

# PSFS News

The Newsletter of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society

August 1998

*Our August Guest:*

## Leslie Fish

Leslie Fish is a published author, successful cat-breeder (breeding for intelligence), talented guitarist, long-time anarchist, and one of the best-known filk performers and composers in the genre. Possibly best known for the song she says she is least proud of ("Banned from Argo"), there is hardly a person in fandom who knows what the word "filk" means who hasn't heard of her. Her most influential song, the moving and inspirational "Hope Eyrie", is considered by many to be "the anthem of the fandom/pro-space movement." She will be performing at the August meeting.

Among her published song collections are the tapes *Skybound* (1982), *Solar Sailors*, *Chickasaw Mountain*, *Firestorm*, *It's Sister Jenny's Turn to Throw the Bomb* (1987), all produced by Off-Centaur, *Leslie Fish Live!* (1989, Firebird); more recently, *Our Fathers of Old*, her third Kipling tape, and *Serious Steel*, SCA-related songs, both with Joe Bethancourt and published by Random Factors, and *Leslie Fish - Not Canned or Frozen*, a collection of live recordings from various mid-80s conventions, published by Wail Songs.

For more in-depth details than can be printed here, see the source material for this introduction, "Excerpts from an autobiographical letter by Leslie Fish", ed. by Mary Creasey, at <http://www.prometheus-music.com/eli/fishltr.html>.

### Membership Status

*Note: Status Changes from inactive to general or general to active become effective after the meeting has adjourned.*

**First Timers:** Heather Kuhn, Mike Wenn

**New Members:** Tony Daniel

**Members at the July Meeting:** 41

(38 active, 3 general, 0 inactive)

**Non-members at the July Meeting:** 3

### Announcements

*Copies of any official PSFS correspondence should be sent to the Secretary for filing in the Society's official records.*

**Newsletter Submissions and Announcements** can be e-mailed to [rak@netaxs.com](mailto:rak@netaxs.com), mailed to the Society's P.O. Box or the Kabakjian's home address, or given to the Secretary or Rich K. in writing at the meetings.

**Dues Reminder** - to all Active and General members: Your dues were due April 1st. *even if you haven't been to any meetings this year.* If your dues are not paid you are now a Suspended member *and you can not vote at any meeting* until they are. If you are having severe financial difficulties, you can contact any Board member for special consideration. Check your Bylaws. If you need a copy, contact the Secretary by phone, e-mail, or pick one up at the Meeting.

**Art Group** - meets the first Saturday after the P.S.F.S. Meeting every month at 10 a.m. for 4 hours. Please help P.S.F.S. by supplying your own materials such as pencils, paper, and other art supplies. You can contact hosts Bridget Boyle or Barb Higgins for the specific supplies you'll need. Call (215) 423-2076 or e-mail at "[bridget@phillynet.com](mailto:bridget@phillynet.com)" or "[bridget@psfs.org](mailto:bridget@psfs.org)" for more information or directions..

**Camille Bacon-Smith** is presenting a monthly series of author readings, on the final Friday, at the CCC Gallery, at 10 N. 3rd St. in Philadelphia. Darrell Schweitzer is August's guest. See Bruce or Shelley for further information.

**Babylon 5** will be released on laser disk.

**Worldcon Site Vote** if you want to vote, but aren't going, make sure you get your ballot to someone who's going, like Todd. See Todd for more information. If you are going, but forgot to vote, take your ballot with you. They will accept them at con until Friday.

If you want to read *City on Fire* make sure you read *Metro-politan* first; you will enjoy both books better.

## Meeting Minutes

These are the minutes of the General meeting held on July 10th, 1998, at International House. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 pm.

**Proxies:** none.

**Corrections to the Minutes:** In the One Year Director's report - it's not "the 4th Friday thing that we're doing" it should be "the final Friday thing" and it's not "our" thing. Carol said the phrase was taken directly from the tape and she believed that Oz was speaking about himself and Camille Bacon-Smith, not the Society. The change to \$2001 was Bridget's suggestion (*but Tim B. made the actual motion to amend. CK*). Tim B. moved, John D. second, to approve the minutes as corrected. Passed many to 1.

### Officers' Reports:

**President:** Tina said, "Hi y'all." She thanked Bell Atlantic for giving her two phone lines so she now has a working computer when she answers the phone.

**Vice President:** No report.

**Secretary:** Carol said the SEPTA strike is over.

**Reminders to the members:** 1) Please sign in the book or it doesn't count toward your membership determination. The book is on the Treasurer's table from before the meeting starts until it's declared closed after the guest speaker is done. 2) If you've got an announcement, meeting, or special event you want listed in the newsletter please give me the information *in writing*. If I don't receive the information in written form I won't guarantee that your notice will be listed (*accurately if at all*) in the Newsletter. You can e-mail me at rak@netaxs.com, come to the meeting and give the information to me or to Rich (at the Treasurer's table), or snail mail it to the P.O. Box or my home address (in the Society's Directory).

**Treasurer:** Gary said, "Hello."

**2 Year Director (Tony):** said, "Our President turned 34 this past Wednesday."

**2 Year Director (Shelley):** No report.

**1 Year Director (Oz):** Not here, but Tim gave his report. Jack Baltadonis is very ill. He's in the Delaware County Hospital; being treated for cancer and prospects are not very good. Check with Tim B. for more information.

**Special Order of Business:** none.

### Committee Reports:

**Programming:** (*See Announcements for list of Speakers.*)

**Space Sciences:** Hank Smith has a list of events to be held in the near future. Please see him for details.

**Short Story Contest:** Lew announced that they're ready to

do the mailing for this year's contest. We're going to expand by sending to the parochial and private schools in Philly as well as the public schools. Lew requested increasing their budget by \$85 for the printing, envelopes, and mailing. Passed unanimously.

**Publicity:** Shelley has no flyers for distribution, until we get more information on the August guest. She will make them up and send them out as soon as she knows. She is planning more advertising.

**Special Events:** *Day at the Beach:* location; the Bohemia Bay Marina, in Maryland, near Elkton, about 1 1/2 hours drive from NE Philadelphia down 95. Shelley has a sign-up sheet and directions. The picnic is open to members and non-members. You will be asked to help defray the costs of the function room.

**Cook Book:** Carol said we're still collecting recipes. If we get enough recipes we will publish.

**No Fund:** John Desmond said there's bags of stuff to take.

**Book Discussion:** *August's* book will be *Jergin* by James Cavvel, Sunday, Aug 16, 2pm, at Lee & Diane Weinstein's. *September's* book will be *Coffee Man* by Terry Bison. Call Oz at (215) 563-7538 for more info. (*Book and author names were taken from the tape and may not be correct. CK*)

**Philcon programming:** they had three meetings this month and have come up with 70 program topics which have been submitted to the program participants.

**Old Business:** none.

### New Business:

**Motion:** There is a college professor in Russia (*see Lew for name, etc. CK*) who teaches courses on American science fiction and fantasy, unfortunately he doesn't have a budget for books. He sent a letter to DeepSouthCon where Lew got the information. Lew requested that we appropriate up to \$150 to buy 10 copies of *The Year's Best Science Fiction* and mail it to him. The professor asked for books. Lew felt that sending multiple copies of one book would allow more of his students to read it in class. (*I think he forgot that it's for a college and they probably don't do "read alongs". CK*) Tim recommended that we increase the budget amount to \$200 to cover shipping. Gary, as Treasurer, felt that we shouldn't be spending so much on something like this, that we should cap the amount at \$100 including shipping. Kirsten thought we were seriously underestimating the cost of shipping overseas. Gary moved, Bill second, to postpone (read Table) to the September meeting with direction that Lew find out what the shipping costs will be. Passed many to few.

**Motion:** P.S.F.S. member Paul Herkart passed away recently. Gary moved, several second, to donate \$50 as directed by the President once we figure out the appropriate place to put it. Passed many to one.

**Web Stuff:** Tony requested he be allowed with our Techno Person to set up a society listserve. Everyone who subscribes to it would automatically receive any e-mail sent to

the listserve, but they would be protected from "spam". It would be done free. It was suggested that we moderate subscriptions. Tony asked for a straw poll. He found that there was enough interest to continue with it.

**T-Shirts:** Tony said he would like to see an official Society t-shirt. Many of the members agreed. **Motion:** Gary moved, second, to create a P.S.F.S. T-shirt committee to look into the matter and report at a future meeting. Tina created the committee (*no motion was actually needed*) and named Tony as chair.

**Motion:** Gary moved, Tim B. second, to extend business by 5 minutes. Passed.

**Book Donations:** Kirsten felt that collecting book for donation was a good cause and we should have a permanent box to collect them in. Kirsten said she could store the box in her home and bring it with her to meetings, but couldn't be responsible for dispersal. **Motion:** Tim B. moved, Lew second, to create a Book Collection Committee. Withdrawn. Instead, Tina decided to create a Book Collection Committee with Kirsten as chair.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30ish pm.

### Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	Tina Blanco.....	(215) 744-6045
<b>Vice President</b>	Tim Binder.....	(215) 634-8730
<b>Secretary</b>	Carol Kabakjian.....	(610) 623-1139
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gary Feldbaum.....	(215) 673-4044
<b>2 Year Director</b>	Tony Finan.....	(215) 744-6045
<b>2 Year Director</b>	Shelley Handen.....	(610) 642-6061
<b>1 Year Director</b>	Oz Fontecchio.....	(215) 563-7538

*Questions? Comments? Contact any Board Member at the above numbers.*

*To send e-mail to the board, write to [bored@cyber.com](mailto:bored@cyber.com)*

### PSFS News

PSFS News is the Newsletter and Corporate Minutes of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, published monthly as a benefit of membership. It is available free to Active and General Members of the Society, and to any SF club or organization wishing to trade newsletters. Non-members or Inactive Members may subscribe at an annual cost of \$10/year.

PSFS News welcomes submissions, and is seeking to expand. Anyone wishing to contribute articles (book or movie reviews, discussion group or convention reports, announcements, etc.) is encouraged to do so. We prefer that articles be e-mailed (send to [rak@netaxs.com](mailto:rak@netaxs.com)), but they may be mailed if necessary to the P.O. Box. Deadline is two weeks before the next general meeting.

PSFS News is produced on a Macintosh using ClarisWorks 4.0, and is printed on a DeskWriter 320. Emailed articles may be either submitted as plain text, or as attached ClarisWorks files (use macbinary or binhex if available). Other file formats may be possible. Artwork or photos are also welcome in any Mac graphics format, or we can scan originals if mailed to us.

PSFS News Editor & Publisher: Rich Kabakjian. Secretary: Carol Kabakjian. Regular contributors: Henry Lazarus, Lee Weinstein. Missing in action: Tasha Kelly. All contents © 1998 by The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the individual contributors.

## Board Meeting Minutes

These are the minutes of the PSFS Board meeting held on July 20th, 1998, at Shelley & Bruce's home. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 pm.

**Board members present:** Tina, Tim, Carol, Gary, Tony, Shelley, and Oz.

**Others present:** Bruce B., Becky J., and Rich K.

**Corrections to the minutes:** Treasurer was present.

### Officers' Reports

**President:** said, "Hi." "I have a job."

**Vice President:** (*We had to wake him up to give his report.*) His office is moving.

**Secretary:** Her office is closing.

**Treasurer:** We dropped off the deposit check to the hotel.

**Two Year Director (Tony):** It's summer. It sucks.

**Two Year Director (Shelley):** People who showed up at the picnic on Saturday had a good time.

**One Year Director (Oz):** No report.

### Committee Reports: none.

**Programming:** they are currently working out the conflict of who will be our March guest. Gary requested authorization to reserve the room (through June) at International House. Oz said the Society has to do that, but he (and the other Board Members) didn't think there would be a problem.

**Old Business:** none.

**New Business:** none.

**Philcon Hotel:** the management at the hotel has asked us for a deposit. It has been normal for us to give them one, but we usually don't do it this early in the year. We gave them the money and then Pete got a letter from them. Gary has not actually seen the letter, but he will get it from Pete and give the Secretary a copy for her records. Gary will get things straightened out. If the hotel insists on another check Gary will make sure they get one.

Adjourned at 8:40 pm.

See Meeting Notices for details on the next Board meeting.

## Philcon '98 Committee

(Known as of June 29, 1998)

Chairman..... Tony Finan  
 Vice-Chair..... Laura Paskman Syms  
 Vice-Chair..... Todd Dashoff  
 Secretary..... Carol Kabakjian  
 Treasurer..... Gary Feldbaum  
 Chair's Bodyguard..... Keith Frye

### Administration Division ..... Laura Paskman Syms

ASFA Liaison..... Bob Walters  
 Gopher Recruitment/Personnel..... Ed Rutkowski  
 Hotel Liaison..... Laura Paskman Syms  
 Information..... Sara Paul  
 Logistics..... Bob Schwier  
 Operations/Security..... Todd Dashoff  
 Quartermaster..... David Brill  
 Registration..... Rich Kabakjian  
 SFFWA Liaison..... Darrell Schweitzer  
 Signs..... Wayne Rector  
 Transportation..... Tina Blanco

### Programming Division ..... Oz Fontecchio

A.V. Coordinator..... Tim Kahler  
 Art Programming/Workshop..... Rick & Wendy Frane  
 Costumers' Programming..... Vicki Warren  
 Filking/Filk Programming/Song Contest..... Crystal Paul  
 Green Room..... Rosemarie Freeman  
 Main Programming..... Oz Fontecchio, Darrell Schweitzer  
 Main Programming Secretary..... Mattie Brahen  
 Meet the Pros Party..... Becky Jollensten  
 Party Dance..... Tim Binder  
 Programming Ops..... Shelley Handen, Bruce Bloom  
 Publications..... Tim Kahler  
 Science Programming..... Hank Smith  
 Writers' Workshop..... Darrell Schweitzer

### Fixed Functions Division ..... John Syms

Art Show..... Joni Dashoff  
 Babysitting..... Winona Whyte-Schwier  
 Computer Room..... Avi Freedman  
 Con Suite..... Carol Kabakjian  
 Dealers' Room..... Devra Langsam  
 Dealers' Room Security..... Mitch Marmel  
 Den..... Cynthia Moreno  
 Exhibitions..... Ira Kaplowitz  
 Gaming Room..... Becky Kaplowitz  
 L.A.R.P. Liaison..... Leslie Danneberger  
 Masquerade Co-Ordinator..... Vicki Warren  
 Masquerade Tech..... Alex Latzko  
 Media Operations (Film, Video)..... Tony Finan  
 Media Operations (Anime)..... Greg Ventura  
 P.S.F.S. Sales..... Ric Ivey  
 Philcon TV 1..... ?  
 Publicity/Media/Press Relations..... Larisa Bekerman

## 1998 Philcon Budget

as of July 1998

Art Show		Masquerade Video	600
Awards	25	Media Ops (Films/Vi	1,900
Equipment	800	Miscellaneous	
Mailing	800	Operations	95
Phone	75	Beepers	300
Reception	2,500	Insurance	0
Triplicate Forms	150	Nursing Supplies	0
Set-up	150	Phones	130
Babysitting		Functions	
Supplies	130	Meet the Pros	500
Room	490	Pre-con events	450
Con Suite	2,300	PhilconTV	600
Contingency	500	Programming	
Dealers Room		Mailings	200
Mailing	600	A.V. Coordinator	3,200
Surcharge	850	Workshops	
Electricity	100	Artists	25
Den	600	Costume	25
Exhibitions	125	Writers	10
Filking		Science Prog.	25
Filkers Coffee	395	Filk Prog.	
Filk Contest	50	Childrens Prog.	50
Gaming Room	75	Programming Ops	200
Gopher	200	Easels	
Green Room		Publications	
Food	350	Advertising	100
Coffee Set-up	1,050	Flyers	1,500
Guest Bar (drink chit:	600	Pocket Program	1,600
Guests of Honor		Program Book	4,500
Transportation	5,500	Web Page free	
Food	1,100	Publicity/Media Rel.	1,200
WAM	800	Registration	
Hotel Liaison		Badges	300
Curtains	350	Postage	1,000
L Room Exp. (non-	375	Ribbons	300
Rental (Func. Spac	11,000	Supplies	100
Security	720	Secretary	10
Tips	1,200	SFWA/ASFA	1,888
Information	50	Signs	150
Gaming Liaison	50	T-Shirts	
Logistics	600	Transportation	40
Masquerade	1,200	Treasury	300
Masq. Ribbon Awa	300	Administration Divisi	25
		<b>TOTAL (so far)</b>	<b>57,483</b>



## Books for August

by Henry Leon Lazarus

I have to apologize this month. I am only reporting on a few new novels. The problem was that too many of those that arrived hit the wall before being finished. However, like cream rising to the top, the few that remain are so good, I expect a number of them will become award nominees.

James Michener would have done *Antarctica* (Hard from Bantam) as a historical, putting fake characters on Scott's and Admudsen's famous expeditions; Kim Stanley Robinson puts the tale of Earth's harshest continent in the near future when the treaties are running out. He has high tech tourists being guided over some of those routes, eco-terrorists, and even a Senator's aide investigating the continent. Mr. Robinson visited there a few years ago, and his love of this frigid place and the small community living there comes through. This is a book to lend to non-science fiction readers in the hope they will follow this to his award winning Mars series.



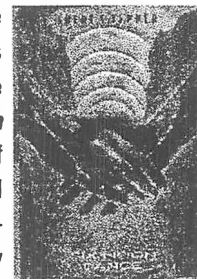
For sheer cold, of course, you can't beat suspended animation. Sean McMullen imagines that suspended animation is simple enough that the Etruscans could have invented it and were the real power behind the Roman Empire. Some of their drug was stolen and a Roman manages to sleep to the near future. Stopping at the eighth century to help Alfred the Great, and the fourteenth to find a new resting place he finds that the English village set to watch over him as created *The Centurion's Empire* (hard from TOR), an economic powerhouse that he is the key to controlling. This prompts a hunt for him through a future with mind-bending tools, deadlier than anything he has faced before.

The most original fantasy I've come across in quite a while is *The Rune Lords* (hard from TOR). In David Farland's world, a man with the sight of three is caring for two blind men who have given him their sight through runes. The best scene is where two enhanced metabolic warriors fight, each moving twenty times faster than their environment. Not as original, but still fun is Kate Forsyth's tale of the *Witches of Eileanan* (paper from ROC). In this first of a trilogy, Ms. Forsyth borrows heavily, and enjoyably, from fairy tales, telling of an evil queen who has banished all the good witches, destroyed their towers, and ensorled the King. The heroines are twin red heads who have never met. Ms. Forsyth makes you care about her characters. I am eager for the next volume.



In her best novel yet, Sheri S. Tepper tells of a human settlement on a volcanic planet, a Questioner, a bionic construct with three brains who decides the fate of worlds, and a collection of very odd al-

iens. Ms. Tepper has a very odd voice that I have come to enjoy a lot. Her musings on the differences between the genders make sense and add to the enjoyment. (Incidentally, the title is *Six Moon Dance*. -ed.) I also enjoyed the second quarter of Tad Williams's *Otherland*. *River of Blue Fire* (hard from DAW) takes the characters from our near future deeper into this virtual world from which they cannot escape (their bodies asleep in the real world). They are finding ways to control their environment as it comes closer to crashing and killing them with it. When finished, this promises to be a major work but I wouldn't start it unless I was prepared to live the six years till the final volume appears.



David Drake, in his best and most fun novel ever, *With the Lightnings* (hard from Baen) leaves a naval lieutenant and a librarian to fight their enemy's empire, when the baddies try to take over the capitol world of a neutral trading empire. I especially liked the pocket sized rail gun (remember the weapons from the movie Eraser). I'd love to see a sequel.

Jerry Jay Carol tackles aliens, *Inhuman Beings* (trade from ACE) trying take over the world with a retired cop, private detective on the beat. It's fun, over the top, and very exciting. I read it in one sitting. Sean Russell concludes his tale of the end of magic in *The Compass of the Soul* (hard from DAW). I think he is writing a trilogy of duologies backward, and I was glad to see some magic finally employed. A lot of things from his *Moon Tide* and *Magic Rise* (two paper backs from DAW) are finally explained.

I missed the hardcover of Joel Rosenberg's *The Silver Stone* (paper from Avon) which takes the hero's from our world back through the gates into a fantasy world where they go on a mission for Odin to stop a war. Nothing is what it seems and the ending was quite surprising. Even though I'm quite tired of people from our world going into fantasy ones, Joel makes the concept work again.

Collections include: Fred Saberhagen's early tales of his Berserkers, *Berserkers: Beginning* (paper from Baen); David Drake's *Hammer's Slammers* tales, *Caught in the Crossfire* (paper from Baen); *The Immortals*, classic tales collected by Jack Dann and Gardner Dozois (paper from ACE); *Camelot Fantastic*, new stories edited by Lawrence Schimel and Martin Henry Greenberg (paper from DAW); and Tad Williams's *Mirror World* (hard from Harper Prism), stories based a world he created.

Paperback reprints include: Dan Simmon's excellent conclusion of his award winning series, *The Rise of Endymion* (Bantam Spectra); Neil Gaiman's odd walk through a fantastic side of London, *Neverwhere* (Avon); James Herbert's near horror tale of an alternate past, a plague emptied *London in '48* (Harper Prism); and C. J. Cherry's tale of war's end in the far future and the trading ship *Finity's End* (DAW) making the first trading voyage.



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PO Box 3566  
New York, NY 10008-3566

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## Meeting Notices

### General Meetings

Unless otherwise specified, General Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month in the South America Room at International House, 37th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Business meeting starts at 8 pm. Program starts at 9 pm.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Guest/Agenda</u>
August 14, 1998	Leslie Fish
September 11, 1998	Alan Steele
October 9, 1998	(unscheduled)
November 13, 1998	Philcon
December 11, 1998	Stephen Youll
January 8, 1999	Annual Meeting
February 12, 1999	Robert Sawyer
March 12, 1999	(unscheduled)
April 9, 1999	Jack McDevitt

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host/Location</u>
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### Board of Directors

Mon., Aug. 24, 1998, 8:00 pm	Oz Fontecchio, Sterling Building, 1815 JFK Blvd. #1708, Philadelphia; (215) 563-7538
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### Philcon '98 Meeting

Sun., Aug. 23, 1998, 1:00 pm	Todd & Joni Dashoff, 830 Barlow St, Philadelphia; (215) 676-4194
Sun., Sept. 13, 1998, 1:00 pm	Rich & Carol Kabakjian, 17 Lewis Ave., East Lansdowne, PA; (610) 623-1130

## About the Society

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society (PSFS) is a non-profit organization that meets monthly to discuss and promote science fiction and fantasy in literature, the arts, and popular culture. Meetings are held the second Friday of each month at International House, 37th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia. Meetings consist of business proceedings from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., followed by a guest speaker involved in some area of Science Fiction or Fantasy, such as writers, editors, artists, publishers, etc.

In addition, PSFS sponsors an annual science fiction conference, Philcon, and has many special interest subgroups; such as the Book Discussion Group, which meets monthly to discuss a work of science fiction or fantasy; and the Special Events Group, which attends science fiction and fantasy movies and other events.

Membership in the society is open to everyone. Becoming a member is easy. Attend your first meeting; we'll say "Hello." At your second meeting, you can nominate yourself for membership or ask someone else to nominate you. At the next meeting you attend following your nomination, you're eligible to be voted in as a General Member. Our current dues are \$15 for a full year (\$24 for couples), and attendance at 4 meetings each year maintains the status of Active Member.