got a publishing deal with Kenzer & Company. Kenzer published *The Travelers*.

Tony also wrote *Everknights* (another Kenzer comic book), as well as the *Hacklopedia of Beasts* (Volumes 1 thru 8) and *Slaughterhouse Indigo* (an adventure for the Hackmaster RPG). Currently, Tony writes "Lookin' at Comics," the comics review column for *Knights of the Dinner Table* magazine. His current game project is called *Tony DiGerolamo's Complete Mafia* for d20, now available in stores. Tony directs the Philadelphia long-form improv group, the Ninjas. Tony is the official biographer for Lambda Sigma Rho and the web strip Super Frat at www.superfrat.com. Tony has also launched his own web TV show called "Zombie Country" at www.zombiecountry.com.

The **Denebian Slime Devils** (Regina DeSimone, Cathy Dougherty, Melissa James, Denise Masters, and Kathy Scrimger) are filkers out of Baltimore, MD, who've been writing and performing song parodies since the late '70's. Inspired by the likes of Stan Freberg, Tom Lehrer and Spike Jones, they started writing filk around the cafeteria table in high school and haven't stopped since. They draw their inspiration from just about anything, from *Star Wars* and *Battlestar Galactica* to cell phones and the Internet, but mostly from Classic *Star Trek* and its many incarnations. The Slimes have performed at many local conventions, including August Party, Far Point, Balticon, every Shore Leave since the second one (now 31 and counting!) and at least one Bar Mitzvah party. To find out more about the Slimes and to download their songs, check out their website at www.slimdevils.net.

Tom Doyle writes in a spooky turret in Washington, DC. His novelette, "The Wizard of Macatawa" (*Paradox* Magazine #11), won last year's WSFA Small Press Award. His stories have appeared in *Strange Horizons*, *Futurismic*, *Aeon*, and *Ideomancer*. He has recently finished a science fiction novel and a contemporary fantasy novel. The text and audio of many of his stories are available at his website: www.tomdoylewriter.com.

Gardner Dozois was the editor of *Asimov's Science Fiction* for almost twenty years, and is still the editor of the annual anthology series *The Year's Best Science Fiction*, now in its twenty-sixth annual collection. He has won an unprecedented 15 Hugo Awards as the Year's Best Editor, as well as two Nebula Awards for his own writing. He is the author or editor of over 100 books, the most recent of which are the anthologies *The Dragon Book* (with Jack Dann), *The New Space Opera 2* (with Jonathan Strahan), and *Songs of the Dying Earth* (a Jack Vance Tribute Anthology, edited with George R.R. Martin). Coming up is the anthology *Warriors*, also edited with George R.R. Martin.

For the past ten years, **Ty Drago** has been the editor/publisher of *Allegory* (www.allegoryezine.com), one of the premier online paying markets for online SF, Fantasy and Horror. As a writer, his short stories have appeared in numerous publications, both print and online, including *Space And Time*, *Haunts*, *After Hours*, *Pandora*, and *Midnight Zoo*. He recently appeared as the Grand Master in the Fortress Publishing anthology *Yesterday, I Will*. On the novel front, his first SF/Mystery, *Phobos*, was published by Tor Books in 2004.

He makes his home in Cherry Hill, NJ, with his wife and son.

Oz Drummond writes linked short stories in several science fiction and fantasy universes. She blogs about her chickens and writing at <http://birdhousefrog.livejournal.com>. Her latest story is "Re\Creation" in *Analog*, which was translated into Russian and reprinted in *Esli* in 5/09.

Donna Dube is a Master Class Costumer and jewelry designer. She is currently in the process of starting her own jewelry business. In real life, Donna works part-time as a costume maker. She lives in Massachusetts with her long-time partner and several cats.

David Louis Edelman is the author of *Infoquake* (www.infoquake.net) and *Multireal* (www.multireal.net), which have been described as "the love child of Donald Trump and Vernor Vinge." *Infoquake* was named Barnes & Noble's Top SF Novel of 2006 and nominated for the John W. Campbell Award for Best Novel, while *Multireal* was named one of the best novels of 2008 by io9 and Pat's Fantasy Hotlist, among others. The concluding novel of the Jump 225 trilogy, *Geosynchron* (www.geosynchron.net) will be published in February of 2010 by Pyr. David was a finalist for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer in 2008. In addition to writing novels, Edelman has programmed websites for the U.S. Army, the FBI and Rolls-Royce, taught software to the U.S. Congress and the World Bank, written articles for the *Washington Post* and *Baltimore Sun*, and directed the marketing departments of biometric and e-commerce companies.

Chris Logan Edwards has been a bookseller for 25 years, and is the publisher of Tigereyes Press, which published a World Fantasy Award nominated collection by Michael Swanwick and, in spring 2006, published *Hit Head On*, a collection by Pennsylvania poet Keith Ward. More recently, he edited the souvenir book for the 2007 World Fantasy Convention in Saratoga Springs.

Gary Ehrlich stalks the hallways of Northeast conventions and assorted filk conventions. A mild-mannered structural engineer in mundania, at cons he can be found on stage or in the filk room offering songs of space flight, lunar colonies and hyperspace hotels.

Genevieve Iseult Eldredge is the kind of girl you don't want to meet in a dark alley. Five foot nothing and red-haired with a temper to match, she holds a black belt in Goju-Ryu Karate and can craft words faster than a ninja throws shuriken. A former panelist at Arisia, Philcon, and 3Pi-Con, she writes high fantasy and also erotica (under a pseudonym so her mom doesn't disown her). Her publications as "Kierstin Cherry, Semi-shy Erotica Writer" include the vampire stories: "Taken" featured in *Blood Surrender* by Blue Moon Books, "Enslaved," appearing in the Circlet Press ebook *Like Crimson Droplets* and "Graced" featured in the upcoming *Women of the Bite* by Circlet Press ebooks and in print by Alyson Books.

A founding member of The Patient Creatures, **Andrew C. Ely** has been portraying the Grim Reaper since 1985. As an actor and filmmaker he has found an outlet for what some would consider to be his darker side, and has appeared in Time Warp Films *Dead Hunt*,

Sealed Fates and will appear in the upcoming films *The Tolltaker* and *Even From Darkness*.

A founding member of The Patient Creatures, **Nina Ely** has been portraying Kuzibah the devil since 1994. A storyteller, actress, filmmaker, costumer, and writer, her work with the Creatures has allowed her to indulge all her passions. Recently, she has taken a leadership role in the eastern branch of the group.

Gary Feldbaum: Overworked fan, voracious reader.

Robert Fenelon walked into a room party at Philcon 1981 and was introduced to the wonderful world of VHS tape trading, Japanese pen-pals and Anime. He's spent the next 28 years sharing that experience by writing, editing and publishing about anime, and screening anime at convention video rooms and film programs. And of course, by speaking at panels, like the several he's speaking over this weekend.

Tony Finan suffers from photophobia caused by prolonged servitude in the Philcon film room, which he had run for over 15 years. He is an avid fan of the science fiction and horror film genres, specializing in British and Asian films. In his spare time, he sits in his basement and plans for the oncoming zombie apocalypse.

Greg R. Fishbone an author of books and stories for children and penguins of all ages. Greg's Philadelphia roots go back to the late 1980s and early 1990s, when he wrote for and edited *Event Horizon*, the University of Pennsylvania's speculative fiction magazine. During Greg's tenure, members of Event Horizon also released a shared-world anthology called *Starship Alethea* about a gigantic spaceship that was part scientific research vessel, part military flagship, part cruise ship, and entirely insane. Greg afterward participated in the legendary superhero parody project, *Superguy*. One of those stories formed the basis of Greg's first published novel, *The Penguins of Doom*. Greg is active in the children's literature community, serving since 2001 as Webmaster and Assistant Regional Coordinator for the three New England regions of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. He currently resides in the Boston area with his wife and daughter.

Michael Flynn is the author of ten novels and two story collections, most recently the Hugo nominee, *Eifelheim*, and *The January Dancer*. Recent short fiction includes the Hugo nominee "Dawn, and Sunset, and the Colours of the Earth," and the alternate history, "Quaestiones super caelo et mundo." He has received the Robert A. Heinlein Award for his body of work, and the Sturgeon prize for his story "House of Dreams." He holds a master's degree in mathematics and, as a consultant in quality management and applied statistics, has worked with clients on five continents. His next novel is *Up Jim River*, the second in his Stories of the Spiral Arm. A native Pennsylvanian, he lives in Easton.

Joseph Foering is a long time SF enthusiast, gamer, and devotee of Japanese animation (anime). Joe has worked for the anime convention Otakon (www.otakon.com) since its inception in 1994, including a stint as its convention Chairman in 2003. Joe is a gradu-

ate of Penn State University, where he served as Secretary of the Penn State Science Fiction Society, the organization that ultimately gave birth to Otakon. He currently resides in the Philadelphia area.

A former president of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and six-time chair of Philcon, **Oz Fontecchio** has held virtually every position of responsibility in The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society. Currently he spends his fannish time doing programming for Philcon and other conventions including last year's World Fantasy Con and Philadelphia Fantastic. As a full time trial lawyer, he has added representation of authors to his bag of tricks.

Gary Frank is the author of *Forever Will You Suffer*, a supernatural, time-shifting tale of unrequited love gone horribly wrong. His next novel, *Institutional Memory*, is a terrifying tale of Corporate America and is out now from Medallion Press. His writing has been compared to Richard Laymon and early Graham Masterton. Gary is a member of the Horror Writers Association, the Garden State Horror Writers, the International Thriller Writers, and Liberty States Fiction Writers.

Gregory Frost is a writer of fantasy, thrillers, and science fiction who has been publishing steadily for more than two decades. His latest work, the compelling fantasy duology, *Shadowbridge* and *Lord Tophet* was voted one of the four best fantasy novels of the year by the American Library Association. It was a finalist this year for the James Tiptree Award.

His previous novel, *Fitcher's Brides*, was a historical thriller that set the fairy tale of Bluebeard in 19th century New York State. *Fitcher's Brides* was a finalist for both the World Fantasy Award and the International Horror Guild Award for Best Novel. Other novels include *Tain*, *Lyrec*, and Nebula-nominated sf work *The Pure Cold Light*. His short story collection, *Attack of the Jazz Giants and Other Stories* was given a starred review by *Publishers Weekly*, which called it "one of the best fantasy collections of the year." The collection includes James Tiptree Award, Nebula Award, Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award, and Hugo Award finalist fiction. His latest short story can be found in *Poe*, edited by Ellen Datlow. He is a Fiction Writing Workshop Director at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, PA. His web site is www.gregoryfrost.com. He's on Facebook as Gregory Frost; on Twitter as gregory_frost; and his LJ blog, "Frostbites" is at <http://frostkovich.livejournal.com>.

Dr. Charles E. Gannon, a distinguished Professor of English at St. Bonaventure University, is also a Fulbright Senior Specialist and a member of the SIGMA SF think-tank. He is the collaborator on the next *Starfire* novel (Baen), has forthcoming fiction in *Analog*, Pournelle's *War World* series, and the *Defending the Future* anthologies, and has authored and edited for GDW's award-winning games *Traveller* and 2300 A.D. His most recent non-fiction book *Rumors of War and Infernal Machines: Technomilitary Agenda Setting in American and British Speculative Fiction* won the 2006 American Library Association Award for Outstanding Book. A

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member of SIGMA, Dr. Gannon also spent five years as a Fulbright Senior Specialist in American Literature and Culture and has been a Fulbright Fellow (or visiting scholar) at Liverpool, Vancouver, Dundee, Rome, Cork (Ireland), Olomouc/Prague [Czech Republic], Stettin (Poland), and Nitra (Slovakia). Prior to his academic career, Dr. Gannon worked eight years as a scriptwriter and producer in New York City, where his clients included the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and The President's Council on Physical Fitness.

The **NJ Ghostbusters** are a fan group franchise of Ghostheads based out of the Southern NJ area. Our group strives to recreate, modernize, and invent quality and realistic Ghostbusters props and costumes. With our custom uniforms, proton packs, and modernized Ectomobile, we strive to support local charities, and take every opportunity we can to put a smile on someone's face.

Joseph A. Gervasi cracked out of his

kosmische egg in 1971. He's spent his entire adult life living in fine, filthy Philadelphia. After years of booking hardcore punk shows in the NJ and Philly as a founder of the Cabbage Collective, he co-founded Exhumed Films (www.ExhumedFilms.com) in 1997. He co-owns the planet's finest DVD business, Diabolik DVD (www.DiabolikDVD), with Jesse Nelson. When not working working working on his business and projects, he runs six miles a day in Fairmount Park, drinks tea with his cats (four legs good, two legs bad) and keeps his house ever so clean, cleaner than the top of the washing machine. Given the opportunity, he'd transform into a rat and leave this world behind.

Alexis Gilliland may be less permanent than the Appalachians, but he has been floating around the firmament of Science Fiction for mumble-mumble years, during which time he has run cons, presided over WSFA meetings, published novels, drawn more cartoons than he can conveniently enumerate, and

served as co-host for WSFA since the first Friday of November 1967.

Lee Gilliland has been in and around SF and SF cons for the last 30 mumble years. Her other interests include the Titanic, Sherlock Holmes, Richard III, and ancient Egypt, which she will talk to you about, extensively, should you ask. You were warned.

Best-known for her six "Retriever" urban fantasy novels for Luna, **Laura Anne Gilman** is also the author of *Flesh And Fire: Book 1 of The Vineart War*, which *Library Journal* called "one of the most original approaches to fantasy adventure; highly recommended." A former book editor, she also runs d.y.m.k. productions, an editorial services company. Her official website is <http://lauraannegilman.net>. Follow her on Twitter as @LAGilman.

David Goldberg is Professor of Physics at Drexel University, and author of the upcoming *A User's Guide to the Universe: Surviving the Perils of Black Holes, Time Paradoxes, and Quantum Uncertainty* to be published by Wiley in March, 2010.

John Grant is author of some seventy books, of which about twenty-five are fiction, including novels like *The World, The Hundredfold Problem, The Far-Enough Window* and most recently *The Dragons of Manhattan* and *Leaving Fortusa*. His "book-length fiction" *Dragonhenge*, illustrated by Bob Eggleton, was shortlisted for a Hugo Award in 2003; its successor was *The Stardragons*. His first story collection, *Take No Prisoners*, appeared in 2004. He is editor of the recent anthology *New Writings in the Fantastic*, which was shortlisted for a British Fantasy Award. His novella *The City in These Pages* is shortly to appear from PS Publishing. In nonfiction, he wrote *The Encyclopedia of Walt Disney's Animated Characters, Discarded Science, Corrupted Science, Bogus Science*, and coedited with John Clute *The Encyclopedia of Fantasy*. He is currently working on a big book about *film noir*, a small book about the end of the world, and "a cute rhyming book for kids about a velociraptor." He has received two Hugo Awards, the World Fantasy Award, the Locus Award, and a number of other international literary awards. Under his real name, Paul Barnett, he has written a few books (like the space operas *Strider's Galaxy* and *Strider's Universe*) and for a number of years ran the world-famous fantasy-artbook imprint Paper Tiger, earning a Chesley Award and a nomination for the World Fantasy Award. His website is <http://www.johngrantpaulbarnett.com>.

Daniel Grotta wrote the first biography of J.R.R. Tolkien, which has been in continuous publication for over a quarter century, has been translated into numerous languages, and once had the singular distinction of being the most stolen book out of libraries. Daniel has also written seven other non-fiction books (co-authored with his wife Sally Wiener Grotta). As an investigative reporter, war correspondent, book and music critic, technology reviewer, features writer and columnist, he has authored well over 1,500 stories for prominent magazines and newspapers, such as *Islands, Philadelphia Inquirer, Reader's Digest, the London Sunday Times magazine, American Heritage, Parade, Saturday Review, PC Magazine, Family PC, Philadelphia*

Magazine, Lear's Magazine and many others. His short fiction has appeared in *Asimov's* and *Focus Magazine*, and his novel is still a work in progress. Recognized as one of the premier experts on digital photography, Daniel is the president of DigitalBenchmarks, the independent digital camera and imaging test lab. He is a member of The Authors Guild, the American Society of Journalists & Authors (ASJA), the Overseas Press Club, the National Book Critics Circle, and SFWA.

Sally Wiener Grotta is a journalist, photographer and author. Her work has appeared in scores of magazines, including *Parade, Lear's Magazine, Family PC, The Robb Report, American Heritage, Islands, PC Magazine* and many others. Sally is also the co-author (with her husband Daniel Grotta) of seven non-fiction books. Sally's newest fine arts photography project is "American Hands" (www.AmHands.com), for which she has received various grants to mount numerous exhibit through 2010. A former chapter president of American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP) and member of American Society of Journalists and Authors (ASJA), Sally is an advocate for author's rights and speaks often on the business of writing.

Paul Halpern is a Professor of Physics at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. He is the author of twelve popular science books about space, time and the cosmos. His most recent books include *Collider: The Search for the World's Smallest Particles, What's Science Ever Done for Us: What the Simpsons Can Teach Us About Physics, Robots, Life and the Universe, Brave New Universe: Illuminating the Darkest Secrets of the Cosmos, The Great Beyond: Higher Dimensions, Parallel Universes and the Extraordinary Search for a Theory of Everything and Faraway Worlds: Planets Beyond the Solar System*.

Harknell has been working with Onozumi for over 11 years. After noticing that there was very little online to help artists, he decided to do something about it. Harknell customized his first art-centric Content Management System in 2003. Today he releases Wordpress plugins at AWSOM.org and serves as a webmaster and guide for the online comic and blogging industry. His most recent accomplishments include custom website installs for Stupid and Insane Defenders Against Chaos and Erfworld. Harknell is best known for his easy-to-understand way of helping artists get their websites up and running. He has been a recurring guest speaker at places like XM Satellite Radio, Katsucon (<http://www.katsucon.org>), Ubercon (<http://www.Ubercon.com>), Balticon (<http://www.balticon.org>), and Otakon (<http://www.Otakon.com>). Today he lives in New Jersey with Onozumi and way too many computers.

Steve (Maugorn or Maugie) Haug is a full time musician/singer from the DC area. His musical interests and influences run from medieval thru modern and thru many genres as well. His other interests include: chocolate, lechery, bad movies, mad science, good puns, and of course, science fiction. He has hopes that his fifth self-produced CD *Beast & Boar* will be completed before you read this. But he'll remind you with capitalistic glee that his others are also available.

Orenthal Vance Hawkins is a self-described Pop Culture Fiend who has never really grown up. From B-movies to anime, from Old Time Radio to the Internet, if it has anything to do with pop culture he has an opinion on it. He currently offers this opinion in a commentary segment (appropriately titled "Pop Fiendish") on *The Chronic Rift*, a podcast dedicated to all things genre related. You can check it out at chronicrift.com. He is also a member of the cast if the audio drama *HG World* as "Ren Van Hawkins". You can learn more at goodmorningsurvivors.com. He talks a lot, but no one is ever sure if he's saying anything.

CJ Henderson is the author of both the Teddy London supernatural detective series and the Jack Hagee PI novels, as well as the creator of such diverse works as *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction Movies* and *Baby's First Mythos*. He is the author of hundreds of short stories and comics, and thousands of non-fiction pieces which have been printed around the world. He is constantly chained to his keyboard, when not holding court telling outrageous lies at the Gentlemen's Club, or pitching pennies with the local hooligans for lunch money. Learn more about him and his award-winning works at www.cjhenderson.com, then come meet the butterball from Brooklyn in the flesh!

Rob Himmelsbach is a Journeyman level costumer in the ICG; a Master of the Laurel in the SCA; a Health Department Program Manager in Real Life; and a crank and nuisance generally. He has run or helped run Masquerade and Costumer Programming at many Philcons and other cons, and was MC for the Masquerade at Millennium Philcon (2001 Worldcon) and several Philcon and Lunacon masquerades.

Larry Hodges, of Germantown, MD, is an active member of SFWA with 37 short story sales (circa Oct. 2009), over half of them since summer 2008. He's a graduate of the six-week 2006 Odyssey Writers' Workshop, the 2007 Orson Scott Card Literary Boot Camp, and the 2008 Taos Toolbox Writers' Workshop. He's been a full-time writer for many years with three books and over 1200 published articles in 97 different publications. His best work is often humorous, including his recently completed novel, *Campaign 2100: Rise of the Moderates*, a political satire that will soon be making the rounds at publishers on its way to great glory and/or utter obscurity. He is a member of the USA Table Tennis Hall of Fame (Google it!), and once beat someone using an ice cube as a racket. Visit him at www.larryhodges.org.

Heidi Hooper has a Bachelors in Sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University and Master's in Metalsmithing from the Mass College of Art. Her work has been seen in many galleries across the country (including A Mano in nearby New Hope) and can be viewed on her web page at www.heidihooper.com and soon in Ripley's Believe it Or Not! Museums around the world. She also has won many costuming awards for her metal armor pieces, including a Best Craftsman award at the Worldcon level. She was a Craftsman Judge at the 2004 Worldcon in Boston. Since a cancerous tumor caused the removal of most

of her upper arm, she has had to work primarily in soft clays, and her recent work includes dryer lint! Heidi is also one of the founders of the New England Roleplaying Organization (NERO) along with her husband Michael A. Ventrella. They now run Alliance LARP (www.AllianceLARP.com)

Bob Hranek: "I'm addicted to playing EVEonline.com, running & drinking with Hash House Harriers (HashinPA.com), love playing Wargames (EPGS.org), and as a PT (Professional Thigmophiliast), I give excellent back rubs! I also have an understanding wife and two great teenage kids. I've been a systems engineer for the last two decades after six memorable years in the Air Force. I'm a vocal Space Exploitation Advocate, read hard SF whenever I have time, recruit & give blood six times a year, and judge at Science Fairs. At Philcon, you're likely to see me hanging out in my kilt if I'm not setting up/tearing down the Art Show or moderating a panel."

Walter H. Hunt is the author of four

books published by Tor: *The Dark Wing* (2001), *The Dark Path* (2002), *The Dark Ascent* (2004), and *The Dark Crusade* (2005). This critically reviewed series deals with the ethics and morality of war, and the relationship between humanity and other intelligent species; they have been compared to the works of Herbert, Card, Weber and Tolkien. His new book, *A Song In Stone*, is a historical novel about the music encoded in the stones of Rosslyn Chapel and the Order of the Temple. Walter is an active Freemason and a lifelong baseball fan. He lives in Massachusetts with his wife and daughter.

A life-long RPG gamer, **Owen Hutchins** believes that starting kids off young in the hobby can make the SF experience much better,

Muriel Hykes (popularly known as Dr. Mom) is a med school dropout and substitute teacher, who has been raising special-needs kids for over two decades. At Philcon, and elsewhere in East Coast fandom, she partici-

pates in panels on nutrition, allergies, education, ADHD, learning disabilities, computers, and the future of just about everything (isn't that what SciFi is really about?) She and her rocket-scientist husband live on a hilltop just north of Williamsport, PA with two remnants of their seven recombinant DNA experiments.

As Mistress Baroness Scheherazade Al-Zahira, the former co-ruler of the SCA Barony of Bhakail as **Scheherazade Jackson**, she teaches Eastern Belly Dance, Teaching classes on Damascus in the Middle ages, organizes Toys-for-Tots collections, writer of prose, and generally works to create an orderly universe.

Stuart Jaffe has had numerous stories published including "The Curse and the Revenge" for the debut of *One-Minute Weird Tales*. His stories can also be found in the anthologies *Writers for Relief 2* and *New Writings in the Fantastic*, as well as the forthcoming anthology *Under the Rose*. With his wife, he co-hosts *The Eclectic Review*, a podcast in which they discuss science, art, writing, books, movies, and just about anything else that falls in their laps. He resides in North Carolina with his wife, son, numerous fish, three aquatic turtles, one box turtle, two tarantulas, one corn snake, two rabbits, five cats, several mice, and a horse (which, thankfully, resides in a stable). Despite his best efforts, this list of creatures keeps growing.

Victoria Janssen's first novel, a Ruritanian/Alternate Universe fantasy titled *The Duchess, Her Maid, The Groom and Their Lover*, is from Harlequin Spice, a trade paperback line of erotic novels. Her second novel for Spice, *Moonlight Mistress*, is due out December 2009; it's an erotic historical set during World War One and includes werewolves, crossdressing, spies, muddy shell holes, nuns driving lorries, and a zouave on a motorbike. She's recently sold two more novels to Spice, the first titled *The Duke and the Pirate Queen*. Under her pseudonym, Elspeth Potter, she's sold over thirty short stories. Find her online at victoriajanssen.com.

Robert T. Jeschonek is an award-winning writer whose fiction, essays, articles, comic books, and podcasts have been published around the world. His young adult urban fantasy novel, *My Favorite Band Does Not Exist*, is due in 2011 from Clarion/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. A collection of his fantasy and science fiction stories, *Mad Scientist Meets Cannibal*, was released in 2008 by PS Publishing in England. His stories have appeared in *Space and Time*, *Postscripts*, *Abyss and Apex*, and anthologies from DAW and Pocket Books. He has also written Star Trek fiction, winning the grand prize in the national Strange New Worlds contest. Robert is based in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. For more information, check out www.thefictioneer.com.

Lawrence Johnson, Sr. is author of the 2012 Mayan prophecy novel *Escape 2 Earth* and "Dimensions in Time," the short story of two lost brothers who travel through a time portal. His upcoming novel the sequel to *Escape 2 Earth*, *Return 2 Earth* is due to be released in the fall of 2009. In addition Mr. Johnson's first mystery novel *Blackout* will be released in 2010.

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Phil Kahn is a Webcomics Person, and everything that that implies. He is currently co-writing the new hit Fantasy Adventure webcomic, *Guiled Age* (<http://guiledage.net>), and the art school-mocking comedy webcomic *Sketchies* (<http://sketchies-comic.com>). You may know him from his previous stint as a critic with his blog, I'm Just Saying and The Digital Strips Podcast. He is also a videographer, an audio-visual technician, a robot, a mad scientist, a supervillain, and a rapsalion. And yes, he is the official Philcon Phil Kahn.

Robert F. Kauffmann developed his own artistic style in college, inspired by his background in computer science and mathematics as well as the work of the mathematician B. Mandelbrot, inventor of fractal geometry, and the graphic artist M. C. Escher. He calls this style Mathematical Surrealism. His art has been featured in numerous shows in Philadelphia, Chicago, and New York City, and has won a number of awards. He has also produced a number of animated films including *Animated Shorts*, *The Masque of Ollock*, *Osama bin Lobster*, *Food Chain Inversion*, *Song of the Moon*, and *Eye Candy*. He is currently working on a new film, *The Lance of Marmorax*. His films have won awards including the CINE Golden Eagle Award. His first published story was *The Mask of Ollock* (Arx Publishing, 2002) based on his film of the same name. He is at work on a sequel entitled *The Curse of Borello*, which is currently being serialized in *The Tarpeian Rock*. Kauffmann has recently published two manga-related books on Lulu: *Gokumiru* a collection of math-related manga-style cartoons originally published in *Hyperseeing*, and *Read and Study, Please*, a collection of useful notes and fun manga for students of Japanese. He currently works as a software engineer for proServices Corporation.

James Patrick Kelly said this about Rebecca Maines's short story collection, *Ex Cathedra*: "Rebecca Maines is a deeply moral thinker who writes with a storyteller's flair. She's not afraid to pose the Big Questions and rejects all the easy answers; these are stories for grownups." During business hours, she supplies easy answers to big and small questions in her capacity as managing editor at a mid-sized publishing house.

Jon Kilgannon is the author of the webcomics *A Miracle of Science* and *Afterlife Blues*, found at afterlifeblues.com. He runs a software consulting firm in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Kim Kindya is a multimedia producer, writer and costumer. She worked on a number of CD-ROMs, including the "Star Trek Encyclopedia," "Farscape: The Game," and the original role-playing computer game "Darkened Skye." She has reviewed SF and Fantasy for *Publishers Weekly*, as well as written the short story, "Ice Prince," in the anthology *X-Men Legends*, a Powerpuff Girls "Choose-Your-Own-Adventure" style book for kids, and two Looney Tunes books for Scholastic (*Roswell Ruckus* and *Runaway Robot*). She is a Craftsman-level costumer and ICG member who has competed at Philcon, Lunacon and WorldCon. A longtime avid fan of comics and animation, she collects Japanese anime and manga as

well as American comics and cartoons.

Karl Kofoed is a graphic artist with more than 30 years of commercial advertising and promotional graphic design experience. Over the years his graphic design work has won several design awards while working for ad agencies such as NW Ayer Direct in New York. Today, as owner of Kofoed Design, Karl specializes in antique photo restoration, photo retouching and graphic design. He has done scores of book covers and interior illustrations over the years for magazines like *Asimov's SF Magazine*. Karl also has two novels, *Joko* and *Deep Ice*, both available from BeWrite books. *Joko* took second place in this year's Dream Realm awards for excellence in e-publishing. Karl is best known for his *Galactic Geographic* feature which has appeared in *Heavy Metal* magazine since 1980. He has always regarded this material as a single work; he has single-handedly written, designed, illustrated, and produced the *Galactic Geographic Annual 3003*, which he describes as "the coffee table book of the future." Signed copies of Karl's book are available in the Dealer's Room at a special convention price. (See "Janet's Jewelry" table). Karl and his wife Janet (a popular jewelry designer whose work is also available in the Dealer's Room) live in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania; a suburb of Philadelphia. They each have a daughter named Lisa, from previous marriages, and two glorious black cats named Mille 'n Nium.

Brian Koscienski is a writer, editor, and publisher.

Eric Kotani is the pseudonym used by an astrophysicist, (Dr.) Yoji Kondo, in writing science fiction. Kotani has published seven novels, the last being *Legacy of Prometheus* with John Moddoh Roberts. His latest short stories, "The Edge World" and "Orbital Base Fear" were published in recent years in the Tekno Book anthologies. He also edited *Requiem: New Collected Works by Robert A. Heinlein and Tributes to the Grand Master*, a national best seller. Kondo headed the astrophysics laboratory at the Johnson Space Center during the Apollo and Skylab Missions and was director of an international satellite observatory for 15 years at NASA Goddard. He has published over 200 scientific papers and has held professorships at several universities including the University of Pennsylvania. Among a number of honors, he is the recipient of a NASA medal and Isaac Asimov Memorial Award. An asteroid has recently been named Yojikondo.

Lawrence Kramer's professional research investigates how certain proteins control the transport of neurotransmitter receptors in neuronal cells, a process likely important for learning and memory. His life as an active SF fan started when he worked at some of the first Star Trek conventions at the Commodore Hotel in NYC and continued at several Worldcons in the 70's. In 1999 he heard about Philcon and Lunacon, thereby discovering the wonderful world of regional cons. He has since worked on staff at a number of local and Worldcons in the area, but Philcon is still his favorite as the one that restarted his involvement in fandom. He is married with a wonderful wife and three daughters, all on their way to becoming avid readers

like their Dad!

Samantha Kwait is the 119th element on the periodic table. Often found spamming the interwubs with her rants on society, she survives on man made sunlight and large cups of tea (one cream, two sugars). Samantha finds it hard to balance the power of being the Kwisatz Haderach with everyday life but knows the spice must flow (preferably rosemary). She recently completed translating *The Art of Writing Books About the Art of Something* into Lilliputian, Samantha would like to thank the following for their support: Joe Mamma, Joe Sista, and Joe Grandma too!

Ruth Lampi is a writer, sculptor and illustrator. She recently co-authored *Heroes Handbook: Eladrin* for Goodman Games as well as authoring several gaming modules for that company. Ruth writes and illustrates the ongoing weekly web novella *The Alarna Affair*, at worldofshandor.com. Her illustrations have appeared in *No Longer Dreams*, *Children of Morpheus*, by Danielle Ackley McPhail, *Goblin Tales*, an anthology from Poison Clan Press, the covers of *Knight's Honour* and *Children of the Orcs*, by Stephanie Major, and *Allies and Enemies*, by White Silver Publishing. Ruth has been drawing from the time she could grip crayons and has been a science fiction and fantasy fan for even longer.

Toni Lay is a member of the New Jersey-New York Costumers Guild (aka The Sick Pups), and the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), which gives her plenty of opportunity to costume. Toni was Program Director for Costume Con 5, and Historical Masquerade Director for Costume Cons 16 and 22. Her other fannish interests include *Star Trek*, *Stargate*, *Doctor Who*, *Torchwood*, Britcoms, alternate history novels, Harry Potter, and the Didius Falco and Gordianus the Finder mysteries. When she's not reading or making costumes, Toni is a secretary for the New York City Department of Design and Construction.

Dina A. Leacock, who writes under the name Diane Arrelle, has sold more than 100 short stories to anthologies and magazines. She has two published books, *Just A Drop In The Cup*, a collection of flash fiction and short-short stories and *Elements Of The Short Story*. She is proud to be a founding member as well as a past president of the Garden State Horror Writers as well as a past president of the Philadelphia Writers' Conference. She lives on the edge of the Pine Barrens (home of the Jersey Devil) in South Jersey with her husband, two sons and cat.

Evelyn Leeper became addicted to science fiction with *The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet*. She discovered fandom when then-future husband Mark signed her up for the UMass SF Society in 1968. In 1978 they founded the Bell Labs SF Club and their own (soon) weekly fanzine, which has gone through several title changes until it settled down as the *MT Void* (pronounced "Empty Void") which has had more than 1500 issues! She has been nominated for the Hugo for Best Fan Writer twelve times for her convention reports, travelogues, and book reviews, and is a judge for the Sidewise Awards for alternate history.

A science fiction fan since age 5, **Mark Leeper** went to the University of Massachu-

setts where he was active and eventually the president of the science fiction society. In 1978 he and his wife Evelyn founded the company science fiction club at Bell Laboratories in New Jersey. What started as the weekly notice for the club has grown into the weekly fanzine for the electronic community, *The MT Void*, which now has had over 1300 issues! Mark is also the longest continually publishing film reviewer on the Internet. Mark's other hobbies include recreational mathematics, old-time radio, international travel, and origami. He and his wife have been fan guests of honor at Contraption and Westercon.

Neal Levin is a game designer, author, and publisher. His work in game design includes credits with: Ambient Games, Bastion Press, Dark Quest Games, EN Publishing, Mystic Eye Games and Top Fashion Games. He is a member of the Garden State Horror Writers and SFWA. He also is the publisher of Dark Quest Books. As a short story author he has worked in anthologies from many publishers. His known 2010 list includes: *Vampire Dreamspell*, *Cat Dreamspell*, *Barbarians at the Jumpgate*, *New Blood*, and *Zombonauts*.

Dusti Lewars is a freelance writer specializing in the haunted attraction industry, where she's worked on pretty much every aspect of the field. An active blogger on LiveJournal for 9 years, her fandoms include vampires, Sherlock Holmes, and *Doctor Who*. Her careers have been varied - zookeeper, data quality analyst, butterfly keeper, retail drone, wildlife rehabber, and while she's not a vampire, she *does* play one on TV's *Midnight Monster Hop*.

Andre Lieven has been involved with SF conventions for [mumbly, mumbly] years and still loves it as much as in the beginning. His interests start with hard SF from Asimov and Clarke and range out to his old childhood favorites of Star Trek and Thunderbirds. All that lead to connecting with his interests in political science, history, military and aerospace technology and policy, and space flight. He has participated in working in most parts of SF conventions and speaks on panels at various conventions with Worldcon included on both points.

Former copywriter and long-time member of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, **Debby Lieven**, infiltrated the Northern borders in the pursuit of education and superior snuggles. She has also been a writer and proofreader. Her biggest project was for the *Netbook of Witches and Warlocks* for the D20 System. Her life ambition is to be a professional loafer.

N.E. Lilly is the editor of SpaceWesterns.com, *Everyday Weirdness*, and *Thaumatrope*. When he isn't reading submissions, he's developing websites for Science Fiction professionals and organizations through GreenTentacles. He has designed artwork for a variety of media and processes, such as stage productions, desktop publishing, and advertising specialties, as well as dynamic and interactive content for the Internet. His current work includes TimWBurke.com, LawrenceMSchoen.com, SpaceWesterns.com, and Paranormal-RestrainingOrders.com, as well as websites for Philcon 2002 through Philcon 2006 and the Browncoat Ball 2007.

Jogberd Linkandon has written over twenty novels in several SF and fantasy genres. His epic fantasy *Snarl-Clasps of the Tetric Clans* won the Best First Try Nebula in 2004, and he hasn't stopped writing since. His books include the Werewolf trilogy (*Fang*, *Claw*, and *Throat*), the Vampyr Annals series (*Fang*, *Eyes*, *Blood Red*), and the ongoing Non-

Gordon Linzner is the author of three published novels and dozens of short stories, former publisher and editor in chief of the oldest extant small press science fiction magazine, *Space and Time*, established in 1966. He also works as a New York City tour guide, a story teller, a sound technician, and front man for the Saboteur Tiger blues/oldies band.

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dead Necrology series (*The Feed*, *Limbs*, *Flesh Harvest*, *Fat Farm*). He has recently completed his new Weyrwulf cycle (*Swollen Moon*, *Surges of the Crimson Tide*, *Painful Month*). His current projects include editing an anthology of erotic vampire stories (*Slaking the Thirst*), a proposed Sword of the Necrostalker Chronicles series for the SyFy Network, and "a series of YA novels about a truant officer for a school of vampires." He lives with his third wife Boothwryn, seven cats, and his recreations include Frankenstein cosplay.

Jeff Lyman attended the 2004 Odyssey Writing School in New Hampshire. He has assisted editing the anthologies "*No Longer Dreams*", "*Bad Ass Fairies*", and "*Bad Ass Fairies II*" with Danielle Ackley-McPhail. His short stories have appeared in several anthologies, including the military science fiction anthologies "*Breach the Hull*" and "*So It Begins*". Right now he's trying to figure out how to juggle writing with a one-year-old and a baby on the way.

Jonathan Maberry is a multiple Bram

Stoker Award-winning author, magazine feature writer, playwright, content creator and writing teacher/lecturer. His novels include *Ghost Road Blues*, *Dead Man's Song*, *Bad Moon Rising*, and *Patient Zero*, which has been optioned for TV by Sony Pictures. Upcoming novels include *The Wolfman*, *The Dragon Factory*, *The King of Plagues*, *Rot & Ruin* and *Dust & Decay*. His nonfiction works include *Vampire Universe*, and *The Cryptopedia* (Bram Stoker Award for Outstanding

of projects involving *Wolverine*, *Deadpool*, *The X-Men*, *Fantastic Four*, and *Marvel Zombies Return*, a limited series with David Wellington Seth Grahame-Smith. Jonathan is the co-creator (with Laura Schrock) of *On The Slab*, an entertainment news show in development by Stage 9 for ABC Disney / Stage 9. Jonathan's Big Scary Blog (www.jonathanmaberry.com) focuses on the publishing industry. He is a Contributing Editor for *The Big Thrill* (the newsletter of the International Thriller

hour open-agenda networking and discussion session for writers of all genres and levels of skill. The event is held at the Barnes & Noble in Willow Grove Pennsylvania on the last Sunday of every month.

Jeff Mach is the creator of the Wicked Winter Renaissance Faire (www.WickedFaire.com), proprietor of The Steampunk World's Fair (www.steampunkworldsfair.com), and managing director of The Midsummer Magick Faire (www.midsummermagickfaire.com). He's also the author of a book on power exchange ("GIVE: Some explorations of submission"), found at www.deadlychallenge.org. Finally, Jeff has been called a "Metageek", which is his favorite title ever.

Rebecca Marcus has been involved with PSFS and Philcon since the days when the con shared hotel space with the Filipina debutant ball and the American Psychiatric Association banquet. As a self appointed official hostess of Philcon she can be found at parties, panels or just roaming the hallways giving out con presents. The more serious jobs aren't as fun to list. All hail Gorga!

Gail Z. Martin is the author of *The Summoner*, *The Blood King* and *Dark Haven* in The Chronicles of The Necromancer series. Book Four, *Dark Lady's Chosen*, makes its international debut in early 2010. A new series set in her world of the Winter Kingdoms, *The Fallen Kings Cycle*, debuts from Orbit Books in 2011 with *Book One: The Sworn*. For book updates, tour information and contact details, visit www.ChroniclesOfTheNecromancer.com. Gail discovered her passion for science fiction, fantasy and ghost stories in elementary school. The first story she wrote—at age five—was about a vampire. Her favorite TV show as a preschooler was *Dark Shadows*. At age 14, she decided to become a writer. She enjoys attending science fiction/fantasy conventions, Renaissance fairs and living history sites. She is married and has three children, a Himalayan cat and a golden retriever.

Mike McPhail is the award winning Author and Anthologist of the military science fiction series *Defending The Future* (*Breach The Hull*, *So It Begins* and coming soon *By Other Means*) published by Dark Quest Books. He is a member of the Military Writers Society of America (MWSA), a reviewer for MilSciFi.com, and the creator of the Alliance Archives (All'Arc) series and its related Martial Role-Playing Game (MRPG), a manual-based, percentile system, that realistically portrays the consequences of warfare. His websites include <http://www.mcp-concepts.com> and <http://www.milscifi.com>.

Brent Monahan has his undergraduate degrees in German and Music from Rutgers University and his doctorate in Music from Indiana U., Bloomington. Brent was a dialogue writer for *One Life to Live* and *All My Children* in the early 80s. He has 10 novels and numerous anthologized short stories in print. Two of his novels have been made into motion pictures. His *The Bell Witch/An American Haunting* was released in 2005 as *An American Haunting*, starring Donald Sutherland and Sissy Spacek.

David Moore has been an active consumer and evaluator of massively multiplayer online role-playing games (MMORPGs) since

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Achievement in Nonfiction); and *Zombie CSU: The Forensics of the Living Dead* (Hinzman and Black Quill Awards) and *They Bite!* His next nonfiction book will be *Vampire Hunters and Other Enemies of Evil*. He is also the author of *The Vampire Slayers Field Guide to the Undead*, written under the pen name of Shane MacDougall. He writes *The Black Panther* for Marvel Comics, as well as a variety

of projects involving *Wolverine*, *Deadpool*, *The X-Men*, *Fantastic Four*, and *Marvel Zombies Return*, a limited series with David Wellington Seth Grahame-Smith.

Jonathan has been a writing teacher and career counselor for writers for the last two decades. He teaches a highly regarded series of classes and workshops including Write Your Novel in Nine Months, Revise & Sell, Experimental Writing for Teens, and others. He also hosts the Writers Coffeehouse, a free three-

early 2000. Over the years Mr. Moore has had vast experiences with many of today's mainstream MMORPGS as well as some of the more obscure ones, including major leadership and progression roles in several of these games.

John Moore was raised in Doylestown, became a fan in 1977 when bought a subscription to the then new *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, and attended Philcon '77. His professional sales include about a dozen short stories and five fantasy novels. By day he's an engineer who lives and works in Houston, Texas.

Andrew C. Murphy is the award-winning Creative Director of Art for BrainWorks Communications, a medical advertising company, and part-time comic book reviewer. He lives in Penn Valley, Pennsylvania with his wife and three children. His novel, *Steel Sky*, is a cult classic to a very small cult.

Thomas Nickid is a graphic designer and illustrator who lives in Bethel, Connecticut with his fannish wife Terri and raised-in-fandom children Alex (14) and Emma (11). Over the years he has created illustrations and layout design for various publishers including Terrific Science Press, Scholastic Books, Sumner Communications, Firewheel Editions, Cynterpubs Information Resources and he recently created cover art for the Mundania Press re-release of the best-selling *Bad Ass Fairies* anthology series, and for for *Dragon Lure*, the first book in a new anthology series from Dark Quest Books. He is a regular contributor of artwork to *Space and Time* magazine, and when he's not working with publishers or showing my artwork at cons in the Northeast, he designs various marketing and informational materials for businesses and organizations. Find him at www.tomnickidart.com.

Christine Norris is the author of several novels and short stories for young adults, including the Library of Athena series. When she is not writing, she is hiding behind her secret identity of mild-mannered substitute teacher and graduate student. She also cares for her family of one husband-creature, a son-animal, and two small felines who she swears are secret agents of Chaos. She has also perpetrated several English Adaptations of novels translated from Japanese. This is Christine's fifth Philcon appearance, and she is very happy to return. Please visit <http://www.christinenorris.com> or at her MySpace page at <http://www.myspace.com/christinenorris>.

Frank O'Brien is a volunteer historian for NASA, primarily as a researcher for the Apollo Lunar Surface Journal, and is co-editor of the Apollo Flight Journal. He was responsible for preparing the Lunar Module Mission Simulator and other artifacts for exhibition at the Cradle of Aviation Museum, and is VP of Information Technology at the Infoage Science and Learning Center. Frank frequently lectures on space topics at NASA conferences NASA and computer expositions.

Fans say that **Onezumi** is what would happen if Dirty Harry and Weird Al Yankovic had a daughter that loved to draw. Onezumi "Oni" Hartstein was born in New York City to Indian/German/Polish parents, but raised in an economically depressed area in Pittsburgh,

PA. Here she experienced firsthand the positive effects of art on young people. After moving to New Jersey, she worked professionally in animation for The Disney Channel before leaving to start Onezumi Studios, LLC, which is the parent company to her family of websites, including <http://www.Onezumi.com>. Her blog is located at <http://www.Onezumiverse.com>. Onezumi has a B.A. in Sociology/Psychology specializing in Gender Studies, and has studied classical art in a University setting for over 6 years. She lives in New Jersey and shares an apartment with her husband and a lot of coffee beans.

Terri Osborne began her career with forays into the published Star Trek universe. Then it was on to ancient England for a meeting with Boudicca with "Good Queen, Bad Queen, I Queen, You Queen" in the Doctor Who: Short Trips anthology *The Quality of Leadership*. 2010 will see her finally venture into her original universe with "Love and Other Excuses" in the *New Blood* anthology coming from Padwolf Publishing. Other projects are cooking on multiple burners, so stay tuned!

Crystal Paul has been a fan and a filker since 1977 and has been on the staff and committee of many cons, both SF and media. She has twice chaired Conterpoint, the Washington DC filk con. Most recently, she was Listener Guest at Contata, the New York filk con. She is a technical writer and worked at Hubble Space Telescope project HQ for 7 years. Possibly her most insane fannish moment was marrying Steve Brinich at Conterpoint 2007 while chairing the con.

Jo Blu Pax has been running a webcomic, *Parlor Trick* (www.parlortrickcomic.com), with his sister Sally for over a year. When not scribbling on his tablet and cursing at Photoshop, he's perched upon his upright bass slapping out tunes and grooving along with his band Mojo Rocket (www.mojorocket.net). Some would say that routine is boring and variation is the spice of life, but Jo would laugh at this.. because he has an upright bass. And honestly, any boring routine can be made interesting with one of those!

Often accused of being both a catalyst and a muse, **Sally Rouge-Pax** makes a modest living as an Undercover Rock Star posing as a mild mannered workflow coordinator. She has been primary artist and co-author of a webcomic, *Parlor Trick* (www.parlortrickcomic.com); is actively lead singer for her band, Mojo Rocket (www.mojorocket.net); and is also Miss September in the 2010 *Pinups for Pitbulls* calendar (www.pinupsforpitbulls.com). For more info about the woman behind the awesome, check out her site: www.Sally-Rouge.com

Mike Pederson is the publisher/editor/graphic designer responsible for the semipro-zine *Nth Degree* and its e-zine counterpart, *NthZine.com*. Mike began life as a semi-pro in 1988 when his SF short story, "Dust Storm," won first place in a local writing contest. In the 1990s, he wrote and published the Raven comic book series (with artist R. Craig Enslin) and edited and published *Scene*, a Virginia-based entertainment magazine. In 2001, Mike was part of the "Best in Class - Master Division" winning presentation (Pre-Emptive Strike) at the Millennium Philcon Masquerade. Shortly

after that he started *Nth Degree*. In 2007, he wrote a chapter on "Writing for Magazines" for Dragon Moon Press' Writing *Fantasy: The Author's Grimoire*. In 2009, Mike began work as a book reviewer for the *California Literary Review*. Mike also edited *Sir Walter's Salon*, the bidzine for the 2010 NASFiC. Mike is also the permanent con chair for RavenCon in Richmond, Virginia and (along with Warren Buff) is chairing ReConStruction, the Raleigh NASFiC in 2010. Yes, Mike is an insanely busy person; if you see him around the con please feed him lots of caffeine and/or beer. When not engaged in geekish pursuits, Mike is a professional graphic designer and lives in Charlotte, NC.

Charles Pellegrino's next book, *The Last Train from Hiroshima*, bridges the bombings of the two cities with the thirty people who are known to have survived both bombings (in a way, one of them survived a third ground zero when he came to New York wearing his Red Sox hat). The book has been bought by Lightstorm and is intended as an "unflinching" 3-D theatrical release on what these bombs really do. After working forensic archaeology in Ground Zero New York and developing patina fingerprinting methods in the crime lab (for the repatriation of artifacts to museums in the countries from which they were stolen), Charles worked with Jesuits and Franciscan scholars on matters involving the tomb from which the Turin Shroud might have originated, then immersed himself in forensic archaeology in Hiroshima and Nagasaki (work that finally appears to have gotten him formally excommunicated from the Republican Party, with the word, "disgust," in 2008: his father, a Normandy veteran who became a 1950s beatnik and whose son became a Republican while everyone else's sons became hippies, would have been so proud...) In 2009 he served as a scientific consultant on James Cameron's *Avatar* film. Philcon attendees will immediately recognize the spacecraft in the film, based on the Brookhaven National Laboratory Valkyrie designs (by Pellegrino and Jim Powell), hybridized with Robert L. Forward's designs.

K.T. Pinto couldn't stand where her family had moved once they left Brooklyn, so she started killing people. Once she ran out of room for the bodies, she decided she had to find another outlet for her frustration.

That's when she started writing... For more about KT's life in her own words, go to <http://ktpinto.livejournal.com/303483.html> or visit her website at www.ktpinto.com. The first two novels in the Books of Insanity series - *Celeste* and *Vanity* - are now for sale and the third - *Marco* - will be out in Oct. 2010.

James Prego, ND is a practicing Naturopathic Doctor on Long Island, NY. He is also an adjunct professor of Biology at Molloy College and a board member of the New York Association of Naturopathic Doctors. Dr. Prego is a long-time fan of science fiction and has been a guest at conventions, such as Philcon, I-Con, Arisia, NEFE, Albacon, and Pi-Con, where he has been on panels discussing xenobiology, health in space, life extension, fusions of biology and technology, and how natural ways of healing fit in a sci-fi/high-tech world. He has also been on various fan-related and culture panels. Dr. Prego has given talks, writ-

ten articles, and been a guest on radio shows, discussing naturopathic medicine, children's health, detoxification, and other health-related topics. To learn more about Dr. Prego, and what naturopathic medicine is, you can visit www.doctorprego.com or read his health and wellness blog at drprego.blogspot.com.

Brian T. Price was a founding member of the Atlantic Anime Alliance, staffing Chibicon (the East Coast's first anime conference) and ANIMEast '94 & '95. In recent years has spoken on panels about anime and other sci-fi & fantasy related topics at conventions up and down the East Coast. Currently he keeps himself active in anime fandom as staff at Katsucon, Anime/Video Coordinator for Double Exposure's gaming events and is the head of anime programming at Philcon, the longest running science fiction convention in the world. A certified massage therapist and freelance artist by trade, Brian has also taken a small step into voice acting, lending his voice to the productions of Dragon's Lair Studios and the forthcoming *Webmaster Guy* animated project.

Tom Purdom started reading science fiction in 1950, when he was fourteen. His first published story appeared in 1957, his latest in the June 2009 *Asimov's*. His contributions to the science fiction scene include novels, short stories and novelettes, magazine articles, book reviews, an anthology of science writing by leading science fiction writers, two terms as vice president of SFWA, three years as Eastern Regional Director of SFWA, and approximately fifteen years of volunteer work for the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and Philcon. For the last twenty years, he has been writing short fiction, mostly in the novelette length, which has primarily appeared in *Asimov's*, and anthologies such as the year's best annuals edited by David Hartwell and Gardner Dozois. Outside of science fiction, his output includes magazine articles, essays, science writing, brochures on home decorating, an educational comic book on vocational safety, and twenty years of classical music criticism. He lives in center city Philadelphia where he devotes himself to a continuous round of pleasures and entertainments.

Roman A. Ranieri is a native of Philadelphia, PA. In 1986, he finally took the literary plunge and began sending his work to various editors. Roman eventually became a frequent contributor to many small press magazines such as: *Cemetery Dance*, *Afraid*, *Horror*, and *Dead of Night*. His spectrum of work for these publications included; fiction, articles, interviews, and book/magazine/audio reviews. The appearance of "The Drifter" in *Cold Blood*, published in 1991, marked Roman's graduation into professional anthologies. Stories in *The Earth Strikes Back*, *Werewolves*, *Darkside*, *The Best of Cemetery Dance*, *Bad News*, and many others, have solidified his reputation as a talented writer of horror, science fiction, and dark suspense.

A struggling and yet-to-be published writer, **Ted Rickles** is currently at work, researching and writing a book examining the evolution of post-apocalyptic themes in SF television series. His credits include story/art development for an unpublished graphic novel sequel to Gene Roddenberry's *Genesis II* (1973) and

Planet Earth (1974). His book in progress integrates research on Roddenberry's television projects, including *Star Trek*, with the works of contemporary SF talents including Michael J. Straczynski and Joss Whedon. He has his M.A. in Sociology from Temple University and is currently employed in Sales and Marketing for a local Web Engineer. He is also a Resource and Affairs Coordinator in the United States for the Brazilian Studio, Impacto Quadrinhos, whose illustrators have been published by DC, Marvel, and numerous other comic book publishers.

Ray Ridenour, semi-local science fiction 'Personality', has been stalking the halls and scaring the horses since 1966. A professional artist, although not in the SF field as of yet, he produces computer graphics, inkblot-based paintings, and stained glass windows as well as work in other media. An amateur actor, he has appeared in two low-budget horror films, as well as many fannish and non-fannish stage productions. His two severed heads from his first movie have gone on to illustrious film careers in Japan. Moderately funny and quite often charming, he has appeared on many panels on many subjects over the years, unencumbered by expertise and anecdotes germane.

C.A. "Rock" Robertson II is an Electronic Engineer, DJ, Musician, heart attack survivor and all-around Technophile. A 20-year Philcon regular and current President of PSFS, he remains far ahead on experience points and hopes one day to have a job that doesn't require a top secret clearance.

Born in 1952, author-illustrator **Mark E. Rogers** is best known for the Samurai Cat books: *The Adventures of Samurai Cat*, *More Adventures of Samurai Cat*, *Samurai Cat in the Real World*, *The Sword of Samurai Cat*, and *Samurai Cat Goes to the Movies*. The sixth and final installment in the series, *Samurai Cat Goes to Hell*, was recently published by TOR. His other books include *The Dead*, a horror novel about the end of the world, and a number of books set in an alternate universe: *Zorachus*, its sequel *The Nightmare of God*, the Blood of the Lamb trilogy *The Expected One*, *The Devouring Void*, and *The Riddled Man*, and most recently, the Zancharthus trilogy, *Blood + Pearls*, *Jagutai* and *Lilitu*, and *Night of the Long Knives*. One of his novellas, "The Runestone," was made into a movie; and *The Dead* is presently under development as a feature film -- with a screenplay by Mark -- at KNB-FX. Mark's work has been adapted by Marvel comics, and has appeared on the cover of *Cricket Magazine*; he's published three art portfolios, and a collection of his pin-up paintings, *Nothing But A Smile*, from Xenophile Books. Mark lives in Newark, Delaware, with his wife Kate, a philosophy professor at the U of D, and their four lovely kids, Sophie, Jeanne, Patrick, and Nick.

Roberta Rogow has been involved in Fandom since 1973 as a Filker, Costumer, Fanzine writer and editor, and Artist (specializing in needlework). She writes historical mysteries; her most recent series is set in New York City in the Gilded Age. Roberta is now retired, after 37 years as a Children's Librarian in various municipalities in New Jersey.

Short version, according to **Suzanne Ros-**

in: "Because it's me." Longer Version: "For years I have been lurking on the outskirts of fandom. Then one day I blinked, said yes to a friend and suddenly just with the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society (PSFS) and Philcon, I found myself serving as President, Vice-President, Treasurer, One Year Director, Co-Chair Programming Committee, Vice-Chair of Philcon, Head of Information along with being active on the various committees of both organizations. I am also a Browncoat. Why do all this? Because it's me."

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, **James Daniel Ross** has been an actor, computer tech support operator, historic infotainment tour guide, armed self defense retailer, automotive petrol attendant, youth entertainment stock replacement specialist, mass market Italian chef, low priority courier, monthly printed media retailer, automotive industry miscellaneous task facilitator, and ditch digger. His credits include *The Radiation Angels Series*, and he has short stories in *Breach the Hull*, *So It Begins*, and *Bad Ass Faeries*. Most people are begging him to go back to ditch digging. He can be found wandering the convention, giggling madly, signing anything not nailed down.

Tony Ruggiero retired from the United States Navy in 2001 after twenty-three years of service. While continuing to write, Tony teaches at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. He written several novels in the "Declassified Files of the Team of Darkness" series, including *Operation Immortal Servitude*, *Operation Save the Innocent*, and *Operation Face the Fear*. Other novels include *Alien Deception* and its sequel, *Alien Revelation*. Tony is also a contributing author to *The Fantasy Writers' Companion*, *Writers for Relief*, *No Longer Dreams* and *Breach the Hull*. In addition, Tony has a humorous tale called "The Importance of Undergarments at Science Fiction Conventions," which will be appearing in the *Writers for Relief Anthology II*. Coming in 2010 from Dragon Moon Press, the fourth and final book in his vampire series: *Operation Endgame*. For more information, please visit www.tonyruggiero.com.

Mike Ryan has been a fan of science fiction ever since the age of six, having fond memories of watching episodes of *The Starlost* and *Star Trek* on TV. He was also one of those kids in late 70s and early 80s who rushed home to watch the latest episode of *Battle of the Planets*, *Star Blazers* and *Robotech*. Since then, he's expanded his love of the genre into gaming and is currently an active member of the Philadelphia Area Gaming Enthusiasts (PAGE) gaming club. In 1997, Mike discovered not only that those cartoons he loved as a child were "Japanese animation," but that there was a strong fan community for it. After attending the Japanese animation convention Otakon for the first time in 1997, Mike has since joined its staff and is currently a member of its Board of Directors. Naturally, he sees science fiction, gaming, and anime all as natural extensions of each other.

Kathy Sands had this to say about herself: "My uncles were both hard SF readers. Since neither of them collected, or even read the same book twice, wherever they finished a book, there it lay. By the time I moved away

from childrens' fantasy around fifth, I had a small library to indulge in, on the bookshelves of my own home. By the time I left home, I'd read out every library in the county, including the bookmobile HQ. In the mid-70's, I discovered conventions, filk, & media fanfiction, & extended my SF addiction to encompass them. To date, I've produced 4 media fanfiction zines and 2 filk CDs, with more of each in the works.

"I took over Tales from the White Hart, a science fiction bookstore in 1977, and ran it for 17 years, marrying Leo Sands, my favorite customer. Both of our kids grew up there, and

a new speculative fiction small press, Paper Golem, serving the niche of up-and-coming new writers as well as providing a market for novellas.

In 2007, he was nominated for the John W. Campbell Award for best new writer. He's published more than 50 stories in more than a dozen languages. His first novel, *Buffalito Destiny* was published last Spring, and a sequel is expected next May. He lives near Philadelphia with his wife, Valerie, who is neither a psychologist nor a Klingon speaker.

Eric Schulman is a Ph.D. astronomer, a member of the editorial board of *The Annals of*

Improbable Research, and the author of the 1999 science humor book *A Briefer History of Time*.

Darrell Schweitzer has been publishing fantastic fiction since the early 1970s. His books include three novels, *The White Isle*, *The Shattered Goddess*, and *The Mask of the Sorcerer*, plus seven short-story collections. His work, both fiction and non-fiction, has appeared in publications as varied as *Postscripts*, *Interzone*, *Realms Of Fantasy*, *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Washington Post*, and *Sci Fi Entertainment*. He is a respected critic, a regular contributor to *The New York Review of Science Fiction*, and is the author of books about H.P. Lovecraft and Lord Dunsany. He has been nominated for the World Fantasy Award three times, twice for Best Collection and once for Best Novella,

tus (all work and no pay makes Jack a poor prof.), coordinating its science mission and delivering hundreds of Dr. SETI (R) presentations since 1994. At college campuses, science centers, public lecture halls, and on television and radio, Dr. SETI's unique mix of science and song seeks to educate as well as entertain. He compels the listener to contemplate a fundamental question, which has haunted humankind since first we realized that the points of light in the night sky are other suns: Are We Alone?

Jed Shumsky has a Ph.D. in Neuropsychopharmacology, teaches Neuroscience to both medical and graduate students, and pursues an active research program. He studies recovery of function from spinal injury as well as models of attentional processing. A longtime F&SF fan, he remains amused and amazed by how much of his work has been predicted within the genre.

Brian Siano has written for the *Philadelphia City Paper*, *In These Times*, *The Skeptical Inquirer*, and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and for two years he was a Senior Editor at *The Humanist* magazine, writing the "Skeptical Eye" column. He currently makes videos with local community groups, and spends a lot of time working on his house. He likes woodworking, writing essays, design, reading, and movies, none of which makes him an expert on anything so he doesn't make a big deal about it. He also designed the Philcon publications this year. (briansiano.livejournal.com).

David Silverman is the National Spokesperson for American Atheists, the nation's premier nonprofit organization for nonreligious people. In this capacity Mr. Silverman has been a guest on such TV programs as *The O'Reilly Factor*, *Hannity and Colmes*, *Paula Zahn Now*, and *Fox and Friends*, and has published articles in the *New York Times* and *USA Today*, among others. He also authors the NoGodBlog (noGodBlog.com) and decides the winners of the American Atheists College Scholarships.

Hildy Silverman is the publisher and editor-in-chief of *Space and Time* magazine, a four-decade-old magazine of horror, fantasy, and science fiction. She is also a freelance writer and editor in the fiction, nonfiction, and corporate worlds. Hildy is a member of PSFS and the Garden State Horror Writers. For more information on *Space and Time*, please visit www.spaceandtimemagazine.com.

Jay Smith is a recovering filmmaker, chronic blogger and a man Harlan Ellison once called "a great scam-man liar or a born writer." Objective sources have yet to determine which is true. He is producer and writer for *HG World*, the serialized zombie audio drama available at www.goodmorningsurvivors.com. He is also a host and contributor to the online pop culture/speculative fiction podcast *The Chronic Rift* (www.chronicrift.com) and a member of "The Sleepwalkers" - a writing group that includes award-winning authors Frank Fradella, Jeff Strand, Elizabeth Donald and Kit Tunstall. In the meatverse, Jay has written three books, including the Blue Collar Gods series *Sertsu*, *Erisa*, *Melmoth*, and *Vathek* and the gaming novel *Rise of the Monkey Lord*. Jay married up and has four children, each of whom is being trained as a



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at conventions around the country & 2 other continents. Neither has yet run screaming into Mundania (our son was married at a con), so I guess we raised them right.

"Having spent 34 years in fandom, I hope to enjoy at least that many more."

Lawrence Schoen holds a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology, with a special focus in psycholinguistics. He spent ten years as a college professor, and has done extensive research in the areas of human memory and language. He currently works as the director of research and chief compliance officer for a series of mental health and addiction treatment facilities. He's also one of the world's foremost authorities on the Klingon language, having championed the exploration of this constructed tongue and lectured on this unique topic throughout the world. In addition, he's the publisher behind

and won it once as one of the editors of *Weird Tales* magazine, a position he between 1987 and 2006. He is also an anthologist, who has recently turned in *Cthulhu's Reign* (DAW, 2010, with Martin H. Greenberg). He lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with his wife, the fantasy writer Marilyn Mattie Brahen, and the requisite number of literary cats. He denies that he is best-known for having rhymed "Cthulhu" in a limerick.

Dr. SETI is the name of the blatant exhibitionist who inhabits the body of noted author and educator Dr. H. Paul Shuch. A cross between Tom Lehrer and Carl Sagan, it is said that Dr. SETI sings like Sagan and lectures like Lehrer. Armed with a laptop computer and an acoustical guitar, Dr. SETI serves the nonprofit, membership-supported SETI League as Executive Director Emeri-

horseman for the coming apocalypse.

Kristyn Souder could be considered an expert on the Massively Multiplayer Online Roleplaying Game (MMORPG) genre, having played more than 10 of them for at least a brief period of time (whether this is an accomplishment or not, of course, is up for debate). After the success of her OMG MMORPGS! panel at several local conventions, she is happy to take part in several panels at Philcon examining the genre as a whole, as well as her current addiction, EverQuest 2, in particular. When she isn't playing EverQuest, she acts as a staff member for another local convention - Zenkai-kon, and is an active member of the Delaware Anime Society. She also enjoys reading, watching anime, and designing websites.

Tim Souder is a long time fan of science fiction and anime. He has read all of the science fiction novels by Asimov and Clarke, and numerous other series. He has watched over a hundred anime series from the classics (such as *Space Battleship Yamato*, *Bubblegum Crisis*, *Cowboy Bebop*) to the modern (such as *Bleach*, *Darker than Black*, and *Ghost in the Shell: Standalone Complex*). In the real world, Tim has his Masters degree in Computer Science from Drexel University. He currently works as a software engineer at Lockheed Martin.

A professional writer since he was 16 years old, **Bill Spangler** has contributed to *Star Wars On Trial*, *Getting Lost* and *Farscape Forever*, all volumes in the Smart Pop series from BenBella Books. In addition, he had a novelette published in a pulp-tribute anthology called *Lance Star, Sky Ranger*. He also scripted the *Tom Corbett Space Cadet* limited series, now available from Bluewater Comics. Before that, he wrote comics for several independent publishers. His credits include original stories based on *Quantum Leap*, *Alien Nation*, and *Robotech*, as well as the original characters Bloodwing and the Argonauts. Bill and his wife Joyce live in Bucks County, where they provide 24-hour valet service for a dog and two ferrets.

Bud Sparhawk writes "hard" short SF stories. He has been a Nebula finalist three times, has appeared in two "Year's Best" anthologies, and has had two collections published. He had sold one novel, *Vixen*, and more than seventy short stories to print markets at home and abroad, as well as Internet webzines. More information may be obtained from his web site at: http://sff.net/people/bud_sparhawk.

Mary Spila is not your stereotypical, mild-mannered librarian. With interests in clothing/costuming and history, she is has definite penchant for Steampunk, and has been active for over 20 years in the Society for Creative Anachronism. She reads everything within visual range. Current favorites are mixed genre fiction, History, and anything else that catches her eye. She is relatively new to the Con scene, and this will be her debut as

a Philcon panelist.

Harold Stein is a computer tech in his day job, but usually can be found in either the art show (setting it up or tearing it down) at most east coast conventions or in the filk room recording the concerts and open filks. Harold was Techno Guest @ the 2009 East Coast Floating Filk convention - Concerino next June. Bio from the Concerino web page - Harold is an energetic figure at Northeastern conventions, recording concerts and open filks and getting people copies of their own performances. Harold's web page: <http://www.floatingfilk.com>

Luke Stelmazek is a graduate of duCret School of Art where he recieved a Commercial Art Certificate. He studied under guidance of

art and commissions as well as 2 comic book series.

Christopher Stout first appeared on the big screen over a decade ago at the Philcon premiere of *Learner's Permit to Kill*, the first in a series of low budget/high imagination James Bond spoofs made with his father. Since then, he's learned how to make movies with a budget larger than loose couch change, graduating with honors from the University of Southern California's prestigious film program. He's currently represented as a writer/director by Artist International and resides in Delaware where he's in various stages of development and production on several films and television shows.

Richard Stout premiered his trilogy of kid spy movies featuring James Blond, Agent Uh-Oh 7, at Philcon, beginning with 1993's *Learner's Permit to Kill*. His horror makeup/special FX workshop "Monsters, Aliens, and Spirit Gum" has been popular both here and at I-Con. He and his wife Kathryn run an educational publishing company, and while she is the brains of the operation, she allowed him to co-author *Movies As Literature*. After publishing more than 30 non-fiction pieces, Richard is currently shopping his first novel, *The Moonstone Arabesque*, and it is reported that the strange rumbling heard in Baltimore's Westminster Burying Ground is Edgar Allan Poe spinning in his grave.

Jim Stratton is a chameleon. By day, he is a mild-mannered government lawyer specializing in the field of child abuse prosecutions, and lives with his wife and children in southern Delaware. But he's been an avid fan of speculative fiction all his life, and began writing genre fiction 10+ years ago. In recent years he's been forging his dark alter ego of genre fiction author through publication of his tales in venues like *Dragons, Knights & Angels Magazine*, *Ennea* (published in Athens,

Greece) & *Nth Degree Magazine*. The appearance of his first foray into the world of poetry in *The Broadkill Review* is but another step in his master plan. He has danced into the light when his stories appeared in 2008 & 2009 in *Tower of Light Online Magazine*, *Big Pulp Ezine* and "Dead Souls" published by Morrigan Books is yet another step in his master plan. His final reveal, the novel *Loki's Gambit*, is under review for possible publication soon.

Jerome Stueart (Clarion San Diego 2007) has published science fiction and fantasy in *Fantasy*, *Metazen*, *Strange Horizons*, *On Spec* and two *Tesseract* anthologies, and forthcoming in the anthology, *Evolve*. His story, "Lemmings in the Third Year" was a runner up for the 2005 Fountain Award. Living

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book and magazine illustrator, Peter Caras, who was a student of Norman Rockwell, and fantasy illustrator Mark Romanoski, the assistant of Tim and Greg Hildebrant. After graduating, he continued his studies in fantasy illustration and digital illustration under supervision of fantasy illustrator William O'Connor. Shortly afterward, he landed his very first published assignments for the game card company, AEG Inc. for the game *Legends of the 5 Rings* which was published recently back in May 2008. While at duCret, Luke entered many art shows where he won several awards. His winning works were displayed at the Swain's Art Gallery in Plainfield, New Jersey. Right now, he is focusing on his fantasy illustrations, portraits, conventions, film

in the Yukon Territory of Canada, Jerome has helped start two science fiction and fantasy groups, one for adults and one for teens. He writes for magazines, written and produced several radio series for CBC North, and this last summer he worked for the Arctic Institute of North America at the Kluane Lake Research Station.

Michael Swanwick has received the Hugo Nebula, Theodore Sturgeon, and World Fantasy Awards. His work has been translated and published throughout the world. His novels include *Stations of the Tide*, *Jack Faust*, *The Iron Dragon's Daughter*, *Bones of the Earth* and *The Dragons of Babel*. He is currently at work on a novel featuring Postutopian con-men Darger and Surplus. Swanwick lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Marianne Porter.

Now (co-)running the Philcon Children's Program for the seventh year (see also: Deb Lieven), **Phillip Thorne** exercises his LEGO skills by constructing tiny replicas of intriguing fictional starships, and his organizational skills by fighting against household metastasis of other craft supplies. Interests include anime, computing, nanotechnology, photography, Trek, and a range of written SF. He's an active member of DelValUG and PennLUG, two nearby LEGO Users Groups. During the week he manages macroeconomic datasets at [Moody's Economy.com](http://Moody's.Economy.com), a vocation which nowadays makes Greg Costikyan's novel *First Contract* seem terrifyingly prescient.

Emily Tullis has been going to Cons since before she could say "No". She now lives in a one bedroom apartment with her husband and 37 cats all named after unused characters from the Silmarillion. Her personal philosophy is "Why listen when you can show off your knitting skills?" Recently committed to Byberry for her fruitless attempts at trying to better the fannish community through good graphic design, she is released once a year to attend Philcon. Her personal file reads "Mostly Harmless."

Michael A. Ventrella's second novel *The Axes of Evil*, the sequel to *Arch Enemies*, is due in March 2010. He is one of the founders of the New England Roleplaying Organization (NERO), the largest fantasy medieval live action game in America, and currently runs the The Alliance LARP (www.AllianceLARP.com). His guide books are available at gaming stores with good taste and through Amazon.com and other retailers. He is also an animation historian, and has been quoted in *Entertainment Weekly* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. He founded *Animato* magazine in the 80s before the animation boom. In his spare time he is a lawyer in the Poconos. He is married to artist Heidi Hooper.

An award-winning writer, film historian, critic, archivist, musicologist and poet, **Steve Vertlieb** has been writing about motion pictures and symphonic film music in a variety of books and magazines since 1969. He assisted in the preparation of Warner Bros. premiere DVD release of *King Kong* (1933), was interviewed by the prestigious Sci-Fantasy web site, *The Thunder Child*, appears on camera in the new documentary *Kreating Karloff*, has appeared as a guest speaker at The Philadelphia Art Museum, and both programmed and

appeared on stage at the sixtieth anniversary *King Kong* celebration at Chicago's Gateway Theater in conjunction with Turner Entertainment. His work has appeared in such publications as *The Monster Times*, *Home Viewer Magazine*, *L'Incroyable Cinema*, *Cinemacabre*, *Midnight Marquee*, *Penny Dreadful*, *Songs Of Innocence*, *Outer Darkness*, and *Scarlet Literary Magazine* and has been featured in such books as *The Girl in the Hairy Paw*, *King Kong Cometh*, *Dracula: The First Hundred Years*, *Cinematic Hauntings*, *Memories Of Hammer*, *My Memories of Mario Lanza*, and *The Man who Collected Psychos: Critical Essays on Robert Bloch* for McFarland Publishers. He wrote the liner notes for a commemorative booklet accompanying the world premiere CD recording of Miklos Rozsa's *The Private Life Of Sherlock Holmes*, and contributes regularly on line to *The Thunder Child*, *Red Hot Planet*, and *Film Music Review*.

Patricia Wake is a singing, songwriting, guitar playing, Sci-Fi/ Fantasy loving, ren-faire going, steampunk SCAdian goth chick fangirl. Patricia writes very serious songs (SRSLY) then presents them with irreverence and inappropriate laughter. Although her major musical influences include Leonard Cohen, P.J. Harvey, Kate Bush, Nick Cave, Tom Waits and Joni Mitchell, she is also influenced by way too much caffeine, crazy cat lady disorder, an obsession with speculative fiction, and a morbid fascination with the concept of entropy. She is frequently joined by violinist Megan Irvine. Patricia has released one diy demo EP, *I'll Have the Pathos With a Side of Angst*, and is currently working on a second release *The Science of Fiction*. She appears on *Wrapped in the Guise of My Friend*, a tribute to UK experimental music pioneers Attrition, and also on the upcoming cancer benefit compilation *Electronic Saviors: Industrial Music to Cure Cancer*. Of course, music doesn't pay the bills, so Patricia also creates costumery for her fellow chronically challenged clothing enthusiasts. You can hear her music at www.myspace.com/wakepatricia, friend her on www.facebook.com/patriciawake, and buy stuff from her at www.patriciawake.etsy.com

Michael J. Walsh once chaired a Worldcon. He considers himself lucky to have fallen down the rabbit hole called fandom.

David Walton is the author of the novel *Terminal Mind*, which won this year's Philip K. Dick Award, and the winner of the 2008 Baen Memorial Award for short fiction. He apologizes for destroying Philadelphia in his novel, although his own suburban home is safely outside the crater radius. He lives in Delaware County with his wife, five children (none of whom have reached double digits in age), and one gerbil. By day, he works for a large defense contractor on classified government programs, which not even the gerbil is allowed to know about. The rest of his time he spends storytelling, sword-fighting, tower-building, diaper-juggling, and otherwise taking care of his children. Since he doesn't actually have time to write, he's trained the gerbil to do it for him with a combination of Morse clicks on its drinking bottle and cleverly-arranged pellets. The gerbil has produced quite a few published short stories over the years, which have appeared in *Analog*, Baen's *Uni-*

verse, *Cosmos*, and elsewhere. You can find out more about them at www.davidwaltonfiction.com.

Vicki Warren is a costumer who in her day job calculates the risk of breaking nuclear plants and other fun scenarios. She has run local and worldcon level masquerades and competes in them when not running them.

E. F. Watkins specializes in paranormal suspense, and since 2003 has published five novels with Amber Quill Press LLC. Her first, *Dance with the Dragon*, received a 2004 EPPIE Award from the national organization EPIC (Electronically Published Internet Connection.) as Best Horror Novel. Next came the romantic mystery *Ride a Dancing Horse* (as "Eileen Watkins"). Her third book, *Black Flowers*, was a Finalist in the Thriller category for both the 2006 EPPIEs and the 2007 Indie Excellence Book Awards. Her other paranormal thrillers include *Paragon* and her latest, *Danu's Children*. F. Paul Wilson, best-selling author of *The Keep* and *The Select*, has said "E. F. Watkins is a writer to watch!" She is a member of the Garden State Horror Writers, Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America and Broad Universe. For more background, visit her web site at www.efwatkins.com.

Diane Weinstein was assistant editor and art director for *Weird Tales* magazine for about 15 years. She's also worked for Wildside Press and is currently the art editor for *Space & Time* magazine. She is also a well-known party person, having thrown parties for Phrolicon, Magicon, and assisted with Philcon SFWA parties back in the good old days.

Christopher Weuve is a wargame designer and naval analyst. After six years at the Center for Naval Analyses as a wargame designer and naval exercise analyst, he joined the research faculty of the US Naval War College in 2005, where he has focused on using wargaming as a research tool. He moderates several SF and wargaming mailing lists (inc. SFConsim-L, NavWarGames and Exordium-L), and spends his spare time pondering the differences between fictional and Real-World(tm) naval forces and combat. He also claims credit as the founder of the Society for the Conservation of Angular Momentum, although he admits that was an accident.

Drew Rhys White has stories in *Last Drink Bird Head*, the *Polluto* "Steampunk Orange" issue, and upcoming in the *Blood Fruit* and *Leonardo Variations* anthologies. His play, *Another Night with the Henriksens*, debuted at the Player's Theater in Greenwich Village last fall. Drew is a 2007 Clarion graduate and a fellow of the first Aspen Environmental Forum. He enjoys frot and black cherry wishniak. His blog is Tender Comrade (<http://tendercomrade.blogspot.com/>)

Dr. Jay L. Wile holds an earned Ph.D. from the University of Rochester in nuclear chemistry and a B.S. in chemistry from the same institution. He has taught at both the university and high school levels and has won several awards for excellence in teaching. He has also published more than 30 articles in nationally-recognized journals and has 9 books to his credit including *Reasonable Faith: The Scientific Case For Christianity*.

Jennifer Williams is an editor by day and a writer by night. She is currently doing an

internship at Cirlet Press and has two forthcoming anthologies as editor; *Like a Sacred Desire: Tales of Sex Magick* and *Like Myth Made Flesh*. Upcoming original work includes poetry in the collection *Vicious Verses and Reanimated Rhymes*, a print anthology by Coscom Entertainment, and a short story in *Women of the Bite: Lesbian Vampire Erotica* edited by Cecilia Tan and being published as a print anthology by Alyson Books later this year. She is an active member of the New England Horror Writers Association.

Alyce Wilson, a Philadelphia area freelance writer and editor, is the co-founder and editor of *Wild Violet* (wildviolet.net), an online literary quarterly. She has self-published a book of poems, *Picturebook of the Martyrs*, and an e-book, *Stay Out of the Bin! An Editor's Tips on Getting Published in Lit Mags*. She is in the midst of writing a non-fiction book, *My Wedding, My Way: Real Women, Real Weddings, Real Budgets*. More information can be found at her web site (<http://www.alycewilson.com>).

Amy Howard Wilson: "Born in Detroit on May 28, 1955, I was 'bit by the acting bug' in high school. I am a proud graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City - Class of '75. In need of experience with the 'business' side of show business, I went to work for a casting/talent payment agency; a composer of music for TV and Radio spots.

"In 1979, I was working in the front office of the Weist-Barron School For TV and Commercial Acting. A director was casting for the English dub of a new Japanese animated series, *Star Blazers*. I had the honor of being cast to dub the voice of Nova (Mori Yuki) for 'Season 1: The Quest For Iscandar' and 'Season 2: The Comet Empire.'

"In 1998, at Anime Weekend Atlanta, I met the man who would become my husband, David G. Wilson, III, a devotee of anime. We were married on October 14, 2000 and now have a beautiful home in Virginia with 5 fabulous felines.

"Since 2002, I've been recording and producing audio books for an Australian author and good friend, Wendy Laing. I've formed a family friendly, full service audio production company called Studio V.O.I.C.E. Projects include do-recording a book about a Vietnam vets personal experience with the author, and a joint venture with Writers Exchange E-Publishers. <http://www.writers-exchange.com>.

Nick Wolven attended Clarion 2007 in San Diego. His stories have appeared in *Asimov's Science Fiction* and *Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet*, among other publications. He lives in New York City.

Mark Wolverton's newest book is *A Life in Twilight: The Final Years of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, from St. Martin's Press. He is also the author of *The Depths of Space: The Story of the Pioneer Planetary Probes* and *The Science of Superman*. He writes about science, space, and history for various publications, including *Scientific American*, *Air & Space Smithsonian*, *Popular Mechanics*, and *American Heritage of Invention & Technology*. He has also worked with the NASA Ames History Project and Argonne National Laboratory. His SF stage and radio plays have been produced

nationwide, and his short fiction has appeared in the late lamented *Aboriginal SF* magazine. More information at www.markwolverton.com.

If there was ever a time in his life when **J. Andrew World** did not want to be an artist, neither he nor those who know him can recall it. From attending conventions since childhood to meeting Michael Whelan and seeing a Dave McKean exhibit at the Words and Pictures Museum, there has been a young lifetime's worth of inspiration to guide him on his chosen path. After earning a degree in commercial illustration from Cazenovia College, J. Andrew World has gone on to provide spot and cover illustrations for *Nth Degree*, design a cd cover and record label logo, create graphic designs for t-shirts, and in his spare time, get married and start a family. He hopes to continue establishing himself as an artist of

merit and to someday pass on his love of art to his daughter.

One of the few male writers at Changing Press, **Jonathan Wright** enjoys the challenge of writing erotica that appeals to women as well as men. He also enjoys creeping people out, as anyone who has read his stories will attest. He believes himself to be supremely cool, a fantasy which his patient wife and skeptical daughter do not seem to share. His latest non-PC endeavor *Shadows in the City* is now available.

As a graduate of the Art Institute of Philadelphia, **Wayne Zimmerman** is currently a periodic freelance artist and web writer, with a twenty year association with Philcon and PSFS.

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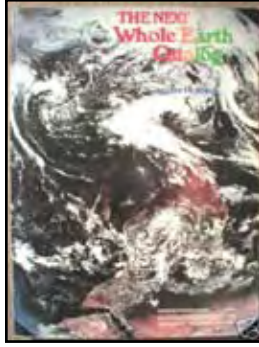
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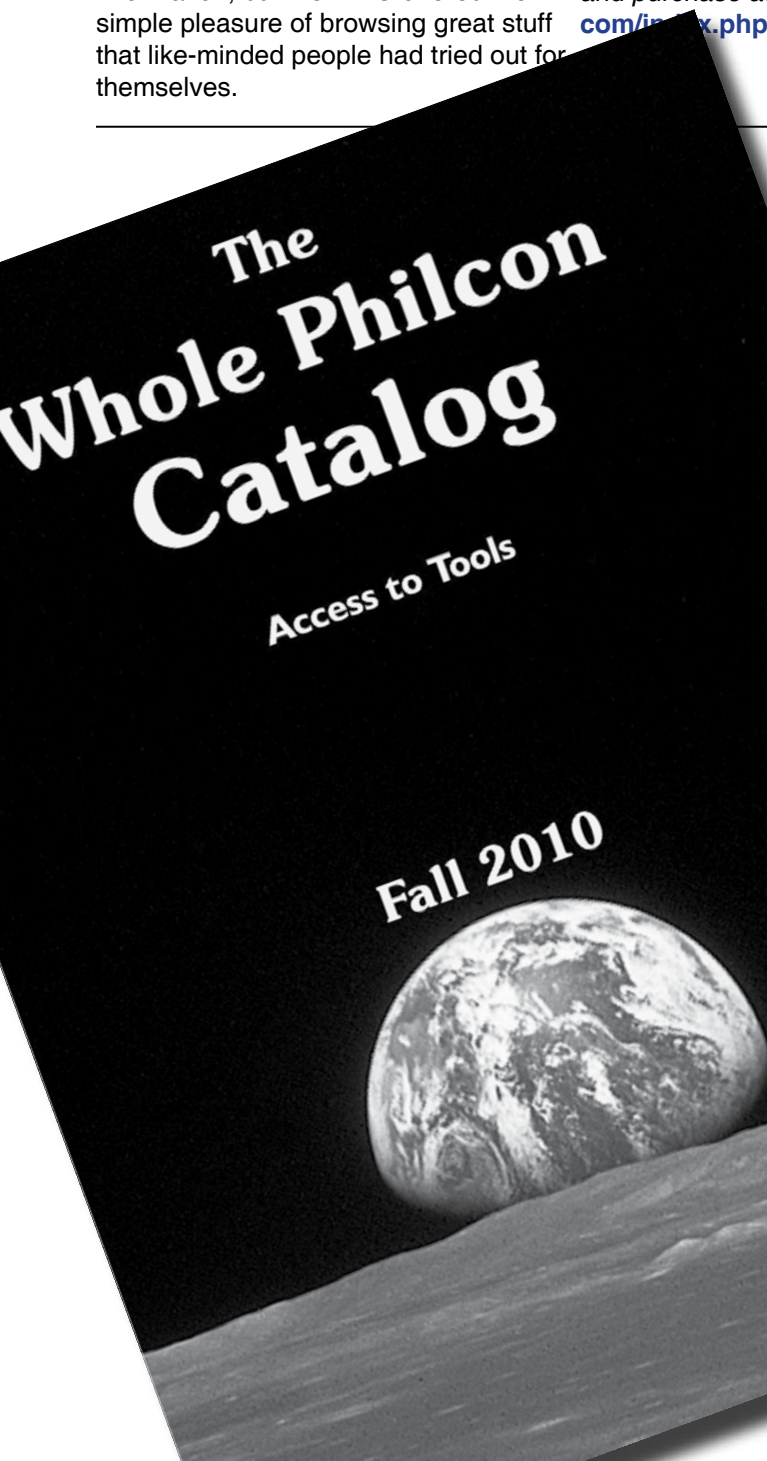
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