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Philcon 2022

November 18-20, 2022

The Cherry Hill Hotel (formerly Crowne Plaza Hotel), Cherry Hill, NJ

Principal Speaker:

Keith DeCandido

Artist Guest of Honor:

Charles Urbach

Enjoy a Weekend of:

- Panels, art show, masquerade, concerts, gaming, anime, writers' workshop, meet the pros, filking, vendors and more!
- Free parking
- Public transit access

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HELIOsphere
SCI-FI & FANTASY WITH AN EDGE

2022 Program

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ON PETER DAVID

Keith R.A. DeCandido



One of the things that has struck me, looking back on Peter David's life and career to date, is that he has a consistent history of overcoming adversity, both major and minor.

Peter started his career in comics in the sales department at Marvel. As a thirty-year veteran of publishing I can assure you that there is a great divide — one might say a chasm — between creative people (writers, artists, editors, art directors, etc.) and sales and marketing people (whose job is to convince people to buy what the creatives create). The notion of someone crossing over from one to the other is one that would be greeted by most people in publishing (on either side) with derisive laughter.

But Peter kept trying, and finally one editor — then named Jim Owsley, now named Christopher Priest — who had just taken over the Spider-Man titles, gave the salesman a shot at writing.

The four-part “Death of Jean DeWolff” storyline in *Spectacular Spider-Man* in 1985 was a massive hit. Peter became one of the most popular Spider-writers of the 1980s — he was the regular on *Spectacular* and also penned issues of *Amazing Spider-Man* and *Web of Spider-Man* — and then moved on to other titles as well.

The sales guy had overcome the prejudice against sales guys and become a creative.

Marvel and DC had two flagship characters who were lagging a bit in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The Hulk had gone through three different creative teams and numerous retoolings when Peter was asked to take over the book. He wound up staying on the book for twelve years, a historic run that many still consider to be definitive—particularly as he was the first to put forward the notion that Bruce Banner suffers from Dissociative Identity Disorder, a brilliant take on the character.

Meantime, at DC, Aquaman had had a hard time being taken seriously. Robert Loren Fleming had done some work to retool the character into one that wouldn't be seen as a joke (ooh, he talks to fish!), but then Peter wrote *The Atlantis Chronicles*, and later took over the Aquaman title, leaning into the history of Atlantis and Arthur Curry's place as a monarch of a unique nation. He also made Aquaman into much more of a badass. Before Peter, the notion of the guy who played Conan, Ronan Dex, and Khal Drogo playing Aquaman would have been laughed out of the room faster than a sales guy taking over writing a monthly comic, but after Peter, Jason Momoa's casting made perfect sense.

As a writer of *Star Trek* comics and novels, Peter had to overcome the difficulties of a truculent licensing person. The late Richard Arnold was (in)famous for his rather eccentric story notes on Trek tie-ins, and for some reason he had a particular animus for Peter's work. But Arnold was eventually removed from that job and Peter's career as a *Trek* novelist thrived, with several *New York Times* best-sellers and his very own original *Trek* series (*New Frontier*) to his credit.

Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, the mainstream comics industry tended to treat artists like rock stars and writers almost as afterthoughts. This was particularly notable during the early days of Image Comics, when

many of Marvel's most popular artists bugged off to form their own company. Many of the writers working in the comics industry then aren't still working there anymore for various reasons, but Peter's still in the trenches, producing excellent comics on a regular basis for Marvel.

In 2011, Peter got together with fellow *Trek* scribes Michael Jan Friedman, Robert Greenberger, Aaron Rosenberg, Howard Weinstein, and Glenn Hauman to form Crazy 8 Press, their way of dealing with the adversity of the ever-changing publishing landscape that has ever been fraught for those of us who toil in the dreaded midlist. Peter kicked off C8 with *The Camelot Papers* and has continued to publish lots of cool stuff through the press, most recently the anthology *The Fans are Buried Tales*.

And then there are the much nastier bits of adversity.

In December 2012, Peter suffered a stroke while on vacation in Florida. The recovery from that was long and difficult, but he was well enough in February of 2013 to attend the Farpoint convention (earning a minute-long standing ovation when his surprise presence — everyone had assumed he wouldn't be attending because of the stroke—was announced at opening ceremonies). It took a considerable amount of hard work, but Peter worked his way back from the stroke to return to his full writing schedule — comics for Marvel, novels for a variety of publishers, short stories for assorted anthologies, not to mention material for his Patreon.

More recently, Peter has had to go on dialysis, as his kidneys have betrayed him. He has managed to find a way to take care of his ailing kidneys and still be able to attend conventions like this one, for which we're all grateful.

On a more personal note, I first met Peter in 1990 when I was one of the hosts of a public-access TV show called *The Chronic Rift*, and we had Peter on.

Over the years, I've had the pleasure of editing Peter (his 1995 *Incredible Hulk* novel *What Savage Beast*), collaborating with Peter (we co-edited the *New Frontier* anthology *No Limits* in 2003), working alongside Peter (on the *Star Trek: Gateways* crossover along with Bob Greenberger, Christie Golden, Susan Wright, and Diane Carey in 2001), being edited by Peter (for the anthologies *They Keep Killing Glenn* in 2018 and *The Fans are Buried Tales* in 2022), and being roasted by Peter (I was the subject of a comedy roast for charity at Shore Leave in 2009, and Peter was on the dais along with David Mack, Dayton Ward & Kevin Dilmore, Mike Friedman, Bob Greenberger, Kirsten Beyer, and Glenn Hauman). We've been guests at the same convention more times than I can count at cons all over the country, and been on dozens of panels together, from I-Con in 1998 to DragonCon in 2021.

But the best part of having known Peter for thirty-two years is having the pleasure of his company. Peter is a smart, funny, sarcastic, hilarious, quick-witted, talented person, who is a joy to be in a room with.

By attending HELIOSphere this year, you get to experience that for yourself. Make sure you give yourself a chance to enjoy his entertaining presence.

HELIOSPHERE SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

Friday, March 25

2:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Registration Open
2:59 pm - 3:59 pm	Welcome Tea
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Dealers Open
3:00 pm - 11:59 pm	Gaming Open
4:00 pm - 5:05 pm	Guilty Pleasures
4:00 pm - 4:59 pm	Early Bird Filk
5:00 pm - 5:59 pm	Early Bird Filk
5:15 pm - 6:20 pm	“Beware the Second Banana” – secondary characters that steal the limelight
5:15 pm - 6:20 pm	Reading less known authors
6:00 pm - 6:59 pm	Open Filk – Meal Break
6:30 pm - 7:50 pm	Religion, Skepticism, and Atheism in Sf Fandom
6:30 pm - 7:50 pm	Public Reading 101
7:00 pm - 7:59 pm	Theme Circle: Mad Science Songs
8:00 pm - 8:59 pm	Chuck Tingle Reading: The Audience Participation Version!
8:00 pm - 12:00 am	Theme Circle – Space Exploration Songs
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Ice Cream Social
9:00 pm - 9:59 pm	It looked like a Jackson Pollack painting....
9:00 pm - 9:59 pm	Open Filk
9:30 pm - 11:00 pm	Princess Bride Screening Participation Edition
11:00 pm - 11:59 pm	Crucible Meetup

Saturday, March 26

10:00 am - 11:15 am	Worldview and beliefs in SF
10:00 am - 11:15 am	So You Want to Create an Alien...
11:00 am - 11:59 am	Open Filk
11:30 am - 12:45 pm	Romance Vs Erotica.
11:30 am - 12:45 pm	The Ship as Character
12:00 pm - 12:59 pm	Concert: Alan Beck
1:00 pm - 1:59 pm	Concert: Ian “Taliesin” Hanley
2:00 pm - 3:05 pm	Bad Film a Go Go
2:00 pm - 2:59 pm	Theme Circle: Song That Tells A Story (Pegasus Floating Filk Category)
3:00 pm - 3:59 pm	Theme Circle: Favorite Fandom Songs
3:15 pm - 4:20 pm	Shows That Didn’t Get Their Day...

3:15 pm - 4:20 pm	Puppets
4:00 pm - 4:59 pm	Concert: Mike Agranoff
4:30 pm - 5:40 pm	Broad Universe
4:30 pm - 5:40 pm	Conversation with Peter David and Kathleen O' Shea David
5:00pm - 5:59 pm	Theme Circle: Classic Songs
6:00 pm - 6:59 pm	Open Filk – Meal break
7:30 pm - 7:59 pm	Concert: Joe Giacoio – Ballroom
8:00 pm - 8:59 pm	Concert: Carla Ulbrich – Ballroom D
8:00 pm - 9:59 pm	Espec Book Launch
9:00 pm - 11:59 pm	Open filk Starts
10:00 pm - 10:59 pm	The Care And Feeding of Psychological Horror

Sunday, March 27

10:00 am - 11:15 am	How CGI is Making Cosplay Harder
10:00 am - 11:15 am	Judging a book by its cover
11:00 am - 11:59 am	Open Filk
11:30 am - 12:45 pm	Supernatural: Did They Stick The Landing?
11:30 am - 12:45 pm	Different sub-genres of Horror
1:00 pm - 1:59 pm	Concert: Roberta Rogow
1:00 pm - 2:10 pm	When “Bad” People Write “Good” Books
1:00 pm - 2:10 pm	Dani book workshop
2:00 pm - 2:59 pm	Theme Circle: Food Songs
2:20 pm - 3:30 pm	The Relationship between Sci-Fi and Occult / Speculative Interests
2:20 pm - 3:30 pm	Before you sign on that dotted line...
3:00 pm - 3:59 pm	Theme Circle: Best Furry Friend Song (Pegasus Floating Filk Category)
4:00 pm - 4:59 pm	Feedback Session
5:00 pm - 5:59 pm	Theme Circle: Parody
6:00 pm - 6:59 pm	Dinner Break
6:00 pm - 11:59 pm	Dead Dog Filk



GUESTS OF HONOR



AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR
CHARLES DE LINT



ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR
FLOYD NORMAN



FAN GUESTS OF HONOR
**EDIE STERN
AND JOE SICLARI**



GUEST OF HONOR
ERLE KORSHAK

FEATURED GUESTS



DR. EVE L. EWING



GENE HA



ERIC WILKERSON



**TOASTMASTERS
ANNALEE NEWITZ AND
CHARLIE JANE ANDERS**



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PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

(subject to change)

Bad Film a Go Go

Salon D

Join amateur animator, filmmaker hobbyist, and bad movie historian Mark Bailey and revel in all things Bad Film! From the golden age dud *Reefer Madness* to 1950's clunkers *Plan 9 From Outer Space* and *Robot Monster* to modern stinkers like *The Room* and *Birdemic: Shock & Terror*. This presentation is for fans of celebrated cinematic failures and encourages the stories of how you enjoy watching these treasures, warts and all. Reach Bailey at foxtrotfilm@yahoo.com or [facebook.com/MarkBaileyNJ/](https://www.facebook.com/MarkBaileyNJ/) if you have any questions about this presentation. Looking forward to meeting you!!

Before You Sign On That Dotted Line...

Salon D

Lori Perkins Alex Shvartsman Darrell Schweitzer

Advice on reading contracts with agents and/or publishers: pitfalls to avoid, what you can/can't cross out, avoiding losing rights you'll never get back, and more.

"Beware the Second Banana" – secondary characters that steal the limelight

Salon D

Keith R. A. DeCandido Vikki Ciaffone Peter David

Shatner was the star but Nimoy stole the show. Harrison Ford was the star but Rutger Hauer stole the show. Join our open discussion group and add your favorite name to our list of show-stealers.

Chuck Tingle Reading: The Audience Participation Version!

Salon D

Join us as we pass around the works of Chuck Tingle and other infamous (and infamously funny) books! How long can you last reading the work out loud without cracking up? Keep a straight face until the timer goes off and you win major kudos! Yes, we're cheap – but this is sure to be a good time for all

Must be 18+ to attend

Concert: Joe Giacoio

Salon D

Joe Giacoio has won a number of awards for his unique guitar playing style and quirky songwriting. His national TV debut was on the long running *Up All Night with Rhonda Shear* on the USA Network and he has also been featured on the Dr. Demento show.

Concert: Carla Ulbrich

Salon D

Carla Ulbrich is a comical singer-songwriter / filker whose songs have been aired on the BBC, Dr. Demento, SiriusXM Comedy Radio, and NPR's *Morning Edition*.

CONVERSATION WITH PETER DAVID AND KATHLEEN O'SHEA DAVID

Salon C

Peter David Kathleen O'Shea David

Peter David and Kathleen O'Shea David will be chatting about their careers and life.

Crucible Meetup

Salon D

Come hang out with your friends. **18+ Only**

Dani Book Workshop

Salon D

Danielle Ackley-McPhail

Different Sub-Genres Of Horror

Salon D

Lori Perkins

Carol Gyzander

James Chambers

Psychological, Splatterpunk, lets talk

Espec Book Launch

Salon C

Danielle Ackley-McPhail

Gordon Linzner

Carol Gyzander

Amy Grech

Chris Burke

Mike McPhail

Come join the ESPEC publishing gang to celebrate their new book, *EVEN IN THE GRAVE* anthology

Guilty Pleasures

Salon C

These are genre TV series which panelists enjoy without claiming they are great shows. What are your guilty pleasures?

How CGI is Making Cosplay Harder

Salon D

Debi Chowdhury

Wrenn Sims

Caroline David

With so much CGI and special effects it is sometimes hard to tell what is real and what is computer generated. When trying to turn a character into cosplay, how to compensate for CGI effects and how to make your cosplay look better.

Ice Cream Social

Restaurant

Come join us for some quality time for sweet treats and other fun. Maybe some readings, maybe some filk. Cash bar.

It Looked Like A Jackson Pollack Painting....

Salon D

Crucible Mike

Crucible Sarah

Stories from a real life sex club Join the managers of The Crucible, DC's premiere sex club as they share True Tale Tales, Anecdotal Stories, and Cautionary Tales of the day-to-day operations of a sex club.

Must be 18+ to attend

Judging A Book By Its Cover

Salon C

Lori Perkins

Alex Shvartsman

Mike McPhail

Colin Alexander

Do book covers hurt or sell books. Are custom covers only for the well known?

Public Reading 101

Salon D

Carol Gyzander

Many authors do readings of their work, but it can feel overwhelming to approach it the first—or fiftieth—time. Carol Gyzander, co-host of HWA NY's *Galactic Terrors* online reading series, shares how and why to do public readings of your work. She'll discuss where to read, how to select a piece, and important preparation tips.



Puppets

Salon D

Kathleen O’Shea David

Reading Less Known Authors

Salon C

Darrell Schweitzer Colin Alexander

There are lots of authors who were popular in their time but are not as known now. Let’s talk about who our favorite forgotten authors are and what are their best books.

Religion, Skepticism, and Atheism in SF Fandom

Salon C

Hildy Silverman Mike Ventrella Jeff Warner David Walton

Which came first – the non-theistic story or the non-theistic fan? Are rational empirical people attracted to rational empirical stories? Or do the stories provide emotional validation for the people?

Romance vs. Erotica.

Salon D

Lori Perkins Sarah Sheehan Carole Ann Moleti

Shows That Didn’t Get Their Day...

Salon C

Vikki Ciaffone Gordon Linzner Chris Burke Hildy Silverman

So many good or potentially good shows have been “done in” by The Powers That Be. Examples: *Once Upon a Time* (executives meddling especially the frozen storyline), *Heroes* (the writers strike), *4400*, *sense8* (Netflix refused to pay for the show anymore). Join in a panel discussion of shows that just didn’t get the airtime they deserved.

So You Want to Create an Alien...

Salon D

Vikki Ciaffone Dr. James Prego Gordon Linzner

Aliens in both written fiction and media can be so much more than a human in green makeup and antennae. We will discuss, among other things, creating aliens vastly different both physically and mentally from ourselves, and how to work into a storyline without bringing everything to a halt.

Supernatural: Did They Stick The Landing?

Salon C

Keith R. A. DeCandido Hildy Silverman Dr. James Prego
Fan of *Supernatural*? Happy? Or not?

The Care And Feeding of Psychological Horror

Salon C

Carol Gyzander James Chambers Amy Grech
There are many ways to nurture the growth of existential dread. What will keep your reader's eyes glued to your story even as it's causing them to crawl out of their own skin?

The Relationship between Sci-Fi and Occult / Speculative Interests

Salon C

Vikki Ciaffone Hildy Silverman Gordon Linzner Andy Campbell
Mike McPhail

From the days of the appearance of the Shaver stories in Palmer's *Amazing Stories* through the reptilian agenda of David Icke, there has always been an overlap and ideational interchange between fringe topics, like Atlantis, UFOs, Polar myth, etc. and science fiction/fantasy. Are people interested in occult/speculative topics more likely to gravitate to SF, or is it the other way around? Panelists could discuss the differences between the lure of the unexplainable presented as fact and the appeal of the weird/extrapolative in fiction and what purpose each serves for their respective audiences.

The Ship As Character

Salon C

Jeff Warner Peter David Chris Kreuter Andy Campbell
Andromeda Ascendant, The Tardis, The Liberator, Holly/RedDwarf, and HAL 9000. More than prop, more than a set, sometimes even a second banana. Let's discuss some of our favorite people who aren't "people".

Welcome Tea

Restaurant

After you register, join us in the restaurant for tea (or coffee) and some sweets.

When "Bad" People Write "Good" Books

Salon C

Jeff Warner Peter David Mike Ventrella
Reconciling great works from problematic authors.

Worldview And Beliefs In SF

Salon C

Russ Colchamiro Bjorn Hasseler David Walton
Everyone has a worldview, or underlying beliefs about reality that colors their perceptions and behavior. How important are these in the process of creating stories, does it matter how evident these are in a story, do you enjoy stories that strongly differ from your personal worldview?



Glasgow in 2024

A Worldcon For Our Futures

Glasgow is a vibrant city filled with science fiction, fantasy and inventiveness, and our team aims to bring our love of these to our Bid to host the 82nd Worldcon. Our venue, the Scottish Event Campus, has seen much growth with new onsite hotels and restaurants, and will serve as a hub for a fantastic Worldcon. Join us as we bring all our futures together in one great celebration!

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WE'D LIKE TO THANK ...



Philcon and the **Philadelphia Science Fiction Society (PSFS)** for their fantastic help, support, and advice. Their next convention, Philcon 2022, is November 18–20, 2022 in Cherry Hill, NJ.

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psfs.org



Boskone and the **New England Science Fiction Association (NESFA)** for their support, especially the loan of their registration equipment. Boskone 60 will be taking place February 17–19, 2023 in Boston.

boskone.org
nesfa.org



Double Exposure, Inc. and their **Envoy** program for all their help in putting together gaming at HELIOsphere.

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