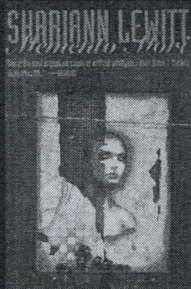
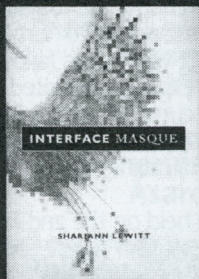




# PSFS NEWS

The Newsletter of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society

SCIENCE FICTION ■ FANTASY ■ HORROR



## REBEL SUTRA

SHARIANN LEWITT

Our Guest for September 12th, 2003:

## SHARIANN LEWITT

Science Fiction Author

### SHARIANN LEWITT

Shariann Lewitt wrote her first novel as her procrastination project while doing her thesis at the Yale School of Drama. The thesis got her a degree—the book got published. After much hard consideration, she gave up great promise of a career culturing penicillin in her 'fridge for the insecurity of the writing life. Which is good since there is now someone who cleans the 'fridge...

With an undergrad degree in genetics, she is interested in biocomputing, genetic engineering and mathematical ideas. (Evolutionary genetics means lots more nice clean math classes and breathing a whole lot fewer noxious gasses.) She was never an English major. Ever. At any time.

Her published work include ten novels (from Tor and Ace) under her own name or the name S.N. Lewitt, four young adult novels, and one thing that will go nameless. About forty of her short stories have appeared mostly in anthologies. Although known as a writer of hard sf, she is now trying to move more towards fantasy/magical realism.

Whenever she runs out of travel money,

Shariann unpacks her bags in Boston. Besides travel, her non-writing time is spent terrifying undergraduates at MIT, bellydancing, losing her hearing at goth clubs, and other generally reprehensible and socially unredeeming pursuits.



## ABOUT PSFS NEWS

**PSFS NEWS** is the newsletter and corporate minutes of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, published monthly as a benefit of membership.

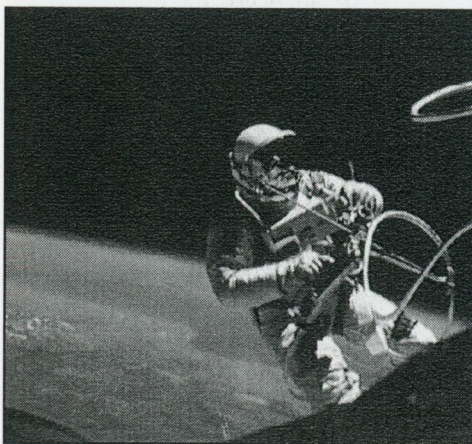
**SUBMISSIONS** to PSFS News are welcome, in our quest for world domination. Anyone wishing to contribute articles (book or movie reviews, discussion group or convention reports, announcements, etc.) is encouraged to do so. Articles can be e-mailed (secretary@psfs.org) but they may be mailed, if necessary, to the PSFS PO Box. Deadline is two weeks before the next general meeting. E-mailed articles may be sent in nearly any format, but text or HTML formats are preferred. Artwork, Sketches, Comics, or Photos are also welcome in any graphics format, or we can scan originals if mailed to us (originals will not be returned).

**SCIFI-OGRAPIHIES SUBMISSIONS** are open to any member who would like to send us approximately 300 words about themselves, and their relationship with science fiction. Submissions will be published based on available space.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** - PSFS News is available free to active and general members of PSFS, and to any Science Fiction Club or organization wishing to trade newsletters. Non-members or inactive members may subscribe at an annual cost of \$15/year.

**PSFS NEWS** is published by the PSFS Secretary (Nathan E. Lilly) of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society.

**CONTRIBUTORS** (in order of submission received): Henry Leon Lazarus, Nathan Lilly, Darrell Schweitzer, Saul Snitkin, Lee Weinstein.



## ABOUT THE SOCIETY

**THE PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY** is a non-profit organization that meets to discuss and promote science fiction and fantasy in literature, the arts, and popular culture.

**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 \$24 for a full year (\$40 for couples). Attendance of 4 meetings each year maintains the status of Active Member.

**GENERAL MEETINGS** are held on the 2nd Friday of each month and feature a guest speaker involved in some area of Science Fiction or Fantasy, such as writers, editors, artists, etc. See *Meeting Notices* for more information.

**SPONSORED EVENTS**, such as *The Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference* (AKA *PhilCon*), are held throughout the year.

**OTHER SPECIAL INTEREST EVENTS**, are also sponsored by the society, 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.

**COPIES OF THE BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES** can be made available to all Society Members by asking the Secretary.

## CONTACTING THE SOCIETY

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Contact boardmembers by phone (or send e-mail to board@psfs.org).

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Suzanne Rosin	(610)667-5248
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Hugh Casey	(215)674-8047*
<b>SECRETARY</b> Nathan Lilly	(215)439-8690
<b>TREASURER</b> Jeff Linder	(856)983-3074
<b>2 YEAR DIRECTOR</b> Debra Ruh	(215)739-9045
<b>2 YEAR DIRECTOR</b> Tim Binder	(610)352-9131
<b>1 YEAR DIRECTOR</b> Saul Snitkin	(215)745-3765

\*no calls after 9p.m.

**CALL THE PSFS HOTLINE:** (877) 656-3914 for PSFS Meeting Information, to leave messages, and to receive last minute meeting cancellations.

**TO JOIN THE PSFS LISTSERVES** and receive PSFS related news via e-mail, send an e-mail to 'announce-on@psfs.org'. To subscribe to PSFS-Talk (general PSFS discussions), the address is 'psfs-talk-on@psfs.org'.

## MEETING NOTICES

September 12th, 2003

**Shariann Lewitt**

*Author of Rebel Sutra, Interface Masque, and Memento Mori*

September 18th, 2003

**Board Meeting**

*To discuss society topics. Contact board@psfs.org for time & location*

October 17th, 2003

**Gregory Frost**

*Author of Fitcher's Brides, Crimson Spear, and The Pure Cold Light*

November 14th, 2003

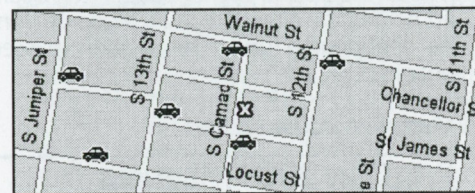
**Catherine Asaro**

*Author of Rebel Sutra, Interface Masque, and Memento Mori*

December 12th-14th, 2003

**PhilCon 2003**

*The Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference at the Marriott Hotel*



Unless otherwise specified, General Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month at The Franklin Inn Club, located at 205 South Camac Street - the northeast corner of the intersection of Camac and St. James Streets, which is just north and east of the intersection of Locust and 13th Streets, in Center City Philadelphia. Business meeting starts at 8:00 pm. Program starts at 9 pm. Meeting dates may be changed by the Society when necessary.

## NEWS

For current information and announcements about PSFS visit [www.psfs.org](http://www.psfs.org)

**COPIES OF ALL 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 secretary@psfs.org, mailed to the Society's P.O. Box, or given to the Secretary in writing at the meetings. To have your announcements, events, articles, etc. published accurately you must give the secretary the information in writing (or e-mail).

**PRYDONIANS OF PRINCETON** meet once a month at the Mercer County Library, Lawrenceville, NJ. Contact: Prydonians@aol.com or visit [www.prydonians.org](http://www.prydonians.org).

**PAGE (PHILADELPHIA AREA GAMING ENTHUSIASTS)** meet every Sunday night at the Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square. Meetings start at 6 pm and run till 10-10:30. They do role-playing, board

gaming, historical (a bit of everything). Everyone's welcome. For more information visit [www.philagamers.org](http://www.philagamers.org)

**BARNES & NOBLE IN BRYN MAWR** has a Science Fiction Discussion group that meets the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 7:30pm.

**THE LOST HIGHWAYS ART GALLERY** Radebaugh Opening is an exhibition in Old City, showing the rediscovered works of the mid-20th century futurist illustrator, A. C. Radebaugh. Visit [www.losthighways.org](http://www.losthighways.org) for more information.

**THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA GAMING SOCIETY** is sponsoring Game Club Saturday at the Oxford Valley Mall-Community Room (upper level behind Zales), for anyone interested in playing board games, strategy games, military simulations, railroad games, economic games, or family games. For additional information visit [www.epgs.org](http://www.epgs.org)

**THE FRANKLIN INN CLUB** offers dinner to interested members before the regularly scheduled PSFS meetings at about 6:30, \$15 for appetizer to dessert \$8-\$10 if you just want dinner and dessert. Contact Jenna Lynn for details.

## NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Nominations for position of 2 Year Director that was left vacant as of July 18th, 2003 will be taken at the September 12th, 2003 PS.F.S. General meeting.

**PER THE BYLAWS:** "Only active members of the age of majority are eligible to be elected as Officers and Directors at Large."

Nominations may also be sent to the Secretary in writing. Written nominations must be signed by an active member, must be seconded in writing by an Active member, and include written consent of the nominee.

**PER THE BYLAWS:** "No nomination shall be accepted unless the person nominated is present at the meeting at which the nomination is submitted or that person's written consent to be nominated for that office is filed with the Secretary of the Society."

All nominations must be seconded. Elections will be held at the August 8th, 2003 meeting or (if for some reason the elections can't be held at that time) at the next General Meeting held. **[NOTE: The August 8th meeting did not have sufficient number of members present to elect an officer]**

**POSITION AVAILABLE:** A Director at Large to serve a two year term.



## MEMBERSHIP STATUS

for August 8th, 2003

First Timers: 2 Nominees: 1

New Members: 0

Members: 32 (31 active, 1 general, 0 inactive)

\*Status changes are effective after meeting adjourns.

## GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the PhilCon 2003 Meeting held on August 8th, 2003 will be reported in next month's newsletter.

## BOARD MEETING

These are the minutes of the Board Meeting held on August 14th, 2003 at Suite 1312. The meeting was called to order at 8:28PM-ish.

PROXIES: none.

CORRECTIONS TO MINUTES: none.

ATTENDING: Tim Binder, Hugh Casey, Nathan Lilly, Jeff Linder (by phone), Suzanne Rosin, Saul Snitkin (by phone). Others Present: Oz Fontecchio, Hank Smith.

## BOARD REPORTS

PRESIDENT (SUZANNE): no report.

VICE PRESIDENT (HUGH): no report.

SECRETARY (NATHAN): no report.

TREASURER (JEFF): no report.

2 YEAR DIRECTOR (TIM): no report.

1 YEAR DIRECTOR (SAUL): no report.

## BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS:

PSFS DOOMESDAY: Suzanne is interested in assembling a list of the positions people hold in the society. If you hold a position in the society, please let her know what position you hold and a brief description of your duties in that post. She'd like to have a list of all society positions as soon as possible in our newsletter. Preferably by the September board meeting.

She is also interested in assembling a list of society property. If you have any society property in your possession, please let her know what it is.

She would like to thank everyone for taking the time to respond to this and hopes to publish a comprehensive list of all people who volunteer their time for the society as soon as possible.

2004 MILT ROTHMAN COMMITTEE APPROVAL:

The Board unanimously approved the Milt Rothman committee to consist of Jeff Linder,

...any problems with  
previous minutes  
and stuff like that...

Suzanne Rosin, Oz Fontecchio, and Nathan Lilly (all accepted).

AGENDA FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING: General Meeting space discussion.

...this is not the Two-Year  
Director you're looking for...

PICNIC FUND: Tim motioned, Hugh seconded, that the Board authorize a total expenditure of up to \$150 for the picnic. Should the amount exceed the Special Events budget, the board authorizes the difference to be made up from its contingency fund. The motion passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:02-ish

## PHILCON 2003 MEETING

The minutes of the PhilCon 2003 Meeting held on August 24th, 2003 will be reported in next month's newsletter.

## SCIENCE FICTION REVIEWS FOR

## SEPTEMBER 2003

by Henry Leon Lazarus

There is a Chinese curse that goes, 'May you live in interesting times.' Interesting times make for great reading. Mysteries have their corpses, and modern fiction their dysfunctional families, but Science Fiction has wars, plague, Armageddon, etc. In Fantasy there is prophecy that has to be fulfilled, dangerous quests, and magic that can grant wishes or turn on you in an instant.

According to E.E. Knight, a generation from now, Earth will be invaded by soul-sucking creatures, with vampire-like reapers siphoning the human souls their owners need to live on. Two Generations from then, the Earth is mainly controlled by these creatures and the people who work for them. *The Way of the Wolf* (paper from Roc) limns the harsh world that exists two generations after Earth's conquest. Resistance communities have grown up in the Northern Areas and it is there that David Valentine is recruited and trained as an officer in the guerilla forces fighting the Kurians and their deadly Reaper helpers. Most of humanity lives with quotas that if they can't fulfill, their soul is taken. This is the first book of a series that I think will eventually lead to the reconquering of Earth, but for this episode David is trained, survives deadly encounters and rescues a girl sentenced to a horrible death. The series continues next May and I can't wait.

I make no secret about the fact that L.E. Modesitt, Jr. is my favorite author, so much so that when *Darknesses* (hard from Tor) became available as an e-book, I jumped to buy it. The tale takes place on a world that was recovering from a cataclysm in which civilization, based on a talent for controlling life energies, was destroyed. Legacies (paper) from that age, especially weapons, still remain and are used in the wars. comes from a herding family of the strange, and dangerous sheep that are sheered for the cloth that makes clothes as tough as iron. Talent is needed for this, and Alucius has enough so that when he is drafted into the Militia and then captured by a country using talent based necklaces for control of the soldiers they capture and the rest of the population. The new tale starts after Alucius's wedding furlough and sends him, now a captain, to face barbarian tribes armed with flying creatures carrying laser like weapons. Surviving that sends him to a new challenge, an enemy from the time of the cataclysm. Mr. Modesitt nicely reveals the secrets of this strange world for a satisfying ending. I wouldn't mind another tale in this series, but enough is revealed that more would be unnecessary.

For the first two books in Jane Lindskold's series about a woman raised by intelligent wolves, *Through Wolf's Eyes* (paper) and *Wolf's*

*Head, Wolf's Heart* (paper) I kept hoping for a female Tarzan and tended to skim over the other characters. However, Ms. Lindskold has gotten to me and I find that I care as much about the other characters as well as Firestarter in the latest and found the book very enjoyable. This time the group goes back to the strange kingdom of New Kelven where Firestarter's enemy Malina has risen in power. Their they find that under the city of Dragon's Breath, where there is The Dragon of Despair (hard from Tor) deep in the caverns under the city. There's also a problem with removing settlers who have crossed the mountains to go to the territory of the Royal Beasts. As usual there is a solid ending. I'm looking forward to the next adventure in this series.

In *Midnight Harvest* (hard from Aspect) Chelsea Quinn Yarbro tells of her good vampire's (he drinks women's sexual pleasure) adventures during the great Depression and is must reading for those who agree that a second Depression is almost upon us. There is a slight plot about an assassin sent to kill Saint-Germain, so that the new Spanish Government could have clear title to the Airplane factory they stole from him. There's also a sub-plot of right wing radicals menacing a vineyard he owns in the Napa Valley. Mostly this is a period study of attitudes and reactions to the depression and it is fascinating.

Anne Perry tells of a world in which God and Asmodeus (the devil) are fighting for the souls of humanity and the now the time has *Come Armageddon* (hard from ACE). It is five centuries since *Tathea* (paper) was given the Golden Book and she is still alive and waiting for the events prophesied by that Book. The story starts when the King of the Island at the edge of the world, whom Tathea raised, releases the Lords of Sin from Hell to start Armageddon while they are strong enough to fight evil. But fighting evil and corruption is not a matter of swords and spears. This fable of morality made me think about how evil has to be fought – and its real nature. I don't really believe in a devil, but those who think that the world is a contest between good and evil will find much to think about this the carefully thought out work. I think the two books should be required reading in seminaries.

Liz Williams's *Nine layers of Sky* (paper from Bantam Spectra) is a curious mixture of Science and Myth in both a modern Russia that has lost its innocence and an alternate Russia that is transformed by the myths of both their world and our real world. That's a complicated thing to explain, and truthfully, I never truly got it. One of the characters is an eight-century old fighter out of Russian myth who thinks himself quite human and doesn't understand why he doesn't age. He's been on a drunken spree for a while until sent on a



quest for a jewel that is a gateway to the other world. The second is an ex-scientist working as a cleaning lady and hoping for enough money to immigrate from the Ukraine who has found the jewel. Hunted by various factions from both worlds they travel back and forth between the worlds to discover a way to survive. Very interesting, even if the concept of a myth driven world didn't truly come alive for me.

Alice Borchardt's second tale of her version of the Arthurian saga sends Guinevere across an alternate world to face serious challengers on a dueling stage in a strange city fed by alternate worlds. **The Raven Warrior**, one of Alice Borchardt's werewolves (hard from Del Ray and which I bought as an e-book) goes into a world where he falls for the Lady of the Lake and has an adventure with the Ravens that give him the name, and Arthur finds himself lost in a great forest. Ms. Borchardt writes a surreal (because of all the alternate worlds), sensual tale that grabbed me. I can't wait for the third.

Now for two SF thrillers.

Two centuries from now the Montezuma Strip is a strange, amoral land where everything is bought and sold / a borderland between the high tech future and the poor past. It is a dangerous dark place, and the detectives who work there have to be special. Inspector Cardenas is an intuitive empath and this case starts with a corpse who seems to have dual identities. Then the wife takes off running on hearing of his death, their house explodes when Cardenas and his partner come looking for her, and then assassins came after him. Alan Dean Foster's **The Mocking Program** (paper from Aspect) is fun and exciting, with a neat intelligent Ape world that they visit.

Gillian Bradshaw tells of a man, with amnesia, who had been saved drowning after a car accident. The only thing he knows is that he is not the person his identification says he is. Poul Anderson, the man he is supposed to be, was marketing director for a private lab that is developing a breakthrough magnetic battery that will transform the world. I don't want to give away the secret to **The Wrong Reflection** (paper from Ace) because I guessed wrong, but the characters are fun, from the woman who saves him from the crash that almost killed him and left his car in the water, to the nurse and her son who come to their aid. I haven't mentioned the documentary maker who is hot on the trail of corruption and who films their break-in to the lab. Fun.

**Journey into the Void** (hard from Eos) is the third and final book of Margeret Weis's and Tracy Hickman's tale of a strange jewel, The Sovereign Stone. With evil knights using void magic, wild barbarians from another world, and a major evil character who is more selfish and petty than evil, Ms. Weis and Mr. Hickman deviate enough from the Tolkien pattern to make a readable, fun tale that keeps eyes glued to the page. In this one four good

knights have to unite their parts of the sovereign stone from the ork, human, elf, and dwarf peoples to finally end the tale.

Finally, the fourth episode of Chaz Brenchley's **Outremer tale** (a magical variation of the Crusader Kingdom) takes the characters to the Arab capital of Rhabat for the Feast of the King's Shadow (paper from ACE). For those following this tale, Julianne finally rescues her father as the Djinn prophesied she would, and Elisande rescues another Djinn from a lake where the ifrits had trapped it. Next month part five.

Speaking of episodes, I've been watching **Babylon 5**. I had started Season 1 a while back and gotten distracted. Then I restarted and remembered why I had enjoyed the tale so well. I ordered season 2, and season 3 has just been issued. What is neat about this epic tale of good, evil, of prophesy and of heroes fighting an impossible fight is that the four seasons make for one solid tale that ranks with the best of Tolkien. It works better seen together like this. It is an impressive piece of work and amazing that it was able to be made at all.

Media books this month include: **Terminator 3 The Rise of the Machines** (paper from Tor, by David Hagberg) which I'm waiting to see the movie on DVD, and **Star Trek Strange New Worlds VI** (trade from Pocket and edited by Dean Wesley Smith) with more fan fiction.

Collections this month include **Worlds that Weren't** (trade from Roc) with alternate history stories and **The Sorcerer's Academy** (paper from DAW) which authors write tales set in an imagined, present day school for Wizards.

Classic reprints include: **Miles, Mystery and Mayhem** (paper from Baen) with three of Lois McMaster Bujold's tales of Miles Vorkosigan, Three Andre Norton novels in **Warlock** (paper from Baen), and **At the Edge of Space** (paper from DAW) with two early C.J. Cherry's novels.

Paperback reprints include Chelsea Quinn Yarbro's **Night Blooming** (Warner) set in the time of Charlemagne; and David Weber and Steve White's war tale of the future, **The Shiva Option** (Baen).

Novel nominations for 2003 World Fantasy Awards are: **The Facts of Life** by Graham Joyce, **Fitcher's Brides** by Gregory Frost, **Ombria in Shadow** by Patricia A. McKillip, **The Portrait of Mrs. Charbuque** by Jeffrey Ford, and **The Scar** by China Miéville. I was overwhelmed by **The Scar** and haven't read **The Facts of Life** or **Fitcher's Brides**.

## CONVENTION CALENDAR

### BALTIMORE COMIC-CON

Baltimore, Maryland  
September 20, 2003 - September 21, 2003  
Comics Convention

### SIBCON 2003

Butler, Pennsylvania  
September 26, 2003 - September 28, 2003  
Roleplaying Convention

### ANIMENEXT

Rye Brook, New York  
October 3, 2003 - October 5, 2003  
Anime Convention

### LAIRE - LIVE ACTION ROLEPLAYING EXPERIENCE

Sparta, New Jersey  
October 3, 2003  
Live Action Role Playing Event

### MEPACON

Easton, Pennsylvania  
October 3, 2003 - October 5, 2003  
Gaming Convention

### PHILLY NON-SPORTS CARD SHOW

Mount Laurel, New Jersey  
October 3, 2003 - October 4, 2003  
Non Sports Cards, Anime Convention

### GALAXY CON 2

Baltimore, Maryland  
October 4, 2003 - October 5, 2003  
TV/Media Convention

### GARDEN STATE GAMEFEST 2003

Paramus, New Jersey  
October 4, 2003  
Gaming Convention

### ALBACON 2003

Schenectady, New York  
October 10, 2003 - October 12, 2003  
Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention

### COUNCIL OF FIVE NATIONS XXVI

Schenectady, New York  
October 10, 2003 - October 12, 2003  
Gaming Convention

### WEST VIRGINIA BOOK FESTIVAL

Charleston, West Virginia  
October 11, 2003 - October 12, 2003  
Literature Convention

### XANODRIA MEDIEVAL FANTASY

Hamburg, Pennsylvania  
October 11, 2003  
Live Action Role Playing Event

### INTERNATIONAL RISK CHAMPIONSHIP

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania  
October 17, 2003 - October 19, 2003  
RISK Tournament Convention

### UBERCON II

Secaucus, New Jersey  
October 17, 2003 - October 19, 2003  
Gaming Convention

### DAGORHIR TAURENDOR'S 2ND ANNUAL FALL WAR

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
October 18, 2003  
Live Action Role Playing Event

### PHILCON 2003

December 12-14, 2003  
Philadelphia, PA  
Science Fiction

## SCIENCE FICTION COMIC

by Darrell Schweitzer







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