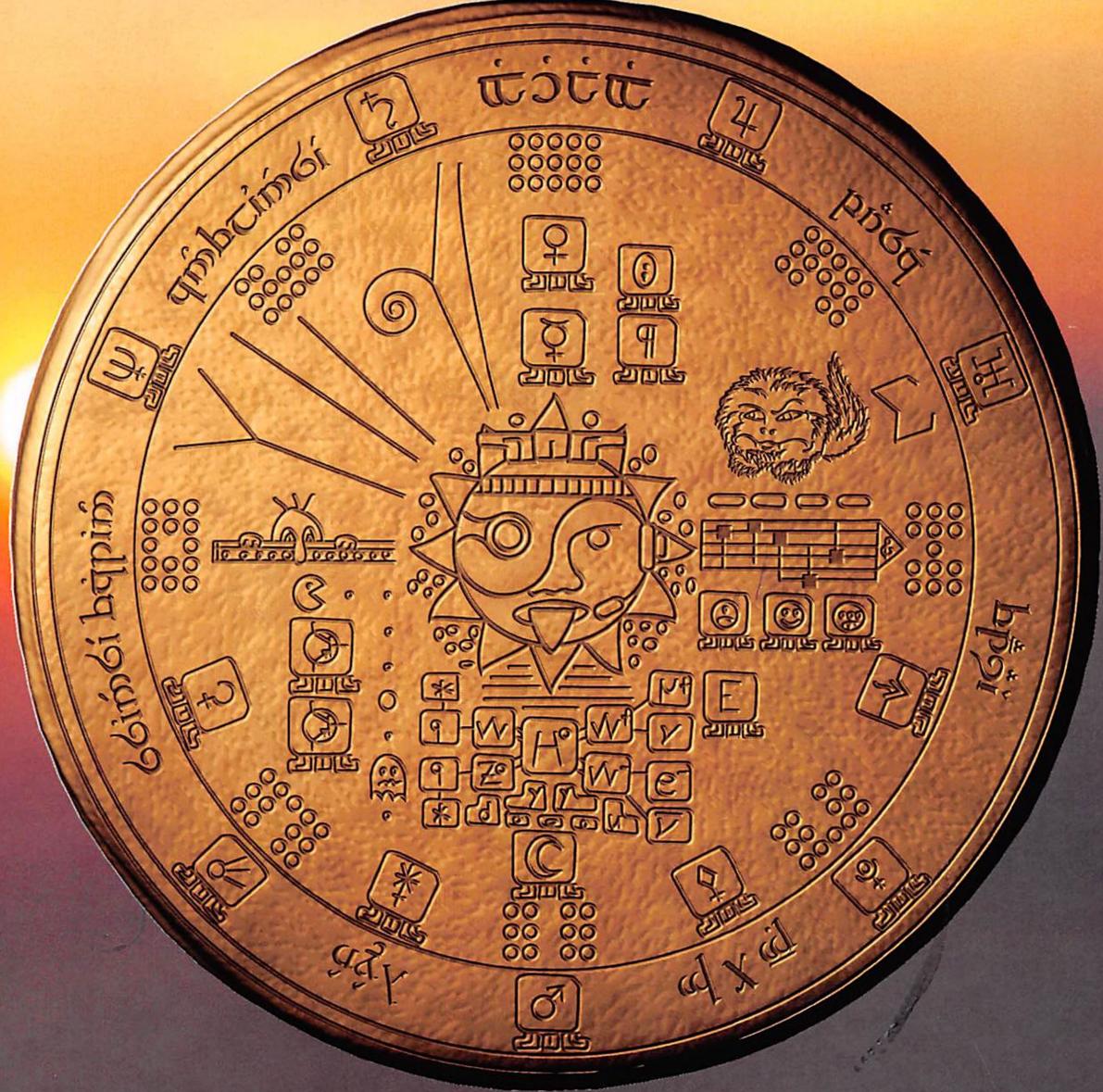


# *Confluence*

# 2012



July 27 - 29

The 24<sup>th</sup> Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Conference in Western Pennsylvania

## Confluence Rules

- Wear your Confluence badge at all times while in the function areas. You will not be admitted to the function rooms without a full membership badge.
- The Con Com reserves the right to eject, without refunding membership, anyone whose behavior is deemed to be inappropriate and detrimental to the Conference or to other participants.
- Children under 8 or who are kids-in-tow must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Unattended children will be considered to be weapons.
- The people overseeing the Con Suite may, at their discretion, bar disruptive individuals from the Con Suite.
- The drinking age in Pennsylvania is 21. We will need to see a photo ID which shows your age before we serve you alcohol. If you cannot produce proof of age, you will not be served alcohol.
- This is a smoke-free conference. No smoking in the function spaces. This includes the Con Suite.
- Please do not tape anything to the hotel walls. Come to the registration table to get some poster putty instead.
- Please do not bring non-service animals with you. The only animals our hotel permits are guide dogs.
- Please set cell phones to silent during panels and other presentations.

## Weapons Policy

- Weapons must be part of obvious costumes. By "obvious costumes," we mean things that wouldn't be mistaken for street clothes in most Western cities in the year 2012.
- Weapons must be facsimiles only. Real weapons are not allowed.
- No weapon is to be brandished in any manner. Weapons must be properly bound at all times: sword-like objects must be kept sheathed; gun-like objects must be kept holstered. Other weapon-like objects must be kept in their appropriate containers. Peace-bonding is required.
- The Confluence committee and our security staff, the Dorsai Irregulars, reserve the right to inspect all weapons and their bindings, and ask that the weapon be re-bound or removed if found to be inappropriate.
- Violations of this policy will result in expulsion without refund from the conference.
- In addition, Confluence asks that members please remove all weapons and store them in hotel rooms before entering the Mundane World beyond the convention area. This includes the hotel restaurant, as well as all areas outside the hotel.

## Hours

### Con Suite

Friday: 4 PM–2 AM  
Saturday: 8 AM–2 AM  
Sunday: 8 AM–4 PM

### Dealers' Room

Friday: 5-ish\* PM–8 PM  
Saturday: 10 AM–6 PM  
Sunday: 10 AM–3 PM

\* Friday night opening depends on when set-up completes; we try for 5pm, but travel and other delays may cause us to open after this. Please be patient. Thank you!

### Art Show

Friday: 6 PM–8 PM  
Saturday: 10 AM–6 PM  
Sunday: 10 AM–12 noon

### Art Auction: Sunday; see program

### Artist Check-In/Check-Out, Purchase Pickup

Friday (check-in): 4:30 PM–8 PM  
Saturday (check-in): 9 AM–12 noon  
Sunday (check-out, pickup): End of auction–4 PM

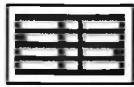
## Art Show Rules and Policies

- Only the artist's original work or **signed-and-numbered limited-edition art** can be entered into the show. **Confluence has no Print Shop.** (Sorry.)
- All art must have a science fiction, fantasy, or horror theme.
- While we have a very small area for Mature Art, we are most suited to art that can be viewed by all ages.
- All art must be matted or mounted in a way suitable for hanging to ensure that the artwork is undamaged during display. If art is 3-dimensional, please state whether it is permissible to touch.
- There is a \$.25/piece fee for For Sale artwork. If you do not include a per piece fee with your mailed in art, the fee will be deducted from your sales.
- The art show will collect a 10% commission on the sale of any art. There will be a \$2-per-piece hanging fee on Not For Sale artwork, due at the time of hanging.
- Agenting is permitted. All agents must have a letter of permission from the artist to display the art in question at Confluence. A copy of this letter will be retained by the art show, and the payment for the art sold will be sent directly to the artist, not the agent.
- Any art with two or more bids will go to auction on Sunday. All art with only one bid at the close of show Sunday is sold to that bidder.
- During the open hours of the show, any work that has no bid (and is not listed as "Not For Sale") may be purchased for the **quick sale** price. The art show staff should be consulted for quick sale purchases. Any art that is not paid for and picked up by 4 pm on Sunday will be sent back to the artist.

# All Summer (Con) in a Page

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## Dorsai Irregulars



SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY AND *STAR TREK* CONVENTION  
ACCESS CONTROL – LOGISTICS – GUEST ESCORT – AUCTIONEERS

Since our formation over 30 years ago, the Dorsai Irregulars have served at nearly 100 conventions with 100 to 30,000 attendees, including several Worldcons. Our membership includes over 50 veteran fans, professional and amateur writers, artists, filkers and multi-term concom staffers from a Worldcon chair on down.

A Dorsai Contract gets you experienced, competent and reliable people for your convention. We organize ourselves, assign our own shifts and schedule personnel appropriate to the duty station. We're there, on time, throughout the con.

If your con needs help for badge check, security, problem solving, guest escort or auctioneering, call the Irregulars.

7995 Mason Lane, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189, USA  
[contact@di.org](mailto:contact@di.org)

# Seanan McGuire: A Crowdsourced Bio

## By Vixy (and Twitter)

It's Seanan McGuire, Campbell-Award-winning, *New York Times* bestselling author of the October Daye series, the InCryptid series, and as Mira Grant, the Newsflesh trilogy and the upcoming Forced Evolutions dualogy! Pegasus-Award-winning filker, the first filker to have a solo filk album nominated for a Hugo award, and the first woman to be nominated to the Hugo ballot four times in one year!



What can I tell you about your Guest of Honor? What can I say that hasn't already been said? What can I... okay look, a crow ate my homework. I mean, my alarm didn't go off. I mean... can I use a lifeline? It's time for... ASK THE INTERNETS!

What do *you* think we should tell them about Seanan McGuire (a.k.a. Mira Grant), internets?

@Ni\_Tak: She is incredibly smart, witty, and capable of making you laugh at horrible, horrible death while taking her seriously.

@rattyfleef: Her work has made me cry in cafes, bounce in glee on public transit, and buy multiple copies the better to pimp them <3

So very true! And what do you like best about the Newsflesh trilogy in particular?

@dillonac: Aside from the snarky characters? The fact that the viral elements of Newsflesh are plausible. Terrifying!

@brendensparks: The fact that Mira Grant got the CDC to tell her she shouldn't do something.

Yeah, that was a bit alarming. I hear she's a lot of fun in her off hours though...

@mokatiki: when we first met we stayed up all night talking about care bears, MLP and Greek mythology :) Still could 10yrs later!

@skipperjovi: She knows all the Tower of Terror drop patterns by the way the elevator clicks into place.

Impressive! So what should we know if there's a Dinner with the Guests banquet?

@drpunk: When I walked in with my plushy Ebola, I said, "Hi, I'm Lisa, and this is my Ebola." Seanan immediately asked, "And what type of Ebola is it?" I stammered that I wasn't sure, and she cheerfully enumerated all of my Ebola options.

@mgucciard: She makes dinner discussions of intestinal parasites and deadly diseases a rollicking good time.

Er... maybe we'll skip dinner and just play some games?

@Aiglet: Her favorite thing about *Lollipop Chainsaw* isn't the zombies—it's chainsawing ALL THE THINGS.

@meravhoffman: My 105th favorite thing about Seanan is the time we made everyone guess how many tiny snakes were in her bra at once.

Wow. Well... there'll probably be a book signing, right?

@MissAmberClark: Mira Grant signed my copy of *Feed* with chainsaws. Er, she decorated the signing with chainsaws. Rather she drew chainsaws.

Caution: Stand well back.

Well, internets, what is your overall favorite thing about Seanan McGuire?

@missyjack: She's the woman you want next to you when the zombie apocalypse hits!

@Omir55: My favorite thing about Seanan? That she lives in her brain, and not me.

@chip\_uni: Seanan does all her own stunts. 3975 zombies gave their unlivess so that *Deadline* could be perfect.

There you have it, folks! 3975 zombies agree! It's Seanan McGuire, author, filker, folklorist, songwriter, and mad scientist extraordinaire, for all your Confluence Guest of Honor needs!



## Martha Sayre

By Insane Ian

Martha has been an active member in the fan community for over 30 years. Beginning with the "Contact Crowd" in Baltimore in the mid-seventies, Martha was a young fan writing Star Trek fanfiction while helping out at local conventions and publishing fanzines. It was at this time that her love of Science Fiction and music were intertwined. With her husband Rodney Bonds and fannish friend Kathy Burns, they formed the filk trio known as the Omicron Ceti III. The OC3 (as they came to be known) holds the distinction of being the first filk group in Trek fandom to write and perform "K/S" songs and the second to release an album (after Leslie Fish's *Folk Songs For Folk Who Ain't Even Been Yet* in 1976). Their albums were *The Colors of Love* in 1977 and *Only Stars Can Last* in 1979. They also released a tape, *Omicron Ceti III & Friends*, in 1980.

The group would expand to a quartet (and a quintet!) within the years following, but the core music remained the same. Songs inspired by Trek episodes & films, the Lord of the Rings novels, or the SF universe of Sim-Gen were often performed by the group. The OC3 were often featured guests at conventions, traveling up and down the East Coast to cons in Maryland, DC and New York. An early memory recalls author Isaac Asimov, waiting in the audience of an OC3 performance before his Q&A was to begin...singing along to the songs.

As the years went on and other fandoms (and Real Life) called, the group eventually disbanded, but Martha was still active in fandom, publishing 'zines and even running conventions of her own. She still even carried her guitar to cons, ready to play at a moment's notice or if the request of an old filk favorite was made. For the 25th Anniversary of Star Trek, Martha and Kathy got back together for one more song to commemorate the event. "When The Fen Come Together" paid tribute not just to the series and its stars, but also to those whom fandom had lost along the way, such as fen who'd passed away or left for other pursuits. While that may seem depressing, its message is one of hopefulness, and it's an often requested favorite from Martha.

Martha is thrilled and honored to be asked to bring her guitar and songs once again to an eager filk audience after a lengthy break. She currently resides in Baltimore, and her son is a second-generation filker (of sorts)—comedy musician Insane Ian.

# The Confluence Chronicles

## Someone Wicked This Way Comes (Save yourselves!)

**Seanan McGuire** is so awesome, she gets to be two guests in one! She's a Campbell Award winner and is on the Hugo ballot in four different categories this year—the first time a woman has been nominated that many times in the same year. And she's nominated for both fiction and filk. Hear her **Guest of Honor speech** and her **Featured Filk Guest concert**!

We also have a **Special Filk Guest concert** this year by **Martha Sayre**. She was a member of pioneering filk trio the Omicron Ceti III. She hasn't performed a concert in a while; let's welcome her back!

The Parallax Second Players present **SupermAnnie**—a different way to answer the question, "What if a young orphan wishing for a family were taken under the wing of someone rich and bald?"

## A Sound(ing) of Panels (Stay on the path!)

**The Votes AREN'T In** Can real living, breathing politics—and the ideologies that go along with it—have a place in Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror without become pedantic? What examples of politics in these genres exist and how can a writer insert his/her politics without turning off a portion of the audience?

**Snark and the City** A discussion and examination of urban fantasy and its place in "standard" fantasy (we'll leave THAT definition to the panelists). Comparison of medieval fantasy vs. urban fantasy. How much does the idea of urban fantasy rely on the attitude and ennui of the main characters and readers?

**They're Coming to Get You, Barbara... Again and Again and AGAIN...** Zombies have dominated the mainstream horror landscape for over a decade. Some people are sick to death (pun not intended) of them, while others look to the living dead as a necessary balance to twinkly, sparkly, moral-tastic vamps. Why do zombies work and why hasn't even a good shot to the head put this trope down?

**Iron-Writer Collaboration** The audience provides words (nouns, adjectives, verbs, you know, those things); the panel members cobble together a title from them and a story plot to fit it. How many viable stories can you come up with in 55 minutes?

**Keeping Within the Constraints** Not all of this is as free form as it looks. The songs have to follow certain structural guidelines—at least to be good and singable; the stories have to include thematic elements to qualify for anthologies. Is there a best way to do this and still produce exceptional work? And how can we recognize the times to throw the rule book out the window?

**Vogon Poetry** This has to be the bad penny of panels; it keeps turning up—and only because people love it. What appalling meter and rhyme will arise from the panelists and the public this year to entertain us all? (If for no other reason than "I'm glad I didn't write that.")

## Fahrenheit 185 (Too hot!)

This is a temperature at which coffee can cause third-degree burns in seconds; come to our Kaffee Klatsches for coffee that doesn't scald. We also have Literary Beers (even less likely to scald). Sign-up sheets will be present at the registration table. Look for autographing and readings as well. And stop into the writers' workshop to do the exercises and ask questions. (Only previously submitted manuscripts are critiqued.)

# CAPCLAVE 2012

## JOHN SCALZI

Author Guest of Honor

## NICK MAMATAS

Editor Guest of Honor

## OCTOBER 12-14, 2012



**Hilton Washington DC/North Gaithersburg, 620 Perry Parkway, Gaithersburg, MD 20877**

Capclave, the Washington, DC area literary science fiction convention, offers panels; autographing; gaming; kaffeklatches; readings by authors; a dealers' room; filking; science presentations; a hospitality suite; room parties; workshops on writing, reviewing, contracts, and getting an agent; and a relaxed atmosphere for visiting old friends and meeting new friends.

\$45 through May 30, 2012

\$50 June through July 2012

\$55 August through September 2012

\$60 Thereafter

Sign up online or send checks to:

Capclave 2012 Registration

c/o Sam Scheiner, 1518 N. Edison St.,

Arlington, VA 22205

**Special rate for active military and students: \$25 for the whole weekend; \$20 Saturday only**

For more information, visit us at <http://www.capclave.org>

Capclave is a production of the Washington Science Fiction Association

# **CONCLAVE INC.**

## **STATUS REPORT #1**

Once again, the convention staff of ConClave had a wonderful time putting together the con for 2011, and our members have been telling us how much they enjoyed themselves. It's time to tell you about our plans for 2012.

ConClave has decided to take on the dreaded task of a comprehensive **HOTEL SEARCH**. As those who run conventions know, this can be a painful time-consuming process. Until the search is complete, we cannot announce dates or guests.

ConClave also believes this is a time for us to think about how we want to proceed. Fandom is changing. Many fan now prefer to attend more specialized conventions, such as gaming or anime cons. Even the face of the publishing industry is changing, with many authors choosing to use small press or electronic publishing. We need to re-tool ConClave to continue to bring you the enjoyment you expect. This will take time because we want to get it right.

With all of these considerations in mind, we hereby announce:

### ***CONCLAVE WILL NOT HOST ITS ANNUAL CONVENTION IN 2012.***

**But please check our web site for 2013 updates.** During this coming year, we will meet, discuss, and plan. Our web site and e-mail addresses will be maintained, and we encourage you to use them. We hope you continue to give us your feedback, support, and ideas.

We will send Status Reports as they are warranted. At a minimum, we will send one in October, 2012. In that report we will outline the decisions we have made during this reorganization year. **We will include convention ads from our ad swap partners, just as we would in a printed program book. We will also provide links to our ad swap partners on our web site, so that visitors can jump to their sites for all the latest information.**

Over the years, ConClave has seen the creation of ideas, beauty, and new life. We have provided opportunities for people to learn, try new things, and tackle challenges. We have argued and talked and laughed together, mourned the passing of friends and cheered the blossoming of love, danced to the music, shared our dreams, and had a LOT of fun! We want all those things to continue.

We hope you will join us as we explore new directions. Thank you.



— **BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CONCLAVE, INC., AND THE CONCLAVE CONCOM**

**CONCLAVE, INC., P.O. Box 2915, ANN ARBOR, MI 48106-2915**

**E-MAIL:** [con.info@conclavesf.org](mailto:con.info@conclavesf.org)      **UPDATES:** <http://www.conclavesf.org>

**FACEBOOK:** <http://www.facebook.com/pages/ConClave-Inc/154085077106>

**LIVE JOURNAL:** [http://community.livejournal.com/conclavesf\\_org](http://community.livejournal.com/conclavesf_org)

## *Programming*

### **Concerts**

Featured Filk Guest  
Seanan McGuire  
  
Special Filk Guest  
Martha Sayre

The Blibbering Humdingers

Carolyn Brown  
Devo Spice  
Gary Ehrlich  
Cat Faber  
Pete Grubbs  
Insane Ian  
Jonah Knight  
Maugorn  
Kathleen Sloan  
Wreckcreation  
Rob Wynne

Selected concerts will be  
signed by Judi Miller.

### **The Confluence Video Room Presents:**

#### **The End of the World (as we know it)**

The kooks are saying that 2012 is the end of the Mayan long cycle calendar and thus, the end of the world. Well, we've heard that story many, many times before. And we're going to hear it repeatedly when the Video Room destroys the world over and over again.

#### **Friday**

4:00pm	<i>On the Beach</i> (1959)
6:15pm	<i>Day the Earth Caught Fire</i> (1961)
8:00pm	<i>Prophecies of Nostradamus</i> (1974)
10:00pm	<i>Deep Impact</i> (1998)

#### **Saturday**

10:00am	<i>Titan A.E.</i> (2000)
11:30am	<i>When Worlds Collide</i> (1951)
1:00pm	<i>The Satan Bug</i> (1965)
3:00pm	<i>Day of the Triffids</i> (1962)
4:30pm	<i>Miracle Mile</i> (1988)
6:00pm	<i>Dr. Strangelove</i> (1964)
8:00pm	<i>Last Night</i> (1998)
9:30pm	<i>2012</i> (2009)

#### **Sunday**

10:00am	<i>The Quiet Earth</i> (1985)
11:30am	<i>Day the World Ended</i> (1955)
1:00pm	<i>Colossus: The Forbin Project</i> (1970)
2:30pm	<i>Wall-E</i> (2008)

### **Dealers**

**Danielle Ackley-McPhail**,  
proprietor of  
Sidhe na Daire  
(<http://www.sidhenadaire.com>)  
Bad-Ass Faeries  
(<http://www.badassfaeries.com>)

**Fortress Publishing**  
Camp Hill, PA  
Comics, books, magazines  
<http://www.fortresspublishinginc.com>

**David Hartwell**  
Pleasantville, NY  
Proofs, collectible books, used books

**Oh, So Fine Inc**  
Columbus, OH  
Unique handmade jewelry  
<http://www.ohsofine.artfire.com>

#### **Costumes by Loren**

Basic costumes, jewelry, medieval and leather gear for Barbie dolls, and medieval teddy-bears  
Hamilton, OH

#### **Old Earth Books**

Baltimore, MD  
Classic reprints, small press, imports  
<http://www.oldearthbooks.com>

#### **Ursula's Alcove**

Canonsburg, PA  
Goods for fiber-arts enthusiasts; books, patterns, funky hats  
<http://www.ursulasalcove.com>

#### **Post Mortem Press**

Cincinnati, OH  
Small press  
<http://www.postmortem-press.com>

#### **Undiscovered Treasures**

Burke, VA  
Jewelry, minerals, small gifts

#### **Larry Smith Bookseller**

Upper Arlington, OH  
New books

#### **Larry Ivkovich**

Corapolis, PA  
Author

#### **Christine Hutson**

Pittsburgh, PA  
Calligraphy and illustration

#### **Frank Fogelman**

Claridge, PA  
Bookseller

# The Eighteenth Annual PARSEC Science Fiction and Fantasy Short Story Contest

**Contest Period:** Contest opens January 1, 2013 and closes March 31, 2013.

**Prizes and Eligibility:** The contest is open to non-professional writers (those who have not met eligibility requirements for SFWA or equivalent: sale of a novel or sale of 3 stories to a large-circulation publication). Previous multiple winners and current contest coordinators are also ineligible. The best story which uses the contest theme as a key element will be published in the Confluence 2013 program book, and the author awarded the first prize of \$200. Second and third prize win \$100 and \$50 respectively. Stories may be considered for possible publication in a PARSEC INK publication. Submission to the contest implies consent for publication, but all rights revert immediately to the authors upon publication. Coordinators screen the entries, and the best submissions go on to our panel of three judges. Decisions of the judges and coordinators in all these matters are final. There is NO entry fee. Multiple submissions (maximum of 4) are allowed.

**Judges:** To be announced.

**Format:** Stories must be Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Horror genre. Stories must be original, unpublished, unsold and no more than 3500 words in length. Manuscripts should be double-spaced. Judging is blind. PLEASE REMOVE IDENTIFYING INFORMATION (E.G., AUTHOR NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL) FROM THE MANUSCRIPT PROPER. DON'T FORGET TO REMOVE IT FROM HEADERS AND FOOTERS TOO. For electronic submissions through our submission manager, you may include contact information in the cover letter or bio box. For mailed submissions, include a separate title sheet.

**How To Submit:** Electronic submissions make our lives easier. Please upload your story using Submishmash. If this is your first time submitting to a publication that uses Submishmash, you will have to create an account with them. It's free.

We'll consider stories in the following formats:

- \* .doc (MS Word)
- \* .odt (OpenDocument Text -- format used by the OpenOffice.org suite)
- \* .rtf (Rich Text Format -- generic document format that most word processors can create)
- \* .pdf

## SUBMIT that story!

If you cannot submit electronically, please send the manuscript (with either a SASE or a return email address) to:

**Stephen Ramey** Parsec Short Story Contest  
312 N Beaver St.  
New Castle PA 16101

If you have already sent a physical copy to the previous address, rest assured, your submission will be judged. However, we would like you to resubmit electronically if possible.

**Theme:** **Steel Cities**—Steel girders, iron grit, fey regret, the sooty breath of an industry born or lost. Time to test your metal, and send us something solid about a city (or cities) and strength. The theme need not be used literally, but the story should incorporate it in a non-trivial way.

**Deadline:** **March 31, 2013.**

For clarifications or answers to questions only, you may email to [contest@parsec-sff.org](mailto:contest@parsec-sff.org).

\*\*\*\*\*  
Last year's winners (for the theme of "Morning After") were:

First Place: "The Third Portal" by DeAnna Knippling, Colorado

Second Place: "Lund" by Sean Houlihan, Connecticut

Third Place: "Sable" by Ryan Rebel, Pennsylvania

The judges were Christopher Barzak, Fran Van Cleave, and Susan Urbanek Linville.

# The Third Portal

by DeAnna Knippling

**S**now is falling on the street and melting. Half the streetlights are out due to budget cuts, so the streets don't shine like they used to, but they sound the same, with a soft ripping sound every time a car drives past. It's not supposed to be snowing here, not here, not July, but that's the third portal for you.

Henry looks at me, I look at Henry. "She's not coming back," he says.

Another car drives by. "She'll come back."

"She shouldn't come back."

I shake my head. He's right; she shouldn't. But she will. You want them to grow up, spread their wings, and fly; you want them to stay with you forever; you want them to somehow, magically, be able to do both. But she won't. She'll be back.

They will damage her, just enough that she'll be helpless for the rest of her life. And she'll be back.



I go to work. This is what you do, when you've sent the brightest and best off to a war they can never win. I back slowly out of the driveway. We live at the exact top of a hill, not a big hill, just one big enough that you can't see traffic coming until it's on top of you. This time, nobody pops out of nowhere, driving too fast, skids and swerves, and leaves trademarks in our neighbors' yard. We have trademarks in our yard, from someone doing that to the neighbors. I don't know who they are, their names, nothing. They have political signs in their yard every year.

They don't do the kind with the simple messages, like "Vote for so-and-so," but "If you vote for so-and-so, you're an idiot" kind of things. It's their property. But I can't help thinking they're assholes. The kind of three-year-olds who threw tantrums in the grocery store and were never stopped. Maybe they're just old. The old people we seem to have around now are so passionate about their ideals. It'd be noble except they're

assholes. Passionately ideal assholes. I don't know them, don't want to. Why don't people get to know their neighbors anymore?

Because we already know they're assholes.

Now, even though it's not anywhere near time to vote, they have signs in their front yard saying, "If you voted for so-and-so, you're voting against war, you idiot."

Not in so many words.

I've lived across from them for years, and I've never seen kids, or extra cars in the driveway, or yard decorations, or anything. Just those damned signs. They don't have a dog in this fight, and I wish they'd just shut the hell up.

Then I'm at work, and Craig stops by my desk to tell me that I should be proud of my daughter.

I tell him to get the fuck out of my cube.

The supervisor comes by to tell me to stop picking fights with the analysts.

I tell him that if Craig wants to stop by and pick a fight, then go running for help the first time a wounded dog turns around and growls, he can't be worth much. Won't stand up for what he believes in, if that's anything more than what he's been told to believe. He had the balls to say that I should be proud of my daughter. And no, he wasn't paying me, or her, some kind of compliment. It was the way he said it. And his past history of comments.

I should support the war, is what he means.

I don't.

I glare at Marcy. "And if you want to fire me or reprimand me for that, go right ahead."

I don't know what's changed, lately. Lately I've been able to say that kind of thing, after years of keeping my mouth shut. If you're going to bring the fight to me, I'll play. Don't expect me to go running like a dog with my tail between my legs.

## *The Third Portal*

I don't say, "I am proud of my daughter." Because that's never what it was about. Some people can't agree to disagree. They pick and pick at you. "Just presenting the evidence." Bullshit.

"If you're not with us, you're against us." Bullshit.

"How about them Bears?"

Bullshit.



Dorey sends back an email from the front. I know we're the last people on her mind right now, so I'm grateful.

She sends about a hundred pictures from the other side of the third portal. I smile at them; they're about as bad as the first pictures you take out of an airplane window, trying to capture the sense of what it's like to be up so high, the way everything is so small, and all you get are pictures of the side of the window, and reflected flash.

I've seen pictures of it, taken by professional photographers, so I know what she's trying to show me: the formless swirls of color, the flashes of images that seem to come right out of your own mind (and probably do). The black line running through everything.

When you're lost on the other side of the third portal, find the black line; it'll take you back to Valparaiso.

She can't tell me, and I don't ask, what she's fighting for. One, it's classified, and two, the answer would probably be something like "freedom" or "justice," some inconsequential principle that doesn't tell me when she's going to come home or how messed up she's going to be when she does.

But she believes in it, whatever it is. You can tell from the email. The excitement, the sense of purpose. Maybe she's fallen in love with someone. Her coming home pregnant is the least of my worries. I believe, I truly believe, that she coded some kind of secret message in her email, and I'm just not smart enough to decipher it. I'm not stupid. But if it's going to pass the censors, it's going to go right over my head, too. After I tell Henry, he works at it for a while, too, on the basis of my gut instinct. But he says there's nothing he can find, either. I can tell from his voice that he's just being kind.

The first portal was a world of white. Cold and white, snow like feathers.

The second world killed the first group that went through. Heat, pressure, and gases that dissolved the seals on their suits faster than you could say *Oh shit*.

The third portal. Nobody knows what it is. But there's a war there. Some people say it's for ideals (the old people). Other people say it's all about money and resources (my generation). But the ones who have come back from the war don't say anything. Just smile, broken. The ones who haven't gone yet sound like whomever they want to impress at the moment.

I don't get to hear what they say to each other when they're amongst themselves.



The weeks go by, and then they send Dorey back.

God, I wish they hadn't.

Her mission was successful, they tell me. This is what it's like when their missions are *successful*.

My daughter's mind has been traded with...whatever there is, over on the other side. Her mind, her soul, her personality have all been drained away from her body like changing the oil. And something else has been filtered into her. And sent back.

I have been instructed to call her Dorothy, as I would not be able to pronounce the alien's name.

I refuse.

"Tell me something else I can call you," I say.

"Dorothy."

"I'd rather not. Something else. Anything else."

Dorey's shoulders slump. "I am extremely fragile. If you say my name incorrectly, I will break."

"If you make me call something that is not my daughter by my daughter's name, my heart will break."

Her eyes widen; it must be an automatic human response to some emotion that I've triggered in it. "All by itself?"



Here is an alien, in Dorey's bedroom, looking through her photograph albums.

Here is an alien, looking through the medicine cabinet.

Here is an alien, performing tests with various substances (cinnamon, salt, vinegar, mascara, shoe polish, tape, plastic wrap, candle wax, etc.) by rubbing them into Dorey's skin via small, parallel cuts down one arm.

Here is an alien, sitting on the couch with us, watching TV. Asking questions that a two-year-old would ask. I wouldn't mind them ("What's that?" "A star destroyer." "What's that?" "A desert"), except that it doesn't seem to understand stories.

"What's a beginning?" it asks, through Dorey's mouth. "How do you know when there's an end? Or if it 'comes full circle'?"

Dorey knew those things. It was stories that made her want to see what was on the other side of the portal.

And so when the alien asks about them, I don't know whether to explain stories as if they were heroes or villains. To try to sway its opinions.

"When are you going to leave?" I ask it, at dinner. It has finally admitted that the whole thing about names was a lie. They don't use names. In fact, the alien finds it distressing that I always seem to want one.

"I am here," it says.

"But when will I get Dorey back?"

For some reason, I expect it to say something like, "Does not compute." The alien is as alien to me as a computer, something that operates purely on logic. That says something about the way my mind works.

"Never," the alien says.

It's not a good day. Henry makes me put down the knife. I can't hurt Dorey. Maybe the alien is wrong, or lying. But I have to keep the body safe, no matter what.

The alien has started talking in its sleep. At first I thought the words were in some alien language, but then I realize it's talking in English, only slurred, the way people do in their sleep. I can't make out many of the words.

The way that I sit beside Dorey's bed and watch the alien sleep worries Henry.

I'm tired of listening to people talk and talk about the war at work. *Go, war, go!* So I invited them all over to our house, to meet the alien.

"I'm sure it's just as bad as when my daughter turned into a hippy," says Craig. "I felt like an alien moved into my house."

His sympathy is just as poisonous as his "jokes," which I should have expected, but I invite him anyway.

No. None of them knows what it's like to have an alien move into their house. They're used to teenagers turning from obedient kids (relative speaking) into adults. And, to them, that feels like such a major change—accepting domination, not accepting domination—that they're living with aliens.

I agree that sometimes I don't understand other adults.

But there the metaphor breaks down.

My daughter didn't just change her mind. She didn't become a born-again Christian, didn't change her political affiliation, didn't join a cult, didn't start taking drugs, didn't become a hippy or a goth or what have you.

Henry grills ribs. They are the best damned ribs you'll ever eat. And the people from work, from church, from all over—even a few people I didn't invite who I suspect are the neighbors across the street—see Dorey's body walking around, sniffing people in the ear, stroking the hot grill and raising blisters, eating sticks.

But the ribs are good. If she were brain damaged, it would be the least of my worries.

It's the end of the summer and I get another email from Dorey. I know we're the last people on her mind right now, so I'm grateful.

Again, she's excited, full of purpose. She wants to know how Dorothy is doing; she hopes that D. hasn't damaged her body too much, *haha*, give her a hug from me, remind her that she's supposed to be finding out about sex.

I shudder.

How? How am I supposed to cope? How am I supposed to be a mother and cope?

"When are you coming back?" I ask. I'm not supposed to ask that kind of question, but I do. It'll probably be censored before it reaches her. I don't know. It doesn't look like Dorey's emails are censored.

I tell Henry again that I think there's a pattern in there, hidden, telling us what we need to know.

He checks, finds nothing.

The alien is speaking more clearly in its sleep.

It's October and the tulips are coming up. I wonder, sometimes, if we've changed them as much as they've changed us.

"My enemy, my lover," she says one night, clearly, tenderly. If Dorey were a lesbian, it would be the least of my worries.

I give Craig the emails. He's an analyst. Maybe he can see something that Henry and I can't. He comes back to me, white as a sheet. He's stopped talking about the war, since he met the alien.

"I found something," he says. "But I'm telling you, you don't want to know."

"Tell me."

"You don't want to know."

He tells me. I don't. The pattern isn't in the emails, it's in the return address. Follow the trail of breadcrumbs, and it leads back home again. I search the computer and eventually find the files. The computer has been pulling up the files, sending them to an anonymous remailer, deleting the evidence.

I read the rest of the emails. In another year, she's going to die. The email will come from an official-sounding source. The real Dorey, the spirit of her, will die. Expire. Be erased. I'm not sure what the terminology is. And we'll be stuck with her body. And the alien won't be able to go home, whatever it was that had destroyed Dorey's soul having also destroyed the alien's body as well.

But I don't believe that alien has a body. I show it the emails. It nods. "I was apprised of this," it says.

"Is Dorey dead?" I ask.

"Never."

I don't understand that either, but it doesn't make me want to attack it with a carving knife, either.

I don't know how to end this. Do I kill myself from the strain of not knowing what is or has happened to my daughter? Is the alien really my daughter, changed? Is that why I was supposed to use the same name? What is on the other side of the third portal? What changed Dorey? How do I get her back?

Or do I let her go? Is this a story about how I learned to let my daughter go?

What is the end? What if there is no end, no resolution or unending stasis, a suggestion that this is how I spend the rest of my years?

It's December, hot and dry. I keep hoping for an afternoon rainstorm, like we used to get in June. But things aren't the opposite of what they once were. They're different. It might literally rain cats and dogs, for all I know.

I pull, slowly, out of the driveway, looking behind me and in front of me at the same time. Then I see something out of the corner of my eye and flinch.

It's the neighbors, who have backed out of their driveway at the same moment I have, to take Dorey to the emergency room after she stripped all the skin off one side of her head. She's holding a towel to her scalp, but the blood is dripping freely. Her eyes are bulging from the pain.

They're going the opposite way I am. And there we sit, side by side, for a moment. It's a miracle we didn't hit each other, really. They both wave and nod at me, I don't know, supportively or something.

I put the car in gear and drive. The sign in their yard says something like, "If you vote for the war, you're an idiot."

Okay, so they've changed their minds. But they're still assholes.

-END-

Ever since **DeAnna Knippling** had her daughter (now ten), she's been hearing that the teenage years Will Be Torture and her daughter will suddenly become a horrible stranger, which she somehow doubts. She's also been hearing all kinds of political propaganda that strips complex situations of all subtlety and reduces them to black and white, which she also doubts. She lives in Colorado Springs with her magnificent husband and daughter as well as a foul-tempered, dragonish cat while she writes, learns to play mandolin, and does freelance writing, editing, and formatting work. See her personal website at [www.DeAnnaKnippling.com](http://www.DeAnnaKnippling.com) and her business website at [www.WonderlandPress.com](http://www.WonderlandPress.com).



Participants of Alpha, the SF/F/H Workshop for Young Writers, would like to thank the following individuals for their efforts.

Onsite staff: Seth Dickinson ☺ Julie Holderman ☺ David Barr Kirtley  
Cassie Krahe ☺ John Schmid ☺ Thomas Seay  
Madeline Stevens ☺ Amy Treadwell ☺ Diane Turnshek

2012 Beta scholarship recipients: Jameyanne Fuller  
Laurel Estes ☺ Nathan Bocoo

Writer in Residence: Tamora Pierce

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## The Illustrated Menagerie (Panelists & Performers)

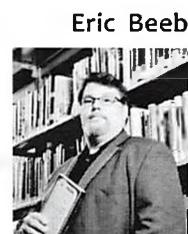
Award-winning author **Danielle Ackley-McPhail** has worked both sides of the publishing industry for over seventeen years. Her works include the urban fantasies, *Yesterday's Dreams*, *Tomorrow's Memories*, the upcoming *Today's Promise*, and *The Halfling's Court*, and the writers guide, *The Literary Handyman*. She edits the *Bad-Ass Faeries* anthologies and *Dragon's Lure*, and has contributed to numerous other anthologies.

She is a member of The Garden State Horror Writers, the New Jersey Authors Network, and Broad Universe, a writer's organization focusing on promoting the works of women authors in the speculative genres. She can be found on LiveJournal (damcpail, lit\_handymen), Facebook (Danielle Ackley-McPhail), and Twitter (DMcPhail). Learn more at [www.sidhenadaire.com](http://www.sidhenadaire.com).



**John Joseph Adams** ([www.johnjosephadams.com](http://www.johnjosephadams.com))—called “the reigning king of the anthology world” by Barnes & Noble.com—is the bestselling editor of many anthologies, such as *Under the Moons of Mars: New Adventures on Barsoom*, *Brave New Worlds*, *Wastelands*, *The Living Dead*, *The Living Dead 2*, *By Blood We Live*, *Federations*, *The Improbable Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, and *The Way of the Wizard*. He is a two-time finalist for the Hugo Award and a three-time finalist for the World Fantasy Award. He is also the editor and publisher of *Lightspeed Magazine*, and is the co-host of Wired.com’s *The Geek’s Guide to the Galaxy* podcast. Find him on Twitter @johnjosephadams.

**Paul Anderson** is the editor of the recent anthology *Torn Realities*, for Post Mortem Press. A short fiction writer, his work has appeared in anthologies such as *Dark Doorways: The Best of Post Mortem Press* (which was Recommended Reading for 2011 by the Horror Writers of America), *The Return to New Bedlam* (Belfire Press), and *Dead Souls* (Post Mortem), as well as the magazines *Title Goes Here*: and *Necrotic Tissue*. He lives in western Pennsylvania with his wife and daughter.



**Eric Beebe**, Post Mortem Press: As an author-centric independent small press, we bridge the gap between self-publishing and corporate publishing. Our mission is to provide an outlet for new and established writers whose talent has not been acknowledged by the mainstream publishing community. Our unique publishing model provides our authors with many of the benefits of “corporate” publishing without the complications. Because we are small, we offer a level of personal attention only the biggest names in writing would receive in the mainstream publishing world. We have published authors as diverse as Paul Anderson, F Paul Wilson, Kenneth W. Cain, Jonathan Maberry, and Jack Ketchum among dozens of others.

**Rand Bellavia** is one-half (by weight, not volume) of the nerd-rock filk band Ookla the Mok. [Begin Accolade Core Dump] Rand has won three Pegasus Awards. Seven of his songs have appeared on Dr. Demento’s Top Ten list. His vocals appear on the Billboard top five hit single “Cupid’s Chokehold” by Gym Class Heroes. One of his songs was used as the theme song for the Disney cartoon *Fillmore!* (While this is certainly exciting information, the exclamation mark is actually part of the cartoon’s official title.) [End Accolade Core Dump]



In his secret identity, Rand is the Director of the Library at D’Youville College in Buffalo, New York.



**The Blibbering Humdingers:** Since 2007 this wizard-rock or “wrock” duo has been performing songs about the world of Harry Potter and associated fandom. Most of their songs have a neo-retro-quasi-comedic bent that are rife with innuendo, meta-humor, and veiled references to all kinds of nerdy topics. Their style ranges from old-timey, to 50s Do-Wop, to 80s new-wave, to straight up rock and roll. Based in Cary, NC Scott & Kirsten have also been delighting SCA and Ren Faire audiences for many years as Master Efenwealt Wystle and Maitresse Aenor d’Anjou. By day, Scott manages advertising campaigns to promote drug studies and some commercial music composition on the side. Kirsten works from home as a professional costumer selling historical, steampunk and fantastical clothing & accessories. Find answers to all you ever wanted to know about them, as well as links to all their GoogTwitYouFaceMyTunes at <http://BlibberingHumdingers.com>.

## Program Participants



**Gary A. Braunbeck** is a prolific author who writes mysteries, thrillers, science fiction, fantasy, horror, and mainstream literature. He is the author of 19 books; his fiction has been translated into Japanese, French, Italian, Russian and German. Nearly 200 of his short stories have appeared in various publications. Some of his most popular stories are mysteries that have appeared in the Cat Crimes anthology series. His fiction has received the Bram Stoker Award (six times) and the International Horror Guild Award.

**C. Bryan Brown** is a published writer who also co-edits the quarterly, dark fiction magazine, *Title Goes Here*: ([www.titlegoeshereonline.com](http://www.titlegoeshereonline.com)) and is co-owner of Misanthrope Press ([www.misanthrope-press.com](http://www.misanthrope-press.com)). You can find more information about him and his writing at [www.cbryanbrown.com](http://www.cbryanbrown.com).



**Carolyn Brown** hails from Ontario, Canada, and has been part of the convention committee and staff for the Toronto area's FilKONTario convention numerous times. (She even got talked into being con chair once.) Her CD *Things with Wings* contains thirteen filk songs and a track of birdsong; her music also appears on *Filk Together* (the FilKONTario 12 anthology CD). She was the Interfilk guest at the GAFilk convention in Georgia in 2006.

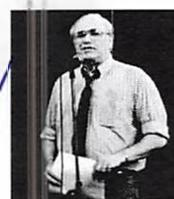
**Kenneth W. Cain** is a dark fiction author from Eastern Pennsylvania. He released his first novel entitled *These Trespasses* in 2011 followed by the sequel, *Grave Revelations*, and is currently working on the third book. Ken has work appearing and forthcoming through several venues including Post Mortem Press, Dark Moon Books, the Twisted Library Press, and Knightwatch Press.



**Ken Chiacchia**'s bio reads like a random sampling of events from different people's lives. He has been a biochemist, public relations writer, freelance newspaper reporter, science fiction author, emergency responder, and hobby farmer. In 2011, he won a Golden Quill Award from the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania for Best Writing, Radio, as a commentator for WYEP FM's Allegheny Front. His spec fic credits include *Cicada*, *Paradox*, and *Oceans of the Mind*. Ken lives with his wife, dog trainer and writer Heather Houlahan, and an assorted cloud of canine partners and fosters, barn cats, chickens, turkeys, ducks, and goats, on a 26-acre farm in Harmony, Pa. He's currently working on a non-genre fiction project.



**Lawrence C. Connolly**'s books include the novels *Veins* (2008) and *Vipers* (2010), which together form the first two books of the *Veins Cycle*. *Vortex*, the third book in the series, is due in 2012. His collections, which include *Visions* (2009), *This Way to Egress* (2010), and *Voices* (2011), collect all of his stories from *Amazing Stories*, *Cemetery Dance*, *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Twilight Zone*, and *Year's Best Horror*. His new collection *Voices* features an all-new novella "Shrines" and artwork by World Fantasy Nominee Jason Zerrillo.



**Dr. Eric Leif Davin** teaches history at the University of Pittsburgh. He is the author of: Introduction to *The Collected Edmond Hamilton*, Vol. 4, Haffner Press, 2011; *Partners in Wonder: Women and the Birth of Science Fiction, 1926-1965*, Lexington Books, 2006; *Pioneers of Wonder: Conversations With the Founders of Science Fiction*, Prometheus Books, 1999.

**Devo Spice** is a nerdcore and comedy rapper from New Jersey who has been called "the red-headed stepson of Weird Al Yankovic and Eminem." His demented brand of hip hop made him one of the most popular artists on the nationally syndicated Dr. Demento Show. Devo Spice founded the comedy rap group Sudden Death whose songs "Cellular Degeneration", "Getting Old Sucks" and "Pillagers" were the numbers 1, 2, and 4 most requested songs on Dr. Demento in 2007. In 2009 Devo Spice's song "Platform Wars" which parodies Apple's "I'm A Mac" commercials was the 4th most requested song of the year.



Devo Spice performs regularly across the country at music clubs, comedy clubs, and science fiction conventions. He has shared the stage with Dr. Demento, MC Lars, MC Frontalot, Jonathan Coulton, Paul and Storm, and many others. The live show features videos and animations synchronized with the music resulting in a hilarious show that goes over very well with a variety of audiences.

## Program Participants

**Gary Ehrlich** stalks the hallways of Northeast conventions and assorted filk conventions. In mundania he is a mild-mannered structural engineer for a major trade association, representing them on material design standards committees and at building code hearings. At cons he can be found on a stage or in the filk room, offering songs of space flight, lunar colonies and hyperspace hotels. Gary is a three-time chair of Conterpoint, the DC area's incarnation of NEFilk, the Floating Northeast Filk Con, has filled other roles for Conterpoint and for 1997's Second Concerto, and is currently Balticon's Director of Filk and Other Musical Mayhem. In April 2012 Gary was inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame for his contributions to the filk community.



Gary appears on five collections of convention recordings: *How Many of them Can We Make Die?* (Conterpoint '96), *The Filk Was Great...* (Conterpoint '00), and *Millennium Pandemonium, Volume 1* (MilPhil '01) by Kludge Audio, and USB Productions' *Triskaidekafilkia* (FilKONTario 13) and *Filk Heroes* (FilKONTario 14).



**Cat Faber** lives in the wilds, or at least the rurals, of Tennessee. She plays mandolin and octave mandolin, writes a lot of songs, and is hard at work on a CD, called *The King's Lute*, which she hopes to release this weekend.

**Sarah Goslee** is a mad scientist. During the day she tries to feed the world, and at night she dreams up much wilder uses for her science. She writes fictional science and science for fiction, and is fascinated by using real worlds (one) to design fictional ones (many). Her nonfiction has appeared in *Clarkesworld*, and she's the editor of *Science in My Fiction*. Sarah's fiction has appeared in *Crossed Genres* and the *Rigor Amortis* anthology.



**Pete Grubbs** first attended Confluence as the headlining filk performer in 1997 & never went home. Besides performing an annual concert, he also provides sound support for his fellow filkers & the Parsec Players. He has released two new albums, *Daydreams and Delusions* and *Something this way filker comes*. Both are available on Bandcamp.com.

**Elektra Hammond** began in the back end of publishing as a copyeditor and proofreader in the 1990s, working in fiction and non-fiction for presses of every imaginable size. She is currently moving in several different directions, trying to find time to write while working as a fiction editor for buzzymag.com, acquisitions editor for Sparkito Press (an imprint of Dark Quest Books), putting together anthologies, and writing book reviews for the TICA Trend. Her steampunk story "The Case of the Duchess's Dog" appears in the anthology *In an Iron Cage: The Magic of Steampunk*.



Elektra lives in Delaware with her husband, Mike, and the well over a dozen cats of BlueBlaze cattery. When she's not freelancing, she travels the world judging cat shows. She can be found on Facebook (Elektra Hammond), Twitter (elektraUM), LiveJournal (elektra\_h), and building up her website at <http://www.untilmidnight.com>.

**David G. Hartwell** is a Senior Editor of Tor/Forge Books. He is the proprietor of Dragon Press, publisher and bookseller, which publishes *The New York Review of Science Fiction*, criticism by Samuel R. Delany and others; and the President of David G. Hartwell, Inc., a consulting editorial firm. He is the author of *Age of Wonders* and the editor of many anthologies, including *The Dark Descent: Masterpieces of Fantasy and Enchantment*, *The World Treasury of Science Fiction*, *Northern Stars*, *The Ascent of Wonder* (co-edited with Kathryn Cramer) and a number of Christmas anthologies, among others. He has won the Eaton Award, the World Fantasy Award, the Science Fiction Chronicle poll, and has been nominated for the Hugo seventeen times.

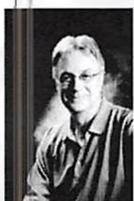


**Insane Ian** is a comedy musician who specializes in songs about video games, comics, sci-fi & other staples of nerdy culture. He has appeared on the nationally syndicated Dr. Demento radio show, was a featured artist at this year's NY Funny Songs Fest (<http://www.nyfunnysongs.com>), & has shared the stage with comedy musicians & nerdcore hiphop artists alike, such as MC Frontalot, Shaffer the Darklord, the great Luke Ski, YT Cracker, Devo Spice, MC Lars & has even been introduced by "Weird Al" Yankovic. His video for "Bob-Omb" (his Super Mario version of the Bruno Mars hit "Grenade") has reached over 70,000 hits on YouTube, securing his fame as an Internet celebrity, & his CD/DVD Collection "Grand Theft Audio" will be released later in 2012. He is also an artist on The FuMP (the Funny Music Project), a community of over 30 comedy musicians who release two new comedy songs a week under a Creative Commons license.



## *Program Participants*

Commons License to thousands of subscribers, both on the website as well as their podcast. Ian himself releases at least one song per month on the site ([thefump.com](http://thefump.com)), and has songs and videos on his own site, [InsaneIan.com](http://InsaneIan.com).

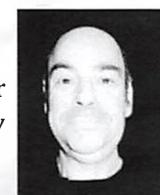


**Larry Ivkovich** is a genre fiction writer whose works have been published in various online and print publications including *Afterburn SF*, *M-Brane SF*, *Penumbra*, *Abaculus III*, *Raw Terror* and *Shelter of Daylight*. He's been a runner-up and finalist in the L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future Contest and was the 2010 recipient of the CZP/Rannu Fund award for fiction. His debut novel, *The Sixth Precept*, is published by IFWG Publishing and is available in print and ebook formats. Larry is a member of Parsec and two local writing/critique groups - the Pittsburgh Southwrites and the Pittsburgh Worldwrights.

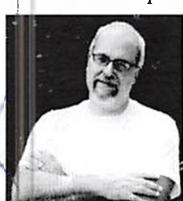
**Alan Katerinsky** has been a fan all his life, but started attending conventions in 1972. Son of First Fandom's Rickey Slavin, he's full of old-timey anecdotes, among other things.

You may not recognize Al, as he has lost 75 pounds since last Confluence.

Currently he's a Security Research Analyst for the Federal Trade Commission, but any remarks or opinions expressed are his own, and have no official standing with the FTC or US government in any capacity.



Al has published chapters in Handbooks of Research and presented papers at scholarly conferences.



With Herb Kauderer, he co-hosts the Internet podcast (now on hiatus) "Orthopedic Horseshoes".

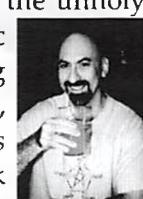
**Herb Kauderer** is an assistant professor of English at Hilbert College in Hamburg, N.Y. He has written screenplays, stage plays, short fiction, and reams of poetry. He has been attending conventions since 1977 and has missed only two Confluences.

**David Barr Kirtley** is the co-host of the *Geek's Guide to the Galaxy* podcast on Wired.com. His short fiction appears in magazines such as *Realms of Fantasy*, *Weird Tales*, *Lightspeed*, and *Intergalactic Medicine Show*, on podcasts such as *Escape Pod* and *Pseudopod*, and in books such as *The Living Dead*, *New Cthulhu*, *The Way of the Wizard*, and *The Dragon Done It*. His story "Save Me Plz" was picked by editor Rich Horton for the 2008 edition of the anthology series *Fantasy: The Best of the Year*. His most recent publications are "Beauty" in *Lightspeed*, "Power Armor: A Love Story" in *Armored*, and "Three Deaths" in *Under the Moons of Mars: New Adventures on Barsoom*.



**Jonah Knight** plays Paranormal Modern Folk: songs about ghosts & monsters, superheroes & space travel. He has been performing at Cons around the mid-Atlantic region for a few years and was the Musical Guest of Honor at Madicon this last March. His newest album, #5, is his first step into supernatural steampunk. His recent Kickstarter project to record an album of creepy Christmas songs was backed 214%. He was recently contracted with Mercury Retrograde Press to write and record many songs based on their novels over the next two years, possibly becoming the first "on staff" songwriter at a small press.

**Brian Koscienski** is one half of the dynamic duo that is Fortress Publishing, Inc. which represents the unholy dichotomy between the writing style of Brian, who resembles Sasquatch with mange, and the dynamic gothic world of his cohort Chris Pisano, the last known Cro-Magnon man. When angry villagers wielding torches and pitchforks aren't chasing them, Brian and Chris make the world a better place through stories, novels, three magazine lines, and even bawdy haiku. Join these two in their latest comedy, *Sciencey Tales of Science Fiction*, a book in which they write themselves in as characters of science fiction stories. This book will change your life—they're just not sure how...



**Barton Paul Levenson** has a degree in physics. Happily married to poet Elizabeth Penrose, he confuses everybody by being both a born-again Christian and a liberal Democrat. His work has appeared in *Marion Zimmer Bradley's Fantasy Magazine*, *ChiZine*, *Cricket*, *Cicada*, *The New York Review of Science Fiction* and many small press markets. His novel *Max and Me* (2010) can be downloaded from Lyrical Press or amazon.com. *Year of the Human* (2012) is available as an ebook or in paperback from Solstice Publishing. Barton was prohibited from entering the Confluence Short Story Contest again after winning first prize two years in a row.

## Program Participants

**Timothy Liebe** is the husband of and Site Administrator for popular YA fantasy novelist Tamora Pierce, as well as her co-author on Marvel Comics' *White Tiger* miniseries. As an actor, he appeared in original audio productions for NPR and the Pacifica Network; in audio dramatizations of Robert Heinlein's *The Star Beast*, Shannon Hale's *Enna Burning*, Geraldine McCaughrean's myth retellings of *Odysseus*, *Theseus* and *Hercules*, and in Tamora Pierce's *Circle of Magic* series, *the Will of the Empress* and "original audio novel" *Melting Stones*; as well as in cult classic movies *Shock! Shock!* and *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*.

**Susan Urbanek Linville** has a PhD in Biology and presently writes scripts for Indiana University's POD cast, *A Moment of Science*. In the last several years she has published over a dozen short fiction pieces in magazines, anthologies and on-line venues in the U.S. and Canada. She has worked as a freelance writer for newspapers and has published articles in encyclopedias. Her co-written non-fiction book, *A School for My Village*, published by Viking-Penguin in 2009, is available in book stores.

**Jonathan Maberry** is a NY Times bestselling author, multiple Bram Stoker Award winner, and Marvel Comics writer. His novels include *Assassin's Code*, *Rot & Ruin*, *Dust & Decay*, *Patient Zero*, *The Wolfman*, and many others. Nonfiction books include *Ultimate Jujutsu*, *Zombie CSU*, *Wanted Undead or Alive*, and others. He's the editor/co-author of *V-Wars*, a vampire-themed anthology; and was a featured expert on The History Channel special *Zombies: A Living History*. Since 1978 he's sold more than 1200 magazine feature articles, 3000 columns, two plays, greeting cards, song lyrics, and poetry. He teaches the Experimental Writing for Teens class, is the founder of the Writers Coffeehouse, and co-founder of The Liars Club. Jonathan lives in Bucks County, Pennsylvania with his wife, Sara and their dog, Rosie. [www.jonathanmaberry.com](http://www.jonathanmaberry.com).

Steve Haug (also known as **Maugorn the Stray** or **Maugie**) is a notorious full-time musician/punster and part-time mad scientist from Cheverly MD. His dubious accomplishments include directing music for the Renaissance/Medieval Dance ensemble Three Left Feet and coordinating Entertainment for the MD Faerie Festival. He's also been known to associate with Rennies, Circus Folk, independent booksellers and would-be Belgians. He cultivates a reputation of being mostly harmless. Do not be fooled. He is presumed to be armed at all times.

**Author and artist Mike McPhail** is best known as the editor of the award-winning Defending The Future (DTF) series of military science fiction anthologies. Currently he is the administrator for the Dark Quest Books' Imprint DTF Publications, which includes the DTF series and its related projects, [www.defendingthefuture.com](http://www.defendingthefuture.com).

As a member of the Military Writers Society of America, he is dedicated to helping his fellow service members (and deserving civilians) in their efforts to become authors, as well as supporting related organization in their efforts to help those "who have given their all for us." [www.milscifi.com](http://www.milscifi.com).

**Paul Melko**'s first novel, *Singularity's Ring*, postulates a future of group-conscious humans, telling the tale of one such quintet learning to be a starship pilot. It won both the Compton Crook and Locus Awards for Best First Novel in 2009. His second novel, *The Walls of the Universe*, is an expansion of his Hugo-, Nebula-, and Sturgeon-Award nominated novella of the same name. In it, a teenager from Ohio is tricked out of his life by his doppelganger from another universe. The film rights for this novel were optioned by the producers who did the Shrek movies. The sequel, *The Broken Universe*, was released in July 2012.



**Heidi Ruby Miller** teaches creative writing at Seton Hill University, where she graduated from their renowned Writing Popular Fiction Graduate Program the same month she appeared on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*. The writing guide *Many Genres, One Craft*, which she co-edited with Michael A. Arnzen, is based on the Seton Hill program and her *Ambasadora* series was based on her thesis novel.



**Jason Jack Miller** is a writer, photographer and musician whose work has appeared in newspapers, magazines, literary journals, online, and as part of a travel guide app for mobile phones. He wrote the novels *Hellbender* and *All Saints* during his graduate studies at Seton Hill

## Program Participants

University, where he is now adjunct faculty. When he isn't writing he's on his mountain bike or looking for his next favorite guitar. His novels are published through Raw Dog Screaming Press.



**Judi Miller** won the 2006 Pegasus for performance in filk, for her sign language interpretations of filk songs. She teaches troubled teens at a residential treatment center in Columbus, Ohio, and has happily been in Fandom for over 20 years.

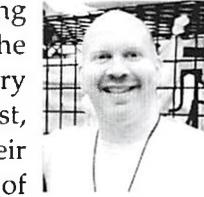
**Tamora Pierce** is a NY Times bestseller with 26 novels and one short story collection, all of which are in print. She just finished her 11th *Magic Circle* novel, *Battle Magic*, for summer 2013, featuring Briar, Rosethorn, and Evvy, and has begun her 18th *Tortall* novel, an untitled book about Numair, for spring 2014. In addition, *A Tortall Companion* is set for summer 2013: a companion book to the Tortall universe, it is edited by Julie Holderman and Tim Liebe, with art work by Cara Coville, maps by Tamora Pierce, and contributions by divers hands. Tammy and Tim live in Syracuse, New York, with a motley crew of cats, a gay parakeet pair, and various well-fed wildlife and feline strays.



**KT Pinto** has three books in her *Books of Insanity* vampyre series, with a 4th—*Triad*—coming out soon from By Light Unseen Media. She has two books out in her *Sto's House Presents...* superhero series from Dark Quest Books, plus almost a dozen short stories. Find out more at [ktpinto.com](http://ktpinto.com).



**Christopher J. Pisano** is the other half of the dynamic duo that is Fortress Publishing, Inc. and feels that the term "unholy dichotomy" to describe Brian's and his respective writing styles is nowhere near strong enough. As the last known Cro-Magnon man dealing with a simple Sasquatch, he realizes he is the philosophical thinking mind of the two—even if Brian does write what he calls poetry. When angry villagers wielding torches and pitchforks aren't chasing them, Brian and Chris make the world, at least, a more interesting place through stories, novels, three magazine lines, and even bawdy haiku. Their latest comedy, *Sciencey Tales of Science Fiction*, a book in which they write themselves in as characters of science fiction stories, may just change your life—they're just not sure how...



**Charles Oberndorf** is the author of three science fiction novels and five shorter works. A recent story, "Another Life," was chosen for Best SF #15 edited by David Hartwell and Kathryn Cramer. He is currently at work on two thematic sequels to that story as well as stories set in the Hundred Worlds milieu of "Oracle" and "Writers of the Future." Charlie is also working on a biographical novel about Abe Osheroff, a carpenter who fought in the Spanish Civil War, built a community center in Mississippi during Freedom Summer and housing for a farm cooperative in a contra-infested region of Nicaragua in 1985. Charlie lives with his wife and college grad son. He teaches English at University School in Cleveland, Ohio. He is the recipient of an Ohio Arts Council Grant and, last year, of a major fellowship from the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture. A video put out by CPAC featuring Charlie can be found here: <http://www.vimeo.com/21115821>.



**Steve Ramey** is the editor of the Triangulation anthology series, and coordinator for Parsec's Short Fiction Contest. He also edits the twitter zine, *trapeze*. His short fiction has appeared in *Strange Horizons*, *Daily Science Fiction*, *Liquid Imagination*, *A Cappella Zoo*, *Orion Headless* and *Microliterature*, among others, and is upcoming at *Weird Tales*. He lives in New Castle, Pennsylvania with his novelist wife, Susan Urbanek Linville, and a whole bunch 'o cats.



A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, **James Daniel Ross** has been an actor, computer tech support operator, historic infotainment tour guide, armed self defense retailer, automotive petrol attendant, youth entertainment stock replacement specialist, mass market Italian chef, low priority courier, monthly printed media retailer, automotive industry miscellaneous task facilitator, and ditch digger.

*The Radiation Angels: The Chimerium Gambit* is his first novel and is followed by *The Radiation Angels: The Key to Damocles*. He appears in numerous anthologies with such esteemed names as Jack Campbell, Lawrence Schoen, and Bud Sparhawk. He has launched a fantasy line of novels that begin with *I Know Not: The Story of Fox Crow*, and has another, *The Last Dragoon*, slated for release late 2012.

James shares a Dream Realm Award with the other authors in *Breach the Hull*, and an EPPIE award with the others appearing in *Bad Ass Faeries 2*. Most other people are begging him to go back to ditch digging.

## Program Participants



**Michelle Sagara** writes as herself; her most recent novel is her first YA: *Silence*, the first volume in the Queen of the Dead trilogy. Upcoming is *Cast in Peril*. As her married self, she writes as Michelle West; her most recent novel is *Skirmish*. She writes a review column for *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, works at an SF/F specialty store in Toronto, and is happy to be back at Confluence.

**Cathy Seckman** of Calcutta, Ohio, saw her first novel published in 2011 by Cool Well Press ([www.coolwellpress.com](http://www.coolwellpress.com)). *Weirdo World* is a young adult time travel fantasy in which 12-year-old Hunter Davisson is whisked back to 1963, where there are no computers or virtual games, and boys are expected to ride actual bicycles, swim in actual rivers, and know all the rules of baseball. Hunter finds friends to show him the ropes, and the boys are soon involved in figuring out a way to send Hunter home.

Seckman is a professional indexer and member of the American Society for Indexing, as well as Writers Anonymous. Besides *Weirdo World*, her published work includes more than a hundred indexes, thousands of newspaper articles, 160 non-fiction magazine articles, and more than a dozen short stories.



**Kathleen Sloan** has been involved with filking and fandom since 1979. Also known as the "Catalogue Queen", Kathleen has been an Interfilk director since 1994. In 2007 she was inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame. Though she doesn't have a CD of her own, she can be found on several convention CDs. Originally from Ohio, Kathleen moved to Colorado in 1989, where she works as a family physician. She can be found doing beadwork at filk conventions all over the country. Look for the woman with the sparkly rainbow badge holder.



**Lucy A. Snyder** is the Bram Stoker Award-winning author of the novels *Spellbent*, *Shotgun Sorceress*, *Switchblade Goddess*, and the collections *Sparks and Shadows*, *Chimeric Machines*, and *Installing Linux on a Dead Badger*. Her writing has appeared in *Strange Horizons*, *Weird Tales*, *Hellbound Hearts*, *Doctor Who Short Trips: Destination Prague*, *Chiaroscuro*, *GUD*, and *Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet*. You can learn more about her at [www.lucysnyder.com](http://www.lucysnyder.com).



**Bud Sparhawk** has two print collections (*Sam Boone: Front to Back* and *Dancing with Dragons*) and a mass market paperback (VIXEN)—all of which are available as eBooks as are several short story collections in Kindle editions on Amazon. He has been a three-time Nebula novella finalist. Some of his shorter works are available at Fictionwise as well. His most recent story appeared in the June edition of *Asimov's*.

Bud is currently the Treasurer of SFWA, a member of SIGMA, and a full-time writer. He maintains a weekly blog at [budsparhawk.blogspot.com](http://budsparhawk.blogspot.com). A complete bibliography of stories, articles, and other amusing material can be found at his web site: [http://sff.net/people/bud\\_sparhawk](http://sff.net/people/bud_sparhawk).



**Jon Sprunk** is the author of *Shadow's Son*, *Shadow's Lure*, and *Shadow's Master* from Pyr Books. A full-time writer, he is also a mentor at the Seton Hill University Writing Program.



**John Alfred Taylor:** Former Professor of English. Writes SF and horror.  
Current publications:  
*Hell Is Murky* (Collection) Ash-Tree Press  
"The Steeple People," *Blood Lite III*. Pocket Books



**Denise Verrico** is a Fantasy author and New Jersey native who grew up in Western Pennsylvania (East McKeesport). She attended Point Park College and majored in Theatre Arts. For seven seasons, she was a member of the Oberon Theatre Ensemble in NYC. Denise has loved vampire stories since childhood and is a fan of the *Dark Shadows* television series. Her Immortyl Revolution books are published by L&L Dreamspell Publishing and include: *Cara Mia*, *Twilight of the Gods*, *My Fearful Symmetry* and her latest release, *Servant of the Goddess*. Denise is a member of Broad Universe and founded Broad Universe Ohio. She is a roller coaster fanatic and currently lives in Ohio with her husband, son and flock of six spoiled parrots.

## *Program Participants*

**Tim Waggoner** has published over twenty-five novels and two short story collections. He teaches creative writing at Sinclair Community College and in Seton Hill University's Master of Fine Arts in Writing Popular Fiction program. Visit him on the web at [www.timwaggoner.com](http://www.timwaggoner.com). His most recent publication is *The Nekropolis Archives*.



Combining melodic, female vocals over crunching metal guitars and smooth, dance floor electronics, **Wreckcreation** creates a sound all their own. Hailing from Charleroi, a small town south of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the quartet combines their various musical tastes, which include metal, industrial, funk, blues, classic rock, and hip hop, to create a unique blend unlike anything the steel city, or any other city for that matter, has ever heard before. Wreckcreation was formed in 2000 when Josh Howell (bass/ programming) met Aric Armbruster (rhythm guitar). The duo began in Aric's basement, experimenting with combining simple sounds and riffs on a six string guitar and keyboard. It was decided that they would take a more electronic route with their music, using Aric's metal-influenced guitar riffs as a unique accent to various electronic elements. Though Aric and Josh remained constant members, others rotated in and out of the band as guests. In 2005, Josh and Aric called upon Kirsten Evans (vocals/lyrics), a local singer that Aric had previously worked with on another project. The front-woman's melodic voice and formal musical training added a new perspective and musical element to the mix that had been previously missing. With these members finalized, they began to quickly churn out catchy, yet emotionally evocative songs that remain incomparable to others. In Fall 2008, Kirsten invited an old college buddy to jam with the band. Quickly, Tom Foley became the latest addition to Wreckcreation. Tom brought his heavy blues influences and intricate, wailing guitar solos to the sound of the band. The group's eclectic influences, when combined with good songwriting and thoughtful lyrics, create an addictive, hybrid form of rock.

**Rob Wynne** is a musician, podcaster, gamer, con runner, and occasional blogger who currently lives in the Atlanta area. In 1997, he helped Dan Hollifield create Aphelion Webzine, an amateur original fiction website which is still publishing today. He has been on the committee of Gafilk, the Georgia filk convention, since 2000. Last year, he helped launch the podcast Tadpoolery, a weekly, general interest geek-oriented show, and he also co-hosts Initiative Check, a podcast which focuses on video games.



**Jeff Young** is a bookseller first and a writer second—although he wouldn't mind a reversal of fortune.



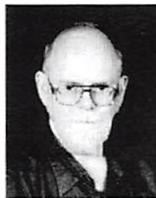
He received a Writers of the Future award for "Written in Light" which appears in the 26<sup>th</sup> L.Ron Hubbard's *Writers of the Future* Anthology. He's been published in: *Realms*, *Neuronet*, *Trail of Indiscretion*, *Cemetery Moon*, *The Realm Beyond*, *The Poetic Knight* and *Carbon14*. Jeff has contributed to the anthologies *By Any Means*, *In an Iron Cage: The Magic of Steampunk* and the upcoming *Clockwork Chaos*. He is the editor for the *Drunken Comic Book Monkey* line for Fortress Publishing as well as the upcoming anthology *TV Gods*. He has led the Watch the Skies SF&F Discussion Group of Camp Hill and Harrisburg for eleven years.

## *Credits*

Cover art by Henry Tjernlund; background photo, frame, and text by Kira Heston.

Seanan McGuire's photo is by Beckett Gladney. The Blibbering Humdingers' photo is by Renee Schneider. Carolyn Brown's photo is © Ariel Cinii. Gary Ehrlich's photo is by Phil Mills. Pete Grubbs' photo is by Karen Yun-Lutz. Brooke Lunderville's photo in the Confluence ad is by Kira Heston. All other participant photos either provided or linked to by the participant or on file from a previous Confluence program book.

# Confluence 2013



Guest of Honor:  
**William H. Keith, Jr.**

Featured Filk Guest:  
**Brooke Lunderville**



**Pittsburgh, PA**  
**Date and hotel TBA**

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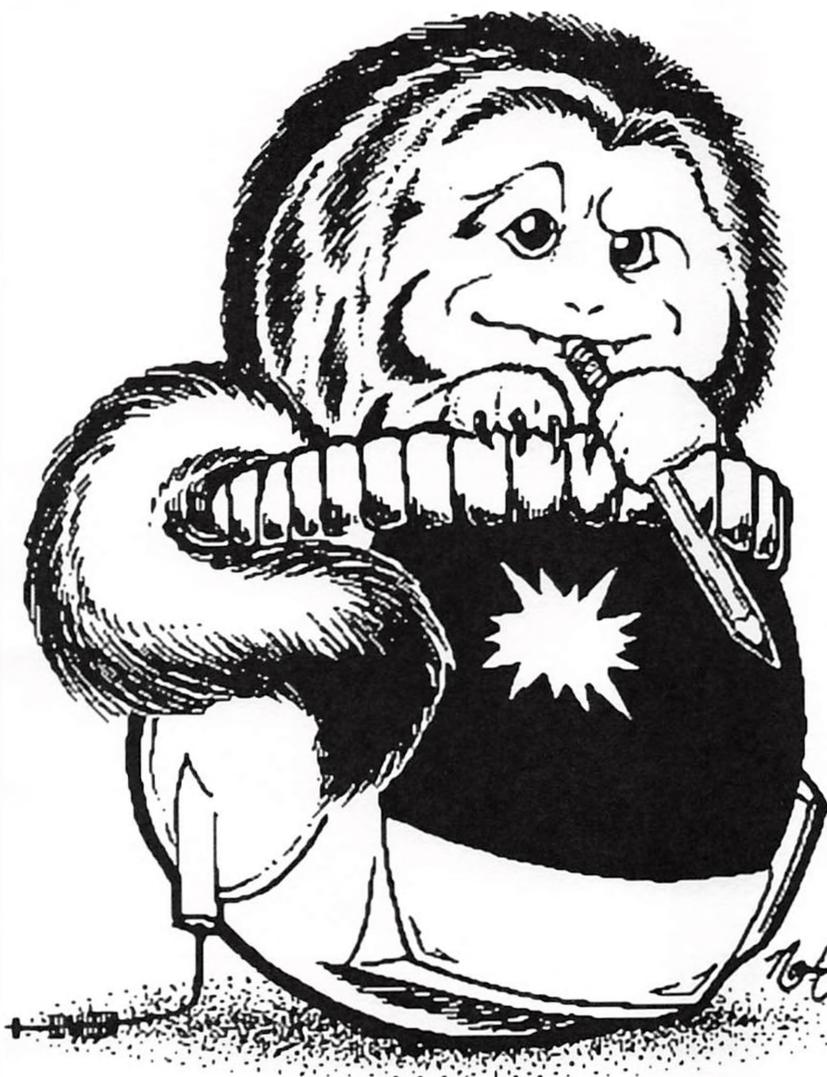
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# The Golden People of the Con

Con Chair.....	Mary Tabasko
Art Show Heads.....	Joan Fisher, Heidi Pilewski
Art Show Staff.....	April Geiselman, Mary Anne Howard, Tracey Levino
Beermeisters.....	Jim Mann, Mike Nelson, James J. Walton
Badges.....	Kira Heston
Con Suite.....	Lara Van Winkle
Dealers' Room.....	Mary Tabasko
Filk Program Head.....	Randy Hoffman
Filk Sound Tech.....	The Blibbering Humdingers, Pete Grubbs, Mark Peters
General Logistics.....	Bonnie Funk
Hotel Liaison.....	Jim Mann, John Schmid
Kaffee Klatsches/Literary Beers.....	Mark Stewart
Local Publicity.....	Kevin Riley
Play Director.....	Randy Hoffman
Play Producer.....	Karen Yun-Lutz
Pocket Program.....	Laurie Mann
Program Book.....	Kira Heston
Program Book Ads.....	Rebecca Mancoll
Program Head.....	Paul Anderson, Kevin Hayes
Program Staff.....	Karen Yun-Lutz
Program Website.....	Karen Yun-Lutz
Registration Head.....	Barbara Carlson
Restaurant Guide.....	Heidi Pilewski
Short Story Contest.....	Steve Ramey
Signs.....	Kira Heston, Mark Stewart, Karen Yun-Lutz
Speakers to Dorsai.....	Joan Fisher, James J. Walton
Student Liaison.....	Diane Turnshek
T-Shirt Design.....	Bonnie Funk, Karen Yun-Lutz (front graphics), Kira Heston (front text, back)
T-Shirt Procurement.....	Heidi Pilewski
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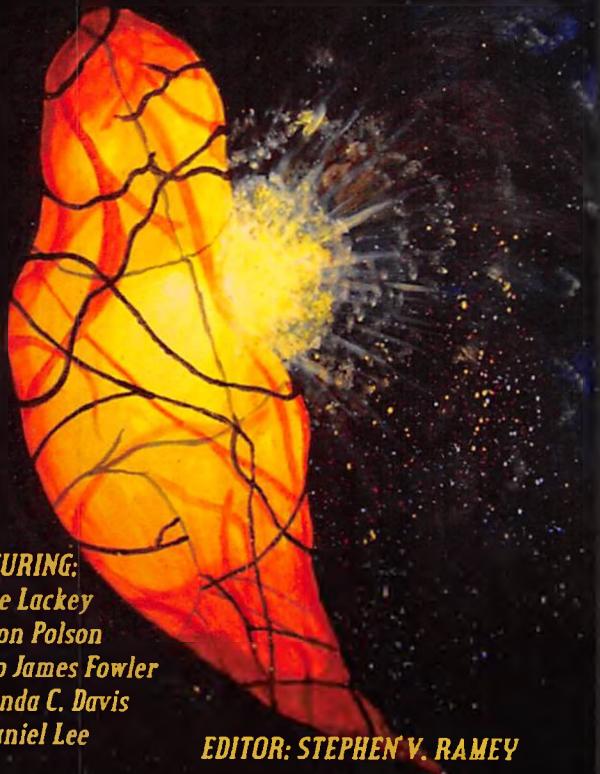
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# MORNING AFTER



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Amanda Davis  
Erich W. Mulhall  
Kenneth Chiacchia  
Christine Lucas  
Susan H. Gray  
Madhvi Ramani  
Kalisa A. Lessnau  
Susan Urbanek Linville  
Tami M. Harris  
Alex Gorman  
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**Praise for last year's anthology:** "This year's edition uses the theme of 'Last Contact,' and leaves it up to the writer to determine what 'last contact' means. The result is a first-class anthology of 27 original stories (and one reprint) that will please any reader of speculative fiction." – Chuck Rothman, *Tangent Online*

The long night since *Last Contact* is over. Join us for the ***Morning After***.