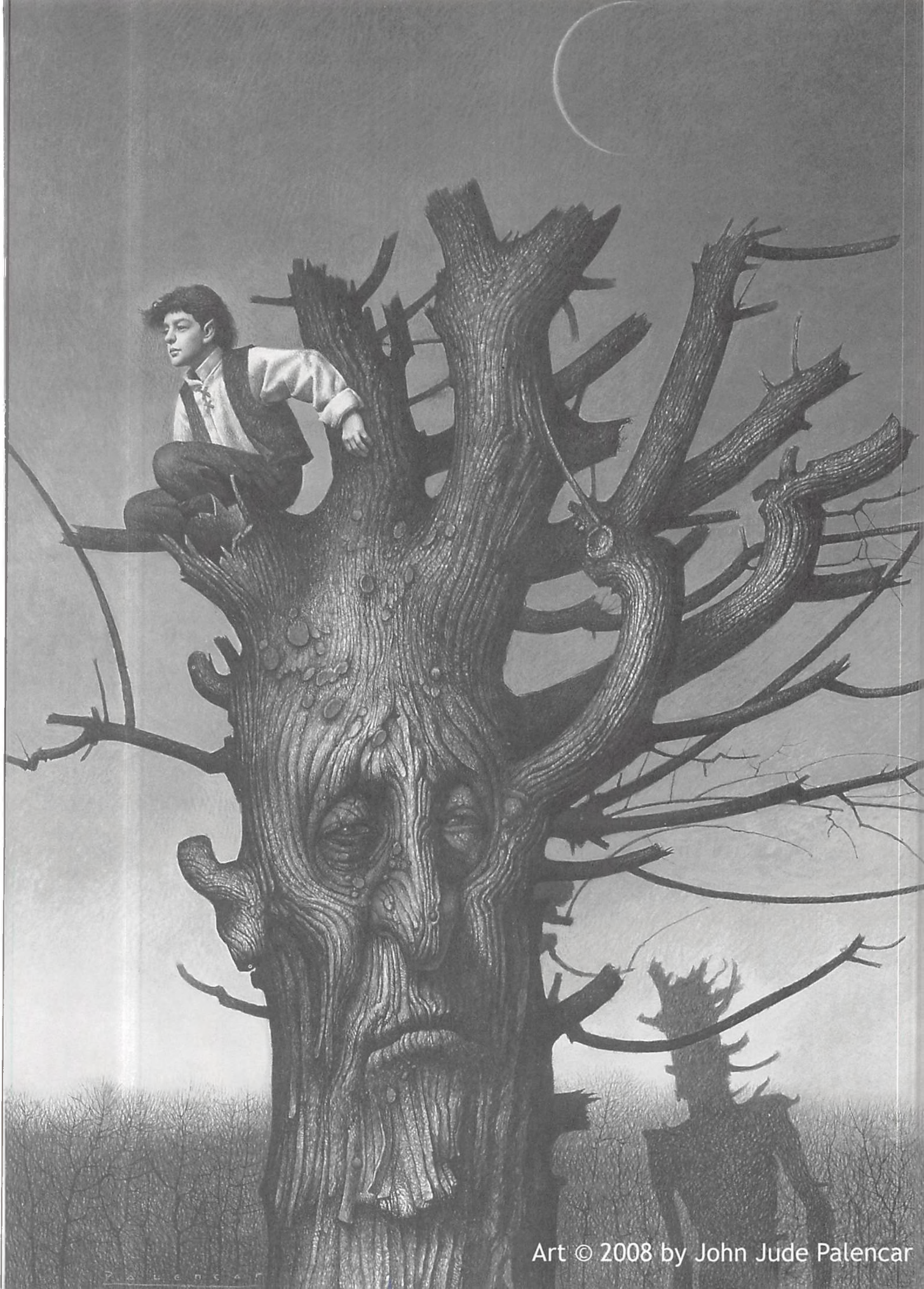


Balticon 42

May 23-26, 2008



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Art © 2008 by John Jude Palencar

Palencar

The Maryland Regional Science Fiction Convention
We have the answer!

BALCON 42
SM

Guest of Honor:

Connie Willis

Artist Guest of Honor:

John Jude Palencar

2008 Compton Crook Award Winner:

TBA at Balticon 42

Music Guest of Honor:

Urban Tapestry

2007 Compton Crook Award Winner:

Naomi Novik

Ghost of Honor: Douglas Adams

May 23-26, 2008 Memorial Day Weekend

Hundreds of authors, publishers, artists, scientists, musicians and
over a thousand fans at the area's largest & longest running Science Fiction/Fantasy convention!

Author panel discussions, readings, podcasting, Live SF Theater, Childrens' Programming, Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) charity auction, science briefings, concerts, dances, Masquerade, Writer's workshop, Poetry contest, and our Sunday Night Film Festival! Art show, dealer's room, anime, video and tabletop gaming, skill demonstrations and other special events.

Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn



Balticon
P.O. Box 686
Baltimore MD 21203-0686
www.balticon.org

Sponsored by the Baltimore Science Fiction Society,
a 501(C)(3) non-profit educational organization.

Live in or near Maryland? Visit a BSFS meeting sometime and check out our free SF lending library.
Check out www.bsfs.org for details—or contact volunteers@balticon.org to find out how you can help!

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Letter From the Balticon 42 Chair



42. The answer to Life, the Universe and Everything. Through the magic of Science Fiction, the number 42 has risen from its humble beginnings to join such distinguished figures as PI, Avogadro's Number and the speed of light. That I should chair the 42nd Balticon in my 42nd year on this spherical habitat spinning through space seems to be auspicious coincidence. That I have made it this far with some vestiges of sanity still intact is pure dumb luck.

When my wife told me that in five years I would be chairing Balticon, I dismissed the notion—I was in the initial throes of coming to grips with coordinating programming at Balticon, and had no interest in being the conductor on this runaway train. Five years later, here I am—once again uttering the mantra of “Yes, dear,” “I’m sorry,” “You were right”—although I have not yet figured out where I am going or what I am doing in a hand basket. I would however like to point out that in the intervening five years since my wife foretold my future, she also chaired Balticon three years in a row. In spite of that, here I am feeling like I’m atop that mechanical bull at Gilley’s, just before they throw the switch.

As Chair, I could claim credit for the success of Balticon 42. Truth be told, the Chair has much the same role as the conductor of a symphony orchestra: without the efforts of the many talented individuals who make up the Balticon ConCom, I’d just be standing up here waving my arms and looking like a ninny. Balticon 42 would not have happened without the efforts of many dedicated individuals, who sometimes have executed their responsibilities in spite of my best efforts to the contrary. There is no way I could thank everyone who has contributed to the success of Balticon 42, from the department heads to the department staff to the volunteers who always seem to be there to pick up the slack when we have forgotten something. Each and every one of you has my most heartfelt gratitude for everything you have done and are going to do for Balticon 42—it would not be possible if it weren’t for your generosity of time and effort.

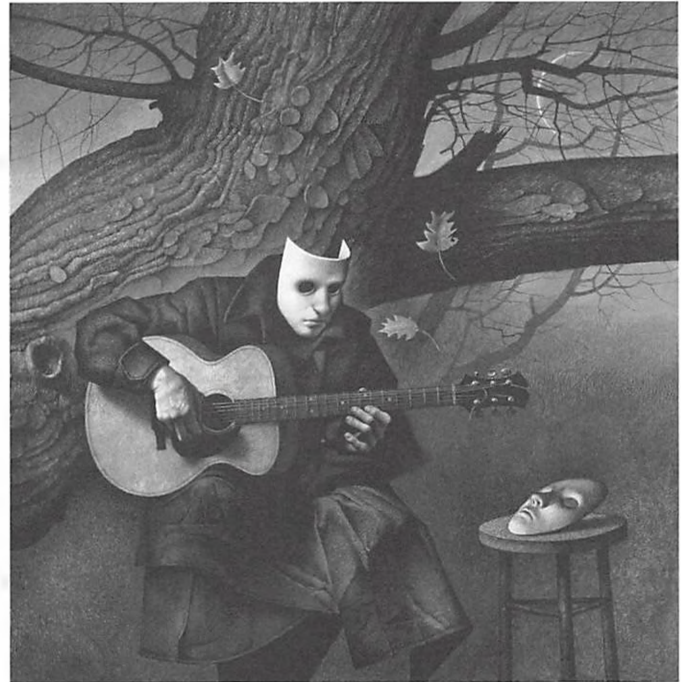
And lest I forget: thank you, oh Balticon attendees, for you are the reason that we do this thing year after year. Plain and simple: if it wasn’t for your continued support, we’d have hung it up a long time ago.

As with anything I write, I suspect that this letter has gone on quite long enough. I could extol, at length, the virtues of our ConCom, staff, volunteers, Guests of Honor, program participants and attendees. In the end it would be quite improbable that I would do any of you justice, to say nothing of the dog. So I will close here by saying simply “So long, and thanks for all the fish.”

Gregory Wright, Chair, Balticon 42
P.S. Gene Treadwell, Thanks vermillion.

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Trader Hires

Art © 2008 by John Jude Palencar

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Front Cover: "Imago"

Back Cover: "Typewriter"

Inside Front Cover: "The Two Towers"

Inside Back Cover: "The Bright and the Dark"

Color Insert Pages:

Baen Books

Artwork: "Bird Shrine" by John Jude Palencar

Artwork: "Wild Seed" by John Jude Palencar

Bad-Ass Faeries 2: Just Plain Bad

Poppet Planet

Artwork: "Becoming Human" by John Jude Palencar

Artwork: "Neuro Head" by John Jude Palencar

Jim Baen's Universe

A Balticon Short History

<u>CON</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>GoH</u>	<u>ART GoH</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>	<u>CROOK WINNER</u>
1	1967	Emerson	None		No Chair	
2	1968	Lord Baltimore	Samuel R. Delany		Jack Chalker	
3	1969	Lord Baltimore	L. Sprague deCamp & Lin Carter		Jack Chalker	
4	1970	Lord Baltimore	Damon Knight & Kate Wilhelm		Jack Chalker	
5	1971	Lord Baltimore	Harry Harrison		Ted Pauls, Dave Halterman, & Mark Owings	
6	1972	Hopkins Hilton	Gordon R. Dickson		Ted Pauls, Dave Halterman, & Mark Owings	
7	1973	Lord Baltimore	Poul Anderson		Ted Pauls, Dave Halterman, & Mark Owings	
8	1974	Lord Baltimore	Frederik Pohl		Ted Pauls	
9	1975	Pikesville Hilton	Hal Clement		Charley Ellis	
10	1976	Hunt Valley Inn	Isaac Asimov		Bill Simmons	
11	1977	Hunt Valley Inn	Philip Jose Farmer		Martin Deutsch	
12	1978	Hunt Valley Inn	Anne McCaffrey		Bill Simmons	
13	1979	Hunt Valley Inn	Poul Anderson		Sue Wheeler	
14	1980	Hunt Valley Inn	Algis Budrys & Sean Spacher		Bill Simmons/ Edie Williams	
15	1981	Hunt Valley Inn	John Varley		Michael Walsh	
16	1982	Hyatt Regency	Samuel R. Delaney		Edie Williams	
17	1983	Hyatt Regency	L. Sprague deCamp & Catherine Crook deCamp		Pat Kelly	Donald Kingsbury
18	1984	Hyatt Regency	Parke Godwin		Sue Wheeler	Christopher Rowley
19	1985	Hunt Valley Inn	R. A. MacAvoy		Rikk Jacobs	David R. Palmer
20	1986	Hyatt Regency	Nancy Springer		Elizabeth Rosenberg	Sheila Finch
21	1987	Omni Hotel	Roger Zelazny		Marty Gear	Thomas T. Thomas(Wren)
22	1988	Hunt Valley Inn	Spider Robinson	Tom Kidd	Larry Schroeder	Christopher Hinz
23	1989	Omni Hotel	C. J. Cherryh	Stephen Hickman	Jul Owings	Elizabeth Moon
24	1990	Hunt Valley Inn	Robin McKinley	Charles Lang & Wendy Snow Lang	Sue Wheeler	Josepha Sherman
25	1991	Hunt Valley Inn	Nancy Kress	Thomas Canty	Hal Haag	Michael F. Flynn
26	1992	Hunt Valley Inn	All 10 Compton Crook Winners	Guy Frechette (Featured Artist)	Mark Owings	Carol Severance
27	1993	Hunt Valley Inn	Allen Steele	Don Maitz	Jeff Olhoeft	Holly Lisle
28	1994	Hyatt Regency	Mercedes Lackey	Larry Dixon	Betty Bowers	Mary Rosenblum
29	1995	Lord Baltimore /Omni International	James P. Hogan	David A. Cherry		Doranna Durgin
30	1996	Omni International	Robert Jordan	Lubov	Colette Schleifer	Daniel Graham
31	1997	Omni International	Glen Cook	Frank Kelly Freas & Laura Brodian Freas	"Sue Who" Schroeder	Richard Garfinkle
32	1998	Omni Inner Harbor	Harry Turtledove	Jody A. Lee	Dale Arnold	Katie Waitman
33	1999	Omni Inner Harbor	David Weber	Jennifer Weyland	Jeff Olhoeft	James Stoddard
34	2000	Omni Inner Harbor	Octavia Butler	Wendy Pini	Lee Anne Dinkin	Stephen L. Burns
-----And Then, A Miracle Occurs!!!-----Balticon Switches from Easter to Memorial Day!!!-----						
35	2001	Wyndham Baltimore	Hal Clement	Halla Fleischer	Hal Haag	Syne Mitchell
36	2002	Wyndham Baltimore	Phil & Kaja Foglio, Mark Rogers (Author/Art GoHs)		Sue Wheeler	Wen Spencer
37	2003	Wyndham Baltimore	Steve Miller & Sharon Lee	Omar & Sheila Rayyan	Sue Wheeler	Patricia Bray
38	2004	Wyndham Baltimore	Lois McMaster Bujold	Dave Seeley	Dale Arnold	E.E. Knight
39	2005	Wyndham Baltimore	Steven Barnes & Tananarive Due	Bob Eggleton	Nora Wright	Tamara Siler Jones
40	2006	Hunt Valley Inn	Neil Gaiman	Lisa Snellings-Clark	Nora Wright	Maria V. Snyder
41	2007	Hunt Valley Inn	Larry Niven & Jerry Pournelle	Joe Bergeron	Nora Wright	Naomi Novik
42	2008	Hunt Valley Inn	Connie Willis	John Jude Palencar	Greg Wright	TBA

For a more complete record of the history of Balticon, see: <www.bsfs.org/bconhist.htm>.

Balticon 42 Committee

Balticon 42 Chair	Greg Wright	New & Popular Media Ninja	Paul Fischer
Balticon 42 Vice-Chair	Misha Field	New & Popular Media	Harknell, Onezumi,
Con Chair Minder	Lee Anne Dinkin	Assistants	Fred Wolke
Program Coordinators	Sue Wheeler, Anne-Marie Young	Balticon Podcast	Paul Fischer, Martha Holloway
Anime Room	Robert M. Chase	Operations Commander	Greg Wright
Art Program	Helen "Halla" Fleischer	Party Coordinator	Liz Lewis
Art Program Assistant	Eric "Dr. Gandalf" Fleischer	Phan Artist Award	Helen "Halla" Fleischer
Art Show Chancellor	Martin Deutsch	Program Participants Green Room	
Art Show Queen	Shirley Avery	Publications Coordinator	Pernianne Lurie
Art Show Auctioneer	Eric "Dr. Gandalf" Fleischer	BSFAN Editor	Patti Kinlock
Children's Program Scheduler	Miriam Winder-Kelly	Flyers	Patti Kinlock
Con-Suite	Leigh Eirich, Pete Eirich	Pocket Program	Nora Wright, Patti Kinlock
Filk Program	"Gorgeous" Gary Ehrlich	Rocket Mail Editor	Anne-Marie Young
Gaming Program	Kory Kaese	Raffle Basket	Brian Butler
Tabletop Gaming Room	Hal Haag	Registration Coordinator	Kathy Kasprzak
Guest of Honor Liaison Coordinator	Dan Guy Fowlkes	Assistant Registration Coordinator	Brian Alexander
Guest of Honor Liaisons	Miranda Mason, Linda Taggart, Glen Seymour, Adrienne Reynolds, Tesla Aldrich, Gary Ehrlich	Registration Assistant	Lee Anne Dinkin
Hall Costume Awards	Brian Butler	RIF Coordinator	Megan Allen
Head Hucksters (Dealers Room)	Larry Sands, Kathy Kasprzak	Assistant RIF Coordinator	Kelly Shannon Pierce
Fan Tables/Artist Alley	Liz Lewis	RIF Auctioneer	Jim Wilmering
Hotel Liaison	Colette H. Fozard	RIF Liaison	Eric "Dr. Gandalf" Fleischer
Information Desk	Ray Galacci	Science Program Tech	Marty Gear
Kamikaze Computer Services	Mark Schleifer, Craig Forbes, Jay Forbes, Dan Brashler, Megan Schleifer	Science Program Scheduling	Paul Loeschke
LARP	Miriam "Emi" Steiner	Special Needs Coordinator	Miriam Winder-Kelly
Literary/Fannish Program	Jul Dwings, Mark Dwings	Sponsorships Coordinator	Ellen Montgomery
Jack L. Chalker Young Writers Contest	Marty Gear, Miriam Winder-Kelly, Alexandra A. Kelly	Sunday Night Short Film Festival Coordinator	Kory Kaese
Poetry Program/Poetry Contest	Patti Kinlock	Assistant Sunday Night Film Festival Coordinator	Jonette Butler
Writers Workshop	Steve Lubs	Tchotchke Tchair (Sales Table)	Lance Oszko
Live Theater Coordinator	Dan "Renfield" Corcoran	Promotional and Event DVDs	Patti Kinlock
Logistics	Glenn McLaughlin	Tech Director	Eric "Dr. Gandalf" Fleischer
Loadmaster	Martin Deutsch	Tech Logistics	Michael Rafferty
Masquerade	Marty Gear	Treasurer	Lee Morey
Masquerade Green Room	Cindy Shockey	Video Room	Shirley Avery
		Volunteer Coordinator	Thomas "The Red" Horman
		Web Site Design	Jonette Butler
		Webmaster	Nora Wright
			Eric "Hymie" Hymowitz

Guest of Honor Connie Willis



Connie Willis has won an astonishing total of six Nebula Awards (given by the Science Fiction Writers of America) and eight Hugo Awards (given by the World Science Fiction Convention), and is the first author to have ever won both awards in all four fiction categories. She currently holds the record for the most Nebula Awards ever won by any science fiction author. Last summer she was named Best Science Fiction Writer of the Nineties by *Locus Magazine*. Her stories and novels have also won the American Library Association Alex Award, the Locus Award, the John W. Campbell Memorial Award, and numerous international awards. She was the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities creative writing grant.

Her works range from *Doomsday Book*, the tragic story of a young historian who journeys to the Middle Ages and becomes trapped in the horror of the Black Death, to *Bellwether*, a comic look at the fads and foibles of modern-day society. From *Lincoln's Dreams*, described by the *Christian Science Monitor* as "a somnambulistic tale of love and war as moving as a distant roll of drums" to her latest novel, *Passage*, the story of two scientists studying near-death experiences (described by the *Rocky Mountain News* as "an engrossing, lively, and thought-provoking novel by one of this generation's finest authors"), Willis is known for her realistic characters, intricate plots, and heartrending stories. *The San Francisco Sunday Examiner and Chronicle* says, "Few writers can match Willis' blend of comedy and science fiction." *The Boulder Daily Camera* calls her "not only a master entertainer, but also a writer of depth, intricacy, compassion, and thoughtfulness," and *Salon.com* says Willis "writes with a devil on one shoulder and an angel on the other."

She is currently working on a new novel set in the London Blitz, called *All Clear*, and a humorous novel about Roswell and UFOs.

She lives in Greeley, Colorado, with her very nice husband, two cats, and a bulldog. She does counted cross-stitch, sings in the choir, and loves screwball comedies, P.G. Wodehouse, Dorothy Parker, chocolate, and Harrison Ford, not necessarily in that order.

AWARDS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

SPECIAL LOCUS AWARD: Best Author of the Nineties—Awarded July, 1999

NEBULA AWARDS:

- “Fire Watch”—Best Novelette—1982
- “A Letter From the Clearys”—Best Short Story, 1982
- “The Last of the Winnebagos”—Best Novella, 1988
- “At the Rialto”—Best Short Story, 1989
- “Even the Queen”—Best Short Story, 1992
- *Doomsday Book*—Best Novel, 1992

HUGO AWARDS:

- “Fire Watch”—Best Novelette, 1982
- “The Last of the Winnebagos”—Best Novella, 1988
- “Even the Queen”—Best Short Story, 1993
- *Doomsday Book*—Best Novel, 1993
- “Death on the Nile”—Best Short Story, 1995
- “The Soul Selects...”—Best Short Story, 1997
- *To Say Nothing of the Dog*—Best Novel, 1999
- “The Winds of Marble Arch”—Best Novelette, 2000
- “Inside Job”—Best Novella, 2006

JOHN W. CAMPBELL MEMORIAL AWARD:

- *Lincoln's Dreams*—Best Science Fiction Novel—1988

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AWARD:

- *To Say Nothing of the Dog*—Best Adult Novel for Young Readers, 1998

ASIMOV'S READER'S POLL AWARDS:

- “Spice Pogrom”—1986
- “The Last of the Winnebagos”—1988
- “Even the Queen”—1992
- “Inn”—1993

LOCUS AWARDS:

- “Even the Queen”—1992
- *Doomsday Book*—1992
- “Close Encounter”—1993

- *Impossible Things*—1993
- “Remake”—1995
- “Bellwether”—1997
- *To Say Nothing of the Dog*—1998
- Best Author of the Nineties—1999

NOMINATIONS:

- “Daisy, in the Sun”—nominated for a Hugo, 1980
- “The Sidon in the Mirror”—nominated for a Nebula, 1983; —nominated for a Hugo, 1983
- “Blued Moon”—nominated for a Hugo, 1984
- “Spice Pogrom”—nominated for a Hugo, 1986
- “Schwarzschild Radius”—nominated for a Nebula, 1987
- “Chance”—nominated for a World Fantasy Award, 1987
- *Lincoln's Dreams*—nominated for William Crawford Award, 1987
- “At the Rialto”—nominated for a Hugo, 1989
- “Time Out”—nominated for a Hugo, 1989
- “Cibola”—nominated for a Hugo, 1990
- “Jack”—nominated for a Nebula, 1992; —nominated for a Hugo, 1992
- “Miracle”—nominated for a Hugo, 1992
- “In the Late Cretaceous”—nominated for a Hugo, 1992
- “Death on the Nile”—nominated for a Nebula, 1993; —nominated for a Bram Stoker Award, 1993
- *Remake*—nominated for a Nebula, 1996; nominated for a Hugo, 1996
- *Bellwether*—nominated for a Nebula, 1998
- *To Say Nothing of the Dog*—nominated for a Nebula, 1999; nominated for a Hugo, 1999
- *Passage*—finalist for the Nebula Award, 2002; —finalist for the Arthur C. Clarke Award, 2002; —finalist for the Hugo Award, 2002
- “Inside Job”—Hugo Award, 2006

continued

Bibliography, continued

NOVELS:

- *Lincoln's Dreams*, Bantam, 1986
- *Water Witch*, with Cynthia Felice, Ace-Berkeley, 1980
- *Light Raid*, with Cynthia Felice, Ace-Berkeley, 1988
- *Doomsday Book*, Bantam Books, 1992
- *Uncharted Territory*, Bantam, 1994
- *Remake*, Bantam, 1995
- *Bellwether*, Bantam, 1996
- *Promised Land*, with Cynthia Felice, Ace-Berkeley, 1996
- *To Say Nothing of the Dog*, Bantam, 1998.
- *Passage*, Bantam, 2001
- *Inside Job*, Subterranean Press, 2006

SHORT STORY COLLECTIONS:

- *Fire Watch*, short story collection, Bluejay Books, 1985
- *Impossible Things*, Bantam, 1994
- *Miracle and Other Christmas Stories*, Bantam, Nov. 1999

MOVIES

- *Snow Job*, CBS TV, November 22, 2005

OTHER:

- *The New Hugo Awards, Volume 6*, ed. Connie Willis
- *Nebula Awards 33*, ed. Connie Willis
- *A Woman's Liberation*, ed. Sheila Williams and Connie Willis
- *Roswell, Vegas, and Area 51: Travels with Courtney*



Shadows Over Innsmouth

Art © 2008 by John Jude Palencar

Shore Leave 30

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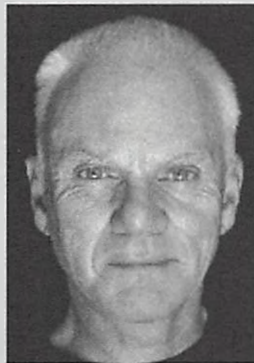
**David
Hewlett**

*Stargate: Atlantis' and
Stargate: SG1's
Dr Rodney McKay*



**George
Takei**

*ST:TOS' Lt. Hikaru
Sulu, Heroes' Kaito
Nakamura*



**Malcolm
McDowell**

*ST: Generation's Dr.
Soran, Heroes' Mr.
Linderman, A Clockwork
Orange*



**Adam
Baldwin**

*Firefly's Jayne Cobb,
Chuck's Major Casey,
Angel's Marcus Hamilton,
X-Files' Knowle Rohrer*



**Kate
Hewlett**

*Stargate: Atlantis'
Jeanie Miller*



**Mark
Sheppard**

*Battlestar Galactica's
Romo Lampkin, Firefly's
Badger, 24's Ivan
Erwich, Bionic Woman's
Anthony Anthos*



**W. Morgan
Sheppard**

*STVI's Klingon Cmdr,
Babylon 5's Soul
Hunter, Transformer's
Capt. Witwicky*



Leah Cairns

*Battlestar Galactica's
Lt. "Racetrack"
Edmonson, Kyle XY's
Emily Hollander*

Also with us this year are these guests:

Lucy Albert, Emily Bloch, Kirk Borne, Greg Brodeur, Diane Carey, Greg Cox, Ann C. Crispin, Peter A David, Keith DeCandido, Kevin Dilmore, Michael Jan Friedman, Dave Galanter, Robert Greenberger, Jim Johnson, Yoji Kondo, Eric Kotani, Jeffrey Lang, David Mack, Terri Osborne, Marco Palmieri, Scott Pearson, Roberta Rogow, Aaron Rosenberg, Lawrence Schoen, James Swallow, Geoff Trowbridge, Ray Villard, Dayton Ward, Howard Weinstein, The Boogie Knights and The Chromatics.

For Hotel Information:

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245 Shawan Road
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031
Tel. 410-785-7000

Make your own reservations and be sure to mention Shore Leave (Group Code **SHRA**) for a special room rate of \$123 plus applicable taxes.

For Any Other Information:

Shore Leave 30
PO Box 6809
Towson, Maryland 21285-6809
Tel. 410-496-4456

E-Mail: information@shore-leave.com
Web: <http://www.shore-leave.com>

Musical Guest of Honor

Urban Tapestry



Urban Tapestry is a Toronto-based filk/folk trio consisting of Allison Durno, Jodi Krangle and Debbie Ridpath Ohi. Their songs cover a wide variety of topics including sf/fantasy, horror, tech, chocolate, friendship, and fandom.

Over the past 15 years, they have performed in Canada, the U.S., England and Germany, and have recorded several CDs. Their Pegasus Awards include Best Performer (twice), Best Song, Best Food/Drink Song, and they've also

won a Fan Achievement Aurora. All three write songs for the group.

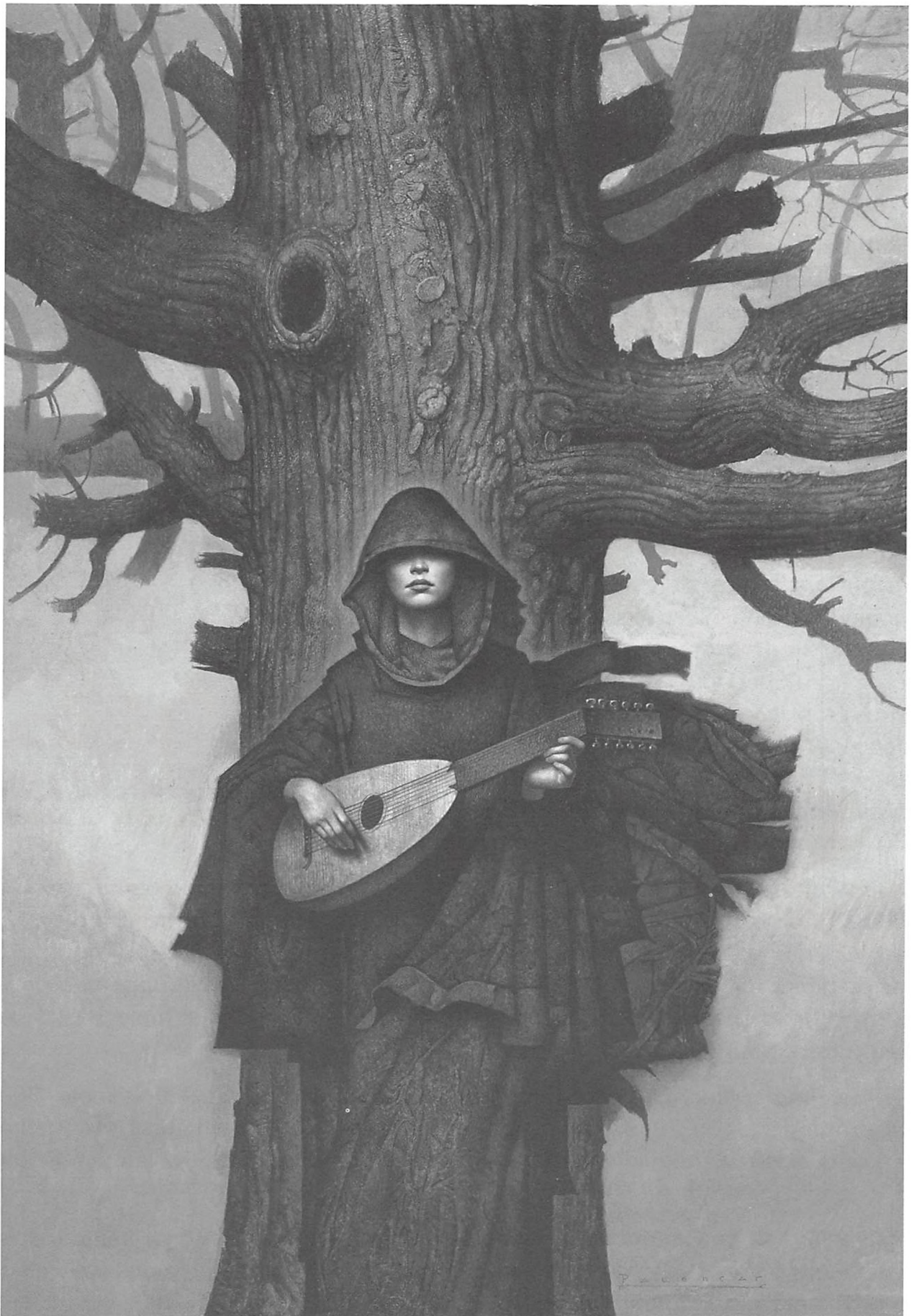
Jodi Krangle (vocals) is a voiceover artist with many years of internet promotion experience. She is the creator and administrator for a popular songwriting resource website called The Muse's Muse (<http://www.musesmuse.com>) and is an avid gamer (don't mention D&D 4 to her. It's likely to get messy). In fact, she was introduced to filk through gaming and has been a science fiction/fantasy reader for years. You can find out more information about Jodi at <http://www.voiceoversandvocals.com>.

Allison Durno (guitar, vocals) is a grade 5 elementary school teacher in Richmond Hill, Ontario. She has been heavily involved in the science fiction, Tolkien and filk communities for many years. She also enjoys needlework, hiking, photography and media studies. You can reach Allison at <http://allisona.livejournal.com/>.

Debbie Ridpath Ohi (flute, tin whistle, assorted bangy things, vocals) is a writer, illustrator and webcomic creator. Her published work includes a nonfiction book for Writer's Digest Books, short stories, poetry, and numerous nonfiction articles in print and online publications. Her online projects include *Inkygirl.com: Daily Diversions For Writers*, *WillWriteForChocolate.com* (webcomic), and *WaitingForBilbo.com* (webcomic). For more info, see <http://DebbieOhi.com> and <http://Blatherings.com>.

For more info about Urban Tapestry, please see <http://www.urbantapestry.org> or <http://www.myspace.com/urbantapestry>.

To find out more about filk, see Debbie's Filk FAQ at: <http://www.filking.net/filkfaq/>.



Chasing Fire

Art © 2008 by John Jude Palencar

Artist Guest of Honor

John Jude Palencar

Artist and illustrator John Jude Palencar is a rarity among modern artists, mixing meticulous technique reminiscent of the old masters with a soaring, darkly surreal imagination. There are touches of Bosch and Da Vinci in his visual allegories of netherworld landscapes and doomed characters.

For more than 25 years he has created book covers and received honors for his contributions to the field of illustration including Gold and Silver Medals from the Society of Illustrators, two Gold Book Awards from Spectrum, and four Chesley Awards from the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists (ASFA). Most recently John was presented the award for "Artistic Achievement" by ASFA at the World Fantasy Convention held in Yokohama, Japan.



His work has appeared on hundreds of book covers in over 30 countries for such renowned authors as H. P. Lovecraft, Ursula LeGuin, Marion Zimmer Bradley, P.D. James, Charles deLint, David Brin and Stephen King, to name a few. Recently, his cover paintings for *Eragon* and *Eldest*, by Christopher Paolini, have appeared on the *New York Times* Children's Best Seller List. (Paolini named Eragon's birthplace "Palancar Valley" after John.)

Time, *Smithsonian*, *National Geographic Magazine*, and the Philadelphia Opera have employed John's illustrative talents for their publications and productions. Palencar has also worked on entertainment projects for Lucas Arts, Paramount Pictures and Vivendi Universal.

He enjoys an ongoing artist-in-residence program in County Kerry, Ireland, where his personal paintings were included in a special exhibit entitled "Images of Ireland" held at the National Museum in Dublin.

He resides in northeastern Ohio with his wife, Lee, and two sons, Ian and Kit. Web site: <<http://www.johnjudepalencar.com>>.



Madama Butterfly

Balticon 42 Pays Tribute to Douglas Adams

Ghost of Honor

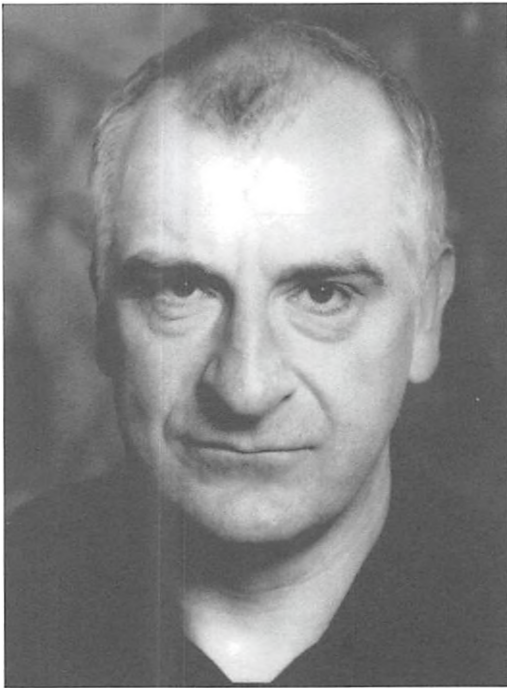


Photo credit: Jill Furmanovsky

Douglas Adams was born in Cambridge in March 1952, educated at Brentwood School, Essex and St. John's College, Cambridge where, in 1974 he gained a B.A. (and later an M.A.) in English literature.

He was creator of all the various manifestations of *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* which started life as a BBC Radio 4 series. Since its first airing in March 1978 it has been transformed into a series of best-selling novels, a TV series, a record album, a computer game and several stage adaptations.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy's phenomenal success sent the book straight to Number One in the UK Bestseller List and in 1984 Douglas Adams became the youngest author to be awarded a Golden Pan. He won a further two (a rare feat), and was nominated—though not selected—for the first Best of Young British Novelists awards.

He followed this success with *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe* (1980); *Life, The Universe and Everything* (1982); *So Long and Thanks for all the Fish* (1984); and *Mostly Harmless* (1992). The first two books in the Hitchhiker series were adapted into a 6 part television series, which was an immediate success when first aired in 1982. Other publications include *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency* (1987) and *Long Dark Tea-time of the Soul* (1988). In 1984 Douglas teamed up with John Lloyd and wrote *The Meaning of Liff* and after a huge success *The Deeper Meaning of Liff* followed this in 1990). One of Douglas's all-time personal favourites was written in 1990 when he teamed up with zoologist Mark Carwardine and wrote *Last Chance to See*, an account of a world-wide search for rare and endangered species of animals.

He sold over 15 million books in the UK, the US and Australia and was also a best seller in German, Swedish and many other languages.

Douglas was a founding director of h2g2, formerly The Digital Village, a digital media and Internet company with which he created the 1998 CD-ROM *Starship Titanic*, a Codie Award-winning (1999) and BAFTA-nominated (1998) adventure game.

Douglas died unexpectedly in May 2001 of a sudden heart attack. He was 49. He had been living in Santa Barbara, California with his wife and daughter, and at the time of his death he was working on the screenplay for a feature film version of Hitchhiker.

artwork by Stephan Martiniere



BOSKONE 46

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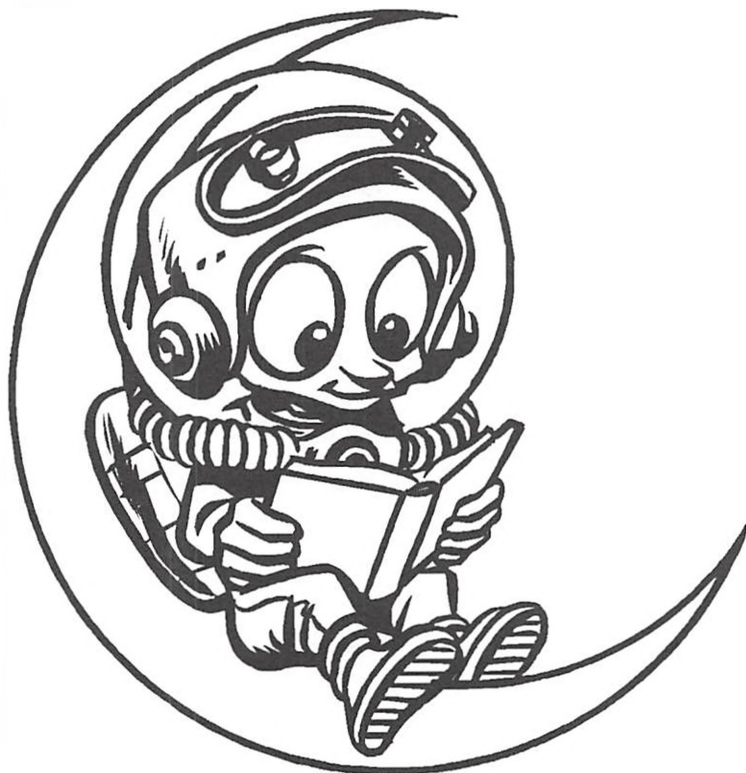
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2007 Compton Crook Award Winner

Naomi Novik



Naomi Novik was born in New York in 1973, a first-generation American, and raised on Polish fairy tales, Baba Yaga, and Tolkien. She studied English Literature at Brown University and did graduate work in computer science at Columbia University before leaving to participate in the design and development of the computer game "Neverwinter Nights: Shadows of Undrentide."

Her first novel, *His Majesty's Dragon*, was published in 2006 along with *Throne of Jade* and *Black Powder War*, and has been translated into 23 languages. She has won the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer, the Compton Crook Award for Best First Novel, and the Locus Award for Best First Novel. The fourth volume of the "Temeraire" series, *Empire of Ivory*, published in September 2007, was a *New York Times* bestseller.

She is one of the founding board members of the Organization for Transformative Works, a nonprofit dedicated to protecting the fair-use rights of fan creators, and herself a fanfic writer and fan vidder.

Naomi lives in New York City with her husband and six eight computers. (They multiply.) You can find out more at her livejournal, <naominovik.livejournal.com/>.

 2008 Compton Crook Award Contenders

<i>The Blade Itself</i>	Joe Abercrombie	Pyr Books
<i>The Outback Stars</i>	Sandra McDonald	Tor Books
<i>The Name of the Wind</i>	Patrick Rothfuss	Daw Books
<i>Magic Lost, Trouble Found</i>	Lisa Shearin	Ace Books
<i>One Jump Ahead</i>	Mark Van Name	Baen Books

Compton Crook Award rules:

1. This must be an author's first science fiction, fantasy or horror novel.
2. The book must have been published in the calendar year immediately preceding the current Balticon.
3. The members of BSFS as a committee of the whole decide on the best after reading all the new novels.
4. Come to think of it, there is no fourth rule.

Compton Crook Award Winners

Balticon Number	Year Awarded	Author	Book Title
17	1983	Donald Kingsbury	<i>Courtship Rite</i>
18	1984	Christopher Rowley	<i>The War for Eternity</i>
19	1985	David R. Palmer	<i>Emergence</i>
20	1986	Sheila Finch	<i>Infinity's Web</i>
21	1987	Thomas T. Thomas	<i>The Doomsday Effect</i>
22	1988	Christopher Hinz	<i>Liege-Killer</i>
23	1989	Elizabeth Moon	<i>Sheepfarmer's Daughter</i>
24	1990	Josepha Sherman	<i>The Shining Falcon</i>
25	1991	Michael F. Flynn	<i>In the Country of the Blind</i>
26	1992	Carol Severance	<i>Reef Song</i>
27	1993	Holly Lisle	<i>Fire In The Mist</i>
28	1994	Mary Rosenblum	<i>Dry Lands</i>
29	1995	Doranna Durgin	<i>Dun Lady's Jess</i>
30	1996	Daniel Graham	<i>The Gatekeepers</i>
31	1997	Richard Garfinkle	<i>Celestial Matters</i>
32	1998	Katie Waitman	<i>The Merro Tree</i>
33	1999	James Stoddard	<i>The High House</i>
34	2000	Stephen L. Burns	<i>Flesh and Silver</i>
35	2001	Syne Mitchell	<i>Murphy's Gambit</i>
36	2002	Wen Spencer	<i>Alien Taste</i>
37	2003	Patricia Bray	<i>Devlin's Honor</i>
38	2004	E.E. Knight	<i>Way of the Wolf</i>
39	2005	Tamara Siler Jones	<i>Ghosts in the Snow</i>
40	2006	Maria V. Snyder	<i>Poison Study</i>
41	2007	Naomi Novik	<i>His Majesty's Dragon</i>
42	2008	TBA at the con	TBA at the con

BSFS Writers' Workshop

Come one, come all, and bring your work with you!

The Balticon 42 Writers' Workshop will be a chance for you to hear your work read aloud. Each participant should bring a sample of their writing (at most, one page), to be read aloud at the workshop. Authors may read their own work, or have the workshop coordinator read for them. Each participant will have a turn, with feedback provided by other participants. This is your chance to hear how your words sound, and to fix those problems (grammar, dialog, setting, etc.) you've been having. Constructive criticism is one of the hallmarks of SF/F fandom.

The Writers' Workshop began at Balticon in 1983 (before the Worldcon). It started as most do, a bunch of fans meeting to critique each others' work. It was held twice a year, once at Balticon, and a second time later in the year, after most of the conventions were over. *

* Preregistration is necessary in order to participate in the Writers' Workshop.

—Steve Lubs, Workshop Coordinator

A Miracle of Rare Device: On Books, SF and My Life Among Them

by Connie Willis

Connie Willis was Author Guest of Honor at L.A. CON IV, the 64th World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon), August 23-27, 2006, Anaheim, CA. Her GOH speech is reprinted here with permission

The thing that's so great about being a guest of honor at Worldcon
is that it gives me the chance
to thank all the people who helped me become a writer,

like my junior school teacher Mrs. Warner
who read Rumer Godden's *An Episode of Sparrows*
out loud to us
and first introduced me to the Blitz

and my high school English teacher,
Mrs. Juanita Jones,
who encouraged me in my writing
even though I showed no signs of talent whatsoever
and forced her to read my story about how I'd met George
Maharis of the TV series *Route 66*,
a story which includes deathless lines like,
"His face lit up like a birthday cake,"
and in which the heroine,
while driving in downtown Mahattan, manages to run into
a tree—
obviously the tree from *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn*

It also gives me a chance to thank all those people who've
helped me keep writing all these years.

—my long-suffering secretary Laura Lewis

—and my even more long-suffering family

—my miracle-working agents: Patrick Delahunt, Ralph
Vicinanza, and Vince Girardis

—my extremely patient editors Anne Groell
and Sheila Williams
and Gardner Dozois

—my EXTREMELY patient readers

—and my friends
my fellow soldiers in the trenches,
who've kept me from getting discouraged
and more than once talked me out of quitting
altogether.

All my best moments in science fiction I owe to you guys—

—staying up all night after that first Nebulas

with John Kessel and Jim Kelly,
eating chocolate chip cookies and red pistachio nuts

—sitting in workshops with Ed Bryant
and Cynthia Felice
and Mike Toman
and George R.R. Martin

—driving to Portales to see Jack Williamson
with Charlie Brown
and Scott Edelman
and Walter Jon Williams

—gossiping with Nancy Kress
and Ellen Darlow
and Eileen Gunn

—laughing at something
Michael Cassutt
or Eileen Gunn
or Howard Waldrop said.

—laughing at something Gardner Dozois said
and snorting a piece of lettuce up my nose and nearly
killing myself.

You guys are the wittiest, smartest, nicest people in the
world,
and I would not have lasted five minutes in science fiction
without you.

But most importantly,
I need to thank

Robert Heinlein
and Louisa May Alcott
and Kit Reed
and Damon Runyon
and Sigrid Undset
and Theodore Sturgeon
and Agatha Christie
and Jerome K. Jerome
and Daphne DuMaurier
and Philip K. Dick
and Rumer Godden
and L.M. Montgomery
and Ray Bradbury
and Shirley Jackson
and Bob Shaw

and James Herriot
and Mildred Clingerman
and P.G. Wodehouse
and Dorothy Sayers
and Daniel Keyes
and J.R.R. Tolkien
and Judith Merril
and Charles Williams
and William Shakespeare.

Which brings me to the subject of this speech.

You're supposed to talk about something significant in a guest-of-honor speech—

global warming
or the coming Singularity
or space travel
or tougher sentences for parole violators
or world peace.

but I want to talk about something completely personal.

I want to talk about books and what they have meant to me.

Which is everything in the world.

I owe books my vocation, my life, even my family.
I'm not kidding.

You probably don't know this, but I only got married because of a book.

And no, I'm not talking about love poems.

NO, not *Lolita*.

I got married because of *Lord of the Rings*.

To quote Kip Russell in *Have Space Suit, Will Travel*, "How it happened was this way."

I was flying out to Connecticut
for the express purpose of breaking up with my boyfriend
and I bought this set of three paperbacks to read on the plane
and by the time I got to New Haven
I was so worried about Frodo and Sam
that I said to my boyfriend, "It's awful. They're trying to sneak into Mordor and the Ringwraiths are after them and I don't trust Gollum and..."

and I completely forgot to break up with him.

And, as of yesterday, we've been married thirty-nine years.

I owe my daughter's name to a book, too. We named her after the good daughter in *King Lear*
and she has lived up to her name in absolutely every way.

And I owe all the books I've written to books.

They taught me how to write.

Agatha taught me plotting

Mary Stewart suspense

Heinlein dialogue

P.G. Wodehouse comedy

Shakespeare irony

and Philip K. Dick how to pull the rug out from under the reader

Books also gave me all sorts of good advice on how to cope with everything

from following the rules—

"There are three rules for writing a novel," W. Somerset Maugham said. "Unfortunately, no one knows what they are."

to stupid questions

"Heavens!" Harriet Vane thought. "Here was that awful woman, Muriel Campshott, coming up to her. Campshott had always simpered. She still simpered. She was going to say, "How do you think of all your plots?" She did say it. Curse the woman.

to coping with the pressure to write what your publisher—or your readers—want:

"The only thing you can do," Dorothy Sayers said, "is write what you want to write and hope for the best."

to feeling like you've made a hideous mistake in your choice of career:

"It took me 15 years to discover I had no talent for writing," Robert Benchley told me, "but I couldn't give it up because by that time I was famous."

They even showed me what to write and how to write it.

When I went to England for the first time,
I remembered that book about the Blitz Mrs. Warner had read out loud when I was in the eighth grade,
and it made me go to St. Paul's
where I found the fire watch and Oxford's time-travelling historians
and my life's work.

Above all, they taught me what it meant to be a writer.

"Storytellers make us remember what mankind would have been like had not fear, and the failing will, and the laws of nature tripped up its heels," William Butler Yeats said.

And books—

Wait, I'm getting ahead of myself.
Let me begin at the beginning.

I loved books from the moment I saw them, from before I could even read.

and as soon as I did learn,
I read everything I could get my little hands on.

You couldn't get a library card till you were eight years old when I was a kid.

(These were dark, benighted times)
and you were only allowed to check out three at a time
(Really dark and benighted times)

I checked out three of L.Frank Baum's Oz books.

Rita Mae Brown says, "When I got my library card, that's when my life began."

Mine, too.

I read all three Oz books that night
and took them back the next day
and checked out three more.

And then I checked out all the other Oz books
and all the Maida's Little Shop books
and all the Elsie Dinsmore books,
possibly the worst books ever written,
and all the Betsy, Tacy, and Tib books
and the Blue, Green, Yellow, Red, and Violet fairy tale books.

No one else in my family liked to read,
and they were always telling me to "get my nose out of that book and go outside to play,"
an order which had no apparent effect on me
because I went right ahead and read

all the Anne of Green Gables books
and all the Nancy Drew books
and all the Mushroom Planet books
and *Alice in Wonderland*
and *A Little Princess*
and *Cress Delahanty*
and *The Water Babies*.

When I was in 6th grade,
I read *Little Women*
and decided I wanted to be a writer like Jo March.

When I was in 7th grade,
I read *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*
and decided to read my way straight through the library
from A to Z
like Francie does in that book..

When I was in 8th grade,

my teacher Mrs. Warner read us
An Episode of Sparrows by Rumer Godden, a book about an orphan who plants a garden in the bombed-out rubble of a church, and I fell in love with the Blitz.

And then, when I was thirteen,
I read *Have Space Suit, Will Travel*, and it was all over.

How it happened was this way.

I was thirteen
and shelving books in the junior high library,
and I picked up a yellow book—I can still see it—
with a guy in a spacesuit on the cover.

The title was *Have Space Suit, Will Travel*,
and I opened it and read:

"You see, I had this space suit.
How it happened was this way:
"Dad," I said, "I want to go to the Moon."
"Certainly," he answered and looked back at his book.
It was Jerome K. Jerome's
Three Men in a Boat, which he must know by heart.
"I said, "Dad, please! I'm serious!"

There's a scene at the end of *Star Wars*.
The Death Star has cleared the planet
and Luke Skywalker is going in for one last run.
Princess Leia is back at command headquarters,
listening intently to the battle.
All the other fighter pilots are dead or out of action
and Darth Vader has Luke clearly in his sights.
All of a sudden,
Han Solo comes zooming in from left field
to blast Darth Vader
and says,
"Yahoo! You're all clear, kid. Let's blow this thing."

Now when he does this,
Princess Leia doesn't look up from the battle map
or even change her expression,
but my daughter, who was eight years old at the time,
leaned over to me and said, "Oh, she's hooked, Mother."

And when I opened that yellow book
and read those first lines of *Have Space Suit, Will Travel*,
I was hooked.

I raced through *Have Space Suit* and then—
after a brief detour to read *Three Men in a Boat*—
I read *Citizen of the Galaxy*
and *Time for the Stars*
and *The Star Beast*
and *Double Star*
and *Tunnel in the Sky*

and *The Door Into Summer*
and everything else Heinlein had ever written.

And then Asimov
and Clarke
and *The Martian Chronicles*
and *A Canticle for Leibowitz*

And then, oh my God,
I discovered the *Year's Best* short story collections
and the world exploded into dazzling possibilities.

Here, side by side, were the most astonishing short stories
and novelettes
and novellas
and poems

"Vintage Season"
and "Lot"
and "The Man Who Lost the Sea"
and "I Have No Mouth but I must Scream"
and "Flowers for Algernon"
and "Houston, Houston, Do You Read?"

stories by Kit Reed
and William Tenn
and James Blish
and Fredric Brown
and Zenna Henderson
and Philip K. Dick
all in one book

nightmarish futures
and high-tech futures
and marvelous Shangri-Las
and strange distant planets

aliens
and time travel
and robots
and unicorns
and monsters

tragedies
and adventures
and fantasies
and romances
and comedies
and horrors

"Surface Tension"
"Evening Primrose"
"Day Million"
"Continued on Next Rock"
"When We Went to See the End of the World"
"I Hope I Shall Arrive Soon"
and "One Ordinary Day, with Peanuts"

stories that in only a few pages,
a few thousand words,
could turn reality upside down and inside out
and make you look at the world,
at the universe,
a whole new way,
could make you laugh,
make you think,
break your heart.

I was beyond hooked.
I was stunned.
I was speechless with wonder,

like Kip and Peewee looking at their own Milky Way from
the Magellanic Clouds,

like the two hoboes in Ray Bradbury's "A Miracle of Rare
Device," gazing at the beautiful city in the air.

And I knew I wanted to spend the rest of my life reading
and writing.

I stopped reading my way through the library from A to Z
and started reading all the books I could find
with the little atom and rocketship on their spines.

I had only gotten as far as the D's on my plan to read my
way through the alphabet when I stopped,
but, as it turned out,
it was a good thing I'd gotten that far

Because when I was 12,
my mother died suddenly and shatteringly,
and my world fell completely apart,
and I had nobody to turn to but books.

And they saved my life.

I know what you're thinking,
that books provided an escape for me.

And it's certainly true books can offer refuge from worries
and despair—

As Leigh Hunt says, "I entrench myself in books equally
against sorrow and the weather."

I remember particularly
a night in the hospital at my 5-year-old daughter's bedside
waiting for tests to show if she had appendicitis
or something even worse,
clinging to James Herriot's *All Creatures Great and Small*.
like it was a life raft.

During the Blitz,
in the makeshift libraries set up in the tube shelters,
the most popular books were Agatha Christie's mysteries,
in which the murderer's always caught and punished,
justice always triumphs,
and the world makes sense.

And when I'm anxious about things, I reread Agatha
Christie, too.

And Mary Stewart.
And Lenora Mattingly Weber's *Beany Malone* books.

Books can help you get through
long nights and long trips
through the wait for the phone call
and the judge's verdict
and the doctor's diagnosis

can switch off your squirrel-caging mind
can make you forget your own troubles in the troubles
of Kip and Peewee and Frodo and Viola and Harry and
Charlie and Huck

But it wasn't escape I needed when my mother died.
It was the truth.
And I couldn't get anyone to tell it to me.

Instead, they said things like:

"There's a reason this happened,"
and "You'll get over this,"
and "God never sends us more than we can bear."

Lies, all lies.

I remember an aunt saying sagely, "The good die young,"
not exactly a motivation to behave yourself.

And more than one person telling me, "It's all part of
God's plan,"
I remember thinking, even at age 12,
What kind of moron is God?
I could come up with a better plan than this.

And the worst lie of all, "It's for the best."

Everybody lied—relatives, clergymen, friends.

So it was a good thing I'd reached the D's because I had
James Agee's *A Death in the Family*
and Peter Beagle's *A Fine and Private Place*
and Peter DeVries' *The Blood of the Lamb* to tell me the
truth.

"Time heals nothing," Peter DeVries said.

And Margery Allingham said, "Mourning is not forgetting.
It is an undoing. Every minute tie has to be untied and
something permanent and valuable recovered and
assimilated from the past."

and when I discovered science fiction a year later,
Robert Sheckley said,
"Never try to explain to yourselves why some things happen
and why other things don't happen. Don't ask and don't
imagine that an explanation exists. Get it?"

And Bob Shaw's "The Light of Other Days"
and John Crowley's "Snow"
and Tom Godwin

taught me everything there is to know about death
and memory
and the cold equations.

But there were also hopeful messages in those books.

"There is a land of the living and a land of the dead,"
Thornton Wilder said, "and the bridge is love, the only
survival, the only meaning."

And Dorothy, in *The Patchwork Girl of Oz*, said, "Never give
up. You never know what's going to happen next."

"If you look for truth," C.S. Lewis wrote, "You may find
comfort in the end. If you look for comfort, you will not
get either comfort or truth, only soft soap and wishful
thinking to begin, and in the end, despair."

I found what I was looking for,
what I needed,
what I wanted,
what I loved
in books
when I couldn't find it anywhere else.

Francie and the public library and books saved my life.

And taught me the most important lesson books have to
teach.

"You think your pains and your heartbreaks are
unprecedented in the history of the world," James Baldwin
says, "but then you read. It was books that taught me that
the things that tormented me where the very things that
connected me with all the people who were alive, or who
have ever been alive."

And the narrator in *Matilda* says it even better:
Matilda read all kinds of books and was nurtured by the
voices of all those authors who had sent their books out
into the world like ships onto the sea. These books gave

Matilda a hopeful and comforting message: "You are not alone."

I told you about falling in love with books
that day I got my library card,
that day I opened *Have Space Suit* and read that first page,
that day I discovered the *Year's Best* collections,

but it wasn't just that I fell in love with books,
with science fiction.

It wasn't just that they were there when I needed them.
It was that when I found them,
I also found,

like one of Zenna Henderson's *People*,
or the *Ugly Duckling*
or *Anne of Green Gables*
or *Harry Potter*,

my true family,
my "kindred spirits," as *Anne* calls them,
my own kind.

.And, finding them,
for the first time I knew

like *Ozma* released from the witch's spell,
like *Dekker* in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*
like *Bethie* and *Jemmy* and *Valancy*

who I really was.
I had escaped,
but it was not from the real world.
It was from exile.

I had come home.

Just like in a story.

And I lived happily ever after.

Books are an amazing thing.
Anyone who thinks of them as an escape from reality
or as something you should get your nose out of and go
outside and play

as merely a distraction
or an amusement
or a waste of time

Is dead wrong.

Books are the most important
the most powerful
the most beautiful thing
humans have ever created.

When Kip and Peewee find themselves on trial for earth
and trying to defend it against the charge
that it's a danger which should be destroyed, Kip says,
"Have you heard our poetry?"

And what better defense of us could you come up with?

Books can reach out across space and time
and language and culture and customs
gender and age
and even death
and speak to someone they never met,
to someone who wasn't even born when they were written

and give them help
and advice
and companionship
and consolation

In the words of Clarence Day Jr.,
"The world of books is the most remarkable creation of
man.

Nothing else that he builds ever lasts.
Monuments fall,
nations perish,
civilizations grow old and die out,
and after an era of darkness,
new races build others.

But in the world of books
are volumes that have seen this happen again and again
and yet live on,
still young,
still as fresh as the day they were written
still telling men's hearts of the hearts of men centuries
dead."

They are a miracle of rare device.

I never met *Louisa May Alcott*
or *Robert Heinlein*
or *Rumer Godden* or *L. Frank Baum* or *Philip K. Dick*
or *Thornton Wilder* or *Dean Matthews of St. Paul's*,
but they reached out to me
across time,
across space,
and spoke to me
encouraged me
inspired me
taught me everything I know

saved my life.

And filled it with wonder.

And I just wanted to say thank you.

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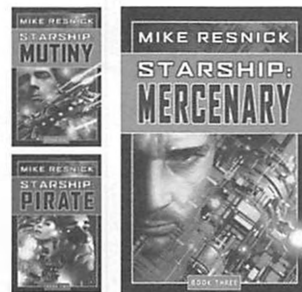
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Carolina's
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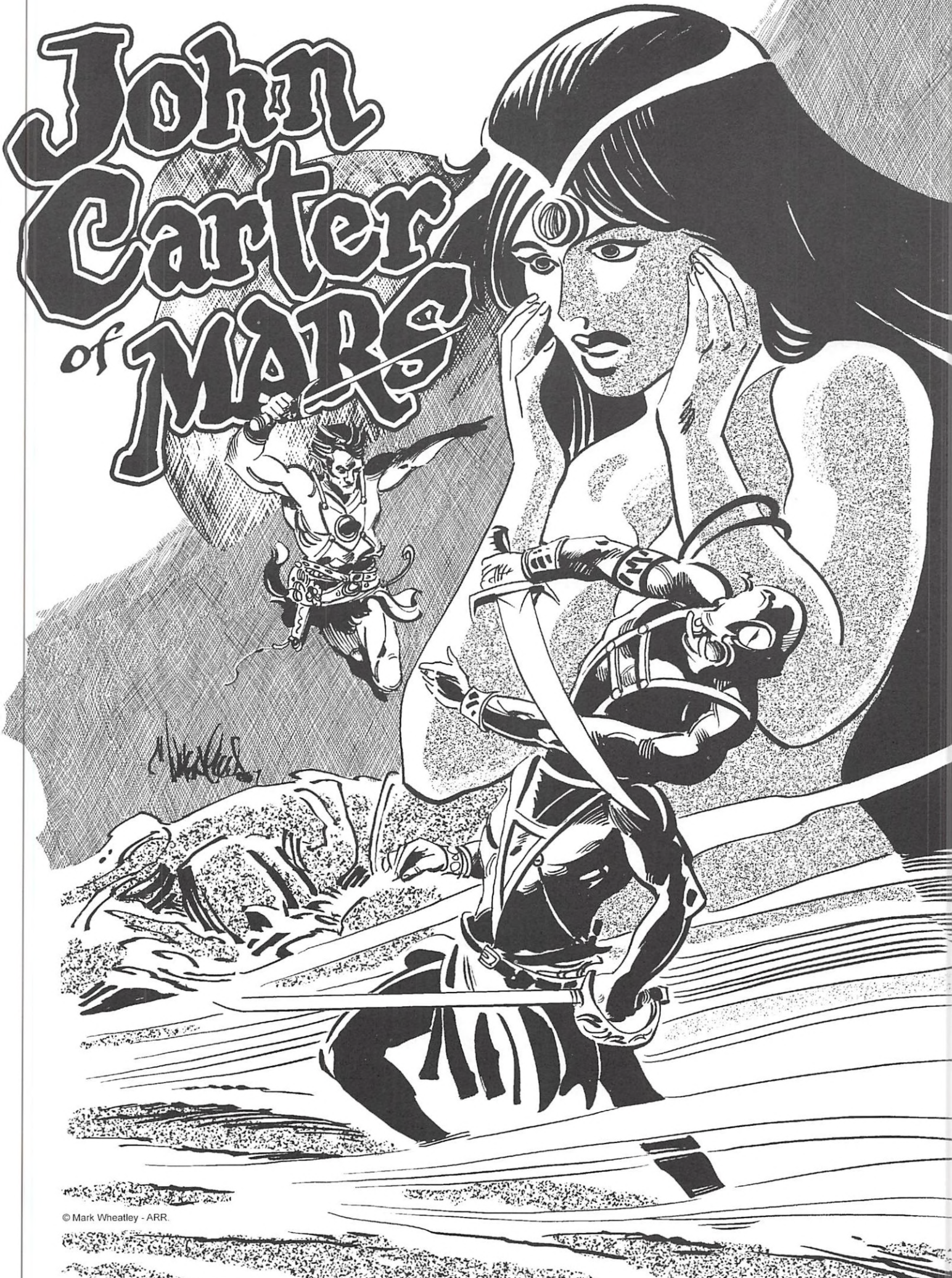
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Bruce and I
are going back
to Albacon

[*Depending on how you book your room, you may get chocolate chip cookies!]



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funny looking
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Baltimore Science Fiction Society, Inc. Rules for the Jack L. Chalker Young Writers' Contest

CONTESTANT REQUIREMENTS:

- a. Contestants shall be no younger than 14 and no older than 18 years of age as of May 29 in the contest year and shall reside in, or attend school in Maryland.
- b. Winners will be required to provide their proof of age.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- a. Submissions must be in the field of science fiction or fantasy.
- b. Submissions shall be no more than 2,500 words in length.
- c. All submissions should include a title page with the title of the story, the entrant's name, note if home-schooled, home address, evening phone number, and e-mail address, if possible. Also, please include your English teacher's name.
- d. Paper submissions must have numbered pages—all submissions must have a footer with the title and page number. They should not have the entrants name or other identifying information on the individual pages. Paper submissions should be typed or printed, double-spaced, on 8.5 x 11" paper.
- e. Electronic submissions must be sent as an attachment to email in either Microsoft Word or Wordperfect format. Otherwise they must be printed out and submitted on paper.
- f. One contestant may submit multiple entries, but only one prize may be won by any one entrant.

OTHER RULES:

- a. Judges shall be drawn from the membership of BSFS, Inc.
- b. The winners will be contacted before the convention and their names will be announced to the public at the next Balticon on Memorial Day Weekend just before the Masquerade at 8:30 PM. Winners need not be present to receive their prizes.
- c. The submissions ranked first, second and third shall receive cash prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50, respectively. The three winners shall also receive complimentary registrations for Balticon for themselves and their parents or one guest each. They will also receive a free Balticon T-Shirt.
- d. The deadline for all submissions is March 1, in any given contest year.
- e. Paper submissions should be addressed to:

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PO Box 686
Baltimore, MD 21203-0686.*
- f. Electronic submissions should be addressed to: <ycw@balticon.org>.
- g. All submissions become the property of Baltimore Science Fiction Society Inc. (BSFS, Inc.), and may be published in Society publications.

For additional information, call the BSFS Building @ 410-563-2737 or the coordinator at 301-596-3936, or send e-mail to: <ycw@balticon.org>. Web: <www.bsfs.org/bsfsywc.htm>.



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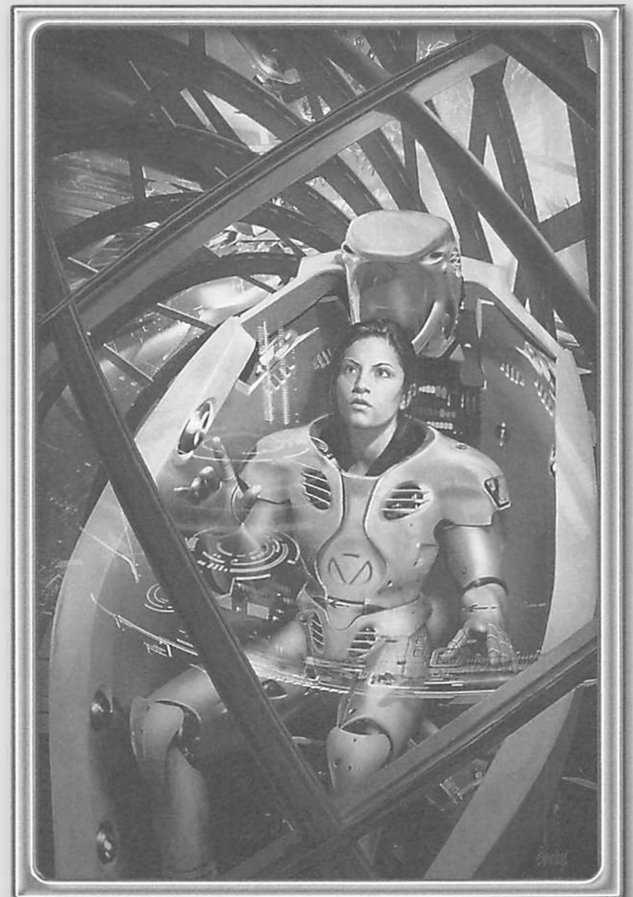
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The Passing

Kiyanna Remington

First Place

BSFS Jack L. Chalker 2008 Young Writers Contest
Thurmont, MD – *Catoctin High School*

ten.

There is no wind.

The slightest brush of a gust is dashed against the steel and concrete walls of the building, towering monstrosities that stare down at their creators with morbid indifference. The smog is just as thick as it was yesterday. Circun knows, because every day, he sits on the balcony of his sardine-can apartment and counts the buildings. Just yesterday, another was lost in that omnipresent, rolling cloud. Except, it's not really a cloud; Circun hasn't seen a real one in years. The thought hurts, just a little.

The smog has been growing steadily deeper for the past twelve years. Twelve years ago, the world finally, *finally* saw the damage being done to the earth in its full magnitude. Twelve years ago, laws had passed, banning excess electricity and banning deforestation and banning mining and cars and banning ~~banning~~ **banning**—

Then, there were trees. Today, there is one, sleeping in a bubble of glass and God-knows-what-else, a myriad of machines hooked parasite-like to its trunk, tunnels that leech the little oxygen it expels, so that the every-growing, ever-hungry city can feed itself on its labored breath. The tunnels wind serpentlike into the great replication plants, where they copy oxygen molecules one by one by one by one for the world to waste.

It's because they don't understand, they never could, *they* didn't watch the world grow and wither, how could they understand that the slow agony they caused was enough for the trees and the eathandheavenanthattheywerejustwaitingto *Die!*

nine.

Four A.M.

Eight hours since the oxygen vents in Circun's apartment started spluttering like a man in the grips of madness. Seven since he was supposed to go on a date. Six since the vent gave one last heave and died.

Five he'd been staring at his roommate's corpse, blue in the face, from the balcony.

It was staring back.

Well, Evan always *was* the sociable one.

It's such a shame, too.

Why are repair men always so damn slow?

...Circun reminds himself to call sooner next time.

eight.

He buries Evan at the city limits. He has no doubt that his friend will be unearthed when it rains, but it isn't like Evan's going to mind. Hell, he might even thank him. He needed a bath, anyway. The ash-like soil doesn't want to say put...it's much more content to waft about in the air like dust. But somehow, Circun manages, and goes home.

There's thunder in the distance.

seven.

You aren't who I thought you were.

The words race through Circun's mind, his heart pounding. Fear, *terror*, overwhelms him. What's worse, he can't find it in himself to argue with her, to plead, to tell her he's-sorry-if-she-would-only-forgive-him—

Because she's right.

No, he tells her, I'm not.

He knows he's crying, that she isn't. He can feel the hot trails on his cheeks, but he'll never *actually* sob.

It's too human for him.

She shouts, and he flinches. She might as well have slapped him.

Then who are you!

six.

Once upon a time, there was a boy.

No, that's not right.

Once upon a time, there was an angel. Yes, that's it. He was an angel. The angel sat on the edge of Heaven, watching the humans from his lofty perch, and he wished that he could help them. He loved the quaint little humans, and was *delighted* to be sent down among them.

At first, he loved the humans, and he much enjoyed his stay with them.

Circun's voice shakes.

And then he discovered Time. Or, rather, Time never discovered him. Time gnawed and tore at his heart, though, devouring everyone he had known and loved. Suddenly, it wasn't so wonderful.

And Circun was very, *very* alone, he whispers, *For centuries*.

five.

He can't sleep. He hasn't for days. Something is pulling, pulling, pulling at him, at his mind and soul and they feel like they're going to tear right out of his body and *escape*. Blackened, broken, tattered rags of wings suddenly want to stretch after being held down for years. There's something, *something*, that wants him, *needs* him...except he can't, because he's in a hospital, oxygen mask over his face, even though he doesn't need it, won't use it—

That girl! Sarah, *Sarah* put him here, after all he'd told her, trusted her with, she'd betrayed him! But he could never hurt her, because he loves her, and he had really, truly wanted to be with her forever. It's a familiar feeling.

But that calling, that summon, pulling tearingscreaming*needing*—

four.

The Tree. The Tree is calling him. He can see it from his window, the one with the metal reinforcements for the mentally unstable. His new window. He can't see his Heaven, but he can see his Tree, and it's the closest thing to home.

And it wants him.

three.

Circun stares out at the Tree, and feels pain for it.

It hadn't done anything for this, he muses. It only ever stood tall for the world. Except, now, it's only a means for humans to continue their ways. He lets out a harsh bark of laughter—the queer, fascinating humans have showed their adorable, cheery little teeth.

two.

Impure smog. Pure oxygen. The malign and the benign.

Glass, metal, concrete and God-knows-what.

It's quieter than he can ever remember, and every breath he takes sounds like thunder to him.

one.

When he left home, they told him that he would know how to come back, when the time came.

It doesn't take long to break the casing, to shatter it with a well-placed blow with the backs of his arms. It's raining crystalline shards, and the Tree makes a groaning sound as its branches are released, the clinging wires straining as it billows outward. The calling is stronger now, like a storm, like wildfire, and it's *ever-so-appropriate*.

All the authorities ever see is Circun, eyes that seem too old for his young body wide with anticipation. Their own shouts to stop, cease, stop, are ignored and cut short as a pair of ancient wings snap into existence.

All they ever see is an angel. And as he lights a match and throws it, as the Tree ignites spectacularly, as if it had been waiting for this, as the fires soar through the the tunnels, as the oxygen plantations burst into pyrotechnic majesty, they see their world end.

Circun smiles, and falls into the flames.

end.

Tied for Honorable Mention

BSFS Jack L. Chalker 2008

Young Writers Contest

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A Beginning

Constantine Nakos, Annapolis, MD

Severn High School

Drained

Molly Szpara, Towson, MD

Carver Center for Arts and Technology

A Cardboard Box

Hiroko Nishimura

Second Place

BSFS Jack L. Chalker 2008 Young Writers Contest
Columbia, MD – *Atholton High School*

"My collection is growing," a tall angel in all black, grinned with satisfaction as he caressed a large orb of swirling gray clouds.

"That's quite sad," an angel farther down, clad in white, replied. She was holding a smaller and rather clear orb.

"It means the world is deteriorating, Aliephas," the dark man replied. "The darker and larger this orb becomes, the more humans there are in hell."

Aliephas glanced over at the man flicking around his long, black hair with disdain in her eyes.

"The more corrupted souls to collect, the larger my collection becomes," he said, cheerfully. "I personally think my souls are quite beautiful. The swirls of gray are much better than a clump of milky white."

"These are the souls of the innocent, Rimanus," Aliephas retorted. "They went through good deeds! All souls are born clean. And yet, your souls decided to use them unwisely."

"At least I don't have to go picking up dogs and cats to make my quota," Rimanus laughed.

"Well, anyways," he said, waiving his hand. "I'll be going now. I need to collect another soul."

Two great, black wings suddenly grew from his back, and after a few beatings, he kicked off the ground and shot down towards the earth.

"Well, let's see the coordinates," he muttered as Rimanus paused in midair and opened a large scroll. "Over..."

His voice was cut off by a gust of wind and a sudden shower of hail. His scream lingered in the air as an abnormally large piece of ice struck one of his wings, sending him hurling down.

When he came to, the sun was already low on the horizon. He was lying flat on the sidewalk of a busy street, sprawled on the concrete, one of his wings tucked under him in an awkward position. He winced in pain as he tried to get up.

People walked around him naturally without giving him a glance. Rimanus coughed and pushed himself up on his knees and shook his head to in an attempt to get rid of the small ringing in his head.

He stood up and took out his crumpled scroll once again, trying to locate the next damned soul on the list. The arrow that points to the exact location was pointing to a place only a few meters away from him, on the side of the road.

To a weathered, cardboard box.

Maybe he was supposed to be looking for a cat. Maybe an evil cat. Maybe the cat cheated on his wife? Or killed

one of his youngs?

The injured angel got up and felt a sharp pain in the area behind his shoulder blades. One of his wings was broken. He could feel it sagging with its own weight. He half limped to the cardboard box, his body unbalanced from the broken wing, not expecting anything more than a dead cat.

Much to his surprise, he found a person. A very old person. He was shriveled and small, but he was a person, sitting inside the cardboard box just high enough for him to sit in, and wide enough for him to sleep, in fetal position. He seemed to have been drowsing when the angel approached him, but opened his eyes when he stopped in front of him. Much to Rimanus's surprise, he smiled up at him when he caught his eyes.

"I was expecting you," he said.

"You can see me?" Rimanus asked, bewildered. Living humans were, by nature, unable to see angels that came to take away the dead.

"Yes, indeed," The old man replied. "I have been seeing your white friend many times recently. She comes around to pick up the cats and dogs that die in the streets. I'd assumed that someone was coming to get me soon." He let out a small laugh.

"Well, I usually come for dead ones," Rimanus admitted. "But I guess my timetable was wrong."

The old man tapped the space beside him when he noticed Rimanus's awkward stature.

"It isn't much, but at least you'll be out of the rain," he said. Only then, did Rimanus realize that it was raining.

Rimanus took the offer and both men sat in silence, staring at the people walking by busily. All were in a hurry to get back home to the warmth of their family and out of the rain.

"What are you waiting for?" the old man asked after a very long moment.

"For your soul to become ready, I suppose," Rimanus replied absentmindedly, not turning to look at the old man, choosing instead, to stare at the people walking by. He had never bothered to observe live humans, he realized. He was always more than ready to pick the souls out of the body of the dead, and leave before his body was polluted, for angels' sensitivity to pollution greatly outranked that of humans. However, this time, leaving seemed impossible with his broken wing, and much less for collecting the soul he was sent out to find. As the people rushed by, he

wondered to himself, *why are they in such a hurry? Do they not realize that they are only hurrying to their deaths?*

"Ho ho ho," the old man let out a jolly laugh. "Dead, I'm assuming?"

Rimanus tore his eyes off the people and looked over at the man uneasily.

"I have been told that death is not a merry topic between humans," he said.

"Oh, to most people, I'm sure it's not," the old man replied. "After all, this society is built on fearing death."

Seeing the confusion on the angel's face, he added, "I've been ready, kid. I've been ready. I'm ready to accept. There's nothing for me to lose."

He smiled again, and his voice dropped.

"I've lost everything already."

The old man tugged his blanket closer to himself and moved his toes out of the rain and tucked under the roof of the box.

"I did many things I regret as a lad, and even more as I got older," the old man said, his expression mild. His eyes were staring blankly at the horizon. The sun was setting and the air was starting to get chilly. The old man tugged his blanket closer to his body and settled back, dragging in air and slowly breathing it out.

The people on the streets on their way to everywhere, though usually uninterested in the lonely, dirty, homeless man, stared for a few seconds with appalled expressions. *He's finally gone insane. He's talking to himself now.*

He coughed a few times into his blanket and then went on.

"I've done practically everything you could ever think of. I've dropped out of high school, ran away with a woman 15 years older than I, though she was, I have to admit, pretty foxy. I've stolen from old women, did drugs with my 'hood friends during my teenage years. I can't say I didn't have fun. I smoked my lungs out, and drank my way through the nights with my buddies, cursing and talking. But I know they weren't the best things to do, now that the effects are coming to me."

Rimanus listened silently. The way the humans thought was beginning to fascinate him. *Fun. What is fun?* It must be a pretty good state of being if he was willing to go that far to achieve it.

"When I got older," the old man continued. He was on a roll. He had not had anyone that listened to him speak in a very long time, and he wanted his story heard. "I got married to a very nice, pretty girl. She didn't mind that I was a kid from the ghettos. And I loved her very much. And I started working, too. For her. But I only got jobs at construction because I dropped out of high school.

"Things were going relatively smoothly. We got a son. He was the best thing to happen to me, ever. He was a little me, a little her. But mostly her. His nice personality certainly didn't come from me." The old man took a moment to gather his breath again. Rimanus noted that he seemed to be having breathing difficulties at times. But he talked. A lot. And he still kept on talking even though he was

coughing. The air was very cold and the old man was shaking. His thin blanket was not enough for the frigid air passing through the cardboard that signaled that winter was about to come.

"And then, I ruined it all. I began drinking to alleviate the pain in my joints from the hard work. And that came through in my work. What I started to try and help with what I was doing ended up destroying it. I was fired. And I got even more drunk. My wife had to go out and start working while I lay around at home, too drunk to do anything. I just couldn't do anything. And then I became violent. I had nothing else to do, you see? There was a screaming kid wanting his mom, and there was nothing I could do. So I hit him to silence him. He learned soon enough. But my wife found out. And of course, she fought for her son's health. But that didn't stop me. Not only was I drunk, but her screaming irritated my brain. So I struck. And struck. She couldn't go out for days because of how bad her face was."

The old man took another gulp of air. His voice was becoming raspy.

"And I regret everything. She, of course, walked out on me after that. I tried to get her back. Begged. I loved my son. Despite everything, I loved him. And I loved her, too. But I lost everything then. So all I could do was drink. So I did. I drank and drank. Ran out of money, got kicked out the house... Had no where to go. The support checks stopped coming in when it became apparent that I wasn't looking for any work."

"And..." the old man trailed off. Rimanus stood with his back to the old man, pruning his now-healed wings. He waited for the rest of the sentence, but it did not come. Only when he turned back around wondering what the old man was doing did he realize that he was asleep. The night was beginning to settle in and the breaths of the people walking hurriedly to their warm homes puffed in white clouds.

He slid to the old man to pull up his thin blankets that were drooping. He paused for a second, and peered into the old man's sleeping face. He looked serene, as though he were enjoying a nice dream. But he was not breathing.

"Hey..." Rimanus whispered, shaking the old man's shoulders. "Hey, old man!"

Rimanus shook the old man's shoulders violently, and his head buckled back and forth limply.

For as long as he had been working as the Black Angel of Death, Rimanus had never encountered a dying man. He had never seen anyone actually die.

Rain began pouring down in much greater force than the drizzle before while he stood, dumb folded, unable to accept the fact that someone was actually dead. A person whom he had begun to regard as a friend, a person who was the first to not judge him by his black colors that represented death. He could not get himself to collect his soul. He touched the old man. He was still warm. He could be still alive! But he knew that that was not possible. He

Seer

Rebecca S. Mazariegos

Third Place

BSFS Jack L. Chalker 2008 Young Writers Contest

Bowie, MD – *Home Schooled*

My first mistake, I would have to say, was leaving the safety of Bloomington, Iowa. That was only my first mistake, however. I would make many others afterwards, as any human is wont to do. But my first mistake, the first of consequence and lasting effect, was leaving Bloomington, for this one set into motion a series of very unfortunate events.

I was born Belinda Scheherazade Atherholt on July 7, 1991 to Peter and Catherine Atherholt. I was their seventh and last child. Being the youngest, one would have thought that I should have been spoiled rotten. But I was treated differently, a fact for which I would have to blame my parents. I'm sure they didn't mean for it to be the way it was, but they really could not help themselves. For there was a prophecy (although most would call it a rumor, being that prophecies are quite *out*) concerning the seventh child born to anyone with the blood of the house of Atherholt flowing through his veins. The prophecy stated that this child would become immortal if he lived to be 18, which was a hard thing for any of the seventh children to do because of a certain curse.

No one knows the full extent of this curse or how exactly it originated, save for the fact that the last seventh child had a severe case of klutziness and general bad luck. Needless to say, he did not live to be 18. For this reason my parents feared becoming too close to me, and my siblings picked up on this and therefore did not love me either.

In spite of what you have heard about the damaging effects of a loveless life, I was not severely emotionally damaged by this lack of love. I was, strangely, one of the happiest children in my tiny town and so bore my parents no ill will for their neglect. Having such a happy disposition, I didn't really need much in the way of companionship. It was as though Fate had prepared me emotionally for a solitary existence, at least for the first few years of my life. Because the other children considered me peculiar, my only friends were Mistress Doyle, a woman rumored to be a witch, and all the stray animals I could find. These were the truest of friends to me because we all had one very important thing in common: no one wanted us.

So it was for the first 11 years of my life. It was, all things considered, a perfectly normal childhood. After I turned 11, however, horrible things began to happen. It would have been bad enough had it just been puberty that I had to suffer through, but no, I had to start *seeing* things too.

The first time it happened I thought it was just a dream. I'd just finished my chores and was very tired. I sat down for a quick rest and closed my eyes, expecting to see nothing but the inside of my eyelids for a few minutes. Instead of that calm restful feeling before sleep I felt a strange chill, a burning cold that raced through my veins and made my hands shake. My teeth chattered as a slideshow

of images raced across my vision, horrid and grotesque. I saw a boy, my age, sitting on a stump. It was strange because he seemed to be in deep conversation with a very large toad sitting next to him. Then I saw him again, a little bit older, being attacked by an abnormally large crow. The final picture, and worst of all, was of him, almost a man, lying facedown in dark murky water. He was dead.

My eyes popped open and I felt something stuck in my throat, choking me, trying to force its way out. But I would not scream. I would not give voice to my horror. I knew who he was. And I was afraid. That could be me, I thought. That could be me lying face down in that dark water, lifeless. I had never before put much stock into the rumors of the prophecy. But this vision gave me pause. I needed to know more.

Hurrying away from my little house with only moonlight to guide my feet and keep me from tripping and falling to a premature death, I was more than a little terrified. My horror at what I had just seen still had not waned by the time I reached Mistress Doyle's manor. I gave my signal knock on the door to the kitchen and waited for her to answer. I was cold again, my teeth chattering, when she opened the door. She took one look at me and her face took on a look I had never seen before on her beautiful countenance: pity. I was too terrified to be indignant, letting her take me into her comfortable sitting room and be wrapped in blankets before being given tea and other comforting foods. After I had calmed down some, she faced me with a hesitant look and asked softly, "What happened, dear?"

My insides froze again and for a moment I was afraid that the scones I'd just eaten would make a second appearance. Finally, I managed, "I had a nightmare."

Mistress Doyle nodded and continued to gaze at my face. I felt my fear begin to ebb and then my limbs became less tense. I let out a deep breath and she asked, "What did you see?"

"Him." Tears clouded my vision as the images came back to me, and suddenly it all came spilling out of my mouth. "The first two images were strange. I saw a boy, talking to a really big toad. Then I saw him again, but he was older, and being attacked by a big, evil crow. But the last one, Mistress Doyle, it was so unfair. He wasn't even fully-grown! The last image I saw before I woke up was of him lying facedown in dark muddy water. He was dead." I spat out the last part with so much venom that all of my sadness evaporated.

Mistress Doyle put a comforting hand on my shoulder and I went again from anger to sadness. My face crumpled up as hot tears raced down my cheeks and I let myself be comforted by the witch.

Yes, the rumors about Mistress Doyle were true. But I was the only one who knew it for fact. No one else got close enough to her to find out. Living in a small town had its drawbacks, but Mistress Doyle, whom I now suppose we should call Constance, as that is

her name, had learned to live with the superstitious townspeople.

"You know what this means," she said, after some time. I made no reply, but she knew that I'd heard. "You must do all you can to escape the same fate."

There is a time for anger, a time for sadness, and a time for joy. All emotions have their place. And though I probably should have been feeling a mixture of the first two, I think it is only fair to say that I was too tired to focus on either one, and too young and naive to know what I should rightly be feeling anyway. So it was with very little resistance that I accepted my fate.

This was the point at which Constance told me that I was a seer. The obviousness of this fact is unmistakable to you, my dear reader, but I, being the person it was actually *happening* to, was quite blind to it. I had been, for many years, learning of the supernatural from Constance. However, believing that all of what I had been hearing was actually *true* was much more difficult than one would think. I eventually did believe though, and life moved on. As much as could be expected, I mean, considering Death was always at my door, smiling his gap-toothed smile at me as he stroked the blade of his scythe.

Two years passed, and seven different visions, each as strange and terrifying as the first one. They each featured people whom I knew to be the seventh born children of Atherholt. I knew they had to be connected somehow, but I couldn't figure out how they meant something to my life as it was. I spoke to Constance about each of them, poking and prodding every morbid corner of the visions until I wondered whether they had any point at all. Those two years passed quickly, it seemed, and they brought me closer to the age I feared. I was 13, and there were only five more years until *immortality*. The closer I got to that age the more I felt a sense of dread in the pit of my stomach. I knew that danger was coming. The curse would not overlook me; there was no question about *that*. The question was, *when?*

I opened my eyes to the ceiling of my room, its wooden planks seeming to glow in the moonlight spilling from my open window. I blinked a couple of times, trying to remember what had awakened me. The ceiling seemed to shake for a moment. I gasped, blinking rapidly, but the ceiling had stilled when I sat up. I felt a chill, though no breeze had disturbed the curtains, and a sense of dread. Something wasn't right. In the corner of my vision a shadow moved, and the taste of metal filled my mouth, the air seemed to hum with a current of electricity. I was being pulled, compelled by something to get up and get out. Get out. There was danger in this place.

It was from a darkened house that I stumbled at three in the morning that day in May. Into the night I went, compelled by fear, forgetting to grab anything from home. I could feel, like cold fingertips brushing against my back, the danger that now lurked here. I blinked my eyes, seeing the traces of spells, dark and malevolent, fresh on the trees that surrounded my house. They had not been there before this night. A whimper sounded in my throat and I realized from the pain in my feet that I had forgotten my shoes.

I eventually came to a fork in the road and saw Constance, her face pale and full of fear, waiting for me. "It has come."

I nodded. She had two packs with her and offered me one of them. "Then we must go."

I extended my hand to take the pack. The trees began to shake and everything came to a sharp focus, bright, almost painfully bright, then time seemed to slow. Constance's face was frozen with her eyebrows furrowed with worry. Nothing moved except a shadow moving through the trees, coming closer and then taking the form of a woman clothed in scarlet as she entered the blinding brightness beyond the forest.

"We've been trying to reach you."

Her voice was a million whispers. She came close enough for me to see the features of her face, and when I did I gasped.

"You." It was the only thing I could think to say.

The seventh born smiled and answered in her whispery voice, "The time is at hand." An inhuman shriek sounded from somewhere behind me. Her smile vanished and she turned to me with a worried look. "We will be in touch. But now you must hurry."

She whirled around and disappeared into the woods. I shook as time resumed its normal pace and Constance asked what had happened.

"Another vision," I said, still shaking as I blinked my eyes to readjust to my surroundings, which had become less bright after the woman's disappearance. "But it was more like a message from the seventh born. A woman in red came and told me that they, I'm assuming she meant herself and the other seventh born children, had been trying to reach me. Then she said we should go." My vision had adjusted when I turned to look at her. "Her voice was like a million whispers."

"Scheherazade." Constance said, "One of the seventh born. See, your middle name isn't so random as you thought." That brought a smile to my face briefly.

She was helping me into a pair of shoes from one of the travel packs when a shadow passed over us. I looked up and saw an abnormally large crow. Fear gripped me. "We have to leave."

Constance straightened. The taste of metal was back, the air suddenly filled with electricity. "We have to leave now!"

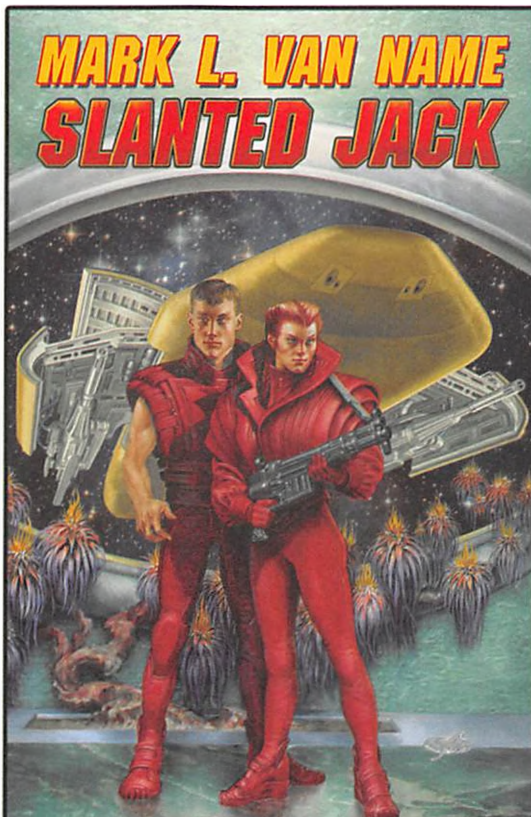
The crow spotted us and changed its course. It was coming towards us, gaining speed every second. Soon I could see its beady eyes and the taste of metal was starting to choke me. At that moment Constance grabbed my hand, fearfully whispering a spell. The world around us began to fade.

We left Bloomington that night. I called it a mistake, when I first began this narrative, because of what happened *afterward*. But I wonder now if I was a bit hasty in declaring it so. No doubt it changed the direction of my life. But what would have happened if I had stayed? Would I have most certainly died? These questions plague me now, as I sit and write this letter. For I am writing this to calm myself from thinking of the fate that awaits me after I am released from the prison I am currently in. I wonder and fret though it does me no good. But I close my eyes and think back to that first mistake, the one that brought me here. I see the trees, silvery in the moonlight, Mistress Doyle as she takes my hand and whispers a spell to take us away, and then the scenery fading away as I leave my old life behind and start on the path that brings me to where I am now, awaiting a fate *worse* than death.

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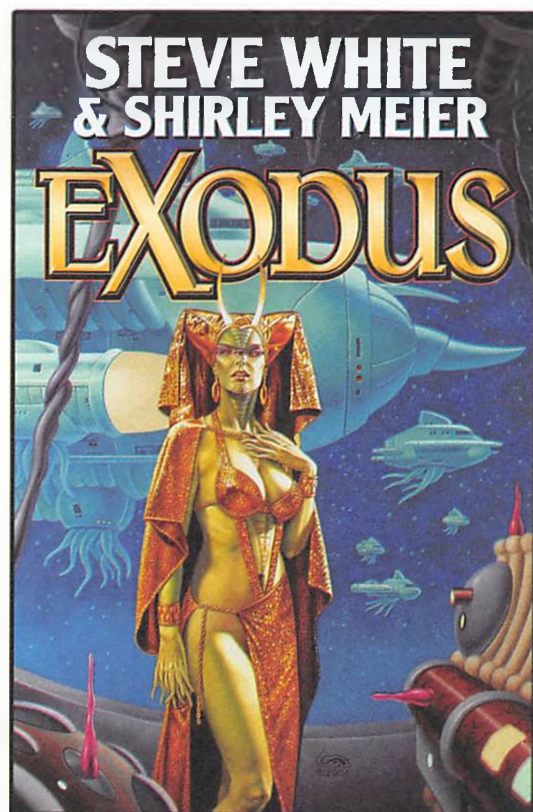


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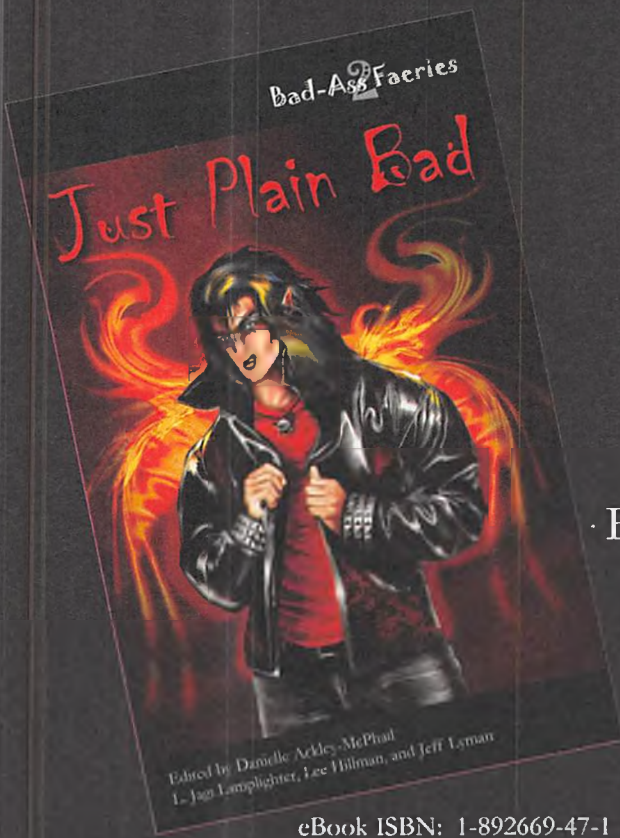


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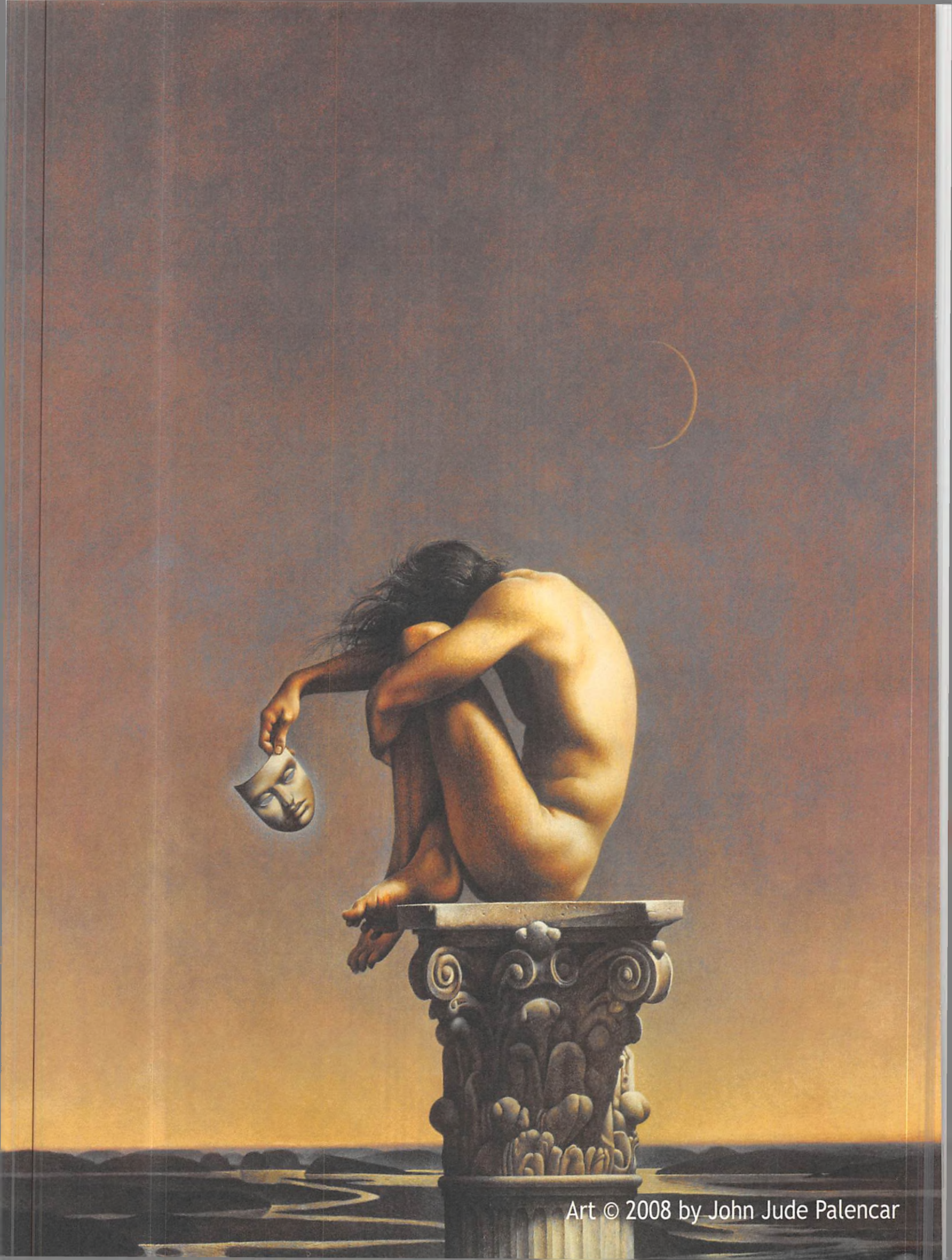


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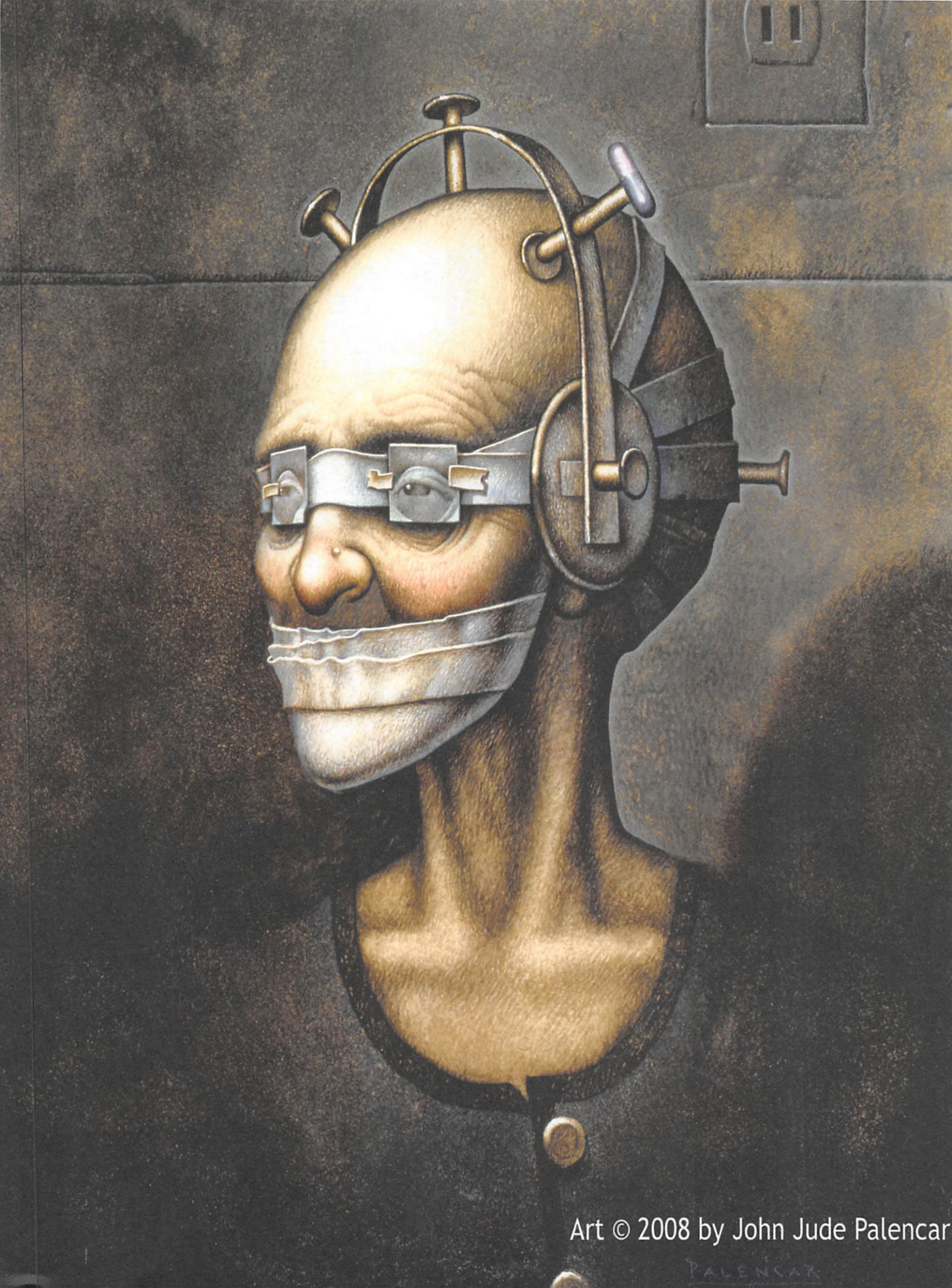


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DANIELLE ACKLEY-MCPHAIL

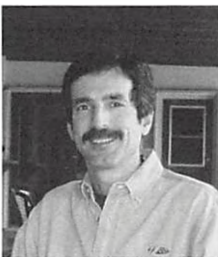


Danielle Ackley-McPhail has worked both sides of the publishing industry for over a decade. Her works include the urban fantasy, *Yesterday's Dreams*, its upcoming sequel, *Tomorrow's Memories* (Mundania Press, <www.mundania.com/>), the anthologies *Bad-Ass Faeries* (Marietta Publishing, <www.mariettapublishing.com/>), and *No Longer Dreams*, (Lite Circle Books, <www.litecircle.org/>), both of which she co-edited, and contributions to numerous anthologies and collections, including *Dark Furies* (Die Monster Die! Books, <www.diemonsterdie.com/>), and *Breach the Hull*, also from Marietta Publishing. 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* (<www.dragonmoonpress.com/>) and a standing column, "If We'd Words Enough and Time," for the sadly defunct web site, Fictionauts.

Danielle is a member of the electronic publishing organization EPIC, as well as Broad Universe, a writer's organization promoting the work of women authors in the speculative genres. Keep an eye out; she has four more anthologies coming out over the next year and a half.

Danielle lives somewhere in New Jersey with husband and fellow writer, Mike McPhail, mother-in-law Teresa, and three extremely spoiled cats. Web site: <www.sidhenadaire.com/>.

BRAD AIKEN



Brad Aiken is the Medical Director for Rehabilitation at Baptist Hospital in Miami, Florida, and has been recognized by Miami Metro Magazine as one of the top physicians in South Florida. He has published several scientific articles, and has presented to both professional and non-professional groups on a variety of topics. Dr. Aiken has received numerous science awards including the Navy Science Award, the NASA Research Award, the Army Science Award and the Air Force Physics Award. He began writing science fiction while in college at Boston University, and published his first book, *Starscape: The Silver Bullet*, in 2000. His latest book, *Mind Fields*, was published in September, 2007. His award-winning short stories "The Hill" and "Billy Dayton" can be found on his web site at: <bradaiken.com>.

TRISTAN ALEXANDER

Tristan Alexander is a 51-year-old artist who has done art for many fanzines and for the SCA (Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc (<www.sca.org>)), a non-profit Medieval recreation organization. He has sold at many East Coast cons for the past 22 years and this will be his 22nd Balticon. He has done art panels on various subjects related to fantasy art at the past four Balticons. He is well known for his semi erotic males and his illustrative style. He lives in Westminster, MD with his husband of 22 years and six cats. Web site: <www.vampyre-nmp.com>.

CATHERINE ASARO

Catherine Asaro is a theoretical physicist (Ph.D. from Harvard), a ballerina who has danced on both coasts, and a bestselling, award-winning writer. Winner of the Nebula Award for her novel, *The Quantum Rose*, Catherine's fiction is a blend of hard science fiction, romantic adventure, and space adventure. She has published over 20 novels, 12 of which belong to her "Saga of the Skolian Empire." Her most recent next novel in that series is *The Ruby Dice* (Baen Books, January 2008).

Dr. Asaro has published short fiction in *Analog* magazine and several anthologies, most recently the novella "The SpaceTime Pool" in the March 2008 issue. She has also published the novellas "Walk in Silence," "A Roll of the Dice," and "Aurora in Four Voices," all of which won the AnLab, or Analog Readers Poll award, and were nominated for the Nebula and Hugo. Her latest short fiction, "The Topaz Desert," will be published in *Lace and Blade* in February 2008, and is also part of the "Lost Continent" series. Her novella "The City of Cries" appeared in *Down These Dark Spaceways*, edited by Mike Resnick, and won the Booksellers Best Award.

Catherine is currently working on her next Ruby Dynasty book, *Diamond Star*, about a renegade member of the Ruby Dynasty who becomes a rock star on Earth. She is working with the band Point Valid to cut a CD that is a soundtrack for the book, using lyrics she wrote for the novel, as well as two songs by the band's lead singer, Hayim Ani.

Catherine and her husband, astrophysicist John Canizzo, have one daughter, a ballet dancer who loves math. They live in Columbia, MD.

JOHN ASHMEAD

John Ashmead has worked as an assistant editor for *Isaac Asimov's SF Magazine* and has been involved with Philadelphia SF for many, many moons. He now makes his living 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 also writing a book about debugging software: *Zen and the Art of Debugging*. He has a B.A. from Harvard and a master's from Princeton, both in physics. He is currently working on getting a doctorate in physics. But his life's ambition is to create a really practical time machine.

JARED AXELROD



An engine of relentless creativity, these things in question include—but are not limited to—rayguns, plays, pulp heroes, swords, puppets, costumes, one-man shows, toys, gourmet meals, and otherworldly devices. These things have been known to change the lives of many, save the lives of a few, and generally assist whenever needed, much like their creator. He has performed in two circuses, one of which was his own. His writing and artwork has been published in just about every format currently available. Some of it has won awards, applause and accolades from people who really ought to know better than to encourage him.

A founding member of the daily flash-fiction website “365 Tomorrows,” he is also the writer and producer of two science-fiction podcasts: “The Voice Of Free Planet X,” and “Aliens You Will Meet.”

He is not domestic, he is a luxury, and in that sense, necessary.

MARC BAILEY [GRAILWOLF]

Marc Bailey, also known as Grailwolf, is the host of the “Grailwolf’s Geek Life” podcast, a show about sci fi, fantasy, & horror entertainment, and the current changes in fan culture. He calls this period of change a “Geek Renaissance.” Marc is also an editor and forum moderator for <TV.com>, and a regular contributor to the ADD Cast.

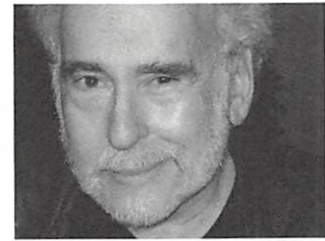
BRICK BARRIENTOS

Brick Barrientos has been running trivia contests at Washington and Baltimore conventions since 1983. He currently hosts a movie trivia game show called “Silver Screen Test” (<www.silverscreentest.com>) on public access cable television in Montgomery County. You can also find him moderating at local quizbowl competitions and sometimes playing in the pop culture tournaments. Brick also writes the blog “Eucalyptus” about television, baseball and everything else. In his day job, he is an accountant for the federal government. Web site: <www.silverscreentest.com/koala/eucalyptus/>.

PETER S. BEAGLE

Peter S. Beagle was born in 1939 and raised in the Bronx, just a few blocks from Woodlawn Cemetery, the inspiration

for his first novel, *A Fine and Private Place*. Today, thanks to classic works such as *The Last Unicorn*, *Tamsin*, and *The Innkeeper’s Song*, he is acknowledged as America’s greatest living fantasy author; and his dazzling abilities with language, characters, and magical storytelling have earned him many millions of fans around the world.



In addition to stories and novels Peter has written numerous teleplays and screenplays, including the animated versions of *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Last Unicorn*, plus the fan-favorite “Sarek” episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. His nonfiction book *I See By My Outfit*, which recounts a 1963 journey across America on motor scooter, is considered a classic of American travel writing; and he is also a gifted poet, lyricist, and singer/songwriter.

He recently won the Hugo and Nebula awards for “Two Hearts,” the coda story to *The Last Unicorn*. New works coming out in 2008 include the novels *Summerlong* and *I’m Afraid You’ve Got Dragons*; the story collections *Strange Roads*, *We Never Talk About My Brother*, and *The First Last Unicorn and Other Beginnings*; the nonfiction titles *Writing Sarek and Sméagol*, *Déagol*, and *Beagle: Essays from the Headwaters of My Voice*; and a manga-style graphic novel adaptation of *The Last Unicorn*.

Web sites: <www.conlanpress.com>, <www.peterbeagle.com>.

TOM BECK

Tom Beck is chief curator at University of Maryland, Baltimore County and affiliate faculty in the Visual Arts Department. Among his numerous publications are *An American Vision: John G. Bullock and the Photo-Secession*, *The Art of Edward S. Curtis*, and *David Seymour (Chim)*. Beck is an Emmy Award winner; a four-time NEA grant recipient; and has lectured widely in the United States and abroad.

JOSEPH BELLOFATTO, JR.

Joseph Bellofatto, Jr. is an artist/illustrator residing with his wife and children in Columbia, MD and Washington, DC. His published works include the covers and interiors for *DNA Publications*, *Quiet Vision Publications*, *Dwell Records*, *Chameleon Eclectic Entertainment* and *Indie Press Revolution*. He has finished a three-year collaboration with fighting historian and theorist James La Fond for a non-fiction book on the history of fighting (boxing\wrestling\martial arts) for Paladin Press entitled *The Broken Dance*. Beside his illustration work he has completed numerous graphic design assignments for the federal government, an international carpet manufacturer, a prestigious DC architectural firm and has done fine art commissions for private individuals. In 2006 he was nominated for a Chesley Award.

STEVE BERMAN

Steve Berman's works of queer and weird fiction have been nominated for several awards, including the Andre Norton and Lambda Literary. Lethe Press reprinted his suburban fantasy for young adults, *Vintage: A Ghost Story*, and he has edited such anthologies as *Charmed Lives*, *So Fey*, and the just-released *Magic in the Mirrorstone*, which collects 15 fantasy tales from some of the top names in young adult literature. He's worked as a book buyer for major wholesalers. He currently resides in southern New Jersey. Web site: <steveberman.com/>.

JOSHUA BILMES

Joshua Bilmes has been a literary agent since 1986, and proprietor of his own JABberwocky Literary Agency since 1994. JABberwocky clients include: *New York Times* bestseller Charlaine Harris; Tanya Huff, whose "Blood" books are the basis of Lifetime's "Blood Ties" series; Nebula Award winner Elizabeth Moon; Campbell finalists Brandon Sanderson and Tobias Buckell; Stoker winner Edo van Belkom; Locus bestselling authors Simon Green, John Zakour, Scott Mackay and Maryland's own John Henry (aka Jack Campbell); the "Hot Blood" anthologies; Arkham House/Lovecraft; Lambda Award horror finalist Michael Schiefelbein; and more. Joshua is an avid moviegoer and watches lots of baseball and tennis.

DANNY BIRT

Danny Birt was born about 26 years ago in Washington State to Irish and Californian parents, and since then he has lived in Idaho, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Hawaii, and Virginia. He attended New Mexico Military Institute in the small town of Roswell, NM for his high school and junior college years, then pulled a one-eighty and went to a liberal arts college, Loyola University New Orleans, for his next two college degrees in music therapy and psychology.

Danny has published science fiction, fantasy, and professional works in the *Raintown Review*, the anthology *Strange Worlds of Lunacy*, <Vadecast.com>, and *Musica Ficta*. His fantasy series "The Laurian Pentology" is soon to be published through Ancient Tomes Press, starting with the book *Ending an Ending*.

In addition to literary publication, Danny composes classical and folk music, such as his nonstop hour-long piano solo "Narcoleptic Pianist," and the ever-peculiar album *Warped Children's Songs*. Danny also works as a music therapist and massage therapist with clients of multiple ages and populations.

Currently, Danny lives in Winchester, VA, and attends Shenandoah University in pursuit of his music therapy master's degree. In his spare time, Danny's hobby is finding new hobbies. Web site: <www.dannybirt.com/>.

J.R. BLACKWELL

J.R. Blackwell is a writer, photographer and contortionist. Her essays and fiction have been published in print and on the web. She is one of the founders of "365 Tomorrows" and the podcast "Voices of Tomorrow." Her photography has been on several book covers. She specializes in taking naughty pictures of good girls. She can be seen performing with the Hellcat Girls in Philadelphia.



RAE BRADBURY-ENSLIN

Rae Bradbury-Enslin is a Master-level costumer who has been competing for nearly two decades. She is known for her off-the-wall sense of humor onstage. Audiences find her amusing; her fellow costumers think she should be committed. Every once in a while she makes a costume that's ethereal, pretty, and lacking a punch line... just to confuse people.

MARILYN "MATTIE" BRAHEN

Marilyn "Mattie" Brahen enjoys writing, art and music, singing and playing guitar, performing her own and others' songs. Her first novel, *Claiming Her*, well-reviewed by *Publisher's Weekly*, was published by Wildside Press, and she is working on a sequel, *Reforming Hell*. Mattie's stories, poetry, and SF-related non-fiction have also appeared in magazines and books in America and England.

PATRICIA BRAY

Patricia Bray began her fantasy career with the publication of *Devlin's Luck*, which won the 2003 Compton Crook award. In June she launches a new series with the release of *The First Betrayal* by Bantam Spectra. A resident of upstate New York, Patricia balances her writing with a full-time career as an I/T project manager. She can be found on the web at <www.patriciabray.com>.

W.T. "TOM" BRIDGMAN

Dr. Bridgman completed his Ph.D. in physics in 1994 from Clemson University, studying nuclear and high-energy astrophysics. He spent four years working as an instrument specialist for the Oriented Scintillation Spectrometer Experiment (OSSE) at the Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory Science Support Center, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center. In 1999, he moved over to a contract at the Scientific Visualization Studio, also at NASA/Goddard (<svs.gsfc.nasa.gov>), and began working with data visualization supporting NASA public outreach and education efforts. His emphasis in recent years is visualization of solar/heliospheric and geospace/magnetospheric satellite

data. Since 1998 he has been involved in science education issues exploring ways to debunk bad science and pseudo-science that can be integrated into science classes. This has also led him into studies of connections in science, history, and technology. Web site: <homepage.mac.com/cygnusx1/>.

STEPHANIE "FLASH" BURKE

"Have You Been Flashed?" It's the question Stephanie Burke is asking.

Stephanie is a multi-published, multi-award-winning wife and mother of two whose unparalleled imagination causes her no end of trouble.

From sex-shifting, shape-shifting dragons to undersea worlds, up to sexually confused elemental fey and homoerotic mysteries, all the way to pastel-challenged urban sprites, Stephanie has done it all, and hopes to do more.

Stephanie is co-founder of the charitable organization Write 4 Hope, an orator on her favorite subject of writing and world building, a sometimes teacher when you feed her enough coffee and donuts, an anime nut, a costumer, and a frequent guest of various sci-fi and writing cons where she can be found leading panel discussions or researching more and varied legends and theories to improve her writing skills.

Stephanie is known for her love of the outrageous, strong female characters, believable worlds, male characters filled with depth, and interracial fiction that make the reader sit up and take notice.

Currently Stephanie writes for Changeling Press, Ellora's Cave, Loose-Id press, Red Rose Publishing, Broken Sword Press, Firedrakes Were, and hopes to add more to her resume.

Web sites: <Theflashcat.net>; email: <Flashycat2004@aol.com>, <Flamekeeper@yahoo.com>. She would love to hear from you.

LAURA A. BURNS

Laura A Burns has been a space enthusiast for most of her life. Since 1998, Laura has been on the James Webb Space Telescope project, most recently for the Space Telescope Science Institute. During the summer of 2007, she spent nine weeks in Beijing, China at the International Space University SSP. She is an alumna of the prestigious NASA Academy student internship program and is actively involved in the NASA Academy Alumni Association. She regularly attends space conferences and enjoys speaking to the public on JWST and other space topics. In addition to her interest in space, she is a long-time science fiction and fantasy fan and an avid book collector. Her blog can be found at: <scifilaura.blogspot.com/>.

JAMES CHAMBERS

James Chambers "writes stories that are paced fast enough to friction burn a reader's eyeballs," says <Horror Reader.com>. His tales of horror, fantasy, and science fiction

have been published in *Bad-Ass Faeries*, *Breach the Hull*, *Crypto-Critters* (Volume 1 and 2), *Dark Furies*, *The Dead Walk*, *The Dead Walk Again*, *Hardboiled Cthulhu*, *Lin Carter's Anton Zarnak Supernatural Detective*, *No Longer Dreams*, *Sick: An Anthology of Illness*, *Weird Trails*, and *Warfare* as well as the magazines *Bare Bone*, *Cthulhu Sex*, and *Allen K's Inhuman*. With illustrator Jason Whitley, he authored the story collection *The Midnight Hour: Saint Lawn Hill and Other Tales*. He also created the critically acclaimed horror comic "The Revenant" for Shadow House. Web site: <www.jameschambersonline.com>.

ROBERT R. CHASE

Robert R. Chase is acting chief counsel of the Army Research Laboratory. He is the author of three published SF novels (*The Game of Fox and Lion*, *Shapers*, and *Crucible*), and about 20 shorter works which have been published in *Analog* and *Asimov's*.

CARL CIPRA

Carl started reading fantasy and science fiction in his pre-teen years and has been hooked ever since. He became involved with fandom back in the 1970s (by way of the SCA in Southern California) and is one of the founding members of Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians. He really enjoys moderating discussion panels at conventions and is looking forward to all the fascinating discussions at Balticon this year. Mundanely, Carl is the program manager for instructor-training in a much-maligned, three-letter government agency.

BRENDA W. CLOUGH

I write science fiction and fantasy, mainly novels. Eight of my novels have been published in the last couple decades. The latest novel, *Doors of Death and Life*, was published by Tor Books in May 2000, to generally favorable reviews. My previous novel, *How Like a God*, can be ordered online from the FoxAcre Press Web or <Amazon.com>. I have a number of other novels to come.

I also write short stories and occasional non-fiction. I have a story in Patrick Nielsen Hayden's anthology *Starlight 3*. Every now and then I teach "Writing F&SF" at the Writer's Center in Bethesda, MD.

I turn up at a lot of science fiction conventions. I volunteer for the Science Fiction Writers of America.

I knit and hang out with local knitters. I have taken up playing the piano after a hiatus of more than 30 years. I paint—walls, furniture, and watercolors.

I live in a cottage at the edge of a forest with my husband Larry, and the Natives, Diana and Simon, as in "the natives are restless tonight!" As a girl, I attended the American School of Vientiane, Laos. Web site: <www.sff.net/people/Brenda>.

CHRIS CONDAYAN



Chris Condayan serves as the manager for the American Society for Microbiology's public education outreach initiative in which he oversees the production of the society's "MicrobeWorld Radio" program. Condayan has spearheaded ASM's efforts in podcasting, establishing the organization as the first scientific society to have a daily audio podcast and a monthly video podcast. He also regularly presents on podcasting and new media at many science and education-based conferences in the U.S. and Canada.

Prior to his work with ASM, Condayan served as the director of communications for the National Mental Health Association where he developed and implemented communications strategies for the oldest and largest mental health organization in the nation.

Previously, Condayan produced his own weekly alternative music radio show, "Capitol Radio," on CBS Radio's 106.7 WJFK in Washington, DC.

CAROLINE COX

Caroline Cox is a Ph.D. astronomer, educator, and astronomy education consultant. She was a research assistant/professor of astronomy at the University of Virginia, where she studied galaxies and clusters of galaxies and taught introductory astronomy classes. She was an astronomy education specialist with the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, where she helped develop education materials for the "Explore the Universe" exhibit. She currently teaches high school physics and astrophysics.

VONNE WINSLOW CRIST

Vonnie Winslow Crist, a creative writing instructor for Maryland State Arts Council's Artists-in-Education Program, is author/illustrator of two collections of poetry, *Essential Fables* and *River of Stars*, and a children's book, *Leprechaun Cake & Other Tales*. Her award-winning art, fiction, and verse have been published in numerous literary, science-fiction/fantasy, and horror magazines in England, Canada, Italy, Spain, Finland, Australia, and the U.S.; and one of her short stories is scheduled to appear in an upcoming issue of *Aoife's Kiss*. Among her editorial projects are the anthologies *Lower Than the Angels* (Lite Circle Books, co-edited with David Kriebel), *Through a Glass Darkly* (Lite Circle Books, co-edited with David Kriebel and Patti Kinlock), and *Late Knocking—The Poe Issue*. Her fantasy novel, *The Enchanted Skean*, is represented by Firebrand Literary of New York.

CHARLENE TAYLOR D'ALESSIO

Charlene Taylor D'Alessio has been illustrating in the fantasy & science fiction genre for over 25 years. She is known for her exquisite painted ties, humorous fantasy paintings of cats, dragons, owls & hamsters, and miniature astronomical pieces. Her latest published piece is "Merlin's Dilemma," published as a 1000 pc. puzzle. Currently she is also illustrating a children's book in progress. Look for Charlene's artwork at most sci-fi con art shows.

MICHAEL D'AMBROSIO

Michael is the author of an exciting sci-fi adventure trilogy featuring *Fractured Time*, *Twisted Fate* and *Dark Horizon*. He recently signed an agreement with du Jour Entertainment for the *Fractured Time* screenplay. Look for details and information on Michael's other works and appearances at <www.fracturedtime.com>.

SUSAN DE GUARDIOLA

Susan de Guardiola is a social dance historian and teacher with a particular fascination for the dances of the early 19th century. She has taught dances of five different centuries across the U.S. and in Canada. Susan blogs about dance at *Capering and Kickery* (<www.kickery.com>) and about SF at *Rixosous* (<www.rixosous.com>). She is also well-known in fandom in her role as a masquerade MC, has won awards in numerous masquerades, and has worked on far too many conventions.

BILL DESMEDT

Bill DeSmedt has spent his life living by his wits and his words. In his time, and as the spirit has moved him, he's been: a Soviet Area expert and Soviet exchange student, a computer programmer and system designer, a consultant to startups and the Fortune 500, an Artificial Intelligence researcher, an omnivorous reader with a soft spot for science fiction and science non-fiction, and now, Lord help us, a writer. Bill's first novel, *Singularity*, won *Foreword Magazine's* Book of the Year Award for Science Fiction and the Independent Publisher Group's IPPY for Best Science Fiction. The podcast of *Singularity*, available through <Podiobooks.com>, has gone on to be named an SFFaudio Essential, while Bill himself has gone on to writing a sequel, *Dualism*. Web sites: <www.singularitythebook.com>, <www.vurdalak.com>.



CAITLIN DICK

Caitlin Dick is an award winning costumer in her own right. She is presently a freshman at the University of Delaware.

KAREN DICK

Karen Dick has been costuming for 35 years. She is the founding chairperson for Costume-Con, and an International Costumer's Guild Lifetime Achievement Award winner. She and husband Ricky own and run Castle Blood, a seasonal haunted attraction (and now a TV show!) in Western Pennsylvania known for its highly detailed costumes and sets.

RICKY DICK

Ricky Dick is a master costumer, make-up artist, late night monster movie host, radio personality, co-owner of Castle Blood, Karen's husband and Caitlin's dad. He is also International Costumer's Guild Lifetime Achievement Award winner, and has won a bunch of awards for costumes.

TOM DOYLE

Tom Doyle writes in a spooky turret in Washington, DC. His stories have appeared in *Strange Horizons*, *Paradox*, *Futurismic*, *Aeon*, *Fictitious Force*, and *Ideomancer*. He's completed his first SF novel, and currently is working on his first fantasy novel. Web site: <www.tomdoylewriter.com>.

DAVID LOUIS EDELMAN

David Louis Edelman's first novel *Infoquake* was published in summer 2006 by Pyr, an imprint of Prometheus Books. Barnes & Noble Explorations called the book "the love child of Donald Trump and Vernor Vinge," then later named it their Top SF Novel of 2006. *Infoquake* was also nominated for the John W. Campbell Memorial Award for Best Novel. The book will be available in mass market paperback from Solaris Books in summer 2008. His second novel, *MultiReal* (the sequel to *Infoquake*), will be released in July 2008 by Pyr. His original short story "Mathralon" appears in *The Solaris Book of New Science Fiction, Volume 2*, available February 2008.

In addition to writing, Edelman has programmed websites for the U.S. Army and the FBI, 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. Web site: <www.davidlouisedelman.com>.

SCOTT EDELMAN

Scott Edelman (the editor) currently edits both *Science Fiction Weekly* <www.scifi.com/sfw/>, the internet magazine



of news, reviews and interviews, with more than 635,000 registered readers (since September 2000), and *SCI FI*, the official print magazine of the SCI FI Channel (since September 2001). He was the founding editor of *Science Fiction Age*, which he edited during its entire eight-year run from 1992 through 2000. He also edited *Sci-Fi Entertainment* for almost four years, as well as two other SF media magazines, *Sci-Fi Universe* and *Sci-Fi Flix*. He has been a four-time Hugo Award finalist for Best Editor.

Scott Edelman (the writer) has published more than 65 short stories in magazines such as *The Twilight Zone*, *Absolute Magnitude*, *The Journal of Pulse-Pounding Narratives*, *Science Fiction Review and Fantasy Book*, and anthologies such as *Crossroads: Southern Tales of the Fantastic*, *Men Writing SF as Women*, *MetaHorror*, *Once Upon a Galaxy*, *Moon Shots*, *Mars Probes*, *Forbidden Planets*, *Summer Chills* and *The Mammoth Book of Monsters*. Upcoming stories will appear in the anthologies *Nation of Ash* and *Aim for the Head*, and the magazine *PostScripts*. He has twice been a Stoker Award finalist in the category of short story.

CHRISTIANA ELLIS

Christiana Ellis is an award-nominated writer and podcaster. In 2006, she released her humorous fantasy novel, *Nina Kimberly the Merciless* (<ninakimberly.com>), as a podcast audiobook, reaching an audience of thousands. Her podiobook was also a finalist for both a Parsec Award (Best Speculative Fiction, Long Form) and a Podcast Peer Award (Best Podiobook). As a direct result of podcasting her work, the novel will be released in print by Dragon Moon Press in 2009.

Christiana is also the creator and host of numerous other podcasts, including "Pickle Tales," a competition for audio storytelling, and the comedic science-fiction audiodrama serial, "Space Casey" (<www.spacecasey.com>).



JENNIE FARIES

Jennie Faries is a graphic designer for Baen Books, creating book jackets, CDs, catalogs, and other items to promote Baen's titles. She has also worked, and still consults, in marketing and design for companies in both the fine arts and technology. She is a master costumer who has been competing for over 15 years. Her more recent awards include Best Master-class workmanship at MilPhil and the first place special Discworld prize at Noreascon 4. She holds degrees in theatrical design and has worked as a freelance lighting and costume designer.

MICHAEL FLYNN



Michael Flynn began selling science fiction in 1984. He is best known for the critically praised *The Wreck of the River of Stars* and the Hugo-nominated *Eifelheim*. A space opera, *The January Dancer*, will appear next year. He has received the Robert A. Heinlein Award for his body of work, and the Sturgeon prize for "House of Dreams." His short fiction, appearing in *Analog*, *Asimov's*, *F&SF*, and elsewhere, has been nominated several times for the Hugo, most recently "Dawn, and Sunset, and the Colours of the Earth." He works as a consultant in quality management for clients here and abroad. He lives with his wife, Margie, in Easton, PA.

Photo credit: Raj Nanduri, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

RIC FRANE

Using different mediums Ric creates strong, sexy images of women in horror, fantasy, & related genres. Specializing in watercolor, Ric also uses acrylic, inks, air-brush and photography. He's done illustration work for many books, magazines, games, & comics. He's also been featured in several publications and his work has been collected around the world.

BILL FRANKENFIELD [RAVEN STORMBRINGER]

Bill Frankenfield, known as "Raven Stormbringer" in the film and commercial industry, has worked as a special effects make-up artist for the last 15 years with his late partner Suzanne Lenore (Tees). The founder of Raven Design Group is now forging the company into a new direction as Raven Action Makeup FX Studios (RAM fx Studios). In addition to direct to the industry work the new company is establishing an online store for finished stock and custom work as well as all the materials needed for the hobbyist or professional in the craft.

Notable clients are Verizon, 1-800-Collect, and NYLotto Win for Life in addition to scores of independent horror and SF films and shorts.

D. DOUGLAS FRATZ

D. Douglas Fratz currently writes science fiction book reviews (and the occasional movie review) for *Science Fiction Weekly* (on the Sci-Fi Channel Website at <sci-fi.com/sfweekly>). He has been reviewing books and writing about science fiction for more than 35 years, and also has written for *Science Fiction Age*, *Science Fiction Eye*, the *Washington Post*, and his own magazine, *Quantum Science Fiction & Fantasy Review*



(formerly named *Thrust Science Fiction & Fantasy Review*). As publisher and editor of *Thrust/Quantum* (1973-1993), he was nominated for five Hugo Awards for Best Fanzine and Best Semiprozine, and has been attending science fiction conventions since 1968. In real life, he is Vice President of Scientific and Technical Affairs for a major Washington, DC trade association representing the formulated consumer products industry, where he has spent almost 30 years negotiating environmental health and chemical safety regulations. He lives in Gaithersburg, MD with his wife, Naomi Richfield-Fratz, and has two college-age children.

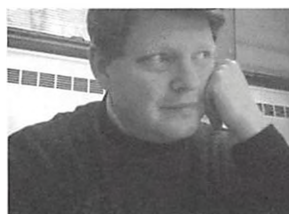
BRAND GAMBLIN

Brand Gamblin is a video game programmer living in Maryland. He has a bachelor's degree in computer science from Texas Tech University, and has worked for several major development studios.



More importantly, he's the producer, director, writer, voice, and puppeteer behind the internet show "Calls For Cthulhu."

CHARLES E. GANNON



Dr. Charles E. Gannon is a Distinguished Professor of English (St. Bonaventure University) and a Fulbright Senior Specialist in American Literature and Culture. He has published both fiction and non-fiction in the SF field. His fiction credits include novellas in *Analog* ("The Power of Visions") and in Jerry Pournelle's "War World" series. His most recent non-fiction book (*Rumors of War and Infernal Machines: Technomilitary Agenda Setting in American and British Speculative Fiction*) is in second edition and won the 2006 American Library Association Award for Outstanding Text. He has been a University Fellow at various institutions (Liverpool University, Palacky University, University of Dundee) and his work on fiction, technology, and political influence has been widely published. His degrees include a B.A. from Brown University, an M.S. from Syracuse University, and both an M.A. and a Ph.D. from Fordham University. Prior to his academic career, he worked eight years as a scriptwriter and producer in New York City, where his credits included programs for the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and the President's Council on Physical Fitness.

HALEY GARWOOD

Haley Elizabeth Garwood wrote her first short story at the age of three complete with a drawing of the main character, a



baby chick. It was a story about a chick who couldn't find its mother. By the time she was 11, Garwood had completed her first novel. It was an historical novel about a captured Yankee spy in a Confederate prison. Garwood sold that novel to a classmate for a notebook and two pencils.

Garwood continued her interest in historical fiction and conceived the "Warrior Queen" series about actual women warriors who fought to save their countries from the enemies. Her first novel, *The Forgotten Queen*, was followed by *Swords Across the Thames*, which concerned Lae, daughter of Aelfred the Great. *Ashes of Britannia*, the third in the series, gained at least three nominations for awards during its first few months. *Zenobia*, the fourth novel, leaves England behind to take place in Syria in 270 A.D. The "Warrior Queen" series takes forgotten women warriors who changed history and brings them to life. Carefully researched material is woven into memorable stories. Garwood's goal is to entertain first and educate second.

Garwood received a B.A. degree in creative writing and journalism from Purdue University. She received her M.A. degree in theater (play writing) and her Ed.D. in education from West Virginia University. She currently teaches English at Western Kentucky University. Web site: <haleyelizabethgarwood.com/>.

THOMAS "CMDLN" GIDEON

Thomas Gideon is a self-described hacker, curmudgeon and hacktivist. He has been podcasting for over two and a half years on the topic of technology and its interactions with society and culture based on his own experiences as a professional technologist, a life long enthusiast, and now a content creator/distributor. One of his favorite topics is the democratization of digital media made possible by ever-cheaper and more powerful technology and the resulting conflicts that arise with traditional media producers. He is also a contributing editor to the new open content focused group blog, "Open Meda Review." Web site: <thecommandline.net>.



LAURA ANNE GILMAN

Laura Anne Gilman is the author of the popular "Retrievers" series from Luna Books, which includes *Staying Dead*, *Curse the Dark*, *Bring it On*, *Burning Bridges* and *Free Fall* (May 2008). She is also the author of the "Grail Quest" trilogy, and more than 30 short stories published in a variety of magazines and anthologies, including *Polyphony 6* and the forthcoming *Powers of Detection 2*.

Ms. Gilman lives in New York City, where she also runs d.y.m.k. productions, an editorial services company. You can contact her at: <lagilman@optimum.net>.

DR. BARRY GITTLEN

Dr. Barry M. Gittlen, Professor of Biblical and Archaeological Studies at Baltimore Hebrew University, has spent the better part of his life in the pursuit of the past. He has scoured the earth in search of ancient Israel at Tell Gezer, the Jenin-Megiddo Survey, Tell Jemmeh, Tel Ser'a, and Be'er Resisim. As Field Archaeologist and Archaeological Coordinator for the Tel Miqne/Ekron Excavations in Israel (1982-1996), he helped recover the fascinating history of this Philistine industrial city. Combining the disciplines of Archaeology and Biblical Studies, Dr. Gittlen strives to bring Israel's past to life and to reach new understandings of the Israelite populace which produced Biblical Literature.

Dr. Gittlen received his Ph.D. from the Department of Oriental Studies of the University of Pennsylvania (1977) and has authored many scholarly articles as well as the recently published *Sacred Time, Sacred Place: Archaeology and the Religion of Israel* (Eisenbrauns 2002). Dr. Gittlen is currently preparing *Tel Miqne-Ekron: Report of the 1984-1996 Excavations in Field III*, the final report on his excavations at Philistine Ekron. In work related to his research and teaching, Dr. Gittlen was flown to Egypt by the BBC (in May 2003) to be filmed for the BBC/Discovery Channel program on Joseph in Egypt which aired in October 2003.

Formerly Interim President of Baltimore Hebrew University, Dr. Gittlen is Chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Schools of Oriental Research. He is preparing a book of conference papers titled *The Archaeology of Worship in Biblical Israel*.

The recipient of numerous grants and fellowships, Dr. Gittlen is listed in the *Who's Who in Cypriote Archaeology* and *Who's Who in Biblical Studies and Archaeology* and has served as consultant to documentary film makers. Named Baltimore Hebrew University's "Most Popular Professor" by *Baltimore Magazine* (January 1997) and the 1993 recipient of the President's Award for "The Professor Who Most Exemplifies the High Ideals of the Baltimore Hebrew University," Dr. Gittlen's students constitute his lasting legacy.

CLAUDIA GRAY



Claudia Gray is the pseudonym of New York-based writer Amy Vincent. She has worked as a lawyer, a journalist, a disc jockey, and an extremely poor waitress. She is the author of a four-book YA vampire series for HarperTeen, the "Evernight" series. The first book, also called *Evernight*, will be released on May 27, 2008.

JERRY HALL

A member of BSFS from 1988 to 1991, Jerry Hall has been involved in the military intelligence community for over 24 years. After serving in the active Army from 1984 until after returning from Desert Storm in 1991, TSgt Hall joined the National Guard until 1996 when he switched services and joined the Air Force Reserves. He has just returned from a six-month tour at COB Speicher, Iraq, where he worked closely with the Army in a variety of intelligence-related functions.

ANN HAMILTON

Ann Hamilton has been costuming since she was two when her mother donated her first heels, hat, and purse to the toy chest. Since then she has dabbled in both science fiction and historic costume making and is currently most enamored by anime and cosplay.

HARKNELL

Harknell is the webmaster and tech-guru of the Onezumi Studios family of websites, but fans know him best for his literary contributions to the <Onezumi.com> blog and the <Harknell.com> support community for artists. He occasionally contributes ideas to Onezumi's popular webcomic, and implemented the <Harknell.com> community. This includes a web-based online drawing program that members of the community use for free. He is currently developing AWSOM (Artist Website Simple One-shot Multi-installer), which will be a free program that sets up an art or comic portfolio website without forcing the artist to learn programming languages. He currently lives near New Brunswick, NJ, where he shares an art studio with Onezumi and a lot of old video games.

MARC HARTSTEIN

Marc Hartstein has been fannish for as long as he can recall, and part of this community we call fandom for the greater part of his adult life. He was on the founding ConCom of the No Such Convention, and worked with them for six years. In the last three years, Marc has been excited to study the dances and culture of nineteenth century England and America. He continues to be an avid gamer.

DAVID G. HARTWELL

David G. Hartwell is a Senior Editor at Tor/Forge Books. He is the proprietor of Dragon Press, publisher and bookseller, which publishes *The New York Review of Science Fiction*; and the President of David G. Hartwell, Inc. He is the author of *Age of Wonders* and the editor of many anthologies, including *The Dark Descent*, *The World Treasury of Science Fiction*, *The Hard SF Renaissance*, *The Space Opera Renaissance*, and a number of Christmas anthologies, among

others. Recently he co-edited his 12th annual paperback volume of *Year's Best SF*, and co-edited the seventh *Year's Best Fantasy*. John Updike, reviewing *The World Treasury of Science Fiction* in *The New Yorker*, characterized him as a "loving expert." He has won the Eaton Award, the World Fantasy Award, and has been nominated for the Hugo Award 31 times to date, winning Best Editor in 2006. Web site: <www.davidghartwell.com>

JOHN G. HEMRY [JACK CAMPBELL]

John G. Hemry is the author of the national best-selling "Lost Fleet" series under the pen name Jack Campbell (*Dauntless*, *Fearless*, *Courageous* and, in June 2008, *Valiant*). Under his own name, he's also the author of the "JAG in space" series, the latest of which was *Against All Enemies*. His short fiction has appeared in places as varied as the latest "Chicks in Chainmail" anthology (*Turn the Other Chick*) and *Analog* magazine (which published his Nebula Award-nominated story "Small Moments in Time"). John's nonfiction has appeared in *Analog* and *Artemis* magazines as well as BenBella books on *Charmed*, *Star Wars*, and *Superman*. John is a retired U.S. Navy officer who lives in Maryland with his wife (the incomparable S) and three great kids. Web site: <www.johnghemry.com/>



C.J. HENDERSON



C.J. Henderson is the creator of the "Teddy London" supernatural detective series for Elder Signs Press and the "Piers Knight" fantasy series for Tor. He is also the author of the *Encyclopedia of Science Fiction Movies*, *Black Sabbath: The Ozzy Osbourne Years*, and some 50 other books and novels. He has written hundreds upon hundreds of short stories and comics, and thousands upon thousands of non-fiction articles. An award-winning author whose work has been published around the globe in some 12 other languages to date, still he constantly scans the pavement for pennies and the supermarket bulletin boards for window-washing jobs. To find out more about this fascinating character, or to simply ask about the correct amount of lemon to add to your Windex, visit him at his table at the con, or at <www.cjhenderson.com/>

LEE C. HILLMAN [GWENDOLYN GRACE]

Lee C. Hillman (aka Gwendolyn Grace) stumbled into editing and original writing when she was out pimping the

first Harry Potter conference, Nimbus—2003, which she ran for HP Education Fanon, Inc. (HPEF). She is the current president of HPEF, Inc., which is now producing its fifth Harry Potter conference, Portus (<www.hp2008.org>), in Dallas, TX this summer, with two more conferences planned for 2009 (San Jose) and 2010 (Infinitus). She considers herself primarily a fan fiction author, but has contributed original stories to *Bad-Ass Faeries* and *Bad-Ass Faeries II*, both from Marietta Publishing, and was an editor on *No Longer Dreams*, all with Sidhe NaDaire Books. She was also a panelist at EyeCon as part of her newest obsession: the CW's "Supernatural." A lifelong fan of all things sci-fi and fantasy, she is a member of the SCA, an actor, singer, and dancer, and a self-proclaimed "musical theatre geek."

MARTHA HOLLOWAY

Somewhere between receiving a bachelor's degree in both mathematics and French and actually becoming René Descartes (her lifelong ambition), Martha married this guy who cold-called her one night about a D&D game he'd heard about from his friends.

By day, she is a mild-mannered desktop tech support manager. By night, she transforms into a tired desktop tech support manager *and* an amateur fiction editor, WordPress site admin, audio engineer and producer. Oh, and voice actor. And cameraman. And short fiction writer. And Internet personality. By the way, she would just like to say, "This is all Paul's fault."

Look for her in the Balticon New Media Track and around the con. She's the woman staring at a laptop, wearing headphones, and holding a mic. Check out <balticonpodcast.org> for some of what she's been recording at con.

DR. THOMAS R. HOLTZ, JR.

Dr. Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., is a dinosaur paleontologist specializing in the origin, evolution, adaptations, and paleobiology of carnivorous dinosaurs (especially *Tyrannosaurus* and its kin). He is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Geology at the University of Maryland, College Park. Recent works include several chapters in University of California Press' *The Dinosauria, Second Edition* (the Bible of dinosaur research). In addition to his technical publications, Dr. Holtz has written several books for children (most recently *Dinosaurs: The Most Up-To-Date Encyclopedia for Dinosaur Lovers of All Ages* from Random House), and has been a consultant on numerous TV documentaries (including BBC/Discovery Channel's *Walking with Dinosaurs*) and museum exhibits. Check out the new dinosaur hall of at the Maryland Science Center!

Dr. Holtz is the Faculty Director of the College Park Scholars-Earth, Life & Time Program (<www.geol.umd.edu/~jmerck/eltsite/>), a living-learning program for freshmen and sophomores interested in Natural History. He lives in southern Prince Georges County with his

wife (fan costumer Sue Shambaugh), a couple of cats, and Emilio Lizardo the bearded dragon. Web site: <www.geol.umd.edu/~tholtz/>.

P.G. HOLYFIELD



P.G. Holyfield's love of comparative religion, mythology, mystery, and role-playing games led him to create the fantasy setting called "The Land of Caern." It is a world where gods choose to be born and live mortal lives, in order to directly affect events in the world. *Murder at Avedon*

Hill is the first work of fiction set in The Land of Caern, a novel that appeals to both fantasy and mystery lovers alike.

P.G. is one of the creators/producers of the Parsec Award-nominated "The Nanomonkeys" podcast, a support podcast for participants of NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month). The podcast version of *Murder at Avedon Hill* began in July 2007; it quickly transitioned from a straight read into an audio drama, with over 30 guests adding their voices to the podcast. *MaAH* has been featured in the iTunes Literature store and reached #1 on <Podiobooks.com's> 30 Day Subscriber chart in December, 2007.

P.G. has lent his voice to characters in several podcast novels, including Tee Morris's *Billibub Baddings and the Case of the Singing Sword*, Chris Lester's "Metamor City Podcast," and Philippa Ballantine's *Chasing the Bard*. He lives in Charlotte, NC, with his wife and their two children.

HEIDI HOOPER



Heidi Hooper studied for her sculpture degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and her master's at the Massachusetts College of Art. Her work can be seen in many galleries and on her web page (<HeidiHooper.com>). She has won many awards for her work, as well as for her costumes. She has been a costume judge at the Worldcon level as well as for smaller conventions. She is also considered one of the founders of modern fantasy live-action roleplaying games in the U.S. and currently runs the Alliance LARP with her husband, Michael A. Ventrella.

GEORGIA HORESH

Georgia Horesh began her path to being a starving artist by attending the Savannah College of Art and Design for a year, then four years at the School of Visual Arts in NYC. Having accrued a lot of debt, she was ready to step into the world of freelance illustration with her company Stormwolf Studios. Her art has been printed by Mushroom Circle, Inc. for their card game "Faerie Haven," as well as White Wolf for their book *Right of Princes*. Her style ranges from cartoony

anime to realistic game characters, however she is willing to take a shot at anything. She currently lives in moderate insanity with her dog Loki-poki-laughs-too-much in Pennsylvania. Her web site can be perused at: <www.stormwolfstudios.com>.

GEORGE HRAB



Multi-instrumentalist, singer, songwriter, producer, composer and heliocentrist George Hrab has written and produced five independent CDs; published one book; performed for President Clinton; shared the stage with countless numbers of musicians and acts; and has traveled across the country both as a drummer for the nationally recognized Philadelphia

Funk Authority and as defacto President for Life of the Geologic Orchestra. Humbly following in the footsteps of such icons as Frank Zappa, Mark Twain, Carl Sagan, Will Rogers and even Penn & Teller, George has made it a personal quest to improve the cognitive thinking skills of each and every American by reaching them through their funny bones and dance shoes. His music, skepticism and wit have been featured on many radio broadcasts, TV shows, and podcasts.

Along with his heroes Michael Shermer, James Randi and 'Bad Astronomer' Phil Plait, George recently was featured in the 2007 Skepdude calendar put out by <Skepchick.org>. In addition to his ten-piece Geologic Orchestra shows, Geo often performs in a solo acoustic setting, wherein he re-interprets his own works, and also delves into bizarre covers. He produces a weekly podcast called "The Geologic Podcast" which features humor, sketches, skeptical and free thinking commentary and weekly segments like The Religious Moron of the Week, Grandma's Entertainment Report, The History Chunk, Ask George, So Where Ya Calling From? and Interesting Fauna. George recently published *Non-Coloring Book* featuring a collection of his assorted writings. He hopes to someday be the second person to rollerblade on Neptune.

Web sites: <www.GeorgeHrab.com>, <georgehrab.blogspot.com>, <www.myspace.com/georgehrab>, <www.geologicrecords.net>.

J.C. HUTCHINS

J.C. Hutchins is the author of the "7th Son trilogy," the most popular podcast novel series in history. Hutchins has blazed new trails in podcast fiction, with more than 35,000 listeners worldwide, more than 1,000,000 downloaded episodes and guest appearances by SF/horror icons Nathan Fillion, Richard Hatch, Ron Glass, Kevin J. Anderson, Alan Dean Foster, George Romero and others.

Hutchins is a recognized trendsetter in "zero budget" marketing techniques for podcasters, and known for his active engagement with fans.

In 2009, the first novel in the "7th Son Trilogy," *Descent*, will be published by St. Martin's Press. Hutchins is currently writing the debut novel in a new thriller series, which will also see release by St. Martin's in 2009.

Hutchins lives in South Florida. Web site: <www.7thSonTrilogy.com>.

ROBERT T. JESCHONEK

Robert T. Jeschonek has written *Mad Scientist Meets Cannibal*, a new collection of science fiction and fantasy stories from PS Publishing. His stories will also appear in *Future Americas* and *Crime Spells* from DAW. Robert's work has been featured in *Postscripts*, *Darker Matter*, and *Star Trek Magazine*, among others. He has also written *Star Trek* fiction, including the e-book *Starfleet Corps of Engineers: The Cleanup* and stories in *New Frontier: No Limits* and *Strange New Worlds III, V, and VI*. His story, "Our Million-Year Mission," won the grand prize in *Strange New Worlds VI*. Visit him online at: <www.robertjeschonek.com>.



DR. ROBERT I. KATZ

Robert I. Katz is Professor and Vice-Chairman for Administration of the Department of Anesthesiology, SUNY at Stony Brook. His first novel, *Edward Maret*, was published in 2001. It won the ASA Literary Award and was picked by Booksense as one of the best science fiction novels of the year. *Surgical Risk*, the first Kurtz and Barent mystery, was published in 2002 and its sequel, *The Anatomy Lesson*, appeared in 2004. The third Kurtz and Barent mystery, *Seizure*, was released in late 2007. Katz is currently working on a cyberpunk space opera, tentatively entitled *The Cannibal's Feast*.

MARYANN JOHANSON [THE FLICK FILOSOPHER/GEEK PHILOSOPHY]

"One of online's finest" film critics, or so says trade mag *Variety*, MaryAnn Johanson is a New York City-based freelance writer who loves movies but hates what Hollywood sometimes does to them. She is the webmaster and sole critic on <FlickFilosopher.com>, which debuted in 1997 and is now one of the most popular movie-related sites on the Internet, and she is a regular contributor to <Film.com>. Her blog, "Geek Philosophy" (<geekphilosophy.com>), explores the rise of geek attitudes in popular culture.



Johanson is the only major film critic who is a member of the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences (the Webby organization), an invitation-only, 500-member body of leading web experts, business figures, luminaries, visionaries and creative celebrities. She has appeared as a cultural commentator on BBC Radio, and she served a judge at the first Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Film Festival at the 2003 I-Con, the largest SF convention on the East Coast. She is a founding member of Cinemarati: The Web Alliance for Film Commentary (now defunct), and is also an award-winning screenwriter. Her first book, *The Totally Geeky Guide to the Princess Bride*, was published in August 2006.

JAMES PATRICK KELLY

James Patrick Kelly has had an eclectic writing career. He has written novels, short stories, essays, reviews, poetry, plays and planetarium shows. His short novel *Burn* won the Science Fiction Writers of America's Nebula Award in 2007. He has won the World Science Fiction Society's Hugo Award twice: in 1996 for his novelette "Think Like A Dinosaur" and in 2000 for his novelette "Ten to the Sixteenth to One." His fiction has been translated into 18 languages. With John Kessel he is co-editor of *Feeling Very Strange: The Slipstream Anthology* and *Rewired: The Post Cyberpunk Anthology*.

He writes a column on the internet for *Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine* and is on the faculty of the Stonecoast Creative Writing MFA Program at the University of Southern Maine and the Board of Directors of the Clarion Foundation. He produces two (count 'em-two!) podcasts: "James Patrick Kelly's StoryPod" on Audible which features him reading 52 of his own stories and the "Free Reads Podcast" where he most recently finished podcasting his novel *Look Into the Sun*. His website is: <www.jimkelly.net>.

PAMELA KINNEY [SAPPHIRE PHELAN]

Pamela K. Kinney is an author of published horror, science fiction, fantasy, horror, poetry and the nonfiction book *Haunted Richmond, Virginia*, published by Schiffer Books. Also as Sapphire Phelan, she has published erotic and sweet paranormal/fantasy/science fiction romance. She lives in Chesterfield, VA with her husband Bill, and their cats, Ripley and Bast. You can find out more about her and what she has or will be coming out at her website: <FantasticDreams.50megs.com> or at either of her MySpaces: <www.myspace.com/SapphirePhelan> and <www.myspace.com/PamelaKinney>.



She admits she can always be found at her desk and on her computer, writing. And yes, the house and husband sometimes suffer for it!

BEATRICE KONDO

Beatrice Kondo is an evolutionary biologist, specializing in the evolution of complex behaviors (such as migration), and a member of the Biology faculty at Johns Hopkins University. Two of her publications focus on Maryland's state bird, the Baltimore oriole. A cast member of the *Arbiter Chronicles* (Prometheus Radio Theatre), as well as the *Usual Suspects*, her work with a chainsaw is second to none (see "Have Browncoat, Will Travel"). She has trained her Mustang pony to ride and drive, but has not succeeded in teaching her cats anything.

CYNTHIA KONDO

Cynthia Kondo has been coming to Balticon for about 20 years. She served 12 years in the National Guard, and 10 years with Maryland Natural Resources Police. Her unit was activated on September 11, 2001, and went to the Pentagon for a year. She was activated again in June 2003 and went to Afghanistan for nine months.

YOJI KONDO [ERIC KOTANI]

Academic credentials and teaching experiences: Yoji Kondo holds a Ph.D. in astronomy and astrophysics from the University of Pennsylvania. He has taught astronomy, astrophysics, and space sciences at the University of Oklahoma, George Mason University, University of Pennsylvania, and Catholic University, and in the Futures Program at the University of Houston.



Experiences in the space program: Dr. Kondo was co-investigator of the UV astronomy experiment on Skylab and headed the astrophysics laboratory during the Apollo and Skylab Missions at Johnson Space Center. He served as director of the IUE geosynchronous satellite observatory for 15 years at Goddard Space Flight Center and was a NASA Project Scientist for the EUVE satellite observatory. He is co-investigator on the Kepler Mission to detect habitable planets, scheduled for launch in 2009.

Martial Arts: Yoji Kondo has taught judo and aikido for over three decades. He holds a 6th degree black belt in judo and a 7th degree black belt in aikido.

Web site: <www.sfgwa.org/members/kondo>.

DAVE KRATZ

Dr. Kratz is a senior research scientist in the Climate Science Branch at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA. As part of his research efforts at NASA/Langley, Dave applies his expertise in the field of thermal infrared radiative transfer to study the climatic

implications of the ever-changing composition of the Earth's atmosphere. Dave is a co-investigator on the Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System (CERES) project, which has instruments aboard the TRMM, Terra and Aqua satellites; and the Far-Infrared Spectroscopy of the Troposphere (FIRST) and In-situ Net Flux within the Atmosphere of the Earth (INFLAME) projects, which are developing a satellite sensing system for future climate study missions.

Dave earned a B.A. in physics in 1977 from UMBC, and both an M.S. in astrophysics in 1979 and a Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences in 1987 from SUNY at Stony Brook. Dave is a full member of the American Astronomical Society, and was the recipient of the NASA Exceptional Scientific Achievement Award in 2004. On clear nights, Dave escapes to the countryside to explore the heavens with his telescopes.

DAVID W. KRIEBEL



David Kriebel is the editor and publisher of *Lite: Baltimore's Literary Newspaper* (currently on hiatus) and Lite Circle Books. In 1992 he founded the Lite Circle, Inc., a non-profit literary organization whose main purpose is to promote the literary arts in central Maryland through such

activities as small-press publishing, ongoing poetry readings in the Baltimore-Washington area, and various print and web publications.

He is co-editor with Vonnie Winslow Crist of the anthology *Lower Than the Angels: Science Fact, Science Fiction and Fantasy* (1999), and co-editor with Vonnie Winslow Crist and Patti Kinlock of a mystery/Gothic horror/dark fantasy anthology, *Through a Glass Darkly* (2003). While an undergraduate student at Haverford College, he co-published *Orion Science Fiction Magazine* and founded the Doublestar Science Fiction Association.

Dr. Kriebel has a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania and an MFA in creative writing/poetry from the University of Maryland, College Park. His research interests include religion, magic, ethnomedicine, cognitive models, and theories of belief. He has taught at Loyola College in Baltimore, and has been an Air and Surface Intelligence Officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He is currently Professor of National Security Affairs at the Naval War College in Newport, RI.

MARY ALICE LADD

Mary Alice Ladd has a BFA in Fashion Design from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and a Millinery Certificate from the Fashion Institute of Technology. She competes as a Master-level costumer and is a member of two *Star Wars* costume groups: the 501st Legion and the Rebel Legion. Her costumes and millinery creations have appeared on television, in print, and online including: *Women's Wear Daily*, *Star Wars Insider*, <StarWars.com>, *SFX Magazine*, and

In Style. Mary Alice is also a member of the Elegant Arts Society and makes reproduction historical dance costumes.

MUR LAFFERTY

Mur Lafferty is an author and podcaster. She's been podcasting essays and short fiction for three and a half years, and recently released *Playing For Keeps*, her first novel, via podcast to over 15,000 listeners. She is the host of the award-winning podcast "I Should Be Writing." She lives in Durham, NC.

L. JAGI LAMPLIGHTER

L. Jagi Lamplighter is a fantasy author. She has published numerous articles on Japanese animation and appears in several short story anthologies, including *Best of Dreams of Decadence*, *No Longer Dreams*, *Bad-Ass Faeries*, and the Science Fiction Book Club's *Don't Open This Book*. She recently sold her first trilogy, "Prospero's Daughter," to Tor. Volume One, *Prospero Lost*, is scheduled for the winter of 2009.

When not writing, she switches to her secret identity as wife and stay-home mom in Centreville, VA, where she lives with her dashing husband, author John C. Wright, and their three darling boys, Orville, Roland Wilbur, and Justinian Oberon.

Her (yet only partially constructed) web site is: www.sff.net/people/lamplighter/. Blog: <arhyalon.livejournal.com>.

GRIG "PUNKIE" LARSON

Swedish-American Grig "Punkie" Larson has been a fandom favorite since the days before science fiction became mainstream. His over 20 years of experience in fandom culture and phenomena have spawned the writing of many short stories, gaming supplements, and even a book or two. Former actor, script writer, computer hacker, and complete gaming and book nerd, Punkie's most well known work, *The Saga of Punk Walrus*, has lined the birdcages of some of the wealthiest of parrot owners, and propelled dozens of previously unstable table legs to a level state. His stage and panelist work has been legendary as being both loud and present. His affairs with penguins scandalize the local coffee houses. He is now married with a grown son, five cats, two dogs, and some ghosts, grumbling about the glory days of Vikings while he hacks Linux boxes for the glory of Asgard from his home in Fairfax, VA. Web site: <www.punkwalrus.com>.



DINA A. LEACOCK [DIANE ARRELLE]

Diane Arrelle, the pen name of Dina Leacock, lives in southern New Jersey with her husband, two sons and her cat. She has sold more than a hundred humor, horror,

fantasy and mystery short stories. Her fiction has appeared in anthologies and magazines including *Crafty Cat Crimes*, *Blue Murder*, and *Twisted Cat Tales*. Her book of flash fiction and short-short stories, *Just a Drop in the Cup*, was released by Darker Intentions Press in October 2007 and her book *Elements of the Short Story* was released by Tricorner Publishing in May 2007. She is a founding member as well as a past president of the Garden State Horror Writers and past president of the Philadelphia Writers' Conference. Web site: <www.dinaleacock.com>.

R. ALLEN LEIDER

Film reviewer/screenwriter R. Allen Leider began his career in 1970 at CBS news as copy boy for *The Cronkite News*. In 1973, he became features writer for *The Monster Times*, *Show Magazine*, *Celebrity Magazine* and other publications. His photojournalistic work is syndicated worldwide. He lives in Manhattan with his wife Barbara, a professional photographer. He created the story/screenplay for *The Oracle* (1985), and hosted his own radio show, *Cinemascene*, on WWFM for five years. Presently, he writes and edits the online "Black Cat Review" at <www.blackcatmedia.com> and is currently working on a 2010 trilogy novel/film project, *Wicca Girl*, featuring Druscilla Marie d'Lambert, Cheralyn Rose Moskowitz, Satan and other of his short story characters.

CHRIS LESTER

Chris Lester is the producer and head author behind "The Metamor City Podcast," a biweekly show that airs short stories and novels written in a world where high technology blends with high magic. "Metamor City" debuted in September 2007 and quickly garnered attention within the podcasting community for its strong writing, high production values and innovative setting. Though a relative newcomer to podcasting, Chris has worked tirelessly to build connections with other members of the community. Since the show's inception more than 20 other podcasters have contributed their voices to "Metamor City," including Parsec Award winners Leann Mabry and Mur Lafferty.

When he isn't writing or working on "Metamor City," Chris enjoys playing guitar and piano, experimenting with songwriting and drawing, playing pen-and-paper roleplaying games with friends, and listening to other people's podcasts. He holds a master's degree in biology from the University of California (Santa Cruz) and, after a sojourn in corporate America, is looking for an opportunity to return to research or teaching. Chris lives in metro Detroit, MI, with two large dogs, one fish, four fellow humans, and enough books to crush a small elephant.

TOM LIGON



Tom Ligon is an engineering technologist and science fiction author. He worked with Robert W. Bussard at the Energy/Matter Conversion Corporation from 1995 to 2001, helping to develop Inertial Electrodynamic Fusion. Mr. Ligon holds ETE and Biology degrees from Virginia Tech, and has published frequently in *Analog Science Fiction and Fact*. The January/February 2008 *Analog* includes his most recent article on IEF, "The World's Simplest Fusion Reactor Revisited."

ERNEST LILLEY

Ernest Lilley is the editor of *SFRevu* (<www.sfrevu.com>) and *TechRevu* (<www.techrevu.com>), and is a freelance editor and photojournalist who regularly writes for science and technology publications. His monthly column, "Unleashed Computing," appears in <Byte.com>. He likes station wagons, road trips, and digital photography and currently lives in the Gernsback Continuum with that classic trope of SF, a red-headed heroine. He's also the editor of *Future Washington*, an anthology that came out in 2005 from WSFA Press, which features contributions by a number of top ranked authors, including Kim Stanley Robinson and Cory Doctorow.

N.E. LILLY

N.E. Lilly provides graphic design and web development services to science fiction, fantasy, and horror professionals, businesses, and organizations through <GreenTentacles.com>. He has provided services for the James Doohan Farewell Tribute, the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, Philcon, and Lawrence M. Schoen, among others. He also serves as the editor of <SpaceWesterns.com>, the e-zine of space westerns, science fiction westerns, and western science fiction. Web sites: <www.greententacles.com>, <www.spacewesterns.com>.

CAREY LISSE

I am a Ph.D. physicist, who works as an astronomer, and have been reading science fiction and fantasy since age 10. I grew up in the Washington, DC area, and watched *Creature Feature* every Saturday Night with friends, getting our own MST3000 experience. I started working in astronomy on the COBE mission at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), which won the Nobel Prize for two scientists in 2007. I am a member of the Deep Impact Discovery Mission science team, and a Senior Research Scientist in the Space Department, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (<aplweb.jhuapl.edu/>).

My research interests include planetary science (especially comets and solar system formation and evolution), infrared, optical, and high energy astronomy, and new-fangled spacecraft detectors. My non-research interests include reading science fiction, hiking, playing ultimate Frisbee, gaming, computers, gardening, and raising a boisterous 15 year old, Naomi Lisse (<www.astro.umd.edu/~lisse/naomi.html>) and a 16 lb. Maine Coon cat, Greymantle. I travel a lot for work all over the world. I'm a swell guy, too, fun at parties, and my shoe size is 11 and 1/2. Web site: <www.astro.umd.edu/~lisse>.

TIM LIVENGOOD

Dr. Tim Livengood is an observational planetary astrophysicist, studying the composition, temperature, and dynamics (wind) in the atmosphere of other planets in our solar system, using telescopes here on Earth and in space. Tim started life in Indianapolis, IN, attended Towson Senior High School in Towson, MD, obtained his B.A. degree in physics at Washington University in St. Louis, and received a doctorate in physics and astronomy from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in 1991. Tim's doctoral thesis was a study of ultraviolet light from Jupiter's aurora using the IUE orbiting observatory. Tim still explores Jupiter's aurora, using light from all across the spectrum.

Tim held a National Research Council post-doctoral appointment at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), from 1991 through 1994, studying the atmosphere of planets and the July, 1994 impacts of the fragments of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 with Jupiter. From 1994 through 1999, Tim was a member of the Research Faculty at the University of Maryland, College Park. Since 1999, Tim has been engaged in science education and public outreach, pursuing astronomical research combined with communicating scientific discovery to the public. Tim has delivered science presentations to public audiences of more than 25,000 students and adults in groups of 30 to 1700, led educator workshops for over 1000 K-13 educators, and developed science education units in education modules for grades K-13.

In addition to his main pursuits in scientific research and education, Tim also performs occasionally as a professional storyteller and has been known to tell stories as a way to illustrate central truths from the world of science and exploration.

ANDREW LOVE

Andrew Love has been reading SF and fantasy since the 70s, and attending cons since the Baltimore Worldcon in 1998. His web page <groups.msn.com/AndysUsingScienceFictionForEducationPage/> promotes the use of science fiction in the classroom, and so does he. He's married to the children's author, Pamela Love (author of *A Loon Alone* and several other books) and they have a seven-year old son who occasionally comes to cons with them. Andy's employed at

the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory as an engineer and when he's not reading or working, he's often found to be juggling.

REGINA LYNN

Regina Lynn is the award-winning "Sex Drive" columnist at <Wired.com> and the author of *Sexier Sex: Lessons from the Brave New Sexual Frontier* (Seal Press) and *The Sexual Revolution 2.0* (Ulysses Press). She started writing "Sex Drive" early in 2003 and received a Maggie award for "Best Online Column" from the Western Publications Association in 2005, then has forgotten to audition again ever since. That's okay though, because she received the high honor of being chosen as a finalist for the Erotic Awards in London. And *Marie Claire* magazine called Regina one of the "top five sex experts in the U.S."; she is still trying to shrug off any performance anxiety this accolade might cause.



She has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *SexTV*, *CNN Headline News*, *Fox News*, *Spike TV*, *Playboy Radio*, the *Village Voice*, *G4TV*, *Digital Village Radio*, and *NPR New Zealand*, among other places, but she is most humbled by her occasional appearances on FARK and Digg. Regina lives in Los Angeles and San Francisco with her dog Jedi and her horse Rockstar. When not researching or writing, she can be found at the barn, just like she dreamed when she was nine. Her birthday is in May but she accepts presents all year.

PERRIANNE LURIE

Perrienne Lurie is a physician with the Division of Communicable Disease Epidemiology at the Pennsylvania Department of Health. She has been active in fandom for over 20 years in SF clubs, cons, filking, writing con reviews, etc. She was a member of the Baltimore in 1998 bid committee. She served as deputy division director for programming at BucCONeer, assistant to the director of the Millennium Philcon Hugo Awards Ceremony, and director of the Torcon 3 Hugo Awards Ceremony. She is also active in the Central Pennsylvania (European boardgame) Game Club and a life member of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society.

JEFF LYMAN

Jeffrey Lyman attended the Odyssey Writing Workshop in 2004, and has co-edited the anthologies *No Longer Dreams*, *Bad-Ass Faeries*, and the upcoming *Bad-Ass Faeries II* from Marietta Publishing. Additionally, his short fiction appears in *Sails and Sorcery* from Fantasist Enterprises, and *Breach the Hull* from Marietta Publishing. Web site: <www.jdlyman.com/>.

PEGGY MAHER

Peggy Maher promotes the space program for NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) in Greenbelt, MD through public outreach and education.

GAIL Z. MARTIN



Gail Z. Martin is the author of "The Chronicles of the Necromancer" fantasy series, with *The Summoner* (2007), *The Blood King* (2008) and *Dark Haven* (2009). She discovered her passion for science fiction, fantasy and ghost stories in elementary school. The very first story she ever wrote—at age five—was about a vampire. Her favorite TV shows as a preschooler were *Dark Shadows* and *Lost in Space*. At age 14, she decided to become a writer, and launched a fanzine when she was in college. She enjoys attending science fiction/fantasy conventions, Renaissance fairs and living history sites.

Martin was born in Meadville, PA. She graduated from Grove City College with a B.A. in history, and earned an M.B.A. in marketing and management information systems from Pennsylvania State University. After nearly 20 years as a marketing executive for corporations and nonprofit organizations, she started her own consulting firm, DreamSpinner Communications. She also writes feature articles on a variety of topics for regional and national magazines. In addition to writing and consulting, Gail Z. Martin teaches public relations writing and public speaking for the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. She is married and has three children, a Himalayan cat and a golden retriever.

Web site: <www.chroniclesofthenecromancer.com/page/page/3827767.htm>.

HELEN MADDEN

Helen E. H. Madden writes SF erotica for fun and profit. Her stories have appeared in various anthologies and her first book, *Demon By Day*, is due out this year. Helen is an editor for the Erotica Readers and Writers Association and is the creator of "Stick Figure Porno" and the "Heat Flash" podcast. Visit <www.helenhadden.com> and <www.heatflash.libsyn.com> to find out more.

BILL MAYHEW

I have been telling stories in public for about 30 years in all sorts of places, including: nine states and the District of Columbia, from kindergarten to senior citizens. I have told stories in colleges, campfires, Voice of America, the Kennedy Center, birthday parties, and the Easter Egg Roll at the White House. I ran a cable television show for seven years

devoted to storytelling. I also do the occasional lecture on the subject.

I tell folktales for the most part, chosen from all around the world. My favorite stories are the humorous ones. I tell ghost stories and sad stories, and classics such as "Beowulf" and "Odysseus" but mostly I like the funny ones. Many of my ghosties are humorous.

I have three cute grandchildren. I don't know what this has to do with anything but they really are cute so I like to tell people. Don't be frightened, I don't carry pictures.

CLAYTON L. MCNALLY



Clayton is a software engineer and owner of a software development company, Knowledge Tree. He is a 6th Dan Master Instructor of Kenpo Karate, a Reiki and Acupressure practitioner, and operates an award-winning martial arts school in Connecticut, East West Karate, with students ages 3 to 67. Clayton lectures at conventions about karate and has articles published regularly in martial arts magazines. He has written other books about computer technology.

Upcoming books include:

"Galaxy on Fire" series: *Civil Unrest—Treachery* (2008), *Leveling the Playing Field* (2009); *The Fires Rage Brightly* (2010).

"Vampiric Wars" series: *Blood Letting* (2008), *Thirst* (2009).

"Chance's Universe" series: *Chance—Life or Death* (2008), *Chance—Favors the Foolish* (2009).

"Galactic Star Force" series: *Surviving Behind Enemy Lines* (2008), *Liberty and Freedom—To Die For* (2009); *Spirit of God* (2009).

Visit his web site: <www.clmcnally.com/> or email him at <knowledgetree1@cox.net>.

MIKE MCPHAIL

Born into a military/engineering family, Mike McPhail's lifelong dream was to join NASA and become a mission specialist; to that end, he attended the Academy of Aeronautics in New York, as well as enlisting in the Air National Guard. While working towards his goal, a sudden illness brought a halt to his dreams.

After recovering, he came to grips with his new reality; so he chose to put his hard-earned technical skills and imagination to use as a writer and game designer. Among his works are a number of stories based on the "Alliance Archives" series and its related Martial Role-Playing Game, a manual-based, military science fiction series that realistically portrays the consequences of warfare. Web site: <www.mcp-concepts.com/>.

LEE MEWSHAW

Lee Mewshaw is a former winner and runner-up in the Malice Domestic hat contest with her partner, Jeannette

Holloman, appearing as the Puzzle Sisters. She created, wrote, and ran the interactive murder mystery tea at CostumeCon XV. She is a founding member and former vice president and treasurer of the Sisters in Crime Chesapeake Chapter. She was Fan Guest of Honor at Malice Domestic XIX.

DAVID MOLDAWER

David Moldawer is an associate editor at St. Martin's Press, where he acquires and edits nonfiction books. He is also the host of his own podcast, "Moldawer in the Morning," and co-host of the "Kick-Ass Mystic Ninjas," a podcast about classic science fiction books, television shows, and movies. Web site: <www.moldawer.com>.



TEE MORRIS

Actor Tee Morris began his writing career in 2002 with the award-nominated historical epic fantasy, *Morevi: The Chronicles of Rafe & Askana*. In 2004, his title *Billibub Baddings and the Case of the Singing Sword*, a spoof of both the fantasy and hard-boiled detective novel, received an Honorable Mention for *ForeWord Magazine's* Book of the Year award, and was a finalist for the Independent Publisher's Best Science Fiction and Fantasy.



Tee entered 2005 with an idea: podcasting a novel in order to promote its sequel. *Morevi* went on to become the first book podcast in its entirety and was nominated for a 2006 Parsec for Best Podcast Fiction. Podcasting *Morevi* also led to the founding of <Podiobooks.com> and *Podcasting for Dummies* from Wiley Publishing, co-written with Evo Terra. That same year saw the premiere of *Legacy of Morevi: Book One of the Arathellean Wars* (a finalist for *ForeWord Magazine's* Best Science Fiction of 2005), and "Dear John" in BenBella Books's retrospective *Farscape Forever: Sex, Drugs, and Killer Muppets*. In 2006, Tee appeared in the podcast anthology *Voices: New Media Fiction* (edited by Mur Lafferty), and in BenBella Books' *So Say We All: Collected Thoughts and Opinions of Battlestar Galactica* (edited by Richard Hatch). Tee and Evo followed up their #1 book on podcasting with *Expert Podcasting Practices for Dummies* (2007).

In 2008 Tee released *Billibub Baddings and the Case of the Pitcher's Pendant* and *Exodus From Morevi*. Web site: <www.teemorris.com>.

EARL NEWTON



Earl Newton is the executive producer and creator of "Stranger Things," the world's first high definition science fiction anthology series released on the internet for free. Newton is also a multiple-award winning writer and director, and has worked professionally in a number of mediums: writing and directing for the stage, the screen (big and small), and the radio. Web site: <www.strangerthings.tv>.

ONEZUMI

Fans say that Onezumi's comic and artwork is evocative of the D.I.Y. attitude of Ani DiFranco and the off-beat humor of Jenny McCarthy coupled with a passionate devotion to nurturing creative talent in the artistic community. This spirit is summed up in the tagline for her site: "The Art. The Comic. The Insanity."

"My comic work is intentionally absurd because life is unintentionally absurd. The goal is to make my readers laugh, but beyond that I try to get my readers questioning why exactly they are laughing in the first place. My work is really about order and understanding through chaos, while having fun. Some people discover the family they never had on our community site, and that's the main reason why we do what we do."—Onezumi

Onezumi's rather unconventional web-based comic strip and comic companion blog is located at <www.Onezumi.com> and is updated three times a week. Besides featuring her original artwork the site hosts art creation tutorials, business tutorials, and video tutorials. Her interactive community forum site, which features a free web-based art creation program and areas for art critique and website development, is located at <www.Harknell.com>; her self-produced store is located at <www.OnezumiStudios.com>.

JOSHUA PALMATIER

Joshua Palmatier is a writer with a Ph.D. in mathematics. He currently lives in New York and teaches at SUNY Oneonta. His most recent novel is *The Vacant Throne*, the third volume in the "Throne of Amenkor" series which began with *The Skewed Throne* and *The Cracked Throne*. He's working hard on the start of a new series, the first book of which is called *Well of Sorrows*. Web site: <www.sff.net/people/jpalmatier>.

MARIANNE PEASE

Marianne Pease is a newcomer to the costuming world, having only become obsessed two years ago when she graduated from Brigham Young University with a BA in Linguistics, and promptly decided that sewing and costuming

would be far more amusing and productive. She also hopes that in twenty years or so she'll have a bit more substance to put into a little snipit like this.

ALLY E. PELTIER

Ally E. Peltier is a writer, editor, and publishing consultant who regularly works with business professionals, publishing companies, literary agents, authors, and other individuals in need of editorial or writing services. She is experienced with both nonfiction and fiction projects. Ally has been an editorial staff member at both small and large book publishers, including Simon & Schuster, where she spent four years acquiring and editing books for both the Touchstone and Fireside imprints.

She has also worked as a freelance writer for nearly a decade. Her ever-expanding client list includes such companies as Simon & Schuster, Penguin Group USA, F&W Publications, Warner Books, Harcourt Trade Publishers, iUniverse, and more. Ally is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate and holds a Master of Arts in English and creative writing. Her work has appeared in a variety of places, including *Writer's Digest*, *Writers' Journal*, *Circle Magazine*, and <J3ttag.com>. She is also the ghostwriter for *High Style* (Chronicle Books, 2008). Learn more at: <www.ambitiousenterprises.com/>.

JEFF PORETSKY

Jeff Poretsky is an historical dancer who performs with Centuries Historical Dance Troupe over a range from the 16th through the 20th centuries. He is an associate of the Elegant Arts Society and has competed in the occasional masquerade as well as working extensively on the tech side. He enjoys making historical costumes for himself and his wife Sandy.

PETER W. PRELLWITZ

Peter Prellwitz is the IT Director for a precious metals refining company located in Philadelphia. Peter has been writing stories, plays and skits since the fifth grade.

Born in Arizona, Peter has lived in Wisconsin, California, Hawaii, New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, where he now lives with his wife, Bethlyne, and five sons. He is active in his church, and in addition to writing, enjoys history, backpacking, and languages.

Since 2004, Double Dragon Publishing has published nine of Peter's novels, as well as an anthology, novella and several short stories, with another half dozen novels scheduled in the next few years. *Horizons*, his second novel but first published, was chosen by Mike Resnick (<www.fortunecity.com/tattooine/farmer/2/>) as the winner



of the 2003 Draco Award for Best Science Fiction. Peter is a perennial finalist for the EPIE Awards for Science Fiction, having garnered five nominations over the past three years.

As of January 1, 2008, Pete can also add "web comic creator" to his writing achievements. Teamed with professional anime artist Steve Bennett, Peter is publishing the web comic "The Angel of St. Thomas," based on his young adult fantasy title of the same name. The comic posts every Tuesday and Thursday at: <AngelOfStThomas.com>. Web site: <Shards Universe. net>.

BRYAN PRINDIVILLE

Bryan Prindiville digitally publishes his creator owned project "Frances and Friends" for iPod and home computer through the online distributor, <Clickwheel.net>. Clickwheel is proud to present Prindiville's work exclusively alongside other Clickwheel offerings such as "2000AD" and "Judge Dredd." Web site: <www.bryanprindiville.com>.



MARY JO PUTNEY

A *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *USAToday* bestselling author, Mary Jo Putney was born in upstate New York with a reading addiction, a condition for which there is no known cure. Her entire writing career is an accidental byproduct of buying a computer for other purposes. Over the years, she had evolved from Jane Austen-ish Regency romances to historical fantasy. Releases in 2008 include the mass market edition of *A Distant Magic* coming from Del Rey in June, and the paperback release of *T Dragon Lovers* in October. She knows way too much about *Star Trek*, and most of her stories include cats. Web site: <www.maryjoputney.com/>.



RIC RADER

Ric Rader has belonged to the costuming community since 1995 where he has been an outstanding mannequin, sherpa, and all around prop builder. His specialties range from large pink dresses and military uniforms to present interest in anime and steam punk.

M.A. REISSE [MAinPA]

MA has been podcasting since February of 2007. On her podcast "Better Late Than Never," she talks books, movies, or anything she feels like, including the challenges that being a single parent can bring. "Better Late Than Never" was nominated for a 2007 Parsec award in the Reality Podcast

category. Her voice can also be heard on "Pseudopod," the "Metamor City Podcast," and "Murder at Avedon Hill."

M.T. REITEN

M.T. Reiten's published fiction credits include: "St. Cyrus Ray and the Lunar Yumbies" in *Houston, We Got Bubbas*, edited by Selina Rosen (Yard Dog Press); "High Wire" in *Running the Line*, edited by Bradley Edwards and David Raitt; "Grunge the Dissatisfied" in *Flush Fiction* (Yard Dog Press); "Larry and Joe Bob Do Asscrackistan" in *International House of Bubbas*, edited by Selina Rosen (Yard Dog Press); "Needle Child" in *Writers of the Future Vol. XXI*, edited by Algis Budrys (Galaxy Press); "The Thinking Part is Me" in *F/SF*, edited by David Bain (Cyber-Pulp Books); "Two Rooms and All the Electricity You Can Eat" in *All the Rage This Year*, edited by Keith Olexa (Phobos Books); "Oaken Memory" in *PanGaia Magazine Issue 37*.



Two of his stories have been accepted for upcoming publication. "The Manure Factor" will appear in *Forbidden Texts*, edited by David Bain, an e-anthology and POD book. "How Savio Arcaini Came by His Sword" will appear in *Fantastical Visions Vol. IV*, edited by William H. Horner III.

Mr. Reiten holds undergraduate degrees in engineering, physics, and electrical engineering from the University of North Dakota. He has an M.S. in applied physics from Rice University. He has also served in the U.S. military. Web site: <www.mtreiten.com>.

ANGELA RENDER

Angela Render has been designing and maintaining web sites for over a decade. She was the web editorial assistant for *Smithsonian Magazine* for two years before she was promoted to web developer and has articles published in *Smithsonian Magazine* online. Her historical fiction, *Forged by Lightning: A Novel of Hannibal and Scipio*, was published in 2002. She has a column in *Writers' Journal* called "Computer Business," and she regularly teaches writers how to build a web presence at the Bethesda Writers' Center in Bethesda, MD. Her recent class offerings have included: "Introduction to Platforms," "Websites for Beginners," "Blogging for Beginners," "Getting Found on the Web," "Advanced Marketing," "Designing a Success Roadmap Workshop," "Making Your Web Presence Work Better Workshop." Her web site is: <www.angelarender.com>.



AMBER RHEA

Amber Rhea is one of the co-founders of the Georgia Podcast Network <gapodcastnetwork.com/>, a portal site for Georgia-based podcasts. She and her boyfriend/co-conspirator/other GAPN co-founder, Rusty Tanton, host the award-winning podcast "Mostly ITP" (<www.gapodcastnetwork.com/networkprograms/mostly-ityp>), which focuses on people and issues in Atlanta. They do occasional consulting on the side and have lost potential clients due to the "sexually explicit" nature of some of their episodes.

Amber was the main organizer of PodCamp Atlanta (<podcampatlanta.com/>, a podcasting unconference which was held for the first time in March 2007. Her latest endeavor is Sex 2.0 (<sex20con.com/>), an unconference focused on the intersection of social media, feminism, and sexuality. She also finds time for a day job as a web developer. When she's not blogging (<beingamberreha.com/>), coding, or organizing conferences, she enjoys pole dancing, sleeping, going on road trips, and watching the History Channel.

RAY RIDENOUR

Ray Ridenour, local science fiction 'Personality,' has been stalking convention halls and scaring the horses since 1966. A professional artist, although not in the SF field as of yet, he produces computer graphics, large acrylic inkblots, 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. Two severed heads from his first movie have gone on to illustrious film careers in Japan.

Moderately funny and marginally charming, he has appeared on many panels on many subjects over the years, unencumbered by expertise and anecdotes germane.

JAMIE ROBERTSON

Jamie Robertson is the creator of the web comic "Clan of the Cats" (<clanofthecats.com/>).

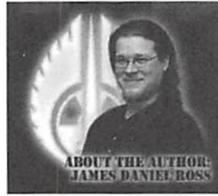
Jamie was born about the same time the Beatles came to America, (most likely a huge coincidence), and by age six he was already a talent-less hack. That is, until someone explained the true way of the crayon. In 1971 his favorite song was "My Girlfriend is a Witch" by the Cattanooga Cats. Now he draws a web comic about a witch who turns into a cat. Most likely another huge coincidence.

"Clan of the Cats" (COTC) is an urban fantasy about a witch, Chelsea Chattan, who is also afflicted by an ancient family curse. In times of stress she transforms into a black panther. This, coupled by her increasing magical power, makes having an ordinary life rather challenging. The stories deal with supernatural themes mainly, but also creep into the realm of normal everyday life.

JAMES DANIEL ROSS

A native of Cincinnati, OH, James 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.

The Radiation Angels: The Chimerium Gambit is his first novel. Most people are begging him to go back to ditch digging. Web site: <www.radiationangels.com/>.



ANNEKE "SOCCERGIRL" RUDEGEAR



New media performance artist, skeptic, atheist, author, musician, spy? and one of the first podcasters ever, Soccergirl has written, starred in and produced over 250 episodes of her popular audio and video podcast, "Soccergirl, Incorporated," reaching an audience of up to 80,000 worldwide. The show features: free thinking moxie, the pluck of the ages and satirical social commentary via an

eclectic mix of experimental fiction (much of it science-y), original music (including freestyle rhymes), fake news, interviews, the lusty interpretation of cartoon classics and comedic improvisation.

In addition to her year-long stint on Sirius Satellite Radio, Soccergirl and her work have appeared on many podcasts, television and terrestrial radio, in various print publications including the *New York Times* and *Wired Magazine*. She has also appeared at a variety of events across the country, including the Sundance Film Festival, where she was a featured guest panelist speaking on censorship and the freedom of speech in new media in 2006. Soccergirl wrote, directed and starred in "The Soccergirl Second," a theatrical adaptation of her show (performed at the Brick Theater in New York City) and has just completed a book of short fiction and essays, forthcoming from Podshow Press.

TONY RUGGIERO



Tony Ruggiero has been publishing fiction since 1998. His science fiction, fantasy, and horror stories and novels have appeared in both print and electronic mediums. While continuing

to write, Tony teaches at Old Dominion University, Saint Leo University, and Tidewater Community College in Norfolk, VA.

His published works include:

Operation Immortal Servitude: The U.S. military has developed a new weapon to be added to its arsenal—the creatures known as vampires. Tony uses his Naval experience to write this dark fantasy thriller about vampires being used by the Navy SEALs.

Alien Deception: Something to keep in mind with the upcoming presidential election: Nothing is as it appears... nothing. Your whole life you think you understand who and what you are and then one day you learn that it is all a lie. So what do you do? You have lunch with the leading candidate for president of the United States...you and your alien friends.

Aliens and Satanic Creatures Wanted: Humans Need Not Apply: Aliens, Satanic Creatures, and other alternate life forms have gathered together to make a stand for literary fairness. An anthology of short stories where the center character is not human; includes the award winning story, "Lucky Lucifer's Car Emporium," as well as "Electronic Bliss," "Invasion or Subversion," and "Going Up?"

Alien Revelation (Dragon Moon Press, 2007): For some death is an end, while for others it is a beginning. For one human/alien hybrid, it is a way to have one final chance to try and save his home, Earth, a son he has never seen, and find an enemy that just won't stay dead. The exciting conclusion to *Alien Deception*.

Web site: <www.tonyruggiero.com/>.

DON SAKERS

Don Sakers is the author of *Dance for the Ivory Madonna*, *Curse of the Zwilling*, and *The SF Book of Days*. Web site: <www.scatteredworlds.com/>.

MAURA SCHARADIN

Maura Scharadin has been sewing and wearing the results since she was 12. Add an addiction to books and language, and you have a history buff who loves sewing, and trying for authenticity. Joining the SCA fluffy purists did not help. She learned how sewing terms, tools and techniques have changed in only a few hundred years.

LAWRENCE M. SCHOEN

Lawrence M. Schoen holds a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology, spent ten years as a college professor, and currently works as the 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. He lives in the Philadelphia area. Web site: <www.lawrencemschoen.com/>.

ERIC SCHULMAN

Eric Schulman is a Ph.D. astronomer, author, and science humorist. He's on the editorial board of the *Annals of Improbable Research* and is a contributor to *AIR*, *Null Hypothesis*, and the *Science Creative Quarterly*. One of his *AIR* articles, "The History of the Universe in 200 Words or Less," has been translated into more than 30 languages and provided the inspiration for his 1999 educational science humor book, *A Briefer History of Time*. He taught astronomy classes at the University of Virginia and for two years he wrote a column for *Mercury Magazine* entitled "Armchair Astrophysics."

MEREDITH SCHWARTZ

Meredith Schwartz, in addition to being foolish enough to chair Buffycon in 2003, is an author whose short stories have appeared in the online zine *Reflection's Edge* and the Torquere Press anthology *Sleeping Beauty, Indeed*. Meredith edited *Alleys & Doorways*, an anthology of homoerotic urban fiction. Meredith also enjoys Regency and other historical dancing and is a member of the Elegant Arts Society.

DARRELL SCHWEITZER

Darrell Schweitzer was co-editor of *Weird Tales* for a few months short of 20 years, and his magazine-editing career goes back before that, to 1977, working with George Scithers on *Asimov's SF*. He is the author of three published novels: *The White Isle*, *The Shattered Goddess*, and *The Mask of the Sorcerer*, and hundreds of short stories, which have appeared in such magazines as *Interzone*, *Twilight Zone*, *Amazing Stories*, and *Postscripts*. Presently he is a columnist for *Weird Tales* and *Dark Wisdom* and a regular contributor to *Publishers Weekly* and *The New York Review of Science Fiction*. His most recent books (edited) are *The Vampire Secret History* from DAW and *The Neil Gaiman Reader* from Wildside. Forthcoming soon are a story-cycle, *Living With the Dead* (PS Publishing) and an essay collection, *Fantastic Horizon* (Borgo Press/Wildside). He is also a poet, best-known for rhyming "Cthulhu" in limerick, but also a regular contributor of more serious verse to *Paradox*, *Starline*, *Dreams & Nightmares*, *Mythic Delirium*, etc.

HANNAH M.G. SHAPERO [PYRACANTHA]

Pyracantha (mundanely Hannah M.G. Shapero) has participated in Balticons for 30 years. Originally from Boston, she has lived in the Washington, DC area for two decades. Pyracantha is trained as an architectural illustrator and is currently a sign designer for a Trader Joe's gourmet store in Falls Church, VA. Pyracantha enjoys studying math and physics, and her paintings at Balticon are inspired by mathematical curves and particle physics concepts. Web site: <<http://www.pyracantha.com>>.

GREG SEARS

Greg Sears is a brother of the Karizan Empire (a Space Warrior fan organization) and has been working with Raven since 1990, starting with Klingon prosthetics, a WWF commercial and an independent movie. He is also a part of the new RAM FX Studios. Since 1996 Greg has worked as a Union Stagehand for local 22 in Washington, DC doing numerous theatre productions, concerts and industrial shows.

DEBORAH SEARS

Deborah Sears' love of glitz may be a result of being long-legged and gangly as a child, unable to wear the boxed dimestore Halloween costumes that the other children treasured... or it may be the result of being reared in a home surrounded by the lush fabrics, tantalizing trimmings, and beautiful millinery supplies used by her mother, a seamstress and notorious hat-wearing churchwoman....

H. PAUL SHUCH [DR. SETI@]

Dr. H. Paul Shuch (aka Dr. SETI), now Executive Director Emeritus of the grassroots, nonprofit SETI League (which he helped to found 14 years ago), is a distinguished engineering professor credited with designing the world's first commercial home satellite TV receiver. Thrice retired, he is this year serving as Visiting Professor of Electrical Engineering at the Heidelberg University of Applied Sciences.

A member of the International Academy of Astronautics, Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society, Fellow of the European Radio Astronomy Club, and Fellow of the Radio Club of America, he is the author of 500 publications, and has received numerous honors and awards. He lives on a radio-quiet hilltop in northern Pennsylvania with his biologist wife, two of their seven recombinant DNA experiments, ten networked computers, three motorcycles, three radio telescopes, and an antique MG-TD roadster. His airplane doesn't live with them, but is hangared in nearby Lock Haven, PA.

RICH SIGFRIT [PODCASTING'S RICH SIGFRIT]



To say that I enjoy podcasting and new media would be a gross understatement. My credits include mentions in high school and collegiate papers, newspapers, *Podcasting for Dummies*, and *Advanced Podcasting Tricks*. I have been called an innovator, having created the first *Star Wars* podcast ("RotO"), the first podcast for an Independent Wrestling Federation ("Halo: Hardwired"), and distributed the first comicbook made available via podcast feed ("Podcast 9"). I am the force behind the official "Troma Podcast" and a

host/editor of the "501stCast," the official podcast of the 501st Stormtrooper Legion.

I co-wrote, with Davey Beauchamp, the *Amazing Pulp Adventures Radio Show* starring *Mister Adventure* Script book, with its second volume debuting this year. Along with his writing talents, Davey and I have been doing *Mister Adventure* via podcast and live on stage for the past 5 years, with a webcomic following the exploits of *Mister Adventure* available on the site. 2009 will see the revival of my 20 Dollar Film Fest, thanks to the high demand from its two-year run. Between the podcasts, requested voices from other shows, being the voice of "Crash Wrestling," and father of three, I have little time for my eventual webcomic, book, shortfilms and comicbook. In my spare time, I sleep.

HILDY SILVERMAN



Hildy Silverman is the owner and editor-in-chief of *Space and Time* magazine, a 40-year-old magazine of horror, fantasy, and science fiction founded by Gordon Linzner. Previously, she was an editor with *Achieving Families* magazine, to which she regularly contributed articles on overcoming infertility. She has had numerous short stories and articles published in a variety of venues,

including the upcoming anthology *Dark Territories*. She's in the process of shopping around her novel, the first in a dark fantasy series entitled "The Way of Things." Ms. Silverman is a member of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the Garden State Horror Writers. Web site: <www.spaceandtimemagazine.com>.

JERI SMITH-READY

Jeri Smith-Ready has been writing fiction since the night she had her first double espresso. She holds a master's degree in environmental policy and lives in Annapolis County, MD.

Jeri's 2006 epic fantasy *Eyes of Crow* won the Romantic Times Reviewers' Choice Award for Best Fantasy.

Jeri's new urban fantasy series about a vampire radio station begins on May 13, 2008, with *Wicked Game*. For excerpts and free tie-in short stories, visit <www.jerismithready.com/>.



MARIA V. SNYDER

Maria V. Snyder changed careers in 1995 from being a meteorologist to a novelist when she began working on her first novel, *Poison Study*. Published in October 2005, *Poison Study* won the 2006 Compton Crook Award from the



Baltimore Science Fiction Society, was a 2005 Booksense pick, and received a Starred Review from *Publisher's Weekly*.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, Maria earned a Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology from the Pennsylvania State University.

Much to Maria's chagrin, forecasting the weather wasn't one of her skills. Writing, however, proved to be more enjoyable and she has earned a Master of Arts degree in writing from Seton Hill University.

Maria's second book, *Magic Study*, was a 2006 Booksense pick. And her third book, *Fire Study*, was released in March 2008. She's currently working on another novel set in the Study world, *Storm Glass*, which is due out in the fall of 2008.

Web site: <www.mariavsnnyder.com>.

KEIRA SOKOLOWSKI

Keira Sokolowski is a vet student at Cornell University and has all the quirks and science nerdery that go along with that. She can frequently be found outside of school gaming, dancing, and/or dressing in historical costume. She would have put more effort into this bio, but got distracted by mediating interactions between the cats, birds, and snakes playing in the living room.

BUD SPARHAWK

Bud's stories and articles have appeared frequently in *Analog*, *Asimov's*, and other SF magazines as well as anthologies. Bud has been a three-time finalist in the Nebula's Novella category in 1998, 2002, and 2006. More information may be found at: <sff.net/people/bud_sparhawk>.

ANTHONY STEVENS

I'm an olde pharte technogeek, writer, photographer, leathercrafter, Dom, car nut, SCAdian history freak, costumer, scale modeler and graphics enthusiast.

My trilogy of adult tales, *Time for Clocks and Demons*, has recently been published by Dark Eden Press. Two more novels will be coming out this summer, from Dragon Spell Publishing.

I've gone by the handle Master Anthony Stevens from time to time, or just MAS. In Spanish, that is... MAS que los de mas, MAS de todo o' MAS que nada.

I'm a cat lover (seems to be a writer thing, eh?) and live in northern Virginia.

My own favorite reading matter is scifi, fantasy and of course, erotica. Favorite authors include, but are not limited to: Robert A. Heinlein, Anne Rice, Jerry Pournelle, Tanya Huff, Larry Niven, Jacqueline Carey, Charles DeLint, Kim Harrison, Spider Robinson, Charline Harris, Vernor Vinge,

Anne McCaffrey, John Scalzi, Stephanie Burke, Ben Bova, Marion Zimmer Bradley, John Ringo, and Mercedes Lackey.

Musical tastes run from Beethoven to Buffet and Willie Nelson to Jean Luc Ponty.

Over the years, I've lived in Florida, Mexico, Virginia, New Jersey, Indiana, Texas and California.

W.H. STEVENS

W.H. (Wendy) Stevens is a Harford County writer, artist, and poet. Her credits include poems, book reviews, and non-fiction that have been published in *Lite: Baltimore's Literary Newspaper*, *Maryland Poetry Review*, *The Baltimore Review* and *The Baltimore Sun*. Stevens has led poetry workshops, judged poetry contests and critiqued manuscripts for various local organizations as well as assisted with the editing of some area literary magazines. She is assistant editor of the Gothic horror/dark fantasy/mystery anthology, *Through a Glass Darkly* (Lite Circle Books). Nominated several times as a competitor in Baltimore's Artscape, her first book of narrative poetry, *Dundalk Proud*, was published in Spring 2004 (Lite Circle Books). She is currently reviewing books for a new e-zine, *Loom Knitters Circle*, and teaching jewelry and wire wrap both privately and for other organizations.

ELAINE STILES

At 12 I became a profan. I knew I wanted to write and edit fanzines, but I was too shy to write to strangers and so remained puzzled as to how to get involved with them. In the intervening years, through college graduation, I borrowed from a friendly couple's SF lending library and from the public library. Otherwise I had little to do with fandom. Instead, I contented myself with school literary magazines, the college paper and the radio station. My cons were folk festivals. The rest was work.

Fandom asserted itself while I was working for Westchester County's Department of Social Services and completing a master's degree in communications (journalism). A woman from an office where I'd previously worked asked me to befriend her daughter who was just starting off in my office. Gail Flanagan turned out to be a fan. Meanwhile, my editorial course at Fordham required me to spend time with filthy pros. The combination started me going to cons, but I still hadn't found the elusive fanzine fan. That had to wait for me to intern at the *Baltimore Sun*.

Dave Ettlin, fan and fixture at the *Sun*, got me in touch with the proprietors of Tales From the White Hart Book Shop. I wrote my first byline story for a major paper with Dave as the editor. Through Dave, Cathy and Leo, I began going to BSFS meetings when I moved to Baltimore the following year. I also met up with the truefen of both BSFS and WSFA, one of whom was Steve. Fulfilling a 12-year old's fannish activity desires became possible in late '79-early '80, 20 years later. Soon I was writing for and then editing BSFAN, until I gave it up to pursue adoption and work.

STEVE STILES

Steve Stiles first began cartooning for fanzines in 1957, the same year he entered our little microcosm. In over four decades he's continued to draw and write for fanzines of every kind and description, as well as editing and publishing some himself. In 1968 he won TAFF (the TransAtlantic Fan Fund) and in 1998 he won the first Bill Rotsler Award in recognition of his achievements as a fan artist. He's also been nominated for a few Fan Art Hugos now and again.

As for his career as a professional cartoonist and comic book illustrator, Steve has worked on both alternate comics and the mainstream variety, as well doing strips for *S.F. Eye*, *Stardate Magazine*, and *Heavy Metal*. Two of his favorite gigs are his stories for Mark Schultz's Eisner/Harvey winning title, *Xenozoic Tales*, and the Fantagraphics graphic novel *The Adventures of Professor Thintwhistle and His Incredible Aether Flyer*, in collaboration with a longtime friend, writer Richard Lupoff. For a look at Steve's art and writing, check out his web site at: <stevestiles.com>.

GAYLE SURRETTE

Gayle Surette is editor of the online magazine *SFRevu* (<www.sfrevu.com/>).

CHRISTY E. TOHARA

Christy E. Tohara is a middle school English teacher from South Jordan, UT. She graduated from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in secondary education. She is currently working on her first novel with Trisha Wooldridge. Again co-authoring with Wooldridge, Christy has completed a short story called "Party Crashers." She has also published a few poems in chapbooks.

While writing and editing is a daily practice in the classroom, Christy extended her experience by administrating writers groups. She has taken part in orchestrating various genres of writing as well as coaching writers with different skill levels.

MARSHALL S. THOMAS

Marshall S Thomas is the author of the military science fiction action-adventure series "Soldier of the Legion." The first book, *Soldier of the Legion*, is available in paperback, e-book and unabridged full cast audio recording. The second and third books, *The Black March* and *Slave of the Legion*, are available in paperback and e-book formats. Additional sequels will be released each January, and efforts are underway to produce audio recordings for each book. Additional sequels include *Secret of the Legion*, *Cross of the Legion* and *Curse of the Legion*.



Marshall is a retired Foreign Service officer who served in East Asia for most of his career. Marshall attended the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, the University of New Mexico and the University of Miami. Marshall currently lives in Williamsburg, VA with his wife Kim Lien. His youngest son Alexander, 19, is now studying biochemistry at university. His eldest son Christopher is a graduate of Radford University.

Further info on *Soldier of the Legion* is available on the official web site, <www.soldierofthelegion.com>.

PATRICK THOMAS



Patrick Thomas is the author of over 75 published short stories and more than 16 books including the popular fantasy humor series "Murphy's Lore™," which includes *Nightcaps*, *Bartender of the Gods*, *Redemption Road*, *Shadow of the Wolf*, *Through the Drinking Glass*, *Fools' Day* and *Tales From Bulfinch's Pub*. He co-created the YA fantasy series "The

Wildsidhe Chronicles" and wrote two of the first six books in the series. The eighth book in the "Murphy's Lore" series, *Empty Graves*, should be available by Balticon.

Patrick co-edited *Hear Them Roar* and the upcoming *New Blood* vampire anthology. He has also edited for *Fantastic Stories* and *Pirate Writings*. Patrick has novellas in *Go Not Gently* from Padwolf as well as one in *Flesh and Iron* from the Two Backed Books imprint of Raw Dog Screaming.

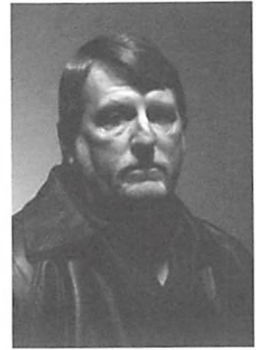
His stories have sold to various magazines and anthologies including *Bad-Ass Faeries*, *Sails & Sorcery*, *Until Somebody Loses an Eye*, *Hardboiled Cthulhu*, *Dark Furies*, *Clash of Steel 3: Demon*, *Breach the Hull*, *The 2nd Coming*, *Unicorn 8*, *Jigsaw Nation*, *Crypto-Critters vol. 1 & 2*, *The Dead Walk Again*, *Time Capsule*, *Cthulhu Sex*, *Barbarians at the Jumpgate*, *Cross-Genre Cthulhu*, and *Warfear*. He has a novella in another Two Backed Books collection centered around Kali. Terrorbelle will also be getting her own collection in the not terribly distant future and a collection of his Department of Mystic Affairs tales is scheduled to come out from Elder Signs Press. A collection of his mystic investigators is due out from Marietta Publishing in late 2008 or early 2009.

Patrick continues to write the syndicated satirical advice column "Dear Cthulhu™". Web site: <www.patthomas.net/>.

MARK VAN NAME

Mark L. Van Name, whom John Ringo has said is "going to be the guy to beat in the race to the top of SFdom," has worked in the high-tech industry for over 30 years and today runs a technology assessment company in the Research Triangle area of North Carolina. A former executive vice president for Ziff Davis Media and national technology columnist, he's published over a thousand computer-related

articles and multiple science fiction stories in a variety of magazines and anthologies, including the *Year's Best Science Fiction*. His first novel, *One Jump Ahead*, appeared in June, 2007 and began the "Jon & Lobo" series. The second book in the series, *Slanted Jack*, is due in July, 2008. An anthology, *Transhuman*, co-edited with T.K.F. Weisskopf and containing a short story of his, appeared in February of this year. Web site: <www.markvanname.com/>.



BILL VERNON [SUPER GEEK BILLY FLYNN]

Bill Vernon, aka "Super Geek Billy Flynn," brings the funny each week on the "Geeklabel Radio Show," and he is proud to bring you a new addition to the geeky world of podcasting—"GeekRadioDaily!" His daytime alter ego is mild-mannered (well, that part is a stretch) on-air talent at WRAR Radio Station in Virginia. He actually gets paid to sit on his butt and run his mouth! Take that, world! His "edumacation" is from UNC-Wilmington and the Columbia School of Broadcasting. When he is not gracing the podcasting airways with his comedic stylings, you can find Billy Flynn on Xbox Live shooting Covenant bad guys, watching a truly bad movie (where you at, *Plan 9?*), or road trippin' to visit friends and family along the eastern seaboard. Why is he so damn cool? That's just how he rolls. Get your geek on!

JIM VAN VERTH

Jim Van Verth is the sole proprietor of "The Vintage Gamer," a podcast about older board games, computer games, and RPGs. He has some experience in this, having worked in the game industry for more than 10 years, concentrating on 3D graphics and simulation. He is also co-author of the book *Essential Mathematics for Games and Interactive Applications*, published through Morgan Kaufmann. He is currently a senior engineer at NVIDIA, working on OpenGL device drivers.

ROBIN M. VAUGHAN

Dr. Robin M. Vaughan is a member of the principal professional staff in the Mission Design, Guidance and Control Group of the Space Department of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, MD. She is currently the guidance and control lead engineer for the Radiation Belt Storm Probes (RBSP) mission which will launch two Earth-orbiting spacecraft in 2012 to study how dynamically interacting electromagnetic fields accelerate plasmas to relativistic energies. Both spacecraft will routinely fly through the Earth's radiation belts to improve our

understanding of this harsh environment as part of NASA's Living with a Star Geospace Program.

Prior to working on RBSP, Robin served as the G&C lead engineer for the MESSENGER mission to Mercury. She continues to support MESSENGER and assisted the science teams in designing the spacecraft turns needed to obtain observations during the second flyby of Venus in June 2007.

Prior to joining APL in 2000, Robin spent 13 years in the Navigation and Flight Mechanics Section at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, in Pasadena, CA. She joined JPL in 1987 and worked as an optical navigation and orbit determination analyst for the Voyager 2 Neptune encounter in 1989, the Galileo encounter with the asteroid Gaspra in 1991, and the successful landing of Mars Pathfinder on July 4, 1997.

Robin has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana ('81) and master's and Ph.D. degrees in aeronautics and astronautics from M.I.T. in Cambridge, Massachusetts ('83 and '87). Robin is a senior member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and the current secretary of the Baltimore Section.

Robin grew up in New Orleans, LA. She enjoys reading (science fiction, of course), playing the piano, needlework, and baking when she's not working hard on RBSP and MESSENGER.

EVE VAUGHN

Eve has enjoyed creating characters and making up stories from an early age. As a child she was always getting into mischief, so when she lost her television and outside privileges (which was often), writing was her outlet. Her stories have gotten quite a bit spicier since then! Eve likes to read, bake, make crafts, volunteer work, travel, and spend time with her family. She lives in the Philadelphia area with her husband.

MICHAEL A. VENTRELLA



Michael A. Ventrella's first fantasy novel, *Arch Enemies*, has just been published by Double Dragon. He is one of the founders of the New England Roleplaying Organization and currently runs Alliance LARP. His Rule Books and Players' Guides can be found in all good gaming stores and through <Amazon.com> and other retailers. In the '80s he started *Animato!*, the first major magazine for animated films, and he has been quoted in various books and magazines about animation. In his spare time he is a lawyer. Web site: <MichaelAventrella.com>.

TYLER WALDMAN

Tyler Waldman is the Baltimore-based creator, host, producer, caterer, dark lord, etc. of the podcast "Rangercast." "Rangercast" covers the ins and outs of the Power Rangers fandom, with news, reviews, interviews, con reports, and—of course—good old fashioned rants. Tyler has covered events in Baltimore, Richmond, Washington, New York, (by the time you read this) Chicago, and even a trip in summer 2007 to Power Morphicon in Los Angeles, the first-ever Power Rangers fan convention. Check out "Rangercast" at <Rangercast.net> and discover the most Morphinomental podcast on the web!

MATT WALLACE

Matt Wallace is currently poised to take the Australian film industry by storm. He is a trained catch wrestler, a Michelin chef, a skilled swordsman, an accredited demonologist, and a master of Filipino knife-fighting. He also writes the occasional fallacy.



An award-winning author and screenwriter, Matt has spent the last few years making his name and his bones in the medium of podcasting. Upwards of 10,000 listeners now download his stories released through the monthly "Variant Frequencies" podcast, and he has twice been honored with the Parsec Award for short fiction. His first novel-length release, the deeply prosaic, ultra violent, highly experimental *The Failed Cities Monologues*, garnered a small battalion of fans who have become fond of stalking Matt at conventions in full character costume. It is currently available from <Podiobooks.com>.

Matt's first major blitzkrieg on print publishing is scheduled for 2008 when Apex Publications drops *The Next Fix*, a collection of the stories that have turned at least .0008% of a generation into craven, mind-warped language fiends. Web site: <matt-wallace.net>.

JEAN MARIE WARD

After spending over 10 years writing, editing and committing public relations for the federal government, it's no surprise Jean Marie Ward likes writing fiction as much as fact. On the nonfiction side, she edited *Crescent Blues* (<www.crescentblues.com>) for eight years. Her byline can be found in periodicals as diverse as *Science Fiction Weekly* and *Romance Writers Report*.



She is the author of *Illumina: The Art of J.P. Targete* (Paper Tiger). Her first novel, *With Nine You Get Vanyr*, written with the late Teri Smith, was published by Samhain Publishing in

2007. Her short mystery "Most Dead Bodies in a Confined Space" appears in the Prime Books anthology *Strange Pleasures 2*. *Strange Pleasures 3* includes her flash fiction "First Stone." Jean Marie recently completed *Highway from Hell*, the first in a four-novel contemporary fantasy series retelling the great romances of Greek mythology from the women's point of view. In *Highway from Hell*, Eurydice takes center stage for a story of sex, death and rock-n-roll. It's a comedy.

JOY WARD

Joy Ward's *Haint: A Tale of Extraterrestrial Intervention and Love Across Time and Space* has been called the start of a new genre—dog lit. That's not surprising since she writes "Dogster's For Love of Dog Blog" for the world's largest online dog community. Her blog was voted one of the top ten animal blogs in 2007.

Ward has been a consumer psychology consultant for the last 15 years or so, assisting corporations and non-profit organizations with their branding and marketing efforts. She has also been a freelance and staff writer for regional, national and international publications where she has covered topics as diverse as technology and shopping. As for degrees, she holds masters in political science and management.

Web sites: <dogblog.dogster.com>, <www.joyward.net>.

DIANE WEINSTEIN

Diane Weinstein was assistant editor and art director for *Weird Tales* magazine for about 15 years, worked for Wildside Press as an editorial assistant, and is currently the art director for *Space and Time* magazine. She's been a Balticon regular for about 30 years.

THE USUAL SUSPECTS

The Usual Suspects have been collectively performing comedy and parodies at local science fiction conventions for over 20 years. These fans love nothing more than taking their favorite shows to the stage and "letting them have it." Mutual respect, admiration, professionalism and high regard are all concepts they strive to leave behind for the sake of outrageous humor. From Star Trek to Star Wars, from Dark Shadows to Firefly, from Batman to Superman, From Here to Eternity, all have representatives that would love to chase these shameless rascallions from coast to coast (well, maybe not that last one—yet).

HEATHER WELLIVER

Heather Welliver is a vocalist, occasional co-host in her husband Marc Bailey's podcast "Grailwolf's Geek Life," and frequent guest of the ADD Cast. She had recorded three songs with her band the Shillas and performed last year and



will be performing again this year, right here at Balticon, with Phil Rossi. She has also read for "Escape Pod" and it's sister show "Pseudopod." Future projects include podcasting two non-fiction pieces: one short, and the other that will take over a year to put out. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for more information. Web sites: <www.myspace.com/theshilla>, <www.myspace.com/singingypsygrrl>, <www.grailwolf.com>.

MARK WHEATLEY

Mark Wheatley is an award-winning creator of radical comic books. Preferring the title "Comic Book Maker," he is respected internationally as an artist, writer, editor, publisher and inventor. Noted for comics with heart and integrity, he holds the Inkpot, Mucker, Gem, Speakeasy and Eisner awards and his projects have been nominated for the Harvey and Ignatz awards. His work has been repeatedly included in the annual Spectrum selection of fantastic art and has appeared in private gallery shows as well as the Library of Congress, where several of his originals are in the LoC permanent collection.

Mark's comic book creations include *Mars*, *Breathaker*, *Black Hood*, *Prince Nightmare*, *Hammer of the Gods*, *Blood of the Innocent*, *Radical Dreamer*, *Frankenstein Mobster*, *Miles the Monster*, *The Mighty Motor-Sapiens*, *EZ Street* and *Titanic Tales*. His interpretations of established characters such as Tarzan the Warrior, the Adventures of Baron Munchausen, Jonny Quest, Dr. Strange, the Flash, Argus and seminal pulp hero the Spider have brought them to life for a new generation of readers. Not content to simply create the contents of comics, Mark has worked as an editor and art director for a number of publishers and is the inventor of color production technology for comics.

Mark established the highly respected Insight Studios in 1978 as a home base for a team of talented comic creators. Insight Studios is the subject of an "insightful" coffee table style art book; *IS ART: the Art of Insight Studios*. In other fields he has written for TV, illustrated elaborate hardback novels, designed cutting-edge role-playing games and was an early innovator of the online daily comic strip form. Several of his projects have been optioned for motion pictures.

In 2006 Mark was a guest lecturer on "Storytelling in the Arts" at the Library of Congress. Through May 2008 some of Mark's art and script for the ground-breaking *Breathaker* graphic novel is on view at the Norman Rockwell Museum.

RICHARD C. WHITE

Rich had two short stories come out recently, "Redshift" in *The Sky's the Limit*, the 2007 *Star Trek* anthology by Pocket Books and "The Price of Conviction" in *The Quality of Leadership*, the latest "Doctor Who: Short Trips" anthology by Big Finish, LTD.

Working primarily as a Media Tie-In writer, Rich's other works include a novella, *Echoes of Coventry*, for the "Star Trek Corp of Engineers" series, a novel, *Gauntlet Dark Legacy: Paths of Evil* for Midway Games and a short story, "Assault on Avengers Mansion," for the *Ultimate Hulk* anthology.

In addition to his writing, Rich is active in the science fiction community as the newest member of the Writer Beware committee for the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America.

STEVE WHITE

Steve White was born in Norfolk, VA in 1946 and served as a Naval Intelligence officer in the Mediterranean and the Vietnam War Zone. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia Law School and an associate member of the Virginia Bar. In addition to the best-selling "Starfire" series with David Weber, he has written several popular science fiction adventure novels for Baen. They include the trilogy comprising *The Disinherited*, *Legacy* and *Debt of Ages*, which combine fast-paced space opera with Arthurian mythology. He has also written the galaxy-spanning adventure *Prince of Sunset*, and its sequel *Emperor of Dawn*, the time travel adventure *Blood of the Heroes*, and a fifth novel in the "Starfire" series, this time in collaboration with Shirley Meier.

His most recent novel is *Saint Antony's Fire*, an alternate-history fantasy set in Elizabethan times. Steve works for a legal publishing company in Charlottesville, VA. He is married and has three daughters, the youngest of whom he and his wife found and adopted in Russia... but that's another story.

DAVID J. WILLIAMS

David J. Williams was born in Hertfordshire, England, and now lives in Washington, DC. His first novel, *The Mirrored Heavens*, will be released by Bantam Spectra this May. A 22nd century espionage thriller, it's been described as "John LeCarre on SF crack."

Learn more at: <www.autumnrain2110.com>.



D.C. WILSON

My work has appeared in the following anthologies: *Bad-Ass Furies*, *No Longer Dreams*, and *Fantastical Visions III*. Also,

I've appeared in the periodical *Trails of Indiscretion*. I live in Harrisburg, PA with my extremely patient and understanding wife, Maria. Web site: <seventhhorizon.mypodcast.com/>.

TRISHA J. WOOLDRIDGE

Trisha J. Wooldridge is a freelance writer and editor with experience ranging from *Dungeons & Dragons Online* to animal rescue public relations. She regularly contributes to *Produce Business*, *Deli Business*, and *American Food & Ag Exporter*. She is also a columnist, advertising representative and proofreader for *Massachusetts Horse* magazine.

In fiction, Trish is shopping out her first Young Adult science-fiction novel, *A Silent Starsong*, and is finishing up co-written novel, *Fac Sithein: Yesterday's Shadows*, with Christy Tohara. "Party Crashers" is the first published piece of fiction by the two writers.

Trisha rounds out her writing and editing career as a Lead Tutor and editor for <Smarthinking.com>. She enjoys sharing her passion for the written word with students of all ages, in both English and Spanish. Currently, she also assists in online course development.

An active member of the Editorial Freelancers Association and Broad Universe, Trisha has published essays on writing and marketing in *TOTAL Funds for Writers* and *The Freelancer*. She will be attending six conventions in 2008 to promote her fiction, Broad Universe, and women in science-fiction, fantasy and horror. Blog/web site: <www.anovelfriend.com>.

FRED WOLKE [NOBILIS]

Nobilis fits writing erotica into a life otherwise full of work and family. He has two titles available at <sextasybooks.com> and a weekly podcast of erotic short works.

BATTLESTAR GARGLEBLASTER

Presented by The Usual Suspects

The Cylons were created by Man. They rebelled. Those crazy, mixed-up kids. Still, what is the Cylon master plan? Why is Apollo convinced he's on the wrong Battlestar Galactica? Why is he surprised Starbuck is a woman? Does it have something to do with that book Baltar wrote? Fans of Douglas Adams will shed a tear. Fans of Battlestar Galactica will shed many. Either way, the audience will be on the edge of their seats, especially after three days of convention food. Come for the comedy. Stay for the heck of it.

MARTIN MORSE WOOSTER

Martin Morse Wooster is the author of *Angry Classrooms*, *Vacant Minds*, *The Great Philanthropists and the Problem of Donor Intent*, and *Great Philanthropic Mistakes*. He has been an SF reviewer since 1975; his reviews regularly appear in the *Washington Post* and other publications. His critical essays have appeared in eight science fiction reference books, most recently in *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy*.

JOHN C. WRIGHT

John C. Wright is a retired attorney, newspaperman and newspaper editor, who was only once on the lam and forced to hide from the police who did not admire his newspaper. In 1984, he graduated from St. John's College in Annapolis, home of the "Great Books" program. In 1987, he graduated from the College of William and Mary's Law School (going from the third oldest to the second oldest school in continuous use in the United States), and was admitted to the practice of law in three jurisdictions (New York, May 1989; Maryland, December 1990; DC, January 1994). His law practice was unsuccessful enough to drive him into bankruptcy soon thereafter. His stint as a newspaperman for the *St. Mary's Today* was more rewarding spiritually, but, alas, also a failure financially. He presently works (successfully) as a writer in Virginia, where he lives in fairy-tale-like happiness with his wife, the authoress L. Jagi Lamplighter, and their three children: Orville, Wilbur, and Just Wright.

His books include: *The Golden Age* (Tor Books, April 2002); *The Phoenix Exultant* (Tor Books, April 2003); *The Golden Transcendence* (Tor Books, November 2003); *Last Guardians of Everness* (Tor Books, August 2004); *Mists of Everness* (Tor Books, March 2005); *Orphans of Chaos* (Tor Books, November 2005-nominated for a Nebula); *Fugitives of*

Chaos (Tor Books, November 2006); and *Titans of Chaos* (Tor Books, April 2007). Web site: <www.sff.net/people/john-c-wright/>.

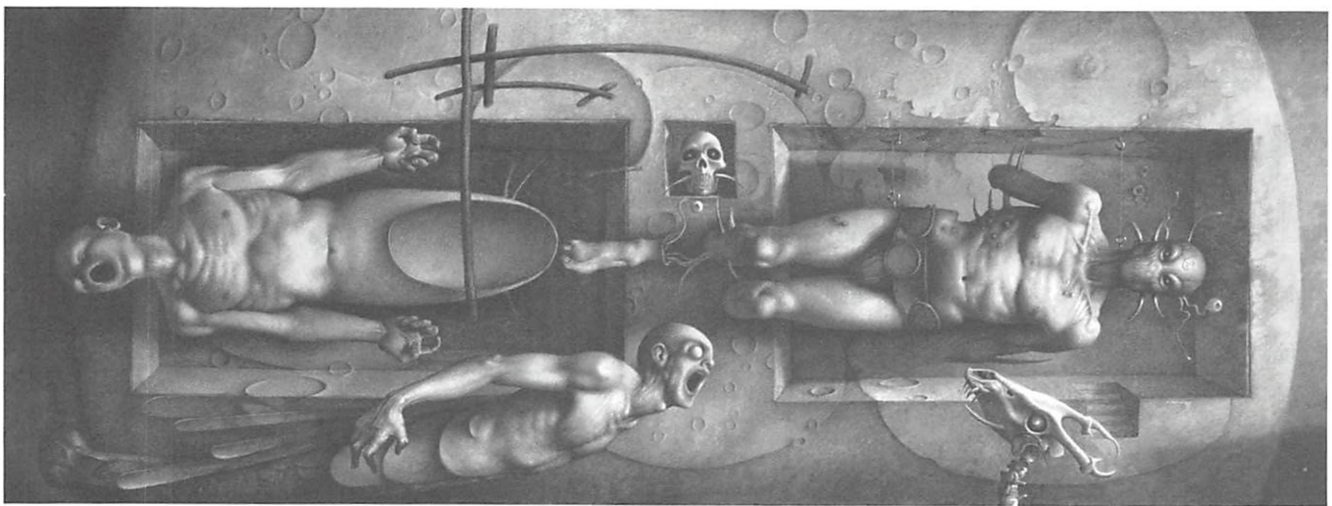
CHRISTINA YODER

Christina is a fine artist and graphics designer who has worked in the commercial industry for over 12 years. She has recently become a fantasy/SF/horror artist and her works can be seen in stores all over the U.S. and Canada. She got her start while working for an independent contractor employed by the U.S. Army, creating graphics, sketches and illustrations. After a few years, Christina worked with an advertising agency serving many large clients, as well as doing freelance illustration and getting formal art training.

Over the years, she's created artwork, graphics, brochures, logos, sculptures, paintings, digital art, websites, fanzine and convention art, technical illustrations and more for numerous clients. In the year 2000, Steven convinced her to show art at her very first science fiction convention... Millennium Philcon.

In 2003, after years of drawing helicopters, leather chairs, zombies, machine tools and even tiny screws for commercial clients, Christina went solo and opened up a freelance business, Dragon Graphics, and relocated to Bishop, VA. Her works for DVD covers, book covers, publications, corporate identity and packaging design have been widely distributed in Canada and the U.S. In addition, Christina has been branching out to sculpture and fine arts. She was one of several artists to be featured in "Renderosity: Digital Art of the 21st Century" and also made it to the Chesley Award preliminary ballot nomination for "Best Product Illustration" for the *Ghost Killers* DVD cover in 2006.

Christina is married to Steven Yoder, who has his own independent freelance writing and ebay business. Web site: <www.artdragon.net/>.



H. P. Lovecraft Mythos

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Balticon 42 Poetry Contest Winners

Wind Up

To Kepler, Newton, Carl "Oisk" Erskine
and Jim Bouton

Beamed home from the first
flight to the moon, green-blue
images of Earth hang against
a matte black backdrop.
As it grooves its orbit, I wonder
if it was pitched long ago,
smoke from some Celestial wrist,
snapped into that deep void?
Did it float off a Cosmic
knuckle to dip and dive, to die –
not with a bang but a flutter?
Are we but flecks of spit
on a slow spinning curve ball,
a fling of yarn and cowhide
riding time to break low inside
or up, up and away?

1st Place
Patricia Budd
Portland, ME

Sekhmet Upon the Horizon

Egyptian eyes
like lapis lazuli
magic
crystals and stars
or some new onyx
all afire
casting glitter and rainbows
from behind
comforting curtains

the rapture
is inexorable
those eyes erect
shadows in their wake
and burn souls
to ash
gods to sand

kaleidoscopic gaze
resurrects
fading hieroglyphs
crumbling papyri and
disintegrating bandages
with just one wink

3rd Place
Christa A. Bergerson
Lombard, IL



Moonlight and Vines

Art © 2008 by John Jude Palencar

"I Love You for Your Brains, Not Your Looks" (Zombie Love Song)

Hot nights, bayous and byways –
sift! settle and shift,
make room for
the dead of us;
for summer comes and they, too,
walk ways swampstruck and moonshined,
hold hands with fingers rasping
like rust.

They have the knack of it still, can conjure
the silken snarl of tongues,
the inward flip
(now undertaken by
jaw-worms and blowflies),
the castanet-quick report
as hipbones close
like clasped hands.

Nights like these, yes even the *zombi* loves,
dead-fruit moon hanging,
cicadas working away at
bonesaws in the brassy hills
to groans of
undying love.

2nd Place

*Diana Chien
Holmdel, NJ*

Enter the Annual Balticon Poetry Contest!

- Entries should address the themes of science fiction/fantasy/horror/science.
- 1st prize: \$100; 2nd prize: \$75; 3rd prize: \$50.
- Winners will receive a cash prize, convention membership and be invited to read their winning entries at Balticon. Winning entries will be published in the BSFAN, the Balticon souvenir book. Attendance at Balticon is not required to win.
- Limit: 3 poems/person, maximum 50 lines each.
- No entry fee.
- Deadline: Mailed entries must be postmarked, and e-mail entries received, by April 1. Please include your name, address, phone & e-mail address and a brief bio with your entry.
- Entries may be e-mailed to <poetry@bsfs.org> or mailed to "Balticon Poetry Contest," c/o BSFS, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203.
- Info: Email: <poetry@bsfs.org> or web: <<http://www.bsfs.org/bsfspoetry>>.

About the Poets

Patricia Budd (First Place)—Patricia Budd retired as a professional computer engineer, moved to Portland, ME and received her MFA from Stonecoast in July of 2006. She has two sons, three grandchildren and a theoretical physicist husband who plays bridge. The husband is not theoretical, the physics is...

Diana Chien (Second Place)—Diana Chien is currently a university student studying biology, French, and creative writing. She likes algae and fairy tales.

Christa A. Bergerson (Third Place)—Christa A. Bergerson's poetry has appeared in *Quantum Pulp*, *The Candor*, *Open Ways*, *Faerie Nation Magazine*, and is forthcoming in *Lalitamba Journal* and *Doorways: Journal of Horror and the Paranormal*. She is foremost a defender of Nature and all of her wondrous inhabitants, even those that creep and crawl. In the twilight hours, she enjoys traversing the wilds of Illinois and beyond. She is a Luddite, a bibliophile, and has occasional bouts of Chronophobia.

Spend Your Words Wisely

By Danielle Ackley-McPhail

How many words does it take to tell a story? Can't really answer that, can we? Or at least, not easily... There are too many variables; too many considerations. Is it a short story? A long one? Complex, or a simple one? What do you want to tell? What do you want to simply imply?

Who can say, really? A haiku can convey a story in seventeen syllables; Tolstoy required thousands of pages. Most of us are fortunate, we can answer the original question as simply as this: It takes as many words as it takes.

But then, who wants to be simple, anyway? In this world of done and redone and overdone, we want a challenge, don't we? Such websites as New Times-San Luis Obispo and AOL's Amazing Instant Novelist—and who knows how many others—offer up that challenge every day: write a complete and compelling story in <however many words strikes the sponsor site's fancy> and no more. Usually they are generous, allowing a few hundred, at least. A challenge, but a relatively simple one.

Not so with New Times-San Luis Obispo. Are you ready for this? Maybe you better sit down... 55 words a story, nothing more!

Can't be done, you say? Well, there's the challenge, and the guidelines are very specific as to what constitutes a story: one or more characters, a setting, a conflict, and a resolution. It ain't easy (ooh! I can hear my grade school English teacher screeching from her grave, now!), but it can be done, as I will show you below. With the permission of my illustrious...anonymous partner in crime—let's just call him IrateIndigoSimian, why don't we?—I'd like to give you an example of the same 55-word story from a couple of different approaches:

- He had always loved her, ever since the first time he had laid eyes on her he had known she was the only one. He kissed her sleeping forehead gently and considered her betrayal.

The recoil from the gun surprised him, the finality of it all didn't. Then he turned the gun towards himself next.

Simple...straightforward...uncomplicated. Nothing wrong with that. By the contest guidelines, this definitely works, but does it work well? Think about it, the author made use of all of his 55 words, "had" was used three times, "her" was used four times, and "he" was used five times; those three words make up more than twenty percent of the author's allotment. Ouch! Yeah, it works, but the impact the subject matter could have is diminished by the frivolous use of throw-away words. (Don't feel I'm being too harsh with IrateIndigoSimian, this was a first draft. We already hashed all of this out and he agrees.) Now, let's look at a later version of the story:

- Their love had been the thing keeping him alive for years now. Her betrayal severed their bond, his soul, his mind. His final kiss left a soft, warm ghost touch on her sleeping forehead.

The recoil from the gun surprised him, the finality of it all didn't. Then he turned the gun towards himself next.

Not bad, this version has a decidedly different feel, putting everything out in the reader's face from the very beginning. You are immediately confronted with the character's betrayal and anger, and the ending is logical progression, without surprise. This accomplishes something very different from the first draft, and as for economy, not one word, other than articles, appears more than twice. This is an honest, straightforward rendition of this piece, but for my own tastes, a little too much in your face, not subtle enough.

Now for a bit more subtlety: The next one is more ambiguous. Other than the main character's love, we aren't sure how this is going until the fourth line. With the emotions drawn on, the fondness that is admitted, the second paragraph is a shocker:

- He found he couldn't remember a time he hadn't loved her. Even now, his soul was entwined with hers. Her sleep was deceptively peaceful. He gently kissed her cool forehead and contemplated her betrayal.

The recoil from the gun surprised him, the finality of it all didn't. Then he turned the gun towards himself next.

And the last is on a similar vein, with the betrayal hinted at in the third line, but not revealed until the fourth. This draws the reader in, hooks them, has them guessing. The words chosen have an emotional impact all their own; you feel his love, then his betrayal... and finally, your own shock:

- There was never a time he hadn't loved her. Even now, his soul was entwined with hers. She slept so sweetly... innocently... deceptively so. He gently kissed her cool forehead and contemplated her betrayal.

The recoil from the gun surprised him, the finality of it all didn't. Then he turned the gun towards himself next.

With all fiction, and most decidedly in micro fiction, you have to choose carefully. Think of the emotional investment of the words you put to the page... for example, in the last line of the first paragraph, the first version has the main character "considered" the woman's betrayal, in subsequent versions it was changed to "contemplated"... Considered is an everyday word, an ordinary word. Contemplated is more involved, has more impact.

It is cliché, but no matter what the length of your prospective work one needs to go for quality, not quantity, but most especially with something like this, where you only have so many words to use... each one has to score.

Words should have purpose, a goal, all of them used to good effect. Unless it is for a reason, never use more words than you have to; your work can drown in a profusion of "highfalutin" words, as my Daddy likes to tell me. Use a fancy word because it lends something, because it enriches the beauty of your poetry or prose; by the same token, do not be afraid to use a simple "workaday" word, if it suits your purposes. Simply put, use a word because it does what you need it to do, not because it is delightfully pretentious.

And finally, because it bears repeating over and over—ironically enough—when you are writing and rewriting your work, no matter the length, always keep close watch, guarding against our natural impulses to repeatedly use the same familiar words, even if we have used them three times already on the same page. Many word processors (if not *all*) have a Thesaurus option; my greatest advice to you: use it.

Cardboard Box, continued from p. 38

had no choice.

A drop of water unrelated to the rain dropped on the gray soul that he was holding. At that moment, Rimanus was rushed up toward the skies, back to his home land. Rimanus looked around him in bewilderment until he saw an ancient man standing with a cane in his hand.

"Great Dema," Rimanus bowed in respect. "It is an honor to see you."

He bowed even lower in an effort to conceal the fact that he, an angel, was crying. He heard the ancient angel approaching him and looked up.

"You know, Rimanus," the old man said. "The tears of an angel have the power to cleanse. You, of all people, crying. I would have never thought that was possible." The corners of Dema's eyes wrinkled in a smile. "You have learned what compassion means. I'm not sure what was so special about that old man, but he's changed you.

"Look down there," he commanded as he tapped the ground with his cane. The ground around it became transparent, and Rimanus was suddenly staring at a pregnant woman walking hand in hand with a young man in a sunny street.

"See that woman?" the old man asked. "She will be where this soul is going to be. Give his soul to me, Rimanus."

Rimanus meekly handed the small soul to the old man, noticing in the process that the soul was white—not unlike those in the orb of Aliephas.

He dropped the soul, and it sunk smoothly through the transparent ground and shimmered into the woman's body. The woman looked up and put her hand up to shield her eyes from the sun. She smiled.

"I just felt him move!" she exclaimed suddenly.

"Really?" her husband jumped, and touched her oversized stomach. The old man's soul was kicking vigorously. He was ready to start his life over.

The Balticon 41 audience votes for the movies screened at The Balticon Sunday Night Film Festival were as follows:

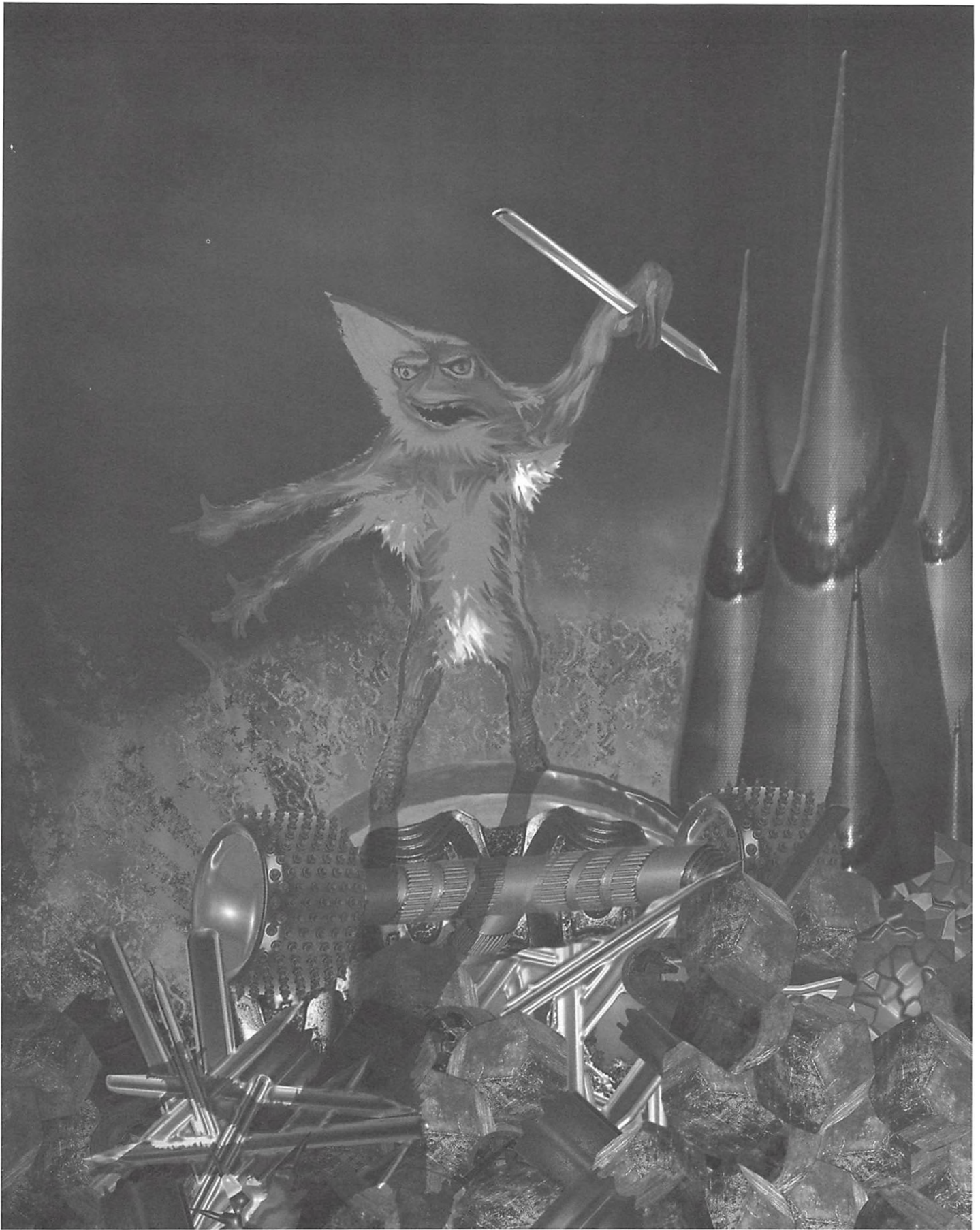
- 10th place *Nebulous 1* (G)—David Wanger; soundscapes by Seiss; 199 points
- 9th place *The Vibranator*—Tepid Fish Productions; 304 points
- 8th place *First World: The Revelation of Mankind* (PG)—Written by Mark Lund; Directed by Adam Starr; 337 points
- 7th place *Copenhagen Cycles* (G)—Eric Dyer; 359 points
- 6th place *Dark Operations: A Dark Odyssey Begins* (PG)—Rising Phoenix Productions; 370 points
- 5th place *The Bushman of Bunyip Billabong* (G)—Cameron Edser and Michael Richards; 492 points
- 4th place *Starship Groove* (G)—from the Animusic2; 551 points
- 3rd place *Bastards of Kirk* (PG-13)—Director: Logan Lubera; 592 points
- 2nd place *Delivery* (G)—Till Nowak; 628 points

Viewer's Choice Best Film of The Balticon 41 Sunday Night Film Festival, 645 points:

Hide and Seek (G)—Chris Romano

IN MEMORIAM

- | | |
|---|--|
| Lloyd Alexander (author)
1924-2007 | Ira Levin (author)
1929-2007 |
| Robert Bussard (physicist)
1928-2007 | Stephen Marlowe (author)
1928-2008 |
| Sir Arthur C. Clarke (author)
1917-2008 | Greg McMullan (fan/filker)
1963-2007 |
| George MacDonald Fraser (author)
1925-2008 | Barry Morse (actor)
1918-2008 |
| Alice Ghostley (actress)
1924-2007 | Charles Nelson Reilly (director/
actor/comedian)
1931-2007 |
| Gary Gygax (author/game creator)
1938-2008 | Lois Nettleton (actress)
1927-2008 |
| Don Herbert (teacher)
1917-2007 | Fred Saberhagen (author)
1930-2007 |
| Charlton Heston (actor)
1923-2008 | Herbert Saffir (building engineer)
1917-2007 |
| Robert Jastrow (astronomer)
1925-2008 | Walter Schirra, Jr. (astronaut/
businessman)
1923-2007 |
| Robert Jordan (author)
1948-2007 | Ken Slater (fan)
1919-2008 |
| Janet Kagan (author)
1946-2008 | Maila Syrjaniemi/Vampira (actress)
1921-2008 |
| Verity Lambert (TV producer)
1935-2007 | William Tuttle (make-up artist)
1912-2007 |
| Heath Ledger (actor)
1979-2008 | Joseph Weizenbaum (programmer/
teacher)
1923-2008 |
| Madeleine L'Engle (author)
1918-2007 | |



Crazy Eddie



Who?

Anyone who is interested in any of the myriad forms of science fiction or fantasy (books, magazines, films, video, games, television, etc.) is invited to become a member of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society, Inc. (BSFS).

Dues are only \$30 per year (our fiscal year is Oct. 1 to Sept. 30); this includes membership in our annual convention—Balticon.

New members are eligible to join after attending two business meetings (within a 12 month period). We want you to KNOW what you are getting into before we take your money.

People returning from a meeting of the Washington Science Fiction Association (WSFA) first formed the Baltimore Science Fiction Society on January 5, 1963, in the back seat of a Trailways bus. It died on October 12, 1968, on a (non-functioning) streetcar. Its only production of consequence was the first Balticon (1967) and it has in common with the present group only the name and three members.

There was no formal club during the intervening years, but several fans managed to keep the Balticon tradition alive by holding Balticons number 2 through 8.

The present Baltimore Science Fiction Society was re-started in 1974 when it was incorporated in the State of Maryland. It applied for and was granted IRS tax-exempt status.

BSFS is an equal opportunity organization. Its members range in age from young children to septuagenarians, from ex-hippie to ex-religious, from unemployed to self-employed, from lawyer to truck driver, but they all have one thing in common—science fiction. Come visit us, we don't think you're weird because you like that "sci-fi" stuff.

The Who, What, When, Where, and How of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society

What?

BSFS is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, charitable, literary and educational organization, dedicated to the promotion of, and an appreciation for, science fiction in all of its many forms.

BSFS is run entirely by volunteers; none of the Directors or officers receive any pay for what they do. Likewise, all Balticon workers are volunteers.

Balticon, our annual regional science fiction & fantasy convention, features authors, editors, publishers, artists, filmmakers, and, most importantly, fans. Balticon has speeches by our guests, author readings, panels, slide shows, films, videos, an art show, a dealers room, board gaming, computer gaming, a masquerade show, science programming, a writer's workshop, and much, much more. Up to the year 2000, Balticon was traditionally held on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of Easter weekend (therefore, the date changes), in a Baltimore area hotel. Starting in 2001, Balticon moved to the Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Memorial Day weekend!! See the Balticon web page for more information or contact BSFS to have your name added to our mailing list.

BSFS publishes an annual fanzine (fan magazine), *BSFAN*, in conjunction with Balticon. It contains bios of our Guests of Honor at Balticon, a bibliography of our author Guest of Honor's works, articles on science fiction, short stories, the winning entries in the Young Writer's Contest, reviews, advertisements, and anything else the editor deems appropriate or related.

BSFS has presented "The Compton Crook Award" each Balticon since 1983, for "...the best first novel in the genre published during the previous year..." The list of eligible books is published in the monthly newsletter so all club members will have a chance to read and vote. The winning author is invited to Balticon (BSFS pays transportation and

lodging) and presented with the cash award. Compton Crook, who used the nom de plume Stephen Tall, died in 1981. He was a long time Baltimore resident, Towson University professor, and, of course, a science fiction author.

BSFS holds a yearly "Young Writers Contest." Contest submissions must be in the field of science fiction or fantasy. Contestants shall reside in, or attend school in Maryland, and be no older than 18 years of age as of the date of Balticon. Submissions shall be no more than 2500 words in length. The first, second and third place winners are invited to and announced at Balticon. Please see the BSFS web page <<http://www.bsfs.org/ywc.htm>> for the full rules or contact BSFS for a copy.

BSFS supports the RIF charity (Reading Is Fundamental) with change collection jars and a charity auction (of donated books & artwork) at Balticon.

BSFS produces a monthly newsletter addressing club business that is distributed free to all members and is exchanged with other Science Fiction Clubs throughout the world.

BSFS sponsors a SF Book Discussion Group that meets at 2:00 PM on the third Sunday of the month. Please call for the schedule of books to be discussed.

BSFS is the third Science Fiction Club in the country to own a clubhouse. LASFS (Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society) and NESFA (New England Science Fiction Association) are the other two. The former theater at 3310 East Baltimore Street, in the Highlandtown section of Baltimore, is being slowly renovated as time and money allows.

BSFS maintains a library of science fiction and fantasy

books (mostly paperbacks) and videotapes. BSFS members may borrow these books and videos. BSFS also has an extensive collection of old pulp SF magazines on microfiche.

When?

The regular monthly BSFS business meetings are held at **8:30 PM** on the **second Saturday** of the month.

When needed, Balticon planning meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the second Saturday of the month.

There is a social meeting at 8:00 PM on the fourth Saturday of the month.

All meetings are open to any member of the general public. Unless otherwise announced, all meetings take place in the BSFS clubhouse. Occasionally, the business and social meetings are swapped to accommodate members attending a convention. Please call to verify any meeting you plan to attend. Meeting information is available on the answering machine.

There are informal working meetings most Wednesday evenings in the clubhouse starting at approximately 7:00 PM. Wednesday evening activities may include: clubhouse cleaning and/or maintenance, monthly newsletter production, computer maintenance or programming, database input, convention supplies inventory or packing.

Where?

Mailing Address: **PO Box 686
Baltimore MD 21203-0686**

Shipping Address: **8775 Cloudleap Court
Ste. P61
Columbia MD 21045**

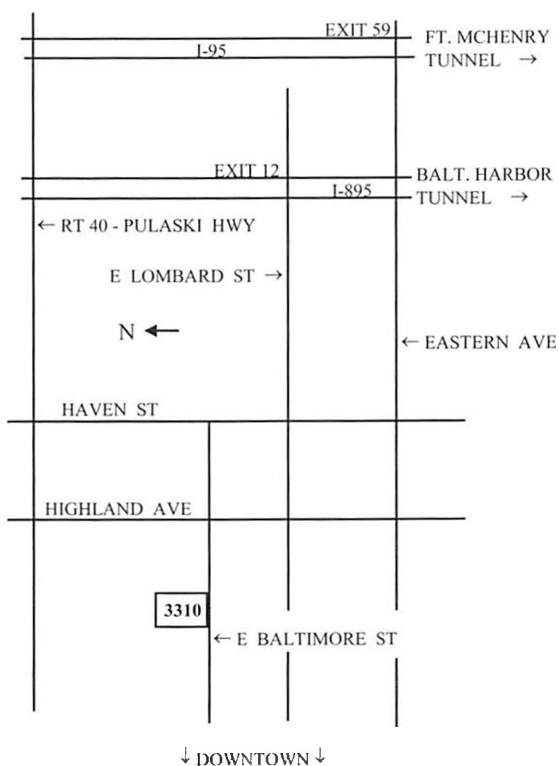
Clubhouse Address:* **3310 East Baltimore Street
Baltimore MD 21224-2220**

**(no mail is received at this address.)*

How?

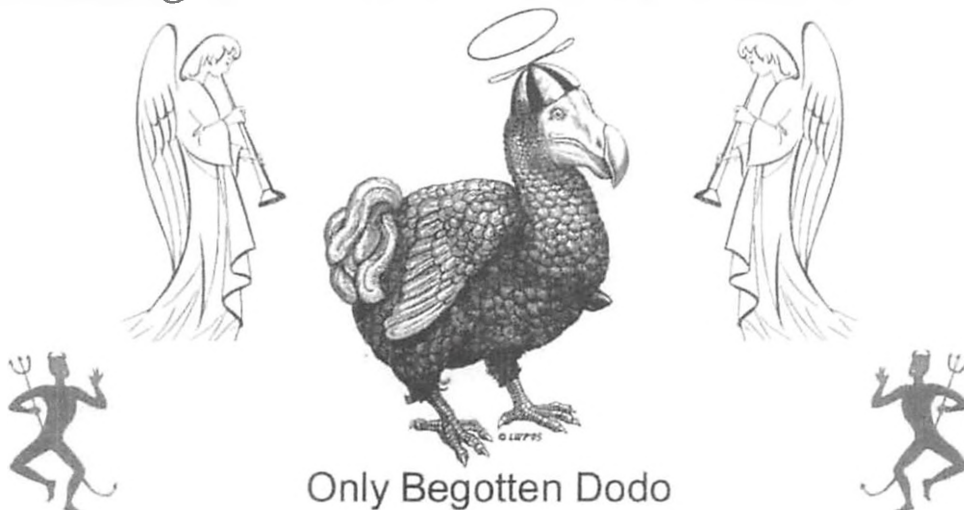
Phone: **410-JOE-BSFS (563-2737)**

Email: **bsfs@bsfs.org
balticon@balticon.org**



Capclave 2008

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Writer GoH: James Morrow

Supreme Satirist

Critic GoH: Michael Dirda

Champion Critic

Capclave, the Washington, D.C. area science fiction literary convention, offers a relaxed atmosphere in which notable authors, editors, critics, artists, and fans explore the creation and enjoyment of fantasy and science fiction. Capclave focuses on short stories, but also gives lots of attention to novels, movies, and TV. Because we're small, we're friendly and fun, not frantic.

Past Capclaves have hosted discussions with authors and fans; readings; a dealer's room with books, magazines, artwork, crafts, and other science fiction and fantasy related items; the WSFA small press award; workshops on writing, reviewing, reading; science presentations; a hospitality suite; room parties; interesting conversations with fans and professionals; and a relaxed atmosphere for visiting old friends and making new ones.

Our hotel is the same as in 2007, steps away from the Metro and right on 355 near tons of food and shopping.

All this for just \$40 through the end of May 2008.
\$50 June through September 2008

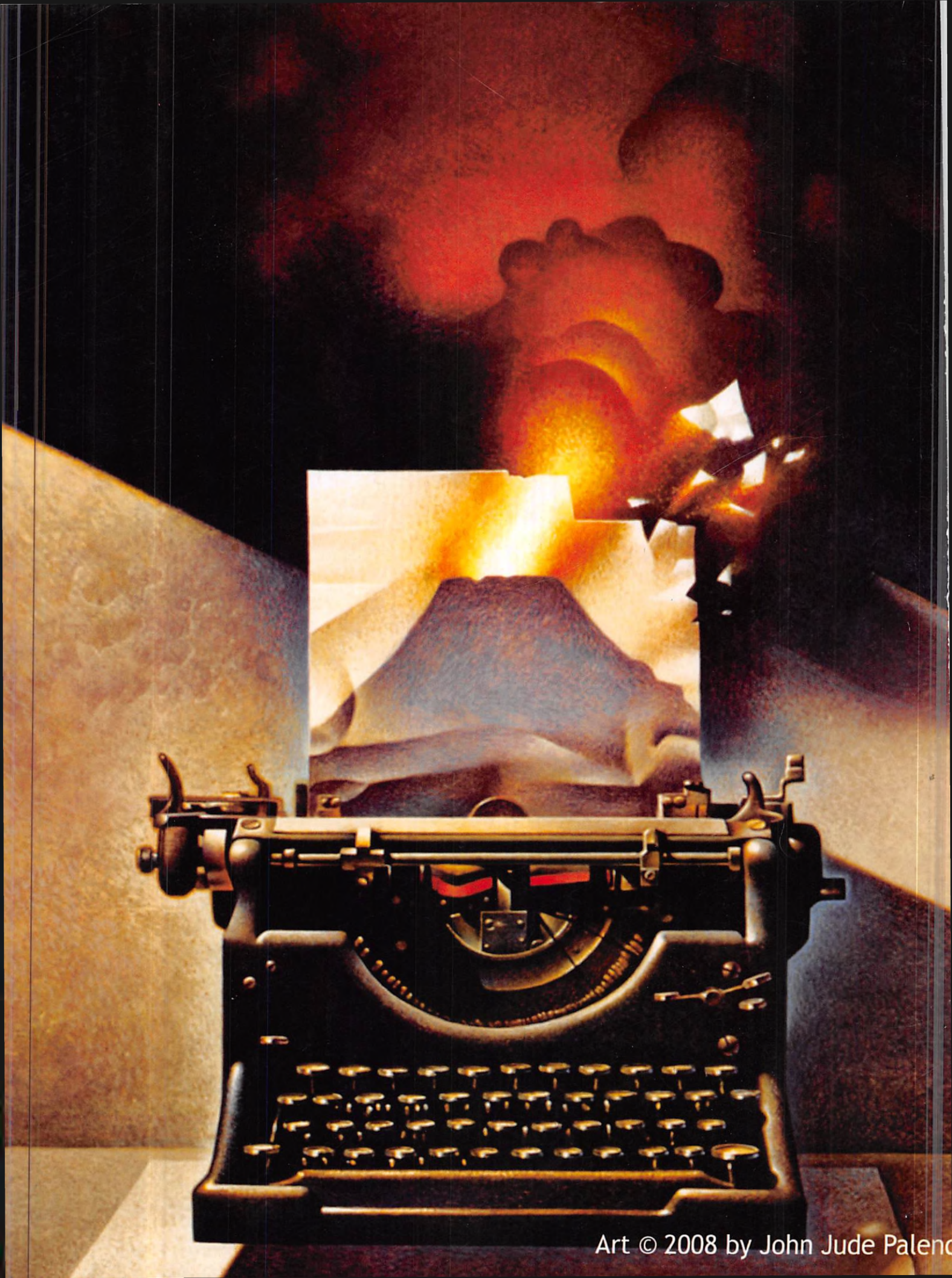
Send to: Capclave 2008 Registration
c/o Barry Newton
PO Box 53
Ashton MD 20861

Visit us online at www.capclave.org

Capclave is a production of the Washington Science Fiction Association



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