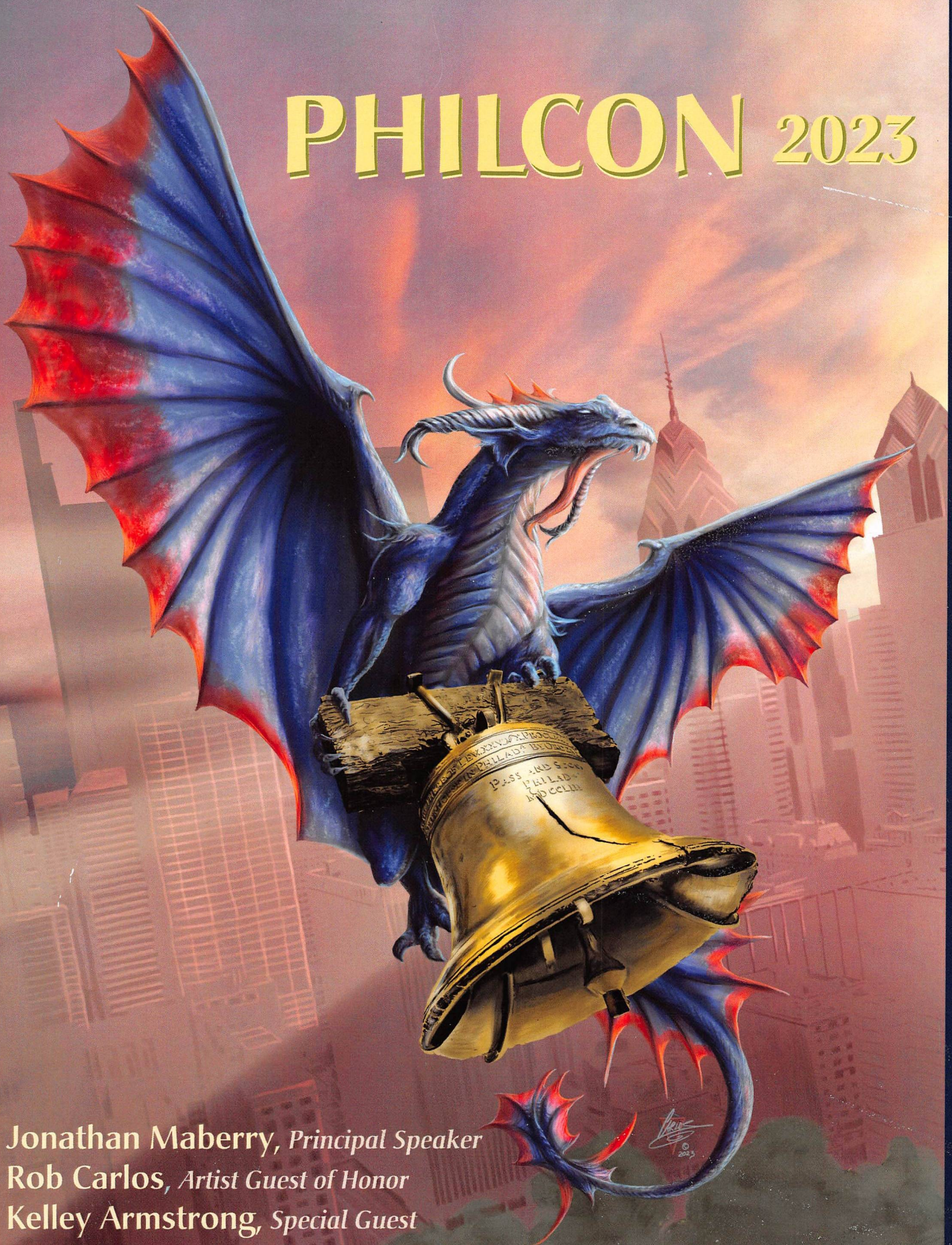


PHILCON 2023





Jonathan Maberry, *Principal Speaker*
Rob Carlos, *Artist Guest of Honor*
Kelley Armstrong, *Special Guest*

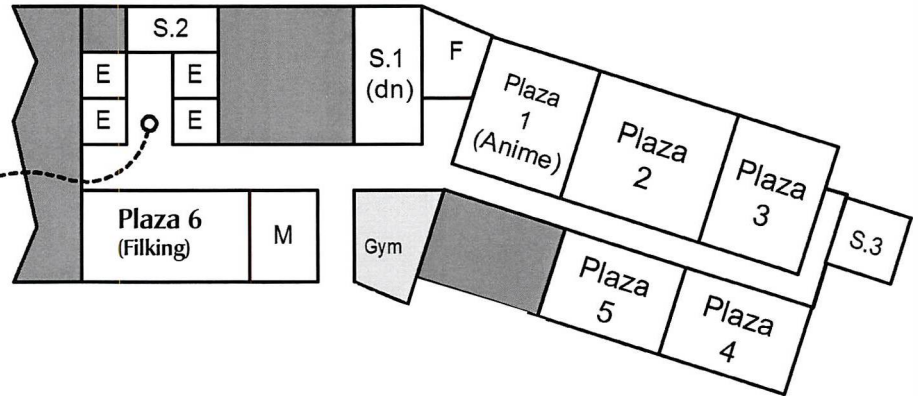
Rob Carlos
© 2023

Philcon 2023
DoubleTree by Hilton Cherry Hill, NJ

Legend

F,M	Restrooms (2 pairs)
E	Elevator (4)
S.1,2,3	Staircases (3)
Exit	Building egress (2)
Biz Ctr	Business center (1)
B.R.	Ballroom (3)
	Unused by Philcon
	Hotel service areas

Second (Mezzanine) Floor (Plaza Rooms)

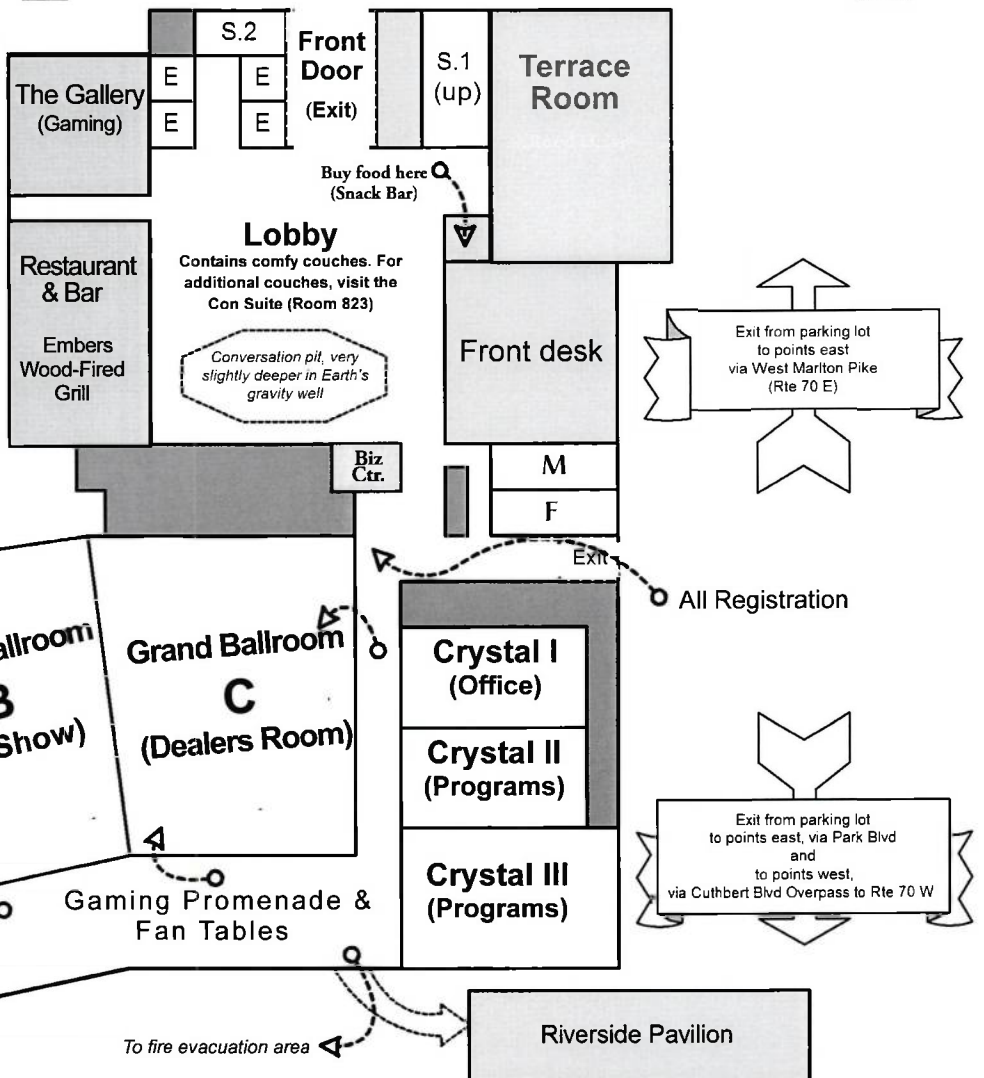


*Elevators up to Program Ops,
 Con Suite, Parties
 (see Elevation)*

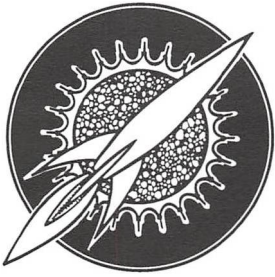
Elevation

	Floor 12
	11
923: Workshops Suite	10
9xx: Party Floor	9
823: Con Suite	8
8xx: Party Floor	7
623: Readings	6
	5
423: Program Ops	4
425: Green Room	3
	Plaza 2
Ballrooms	1

First Floor (Ballrooms)



To fire evacuation area



PHILCON® 2023

The Program Book

November 17-19, 2023

DoubleTree by Hilton

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

©2023 The Philadelphia Science Fiction

Society (PSFS) unless otherwise noted.

Philcon is a registered service mark of PSFS, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

World Science Fiction Society, Worldcon & Hugo Award are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

All art (except logo, venue map & ads) is by Rob Carlos and copyright by Rob Carlos or the organizations indicated.

Editing & Design: Terry Sisk Graybill

Proof-Reading, Research, Advice & Support: Joann Lawler, Todd Dashoff & John Graybill

Printing: Pirolli & Bantle's Printing, Bellmawr NJ

Updates & Additions

This program book contains the latest information at press time. Every convention is a work in progress until it is over, so please look for updates on the website (www.philcon.org), via Zambia and in the at-con issues of the newsletter, *The Philcon Rocket*.

Thank You to Our Supporters

Philcon thanks the following for their donations of materials and/or time and effort to help make this year's convention a success:

- Books Donation: Gavin Grant and Kelly Link, Small Beer Press
- Assistance at Abington Book Fair & Collingswood Book Festival
 - Hector Cruz
 - Ed Lawler (Abington event)
 - Joni Brill Dashoff
 - Staff, Collingswood Book Festival (Collingswood event)
 - Todd Dashoff
 - Philliip Thorne
 - Gary Feldbaum
 - Joann Lawler



Across the Divide © Rob Carlos

Table of Contents

Venue Map	Inside Front Cover
Welcome	
Greeting, Chair of Philcon 2023	2
Greeting, President of PSFS 2023	3
About Philadelphia Science Fiction Society (PSFS)	
Monthly Meetings	3
Book Discussions & Philip K. Dick Award	4
Young Writers Contest Winners	5
About Philcon	
Philcon Rules, Policies & Helpful Information	6
The Art Show	11
The Philcon Fashion Show	12
The Masquerade	13
Overview of Program, Exhibits & Fixed Functions ...	14
A Brief History of Philcon, 2008-2022	15
In Memoriam	
Allison Phillips	16
Rebecca (Becky) Kaplowitz	19
Guests, Exhibitors & Program Participants	
Principal Speaker: Jonathan Maberry	20
Fiction: Invasive Species	22
Artist GOH: Rob Carlos	26
Art Gallery	28
Special Guest: Kelley Armstrong	29
Exhibiting Artists	32
Dealers & Fan Tables	33
Program Participants	35
Committee & Staff Credits	
Committee & Staff	Inside Back Cover
Artwork Credits	
Rob Carlos	Front & Back Covers
Phillip Thorne, Venue Map	Inside Front Cover
PSFS Medallion	1
Rob Carlos	1-4, 12-14, 25, 28, 32-33, 35-38, 41-42, 45, 47-48, 51
Advertising Credits	
PSFS December 2023 In-Person Meeting	5
Astronomicon 15	9
Glasgow 2024 Worldcon	10
Capclave 2024	23
Buffalo NASFIC 2024	31
Readercon 33	34
HELIOsphere 2024	39
Albacon 2024	40
Shore Leave 44	43
Balticon 58	44
Capricon 44	46
FarPoint 2024	49
Boskone 61	50
Philcon 2024	52

Special Messages for You

From the Philcon Chair

Welcome to the 87th Philcon, the United States' longest-running science fiction and fantasy convention, brought to you by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society (PSFS) and a dedicated number of volunteers.

Philcon is arguably the beginning of fandom and where the Hugo awards were born. We could easily rest on our laurels... We'd rather not. That is not how you build upon your legacy. Legacies are built by adding to your achievements.

So what is new to Philcon 2023? Besides a villainous-themed fashion show? Come and let your inner Ursula, Catwoman, or Cersei Lannister come out and walk the runway.

This year's Philcon will be going dark, or to the dark side of science fiction and fantasy.

Do you like imposing dragons overlooking majestic landscapes? Meet our Artist Guest Rob Carlos, whose art adorns both this souvenir program book cover and our official 2023 Philcon T-shirt. Rob's artwork can be mesmerizing, ghastly, and majestic. In short, fantastical (pun intended).

Do you like techno-thrillers and bio-terror novels with near future weapons and gadgets? Meet the creator of the Joe Ledger series, Jonathan Maberry. He also writes comics, tie-in media, detective stories, mysteries, and horror novels, winning several Bram Stoker awards. Moreover, he was my instructor at the 70th Philadelphia Writers Conference where he gave an inspiring and touching keynote address. I expect his keynote speech at Philcon to surpass that one.

Did I mention he was born and raised in Philly? Or that Philcon was his first con ever? Talk about a homecoming.

Darkness is rising over Philcon--the otherworldly kind. Do you like female demons, sorcerers, necromancers, vampires, werewolves, etc. in modern day settings? Meet Kelley Armstrong, the author of the Darkness Rising series and the Women of the Otherworld series. She is so cool – she learned martial arts in order to write better fight scenes.

Furthermore, both Maberry and Armstrong are *New York Times* best-selling authors and both have their work adapted for television (*V-Wars*, *Bitten*). We are thrilled and honored to have them.



Steampunk Dragon © Rob Carlos

Nevertheless, there is more to a successful con than its main guests and thought-provoking panels. There is our art show, our dealers room (check it out for lots of cool stuff just in time for your holiday list), our gaming and anime tracks, author readings, cosplay, and parties. And don't forget our friendly Con Suite filled with food, drinks, coffee, and snacks.

Moreover, there is the unequivocal sense of community you get from being around other avid readers and passionate fans.

A big thanks to the Philcon staff for their hard work and for keeping this legacy alive for almost nine decades. Take a bow. And if you want to become a volunteer, come see us at Con Ops.

Again, how do you build a legacy?

Not by living off past glories but by looking towards the future, a place science fiction fandom is familiar with.

In retrospect, this year's Philcon will be bright, like the future. Enjoy the con.

Futuristically yours,

Héctor R. Cruz
Chair, Philcon 2023

PSFS Activities

From the PSFS President

Science fiction and the subjects you enjoy at Philcon aren't a once a year thing for the members of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, which is the organization behind Philcon.

If you want to continue enjoying the passion that brought you to Philcon, join us in our yearlong activities.

Almost every month, the Society presents a speaker or panel of some kind related to one of the subjects that are the subject of Philcon. During the past year, we've hosted a variety of speakers (see Meetings list next column). Every summer, we have a Hugo Review Panel, during which the Hugo fiction and dramatic presentation finalists are evaluated by a diverse panel.

For the last few years, due to the pandemic, we have used Zoom each month for our programs. As a result, we have hosted speakers from all over North America. We intend to continue having speakers via Zoom during many of the coming months, as well as returning to having some in-person meetings again at intervals over the next year.

Our next in-person meeting will feature Gregory Frost as speaker, and will take place Friday, December 8, 2023 in the Parish Hall of St. Mary's Church on the University of Pennsylvania campus, at 3916 Locust Walk, Philadelphia PA. The Parish Hall is located in the building at the rear of the church – it has a separate entrance.

The Society also hosts a monthly book discussion group (see p. 4).

We intend to expand our in-person activities during the course of 2024. Come and join us during the year. If you have questions or would like more information, you can reach us at info@psfs.org

Sincerely,

Gary Feldbaum

President, Philadelphia Science Fiction Society (PSFS)



Mars Dragon
© Rob Carlos

General (regular) meetings of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society are open to the public. Most months feature a guest speaker – author, artist, editor, publisher, scientist or related expert. For more than 40 years, a panel of readers has annually reviewed all Hugo-nominated fiction prior to the voting deadline.

Since May 2020, PSFS has held virtual, program-only meetings with guest speakers. The nice thing about virtual meetings is that we can invite people from all over the world! The unfortunate thing is we lose some social aspects of in-person meetings. We plan some virtual and some live meetings over the next year. In-person meetings are held either at The Rotunda or St Mary's Church, Hamilton Village, both on the Penn campus in Philadelphia. Social gathering begins at 7:30 p.m., business meeting at 8:00, and program at 9:00. Send an email to info@psfs.org for details.

Meetings

Meetings since last Philcon and upcoming:

- Dec 2022 Stephanie Feldman, author of *Saturnalia* & *The Angel of Losses*, and
..... Ethan Chatagnier, author of *Singer Distance* & collection *Warnings from the Future*
- Jan 2023 Election Meeting – no guest
- Feb Premee Mohamed, Indo-Caribbean editor & author of the *Beaneath the Rising* series of novels
- Mar Rande Dawn, author of *Tune In Tomorrow* & co-editor of the anthology *Across the Universe: Tales of Alternative Beatles*
- April Henry Lien, author of the *Peasprout Chen* fantasy series & teacher of writing
- May Ellen Datlow, noted editor of many horror, short story collections; spoke about the publishing industry during her career
- June ... Arley Sorg, prominent editor at magazines such as *Locus*, *Fantasy Magazine*, *Lightspeed* & *Nightmare*
- July No meeting
- August Ray Nayler, author of *Locus*-winning and Nebula-finalist novel *The Mountain in the Sea*
- Sept 43rd Annual PSFS Hugo Review Panel – Mike Hammond, Stephanie Lucas, Perrienne Lurie, Miriam Seidel and Terry Graybill (mod.); alts. Hector Cruz, Richard Dutcher, Gary Feldbaum, James Harper, Joann Lawler and Rodney Somerstein
- Oct Walter Hunt, creator of the *Dark Wing* space adventures, as well as historical fiction. Has contributed to the 1632 series.
- Nov Philcon (in person)
- Dec Gregory Frost (in person)

PSFS Activities - continued -

Book Discussion Group

Books discussed since last Philcon:

- Nov 2022..... *The Heads of Cerberus*, by Francis Stevens
[Rocket Rating 2.2]
Dec..... *The Ministry for the Future*, by Kim Stanley Robinson [2.2]
Jan 2023 *The Martian Chronicles*, by Ray Bradbury [3.6]
Feb..... *Midnight Riot (original title Rivers of London)*,
by Ben Aaronovitch [3.4]
Mar..... *The Lies of Locke Lamora*, by Scott Lynch [3.0]
Apr..... *Uprooted*, by Naomi Novik [3.7]
May *The Hollow Places*, by T. Kingfisher [3.4]
June *The Library of the Unwritten*, by A.J. Hackwith [2.8]
July *The Library at Mount Char*, by Scott Hawkins [3.3]
Aug..... *Un Lun Dun*, by China Miéville [3.2]
Sept *The Unicorn Girl*, by Michael Kurland [2.5]
Oct..... *The Song of Achilles*, by Madeline Miller [3.9]

Books Scheduled for Discussion:

- Nov *The Stars My Destination*, by Alfred Bester
Dec..... *The Mountain in the Sea*, by Ray Nayler
Jan 2024..... *Binti: The Complete Trilogy*, by Nnedi Okorafor
Feb *The Devil in Velvet*, by John Dickson Carr

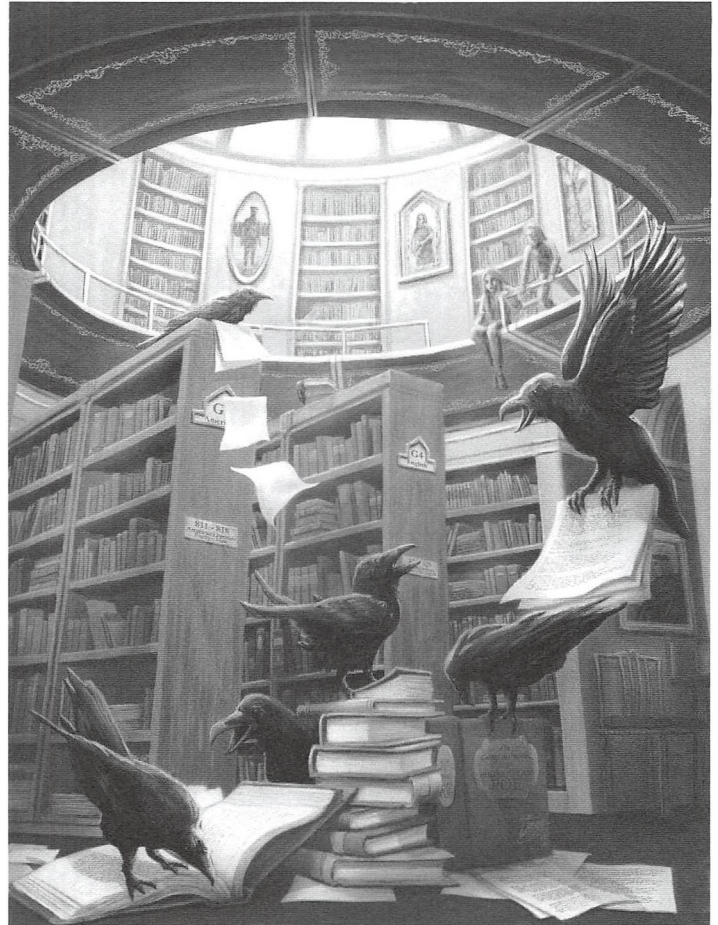
The monthly discussion begins with information about the author. The group then discusses the lead characters and main plot points, but also the writing, quality of the SF or fantasy elements, plot holes and any strengths or weaknesses. After full discussion, they rate the book (with a score of 0 to 4 in half-point increments). The group average is the Rocket Rating for that book (see numbers in brackets in the list above for individual book rating). Finally, they propose books for future meetings and refine them to the monthly selections.

The Philip K. Dick Award

This award is presented annually with the support of the Philip K. Dick Trust. The Philip K. Dick Award recognizes distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States. The award is sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the Philip K. Dick Trust, and the ceremony by the NorthWest Science Fiction Society.

The 2023 winner was *The Extractionist*, by Kimberly Unger (Tachyon Publications). A special citation was awarded to *The Legacy of Molly Southbourne*, by Tade Thompson (Tordotcom).

The other finalists were *Arboreality*, by Rebecca Campbell (Stelliform Press); *Widowland*, by C.J. Carrey (Sourcebooks Landmark) and *January Fifteenth*, by Rachel Swirsky (Tordotcom).



Ravens in the Library © Rob Carlos

The judges were Michael Cassutt (chair), Matthew Goodwin, Stina Leicht, and Elise C. Tobler.

Previous Winners

- 2022 Award: *Dead Space*, by Kali Wallace (Berkley Books)
2022 Special Citation: *The Escapement*, by Lavie Tidhar
(Tachyon Publications)
2021 Award: *Road Out of Winter*, by Alison Stine (Mira)
2021 Special Citation: *The Book of Koli*, by M.R. Carey (Orbit)
2020 Award: *Theory of Bastards*, by Audrey Schulman (Europa Editions)
2020 Special Citation: *84K*, by Claire North (Orbit)
2019 Award: *Bannerless*, by Carrie Vaughn (Mariner/Houghton
Mifflin Harcourt)
2019 Special Citation: *After the Flare*, by Deji Bryce Olukotun
(The Unnamed Press)
2018 Award: *The Mercy Journals*, by Claudia Casper (Arsenal Pulp Press)
2018 Special Citation: *Unpronounceable*, by Susan diRende (Aqueduct Press)
For more details, please see: www.PhilipKDickAward.org

PSFS Young Writers Contest Winners

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society (PSFS) conducts a short story contest, open to students in grades 5-12.

Entrants in public and private schools, grades 5-8 (Middle School Division) and 9-12 (High School Division), submit a story of up to 1,000 words (Middle School Division) or 3,000 words (High School Division) in the genres of science fiction or fantasy. Winners receive prizes and are honored at Philcon.

This year, a mention in a *Scholastic Juniors* magazine brought us multiple entries from India! If you are (or know) teachers, please spread the word for next year.

This Year's Winners

Middle School Division

First Place:

Liam Hoke, 5th grade, New Cumberland, PA
“No Alien Left Behind”
Always help others because one of them may be an alien who will reward you with super powers.

Second Place:

Makayla Dinner, 7th grade, Lancaster, PA.
“Dinosaurs Make a Comeback”
And mankind tries to survive when they do.

High School Division

First Place:

Alison Xu, 12th grade, Rockland, MD.
“Destiny’s Crossroads”
The relationship between a man and a dragon.

Second Place:

B. S. Raagul, 9th grade, Tamil Nadu, India.
“The Truth Behind the Doctor”
A mad scientist and enemy space aliens.

For more information, visit <https://philcon.org/young-writers-contest/>

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society (PSFS)
invites you to join us for a presentation by
author **Gregory Frost**

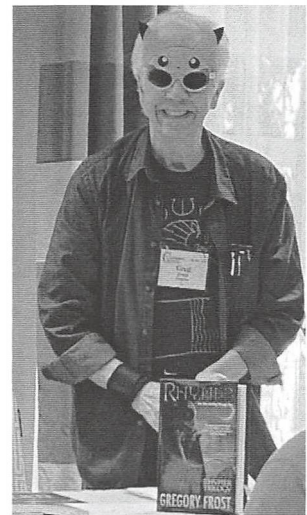
8:00 p.m., Friday, December 8, 2023

St. Mary's Parish Hall, 3916 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA
(The hall is behind the church to the south)

Gregory Frost is the author of *Shadowbridge*, an ALA Best Fantasy Novel pick, and *Rhymer*, the first in a historical fantasy trilogy. He taught fiction writing at Swarthmore College for eighteen years, has won an Asimov Readers Award, and has been a finalist for the Nebula, Hugo, and World Fantasy Awards, among others.



www.Facebook.com/groups.psfsinfo



Philcon Rules, Policies & Information

To help ensure an enjoyable experience for yourself and your fellow members of Philcon, please review and comply with the rules described here. We reserve the right to take any appropriate action, up to and including revoking the membership, without refund, or suspending the participation in Philcon, of anyone who refuses or fails to comply with any Philcon policy, hotel policy, or the law.

The Vaccination and Mask Policy is printed separately, but is incorporated into and is a part of the Philcon Code of Conduct which you must obey.

General Rules, Code of Conduct & Appropriate Behavior

If you have any problems, please come to Convention Operations (Crystal Ballroom I, on the Main Floor opposite Registration).

First, and most importantly, you must comply with the laws and regulations of the State of New Jersey, the County of Camden, the Township of Cherry Hill, the DoubleTree by Hilton, Cherry Hill Hotel and the policies of Philcon.

In addition:

- Disruptive behavior is grounds for ejection from Philcon or such other response as Philcon deems appropriate.
- Be respectful towards others at all times. This includes the membership, participants, volunteers, staff and committee of Philcon, the staff of the hotel and everyone else you may encounter.
- If someone does not want to engage in a personal conversation with you, do not try to start or continue such a conversation. If someone does not want to pursue a personal relationship with you, do not try to start or continue such a relationship. Such behavior may be considered harassment, and will be considered inappropriate and dealt with as such. Be polite and ask permission before moving forward with a relationship. Stop if someone says no.
- Philcon is a venue dedicated to the expression and free exchange of ideas for the purposes of critical examination, discussion, and consideration. The personal views of Philcon's individual staff, program participants, or members are not necessarily those of the Philcon conference committee, and our dedication to the free

Violation of Rules

Philcon reserves the right to take any action in response to misconduct, disruption of the conference or violations of the Philcon Rules, Hotel Rules or violations of law that Philcon deems appropriate under the facts and circumstances.

This includes, but is not limited to, talking with the parties involved, attempting to mediate a solution, issuing verbal warnings, suspending participation, revoking memberships and directing a person to leave the conference areas, involving Hotel staff or security, contacting law enforcement or choosing not to take action. Philcon will not require anyone making a complaint to mediate.

Any person may be expelled, or other action may be taken, for reasons which include the following:

- Violations of ANY of the Philcon Rules, including the Code of Conduct.
- Disruptive behavior in the Conference Areas.
- Violation of any law.

Reporting Misconduct

If you feel that someone is engaging in misconduct or a violation of these rules, we suggest the following:

- If you feel comfortable doing so, point out the inappropriate behavior to the person(s) involved. Often this will resolve the problem immediately.
- If you do not feel comfortable talking to the person(s) or if talking with them does not resolve the problem, please report the situation immediately to the Operations office. Please try to provide a name, badge name/number and/or a physical description of the person(s) involved. We need to know about any incident as soon as possible during Philcon in order to take appropriate action.

If you need help locating the Operations office, please ask any Philcon committee or staff member.

expression of those ideas should not be considered endorsement. Please be accepting of the fact that other people are also free to disagree with you.

- Recording of any portion of Philcon is prohibited, without the written permission of Philcon.
- Ask for permission from people before you take their photograph or record them in any way. This includes people wearing costumes.
- Damage to the hotel or its property, to the property of Philcon, or the person or property of anyone else is the financial responsibility of the perpetrator or, if the perpetrator is a minor, their Parent and/or Guardian.
- Except for service animals, the hotel's policy prohibits its pets in any area of the hotel, including guest rooms.
- All Philcon spaces, except for those labeled 18+, are for all ages. Please keep all content age appropriate.
- No interference with the personnel of either the hotel or Philcon will be tolerated.
- All parties must be held in designated areas (i.e., the *hospitality floors* of the hotel). Any others will be shut down.
- Alcohol may not be served in open parties. All parties are considered open parties unless they are by invitation only.
- No presentation on stage shall be permitted unless approved by the Committee. Please refer to the weapons policy which is set forth later in this document.
- Please dispose of your trash and rubbish in appropriate waste receptacles when leaving a program room or other convention areas.
- Food at catered events such as Meet the Pros party, the Con Suite, or room parties is meant to serve as snacks and light refreshments, not as meals. Do not expect (or attempt) to use such fare as breakfast, lunch or dinner. Please visit the hotel's restaurant, consult the hotel's front desk for a list of local eateries or bring food for your meals.
- Do not drop or throw items over lobby railings or down staircases.
- All costumes (Masquerade, hall costumes, or cosplay) and other outfits must cover the customary body parts (i.e., genitals, buttocks, female breasts). Remember, Philcon is a family-friendly event. You must comply with all applicable laws regarding dress and exposure.

Disruptive behavior is grounds for ejection from Philcon without a refund.

Identification

Student and Military memberships require appropriate government- or school-issued ID.

Members must wear their badges in a visible location when within the Conference Areas. If you lose a badge once, it may be replaced with a \$10 fee and proper iden-

tification. If you lose a badge more than once, you will have to pay the full membership fee to obtain a replacement.

Children

No child under the age of 16 will be admitted to Philcon except in the company of a Parent and/or Guardian. We require a signed waiver of the conference's responsibility. Proper ID of the Parent and/or Guardian (government-issued) is required.

Children aged 0-6 years, "babies and very young children" must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Children aged 7-12 years, "children," must be supervised by an adult at all times.

Children aged 13 and older, "teens," may be present at the conference without direct adult supervision.

Damage caused by children is the financial responsibility of their Parents and/or Guardians.

Weapons Policy (Incl. Costume Weapons)

The Committee shall have the final say on what constitutes a weapon or improper conduct. The following items are prohibited in the Conference Areas:

1. Guns and gun replicas capable of firing a projectile of any kind (including water or foam projectiles) unless clearly peace-bonded and either colored to the extent that it is obvious the object is not operational, or has the muzzle blocked so that the object cannot be fired safely.
2. Lasers, model lasers, laser target designators and laser pointers (with the exception of laser pointers used by guest speakers as part of a presentation).
3. Any object made of metal that is capable of taking an edge, whether or not the object is actually sharp, and whether or not the object is sheathed.
4. Paint ball or splatter guns.
5. Explosives or chemicals of any kind.

The sole and partial exception to the Weapons Policy applies to registered participants in the Masquerade. With the permission of the Masquerade Director, participants in the Masquerade may wear a weapon (excepting operational guns and functional lasers) from 30 minutes before to 30 minutes after the Masquerade, outside the Masquerade area, but only if affixed to the costume. Participants may manipulate weapons (draw, brandish, gesticulate, but not discharge) as part of their onstage performance, but at no other time.

Note that the above rules apply only to the Conference Areas. Attendees should be aware that they must comply with all local, state and Federal rules pertaining to weapons when outside of the Conference Areas, and that certain objects permitted inside the Areas may not be permitted outside of those Areas.

If a weapon is purchased in the Dealers' Room, it must be wrapped before leaving the room and must be immediately taken to the purchaser's hotel room or vehicle.

Violation of the above policies may be grounds for immediate revocation of membership and expulsion from the convention without refund. This includes waving or brandishing any item that may otherwise be acceptable under the above guidelines.

Alcohol and Smoking

The drinking age in the State of New Jersey is 21. We expect you to obey the law.

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in all Conference Areas at all times, with the sole exception of the Meet the Pros party on Friday night or any other time the hotel offers a hotel bar. If a hotel bar is located in a Conference Area, you may consume the beverages purchased from that hotel bar in the vicinity of the bar.

As stated above, alcohol may not be served in open parties. All parties are considered open parties unless they are by invitation only.

Smoking is permitted only in those rooms and areas, if any, designated by the DoubleTree by Hilton, Cherry Hill Hotel. The Conference Area is non-smoking.

Art Show

The full rules and regulations pertaining to the Art Show and bidding are set forth separately.

Photography and videography in the Art Show is prohibited, as it may infringe on the copyrights of individual artists, unless cleared by the Art Show staff in advance.

The Art Show staff and the Philcon Committee have final say over any conflicts.

Administration

Con Suite

Philcon has a hospitality suite, serving food and beverage refreshments in a friendly, social atmosphere. Please stop by to relax and enjoy yourself. It is located in a suite on one of the lodging floors of the hotel.

Program Ops & Green Room

After program participants have picked up their badge at convention registration, please proceed to the Program Operations office upstairs to check in.

Operations

Regular members should only need us if something goes wrong, or to report misconduct or violations of Philcon's policies (see "Reporting Misconduct"). It is

located in Crystal Ballroom I, across the hallway from Registration and the Information Desk. Please ask any Philcon staff member for directions.

Volunteers

Dozens of people plan Philcon beforehand, but we also need people during – for load-in/break-down, room monitoring, and more. Visit the table near Registration to learn of assignments and rewards.

Schedule Guide & Zambia Web Site

This year we are using both an online guide and a printed schedule grid.

The online guide will be available at <https://schedule.philcon.org>. It contains the what-when-where-who of the conference, with descriptions of each program item and its respective participants as well as a description of the other activities taking place at Philcon this year.

The schedule grid is a one-page grid of the program items and is available from the registration desk.

The Philcon Rocket

This single-sheet supplement, in morning and evening editions, keeps you aware of program changes, games, parties, and awards in the Art Show and Masquerade. It's available at locations around the con, including Registration, Information, and the Con Suite.

Definitions

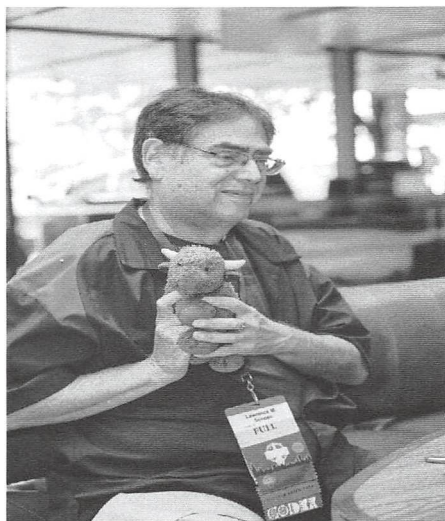
- **"We"** means the Philcon Conference Committee ("the Committee"), staff and volunteers of Philcon and the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society.
- **"You"** refers to any person present at, participating in, or who is a member of the Philcon conference.
- **"The Hotel"** means the DoubleTree by Hilton Cherry Hill, New Jersey.
- The **"conference area"** includes the Art Show, Dealer's Room, Masquerade, Gaming, Con Suite, function rooms, and the hallways and lobby levels around them, as well as any area where any activities of Philcon are taking place. Some of these policies also apply to the hotel's sleeping rooms, hallways and facilities.
- **"Guardian"** means "parent or legal guardian."
- **"Minor"** means a person less than 18 years of age.
- **"Student"** means any person enrolled as a student in a formal educational institution who possesses an active school-issued ID.

JOIN US FOR:

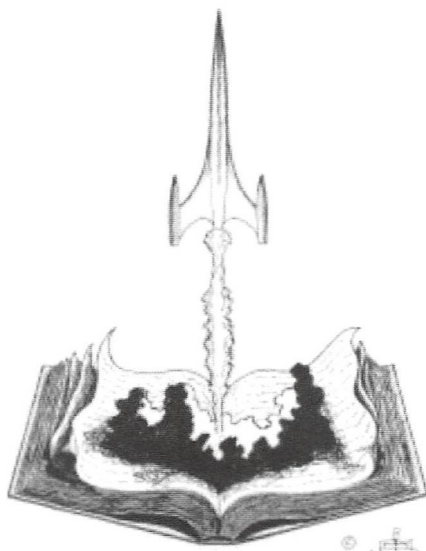
ASTRONOMICON 15

ROCHESTER'S SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 9, 2024 ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

**AUTHOR GoH:
LAWRENCE
SCHOEN**



**MUSIC GoH:
KLINGON POP
WARRIOR**



HOTEL:

**RIT INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER
5257 WEST HENRIETTA ROAD
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
RATES: 129.00
(585) 359-1800**



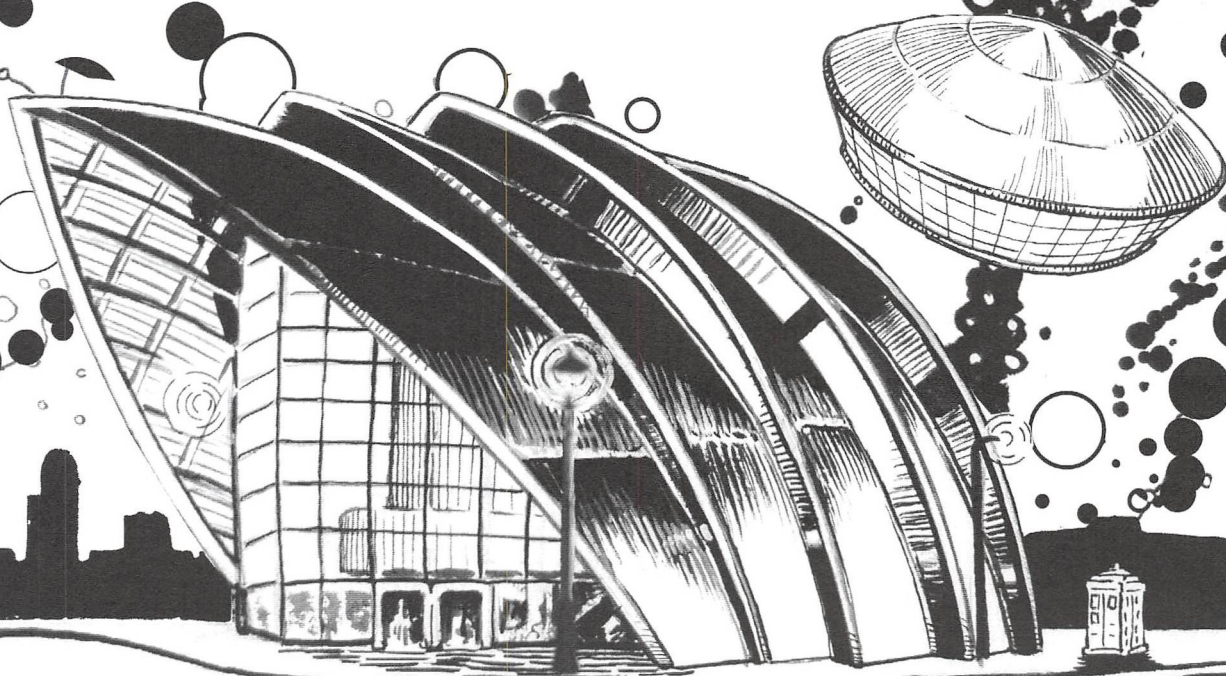
**MASQUERADE
DEALERS ROOM
PANELS
GAMING
CON SUITE
FILMING**

Glasgow 2024

A Worldcon
For Our Futures

8th-12th August 2024

SEC, Glasgow



www.glasgow2024.org

    @glasgowin2024

The Art Show

by Joni Brill Dashoff & Saul Jaffe, Art Show Co-Directors

The Philcon Art Show is an exhibit and market of original science fiction, fantasy and fanciful art in two- and three-dimensional forms (sketches, paintings, sculpture, jewelry and more) executed by professional and amateur artists. Use your Philcon badge to enter the Art Show (Grand Ballroom B), view the artworks, and vote for your favorite by popular ballot. You can also meet artists at the Friday night reception and at art technique demonstrations.

All artworks, other than those marked “NFS,” (Not for Sale) are for sale by competitive bid, written and voiced. If that’s too much stress, we offer a Print Shop for direct sales of photoprints, lithographs, and other items.

How Do I Bid?

All Philcon attendees may bid/buy artwork in the Art Show/Print Shop. You must, however, be assigned a bidder number, so please stop at the Art Show desk to register before bidding.

Each piece of artwork is tagged with an ID/bid sheet listing the title, artist, and medium. It includes one or more bid lines, where you legibly write your name, bidder number and dollar amount of the bid.

ID/Bid Sheets:

- **NFS:** For display only, not for sale. No lines for bidding.
- **Print:** Photographic and other multiple-copy items. One line only for a buyer, for direct sale at preset price. There may be additional copies available in the Print Shop.
- **Original Art:** Has multiple lines for written bidding, for sale to the highest bidder. The artist names a minimum price, so the first bidder must match or exceed that price. Additional bids must be higher than any preceding bid.

If you change your mind, do not scratch out any written bids. Instead, ask the staff for assistance.

When Bidding, Remember:

- **Keep track of all your bids.** When placing a written bid on multiple items, assume you will be the winning bidder on all of them. This way, you can avoid buying more art than you can afford.
- **Pace your bids.** If you have reached your limit, wait until you have lost an item to a higher bidder before bidding on an additional item.
- **Check Your Bid Sheets.** Return to the Art Show shortly before it closes (Sunday at noon) to check the bid

sheets and see which items you have won by written bid and which will go to voice auction.

How Long Can I Bid?

Written bidding closes Sunday at 12:00 p.m. (noon). At that time the Art Show will be cleared of all members. Any artwork with **two** or fewer bids will sell to the bidder with the highest written bid (see “When do I pay?”). Artworks with **three** bids or more will proceed to the voice auction (see below).

Voice Auction?

Written bidding closes at 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Sunday. Any artwork with **two** or fewer bids goes to the highest bidder, but an artwork with at least **three** bids proceeds to the voice auction. The auction is held Sunday 1:00 p.m., in the Art Show, Grand Ballroom B.

At the voice auction, the artworks are open to further bids by additional bidders. Therefore, you should attend to make further bids on pieces you wish to buy. The bidder making the highest bid by voice will buy the art at that price. If there are no voice bids, the artwork will be sold to the bidder with the highest written bid.

When Do I Pay?

Art Show Sales operate Sunday 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the Art Show. At this time, you are required to pick up and pay for all artwork you have won by written bid or voice auction.

We accept MasterCard, Visa, cash, travelers’ checks, and personal check with ID (in accordance with rules set by the Philcon Treasurer). We require proof of ID (at least one photo and proof of address) for all buyers at time of payment.

Alternatives to Bidding?

Philcon offers “Quick Sales.” If and only if there are **no written bids** on a piece, that piece may be immediately purchased at the Quick Sale price with the caveat that the physical piece may not be removed from the Art Show before Saturday 6:00 p.m.

The Print Shop is a separate display area of photo-prints (reproductions of original art), lithographs, and other multiple-copy artwork for direct sale at a preset price. All copies of each item are displayed on a single extended hanger. Bring your selected items to the Print Shop sales desk and our staff will complete the sale immediately.

The Philcon Fashion Show & Masquerade

by Abigail Welscher, Director & Alexander Welscher, Assistant Director

Philcon Fashion Show

Starting at 8:30 PM Friday night in Grand Ballroom A, following the PSFS Meeting

2023 Fashion Theme is: *Villainous*

What's the difference between the Fashion Show and the Masquerade?

1. The fashion show contest is open to everyone! You do not have to attend the convention to enter a design. There will be several opportunities for your work to be displayed if you choose not to attend in person.

2. The masquerade allows recreations while the fashion show *must* be *your* original design. You do not need to be your own model to enter, but you must have designed it yourself. Your design must be a wearable interpretation of the theme; if a human can't wear it in the real world, it can't be entered.

3. The show itself will be a much smaller time commitment than the masquerade. We will have a green room available 1 hour before the show; however, green room time is optional. The format will be a simple catwalk with music provided. The only thing you need to prepare is your entry, a very brief statement about the design, and your model (if you're not entering in person.)

4. There will be no workmanship awards. This contest is simply about the art, not the construction.

5. No judges! This is the biggest difference. Judging will be by audience *and* participant vote.

So how does it work?

1. All designs must be *original ideas* based on this year's theme. Submissions must include the following:

- A detailed sketch of the design (front and back)
- Either a mock-up of the outfit to be displayed *or* a fully constructed version to be worn on the runway by a model (either yourself or a representative; models cannot be provided)

A brief (1-3 sentences) description of how your design fits the year's theme. This will be displayed next to mail-in entries or read aloud as your model walks the runway. If you feel you need help writing a description, please do not hesitate to contact us.

2. Models will be lined up to walk the runway just before the start of show and will be a standard, fashion show catwalk, not a presentation. The MC will read the design description as each entry comes out.

3. There will be three judging categories: Overall Design, Theme, and Wearability. Winners in each category will receive an award!

4. Designers may enter up to 3 designs. Each design should be able to stand on its own.

Sound like fun?

The 2024 theme will be "It's a Miracle"!



Fairest Princess © Rob Carlos

The Masquerade

Starting at 8:00 p.m. Saturday night in Grand Ballroom A

Director: Abigail Welsher

Assistant Director: Venus Carey

Presentation Judges: Heidi Hooper, Keyo, and Jonathan Maberry

Workmanship Judge: Tina Connell

MC: Michael A. Ventrella

Here at Philcon, attendees and participants are encouraged to show their fellow fans their costumes on stage and compete for awards from our judges. No experience is needed; we'll show you the ropes and help you on and off stage. There will be experienced judges to review entries on stage and, optionally, workmanship judging on the costumes' technical work. Registration and attendance at rehearsal is required to appear on stage.

We welcome recreation costumes and cosplay from all media sources (sci-fi, fantasy, anime, etc.) as well as original designs and historical recreations. This year we are excited to present Trailer Park as our half-time entertainment.

Entrants' Registration

Registration forms are available at the masquerade registration desk across from the dealer's room entrance on Friday from 3:00 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All members of each entry must check in at the masquerade registration desk during those periods and each individual must sign a release form. All entries must sign up for a tech rehearsal slot and attend rehearsal in Grand Ballroom A between 3:30 and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.

There will also be a masquerade workshop in Grand Ballroom A Saturday morning between 11:00 and 11:50 a.m.

The young fan division will present first, followed immediately by their awards, then the adult entries will take the stage. The judges' deliberations usually take some time, during which a half-time show (Trailer Park) will be presented. Afterwards, both workmanship and presentation awards will be announced and presented to the winners.

Fan Photography

During the show, members of the audience may take photos from their seats, *without flash*. As you exit the stage, there may be a separate Fan Photo Area in the hall or lobby. Your participation in these photos is strictly optional.

For the safety of those on stage, use of flash photography from the audience during the show is strictly prohibited. The Masquerade director will stop the show and have the house lights turned on until those using flash have been ejected from the ballroom.

Please be aware that the Masquerade Green Room is for entrants and staff only. No one else will be given entry to the room.



Khymera © Rob Carlos

Program, Exhibits & Fixed Functions

Enjoy the entire convention. Program topics change year to year, so see what's new this year. (Look at the *Schedule Grid* and check online at <https://schedule.philcon.org> for the details.)

Be sure to see our guests' talks (in some cases performances.) Don't miss the Art Show, Fashion Show or Masquerade. Be sure to stop by the Fan Tables and explore the treasures available in the Dealers Room. Take a break and meet new friends and relax in the Con Suite or play at the Gaming Promenade. Have fun!

Programming Tracks

Anime & Animation

SF/F in animated form.

Art

Consult the schedule in the Art Show for pop-up technique demos, docent tours, or other art-related programming.

Comics & Graphic Novels

Discussion of speculative stories where the art is intrinsic to the storytelling, not just illustration.

Costuming & Cosplay

For the novice to the master, for re-enactors, cosplayers and LARPerS. See also: hall costumes, the Philcon Fashion Show and The Masquerade.

Fandom

Conversations about conventions, and how being a fan and daily life impact each other, as well as meetups and special interest activities.

Filk & Music

The folk music of SF fandom; concerts, sing-alongs for newcomers, and late-night performances of the standards.

Gaming

Panels on the design and business of games, plus demos.

Literary

Philcon's main focus: The content, creation and business of all formats of written works of SF, fantasy and horror.

Media

Comics, TV, film, web and other performance formats.

Science & Technology

Current developments and retrospective looks at these fields.

Writing Functions

Writing Workshop

Previously submitted stories are critiqued by professionals. Refereed by Darrell Schweitzer with critiquers Ken Altabef, Ty Drago, Oz Drummond, Gregory Frost, Elektra Hammond and Dina Leacock. This annual event is open to any member of the convention. For details about submitting for next year's workshop, check philcon.org/writing-workshop.



Finding Fantasy © Rob Carlos

Exhibits

Art Show

Buy, sell, exhibit and vote. Print Shop and auction.

Hall Costumes/Cosplay

Be a roving demonstration of your fannish ideals and/or sewing skills. (Please stay family-friendly and bystander-safe.)

Philcon Fashion Show & The Masquerade

Show off your costume on-stage, before an audience and judges. Friday evening Fashion Show; Saturday evening Masquerade (see pp. 12-13).

Other Fixed Functions

Con Suite

Snacks and socializing. It is on the 8th floor, room 823.

Dealers Room

The unusual, the hard-to-locate, and the wonderful: used, new & rare books, jewelry, costumes, T-shirts, models, etc.

Fan Tables

Chat with representatives of fan groups and other SF/F conventions.

Gaming Suite

In addition to open gaming, tournaments and demos in the area just outside the Dealer's Room, enjoy relaxing and gaming with others in the Gallery. Tap our board and card game bank or bring your own favorite.

A Brief History of Philcon

Philcon has been held annually since 1936 (aside from an interruption for WWII) and, as such, is America's oldest science fiction convention, and arguably the world's.

(Note: asterisk indicates guest unable to attend and square brackets their substitutes.)

Dates & Guests

Nov. 18-20, 2022 (86)

Principal Speaker Keith DeCandido
Artist GoH Charles Urbach

Nov. 19-21, 2021 (85)

Principal Speaker Fran Wilde
Musical Guest Sara Henrya

Nov. 16-18, 2020 (84)

No Guests – Virtual Philcon (due to Covid pandemic)

Nov. 8-10, 2019 (83)

Principal Speaker Tim Pratt
Artist GoH Stephanie Pui-Mun Law
Special Guest Heather Shaw
Musical Guest This Way to the Egress

Nov. 16-18, 2018 (82)

Principal Speaker Stephen Brust
Artist GoH Gary Lippincott
Special Guest Marshall Ryan Maresca
Musical Guests The Chromatics

Nov. 10-12, 2017 (81)

Principal Speaker Seanan McGuire
Artist GoH Don Maitz
Special Guest, Author/Illustrator Janny Wurts
Special Musical Guests ... Bed & Breakfast (Bill & Brenda Sutton)

Nov. 18-20, 2016 (80)

Principal Speaker C.J. Cherryh
Artist GoH Dave Seeley
Special Guest L.E. Modesitt, Jr.

Nov. 20-22, 2015 (79)

Principal Speaker Wen Spencer
Artist GoH Richard Hescox
Special Musical Guest Murder Ballads

Nov. 21-23, 2014 (78)

Principal Speakers Sharon Lee & Steve Miller
Artist GoH Bob Eggleton
Special Guest Kyle Cassidy

Nov. 8-10, 2013 (77)

Principal Speaker Allen Steele
Artist GoH Charles Vess
Fan GoH Robert Madle
Musical GoH The Heather Dale Band with SJ Tucker

Nov. 9-11, 2012 (76)

Principal Speaker Catherynne Valente
Artist GoH Phil Foglio
Fan GoH David Kyle

Nov. 18-20, 2011 (75)

Principal Speaker Cory Doctorow
Artist GoH Boris Vallejo* & Julie Bell
Special Musical Guest SJ Tucker

Nov. 19-21, 2010 (74)

Principal Speaker Peter S. Beagle
Artist GoH Mitchell Bentley
Fan GoH Jeff Mach

Nov. 20-22, 2009 (73)

Principal Speaker Catherine Asaro
Artist GoH Frank Wu
Special Guests L.A. Banks & Cory Doctorow

Worldcons

Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 2001 - The Millennium Philcon

The 65th Philcon was also the 59th World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon)

Sept. 5-7, 1953 - 11th Worldcon

Guest Willy Ley

Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 1947 - Philcon 1

Guest John W. Campbell, Jr.

Venues

2022-2023..... DoubleTree by Hilton, Cherry Hill, NJ
2008-2019, 2021 Crowne Plaza, Cherry Hill, NJ
2020 Online (Virtual Philcon)
2006-2007 Sheraton Philadelphia City Center
2001-2005 Marriott Center City, Philadelphia
1990-2000 Adams Mark Hotel, Philadelphia
1953 Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia
1947 Penn-Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia

Chairs

Tim Binder 2000
Hugh Casey 2003
Hector R. Cruz 2019, 2023
Todd Dashoff 2001, 2007, 2010, 2016, 2018, 2022
Gary Feldbaum 2011-14
Tony Finan 1997-99, 2005-06
Oz Fontecchio 1990-91, 1993, 1996
Mike Hammond 2017
Joann Lawler 1983-84, 2020-21
Jeff Linder 2002
Stephanie Lucas 2015
Anne Norton 1992
Rock Robertson 2009
Mark Trebing 2008
Milton Rothman 1947, 1953

In Memoriam

Allison Williams Phillips, August 12, 1928 - June 2, 2023

by Margaret Trebing



Allison Williams Phillips, April 1, 2018
(photograph by Gretchen Rector)

Growing Up in Philly Fandom

Allison was born into fandom. Her father, James (Jim) A. Williams, was a rare book dealer sometimes working for Freeman's Auction House. He had a bookstore on the first floor of their home on 18th St. The store closed eventually; the business changed to mail-order and began to specialize in science fiction. This brought him in contact with the local SF fandom and PSFS. After Jim and Allison became PSFS members in 1946, their home became fan central for the Philadelphia SF community.

Allison and her sister Joan recalled that it seemed there was never a time when the home wasn't full of visiting fans. Many well-known writers, such as George O. Smith and L. Sprague de Camp, were fixtures. (George wrote numerous stories there.) Most of the PSFS members were guests at one time or another. Allison's stepmother complained that she never knew who would be asleep on the couch when she got up in the morning.

An Unconventional Home Life

Jim was a staunch atheist who would allow no discussion of religion or God in the house. As a child Allison

felt that God was some mysterious topic off-limits to children, in the same way as the "facts of life". It made her intensely curious, so she sneaked peeks in encyclopedias to find out more. Instead of church, she was sent to the Philadelphia Ethical Society, a Humanist organization founded in 1885.

When Allison was three years old, her mother died. Because Jim felt unable to care for her by himself, and because she had allergies that doctors felt would be helped by a different climate, she spent part of her childhood traveling the country with her paternal grandmother. She lived at different times in California, Arizona, Wisconsin (with her maternal grandparents in Madison) and Florida. During their time in Florida, they rented a beach house which belonged to A. Merritt, which impressed Allison, who was a fan of his works.



Some of the early science fiction magazines which most of them are now considered collectors' items.

Allison Williams, treasurer of Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, examines a model of a rocket.

Fans Rally for Convention Here

Allison Williams (later Phillips), PSFS Treasurer & Registrar, 1953 Philadelphia worldcon.
The stamp was done by Russell Swanson for that worldcon.
(Philadelphia Inquirer, August 9, 1953)



July 2, 1950 Banquet, New York Science Fiction Conference (aka Hydracon), Hotel Henry Hudson, NY
 (bottom right, front table, from left - Jim Williams, Allison Williams, Alexander (Lex) Phillips, Ozzie Train, and other fans.
 (Sprague de Camp is on the right side of the photo, in the third row from the front, second from the right, wearing a dark tie.)
 For more information about Hydracon, visit <https://fancyclopedia.org/Hydracon> (photo by Liberty Flashlight Co.)

When her father remarried, Allison returned to Philadelphia to live with him and her stepmother. Her sister Joan was born in 1938.

Active in PSFS Post-WWII

During the war, most PSFS members were in the armed forces, and the group existed only as a newsletter produced by Ozzie Train and mailed to members around the world. PSFS was reborn in 1946 as members returned. Allison and her father became members that year. Jim was a president of PSFS and would have been the chair of the 1953 Worldcon, held in Philadelphia, had he not died in March of that year.

As a PSFS member, Allison was editor of the club newsletter, *PSFS News*; editor of the club fanzine, *Variant* (with assistant editor Helen Cloukey); head of the Entertainment Committee (the newsletter mentions their epic Halloween costume parties), and club treasurer. She was registrar for the 1953 Worldcon.

Fannish Friends, Publishing, First Hugo

In 1947 James Williams, Ozzie Train, Alfred Prime and Armand "Bud" Waldo together formed the Prime Press publishing house. The Press was conceived as a means to publish works by PSFS members and Philadelphia writers. They published 18 books before ending

in 1953 when Jim died. The Prime Press office and its printing equipment was taken over by Allison and Helen when issues of the club magazine *Variant* were ready for production.

Allison was popular in the club and good friends with many of the members. Most were present at her father's literary soirées at one time or another. She met her future husband, Alexander (Lex) Phillips (an early club member and a writer published in the SF magazines) through PSFS.

She was close to early PSFS members Buddie McKnight and her husband Jack, and often visited them at Six Acres, their homestead in Lansdale, PA, where they lived with their two girls, Peggy Rae and Misty. Peggy Rae also became a second generation fan, and went on to be very active in fandom and a worldcon chair.

She remained friends with Jean Bogert, who was one of the earliest women PSFS members and a club treasurer, until Jean's death in the 1990s.

Allison was present at the creation of the first Hugo Awards, which were presented at the 11th Worldcon, held in Philadelphia in 1953. Jack McKnight, who was a machinist, was given the job of making the awards and had the use of a metalworking shop. He wound up working all night, assisted by Lex, to get them done in time for the

awards ceremony. Allison and Buddie kept them company, and provided coffee, sandwiches, and moral support.

Personal Life

Allison moved into her own apartment in 1948 at the age of 20. She was quite creative, and very good at restoring furniture and home decorating.

She earned a bachelors degree in chemistry and a masters degree in mathematics from Temple University. One of her first jobs was in the 1950s, programming in machine language on Burroughs computers using punch cards. Later she was hired as a chemist at the Publickers Industries distillery in South Philadelphia.

Allison was always very interested in science. On one occasion before they were married, she and Lex were seated at a counter in a diner. A number of young men noticed Allison and came closer, trying to get her attention. Lex said that she never noticed them, but when she started talking with him about the nature of the atom they all looked boggled and backed away again.

Allison married Alexander Phillips on September 17, 1957. They honeymooned on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Their daughter Margaret was born in 1963, and their son Christopher in 1966.

Shortly after they were married, Allison had an experience that can only be described as telepathy. Lex was attending night school at Temple University on the G.I. Bill. One evening he was taking a very important exam. Allison was at home when she was suddenly aware of a feeling of panic. She knew without question that Lex was unable to find his slide rule, and he knew that he could not pass the test without it. She stopped everything she was doing and concentrated very hard on communicating to him that it was in the pouch on the front of his briefcase. That evening, when Lex came home, he told her that that was exactly what had happened. He thought the slide rule had been left home and was in a panic until he felt he should search the front pouch.

Allison loved outdoor places, visiting the shore at Ocean City, NJ as often as possible from her teenage years on. Parks, gardens, arboretums, hiking trails – any natural, unspoiled lands were the places she liked best.

She also enjoyed traveling. She and Lex went to England on the Queen Elizabeth II around 1960. There they toured most of the south of England, from Cornwall to York. In 1962 they went to South Carolina for events commemorating the centennial of the Civil War. She often visited her sister and family in Florida, and took trips to the Outer Banks, to Chincoteague and

Assateague Islands in Virginia, to Boston, and a tour of New England.

A Lifelong Reader of Science & SFF

From early childhood, Allison loved fantasy and adventure stories, such as Robin Hood, King Arthur, and James Fenimore Cooper's *Last of The Mohicans*.

She was a big *Star Trek* fan, with the original series her favorite, but she also enjoyed Next Generation and Enterprise. She accumulated a large collection of *Star Trek* novels and read them all. She read science-fiction and fantasy her whole life. (She read every book in the *Wheel of Time* series.) Probably her favorite genre book was *Silverlock* by John Myers Myers.

She liked science magazines and books and watched science programs on television. In her 80s she was watching the *Great Courses* DVDs about quantum physics. She always had *Discover*, *Omni*, *Science News* and other science magazines around the house.

Allison remained an SF/F reader and in her later years enjoyed attending conventions. She often came to Philcon, particularly enjoying science programs.

She loved animals, especially cats. The last four years of her life she lived with her daughter, son-in-law and their cats in New Jersey, where she would often sit surrounded by cats, reading a Star Trek novel.

Son-in-law, Mark said, "She was the best mother-in-law that anyone could hope for." Her sister Joan, said, "She was always very good to me."



Allison Williams Phillips, at the home of her daughter, Margaret Trebing, and son-in-law, Mark Trebing, reading with cats Aura and Smokey, February 9, 2022

In Memoriam

Rebecca (Greenberg) Kaplowitz, 1947-2022



Mark Trebing, Margaret Phillips, Becky Kaplowitz and Ira Kaplowitz at Steam Town (Railroad), Scranton, PA, October 18, 1986

Becky (Rebecca) Kaplowitz was a long-time fan, active in both PSFS and Philcon, as well as at other cons up and down the east coast.

Rebecca Selma Greenberg was born and grew up in New York City. She earned her BA in psychology from Baruch University in 1969. She discovered science fiction conventions and enjoyed working on those cons as well as the social life with local fans. (She particularly liked the proportion of males to females, Ira reports.)

In 1977, she met and started seeing Ira Kaplowitz at meetings of the NYUSFS (New York University Science Fiction Society). His job took him to Norfolk VA and later Boston, (where they joined NESFA, of course). They married in NYC in 1981.

A few years later, in 1983, Ira's job took them to Philadelphia where they became active in PSFS and Philcon. Ira had had a book-selling business at cons from Disclave to Boskone for some years. Becky joined him after they were married and they were familiar regulars in the dealers rooms of those same east coast cons, including Philcon. But Becky had a particular interest in gaming, as well, running the gaming room and participating

in gaming herself at Philcon and elsewhere. They were faithful attendees at PSFS meetings, and Becky was on the PSFS Hugo Review Panel in 1988 and 2001. They attended and enjoyed The Millennium Philcon in 2001, acting the parts of Benjamin and Deborah Franklin at the con. (Ira and Becky had already also worn those costumes at many bid parties on behalf of the Philadelphia bid.)

Becky enjoyed reading, acquiring a small but select collection of Wedgwood (they have a number of books on antiques and detecting fake antiques, Ira reports) and amassing a huge collection of costume jewelry. She read right up to the end, always enjoying the works of one author and then moving to the next. The last one she was reading was Mercedes Lackey.

They lived in New Jersey, following another job change for Ira, and commuted to PSFS for a number of years, but after 2001 it became too difficult as Becky's health began to decline. They still sold books at cons but had to forgo attending PSFS meetings. She kept up with Philcon through 2018, when her health took another downturn. She died suddenly on December 22, 2022.

Jonathan Maberry - An Appreciation

Philadelphia's Literary Prof. X

by Gregory Frost

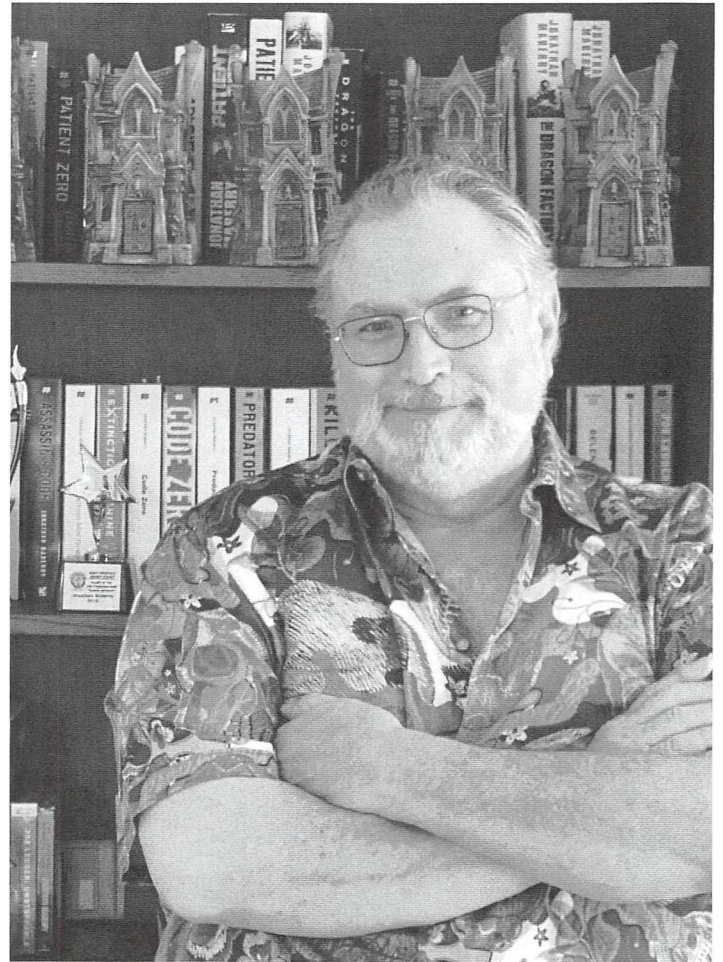
In the first decade of the 21st century, a weird concatenation took place in and around Doylestown, PA. Specifically, a remarkable creative boom took place, and as if by the pull of dark energy, a lot of really gifted writers emerged from the shadows. Perhaps the single most influential of these is Philcon's GoH, Jonathan Maberry.

I first met Jonathan around the time that his second novel in the Pine Deep trilogy, *Dead Man's Song*, was coming out. I remember thinking what a terrific mash-up of Stephen King-like rural horror and the actual, identifiable landscape of eastern Pennsylvania.

A mutual friend introduced us at a reading and talk that Jonathan gave. Now, everybody reading their work in those days showed up with bookmarks and maybe business- or post-cards as swag to give away. Not Jonathan. He'd bought an enormous bag of Halloween-sized Hershey bars for which he had printed out color reproductions of the book jackets, exactly the size of Hershey wrappers. Teeny book chocolates.

After the reading, we sat down and chatted over beers. We talked about how hard it was to get people to buy our books. (Any author who's ever sat at a table in a Barnes & Noble or other book store facing the crowd knows that you and that table become immediately invisible to the customers entering the store. It's slow death by book signing.)

My novel, *Shadowbridge*, was about to debut, so I was about to run that gauntlet again. Jonathan pitched a crazy idea: We should team up. Not just the two of us, no, no. He proposed a kind of literary X-Men—a local collective of authors that cut across genre boundaries. We would do group signings, turning each event into a kind of party. Surely, between us we knew enough writers to pull this off. Seemingly in no time we had put together what became the Philadelphia Liars Club. The group included sf/thriller writer Jon McGoran, crime fiction writer Dennis Tafoya, horror author Leslie (L.A.) Banks, mystery writer Merry Jones, YA author (now turned agent) Marie Lamba, and contemporary women's fiction author Kelly Simmons. All of us had books out or debuting around the same time; so by sheer luck, we all had titles to promote. Now, if you go to conventions, the idea of group signings is not exactly a new concept. But on the bookstore circuit, unless you were also a musician and got invited to join Stephen King's band, it was...unusual.



Eventually, some of us even started a podcast, the Liars Club Oddcast, which ran for 200+ episodes of interviews with writers, artists, editors, cartoonists and even stand-up comedians.

Meanwhile, Jonathan, the Professor Xavier of the group, developed a local open-forum discussion group, the Writers' Coffeehouse, led by one or more of us in any given month. Attendees were often fifty or more.

Eventually, Jonathan moved to San Diego and expanded the concept. There are now many Writers' Coffeehouses across the U.S., led by authors, all of whom are paying it forward. All down to him.

The other thing I want to tell you about before I hand this off (to Jon McGoran), is that as I write this, Jonathan Maberry is completing his 50th traditionally published novel. Since 2007 he has also written extensively for Marvel comics, edited multiple theme anthologies, seen some of his works developed as TV series or movies. His positivity can be astonishing. If you interact with him this weekend ask him about the judo and jujutsu books he's written, or his guides to vampires, monsters, and how to cope with zombies. He will have really good answers, I promise you.

Gregory Frost is the author of the novel *Rhymer* from Baen Books, the first in a three-book series, and, in collaboration with the late Bill Johnson, of the hard-sf story “Boomerang,” in the May/June 2023 *Asimov’s*. His short story collection *The Girl-friends of Dorian Gray* is available in ebook format from Book View Cafe online. A new collection, *Beyond Here Be Monsters*, is due out in 2024 from Fairwood Press. Contact him or subscribe to his newsletter at www.gregoryfrost.com.

Building Writers’ Communities

by Jon McGoran

I knew of Jonathan Maberry long before I met him. He wasn’t a big-time, famous author yet, but in the Philadelphia-area writing community, he had already made a name—as a writing talent, yes, but also as a builder of community, a payer-of-it-forward, and an all-round force for good.

By the time my first book came out, people had been saying to me for years, “Do you know Jonathan Maberry? You should know Jonathan Maberry.”

When I finally met him, roughly seventeen years ago, I realized they were right.

I’m pretty sure he reached out to me, initially—and to be clear, I’m pretty certain no one had been saying to him, “Do you know Jon McGoran? You should know Jon McGoran.” But this was Jonathan Maberry: making community, reaching out to other writers, sharing his experiences and learning from theirs—even from mine, as meager as they were at the time.

Jonathan’s first novel, *Ghost Road Blues*, had just come out, but already he was a keen observer of the publishing industry. And already, he was looking for a way to more efficiently share what he knew. The first time we met, he told me his idea for the *Liars Club*, and the multiple goals he had for it. As someone who had been so invested in the sharing of knowledge and resources that is so important among aspiring writers, he was struck by the different challenges that arose once you were published, and how so many of the tools that helped you *get* published seemed so much less helpful once you *were* published.

Among other things, *The Liars Club* would be a way for newly published authors to support each other and share what we had gleaned about the bizarre, constantly changing, and yet still-anachronistic world of publishing.

But that didn’t mean leaving behind those still aspiring. Another goal was to report back, to support those still trying to get there.

And the writing community is more than just writers. It is also publishers and editors, booksellers and librarians. So, at a particularly tumultuous time in the book world, *The Liars Club*, under Jonathan’s leadership, supported those parts of the literary ecosystem, too. One year, we did a series of events to support independent bookstores, the next a series to support libraries.

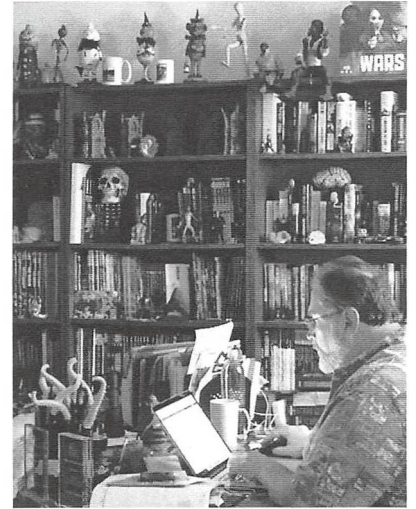
Of course, the most essential part of the ecosystem is readers, without whom none of this would matter, so we also released an anthology to support literacy initiatives. As an individual, Jonathan continues to do a lot for readers, perhaps most importantly by providing them with so many great stories. Almost pathologically prolific, he has written scores of books, hundreds of short stories, plus comic books and articles and pretty much everything else, in almost every genre except romance. So far.

I cannot count the ways he has helped me, with advice and counsel and support in so many ways. I call him my brother and I cherish our friendship, but I know it is not unique, because I know that he has done so much for so many others, as well.

I once joked with Jonathan that I had a theory about his prolificacy: that he absorbs the productive capacity of the writers who drop dead trying to match his pace.

He said he liked the idea; I think it spoke to his sense of the macabre.

In reality, though, it’s the opposite that is true: creative energy flows *from* him, not the other way around. But nevertheless, over the years, I’ve learned not to try to keep up with him, because while there is much about him to emulate, he is undoubtedly one of a kind.



Jon McGoran is the author of eleven novels for adults and young adults, including the YA science fiction thrillers *Spliced*, *Splintered*, and *Spiked*, as well as the science thrillers *Drift*, *Deadout*, and *Dust Up*. His latest science fiction thriller, *The Price of Everything*, will be out next year from Solaris Books. Learn more at www.jonmcgoran.com.

Jonathan Maberry - Creative Work

Invasive Species

by Jonathan Maberry © 2023 Jonathan Maberry Productions

-1-

We stood outside and none of us wanted to go in.

The ship was one of those old-school colony things. Ponderously slow, built when we all thought Einstein was right about the possibility of faster-than-light travel. Dumond and Chung tore holes through that maybe sixteen years after the last colony ship was launched. Somewhere way out in the black are forty-three tubs as big as the one we found on Elliot's Moon. Six earlier ships have been found, either crashed somewhere or drifting.

This one, *The Anthem*, was the seventeenth to launch. No one heard either jack or squat about it since the 2130s, and that was a long time ago. Way before my grandfather was born.

Now here it was.

Nudged up against a slope on Lemuria—formerly Kepler 62e—a super-Earth exo-planet 330 parsecs from what remained of Earth. Big, blue, with a heavy cloud cover that hid most of the land masses scattered throughout its vast oceans. We didn't know Lemuria even had land masses, and sure as hell didn't know some of them were forested. Now we do.

Our bird, a VB-530 tunnel rat doing long-range recon for rare minerals, squatted just outside of the shadow of *Anthem's* shadow, looking like a ladybug next to a beached sperm whale. The scale is about right. We'd drilled through the dark matter gateways, riding one of the less-explored routes in the galactic network, following data interpretations from the astronomical spectroscopy to what we hoped would be sizeable deposits of palladium, rhenium, molybdenum, and tungsten.

Instead we found this big son of a bitch of a colony ship.

It lay there, its back broken from a bad landing. The hull pitted and rusted from its travels.

"How?" asked Collins, my copilot.

"I don't know."

He'd asked that question at least fifty times. *Anthem* and ships of its class could not—absolutely could not—have come this far out. There was no way. Before the first transduction tunnels were built it was a laughable concept. *Anthem* was fast, but she was sublight. At top

speed she should just now be closing in on Alpha Centauri, which is only 2.4 light years from Sol. There's simply no way she could have crossed 990 light years. Not without a tunnel. It's folded space or it's centuries of travel, that's the new math. It's the core of what we know about FTL travel.

And yet.

"I don't know," I said again.

-2-

The screen display inside my helmet kept trying to convince me that the atmo was 87.2 percent of Earth normal.

That, at least, made some sense. Kind of.

The colony ships were built to land on alien exoplanets in the goldilocks zones of star systems. More than ninety percent of the ship was a terraforming processing plant. We could hear the hum of machinery. We could feel it beneath our feet. All of the scanners told us that, damaged as she was, *Anthem's* machineries were running full-tilt to transform the planet. We'd seen evidence of it while we descended from our ship, *Hera IV*, which was orbiting at seven hundred clicks. We saw vast stretches of forest that had withered and died as the mixture of gasses changed. And we saw huge new forests growing outward from the wreck site—forests with genetically-modified Earthlike pine trees, cereal grasses, fruit trees, hardwoods, and shrubberies.

There were insects in the air all around us—modified honeybees, beetles, even a species of leather-winged butterflies. Scanners told us that there were worms and spiders and other animals in the soil beneath our boots. We were even picking up thermal signatures of small rodents, squirrels, birds, and a kind of deer adapted to this kind of world.

Since we'd cracked the science of folding space, Earth has terraformed just shy of three hundred moons and seventeen planets. There were some so far along that the colonists didn't need to wear pressure suits.

None of the colony ships had done that, though, because until now we thought that none of them had been out there long enough to set up shop.

Anthem proved all that wrong.

INFO@CAPCLAVE.ORG | WWW.CAPCLAVE.ORG

CAPCLAVE 2024

THE DMV LITERARY
SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY
CONVENTION

GUESTS OF
HONOR

SHEREE
RENÉE
THOMAS

MATT
DINNIMAN

SEP 27 - 29 • ROCKVILLE HILTON

MEMBERSHIPS

JAN - MAY : \$55

JUN - JUL : \$60

AUG - OCT : \$65

\$70 door



WSFA | WWW.WSFA.ORG

Don't ask me how, because I simply do not know.

"This is freaking me out, Dix," said Collins as we walked slowly toward the ship. The sun was rolling toward the horizon and darkness was coming. "This looks like they've been running the processor for at least fifty years. Given how big this planet is, they've already impacted it. The old biosphere is in active collapse and the new one is spreading fast as hell. How?"

"You keep asking me as if I could know," I said. "Only thing that makes even a little sense is somehow they jumped way out here and got the terraforming going as soon as they crashed. If that happened sooner than later, it means this could have been running for better than ninety years."

It was true enough. Just from the size of some of the towering hardwood trees this had to be in motion for better than half a century, and the ninety-year mark seemed likely.

"Bottom line is," I said, "we may never know how they got all the way out here."

Collins held a scanner up and moved it from end to end along *Anthem's* hull. "Picking up thermal signatures," he said, but then paused, his lips pursed.

"You mean there are survivors?" I asked. For some reason I had been expecting the processor to be running on automatic. There were no shelters, no signs of orderly cultivation. No recent signs, at least. The fruit trees had clearly been hand planted, but everything around them was overgrown. Same with the smaller crops. On the way from our bird we walked through planted fields of some rough-looking gray cabbages, pumpkins, potatoes that—when pulled from the soil—looked stunted and mushy. There were other crops, too—salad greens, herbs of many kinds, and long rows of radishes and garlic.

Lots of garlic.

Collins had knelt to study one of the cloves. "Pretty pure," he said. "Close to Earth normal. And they have a lot of it." Then he added, "That makes sense. Garlic has lots of healing qualities, and it's a blood purifier. Useful in any new or modified biosphere."

We took samples, but I tapped Collins and nodded to the sky. "Computer model says twilight is short here. Tilt of the planet and orbital analysis says the days are short and the nights are long. So, let's get this done while we have some light left."

He moved closer to the ship. It was massive. 1677 meters long, vaguely arrow-shaped, with all sorts of fins and flaps for reducing speed and friction during a slow planetfall. The hull was ringed with flexible sections to allow

it to settle onto uneven planet surfaces without breaking apart. That design philosophy worked pretty well, but there was an obvious fracture nearly amidships.

"They did a lot of repair work," said Collins, pointing to sections where plating from less important parts of the ship had been carefully welding over the break. "Must have been a bitch, doing all that while wearing those old-fashioned suits."

Our new pressure suits were like a second skin, allowing max flexibility and range of motion. The old ones were clunky, awful things.

We walked through the camp, looking for some sign of recent human activity. But everything we saw was overgrown and damaged by weather. It was a clear purple-blue sky now, but it was an ocean world, so there was a lot of rain and likely a lot of heavy storms.

Then we saw it.

Saw *them*.

It had been hidden by a copse of pines and some kind of rhododendron-looking shrub.

They were made from all kinds of materials. Plastic, thin sheets of metal, wood, and even stone. They formed their own grove, though nothing was ever going to grow there except weeds. Collins and I walked over and stood looking at them. Most were too poorly made and too badly abused by the weather to be legible. Others were in better shape. We read some of them. The names. The cities where they had been born. The ages they had been when they died.

We read the names of the dead colonists, and when we ran out of markers we could read we just counted them.

The oldest markers were in the back, and all of them had the same date.

"When they crashed?" mused Collins, and I nodded.

There were many hundreds of them. Maybe thousands, because we stopped counting.

The newer markers were a mix of dates, but the entire span—from first post-crash death to the most recent—covered a span of just under forty years.

And then nothing. No new markers. No new graves.

"Was that it, then?" Collins asked. "Did they all just die out?"

"Seems like it," I said.

"How? Why?"

"We'll have to do tests to figure it out, but if I had to guess...it was some kind of infection. Terraforming changes a world, but you know as well as I do that worlds fight back. Bacteria, viruses...stuff humans don't

have any resistance to. Or maybe some Earth bug hitched along and mutated here. Or...”

I trailed off because I noticed something written in small letters across the bottom of the closest marker. Twilight was deepening, so I aimed my light on it. We both read it.

I am sorry.

I had to.

God forgive me.

Collins tapped my arm and pointed to the marker closest to it. The same words were written there.

We looked closer at all of them.

Except for the headstones for the people who probably died in the crash, every other marker—hundreds and hundreds of them—bore the same three lines.

Collins and I exchanged a long look.

“What do you think happened here?” he asked, his voice hushed. “Maybe the pilot who crashed the ship?”

I shook my head. “He’s have written that on the oldest markers.”

“Then what? Some biologist who let the wrong bug out of a jar?”

“Maybe.”

“Or,” continued Collins, “maybe it was something else. Maybe the soil here didn’t generate the right kind of bacteria and the food became toxic.”

I said nothing, but instead spotted a second, smaller cluster of markers forty meters beyond the big cemetery, and then headed in that direction. Collins trailed along.

“What is it?” he called, but I didn’t answer.

The second graveyard was less orderly, a few dozen graves in a vastly more overgrown field. Oddly, the plants that choked this space were all of the same kind. There were thousands of meter-high stalks, some capped with pink or purple flowers. I squatted down and pulled on one thick stem, and the soil yielded a fat, pale bulb. The smell was strong and familiar.

“More garlic,” I said. Then qualified it. “Only garlic. And see? It’s not wild. These were planted here. There’s some around each grave.”

“Garlic? Why? Oh, I remember,” said Collins. “It chases off rabbits and moles and...”

“Do you see any leaves that look chewed?” I asked.

He did not.

“Look at the markers,” I said. “Tell me what’s different about them.”

Collins frowned again, then looked around.

“None of them have that apology. No *I’m sorry*

stuff.”

I gave him a long, hard look. “And...?”

“And what?”

“*Look,*” I snapped.

He studied my expression for a moment, then looked. I saw his face when he realized the other difference.

“These markers...they...”

He didn’t need to say it. Every grave marker in that field had symbols for whatever religion the people had believed in.

I got to my feet.

“Why’d they plant garlic on *these* graves?” asked Collins, a note of unease clear in his tone. “There’s none on the other graves.”

“No,” I said. “There’s no garlic over there, either.”

We stood there in the gathering gloom and stared at the ship. I felt a slow, cold dread creep into my flesh. My blood turned to ice water.

“What did they bring with them from Earth?” I asked.

Collins could not answer. He couldn’t speak. He stood there shaking his head as the sunlight thinned and faded and finally died over the rim of this world.

We did not see the hatch open. It was too dark.

We heard it, though.

Yeah, we heard it. Old hinges screeched in weary protest as a door somewhere opened.

But by then we were running.

Running.

Our ship was one kilometer away, beyond the overgrown fields. Beyond the cemeteries.

We ran.

God damn it to hell, how we ran.



Rob Carlos - An Appreciation

By Brittany Torres



Painting Victorian Secrets 3 at Miscon Missoula, MT

Some people might know Rob Carlos as 'the dragon guy,' and others as the Philcon Artist GOH. To me, Rob is the reason I have a career in fantasy art, though if you ask him he'll never admit to taking the credit. Because that's who Rob is; an artist with an extraordinary career, countless mentees, and the kind heart and humble soul that inspires those around him.

Rob's career began with the true passion of a diehard fantasy lover - with friends and D&D. From illustrating his campaign characters to drawing every minute that he could, it's no wonder his career then followed a fantastical fantasy path. The launching point from passion to the professional level was a series of commissioned paintings for Robert Jordan's The Wheel of Time TCG, and from there it was full speed ahead for Rob. When he and his family made the move to Washington, Rob discovered the local sci-fi and fantasy conventions and jumped right in. From selling his art, to giving advice on panels, to being a well known fixture in helping out in the art shows, Rob Carlos became a staple name in the PNW convention circuit. He's gone on to show around the world at conventions, illustrate for small-press writers, musicians, game campaigns, as well as paint commercial murals, sculpt 3D collections, and draw thousands of personal dragons.

Those who know him personally would all tell you the same; his artwork speaks for itself, but the impact Rob has made on those around him, I would argue, is his true legacy. Along with his other artistic endeavors, Rob sold his artwork and helped out in a local bookstore that doubled as a gallery space, called Browser's Books. Throughout the early to mid 2000's, you could find him there sitting behind the counter, sketch pad in hand, connecting with all the sci-fi and fantasy locals who walked through the door. It's there that I met him in 2011, and though we'll each tell the story differently, we can both agree that it was fate which brought me in that day. At seventeen, I was a very independent teenager who had a voracious appetite for fantasy, and I remember walking up to the counter to ask his help in finding a specific book series. Instead of simply telling me where the shelf was, he did what Rob does best - he asked me my story. He wanted to know if I had read any of them, why I loved fantasy, and before you know it I was telling him - a complete stranger - about my dreams of being a fantasy writer. You see, Rob has a way of inviting in those around him, drawing out your story, and making you feel heard; a rare safety net in a scary world for those of us who often spend more time immersed in imagination than reality. I began to visit Rob

at the shop often, looking forward to sharing with him my writing drafts, seeing my characters come to life on his sketch pad, and soaking up his stories about artists and authors. When he invited me to attend the local sci-fi and fantasy convention, I jumped at the chance. Being the independent teenager that I was however, I showed up on my own, only to stand in front of the registration table utterly flabbergasted. I had no idea I was supposed to show up with a guardian! The thought that I had to have a parent with me never even crossed my mind and I was so disappointed. Until I remembered that Rob was there. I ran to the art show and found him, and without context blurted out “Will you be my dad?” We still laugh about the whole thing to this day, and both Rob and his wife, Jean, will sometimes introduce me as their ‘con’ daughter. Since then, it’s been amazing to witness as Rob has gone on to continue showing at conventions like this one and many others, selling countless pieces, winning multiple awards, and appearing as the Artist GOH at Norwescon in 2022.

It was at this same convention where I first showed and sold my own artwork, which wouldn’t have happened without Rob’s encouragement. I had been making art and continuously going to him for advice when I got stuck, and luckily for me Rob is an incredibly patient teacher. He shared in my joys, listened to my struggles, and gave me the tough love that my art needed. He was the one to tell me that I needed to show my artwork, that whether or not I felt ready, I was capable of more with it than I realized. Rob has tutored many artists over the years and, like he did with me, pushed them to find the next level of their creativity. Artists, authors, and creatives of all kinds will tell you that Rob’s encouragement is a key component of their story and their success. For all that he gives, Rob doesn’t ask for much in return,

except that you *try*, that you pursue your dreams, that we do all we can, as a team, to make it a reality.

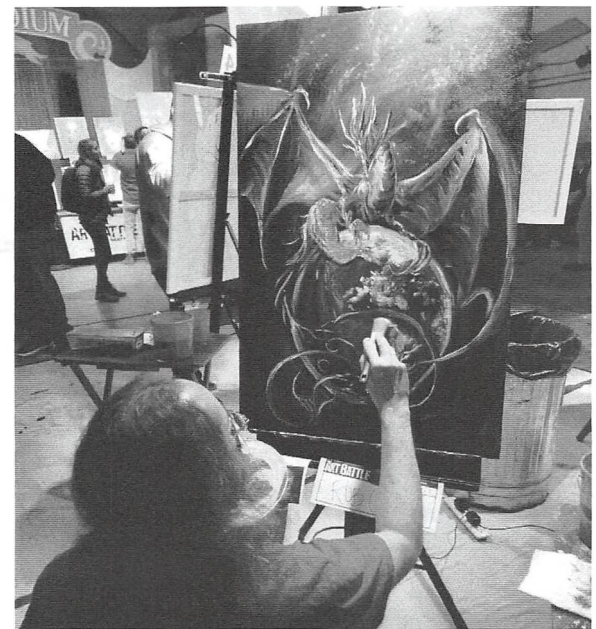
I recently asked Rob why he had one of my oldest, and not very good, art prints hanging up in his studio. He told me that it’s there to represent my story. That he delights and takes pride in seeing the progress I’ve made over the years as an artist, and that if he has contributed to my journey in even the smallest part, that it brings him happiness. That - that is who Rob is. I could tell you more about his professional merits, as the list is long and ever growing, but the Rob I know is the one who performs true magic in the everyday world, not just someone who paints about it. Finding out what makes someone special, shining a kind and coaxing light on it, pulling out the hidden or shy talent of someone, that takes a particularly clever and understanding soul.

Rob’s artwork tells the story of his creative magic, and his life tells the story of someone who brings out the magic in others.

Brittany Torres is an award-winning fantasy artist whose artwork evokes the magic, mystery, and power of women through the female gaze. Armed with a Medieval Studies degree, an obsessive love for the fantasy genre, and a talent for being self-taught, Brittany developed her unique style of digital painting that focuses on luminous, vibrant, and photo-realistic female portraits. She is based in the Seattle area.
www.torresfantasyart.com / @torresfantasyart

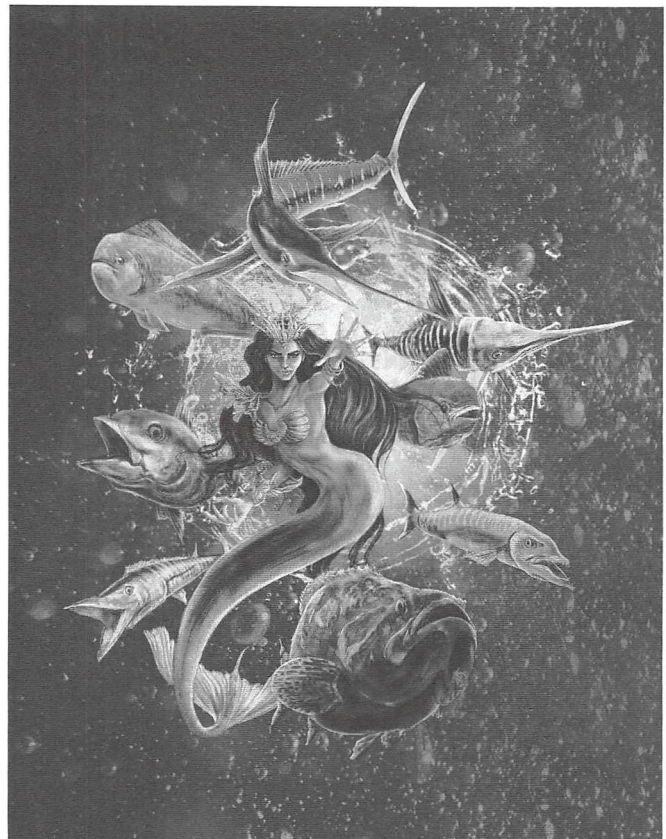


Painting Alice in Wonderland mural at Cescent Moon Gifts, Tacoma, WA



Recreating Earth Dragon in 20-minute live competition at Art Battle, Seattle, WA

Gallery: The Art of Rob Carlos



Clockwise from top left:
Stellar Dragons © Rob Carlos
Reina Linda © Rob Carlos
A Little Sky Sailboat © Rob Carlos

Front cover: Philcon Liberty Dragon © Rob Carlos
Back cover paintings, clockwise from top left:

Spa Day © Rob Carlos
Starbase Draconis © Rob Carlos
Vesper Sephony © Rob Carlos
Mermaid Princess © Rob Carlos
Steampunk Medusa © Rob Carlos

Kelley Armstrong – An Appreciation

by Elektra Hammond



Kelley Armstrong writing, assisted by her dog, Moxi.

I f I'm telling the truth, I came late to the party in regard to Kelley Armstrong. My book database tells me that I acquired *Bitten* in early January of 2006, five *years* after it had been released into the wild. I had just started into reading a ton of urban fantasy, and I haven't stopped. Truthfully, I think my husband was the first to spot *Bitten* at a convention bookseller. I got *Stolen* at the same time.

I made up for it, though.

Two and-a-half weeks later, two more Women of the Otherworld books followed, and by *Broken* (book six), I was eagerly grabbing them the week they came out. I was a bonafide fan.

Kelley Armstrong's Otherworld, just a half-step away from ours, is populated with everyone you'd want to meet: werewolves, vampires, witches, sorcerers, mediums, ghosts, angels, demons, and then some. All of them are people—people with wants and needs and goals,

and while some are good or evil, most (like the rest of us) are a little bit of both. I dreamed of kicking ass like the heroines in her books.

Nadia Stafford sidled into my world. She wasn't a werewolf or even a witch, but she didn't take sass. From anyone. She knew what she wanted, she had a plan to get there—and if there were a few bodies here and there, no one was going to catch her. She was a talented hit-woman, with skills and an Exit Strategy. Action packed reading I couldn't put down (yes, I'll admit it, I sneak out of genre to read thrillers . . .).

The eighth (eighth!) Otherworld book made it clear Kelley wasn't coasting—even after seven books full of amazing heroines (and, to be honest, some equally awesome menfolk), we got Hope the chaos demon. Hope's struggles against her chaotic nature, and her general up-for-anything attitude made her my personal favorite from the Otherworld.

Hot on her heels came the Summoning, first in a YA trilogy set in the Otherworld. YA? Totally up for it.

Kelley kept writing, and I kept reading.

She wrote some comic books in the Buffyverse, collected in the Angel graphic novel *Aftermath*, illustrated by Dave Ross, Nick Runge, and Stefano Martino. Too, she penned a graphic novel adaptation of Elena Michael's introduction to the werewolf life, entitled *Becoming*, illustrations by Angilram.

More Otherworld novels (and the occasional short story) were there, like old friends, until she ended things in *Thirteen*. High fantasy was added to her repertoire with the Age of Legends trilogy.

Ten years, give or take, after I started devouring everything Kelley wrote, *City of the Lost* smacked me around. Another pure thriller, with another strong woman at the center, strongly protective of those she loves. Rockton is a killer series, in more ways than one.

There were other stops—the slow burn thrillers of Cainsville, high fantasy Age of Legends, the amazing urban fantasy *Cursed Luck*.

Kelley's Brief Biography & Bibliography

Kelley Armstrong believes experience is the best teacher, though she's been told this shouldn't apply to writing her murder scenes. To craft her books, she has studied aikido, archery and fencing. She sucks at all of them. She has also crawled through very shallow cave systems and climbed half a mountain before chickening out. She is however an expert coffee drinker and a true connoisseur of chocolate chip cookies.

Armstrong is the author of the Rip Through Time and Rockton mystery series. Past works include the Otherworld urban fantasy series, the Cainsville gothic mystery series, the Nadia Stafford thriller trilogy, the Darkest Powers & Darkness Rising teen paranormal series, the Age of Legends teen fantasy series and the Royal Guide to Monster Slaying middle-grade fantasy series.



Kelley Armstrong, Goldensides Mountain, Tombstone National Park, Yukon

There are not one, but two time travel historical fantasies, both focused on the Victorian era—a fascination I apparently share with Kelley. *A Stitch in Time* made travel back and forth easy, while *A Rip Through Time* features

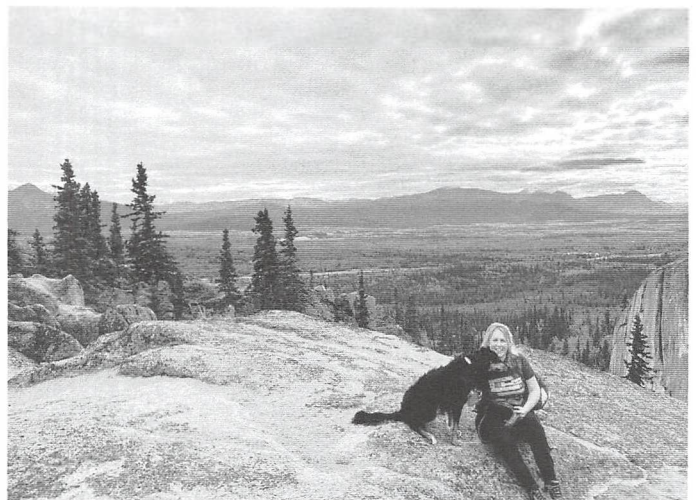
murder mysteries, body-swapping, and early forensics. Yay!

There is just something about the books Kelley writes – the characters leap off the pages and stick with you. I want to be friends with them, have a drink with them, and take them with me when I have to investigate dark and scary places.

So, thank you Kelley, for all of the exciting, fun, breathless, and above all, entertaining hours I've spent with your words. In writing this, I noticed that a couple snuck past, and I look forward to tracking them down and enjoying them. You haven't disappointed me yet!

Elektra Hammond emulates her multisided idol Buckaroo Banzai by going in several directions at once. She's been involved in publishing since the 1990s; now she writes, concocts anthologies & edits science fiction. When not freelancing or appearing at science fiction conventions, she travels the world judging cat shows.

Find her at <https://www.untilmidnight.com> or on Mastodon at elektra@wandering.shop



Kelley Armstrong with her dog Moxi at Spirit Canyon, Yukon

Upstate New York Science Fiction and Fantasy Alliance Presents



THE 16TH NORTH AMERICAN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

July 18th - 21st, 2024

Hyatt Regency Buffalo &
Buffalo Convention Center



GUESTS OF HONOR

AUTHOR GUEST

Alan Dean Foster

YA/COMICS GUEST

Nilah Magruder

ARTIST GUEST

Kaja Foglio

ARTIST GUEST

Phil Foglio

FAN GUEST

Tony Lewis

FAN GUEST

Suford Lewis

A gathering of authors, artists, costumers, gamers, and other creatives and fans from across the United States and Canada celebrating the best of science fiction, fantasy, horror, and related genres.

FEATURING

Writer & Science Guests
Panels • Gaming • Cosplay
Masquerade • Exhibits
Art Show • Dealers
Autographs

ATTENDING MEMBERSHIPS

\$85 Adults
\$60 Young Adult
\$40 Child

until February 1st, 2024

VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for additional committee members and other convention volunteers. Interested? E-mail us at info@buffalonasfic2024.org



BUFFALONASFIC2024.ORG

"World Science Fiction Society", "WSFS", "Worldcon", and "NASFIC" are service marks of Worldcon Intellectual Property, a California non-profit corporation managed by the Mark Protection Committee of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

Buffalo NASFIC 2024 is organized by Upstate New York Science Fiction and Fantasy Alliance, 5500 North Bailey Avenue #517, Buffalo, New York 14226

Artists, Dealers & Fan Tables

Art Show

Exhibiting Artists

Alan F. Beck

Rob Carlos

Peri Charlifu

I. Abra Cinii

Sarah Clemens

Charlene Taylor D'Alessio

Robert Daniels

Pam Fernsler

Kathy Gallagher

Gemma Grossman

Lauren Grover

Lisa Hertel

Heidi Hooper

Kathleen Jennings

Juanita Jones

Ingrid Kallick

Anna Kashina

Diane Kovalcin

Hillary Kurtz

Dina Leacock

Theresa Mather

David Mattingly

Christine Myshka

Thomas Nackid

Jack Parra

April Robinson

Winter Silverman

Luke Stelmaszek

Karen Tellesfen

Shannon M. Valentine



Rainbow Elves © Rob Carlos

Dealers & Fan Tables

Dealers

Books

Collectible & Used Books

- Old Earth Books** (Mike Walsh), collectible & recent books
- Darrell Schweitzer**, new & used books, some ancient coins

New Books

- Russ Colchamiro Publishing** (Russ Colchamiro), SF/F & mysteries
- Keith R.A. DeCandido & Wrenn Simms**, books by Keith R.A. DeCandido & crafts by Wrenn Simms
- JJ Eckhardt** (JJ Eckhardt), new books
- eSpec Books / The Hornie Lady** (Danielle Ackley-McPhail), new books & costume supplies
- Falstaff Books** (John G. Hartness) SF/F, horror, thrillers & romance books
- Fantastic Books** (Ian Randal Strock), new & used SF/F
- The Novel Guys** (Brian Koscienski), new & original books
- HWA NYC Chapter**, membership & horror books
- Jersey Pines Ink** (Dina Leacock), SF/F and jewelry
- Chazz Mair** (Chazz Mair) indie comics
- Larry Smith Bookseller** (Sally Koober), SF/mystery/art books
- Laura Parnum** (Laura Parnum) middle-grade spooky books
- Tellest**, fantasy novels, art, wands, etc.
- Gemma Voss** (Gemma Voss) SF/F romance books, etc.
- David Harten Watson** (David Watson), new books, magic wands, light sabers, other fantasy items
- Winged Hussar Publishing** (Vincent Rospond) SF/F & horror

Jewelry, Clothing & Other Adornment

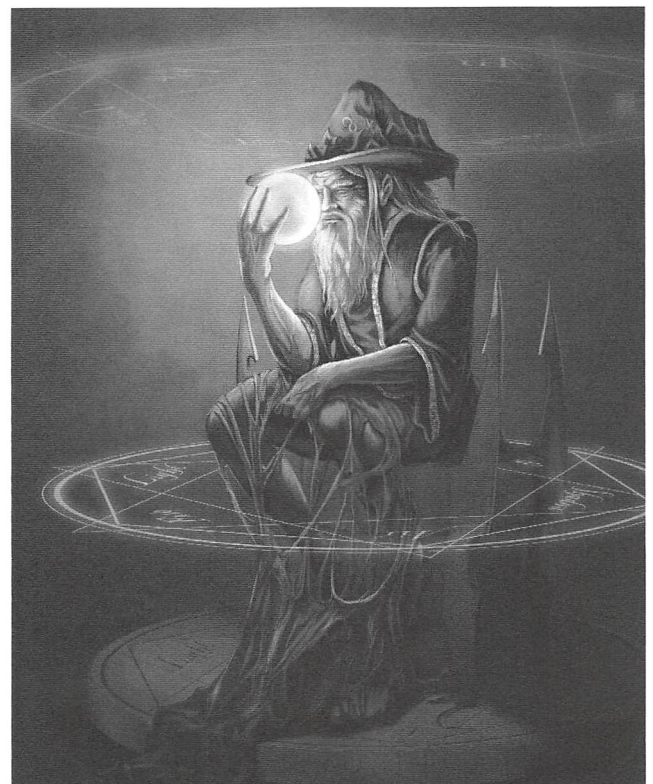
- Crowning Beauty** (Susan Cohen) replica & cosplay tiaras
- Geeks Bearing Gifts Design** (Thomas A Nackid) wearable art & jewelry
- Mollipop Art**, anime- & video game-inspired accessories, hats, bags, etc.
- Mystic Waboose** (Paula & Brad Handley), T-shirts (Including Philcon's T-shirt) & embroidered bags
- Peacock's Nest**, jewelry, quilling, embroidery, etc.
- Sweet Sparklies** (Carol B. Meyerson) jewelry, ornaments & accessories

Various & Sundry

- Cloudless** (Sara Sciacchitano) miniature shadowboxes, art, gaming supplies, etc.
- Highland Cottage Candles** (Martha Brown) candles
- Lingyue Li** (Lingyue Li) Japanese-style artwork
- Katie Molini**, anime merchandise like keychains, stickers, pins & necklaces
- Oncehuman** (Caitlin Johnston), dragon eggs, cryptid photos & items related to mythical creatures
- Walt's Cards** (Dan Barnett), games

Fan Tables

- Balticon**
- Buffalo NASFIC**
- Capclave**
- LA in 2026**
- HELIOsphere**
- National Space Society/
Philadelphia Area Space Alliance**
- Pennsylvania Browncoats**
- Shore Leave**
- Trek Long Island**
- Zenkaikon**



Thinker Wizard © Rob Carlos

 READERCON

READERCON 33

Guests of Honor

Amal El-Mohtar

Rebecca Roanhorse

July 11 - 14, 2024

Boston Quincy Marriott

Quincy, MA

<https://readercon.org/>

info@readercon.org

Registration is open.

Weekend adult tickets \$60 until March 1, 2024

Program Participants

Profiles are current at presstime. For up-to-date profiles, please visit www.philcon.org. For program participants' appearance times and locations, please consult the online program guide at <https://schedule.philcon.org>. Check each issue of *The Philcon Rocket* for updates and additions to the Philcon 2023 program.

Danielle Ackley-McPhail

Award-winning author, editor, and publisher Danielle Ackley-McPhail has worked both sides of the publishing industry for longer than she cares to admit. In 2014 she, Mike McPhail and Greg Schauer formed eSpec Books (www.especbooks.com). Her published works include eight novels, *Yesterday's Dreams*, *Tomorrow's Memories*, *Today's Promise*, *The Halfling's Court*, *The Redcaps' Queen*, *Daire's Devils*, *The Play of Light*, and *Baba Ali and the Clockwork Djinn*, written with Day Al-Mohamed. She is also the author of the solo collections *Eternal Wanderings*, *A Legacy of Stars*, *Consigned to the Sea*, *Flash in the Can*, *Transcendence*, *Between Darkness and Light*, and the non-fiction writers' guides *The Literary Handyman*, *More Tips from the Handyman*, and *LH: Build-A-Book Workshop*. She is the senior editor of the Bad-Ass Faeries anthology series, *Gaslight & Grimm*, *Side of Good/Side of Evil*, *After Punk*, and *Footprints in the Stars*. Her short stories are included in numerous other anthologies and collections. She is a member of SFWA. In addition to her literary acclaim, she crafts and sells original costume horns under the moniker The Hornie Lady Custom Costume Horns, and homemade flavor-infused candied ginger under the brand of Ginger KICK! at literary conventions, on commission, and wholesale. Danielle lives in New Jersey with husband and fellow writer, Mike McPhail and four extremely spoiled cats.

Talavou Alailima

Gaming Suite Staff, and GM for *One Night Ultimate Werewolf*.

Ken Altabef

Ken Altabef's short fiction has appeared in fantasy magazines such as *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, *Interzone*, *Daily Science Fiction*, *Intergalactic Medicine Show*, *Dark Matter*, *Abyss & Apex*, and *Speculative North*. His stories have received honorable mention in *Years Best SF* and *Best Horror of the Year*. He is the author of twelve fantasy novels, best known for the *Alaana's Way* series which takes place in a unique fantasy world based on Inuit mythology. His critically acclaimed *Lady Changeling Trilogy* features shapeshifting faeries, action, intrigue, and romance. He was an editor on the mixed-genre anthologies *Drastic Measures* and *Wash the Spider Out* from Blueberry Lane Books. He currently helms Cat's Cradle Press. Visit his website at www.KenAltabef.com

Walter Amos

Walter first developed an interest in Japanese animation with the premiere of *Star Blazers* in 1979 on WTAF TV 29 in Philadelphia, after



Ivy in a Tree © Rob Carlos

already succumbing to science fiction in general. He attempted to catch a movie version of this series at Philcon 1984, but missed it and instead was introduced to the amazing work of Hayao Miyazaki in *Lupin III Castle of Cagliostro*.

Walter's education is in physics and after graduate school he worked on trajectory server software for the Space Shuttle Mission Control Center in Houston, TX. He is currently back in the Northeast working with orbital GPS satellite software.

Walter's interest in anime and history have dovetailed in his recent anime DVD credit, co-authoring the "Hidden History" feature along with Philcon co-panelist Robert Fenelon, on the extremely popular *Axis Powers Hetalia* DVD from Funimation.

Kelley Armstrong

Philcon 2023's Special Guest. See pp. 29-30.

John Ashmead

John Ashmead has a BA in physics from Harvard, summa cum laude, and a masters in physics from Princeton. For several years he was an assistant editor for *Asimov's SF Magazine*. He is a frequent speaker at Philcon, Balticon, Capclave (& Worldcon & NASA) on Time Travel, Invisibility, Star Gates, Parallel Universes, and related topics. Recently he co-edited (with Darrell Schweitzer) *Tales from the Miskatonic University Library*: What Evils Lurk in the Dark Reaches of the Dewey Decimal System? He is also finishing up a Ph.D. dissertation in physics, *Time Dispersion in Quantum Mechanics*. This was published as part of the International Association for Relativistic Dynamics 2018 Conference Proceedings (<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1742-6596/1239/1/012015>). His own web site is www.timeandquantummechanics.com. His lifetime goal is to build a really practical time machine.

Eric Avedissian

Eric Avedissian is an adjunct professor and speculative fiction author. His published works include the novels *Accursed Son* and *Midnight at Bat*

Hollow, and the role-playing game *Ravaged Earth*. His latest novel, *Mr. Penny-Farthing*, will be published in December by Shadow Spark Publishing. He has an MA in Writing from Rowan University and is a member of SFWA. He lives in New Jersey with his wife and a ridiculous number of books. When not chained to his writing desk, he hikes the Pinelands and wastes too much time on social media. Visit him online at www.ericavedissian.com and on Twitter: @angryreporter.

David M. Axler

Dave Axler is a long-time convention fan who's been a Philcon regular since the early seventies, when he came to his first Philcon to interview GoH John Brunner for local radio station WXPN. In the years since then, he has written an M.A. thesis entitled "Fandom Is A Way of Life": *A Folkloristic Ethnography of Science Fiction Fandom*; designed the weather system for TSR's *Greyhawk* campaign; arranged for Frank Herbert to be a speaker at Philadelphia's first Earth Day celebration; ushered at six Hugo Awards Ceremonies; served as DJ for three consecutive Disclave "Senior Prom" dances; was awarded the coveted "Stud Muffin" ribbon by the 1996 Los Angeles Worldcon Committee; and is known as "Lord DaveAx" in the Brotherhood Without Banners. In so-called real life, he is a retired bit-herder; a collector of books, music, and art; a member of the Zipper Club; and an avid oenophile. During years without pandemics, he also hosts the infamous annual "Alphabetical Hallowe'en Party."

Marcus Barnard

Social Media Staffer and Performance Cast for Steam-Funk Studios. A ten-year veteran of the convention scene, especially in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Mr. Barnard is a storied member of Circuit Six, as techcrew to live events. Groomed for extreme competence under duress, he was recruited for Steam-Funk back in 2019, officially joining in 2020. A security professional and game streamer on Twitch, his wit and humor in fan spaces have delighted virtual and physical audiences for years. A vital member of The Unconventional's social media team, Marcus is vigilant, monitoring Steam-Funk's various fan pages while delivering mirth and good humor. A recurring model for the firm's Living Multiverse-branded fiction, he's aggressively honing his talents in presentation and storytelling.

Martin Joseph Berman-Gorvine

I grew up just outside Philadelphia, attending the University of Chicago, living in Israel, and fathering three sons. I live with my wife, two of my three now-grown sons and two dogs and

five cats, all rescues, in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. Occasionally I flee to the wilds of Chincoteague, VA, there to rusticate in a tent among the wild ponies and the mosquitos.

I've had six science fiction novels published: the Sidewise Award-winning *The Severed Wing* (as Martin Gidron) (2002) and *36* (2012) from Livingston Press; *Seven Against Mars* (2013); *Save the Dragons!* (2013), which was a finalist for the Prometheus Award; *Heroes of Earth* (2015); and *Monsters of Venus* (2017) from Wildside Press. I'm also the author of the four-book Days of Ascension horror novel series: *All Souls Day* (2016), *Day of Vengeance* (2017), *Day of Atonement* (2018), and *Judgment Day* (2020), all published by Silver Leaf Books. Several more self-published science fiction and horror novels, a paranormal romance, and surrealistic cartoon books round out my oeuvre.

Matt Black

Matt Black is a fan, just like you, except that he is a glutton for punishment. His love of Star Trek led to managing regional fan clubs and planning national fandom events. His love of Star Wars led to film school and running conventions with Galactic Entertainment. Matt's most stubborn love, that for the space western *Firefly/Serenity*, has immersed him in the Browncoat (Firefly fan) community. As a member of the Pennsylvania Browncoats (www.pabrowncoats.com), he has organized several "shindigs" including a Bedlam Bards concert, multiple Serenity charity screenings for Equality Now and Browncoat Balls in Philadelphia (2007), Gettysburg (2017) and Las Vegas, NV (2019). When it comes to organizing fandom events, Matt Black is a repeat offender. We repeat, he will offend again.



Storm Chaser © Rob Carlos

Stephanie Burke

Have You Been Flashed? Stephanie is a *USA Today* best-selling, multi-published, multi-award-winning author, Master Costumer, handicapped, wife, and mother of two. From sex-shifting shape-shifting dragons to undersea worlds, up to sexually confused elemental fey and homoerotic mysteries, all the way to pastel urban sprites, Stephanie has done it all and hopes to do more. Stephanie is known for her love of the outrageous, strong female characters, believable worlds, male characters filled with depth, and multi-cultural stories that make the reader sit up and take notice. You can reach Stephanie @ Stephanie.Flashycat.Burke@gmail.com <https://www.facebook.com/stephanie.burke.1048> <https://authorstephanieburke.online/> <https://twitter.com/Flashycat> <https://www.instagram.com/stephanie.flashycat.burke/>

Tobias F. Cabral

Dr. Cabral is a clinical psychologist, life-long SF Fan, & indie SF author, with a private practice near Philadelphia, working mainly with adolescents/young adults.

Dr. Cabral's passions for SF & psychology have cross-fertilized fruitfully: he's developed a sub-specialty working with SF Fans (who are non-trivially helped by not having constantly to translate their thoughts & feelings into "Mundane-ese" with their therapist). His dissertation (*Nested Systems: Evolving Models of Embodied Psychotherapy*) dealt with Chaos/Complexity/Dynamic Systems theory, a metatheory of psychological functioning & multi-level (fractal) clinical interventions.

Tobias is an avid fan of comparative mythology, & an inveterate aerospace junkie (who'll -someday- complete his Private Pilot license). He's particularly obsessed with private/commercial spaceflight, & the exploration/colonization of Mars. (He is, thus, an *unapologetic* SpaceX [not Elon Musk] fanboy).

P.D. Cacek

Winner of both a Bram Stoker and World Fantasy Award, P.D. Cacek has written over 200 short stories, 7 plays and 6 published novels, including *Second Lives*, *Second Chances* and, from Flame Tree Press, *Sebastian*. Cacek holds a Bachelor's Degree in English/Creative Writing from the University of California, Long Beach and has been a guest lecturer at the Odyssey Writing Camp.

James L. Cambias

James L. Cambias is a writer and game designer. Born in New Orleans, he attended college in Chicago, and now lives in western Massachusetts. His novel *The Scarab Mission* from Baen Books came out in January 2023. Other novels include *A Darkling Sea*, *Cor-*

sair, *Arkad's World*, *The Initiate*, and *The Godel Operation*. His short stories have appeared in *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Shimmer*, *Nature*, and in the anthology *Lost Worlds and Mythological Kingdoms*. He wrote game supplements for Steve Jackson Games, HERO Games, and other publishers, and is a partner in Zygote Games. He serves on the XPrize Foundation's Science Fiction Advisory Board, and teaches science fiction writing for the Smith College Summer Program. See his blog at www.jamescambias.com.

Andy Campbell

I've been a science fiction and fantasy fan since growing up in the 70s, where I started early with *Weird War Tales* comics and old Flash Gordon serials from the 1930s that ran on Sunday mornings on local TV. Tabletop board and roleplaying games followed not long after, and I've been an avid gamer for over 40 years. My interests these days run mostly to the swords & sorcery genre and classic fantasy, space opera and military science fiction. Besides science fiction and fantasy, I have a long standing love of the horror genre – primarily cosmic horror, folk horror, and survival horror – with particular affection for classic horror comics (Eerie, Creepy) and the horror film genre from the 1940s-1960s classics through smart takes on the genre today. As both a reader and a gamer, I have a strong interest in the intersection of speculative fiction and game design – worldbuilding, narrative techniques, character, setting, and so on. Outside of these interests I work for a large tech company and am a military veteran, and bring those and other life experiences to the way I view science fiction literature, film, TV, and comics.

Rob Carlos

Philcon 2023's Artist GOH. See pp. 26-28.

Vikki Ciffone

Vikki Ciffone has been reading and writing since a freakishly young age. She is a freelance editor and writer, and has worked for Spencer Hill Press. She knows a little bit about an astonishing number of largely irrelevant things. In her spare time, she plays craps with the Fates and the Norns for shiny but useless trinkets.

Neil Clarke

Neil Clarke is the editor of *Clarkesworld Magazine*, *Forever Magazine*, and several anthologies, including the Best Science Fiction of the Year series. He is a eleven-time finalist and two-time winner of the Hugo Award for Best Editor (Short Form), has won the Chesley Award for Best Art Director three times, and received the Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award from SFWA in 2019. He currently lives in NJ with his wife and two sons.

Gil Cnaan

Gil is a middle eastern immigrant, heart transplant recipient, former puppeteer, event promoter, and data scientist. During the work week, he works with AI and Machine Learning, and in the evenings and on the weekends, he promotes

various events throughout the greater Philadelphia area. Additionally, he is the proud father of twins, and is always working on a new project.

LJ Cohen

LJ Cohen is a novelist, poet, fiber artist, potter, and relentless optimist. After 25 years as a physical therapist, LJ uses her knowledge and clinical skills to injure characters in her science fiction and fantasy novels. Her most recent book, *A Star in the Void*, (book 5 of the Halcyone Space series) is her eighth novel. *Derelict*, the first book in the series, was named a Library Journal SELF-e select title and book of the year in 2014.

LJ is active in SFWA and Broad Universe and lives on a homestead farm in central Massachusetts with her spouse and their two dogs. She is currently the STAR artist in residence at the Eagle Hill School in Hardwick, MA. <http://ljcohen.net>

Russ Colchamiro

Russ Colchamiro is author of the Sci-Fi mysteries *Crackle and Fire*, *Fractured Lives*, *Hot Ash*, and *Blunt Force Rising*, the ongoing series featuring hardboiled private eye Angela Hardwicke. Russ is also the author of the rollicking time travel/space adventure, *Crossline*, the SF/F backpacking comedy series *Finders Keepers: The Definitive Edition*, *Genius de Milo*, and *Astropalooza*. He is the editor of the Sci-Fi mystery anthology *Love, Murder & Mayhem*, and co-author and -editor of the noir anthology *Murder in Montague Falls*; and has contributed to several other anthologies. Russ is a member of The Mystery Writers Association, The Private Eye Writers of America, and the author collective Crazy 8 Press. He also hosts and produces his *Russ's Rockin' Rollercoaster* podcast, where he interviews best-selling and up-and-coming authors. He lives in New Jersey with his wife, two ninjas, black lab, Jinx, and precocious kitten, Callie.

Social Media: web site: russcolchamiro.com; Instagram, Twitter/X, Threads: @AuthorDudeRuss Blue Sky: @AuthorDudeRuss.bsky.social; YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@authorduderruss/featured>; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/russ.colchamiro>.

Byron Connell

Byron Connell, a long-time SF and costuming fan, recently retired from helping run masquerades. Since being part of the Torcon III best-in-show entry, when he does enter, he enters in the Master division. Byron has run masquerades at Costume-Cons, Albacon, Lunacons, several Philcons, and two Worldcons, Anticipation and Chicon 7. He is a member of the SLUTS (St. Louis Ubiquitous Tailoring Society), the Sick Pups (New Jersey-New York Costumers' Guild), and the Armed Costumers' Guild, making him an Armed SLUT Puppy! Byron is a past



Snow Day © Rob Carlos

president of the International Costumers' Guild, which honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award. He likes hard SF, alternate history, alternate worlds, and fantasy (not necessarily in that order). He was Archon 25's Masquerade Guest of Honor, Albacon 2005's co-Fan GoH, Lunacon 2006's Fan GoH, and Derpycon 2017's co-guest of honor. He chaired Albacon 2016.

Ef Deal

Ef Deal is a musician, poet, editor, video editor, and author of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. She began writing at the age of nine, teaching herself to type on an Underwood Royal typewriter. Her short fiction has been published in numerous online zines and print anthologies including *F&SF*, and most recently in *A Cast of Crows* (eSpec Books), *Dangerous Waters* (Brigid's Gate), Chris Ryan's *Soul Scream Anthology*, and two anthologies from Speculation Publications. She is currently public relations coordinator for eSpec Books, assistant fiction editor at *Abyss & Apex* magazine, and video editor for *Strong Women - Strange Worlds*. Her novel *Esprit de Corpse* from eSpec Books is the first in a steam-punk paranormal romance series set in France, featuring the gifted Twins of Bellefées. When she's not writing, Ef marches old-school alumni drum and bugle corps on soprano bugle; she also composes, arranges and directs music. She lives in Haddonfield, NJ, with her husband and two chows. She is an associate member of SFWA and an affiliate member of HWA. Her website is www.efdeal.net. Follow her blog Talespinner at efdeal.blogspot.com.

Keith R.A. DeCandido

Keith R.A. DeCandido is the author of 60 novels, more than 100 short stories, 50 comic books, and more nonfiction than he's willing to count. Some have been in various licensed universes, from Alien to Zorro. Others have included fantastical police procedurals in the fictional cities of Cliff's End and Super City and urban fantasies in the somewhat real locales of New York and Key West. His pop culture com-

mentary has appeared in multiple places, most often on the award-winning web site Tor.com. He's also a black belt, an editor of many years' standing, a musician, and possibly some other stuff he can't remember due to the lack of sleep. Find out less at his horrible web site DeCandido.net.

Regina DeSimone

Regina DeSimone is a member of The Denebian Slime Devils.

Barna William Donovan

Barna William Donovan, professor of communication and media studies, is a graduate of the film school of the University of Miami and earned his Ph.D. from Rutgers University.

He is the author of the science

fiction thrillers *Confirmation: Investigations of the Unexplained* (World Castle Publishing), and *The Cedar Valley Covenant* (World Castle Publishing), and the mystery *Fatal Pose* (World Castle Publishing, 2021). His nonfiction books on film and fandom include *The Asian Influence on Hollywood Action Films*, (McFarland), *Blood, Guns and Testosterone: Action Films, Audiences, and a Thirst for Violence*, (Scarecrow Press) and *Conspiracy Films: A Tour of Dark Places in the American Conscious* (McFarland). His commentaries on film, television, and popular culture have been quoted in media like the BBC, Variety, LiveScience, Forbes, Yahoo News, HLNTV, and various publications from Europe to Latin America.

Tom Doyle

Tom Doyle's latest work for Graphic Audio is the Agent of Exiles trilogy of supernatural spy adventures in the 6th century BCE. His recent SF novel, *Border Crosser*, follows the far-future journeys of Eris, a psychologically extreme secret agent whose shifting loyalties cause chaos wherever she goes. Tom is also the author of the American Craftsmen trilogy from Tor Books, in which two modern magician-soldiers fight their way through the legacies of Poe and Hawthorne as they attempt to destroy an undying evil. Tom has survived Harvard, Stanford, and cancer, and he writes in a spooky turret in Washington, DC. For more information and links to his award-winning short fiction, please visit: www.tomdoyleauthor.com.

Ty Drago

Ty Drago is the author of eight (soon to be nine) published novels. These include *Torg*, *The Undertakers*, and the upcoming *Dragons* from eSpec Books. Ty is also the founder, publisher, and managing editor of *Allegory* (allegoryezine.com), which has been publishing quality science fiction, fantasy, and horror from new and established authors worldwide since 1998. He lives right here in Cherry Hill with his wife Helene and a dog and a cat. He and Helene founded *Legacy Podcasts*



Expecto Patronum © Rob Carlos

(twooldfolksdoingstuff.com) in 2018. Their shows include *Legacy: The Novel Writing Experience* and *Legacy: The Immigrant Experience in America*. Their new show, an author's reading of *Torg*, was recently debuted wherever podcasts are available.

Oz Drummond

Oz writes science fiction and fantasy stories and has appeared in *Analog*. She's currently working on a fantasy novel involving magic and court intrigue.

Bobby Edo

Philcon gamer for over ten years bringing SciFi miniature table top games to attendees of the convention. I run games at various conventions throughout the year such as HGMS Fall-In, Cold Wars & Historicon, PAX unplugged, not to mention Philcon. Year after year I host games such as Star Wars, Star Trek, Doctor Who, War Hammer, Aliens vs Predator, Battletar Galactica, Vampire The Eternal Struggle and many others. Having a good time playing miniature games is my goal for all that attend.

Ed the Engineer

Ed Bishop is a full-time computer systems and software engineer and part-time researcher in theoretical and experimental particle physics, participating in the CMS Experiment of the Large Hadron Collider project and a data science-based approach to uncovering evidence of Supersymmetry from experimental data. During LHC down time, he has worked in the data science area using supercomputers to analyze data on Covid-19, including infectious spread and genomic profiles, looking for new treatments using bioinformatics techniques and "in silico" simulations. He is also co-editor of hometheaterinfo.com and has written or edited over 4,000 film, television and streaming media reviews which have been syndicated on sites including rottentomatoes.com and metacritic.com.

Amy Fass

Amy Fass has been filking since before she knew what filk was. Having read science fiction since her age was in the single digits, she went to her first sf

convention in 1976, got involved in filk starting around the mid-90s, and has been on filk programming for the last several years. She plays non-filk music, too, and performs in the Medieval Festival at Fort Tryon Park in Upper Manhattan, singing and playing recorder and crumhorn. Amy enjoys nonsense (well, the literary kind) and can recite Lewis Carroll's *The Hunting of the Snark*, with different voices for all of the speaking characters. She is one hell of a good science/medical (and occasionally science fiction) editor, whose home office has a view of the George Washington Bridge.

Aaron J. Feldman

Aaron Feldman is an engineer and fan from New Jersey. As seekingferret, he writes fanfic and makes fanvids.

Robert Fenelon

Robert Fenelon walked into a Gamilon Embassy room party at Philcon 1981, run by fanzine publishers who were showing anime on the TV! In Japanese! Fenelon's mind was blown! They sent him his first VHS tapes of anime. Lacking a VCR, he watched his growing tape collection at room parties at cons, where he met members of the New York Cartoon/Fantasy Organization. Through membership in The StarBlazers Fan Club he came to run Lunacon's video program for fifteen years. He cosplayed as StarBlazers honorable frenemy Leader Desslock of Gamilon. Fenelon arranged to have a Yamato movie sent from Japan, which he screened at the 1983 Worldcon, co-narrating it to a packed audience. Fenelon founded a chapter of the C/FO at his college and co-founded a corporation to import anime merch and to publish *Anime-Zine*, the first English-language anime magazine to have professional, continent-wide distribution. He has worked as a securities transfer agent, history teacher, and consultant to anime-importing companies and video distributors. In these later years, Fenelon creates panels for conventions which teach about Japanese culture, myth and history through the lens of anime on topics ranging from "The Revolving Door of Cultural Diffusion" and "Cloak and Katana, Spy-craft in Anime" to "Hetalia History" and "Anime Blinded Me with Science". Come see their panels in the anime track!

Tony Finan

Over the years, Tony has worn many hats with conventions, including chairing multiple Philcons, and running the film, video, and anime programs for well over a decade and a half. These days he spends most of his non-work hours either gaming, or behind his cameras, as a staff photographer for Fort Mifflin, and documenting other historical reenactments.

Katrina S. Forest

Whether it's fanfics or original novels, Katrina's passion is writing about characters who see the world a little differently than most. She's a member of SFWA, a Clarion West alumna, and the author of AO3's top Pokémon Scarlet & Violet fanfic, *Penny Saves Paldea*. You can follow her fiction-y shenanigans on YouTube.com/@KatrinaSForest

Gary Frank

Gary is the author of *Forever Will You Suffer*, a supernatural, time-shifting tale of unrequited love gone horribly wrong, *Institutional Memory*, a story of cosmic terrors in the corporate workplace, and *The Thing in the Woods*, a cryptid tale of the hazards of camping in the woods. He's co-editor of *Dark Territories*, the anthology from the Garden State Horror Writers. He's also written a number of short stories, including "Stay Here", which was published in the 2005 Garden State Horror Writers anthology, *Dark Notes From New Jersey*. He is also an associate editor of *Space & Time Magazine*. A member of the Horror Writers Association, Gary has also been a member of the Garden State Horror Writers, where he spent two years as president. He's also a member of the International Thriller Writers and the Liberty States Fiction Writers. When not spilling his imagination on the page or working a day job, he's playing guitar. He's currently at work on his next novel, but that's another story.

Gregory Frost

Gregory Frost is an American writer of fantasy, horror, and science fiction. His latest novel, *Rhymer*, set in 12th century Scotland, is the first in a three-book series from Baen Books. The second book, *Rhymer: Hoode*, is due out next summer. His collaborative hard-SF short story with late author Bill Johnson, "Boomerang," (their 2nd together) graced the May/June issue of *Asimov's Magazine*. Frost has won an Asimov Readers Award (in collaboration with Michael Swanwick) and been a finalist for Best Novel and/or Best Short Story for the World Fantasy, Stoker, Nebula, Hugo, James Tiptree, International Horror Guild and Theodore Sturgeon Awards. His two-part novel, *Shadowbridge*, was an ALA short-list pick for best fantasy work. He taught the Fiction Writing Workshop at Swarthmore College for eighteen years, has taught at Clarion four times, and is a founding member, with Jonathan Maberry, of the Philadelphia Liars Club. In conjunction with Book View Café he has e-published the short story collection, *The Girlfriends of Dorian Gray & Other Stories*, and the Celtic fantasy novel, *Tain*. He spends his days desperately working on *Rhymer* #3 with a cat at his side. (She's helping. No, really.)

Teel James Glenn

Teel James Glenn has killed hundreds and been killed more times – on stage and screen as he has traveled the world for 40 plus years as a stuntman, swordmaster, storyteller, bodyguard, actor and haunted house barker. His poetry and short stories have been printed in over 200 magazines including *Weird Tales*, *Mystery Weekly*, *Pulp Adventures*, *Space & Time*, *Mad*, *Cirsova*, *Silverblade*, and *Sherlock Holmes Mystery*. His novel *A Cowboy in Carpathia: A Bob Howard Adventure* won best novel 2021 in the Pulp Factory Award. He is also the winner of the 2012 Pulp Ark Award for Best Author and a Derringer short story finalist for 2022. His website



HELIOsphere

SCI-FI & FANTASY WITH AN EDGE

May 3 - 5, 2024
@Holiday Inn in Piscataway, NJ

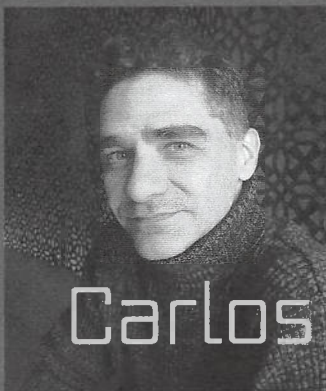
with Honored Guests



Neil Clarke



C. S. E. Cooney



Carlos Hernandez

HELIOsphereNY.org

ALBACON 2024

Giving good con since 1996!

FULLY HYBRID

All panels will be fully interactive in-person, and streamed remotely.



Writer Guests of Honor

Elizabeth Bear & Scott Lynch

Fan Guest of Honor

Gerri Sullivan

Remote Guest of Honor

Cory Doctorow

WHEN IS IT!?!

September 13-15, 2024

WHAT ELSE?!?!*

Program Panels - The future is here! We don't have flying cars or ray guns, but we do have fully hybrid panels - with the ability to participate in person or from anywhere!

Hall Costumes - Join other costumers in showing off your fabulous costumes!

Parties - with a party board to help you find where all the evening fun is!

WHERE IS IT!!!

Courtyard by Marriott
Albany Clifton Park
627 Plank Rd
Clifton Park, NY 12065

Membership Rates:

In Person:	\$30
Virtual Membership:	\$15

Find out more at: <http://albacon.org> or info@albacon.org

* - All programming, performances, events, etc. subject to change

is: TheUrbanSwashbuckler.com Facebook:
TeelJamesGlenn Twitter: @teelJamesGlenn.

Amy Grech

Amy Grech has sold over 100 stories to various anthologies and magazines including: *A New York State of Fright*, *Apex Magazine*, *Even in the Grave*, *Gorefest*, *Hell's Heart*, *Hell's Highway*, *Hell's Mall*, *Microverses*, *Punk Noir Magazine*, *Roi Fainéant Press*, *Tales from the Canyons of the Damned*, *Yellow Mama*, and many others. Alien Buddha Press published her poetry chapbook, *A Shadow of Your Former Self*. She is an Active Member of the Horror Writers Association and the International Thriller Writers who lives in Forest Hills, Queens. You can connect with her on X: https://twitter.com/amy_grech or visit her website: <https://www.crimsonscreams.com>.

"Raven" Barry Green

"Raven" is the pseudonym of a Philly-based social worker and organizer who for the last two years has been living a double life as swashbuckling space adventurer Solomon Berg. Raven is the author of "This Car Hates My Guts," a story that was sold to XPN's *LIVE at the Writer's House*, and three unpublished dystopian novels. Raven has a background in street organizing, labor organizing, and clinical social work. Raven has been featured on *LIVE at the Writer's House* as well as the podcast *Knowledge Fight*, episodes #698, 722 and 853.

Marc Grossman

Marc has been in fandom since the 70s and part of Filk since almost immediately after coming to his first Con. While he waited to the early 80s to write his first filk, he's got a few credits here and there. With his wife, Marc is active in supporting the arts, especially the Art Shows of what conventions he attends. Marc and his wife are also avid members of the SCA and players of the Traveller RPG. In the mundane world, Marc is a computer geek like sooooo many of you, and those into filk noted he long ago moved his songbook to an iPad. So say "hi", sit in the filk room and sing along!

Sally Wiener Grotta

Sally Wiener Grotta is an award-winning writer, photographer and speaker whose books include *The Winter Boy* (a Locus Magazine Recommended Read) and *Jo Joe* (a Jewish Book Council Network Book). Her articles, essays and stories have appeared in scores of publications. Her two most recent books are *Of Being Woman*, a collection of feminist SF (NobleFusion Press) and upcoming *Daughters of Eve* (December 2023), an essay discussion workbook that mines the tales of biblical matriarchs to explore modern lives (Bayit Publishing). As a journalist, Sally has traveled on assignment to all the continents and remote islands, covering a wide diversity of cultures and traditions. Sally's experiences flavor her stories and presentations with a sense of wonder, appreciation for human potential and a healthy dose of common sense. Her grant-supported *American Hands* narrative photographic project



Armageddon Dragon © Rob Carlos

featuring traditional tradespeople (blacksmiths, weavers, spinners, glassblowers, bookbinders, etc.) has been seen in person by over 300,000 people. Sally is co-curator of Galactic Philadelphia Salon reading series, and a member of The Authors Guild and SFWA. (SallyWienerGrotta.com, Facebook: Sally Wiener Grotta, Twitter: @SallyWGrotta, YouTube: @SallyWienerGrotta)

Savan Gupta

Professional emcee, author, game developer, former Wizards of the Coast employee. Entering the realm of fandom from a prior background in financial operations and business management, Mr. Gupta has mentored generations of gamers and contributors into the roleplaying and speculative fiction genres. President & CEO of Steam-Funk Studios and founder of the Living Multiverse brand with its related performance troupes, fiction and media, he moonlights as an operations and marketing consultant to conventions, gaming companies and other geeky endeavors. A veteran emcee and keynote speaker at many events across the country, Savan juggles many projects, from Standup Comedy, LARP Production and some RPG Productions and more. As editor-in-chief of the online magazine, *The Unconventional*, he champions the acceptance of new media and genuine representation in speculative fiction and gaming, as opposed to corporate tokenism.

Carol Gyzander

Bram Stoker Award® finalist Carol Gyzander writes & edits horror & sci-fi stories that she likes to call twisted tales that touch your heart. She has short stories in numerous anthologies and magazines, including *Weird Tales* 367, cosmic horror issue, and *Weird House Magazine* #1, and has a special fondness for all things tentacular.

Her cryptid novella, *Forget Me Not* (April 2022) is set near Niagara Falls in 1969 and 1939. She's edited six science fiction and horror anthologies. *Even in the Grave* (July 2022), is a volume of ghost stories co-edited with James Chambers. Carol's latest horror anthology is *A Woman Unbecoming* (August 2022), co-edited with Rachel A. Brune from Crone Girls Press in response to the reversal of Roe v. Wade, to benefit reproductive healthcare. Carol is Co-Chair of the HWA NY Chapter and hosts Galactic Terrors, their monthly online reading series, every second Thursday. She's a member of HNS, MWA, SFWA. Website: CarolGyzander.com Twitter and Instagram @CarolGyzander @carolgzyander.bsky.social

Elektra Hammond

Elektra Hammond emulates her multi-sided idol Buckaroo Banzai by going in several directions at once. She's been involved in publishing since the 1990s. Now she writes, concocts anthologies & edits science fiction for various and sundry. When not freelancing or appearing at science fiction conventions, she travels the world judging cat shows. Elektra is a graduate of the Odyssey Writing Workshop and a member of SFWA. She lives in Delaware with her husband, Mike, and more than the usual allotment of felines. You can find her on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/elektra.hammond/>), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/elektraUM>), Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/elektraum/>), and building her website at <http://www.untilmidnight.com>.

Russell J. Handelman

Russell Handelman has written both fiction and nonfiction. He lives atop a rocky ledge in Connecticut.

Ian Hanley

Ian Hanley, known as "Taliesin" in the Society for Creative Anachronism, has been a professional storyteller for longer than he's willing to admit in public. His specialty is improvisational storytelling, with his tales ranging from side-splittingly funny to thoughtfully dark and scary. He has charmed audiences with his wit and humor at SCA events, including the Pennsic War, and at science fiction conventions, schools, the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts, and storytelling events such as The Butterfly in Collingswood, NJ, and Tellabration in Philadelphia.

Eric Hardenbrook

Eric is a fan, an author and an artist, usually in that order. Eric lives in central Pennsylvania with his gorgeous wife and daughter. He writes to try to get the stories out of his head. When he's being a fan he helps run Watch The Skies and assists in the publication of their monthly fanzine (now more than 20 years old!). He can be found



Earth Dragon © Rob Carlos

(at least some of the time) at The Pretend Blog. When not working on those things, Eric enjoys playing board games and is an old school role player, broadcasting on Twitch and YouTube.

Bjorn Hasseler

Bjorn Hasseler found Eric Flint's novel *1632* in a public library. Then he discovered that fans were not just allowed but encouraged to write in the 1632 universe. He writes the Neustatter's European Security Service thread (*A Matter of Security, Missions of Security, Security Threats, Security Solutions*) and co-edited *1637: The Coast of Chaos* and *A 1632 Christmas*. A few years ago, he volunteered to help out and became assistant editor of the *Grantville Gazette*. He is now editor of the new magazine *Eric Flint's 1632 & Beyond*. His first non-1632 book is scheduled for 2024. Bjorn lives near Laurel, MD and has worked as a military reenactor, a library page, a sports information director, a data manager, a registrar, and an academic advisor.

Orenthal V. Hawkins

Orenthal V. Hawkins is a project management professional with experience in a multiple of industries. Professionally, he is a jack of all trades. Nerdily (is too a word) he's pretty much the same. He is a former panelist on the *Temple of Bad* ("movies so bad they are almost a religious experience") and *Chronic Rift* podcasts, and he was a performer in the audio drama *HG World*. He is also fully and completely constructed of nerdity and nostalgia. His interests run the gamut from anime to comics to old time radio to b-movies to RPGs (both tabletop and video games), etc., etc., etc. and given the chance he'll talk your ear off about all of it. This is his chance and he's taking it. You can read his thoughts on

pop/nerd culture as well his grief journey from widowhood to finding love again on multimediamrare.com.

Lisa Hertel

Lisa Hertel is a former pharmacist turned artist. She works and teaches out of her studio in Haverhill MA (aka, "Riverdale"). Although her pottery is popular, she also makes watercolor paintings, alcohol inks, encaustics (painting with hot wax), and wire sculpture. She loves to synthesize materials and do custom work. You can see examples of Lisa's work at <http://www.cogitation.org> or search for The Cogitation Zone on Instagram or Facebook.

Inge Heyer

Born and raised in Berlin, Germany, Inge Heyer accepted a language scholarship to attend Tenri University (Japan). Later she moved to the US to earn an undergraduate degree in Astronomy and Physics, an M.S. in Astronomy, and a Ph.D. in Science Education. Over 20 years as professional astronomer Dr. Heyer worked as senior data analyst at the Space Telescope Science Institute, as deputy press officer for the American Astronomical Society, and as the public information officer at the Joint Astronomy Centre in Hawaii. Dr. Heyer teaches astronomy and physics at Loyola University Maryland. She is co-author of seven books, including the *Investigating Astronomy* textbook which is used in many astronomy classes. And if you have ever wondered how those beautiful Hubble images got into science fiction series like *Babylon-5* and *Star Trek*, here is the troublemaker who instigated this.

Nate Hoffelder

Nate has been helping people fix broken tech since 2010. He turns broken down Wordpress sites into sites which convert visitors into superfans, also builds sites from scratch, and helps authors with their social media and newsletters. Nate is president of the Riverside Writers Club in Fredericksburg VA, and is on the board of the Florida Writers Foundation. When he is not volunteering, he writes bad jokes on FB and creates memes and graphics. In his spare time, Nate maintains three Little Free Libraries.

Heidi Hooper

Heidi Hooper is the Dryer Lint Lady -- believe it or not. After cancer removed much of her arm, she had to find a new medium and after a while, discovered dryer lint. Her work has been featured in *Ripley's Believe it or Not* books and museums around the world, and *Consumer Reports* has called her "The Andy Warhol of Dryer Lint." She has won two Niche Awards for her work. Her and her work has appeared on ABC TV's *To Tell The Truth*, *Access Hollywood*, and numerous local TV broadcasts across the country, as well as being featured in many magazines and blogs. A master costumer, she has competed and judged at the Worldcon level. She was the artist guest of honor at Albacon and Heliosphere. Her web page is www.HeidiHooper.com.

Robert Hranek

Six years of USAF computer programming started my professional career, followed by 33 years as an intelligence analyst, systems engineer, and program analyst. I'm a vocal space exploitation advocate, read hard-SF whenever I have time, give blood six times a year (220 pints & counting!), run & drink (at the same time!) with Hash House Harrier groups, and judge at several Science Fairs every year. At an in-person Philcon, you're likely to see me hanging out in my Space-kilt if I'm not setting up/tearing down the Art Show or on a science-oriented panel. I'm also an avid Wargamer (decades long member of the Eastern PA Gaming Society, www.EPGS.org) and became an official US Army "Mad Scientist" when they published two versions of my entry in their *Mad Scientist Science Fiction Writing Contest 2019*. <https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/angry-engineer> & https://madscriblog.tradoc.army.mil/141-the-otso-incident-with-donovia-in-2030/?doing_wp_cron=1599056351.4567658901214599609375.

Storm Humbert

Storm Humbert is an SFF writer from the Midwest. He grew up in Ohio, got an MFA and taught for a bit at Temple University in Philadelphia, and now lives with his wife, Casey, and cat, Chicken Nugget, in Michigan. In his free time, Storm likes to be with his wife, play games, and work out. He has been writing fiction for over a decade now. His writing has appeared in *Andromeda Spaceways*, *Interzone*, *Apex*, *Galaxy's Edge*, and others. He is also a winner of the Writers of the Future contest, so his work was featured in the 36th edition of the *Writers and Illustrators of the Future* anthology. Storm has been lucky to have had tremendous writing instructors and mentors throughout his life, including Lee K. Abbott (who first drew him to this craft), Samuel R. Delany, Don Lee, David Farland, and Tim Powers, so he tries to teach and facilitate writing whenever and however he can. One day, he would love to return to the classroom, but it seems he must publish some things before he can keep the lights on that way.

Scheherazade Jackson

As Mistress Baroness Scheherazade al-Zahira, a former Co-ruler of the Barony of Bhakail, Scheherazade Jackson also teaches Middle Eastern dance and culture, specifically Damascus in the Middle Ages. I have written and published several interviews, prose and been filmed dancing several times. I have now also taught two online dance classes on YouTube. Co-Owner of Scherrie's World Cafe and a member of the Board for Cooking without Kidneys. My goals in life are to see people reach their dreams, and travel the world.

Melissa James

Melissa James is a member of The Denebian Slime Devils filk group. She attended her first convention in 1976 and has been active in fandom since. Melissa was profiled in the book *The Fandom Fifty* by Diane Lee Baron.

Shore Leave 44

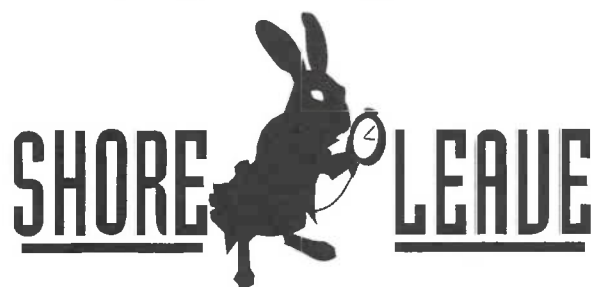
A Fan-run Media Science Fiction Convention in Baltimore, MD

Presented by the STAT Club of Maryland, Inc.

26-28 July 2024

We will celebrate fandom with:

discussion panels, guest Q&A, writing workshops, stargazing, game room, actor photo ops, actor and author signing sessions, masquerade, art show, film festival, vendors, science programming, charity events, children and teen programming, and so much more.



www.shore-leave.com

We have a new hotel (see below).
Guests will be announced as soon as they
are confirmed.

Convention registration is open.



For Hotel Information:

Wyndham Lancaster Resort and Convention Center
2300 Lincoln Highway East (= Route 30)
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17602-1114

Tel. 717-299-5500 or 800-233-0121

(Hotel reservations for 2024 are being taken now)

Make your own reservations and mention **Shore Leave**
for a special room rate of \$209 plus applicable taxes.

For Any Other Information:

Shore Leave
PO Box 6809
Towson, Maryland 21285-6809

Email: go to www.shore-leave.com/contacts/
and click on the applicable link.

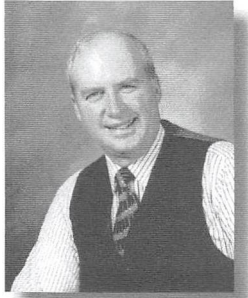


BALTICON 58

science fiction and fantasy convention

May 24-27, 2024

Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel
202 East Pratt St, Baltimore, MD 21202



Guest of Honor
L.E. MODESITT, JR.
Author

Join us for:

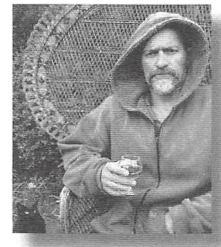
- 300+ hours of programming
- Dealers Room
- Art Show
- Masquerade & Costuming
- Gaming & RPGs
- Filk & Other Music
- Anime & Film Festival



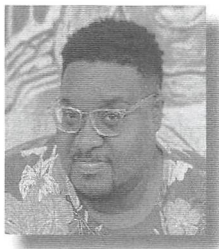
Music Guest of Honor
Rhiannon's Lark (Alyssa Yeager)



Editor Guest of Honor
Sheila Williams



Artist Guest of Honor
Omar Rayyan



2023 Compton Crook
Award Winner
Alex Jennings



2024 Compton Crook
Award Winner
TBA



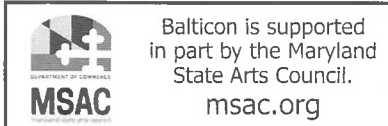
2024 Robert Heinlein
Award Winner
TBA

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

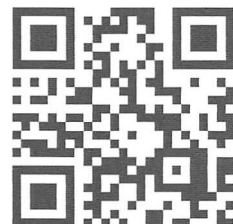
BALTICON.ORG

Email: balticoninfo@balticon.org

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



ASL is available for main events and selected panels.



Cosplay Joe

Joseph “Cosplay Joe” Haughey has been performing and doing panels at conventions all across the country since 2008. He started out doing stand up at various conventions, with an emphasis on anime and JRPGs. Later, he decided to quit stand up and do Christmas parody songs, primarily about various anime, JRPGs, as well as sci-fi movies. Also, Cosplay Joe does panels on various topics, from opening and closing themes, to AMVs, and Final Fantasy, to name a few. He even occasionally does readings of comedic poetry that he wrote himself. Needless to say, he is a man of many talents. Outside of conventions, he makes videos that go to all these different topics and more, as well as doing video blogging. You can see some of his videos on his Vimeo page, username “Cosplay Joe”.

Anna Kashina

Anna Kashina writes historical adventure fantasy, featuring exotic settings, martial arts, assassins, and elements of romance. Her Majat Code series, published by Angry Robot Books, UK, received two Prism Awards in 2015. She is a Russian by origin, and a biomedical scientist in her day job, and freely draws on these backgrounds in her writing. She lives near Philadelphia.

Nicholas Kaufman

Nicholas Kaufmann is the Bram Stoker Award-nominated, Thriller Award-nominated, Shirley Jackson Award-nominated, and Dragon Award-nominated author of numerous works of horror and suspense, including the best-sellers *100 Fathoms Below* (written with Steven L. Kent) and *The Hungry Earth*. His short fiction has appeared in *Cemetery Dance*, *Black Static*, *Nightmare Magazine*, *Interzone*, and others, including an upcoming story in *Cosmic Horror Monthly*. In addition to his own original work, he has written for such properties as *Zombies vs. Robots*, *The Rocketeer*, and *Warhammer*. His latest novel is *The Stone Serpent*, the sequel to *The Hungry Earth*. He lives in Brooklyn, NY with his wife Alexa and two ridiculous cats.

Daniel M. Kimmel

Daniel M. Kimmel is the 2018 recipient of the Skylark Award, given by the New England Science Fiction Association. He was a finalist for a Hugo Award for *Jar Jar Binks Must Die... and Other Observations about Science Fiction Movies* and for the Compton Crook Award for best first novel for *Shh! It's a Secret*: a novel about Aliens, Hollywood, and the Bartender's Guide. In addition to short stories, he is the author of *Time on My Hands: My Misadventures in Time Travel*, *Father of the Bride of Frankenstein*, *Can Your Heart Stand the Shocking Facts?* and (with Deborah Cutler-Hand) *Banned in Boston*. He is also a working film critic (NorthShoreMovies.net) and writes the “Take Two on the Movies” column for *Space and Time* magazine, spotlighting classic (and not so classic) SF films.

Brian Koscienski

Brian Koscienski developed his love of writing from countless hours of reading comic books,

losing himself in the different worlds and adventures within the colorful pages. He had minor successes early in his career by getting a few short stories published in independent zines before teaming up with Chris Pisano and Jeff Young to form The Novel Guys. Together they have logged many hours writing novels, stories, articles, comic books, reviews, and the occasional ridiculous haiku. To find out where they may be skulking next, visit them at www.novelguys.com. If you happen to see Brian at one of the various conventions he participates in, feel free to stop by the table and say, “Hi.” He’s harmless!

Diane Kovalcin

Diane Kovalcin is a long-time costumer, competing in both Science Fiction and Historical masquerades, a quilter and fan fiction writer. She also loves Star Wars and the BBC TV show *Merlin* – just ask her (or better yet, don’t ask as she won’t shut up about it).

Lawrence Kramer

Dr. Lawrence Kramer has had a lifelong interest in science, sparked at a young age by avidly reading science fiction. He worked in the pharmaceutical industry followed by a career as a programmer analyst for a Fortune 500 financial company. However, the lure of science was too great to resist, leading Larry to earn his Ph.D. at Rutgers University where he taught genetics and published research looking at proteins involved in signaling at neuronal synapses. He taught two years at Drew University, and currently loves teaching and mentoring students in biology courses at Raritan Valley, a nationally recognized community college in NJ. A frequent guest at local science fiction conventions, he has spoken on topics including science in fiction, gene testing, genetic engineering, ethics/trends in biology, antibiotic resistant bacterial strains, and occasionally on some of his favorite books and media.

Courtney Kwok

Creative writer, editor, assistant troupe manager & videographer for Steam-Funk Studios. Introduced to Tolkien by her father and classic science fiction shows by her grandfather, Ms. Kwok’s family has always cultivated her vivid imagination. That being her most valued asset, she has funneled it into creative writing and costume production. Courtney is currently working on a series of urban fantasy short stories, while developing her photography and videography skills, as half of Steam-Funk Studios’ in-house film crew. Having begun writing with the company in August of 2016, and then promoted to editorial staff, she has contributed phenomenally to both their in-house fiction development for The Living Multiverse and to The Unconventional.

Dina Leacock

Diane Arrelle, the pen name of South Jersey writer Dina Leacock, has sold more than 350 short stories and has two short story collections:



Mother of Dragons © Rob Carlos

Just a Drop in the Cup and *Seasons on the Dark Side*.

Retired from being director of a municipal senior citizen center, she is co-owner of a small publishing company, Jersey Pines Ink LLC. She resides with her sane husband and her insane cat on the edge of the Pine Barrens (home of the Jersey Devil).

Andre Lieven

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

Gordon Linzner

Gordon Linzner is founder and former editor of *Space and Time Magazine*, and author of four published novels and dozens of short stories appearing in *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Twilight Zone*, *Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine*, and numerous other magazines and anthologies. He is also a copy editor, a licensed New York City tour guide, a sound technician, and lead singer for the Saboteur Tiger Blues Band, among other odd jobs. He is a member of HWA and a lifetime member of SFWA.

Jonathan Maberry

Philcon 2023’s Principal Speaker. See pp. 20-25.

Jon McGoran

Jon McGoran is the author of eleven novels for adults and young adults, including the YA science fiction thrillers *Spliced*, *Splintered*, and *Spiked*, the science thrillers *Drift*, *Deadout*, and *Dust Up*, and media tie-in books and stories for IP including *The Blacklist*, *The X-Files*, and *Zombies vs Robots*. His latest science fiction thriller, *The Price of Everything*, will be out next year from Solaris Books. He has also written numerous short stories. He is a freelance writer, developmental editor, and teacher in Drexel University’s Creative Writing MFA program, as well as cohost of *The Liars Club*

Oddcast, a podcast about writing and creativity. For more, visit www.jonmccgoran.com or @JonMcGoran on social media.

Joanne McLaughlin

Joanne McLaughlin writes sharp mysteries, sexy vampire tales, and sweeter short fiction. Her mystery novel *Chasing Ashes* is just out, published November 1 by Celestial Echo Press. Joanne's Vampires of the Court of Cruelty trilogy – *Never Before Noon* (Eternal Press/Caliburn 2016 / reissued 2020), *Never Until Now* (2018), and *Never More Human* (2020) – is available on Amazon, as are the short stories “Peppina's Sweetheart” and “Grass and Granite”. On her journalist side, Joanne is a longtime editor of prize-winning news and features for newspapers (including the *Philadelphia Inquirer*) and public media (WHYY, the NPR affiliate in the Philadelphia region). She lives in Philadelphia, where she indulges her love for home design and her two little granddaughters, and walks through the local arboretum regularly.

Mike McPhail

Mike McPhail's love of the science fiction genre sparked a life-long interest in science, technology, and developing an understanding of the human condition—all of which played an important role in his writing, art, and game design. These, in turn, are built upon his background in applied science and training as an aeronautical engineer, all of which were aimed at becoming a NASA mission specialist. As a professional author, he is best known as the

creator and series editor of the award-winning *Defending the Future* military science fiction anthologies, now in their second decade of publication. He is a member of SFWA. A graphic designer, he owns McP Digital Graphics (founded in 2006), which provides cover art, design, layout, and prepress services. He is also a co-owner of eSpec Books LLC (since 2014), where his graphics company has become the inhouse design arm of production. As Airman McPhail, he is a member of the Military Writers Society of America and is dedicated to helping his fellow service members (and deserving civilians) in their efforts to become authors, editors, or artists, as well as supporting related organization in their efforts to help those “who have given their all for us.”

John Monahan

John Monahan is a writer, and science teacher. He is the author of the non-fiction book *They Called Me Mad: Genius, Madness and the Scientists Who Pushed the Outer Limits of Knowledge*. His newest book, another work of non-fiction, is *Babbage & Lovelace: The Victorian Computer Wizard and the Enchantress of Numbers*. He lives and works in Baltimore with his wife, his two children and various pets/evil minions. His blog, Mad4Science can be found at mad4science.wordpress.com.

Christine Norris

Christine Norris has written ten YA novels, some of which remain in print, and a few short stories that someone decided were okay enough to publish. She hides this well in her secret day job identity as an elementary school librarian. She loves to crochet amigurumi, and has entered several of her pieces into the Art Show. She cares for her family of one husband-creature, a son-animal, a canine named Elvis (he thinks he's the King) and two felines who are secretly agents of Chaos. This is Christine's eleventh billionth and one Philcon appearance, and she is very happy to return. To learn more about Christine Norris, please visit <http://www.christine-norris.com>. Like her page on FB or follower her @cnorrisauthor on 'gram.

Christopher D. Ochs

Christopher D. Ochs' foray into writing began with his epic fantasy *Pindlebryth of Lenland*. His short stories have been published in award-winning Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group and Bethlehem Writers Group anthologies and websites, and by Firebringer Press. His latest short fiction appears in BWG's *An Element of Mystery*, Finalist in Next Generation Indie Books 2023. His latest novel is a gritty urban fantasy/horror, *My Friend Jackson*, a Finalist in Indies Today's Best Books of 2020. Chris has too many interests for his own damn good. With previous careers in physics, electrical and software engineering, QA, CGI animator, classical organist, voice talent on radio, DVD and Voice of OTAKON, it's a wonder he can remember to pay the dog and feed his bills. His adventures of daring-don't can be found at www.christopherdochs.com

Carl Paolino

Carl Paolino is a veteran of the entertainment industry. As a producer, director, screenwriter, and production designer, his credits include feature films, television series, music videos, Broadway shows, and hundreds of television commercials. His stop-motion and animated productions include MTV's *Celebrity Deathmatch* and *Cartoon Sushi*, and *Celebrity Face-Off*. He wrote and directed the animation for *The Halloween Pranksta* short film with co-producer Mark Hamill. His other credits include *Disney's Hercules on Ice*, *Victoria's Secret*, *Goosebumps*, *the Musical*, MTV's *2000 Music Video Awards*, *Saturday Night Live*, Coca Cola's and the NFL's *Monsters of the Gridiron*, and the MTV Music Award-winning video, *Sugar, We're Goin' Down*. He is the author of the pulp horror novel trilogy *Virgin Falls*. Spontania is his first graphic novel series published by his company, Comic Book Kid Publishing. You can find him at: ComicBookKidPub.com. He has a BFA degree from the School of Visual Arts and is an adjunct professor in the Fine Arts Department.

Michael D. Pederson

Way back in 2004, Mike started a convention in Richmond, VA. He's been chairing RavenCon ever since. Mike was also the publisher/editor/designer for fanzine *Nth Degree* (2002-2017). He began his career as a writer/publisher in 1988 when his SF short story, “Dust Storm,” won first place in a local writing contest. In the 1990s, he wrote and published the Raven comic book series (with artist Robert Quill) and edited and published *Scene*, a Virginia-based entertainment magazine. In 2001, Mike was part of the Best in Class – Master Division winning presentation (“Pre-Emptive Strike”) at the Millennium Philcon Masquerade. In 2007, he wrote a chapter on “Writing for Magazines” for Dragon Moon Press' *Writing Fantasy: The Author's Grimoire*. During the pandemic, he edited and published *CORVID-19: A RavenCon Anthology* and is currently working on a second volume. Mike has also run programming for Trinoc'coN, been Fan GOH for ConCarolinas and Mysticon, co-chaired a successful NASFiC bid, and served

Capricon.org Chicago, Illinois

Capricon 44
FEBRUARY 1-4, 2024

THE ENDURANCE OF STARS

AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR: K. Tempest Bradford <i>Nebula Award Winner</i>	ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR: Ariela Housman <i>from Geek Calligraphy</i>
LITERARY GUEST OF HONOR: Catherine Lundoff <i>from Queen of Swords Press</i>	FAN GUEST OF HONOR: Victor Jason Raymond <i>Founding Member of the Carl Brandon Society</i>

as Emcee for MarsCon. Mike has interviewed guests for Balticon, ConCarolinas, ConGregate, MarsCon, Mysticon, RavenCon, and StellarCon, as well as a wide range of writers, gamers, artists, and actors. In 2017, Mike was honored with the Rebel Award for his contributions to Southern Fandom. He is currently making plans with *Amazing Stories* to host the official 100th Anniversary of Science Fiction in 2026. Yes, Mike is an insanely busy person; if you see him around the con, please feed him lots of caffeine and/or beer.

Dan Persons

Dan Persons has been a film & TV journalist and critic since way before Jim Cameron released the first *Avatar* (so that's, like, over three decades, now). His ongoing series, *The SF Path to Higher Consciousness*, publishes monthly at Tor.com, and his review segments air weekly on WBAI's *Hour of the Wolf*. He is also the developer and sole practitioner of SpaceBrains3D, an offbeat 3D conversion system that he deploys on public domain films to take them to their next dimensional level.

Jennifer Povey

Born in Northingham, England, Jennifer R. Povey now lives in Northern Virginia, where she writes everything from heroic fantasy to stories for *Analog*. She has written a number of novels across multiple subgenres. Additionally, she is a writer, editor, and designer of tabletop RPG supplements for a number of companies. Her interests include horseback riding, *Doctor Who* and attempting to out-weird her various friends and professional colleagues.

Dr. Jim Prego

Dr. Jim Prego is a naturopathic doctor from Long Island, NY. He is currently an adjunct professor of biology at LIU Post, Molloy College, and Nassau Community College. Dr. Prego had a private medical practice for nine years and is a past recipient of the NYANP's Physician of the Year award. He is a longtime fan of science fiction and enjoys discussing xenobiology, health in space, life extension, fusions of biology and technology, how natural ways of healing fit in a sci-fi/high-tech world, and many other topics both science-related and non-science related. He spent 10 years as the New York Delegate to the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians and 6 years as a board member of the New York Association of Naturopathic Physicians. Dr. Prego has given talks, written articles, and been a guest on radio and television shows. He also has interests in acting/shadowcasting, EMT volunteering, alternative lifestyles, LARPing, gaming, and more.

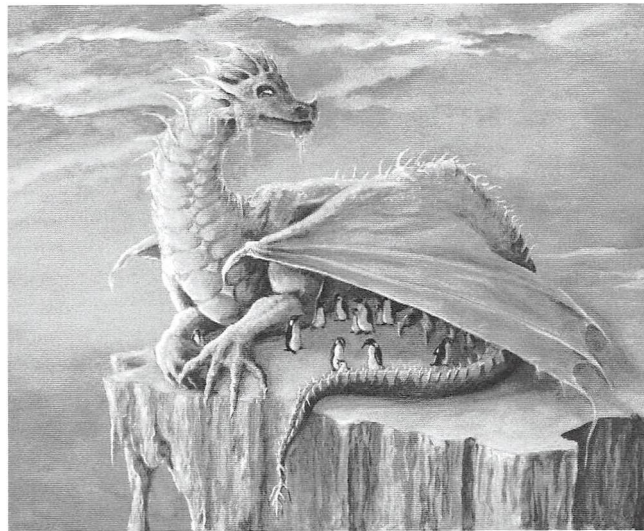
Brian T. Price

Brian T. Price was hooked on Japanese animation at an early age after his exposure to *Battle of the Planets* in the first grade. But it wasn't until a chance meeting in New York City circa 1987 that he learned about organized anime fandom in the

form of the Animation/Fantasy Association. Within a handful of years Brian became a founding member of the Atlantic Anime Alliance, staffing Chibicon (the East Coast's first anime conference) and ANIMEast '94 & '95. In recent years he was indoctrinated into public speaking on panel discussions by publisher and fellow anime pundit Robert Fenelon. He now speaks on panels about anime and other sci-fi & fantasy related topics at conventions up and down the East Coast.

Barbara Purdom

Barbara Purdom AKA B.L. Purdom (she/her) is a Philadelphia native who met her spouse, son of Philadelphia science fiction writer Tom Purdom, at Temple University. She has presented at Harry Potter symposia



Penguin Protector © Rob Carlos

at SFF conventions across North America since 2003, including at the Harry Potter Academic Conference at Chestnut Hill College. She is the host of *Quantum Harry, the Podcast* (YouTube and Castbox). Purdom has appeared on other podcasts, authored the *Psychic Serpent* series and other fanfics, and was a co-founder of FictionAlley.org. She has been a guest lecturer on the Harry Potter series at Fordham University and is the author of "The Snitch, the Stone, and the Sword," a chapter in *The Alchemical Harry Potter* (McFarland 2021). She is working on a fantasy series about morticians in a vampire-infested western Pennsylvania coal town, and thus, like most writers, hopes no one in law-enforcement ever asks to see her browser history.

Jim (Stratton) Reichert

Jim Stratton is a chameleon. By day, he is a retired government lawyer who specialized in the field of child abuse prosecutions, and lives with his wife in southern Delaware. But he's been an avid fan of speculative fiction all his life, and began writing genre fiction 30+ years ago. In recent years he's been forging

his dark alter ego of genre fiction author through publication of his tales in venues like *Dragons, Knights & Angels Magazine*, *Ennea* (published in Athens, Greece) & *Nth Degree Magazine*. The appearance of his first foray into the world of poetry in *The Broadkill Review* is but another step in his master plan. His appearances in *Dead Souls* in September 2009 and *Rum & Runestones* in April 2010 were further steps. His latest challenge has been to learn the fine art of tailoring costumes for himself and others, for local Renaissance Fairs and costume competitions. At Philcon 2022, in his first Masquerade, he was awarded the prize for Best Costume and Best Presentation, Novice Division. At Ravencon 2023, he won the Best In Show award. He hopes to repeat this success in the Philcon 2023 Masquerade in the Journeyman Division. He looks forward to meeting you all in November.

Rebecca Robare

Becky was raised on *Star Trek* and *Doctor Who*, and has filled her adult life with fandom, including performing as Brad and a number of other characters in NYC's *Rocky Horror Picture Show* shadowcast, and serving as a panelist and sometime track head for Philcon. She is currently raising a new generation of nerds with her family outside of Philadelphia. Inspired by her hero, Mr. Spock, Becky pursued a scientific education and earned her PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience in 2010. She fled academia for greener pastures shortly thereafter and now works as a research analyst and medical writer for a medical research non-profit. She loves having a day job that combines her favorite things, writing and scientific research. Her first short story, "The

Oubliette Keeper," was published in the spring by *Allegory* under the pen name RJR Canon.

Roberta Rogow

Roberta Rogow writes mystery stories set in strange and unusual times and places, including a city somewhere Out There in the distant future, and an alternate Manhattan, settled by Spanish Moors. Roberta was inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame in 2013. When she is not attending SF or mystery conventions, Roberta is a retired children's librarian, living in New Jersey.

Aaron Rosenberg

Aaron Rosenberg is the best-selling author of over 50 novels, including the DuckBob SF comedy series; the Relicant Chronicles epic fantasy series; the Areyat Islands fantasy, pirate, mystery series; the Dread Remora space-opera series; and, with David Niall Wilson, the O.C.L.T. occult thriller series. His tie-in work includes novels for *Star Trek*, *Warhammer*, *World of Warcraft*, *Sargate: Atlantis and Mutants & Masterminds*, and short stories for *The X-Files*, *Deadlands*, *Master of Orion* and *Europa Universalis IV*. He has written children's books (including the original series STEM Squad and Pete and Penny's Pizza Puzzles, the award-winning *Bandslam: The*

Junior Novel and the #1 best-selling 42: *The Jackie Robinson Story*), educational books, and roleplaying games (including Origins Award-winning *Gamemastering Secrets*). He is a founding member of Crazy 8 Press. Aaron lives in New York. You can follow him online at gryphonrose.com, at facebook.com/gryphonrose, and on Twitter @gryphonrose.

Mark Roth-Whitworth

Spent some years as a lab tech, then a bicycle messenger, and a couple times as a library page, then decided that computers looked like fun. Spent a career as a programmer and Unix/Linux systems administrator. And in fandom most of my life, having discovered it (it was my father's fault) before I was 17. My late wife, who died young, was going to be a writer, and involved me in the writing. Years later, in the mid-teens, one of my daughters caught the bug, and in trying to help her, I started writing seriously. I write what I want to read, mostly SF, though I've written some fantasy shorts. I've had a short novelette and two short stories both published in the *Grantville Gazette* (#87 & #97) and *11,000 Years* is my first published novel.

Caitlin Rozakis

Caitlin Rozakis is the pen name of Rebecca Rozakis. Marketer by day and writer by night, she has the amazing superpower of causing lab techs to say, "I've never seen it do that before!" Which is part of why she left her original field of mechanical engineering and now spends her days explaining in clear English why it can, in fact, do that. After that incident with the murderous robot, everyone is happier this way. Previous work has appeared under the name R. Rozakis in *Cast of Wonders*, *Daily Science Fiction*, *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine*, *Allegory*, *Liquid Imagination*, *Bards & Sages*, *Weirdbook*, *Every Day Fiction*, and the anthologies *Substitution Cipher*, *Clockwork Chaos*, *Baker Street Irregulars II*, and *Thrilling Adventure Yarns 2022*. She was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and won 2018 Lumina Speculative Fiction Contest. Her first novel, *Dreadful*, is scheduled to be released by Titan Books in June 2024.

Michael Ryan

Mike Ryan is a Twitch streamer (<https://twitch.tv/toanstation>) using playing games as a vehicle to talk about games. He has been a fan of science fiction ever since the age of six. His love of the genre has expanded to include tabletop games, video games and anime.

Lawrence M. Schoen

Lawrence M. Schoen holds a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology, is a past Astounding, Hugo, and Nebula finalist, twice won the C oyol award for best novel, founded the Klingon Language Institute, and occasionally does work as a hypnotherapist specializing in authors' issues. He is a chimeric cancer survivor. His science fiction includes many light and humorous adventures of a space-faring stage hypnotist and his alien animal companion. Other works take a very different



Cheshire Kitten   Rob Carlos

tone, exploring aspects of determinism and free will, generally redefining the continua between life and death. Sometimes he blurs the funny and the serious. Lawrence lives near Philadelphia with his wife and their dog.

Darrell Schweitzer

Darrell Schweitzer is the author of four novels, *The Dragon House*, *The Mask of the Sorcerer*, *The Shattered Goddess* and *The White Isle*, and about 350 published stories. He is also an essayist, interviewer, poet, reviewer, and famous for rhyming Cthulhu in a limerick. He was co-editor of *Weird Tales* (1988-2007), for which he won the World Fantasy Award, and is an active anthologist. His most recent anthology is *Shadows Out of Time* (PS Publishing 2023), with *Cold War Cthulhu* forthcoming. He has written books about Lord Dunsany and H.P. Lovecraft. PS Publishing recently published a two-volume retrospective of his short fiction, *The Mysteries of the Faceless King* and *The Last Heretic*. Hippocampus Press has published his most recent short-story collection, *The Children of Chorazin* (2023). He has attended every Philcon since 1968.

Miriam Seidel

Miriam Seidel's novel of SF fandom, *The Speed of Clouds*, came out from New Door Books. As Mir Seidel, she's had stories and essays appear in *Bourbon Penn*, *Into the Ruins*, the *New York Review of Science Fiction* and elsewhere, as well as an essay forthcoming in *Calyx*. She wrote the libretto for *Violet Fire*, an opera about Nikola Tesla, performed in Belgrade, New York, and Philadelphia. She's working on a fantasy novel with a multi-verse theme. She blogs at miriamseidel.com, and on Bluesky at @miriamseidel.bsky.social.

Alex Shvartsman

Alex Shvartsman is a writer, translator, game designer, and anthologist from Brooklyn, NY. His adventures so far have included traveling to over 30 countries, playing a card game for a living, and building a successful business. Alex is the author of fantasy novels *Kakistocracy* (2023), *The Middling Affliction* (2022), and *Eridami's Crown* (2019). Over 120 of his short stories have

appeared in *Analog*, *Nature*, *Strange Horizons*, *Fire-side*, *Weird Tales*, *Galaxy's Edge*, and many other venues. He won the WSFA Small Press Award for Short Fiction in 2014 and was a three-time finalist for the Canopus Award for Excellence in Interstellar Fiction. Alex's translations from Russian have appeared in *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Clarkesworld*, *Tor.com*, *Asimov's*, and elsewhere. He's the editor of the Unidentified Funny Objects series of humorous SF/F, as well as a variety of other anthologies, including *The Cackle of Cthulhu* (Baen), *Humanity 2.0* (Arc Manor), and *Funny Science Fiction* (UFO). For five years he edited *Future Science Fiction Digest*, a magazine that focused on international fiction.

Susan Schwartz

A Hugo, Nebula, World Fantasy and Edgar Nominee, Susan Schwartz – now retired after more than 35 years on Wall Street – describes her writing as “all over the map.” It is an assortment of fantasy, historical fiction, hard SF, military SF, horror and Star Trek, in no particular order and at no particular time. She is currently working on an Arthurian novel, a series of picture books on her neighborhood's pot-bellied pig, and a reworking of *The Oresteia*. Since returning from sabbatical, she has sold three short stories, one on a Two States ascent of Everest, one on the Cthulhu mythos and the Soviet Space Program, and a third about the Battle of the Bulge and the Dragon Fafnir. She now lives in Connecticut and keeps up with her passions for opera, theatre, travel, Asian rugs and collecting fantasy and science fiction art.

Hildy Silverman

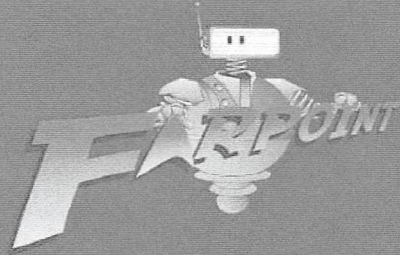
Hildy Silverman is a fiction author whose recent publications include *Invasive Species* (Systema Paradoxa, Ackley-McPhail, ed., 2023), “The Return of the Eye of Argon” (*The Eye of Argon and the Further Adventures of Grignr the Barbarian*, Ventrella, ed., Fantastic Books, 2023) and “The Power Behind the Throne” (*Thrilling Adventure Yarns*, Crazy 8 Press, Greenberger, ed, 2022). She is a member of the Crazy 8 Authors Collective (www.crazy8press.com). She was editor-in-chief of *Space and Time Magazine* for 12+ years and is a past president of the Garden State Speculative Fiction Writers. Her story, “The Six Million Dollar Mermaid” was a finalist for the WSFA Small Press Award. For more information, please visit hildysilverman.com.

Michelle D. Sonnier

Michelle D. Sonnier is a writer of dark fantasy, urban fantasy, and steampunk. She is obsessed with traditional Fae, inscrutable, bloody, and alien (not sparkly fairies from the House of Mouse). She likes using traditional folklore and mythology and twisting them into fresh perspectives on the human condition. Her novels, *The Clockwork Witch* and *The Clockwork Solution*, are part of her Clockwork Chronicles series from eSpec Books.

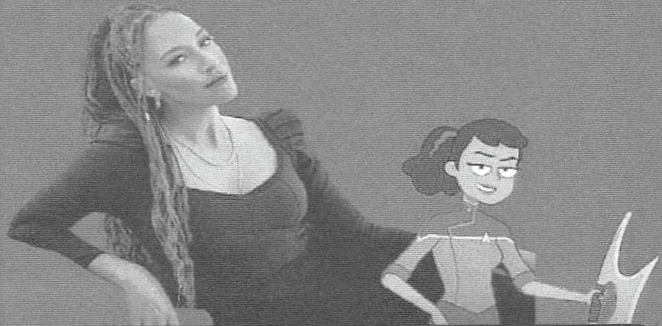
Kristyn Souder

Kristyn is happy to return to Philcon to present her thoughts on anime, gaming, fantasy,



2024 MEDIA GUESTS

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2024



Tawny Newsome

"Star Trek Lower Decks, Space Force"



J Lee

"The Orville"

Erin MacDonald

Science Advisor, Star Trek Universe



Cal Dodd

"X-Men, the Animated Series"

Join us at FARPOINT CONVENTION to start your 2024 Convention Season!

www.FarpointCon.com

Farpoint Convention   @FarpointCon



@FarpointFoundation

- Opening Ceremony & Cocktail Party
- Gaming All Weekend
- Art Show & Auction
- Karaoke
- Live Performances
- Children/Youth Activities
- Masquerade Costume Contest
- Charity Auction
- Game Shows
- Dealers Room
- Workshops
- Dance Party

BOSKONE 61

February 9-11, 2024 • Westin Boston Seaport District Hotel

Author Guest of Honor:
Ben Aaronovich

Official Artist:
Emily Hurst Pritchett

Special Guest:
Bradford Lyau

Musical Guest:
Amy Kucharik

Hal Clement Science Speaker:
Kevin Roche

NESFA Press Guest:
John Scalzi

Register online at boskone.org.

Adults - \$60 • Young Adults (18-25) - \$35
Teens (13-17) - \$25 • Children (5-12) - \$25

Rates valid through 1/16/24

science fiction, and convention-running. In addition to co-heading the Anime Track at Philcon, she was the external communications director for Zenkaikon, a local anime and science fiction convention, for ten years. Her hobbies include volunteering in her community; reading science fiction, fantasy, and graphic novels; and watching science fiction, fantasy, and anime movies and TV shows. She is also happy to be raising the next generation of fandom.

Tim Souder

Tim is a long time fan of science fiction and anime. He is the Vice-President of Zenkaikon (another local anime and science fiction convention). He has read all of the science fiction novels by Asimov and Clarke, and numerous other series. He is an avid fan of *Babylon 5* (having watched the series at least five times, and a follower of alt.tv.babylon5). He has watched over a hundred anime series from the classics (such as *Space Battleship Yamato*, *Bubblegum Crisis*, *Cowboy Bepop*) to the modern (such as *Attack on Titan*, *Ghost in the Shell: S1andalone Complex*, *Sword Art Online*, and many others). Tim has participated in panels at Philcon for the last 12 years, and is currently co-chairing the Philcon Anime track with his wife, Kristyn, for the 11th year. In the real world, Tim has his Masters degree in computer science from Drexel University. He currently works as a software engineer.

Luke Stelmaszek

Luke Stelmaszek is a graduate of duCret School of Art where he received a Commercial Art Certificate. He studied under the guidance of book and magazine illustrator Peter Caras, and later fantasy illustrator William O' Connor. While at duCret, Luke won several awards at art shows. His winning works were displayed at the Swain's Art Gallery in Plainfield, NJ. Right now he is working on his illustrations, two comic series, and commissions including attending upcoming conventions. Luke is also an artist for the Kaiju Assault card game, and an art developer for model kits by Kaiju Modeler. You can check out his websites at www.kaijuillustrator.com, KaijuIllustrator on Storgenvy, and @kaiju_illustrator on Instagram.

Ann Stolinsky

Ann's most recent publishing credit is a story published in *Klarissa Dreams Redux*, a charity anthology. She has had stories published in *Tales from the Canyons of the Damned*, *Flash Fiction Addiction*, *We Will Not Be Silenced*, *Fireburst* and *Condor* (anthologies by Clarendon House), and *Curiosities #2*, from Gallery of Curiosities, which was also narrated on their website. Her short story, "Lost Children", was published on the With Painted Words website, and another in the *Running Wild Anthology of Stories Vol. 1* with Running Wild Press. A poem was published in *Space & Time Magazine*.

She is a graduate of author Jonathan Maberry's short story writing class. Ann is a member of the Writers Coffeehouse in Willow Grove, PA,

and two writing critique groups. She is also a partner in Gemini Wordsmiths, a full-service copyediting and content creating company, with publishing imprint, Celestial Echo Press. They have published two anthologies: *The Twofer Compendium* and *The Trench Coat Chronicles*.

Christopher Stout

Christopher Stout first appeared on the big screen over two decades ago at the Philcon premiere of *Learner's Permit to Kill*, the first in a series of low budget/high imagination James Bond spoofs made with his father. Since then, he's learned how to make movies with a budget larger than loose couch change, graduating from the USC film school and working on commercial and feature projects both in LA and on the East Coast. He's currently head of development for The Congregation, a feature film development company. When he's not making movies or commercials, he can be found curled up with the latest issue of *Asimov's* or watching some iteration of Star Trek with his wife and two kids.

Richard Stout

Richard premiered his trilogy of kid spy movies featuring James Blond, Agent Uh-Oh 7, at Philcon beginning with 1993's *Lerner's Permit to Kill*. His horror makeup/special FX workshop "Monsters, Aliens, and Spirit Gum" has been popular both here and at I-Con. *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* has published Richard's work several times. Over 30 of his articles containing original historical research have been published. He and his wife Kathryn run an educational publishing company, and while she is the brains of the outfit, she allowed him to co-author *Movies as Literature*. Richard has also published the occasional cartoon. Oh, and his singing voice has been heard by hundreds of thousands: Howard Stern once played one of his song parodies on the air.

Alex Strang

Alex Strang is a Glasgow-born game designer, gamification consultant and event producer. He has developed and published countless board games (*Heart of Mystery*, *Super Giant Monster Showdown*), card games (*Time Vs Ninja*, *Hyper Battle Kaiju Fight*) and all manner of media (*Waiting For Cable Comedy Troupe*, *The Mr. Buckethead Show*), as well as team building events and live shows (*Puppet Karaoke Universe Show*, *Movie Plotz Improv Show*) Alex is also a kaiju designer and manga artist, with his work featured in various publications and live exhibits.



Libra © Rob Carlos

Ian Randal Strock

Ian Randal Strock is the publisher and owner of Fantastic Books (www.FantasticBooks.biz). Previously, he published and edited *Artemis Magazine* and *SFScope*. He also served on the editorial staffs of *Analog*, *Asimov's*, *Absolute Magnitude*, *Science Fiction Chronicle*, Baen Books, *KISS*, *Realms of Fantasy*, and a slew of other publications. As an author, he considers himself a science fiction writer, even though 98% of his published words have been non-fiction. His fiction has appeared in *Analog* (from which he won two AnLab Awards), *Nature*, and various anthologies. He is the Secretary of American Mensa. For more information, see IanRandalStrock.com.

Ginny Swann

Ginny is a long time Sci-Fi fan and annual participant of Philcon since 2000. She is a big time gamer geek girl. Ginny and her husband John enjoy managing the gaming gallery for Philcon. In real life, Ginny is a publishing project manager who also enjoys being an actress and singer for local groups.

John Swann

John has been coming to Philcon for over 20 years. He met his wife at a Philcon and together they decided to create the Gaming Suite as their way to give back.

Michael Swanwick

Michael Swanwick is one of an extraordinary generation of writers, including William Gibson, Nancy Kress, Bruce Sterling, Pat Cadigan, Kim Stanley Robinson, Connie Willis, James Patrick Kelly, and John Kessel, who first published in the early 1980s. He is the recipient of the Nebula, Theodore Sturgeon, and World Fantasy Awards as well as five Hugo Awards.

His most recent solo novel, *The Iron Dragon's Mother*, completed a trilogy begun twenty-five years before with *The Iron Dragon's Daughter*. More recently, *City Under the Stars*, a novel co-written with the late Gardner Dozois, was published by Tordotcom.

He lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Marianne Porter.

Syd

Syd is the Tech Division Head for Philcon and is a costumer and video director. He has staged many Masquerade entries and judged Masquerades from the local conventions to Worldcons.

Michael A. Ventrella

Michael A. Ventrella writes humorous novels like *Big Stick*, *Bloodsuckers: A Vampire Runs for*

President and *The Axes of Evil*. The anthologies he has edited include the Baker Street Irregulars series with NY Times Bestselling author Jonathan Maberry, *Release the Virgins!*, *Across the Universe* (with Rande Dawn), the Tales of Fortannis series and *Three Time Travelers Walk Into...* His short stories have appeared in other collections such as the Heroes in Hell series, *The Ministry of Peculiar Occurrences Archives*, and *Rum and Runestones*. He leads the Pocono Liars Club and runs their conferences and workshops. At his website (MichaelAVentrella.com) he interviews other authors, editors, agents and publishers to get advice for the starting author. In his spare time, he is a lawyer.

Steve Vertlieb

Published writer, biographer, announcer, speaker, lecturer, motion picture authority, and film music historian, Steve Vertlieb has been writing about films, and the history of "Music For The Movies," in books, magazines, journals, and on line for over half a century. He has appeared as a featured guest on television shows, radio programs, internet podcasts, and at universities, as well as museums, and on film convention panels since 1968. He is the recipient of the coveted Rondo Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award. He is author of the lead chapter for Avon Books best selling anthology on King Kong, *The Girl In The Hairy Paw*, as well as the opening biographical study for the Australian tome *Robert Bloch: The Man Who Collected Psychos*. His work has appeared nationally in *Scary Monsters Magazine*, and *The Monster Times*. He has been interviewed by *The B-Movie Cast* podcast concerning his work and writings, and is the subject of an interview by Mark Mawston for British horror film magazine *We Belong Dead* concerning his life and lengthy career.

David Walton

David Walton "has brought hard sci-fi roaring back to life" (*Wall Street Journal*) in "an expanding universe of delight" (*Washington Post*). His book *Living Memory*, the first of a trilogy in which paleontologists save the world from an ancient threat, was published in October 2022. David is the recipient of the Philip K. Dick Award for distinguished science fiction and the John W. Campbell Award for best science fiction novel. He leads a double life as an aerospace engineer by day and the father of eight children by night, and somehow finds time to write somewhere in between.

Jeff Warner

Jeff Warner stands accused of being a president emeritus of the Science Fiction Forum, being a professor of auto-didacticism, witnessing a "Panel in the Pool" being held on dry land, writing panel blurbs of cons he doesn't go to, being a not-recently-published writer, and of committing the SMOF hat trick of co-founding three SF conventions. He pleads both diminished and excessive mental capacity....

Joan Wendland

Joan Wendland is a retired electrical engineer. She writes and publishes her own novels on Amazon, and operates a small press game company (Blood & Cardstock Games). Joan lives in Northern Virginia with her husband and a disturbing lack of cats. The works of Joan Wendland all contain SF/F elements in surprising combinations with other genres such as: romance, horror, steampunk, hopepunk and LitRPG. Her titles include: *Backstage: A novel of secret agendas, slow burn romance, and imaginary cats*, *Looking for Trouble: Backstage Book 2*, *Mr. Darcy: Cogs Maketh the Man*, *Cranberry Surprise*:

Horror for the Holidays, and *The Clattering: It's all fun and games until you're low on HP*, *The Troubles at Austen House*, *The Spirit of Winter* (included in the *Midwinter Magic & Mayhem* anthology). Her published games are *ShowBiz Shuffle*, *Counting Zzzzs*, and *X-Machina*.

Alyce Wilson

Alyce Wilson is the editor of the online literary magazine *Wild Violet*, as well as a poet, humorist, essayist and former president of the Penn State Monty Python Society. In December 2019, she published a volume of poetry by her third great-grandfather, *Reading's Physician Poet: Poems by Dr. James Meredith Mathews*, which also contains genealogical information about the Mathews family. This book, along with her newest poetry collection, *Owning the Ghosts* (2020), can be ordered from her web site, AlyceWilson.com.

F. Michael Yates

If you've bought comics on South St. in Philadelphia in the past 30 (?) years, then you've probably bought them from Michael. As owner of Atomic City Comics, on South St. (the coolest street in Philadelphia), Michael has been the local Comic Book pusher for decades. Writer and performer for the Comedy group Iron In Our Thighs Productions, he worked on the kiddie show satire *Hellorama*, the video *Comic Book Pajama Party*, and the radio play *Santa Vs. Dracula* with his long-time writing partner the Late Great Martin King. He was also the head writer and director of the webseries *Forever Wednesday* that he co-created with Victoria Kopesky. Furthermore, Mr. Yates has been a member of Steam-Funk Studios' in-house performance and senior creative staff, since February 2013, contributing significantly to both *The Living MultiVerse* and *The Unconventional*.

Plan ahead now and save the date for

Philcon 2024

November 22-24, 2024

DoubleTree by Hilton, Cherry Hill, NJ

philcon.org

www.Facebook.com/Philcon.PSFS

Note: Buy next year's membership at Philcon 2023 or after 1/1/24 on the website

Philcon 2023 Committee & Staff

PSFS Officers & Board

President Gary Feldbaum
Vice President Hector Cruz
Secretary Stephanie Lucas
Treasurer Joann Lawler
Directors at Large Todd Dashoff
Andrew Levin
Miriam Seidel

Philcon 2023 Officers

Chair Hector Cruz
Vice Chair Gary Feldbaum

Administration & Operations

Head Todd Dashoff
Assistants Hector Cruz
Gary Feldbaum
Hotel Liaison Suzanne "Zan" Rosin
Assistant Dennis McCunney
Logistics (Truck) Ricardo Giggets
Signage Head Dee Carter
Signage Staff Ed Bishop

Registration

Head Jenny Kraus
Staff: Kristina Lengel
Mimi McGinnis
Emily "Rainbow" Ravich
Sharon Sbarsky
Pre-Con Todd Dashoff
Badge Design Syd Weinstein

Technology Services

Director Syd Weinstein
Audio Designer Paul Kraus
Reg IT Michael Rafferty
Logistics Rick Kovalcik
Staff Tom Dings
Stephanie Fine
Richard Fine
Hobbit
Joseph Weinstein

Treasury

Treasurer Joann Lawler

Programming Division

Division Manager Stephanie Lucas
Deputy Lynati
Support Vikki Ciaffone

Program Operations

Head Naomi Paskin-Parsons
Operations Staff Lily
Lynati
Jeff Warner
Greenroom Head Rosemarie Freeman
Assistant Jerry Crosson

Program Tracks

Anime

Co-Heads Tim & Kristyn Souder
Staff Nai Seoney
Bob Zygal

Comics & Graphic Novels

Head F. Michael Yates

Costuming & Cosplay

Head Abigail Welsler

Filk & Music

Head Marc Grossman
Assistant Gemma Grossman

Gaming

Head Andy Campbell

Literary

Co-Heads Darrell Schweitzer
Lee Weinstein
Staff Miriam Seidel
Diane Weinstein
Horror Liaison Gary Frank
Writers' Workshop Darrell Schweitzer
Critiquers Ken Altabef
Oz Drummond
Ty Drago
Gregory Frost
Elektra Hammond
Dina Leacock
Darrell Schweitzer

Science & Technology

Head Jazz Hiestand

Gaming Room

Co-Heads Ginny & John Swann
Staff Talavou Alailima
Stephanie Swann
Mark Singer
Open Gaming Bobby Edo

Exhibits

Art Show

Co-Directors Joni Brill Dashoff
Saul Jaffe
Art Show/Print Shop Sales Rachelle Lerner
Mail-In Art Andrea Senchy
Staff Ira Donewitz
Wendy Hapek
Robin Krause
(De)Constr. Crew Chiefs Bob Hranek
Trainee Anthony D'Amato
Crew Mike Fisher
Ed Lawler
Noah Lewis
Mimi McGinnis
Jim Reichert
Tommy Reichert
Gerard St. George
Greg Strauf
Erwin Strauss
Jim Tigar

Masquerade

Director Abigail Welsler
Assistant Director Venus Carey
Emcee Michael A. Ventrella
Green Room Mgr. Alexander Welsler
Presentation Judges Heidi Hooper
Keyo
Jonathan Maberry
Judges's Clerk Esmeralda Rodriguez

Fixed Functions

Food Services

Con Suite

Head Gene Olmsted
Deputy Head Michele Weinstein
Staff Mike Hammond
Bob Schwier
Winona Whyte-Schwier

Staff Den

Staff Den Goddess Kathleen Morrison
Staff Larry Kramer
Linda Kramer

Dealers

Pre-Con Todd Dashoff
At Con Sally Kobee

Marketing & Communications

Publications

Head Terry Sisk Graybill
Program Bk Editor Terry Sisk Graybill
Asst Editor Joann Lawler
Staff Todd Dashoff
John Graybill

Ads, Banner,
Bookmarks, Postcads Terry Sisk Graybill
Flyers Terry Sisk Graybill
Syd Weinstein
The Philcon Rocket Lew Wolkoff
Ad Sales Todd Dashoff

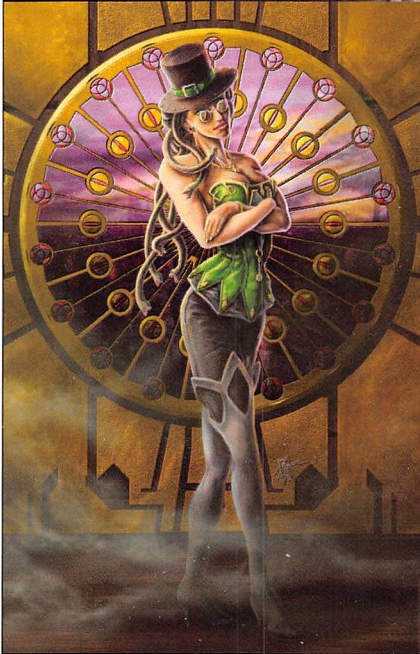
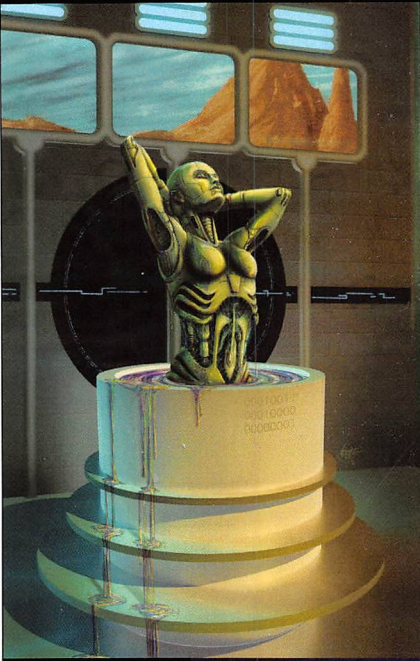
Marketing

Director Gary Feldbaum
Publ. Distr. Assts. Don Field
Hank Smith
Michele Weinstein
Mailing Todd Dashoff
Social Media Miriam Seidel
Suzanne "Zan" Rosin

IT

Director Syd Weinstein
Webmaster Syd Weinstein
Reg System Devel. Mike Rafferty
Syd Weinstein
Reg. Sys. Admin Syd Weinstein
Reg. System &
On-Site Hardware
Courtesy of BSFS (Balticon)
Balt. Reg. Sys. Liaison Michael Rafferty
Balt. Reg. Sys. Devel. Syd Weinstein
Zambia Devel. Team
Liaison to Philcon Syd Weinstein
Zambia Syst. Admin Syd Weinstein

Cover art © Rob Carlos
Titles on p. 28



© 2023 The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society (PSFS)
Philcon®, The Philadelphia Area Conference on Science Fiction and Fantasy, is a registered service mark of PSFS. Interior content is copyrighted to the cited owners. Visit www.philcon.org and www.psf.org for more information.

