



Ohio Valley Filk Fest 15

OHIO VALLEY FOLK FEST 15

GUEST OF HONOR: TOM SMITH
TOASTMISTRESS: KATHLEEN SLOAN
LISTENER OF HONOR: LESLIE LARKINS
INTERFOLK GUEST: MARY MILLER

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE OVFF COMMITTEE

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CO-CHAIRS

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LORI COULSON	JANI MURPHY
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WITH THE HELP OF THE FRIENDS OF OVFF

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BOB HUEY	ROBERTA SLOCCUM
ED JONES	JEFF TOLLIVER
DEBBIE RIDRATH OH	LEE WARDSTAR

OCTOBER 29-31, 1999
THE WYNDHAM HOTEL
DUBLIN, OH



WELCOME TO *Ohio Valley Filk Fest 15*

Wow! A decade and a half worth of filk conventions in Central Ohio. Seems kinda hard to believe. Wasn't it just yesterday that I attended my first OVFF? Oh wait; that was back in 1989. Time does fly.

Well, we are back on our "traditional weekend"—Halloween-ish. And our second year in the Dublin Wyndham. I think we have found a new home for awhile; the hotel already has us penciled in for next year, knock on wood.

But none of this would mean a hill of beans without you—our attendees and friends. Our community, while we occasionally have our little squabbles, is a community. It's nice having a home away from home, even if that home moves from city to city, depending on the weekend. We are glad that you are calling Columbus and OVFF your home this weekend.

Thank you for attending this year.

Special thanks also to our Guests—our GoH, Thomas Smith, esquire; our Toastess with the Mostest, Kathleen Sloan; our Listener GoH, Leslie Larkins; our Interfilk Guest, Mary Miller; Interfilk for sending Mary to OVFF; the OVFF convention committee, who worked very hard to put this shindig together. If you have comments or suggestions about things you would like to see in the future, please email them to OVFF@AOL.com.

Once more, go out there, make music, and have fun. Thank you.

Shelby Bartellis

Co-Con Chair
OVFF 15

OVFF's Taping Policy

The concerts, one-shots, and songwriting contests will be taped by LOVE SONG & IVAN HOUSE PRODUCTIONS for commercial reproduction. Individuals are welcome to make tapes for their own private use as long as the recording is unobtrusive.

If you are interested in taping next year's convention, please write to us for a bid package.

OVFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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Columbus, OH 43220-0125
(614) 851-0936
Email us at: OVFF@aol.com
or visit our website: www.inkspot/~ohi/cons/OVFF

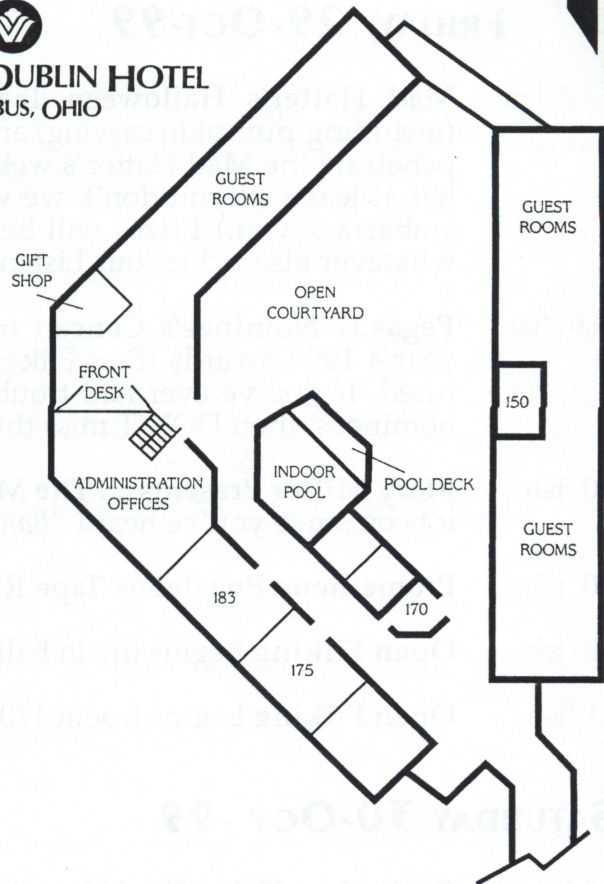
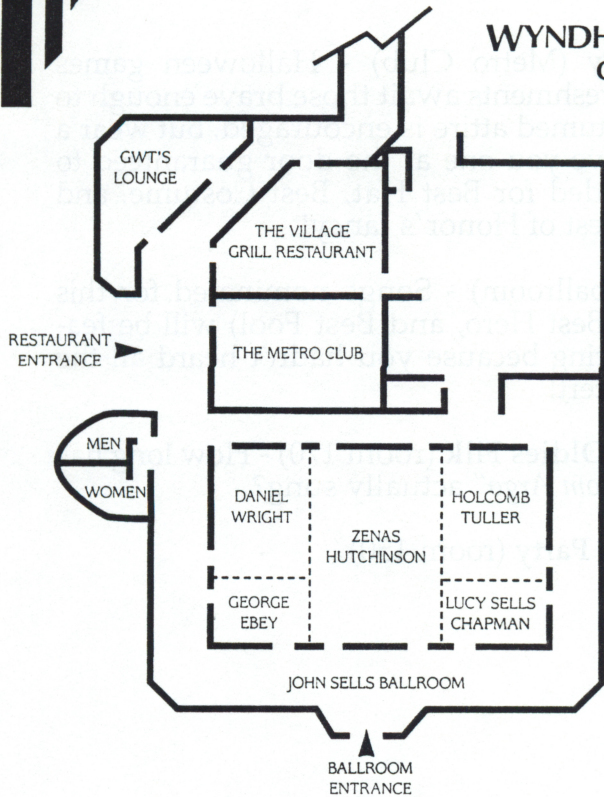
ART CREDITS

All Pegasi art - Lorene Andrews
All other art is clip art

WHAT'S WHERE



WYNDHAM DUBLIN HOTEL
COLUMBUS, OHIO



- Main Filking Hutchison/Wright/Ebey
- Alternate Filkrooms Rooms 170, Metro Club
- Dealer's Room Room 183
- ConSuite Room 175
- Children's Programming Room 150

*The hotel requests that convention attendees kindly refrain from filking in the public areas of the hotel.
Thank you.*

Dealers Room

Friday: 6pm - 8pm
Saturday: 11am - 5pm
Sunday: 11am - 2pm

ConSuite Hours

Friday: 6pm - 1am
Saturday: 10am - 2am
Sunday: 10am - til the dog dies

Registration Hours (Main Ballroom hallway)

Friday: 4pm - 11pm
Saturday: 11am - 5pm
Sunday: Noon - 4pm (in back of the main filkroom)

After hours go to the ConSuite



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, 29-OCT-99


- 7 'ish **Mad Hatter's Halloween Tea Party** (Metro Club) - Halloween games (including pumpkin carving) and refreshments await those brave enough to penetrate the Mad Hatter's web! Costumed attire is encouraged, but wear a hat at least! (If you don't, we will give you one at the door guaranteed to embarrass you.) Prizes will be awarded for Best Hat, Best Costume, and whatever else tickles our Listener Guest of Honor's fancy!
- 8:30 'ish **Pegasus Nominee's Concert** (main ballroom) - Songs nominated for this year's 1999 awards (Best Filk Song, Best Hero, and Best Fool) will be featured. If you've ever had trouble voting because you hadn't heard all the nominees, then DON'T miss this concert!
- 10 'ish **Mary Miller Presents The Moldy Oldies Filk** (room 170) - How long has it been since you've heard "*Banned From Argo*" actually sung?
- 10 'ish **Prometheus/Puzzlebox Tape Release Party** (room 150)
- 10 'ish **Open Filking begins** (main ballroom)
- 11 'ish **Open Filking begins** (room 170)

SATURDAY 30-OCT -99


- 10 'ish **Beginning Voice Workshop** (room 170) - conducted by Mark Bernstein. Learn the basics of how to make yourself heard in the filk room. Topics covered include how singers breathe (yes, it really is different from most other folks), projecting and sustaining a note, staying on key, and hitting those high notes. Limited attendance, sign up at the con registration desk. (2 hrs)
- 11 'ish **Whose Lemur Is It Anyway?** (Metro Club) - Why lemurs? It's a long story. What matters is, it's a comedy and improv workshop from Tom Smith, cleverly disguised as an audience-participation game show. Laughs, silly noises, uncomfortable bodily contortions, sideways thinking, and maybe even prizes!
- Noon **Concerts & One Shots** (main ballroom)
- | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| 12:15 | One Shots (Set #1) |
| 12:30 | Kathleen Sloan |
| 1:30 | One Shots (Set #2) |
| 1:45 | Karen Linsley & Lloyd Landa |
| 2:15 | One Shots (Set #3) |
| 2:30 | Andrea Dale |
| 3:00 | Break / Announcements |
| 3:15 | One Shots (Set #4) |
| 3:30 | Puzzlebox |
| 4:00 | Mary Miller |
| 4:45 | Tom Smith |



SATURDAY EVENING

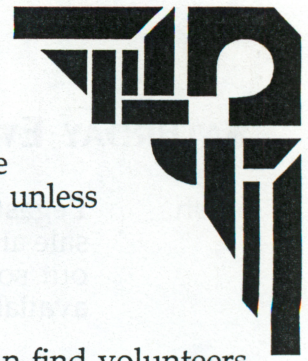
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- 6 'ish **Pegasus Awards Banquet** (Metro Club) Tickets to the buffet are on sale at the con registration desk and in the con suite. We expect to sell out so buy your ticket early. The alternative filk rooms will remain available for open filking.
- 8 'ish **Songwriting Contest: Lies & Deceptions** (Main Ballroom) - all original music & lyrics. Sign up sheets will be available Saturday morning at con registration desk.
- 10 'ish **InterFilk Auction** (Main Ballroom) - help support those wonderful people who keep sending us guests every year!
- 11 'ish **The Filk That Never Ends** or "Sleep is for the weak and sickly"
Open Filking begins!
- 11 'ish **Cover Me!** (Metro Club) - a theme filk hosted by Mark Bernstein. A chance to do stuff by other people that you've always loved, but never did because it was "someone else's song". The only rule is you can't do your own material.
- 11 'ish **Medical Filks** (room 170) - a theme filk hosted by our toastmistress Kathleen Sloan

SUNDAY 31-OCT-99

- 1 1'ish **Interfilk Directors Meeting** (room 170, closed)
- Noon 'ish **Lyric Writing Contest: It's Not My Fault!** (Main Ballroom) - original lyrics set to existing music. Sign up sheets will be available Saturday morning at con registration desk.
- 1 'ish **Farewell Jam Session** (Main Ballroom). The InterFilk Quick Sale and Pre-Registration for next year's OVFF will be conducted in the back of the filk room.
- 1 'ish **Baby Shower** (back of main filk room)
- 4:00 Function rooms close. Dead dogs may hang out in the con suite.
- 5 'ish **Dead Dog Dinner Caravan** - our annual trek to a local restaurant to feed the beast and let off steam. Sign up at the Con Registration Desk so we can tell the restaurant approximately how many hungry canines they can expect to descend upon them.
- Later **Dead Dog Filk** (Consuite) - Us remaining dead dogs will reconvene in the Consuite where we'll howl and sing until the last body collapses probably sometime Monday morning.
- 



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING



Room 150 has been designated the **Kids Room** and will be available as a lounge and hangout place for kids at all times unless actually scheduled for an event.

FRIDAY, 29-OCT-99

- 4:30 'ish **Open Crafts** (room 150) - until 6:30 at least, later if we can find volunteers willing to oversee later (hint!).
- 7 ;ish **Halloween Tea Party** (Metro Club) - **Children Welcome!** Halloween games (including pumpkin carving) and refreshments await those brave enough to penetrate the Mad Hatter's web! Costumed attire is encouraged, but wear a hat at least! Prizes will be awarded for Best Hat, Best Costume, and whatever else tickles our Listener Guest of Honor's fancy!

SATURDAY, 30-OCT-99

- 1:30 'sh **Kids Concert** (room 150) - a special concert featuring songs just for kids.
- 3 'ish **Pool Fun** (hotel pool) - wet, wild fun in the pool!
- 8 'ish **Cookie Decorating / Open Crafts** (room 150) - Just in time for dessert! Kids can decorate their own Halloween treats!

SUNDAY, 31-OCT-99

- 11 'ish **Creative Scrapbooking / Open Crafts** (room 150)

REGARDING ALTERNATE FILK ROOMS

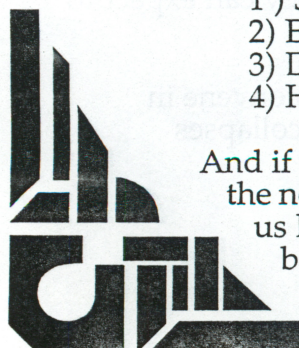
OVFF is pleased to offer you The Metro Club and Rooms 170 for your Alternate Filking pleasure.

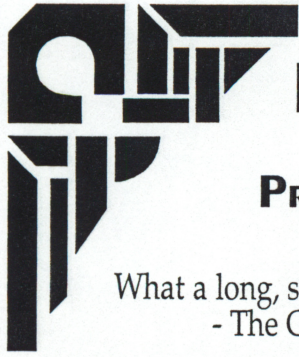
Feel free to utilize these rooms at any time throughout the convention (well...except when we've actually programmed something in that space). In particular, Room 170 has been designated as a Theme Filk room.

"What's that?" you may be wondering. A Theme Filk is a one-hour filk circle with a Moderator. The Moderator selects a topic (example: Space Songs, Children's Songs, etc.) or style of filk sing (Bardic, Poker Chip, Chaotic, Open, Rock Jam, etc.). The possibilities are endless and the guidelines are simple.

- 1) Sign up for your Topic/Style
- 2) Explain the rules, if any
- 3) Do your best to keep things on track
- 4) Have fun!

And if you've got a good thing going on & no one has signed up for the next slot, by all means keep filking! This is an experiment; let us know if you like it, if you didn't like it, or how to make it better next year!





PARTIES, PARTIES, PARTIES



PROMETHEUS/PUZZLEBOX TAPE RELEASE PARTY

Friday 10 pm (room 150)

What a long, strange trip it's been...
- The Grateful Dead

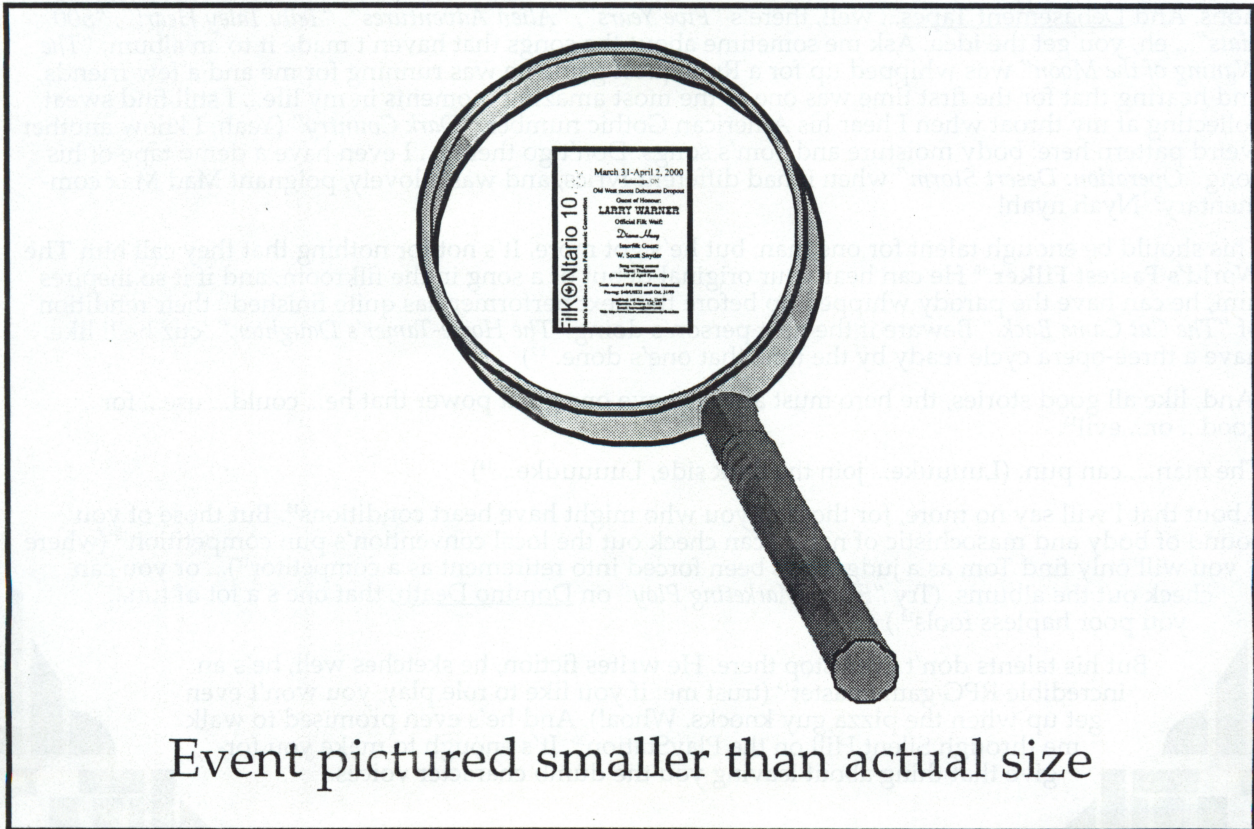
Puzzlebox (Taunya Shifler, Alisa Schaeftbauer, & Paul Kwinn) would like to invite you to a celebration of the release of their first album: Assembly Required. After over a year in the making, it's finally done, and attendees of OVFF get to be the first to hear it. It features such noteworthy guest musicians as Ookla the Mok, Scott Snyder, Beckett Gladney, Urban Tapestry, and Kristoph Klover (who was also our gem of an engineer). Please come take a listen to our CD. And help us toast the culmination of a lot of work, and the release of a recording that we're very proud of.

Prometheus Music and Bob Kanefsky will be hosting a pre-release party for Kanef's first CD, Roundworm, expected to be available Real Soon Now. Roundworm features performances of Kanef's parodies by Heather Alexander, Annwn, Julia Ecklar, Leslie Fish, Kristoph Klover, Kathy Mar, Seanan McGuire, Ookla the Mok, Steve Macdonald, Cacie Sears and (gasping for breath) many other outstanding performers. For more information, come to the party, or visit www.prometheusmusic.com.

Baby Shower

Sunday 1 pm (in Main Ballroom during Farewell Jam Session)

Shower? Deluge! - an open celebration of the newest generation of filkers to be. Judith, Diana, and Mew host a party for anyone who is expecting a new addition to their family. Don't bring a present but feel free to bring a bead and a wish (to make wish necklaces / books), and any hand-me-down clothing is also welcome! Mew is expecting a baby, Diana is expecting a toddler, and Judith is expecting to be a terrific aunt to both and lots of other filk-babies.



Event pictured smaller than actual size



MEET OUR GUEST OF HONOR

TOM SMITH



Oh Goody, A Chance To Plug My Favorite Filker¹

by Anne Schneider²

What gets me is that he always gets to voice the smart character.

See, Tom does pretty good impressions³, and I have the habit of slipping into character voices when I'm talking. So Tom usually responds to this in kind. The problem is, I try to arrange things so that each of us does the voice of character for which we sound the most authentic, 'cuz he just does a kick-butt job with certain characters.

This means he does The Brain and I do Pinky. He's Mr. Wizard and I'm Timmy. He moans, "Steempy, you eediot!" and I whine, "Gee, Rennn...." Are you seeing a pattern here? Why am I always the dumb one, huh?

It makes you wonder if he's planned it that way⁴. See, I've known Tom for murfle years, and he's one talented guy. He's clever enough to plan that one ahead: "Yes! I will hone my impressions of only smart characters!⁵ My rivals will have to talk like the stupid ones or be even more humiliated! Hahahahaha-hahahaaaaa!"

Fortunately, I think he's been a little too busy to hatch such demonic schemes⁶ Did I mention yet that the man writes songs?

Songs. Terrific songs. Timely songs, classic songs. Beautiful, tearjerker songs. Hilarious, wet-yourself-and-shriek songs. (I admit a personal bias for the emotional numbers, not only do I adore his serious stuff, both romantic and dark but if one end of me is gonna be damp and uncomfortable, I'd rather it be my face.⁷)

To this day I do not have a favorite album of Tom Smith; it is impossible for me to choose a favorite. Who Let Him In Here? has "Hellraiser", "A Boy and His Frog", and "PQR" (remember what I said about my serious-song bias). Domino Death features "Temperature of Revenge", "Divine Irregularity", and "Heat of the Blood" (I was so glad I got to take part in that one! yay!). Plugged's "Rocket Ride" and "Falling Free" were two songs I loved from the moment Tom told me their concepts, let alone the finished versions. And Debasement Tapes... well, there's "Five Years", "Alien Adventures", "Telly Tale Heart", "500 Hats" ... eh, you get the idea. Ask me sometime about the songs that haven't made it to an album; "The Waning of the Moon" was whipped up for a Runequest game he was running for me and a few friends, and hearing that for the first time was one of the most amazing moments in my life... I still find sweat collecting at my throat when I hear his American Gothic number, "Dark Country" (Yeah, I know another weird pattern here: body moisture and Tom's songs. Don't go there⁸)... I even have a demo tape of his song "Operation: Desert Storm" when it had different lyrics, and was a lovely, poignant Mad Max commentary⁹. Nyah nyah!


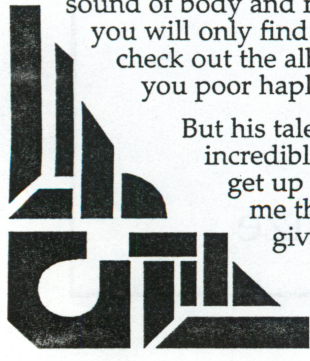
This should be enough talent for one man, but he's got more. It's not for nothing that they call him **The World's Fastest Filker**.¹⁰ He can hear your original debut of a song in the filkroom, and if it so inspires him, he can have the parody whipped up before the next performer has quite finished¹¹ their rendition of "The Cat Came Back." Beware if the next person's doing "The Horse-Tamer's Daughter," 'cuz he'll likely have a three-opera cycle ready by the time that one's done.¹²

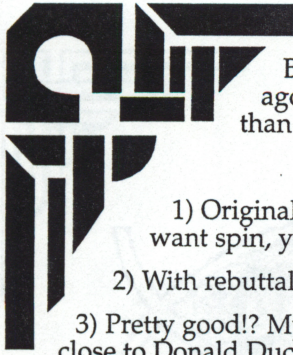
And, like all good stories, the hero must always have one great power that he... could... use... for... good... or... evil¹³.

The man.....can pun. (Luuuuuke... join the dark side, Luuuuuke...¹⁴)

About that I will say no more, for those of you who might have heart conditions¹⁵. But those of you sound of body and masochistic of nature can check out the local convention's pun competition¹⁶ (where you will only find Tom as a judge; he's been forced into retirement as a competitor¹⁷)... or you can check out the albums. (Try "Sheep Marketing Ploy" on Domino Death, that one's a lot of fun... you poor hapless fools¹⁸.)

But his talents don't even stop there. He writes fiction, he sketches well, he's an incredible RPG gamemaster¹⁹ (trust me: if you like to role play, you won't even get up when the pizza guy knocks. Whoa!). And he's even promised to walk me through Silent Hill on the PlayStation²⁰. It's enough to make you forgive that thing about leaving you the dumb character voices.





By the way, there's a light at the end of the tunnel: a little while ago we found that my I. M. Weasel impression is killer, much better than my I. R. Baboon²¹. Yessss!²²

- 1) Original title: *Bio Of A Filk Tyrant, or I'm Not Piers*. It's like I always say — you want spin, you get a doctor.
- 2) With rebuttals from Tom Smith. Hi, Mom!
- 3) Pretty good!? My Fozzie Bear is perfect. Okay, my John Wayne is rusty, and I've never gotten close to Donald Duck (except when he's suffering a brain hemorrhage). But still...
- 4) Sh-yeah, right. It's Step #37 of tonight's plan for world conquest. Pinky! Bring me that calculat- oh.
- 5) Not quite true. I also work very hard on my Reagan, Bush, and Dan Quayle. (OOOOOH!! Social commentary! He's so daring!)
- 6) I leave that to the World Wrestling Federation. (OOOOOH!! Social commentary! He's so d- you get the idea that I get annoyed with people who take too many easy shots? Hi, Mark Russell! Hi, Weird All!)
- 7) Say, filk fans! Looking for a great romance novel and protection from embarrassing wetness caused by laughing at Tom Smith's songs? Ask your kids! They've known the answer for years. Try #3 in the My First Harlequin series, Luvs Huggie Pampers. From Kimberly-Price.
- 8) I was going to suggest to Anne that this was perhaps a touch too explicit, never mind that some of my songs are written to provoke precisely the reaction she's implying; and then I remembered my all-time favorite review of one of my songs: A female friend of a female friend, who, upon hearing "PQR" for the first time, whispered to our mutual friend, "That sound you hear is my nipples ripping through my brassiere." — Hey, kid! You shouldn't be reading this! Turn the page!
- 9) Lovely and poignant? It was about his car.
- 10) That would be the "Moonwolf at MarCon" incident about the song "*Rhinotelleximania*" and my rebuttal "*Mucoidal Periodontia*", the latter completed fourteen minutes after the former was premiered. I know this because there were people with stopwatches at the filk. My question is, why isn't there a Tom Smith Timer webring yet? Joke! Joke! Don't actually do it, you nit!
- 11) Excuse me? I try to have it finished by the time the original song is finished.
- 12) And, this weekend, I plan to premiere highlights from the two great lost operatic works of our time — Dilbert and Sullivan and Pokemon Giovanni.
- 13) Well. Evil, then.
- 14) Mesa be already dunen cat.
- 15) Waitaminute. "Fit as a fiddle" is a heart condition, innit?
- 16) ... Although I expect you'll be all clamped up at the Moonrise Debacle. Fine. Sigh. Save me a sawhorse. ("Mr. Speaker! Mr. Speaker!..We ask that this prurient garbage be stricken from the record! As soon as we're done reading it aloud on C-SPAN.")
- 17) I was not forced to retire. I was shanghai'd into volunteering to run the thing, is all. Waitaminute.
- 18) If things continue in the direction they're going now, we might even have a T-shirt by MarCon. Remember: Fenton Rules Ewe.
- 19) All things I don't do much anymore, although they all keep trying to make a comeback. We'll see, especially the drawing thing. I promised Da Huskie Bear his own comic strip.
- 20) Hot Tip Of The Month for those of you with an old or unofficial hint book: The Zodiac Puzzle near the end has been changed from the original Japanese version. The solution is now based on the number of creature legs each image has. Those of you without a PlayStation, or without this game: HA! You thought The Blair Witch Project was scary....
- 21) Harold Lynch called me up one day, suggesting (remember that he called me up one day and suggested Warner Bros.' *Lord Of The Rings*), that I. M. Weasel and I. R. Baboon should make a pro wrestling cartoon. Well, okay, he didn't exactly suggest it. What he did was, when I answered the phone, he started singing, "I. R. body-slam-ming, I. R. body-slam-ming...."

22) Waitaminute. That's the Brain's line.



GAFilk 2000

Atlanta, GA
January 7 - 9, 2000



Guest of Honor

Margaret Middleton

Ramada Inn Airport SOUTH*
1551 Phoenix Blvd.
College Park, GA 30349

*Not to be confused with
Ramada Inn Atlanta Airport North!

(770) 996-4321
(800) 241-3092

Toastmaster
Walt Baric

InterFilk Quilt
Champagne Opening
Ice Cream Social
Concerts / Two-Shots

\$25 until November 30, 1999
\$40 after November 30,
and at the door

GAFilk Contact Information:

<http://www.gafilk.org>



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2175 Lenox Road #B-5
Atlanta, GA 30324-4734 USA





MEET OUR TOASTMISTRESS KATHLEEN SLOAN



Really Interesting People Come in Small Packages
by Judith Hayman & Mary Ellen Wessels

Once upon a time a big sister called Mary Jo loved her little sister and wanted her to have the best. So, she loaned her sister the books she enjoyed. Thus, at the tender age of 8 or so, Kathleen Sloan was hooked on juvenile SF. But she wasn't hooked on television SF like Star Trek, since the first episode of Star Trek that she watched was "Charlie X" and it gave her nightmares.

Things change. Now Kathleen names among her favorite authors: Anne McCaffrey, Alan Nourse, David Brin, Connie Willis, Steven Baxter, Greg Egan, Lois McMaster Bujold, Greg Benford, Greg Bear and Orson Scott Card. She also developed a taste for Star Trek and has watched and liked all the episodes of all the variations. She says, "I'm not really a Trekkie though, can't quote lines or list guest stars or names of episodes. I enjoy being able to understand filks of trek stuff since I've seen it all." (note: a recent phone conversation with Kathleen was cut short because she was off to an ST convention)

Big sister Mary Jo did other wonderful things, like take college-age Kathleen to the local SF club meeting, her introduction to fandom. She went to her first con, Marcon, in 1976. And filk happened. "That old sister again, she took me to the basement of the hotel (there was a tornado warning) and there was a small group singing. I thought it was great fun and just one step away from singing round the camp fire."


"Round the campfire"? Yup. She was in choir in school and did song leading as a Girl Scout. She took piano, but (having refused to practice) prefers her (mostly) self-taught guitar. More recently she has had a wonderful experience with her amazing voice teacher who has helped her take her place as a performer. And she keeps in practice by playing and singing for church.

After years of quietly listening Kathleen realized that if she wanted to perform she had to have a repertoire of things ready to do! "After med school and working my brain was just too full to have things memorized. So I started my song book and have slowly added to it ever since, stealing songs that I liked" There she is with that midget guitar delighting us with songs that aren't often sung. She's introduced such gems as "Out in Left Field", "You're Wearing Out Your Welcome Matt", and "Spiral Dance" and says, "I'm working on a few more Mark Graham and Austin Lounge Lizard tunes." (Austin Lounge Lizards? Kathleen.?)


"My philosophy about cons is that I go to cons to hear other people. If I have a song that is a good song and will follow something well, I will pipe in and sing. I can hear me sing anytime. I get enjoyment out of hearing everyone else. So I figure the success of my con not by how much I got to perform, but how much new stuff I heard."

Her diverse filk influences include Kathy Mar, Julia Ecklar, Bill Roper, Clif Flynt, Joey Shoji, and Bob Kanefsky (several of whom write in her range). She also confesses to a love of Peter, Paul and Mary and The Irish Rovers (there had to be a Canadian connection there somewhere).


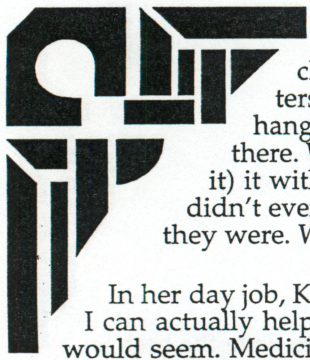
As a filker she has been increasingly asked to sing harmonies and back-ups and share one-shots. You can hear her doing harmony on two songs on Kathy Mar's latest CD and in the chorus on 3 others. She also did backup for Urban Tapestry's "Web Surfin'." She's begun to write as well. "A Kind of Magic" and "Meat" placed second and third at recent convention song contests.



Kathleen met her husband John in fandom (in that same club her sister took her to) and the Worldcon is their big vacation every year. "At first I thought we'd save money on books since we could both read them but it turns out we buy twice as many." Filk is her special hobby. His has lead to interesting rumors that they are really Harley riding members of a motorcycle gang. Kathleen insists otherwise. "I'm sad to report he just sold the Harley. We still have a Honda and BMW though. Yes, I have my own leather pants and leather jacket. And we always wear helmets. I'm just a passenger; sometimes, I don't even know how to start one."



As a couple they are plagued with wildlife problems. Who can forget Kathleen regaling us with the legend of "The Pigeonator" as she and John attempted to exterminate the infestation in their attic. Now, she



claims, there is a pheromonic sign on their house that says "critters come live here." "A flicker took up night residence on our porch, hanging on to the bare brick and next to the scary plastic owl we hung there. We finally persuaded it to leave by shooin' (who am I kidding, hitting it) it with a broom every night. Then we had a family of raccoons in our roof. I didn't even know there was space between the ceiling and the roof but that's where they were. We drove them out with rock & roll. I am not kidding."

In her day job, Kathleen is a dedicated family physician, with the usual frustrations. "Sometimes I can actually help people and make a difference. Unfortunately that doesn't happen as often as it would seem. Medicine is a very hard place to be right now. The push is to do everything faster when I think what people need most is time. I do my best."

Kathleen is renowned for her diverse hobbies like: donating extravagantly to Interfilk, collecting and working with rubber stamps, beads, needlework, books, and CD's. And who can forget: shopping from catalogues. Though she says of the latter: "I'm not sure catalogue shopping is a hobby, I think I'd class it as an addiction. Hey, I gave it up for Lent last year and it was d*** hard. Had a smaller credit card bill though."

Kathleen was one of the first choices when the original four (male) Interfilk directors were nagged into adding three strong women (Funny Mew, you and I were the other two, weren't we?). "I've really enjoyed connecting with the people I have, and I'll admit it has been fun being more visible and better known." Kathleen has been irreplaceable at the West Coast cons, running the auctions with limited assistance. She says of her extremely generous donations: "It is challenging to continually come up with interesting donation items." Only "interesting"? People speculate in advance about what strange and wonderful things Kathleen will find this time.

Filker, physician, Pigeonator, catalogue addict, back-up singer, Interfilk director, award-winning songwriter: Kathleen is a woman of many parts.

That Mary Jo has a lot to answer for. All in the small economy package. Brown or new auburn highlights.



MEET OUR LISTENER OF HONOR **LESLIE LARKINS**

By Karen Foran [with occasional rebuttals by LKL]

Leslie Larkins has a damned good ear.



If there is actually some set of genetic proteins that indicate and endow an ability to appreciate (and create) wacky, unique and eclectic music, comedy and literature, she's got 'em somewhere in those little nuclei. (And, given a sequencing gel apparatus, adequate grant money and a sufficient supply of Pepsi products, she could locate them, too.)

Les has been turning me on to cool sounds since approximately 1975. Note to Echo Boomers: this was sometime around the Pleistocene Era, only the trilobites were wearing mood rings and Qiana. Actually I was 11, she was 10 and at the Gibson School for the Gifted in Dearborn (which, after discovering Robin Williams, we learned to fondly call "St. Swithin's School for the Prematurely Advanced"), "cool sounds" meant novelty songs. Oh, sure, we played 45's (remember, we were just trilobites) of "Love Will Keep Us Together," Cat Stevens' *Greatest Hits* and Elton John's *Goodbye Yellow Brick Road* overoverover, but what we really dug were K-Tel's Fun Rock albums.



Mr. Jaws. Napoleon XIV and "They're Coming To Take Me Away, Ha, Ha!" *The One-Eyed, One Horned Flying Purple People Eater*. *Big Short Irving, the 142nd Fastest Gun *bang* in The West*.
"Hello Mudda, hello Fadda/Here I am at Camp Grenada...."

And as we adolcesced, Leslie's talent for uncovering little musical gems, whether funny or far-out, continued to show itself, though Nervous Norvus made room for The Doors and Billy Joel, Steve Miller and Bruce Springsteen. Les was and is a completist, determined to





know everything knowable about why a musician, or any artist, makes the aesthetic choices s/he does—which helps to explain the impressive four-hundred-odd-unit CD and vinyl collection. (That, and she's a wee bit obsessive—why else would she have flown from Chicago to Detroit for a Bob Seger concert...and then flown back the next day? [Hey! They were free tickets!...never mind the airfare and the rental for the Chevy death trap...]) And as often as not, the songs that caught her ear were the ones that didn't always make the charts. *Spy In The House of Love* and *Peace Frog C'etait Toi* and *I've Loved These Days*. *Wild Mountain Honey*. *Highway Patrolman*, *Candy's Room*, *Independence Day*, *My Father's House*, *Meeting Across The River*... OK, so we've shared a few obsessions over the years. But there's a lot of terrific music out there (um, Les, what's a Nils Lofgren?) that I probably would never have known existed if I hadn't had her calling me at toll rates saying, "I got this great album the other day..." [AT&T really loved us, but the Russians who tapped our phone lines were very confused].

Prematurely advanced, indeed—especially when you realize that cuts from Pretzel Productions' last two Tom Smith CDs that she co-produced [and Karen provided wonderful back up vocals for - it was her voice that finally tied together "*Falling Free*" and made it perfect] have made Dr. Demento's Funny Five several times in the past few years.

As for science fiction, we started our reading and book-collecting at about the same stage of pubescence—but now it can be told; I am the one who gave Les her first introduction to fandom. Flush from Chicon IV, and convinced that this was something that couldn't be missed, I impulsively connived with my fannish then-squeeze in Ann Arbor to kidnap her to a Stilyagi Air Corps meeting one night (I couldn't do it myself, being at college in Evanston at the time.) [Besides, a kidnapping is ever so much more effective when the kidnapper is a rather large and furry male whom the kidnappee has never laid eyes upon before he shows up at her dorm room door saying "Get your coat, you're coming with me"] Her reaction was friendly, mannerly and inevitably rather bemused; she took in what was going on, than thought it over...for about four years. (This, too, is occasionally characteristic; Leslie takes her own measure of things. When she dives into a project or an idea, it may be impulsive, but it's rarely uncalculated.)

She hit a couple of Ann Arbor cons in the mid-eighties, then took a little break for trifles like graduate work at Northwestern University in sensory physiology, and getting her Masters at the U of M's Biological Station in Pellston. The Bio Station began her love affair with the natural beauty of northern Michigan, taught her more about algae and roadkill than human kind was meant to know, and...introduced her to more fen [of both sorts...in fact, one of the best places in Cheboygan county to collect really neat diatoms is Smith's Fen...hmm, do I smell a trend?]. By 1989, critical mass was reached, and she was inexorably drawn to her very first OVFF. At that point, she was ours. (Good work, everyone. You know who you are; your pay envelopes are at the front desk on your way out.) *Ahem* Where was I? [I don't know where you were, I'm still waiting for my kickbacks...]

Today, at her eleventh OVFF, Leslie has become far more than the woman who liked filk so much she started her own recording company. In her years as a researcher at the University of Michigan, she became one of a handful of people in the United States working on the applications of dihydroxyacetonephosphate acyltransferase to disease. Biologists, don't hesitate to come on up and say hi. Les loves meeting people in her field and wants a chance to drown out the computer shop talk for a change. (Especially if you're male, personable, have a good sense of humor and give good hug...ouch! All right, all right! [no, no...don't stop on my account!]) Her intensely creative side has many more outlets than Pretzel Productions; she's good at just about anything artistic she tries, whether it's computer graphics, quilting, beading and jewelry-making, photography or acting. Two summers ago, I had the privilege of sharing the stage with her for the first time since junior high, as she made her professional acting debut as the Stage Manager in Orson Welles' *Moby Dick Rehearsed* at the Performance network in Ann Arbor. Her periodic Lemurcon parties, where no bad movie is safe, are a byword among certain lucky fen in the Ann Arbor area. None luckier than myself, however; I met my fiance at a Lemurcon in 1996. Although Les did have some assistance with that one from the Smithmeister and a certain little bear nephew of mine. . .



So here she is, ladies and gentlemen: your 1999 OVFF Listener Guest of Honor. And next April, she'll be my maid of honor. In truth, that's about as good a way to sum her up as I know: the best of listeners to music, comedy...and the people who love her. And, most definitely, a person of honor.

Enjoy the laurels, kid—you deserve 'em. And thank you so much for being the very best of friends.



MEET OUR INTERFILK GUEST

MARY MILLER



I have been singing in choir since the second grade. The directors bumped me around from first soprano to tenor to first alto to second soprano, depending on where the director felt the choir needed filling out. In college, I made the cut into the A Cappella choir at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. It was Austin College that I was first introduced to filk. Imagine the scene: my first semester of college in the fall of '86. I'm early to class so I can get a good seat (not too close to the front, not at the very back, not stuck in the center, but close to the door for a quick getaway), when in walks this beaky-nosed geek. I have nothing against geeks; I've been one for most of my life. And as far as noses go, well, take a look at my husband if you can find him. . . But this stranger was a little out there with his shorts and mismatched, knee-length socks. He wasn't accidentally stating "Hey, I'm different." I can ignore him till class starts. The next class, he's in the room before I am. And he doesn't want to be ignored. So he starts singing to me. Weird. Real weird. Well, we eventually become friends, and Bill Jahnel eventually gets me to listen to his music collection. Pretty much all filk. And so it begins.

A couple years later, I took a semester of guitar at college. Guitar is a great weap. . er. . instrument. You can use it as a shield, it's easy to carry off when the crowds get restless, and cats just love using the case as a spare bedroom. After an entire three months of study, I managed to retain the chords, but discovered that reading music takes too long. Then again, I knew that from choir. Chords are good enough for what I want to do.

As conventions in my area have been gradually shutting down, more of my filk time has been spent with other fannish groups. Currently, I'm involved with a live action role-play group called the High Fantasy Society. The other musicians have appreciated the filk I've been introducing them to, and in return, they have been feeding me other crafts, like leatherworking, beading and costuming. I would like to think I've done fairly well at these other interests. In 1997, I entered my husband and a mutual friend into the WorldCon Masquerade. I won the Best Baaaaa-d Pun award. Actually, my husband and our friend Travis Jeter won the award with their "Men in Blackwatch" skit, but they would have been naked if Darla and I hadn't done our part, too.

Overall, I enjoy singing anything, especially 'ose. And I don't mind singing what's requested, even if we've done it before. I'm one of the few people in Dallas who's willing to do "Banned from Argo" on demand. I have yet to write any songs myself, so I have to pay attention to what other people do. And shhhh! Don't tell Tom that I'm one of the three conspirators behind www.deathsheep.com.

ABOUT INTERFILK

by Judith Hayman

Interfilk is a charitable organization whose purpose is to promote the exchange of filk music throughout the North American continent by providing the means and opportunity for filkers to travel to filk conventions that they normally would not be able to attend.

Funds for this sole purpose are raised through the auction of donated items—complete with campy entertainment. These auctions typically occur at filk cons. In addition, various members of the filk community have organized other fund-raising activities; many performers and songwriters have donated royalties from recordings or publications to IF. Without your generous gifts, auction purchases, royalties, and contributions, IF could not continue.

The IF directors meet & select IF guests & their convention destinations. In general, IF pays all or part of the travel & hotel expenses; the host con contributes a membership & banquet ticket. The IF guest contributes to programming, shares their home music, & to takes home new material.

IF is delighted to receive suggestions for potential guests. IF chooses guests from a pool of nominees. They may be new & upcoming people or those who have not been recognized for the past contributions. And while IF guests are frequently performers or songwriters, listeners and organizers are also welcome nominees. In general, filkers who have been guests at filk cons, those who have previously appeared as IF guests, and IF directors are not eligible to be chosen.



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Official Filk Waif:

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Interfilk Guest:

W. Scott Snyder

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Topic: Tricksters

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Web: <http://www.bserv.com/community/fkoa.htm>

ABOUT OUR OTHER GUESTS

Mark Bernstein: I was born a poor, black child . . . No, wait, that's not it. Disguised as Clark Kent, mild-mannered reporter for a . . . No, hold on, that's not it either. I was born in a trunk in the Princess Theatre . . . Dammit, *where* did I put that "Reality" link? Ah, there it is! *Click* Mark first encountered filk at Discon II, the 1974 Worldcon, where he looked into a room, saw a bunch of people singing weird songs, and immediately moved on, looking for a party. He first *attended* a filk at ConFusion in 1976, and has been hooked ever since. So far, he's won one Pegasus Award and one OVFF Lyric Writing Contest, been GoH at Consonance and Musicon, written and performed (and stolen) both songs and stories, auctioneered for Interfilk, taught several seminars on Beginning Voice (there's one at this con!) and leered engagingly at countless filkfen, most of them female. Mundanely, he lives in Ann Arbor with his wonderful wife, Sharon, spends his days swearing at computers and many of his evenings working in community theater. He's also available for weddings and bar mitz . . . No, wait, hold on . . . *Click* 404 NOT FOUND

Andrea Dale has been enjoying filk, fandom and SF cons ever since she got sucked into, uh wandered into Conclave (Michigan con) in 1991. After spending a couple of years working on concoms, playing filk, staying up very, very very late, and making many wonderful friends, she released her debut CD titled A Step Out of Time last January. Last June she married Tom Algeo, who enjoys filk and conventions too!

Toronto filkers **Karen Linsley and Lloyd Landa** will perform a concert featuring songs from their new SF/Fantasy CD The Road To Roswell as well as new material. The title track "Road To Roswell" was the 1997 Pegasus award winner for best song. This year the duo has been nominated for a Pegasus as songwriters of the year. Karen and Lloyd's writing style ranges from comedy to SF drama, horror to fantasy. Their melodies are tinged with a blend of pop, folk and country influences. Karen's credits include a Toronto Arts Council grant to complete a cycle of songs depicting Women's Lives and a nomination for outstanding new artist (Canadian RPM Big Country Awards) for the Linsley/Landa hit single "Somebody Else's Heart." Karen has a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Toronto. Lloyd, who studied Royal Conservatory of Music (piano) in his native Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, is a composer who has been nominated several times for audio/visual and video awards.



Puzzlebox: On today's nature walk, we see the melodious Puzzlebox in its native environment. The Puzzlebox is a symbiotic group, composed of three distinct lifeforms. The tall one is known as **Paul Kwinn**. It strums fibers attached to a hollow growth on its front, and along with its vocalizations, produces tones alternately moving and amusing. The first of the two yellow-crested creatures, **Alisa Schaeffbauer** (named by German naturalist Ernst Schaeffbauer), sings sweetly, harmonizing perfectly against its partners. Its digits also produce varying musical accompaniments on ivory keys located across its abdomen. Finally, there is the **Taunya Shiffer**, completing the harmonious sounds with her own vocalizations. The Taunya is given toward very dramatic gestures and intonations. Together, they find a surprising synergy of sound. (If you like, you can get a recently-produced recording of the sounds of the Puzzlebox [entitled Assembly Required] available from purveyors of nature sounds everywhere.)



THE OVFF SONGWRITING CONTESTS



The Song Writing Contest began at the second OVFF. The competition became so fierce that at OVFF 11 (1995), we added a second contest. In both contests, the subject of the song must be appropriate to the topic (which is announced at the preceding OVFF).

For the first contest, both the lyrics AND the music submitted must be original. The second contest requires new original lyrics set to an existing song. Submissions to either contest must have been composed between the preceding and current OVFFs.

In addition, submissions are subject to the convention committee's approval.

The songs are performed in front of a live audience at the convention for a panel of three judges. If the songwriter is not a performer, it is permissible to have a substitute performer present the submission. The songwriter must include a signed consent form in this instance. It is also permissible for the songwriter to submit a recording of the song.

Songs are judged on the quality of the writing—not on the strength of performance.

PREVIOUS SONGWRITING CONTEST WINNERS

1998 - Dreams

- 1st Place: "Dreams" by Judith Hayman
- 2nd Place: "Tear It Down" by Renee Alper
- 3rd Place: "Wish Upon A Star" by Diana Huey

1997- Superstition

- 1st Place: "Rules of Engagement" by Randy Hoffman
- 2nd Place: (tie)
 - "Tale of the Dragon" by Scott Snyder
 - "Dutchman" by Steve Macdonald
- 3rd Place: Anne Marie St. Clair by Susan Urban

1996 - First Contact

- 1st Place: "Rishathra" by Ookla the Mok
- 2nd Place: "In My Garden" by Ed Chamberlain
- 3rd Place: "Nuts" by Paul Kwinn

1995- Anti-Ose

- 1st Place:
"Stop Singing Ose or I'll Kill You" by Paul Kwinn
- 2nd Place: "Eternity's Polka" by Michael Longcor
- 3rd Place: "Nintendo" by Graham Leathers

1994 - The Best Song Tom Smith Never Wrote

Paul Kwinn, Renee Alper, Mark Osier

1993 - Mythical Beasts

- "Cold Butcher" by Steve Macdonald

1992 - Love Songs (tie)

- "I Would Walk With You"
by Cynthia McQuillin
- "Eternity's Waltz"
by Michael Longcor

1991 - Heroes & Heroines

- "Reed Turner, Novel Hero" by Renee Alper

1990 - Aliens

- "Face Hugger" by Tom Smith

PREVIOUS LYRIC WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

1998 - TV Theme Songs

- 1st Place: "Ode to the Sci Fi Channel" by Rennie Levine
- 2nd Place: "Just Different" by Deirdre Murphy
- 3rd Place: "Love Theme From MSY2K" by Tom Smith

1997- Monster Mash

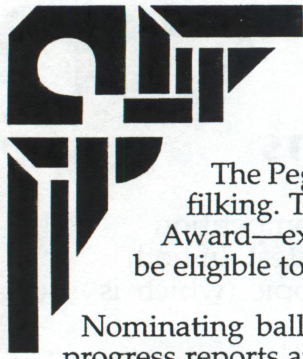
- 1st Place:
"Kentucky Monster Mash" by Mark Bernstein
- 2nd Place: "Cut Velvet" by Joel Polowin
- 3rd Place: "Alien" by Israel Pacheco

1996 - Songs You Can Sing in the Shower

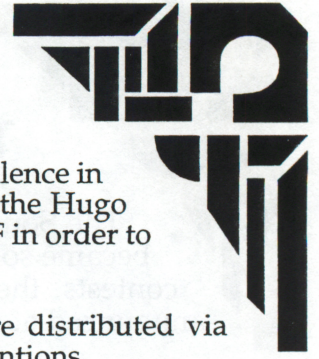
- 1st Place: "Bath of the Valkyries" by Blade
- 2nd Place: "All Washed Up" by Rennie Levine
- 3rd Place:
"Cranes Over Hiroshima: 1st Draft" by Alan Thiesen

1995 - Show Tunes

- 1st Place: "Join The Clan" by Scott Courtney
- 2nd Place: "Now" by Mark Bernstein
- 3rd Place:
"If I Were A Rich Fan" by Renee Alper
- Special Mention: "The Moon"
by Maureen O'Brien



The PEGASUS AWARDS



The Pegasus Awards were founded to recognize and honor excellence in filking. The nomination and ballot procedure is similar to that of the Hugo Award—except you do not need to purchase a membership to OVFF in order to be eligible to nominate or vote.

Nominating ballots are made available at the preceding OVFF; they are distributed via progress reports and posted at the web site, as well as distributed at conventions.

The final ballot is released in the spring; it's distributed in much the same manner as the nominating ballot. We encourage you to duplicate and distribute the ballot (both the nominating & final versions) as widely as possible within the filk community. The awards are presented at the Saturday evening banquet.

Songs that have won as "Best" of category are ineligible to receive any additional nominations; winners of "Best Singwriter/ Composer" and "Best Performer" are not eligible to win within that category in consecutive years.



Final Ballot for the 1999 Pegasus Awards For Excellence in Filking



You may vote once per category. You do not need to be a member of the OVFF convention to vote. In fact, we strongly encourage you to copy & distribute this ballot as widely as possible within the filk community. Completed ballots should be mailed to OVFF, PO Box 20125, Columbus, OH 43220-0125; or, you may email them to OVFF@aol.com, or, visit our website: www.inkspot.com/~ohi/cons/ovff, or turn them in in person at the convention by midnight Friday, 29-Oct-99. Final ballots sent by mail or email must be received by OVFF by 22-Oct-99.

Best Filk Song

- The Dark Man* by Paul Kwinn
- The Lady* by Jodi Krangle
- Sam's Song*
by Zander /Zander & Soren Nyron

- Velvet* by Talis Kimberley
- The Word of God* by Cat Faber
- No Award

Best Performer

- Decadent Dave Clement
- Talis Kimberley
- Ookla The Mok
- Puzzlebox
- Mary Ellen Wessels
- No Award

Best Writer/Composer

- Judith Hayman
- Talis Kimberley
- Paul Kwinn
- Karen Linsley/Lloyd Landa
- Cynthia McQuillin
- No Award

Best Hero Song

- Dangerous Heros* by Michael Longcor
- Das Uber Tuber* by Bellavia/English
- Horsetamer's Daughter* by Leslie Fish
- Some Kind of Hero*
by Mercedes Lackey/Leslie Fish
- A Toast For Unknown Heros* by Leslie Fish
- No Award

Best Fool Song

- Don't Push That Button* by Duane Elms
- Drivel* by Dr. Jane Robinson
- Fool to Feed the Drive*
by Jordan Kare, Cynthia McQuillin
- Never Set the Cat on Fire* by Frank Hayes
- Operation: Desert Storm* by Tom Smith
- No Award



PAST PEGASUS WINNERS



1998

Best Filk Song: "When I Was a Boy" by Frank Hayes
Best Writer/Composer: Cat Faber
Best Performer: Steve Macdonald
Best Myth Song: "Cold Butcher" by Steve Macdonald
Best Adaptation: "Mary O'Meara" by Anderson/
Anne Passavoy

1991

Best Filk Song: "A Boy and His Frog" by Tom Smith
Best Writer/Composer: Tom Smith
Best Performer: Tom Smith
Best Love Song: "Velveteen" by Kathy Mar
Best War/Vengeance Song: "Temper of Revenge" by Julia Ecklar

1997

Best Filk Song: "Road to Roswell" by Karen Linsley/Lloyd Landa
Best Writer/Composer: Rand Bellavia/Adam English
Best Performer: Urban Tapestry
Best Science Song: "World Inside the Crystal" by Steve Savitsky
Best Sorcery Song: "The Dark is Rising" by Susan Cooper/Julia Ecklar

1990

Best Filk Song: "Lullabye for a Weary World" by T.J. Burnside Clapp
Best Writer/Composer: Julia Ecklar
Best Performer: Mitchell Clapp
Best Fannish Song: "Weekend Only World" by T.J. Burnside Clapp
Best Literature Song: "Daddy's Little Girl" by Julia Ecklar

1996

Best Filk Song: "When Giants Walked" by Kathy Mar
Best Writer/Composer: Heather Alexander
Best Performer: Heather Alexander
Best Eerie Song (tie): "Blood Child" by Joey Shoji & "Monster in My Head" by Michael Longcor
Best Spiritual Song: "Circles" by Gwen Zak

1989

Best Filk Song: "Dawson's Christian" by Duane Elms
Best Writer/Composer: Kathy Mar & Duane Elms (tie)
Best Performer: Technical Difficulties
Best Fantasy Song: "Wind's Four Quarters" by Mercedes Lackey/Leslie Fish
Best Techie Song: "Do It Yourself" by Bill Sutton

1995

Best Filk Song: "Journey's Done" by Steve Macdonald
Best Writer/Composer: Steve Macdonald
Best Performer: Michael "Moonwulf" Longcor
Best Military Song: "When Tenskwatawa Sings" by Michael Longcor
Best Sing-A-Long/Choral Song: "Acts of Creation" by Cat Faber

1988

Best Filk Song: "Wind From Rainbow's End" by Bill Roper
Best Writer/Composer: Mercedes (Misty) Lackey
Best Performer: Barry & Sally Childs Helton
Best Historical Song: "Song of the Shieldwall" by Malkin Grey (Debra Doyle)/Peregyn Wyndruder (Mellissa Williamson)
Best Media Song: "Superman's Sex Life Bogie" by Tom Smith

1994

Best Filk Song (Tie): "Drink Up The River" by Kathy Mar & "PQR (You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet)" by Tom Smith
Best Writer/Composer: Tom Smith
Best Performer: The Black Book Band
Best Children's Song: "Monsters in the Night" by Diana Gallagher
Best Risque Song: "Like A Lamb To The Slaughter" by Frank Hayes

1987

Best Filk Song: "Harbors" by Anne Passavoy
Best Writer/Composer: Leslie Fish
Best Performer: Julia Ecklar
Best 'Ose: "Ian the Grim" by Clif Flynt
Best Schtick: "Unreality Warp/Mediocre, etc." by Clif Flynt & Bill Roper

1993

Best Filk Song: "Green Hills of Earth" by Robert Heinlein/Mark Bernstein
Best Writer/Composer: Leslie Fish
Best Performer: Tom Smith
Best Humorous Song: "Rhinitelexomania" by Michael Longcor
Best Space Song: "Lightsailor" by Barry Childs-Hefton

1986

Best Original Filk Song: "Witnesses' Waltz" by Leslie Fish
Best Male Filker: Bill Sutton
Best Female Filker: Leslie Fish
Best Parody: "Daddy's Little Boy" by Murray Porath
Best Original Humorous Song: "A Reconsideration of Anatomical Docking Maneuvers in a Zero-G Environment" by Diana Gallagher

1992

Best Filk Song: "God Lives on Terra" by Julia Ecklar
Best Writer/Composer: Dr. Jane Robinson
Best Performer: Michael Longcor
Best Tribute: "Madame Curie's Hands" by Duane Elms
Best Genre Crossover: "Return of the King" by Tom Smith

1984

Best Original Filk Song: "Hope Eyrie" by Leslie Fish
Best Male Filker: Bill Maraschiello
Best Female Filker: Julia Ecklar
Best Parody: "Twelve Years at Worldcon" by Frank Hayes
Best Original Humorous Filk Song: "Unreality Warp" by Clif Flynt



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SAMPLE SONGS by THE 1999 NOMINEES FOR BEST WRITER/COMPOSER

OUTWARD DREAM ©1998, Judith Hayman

intro: G-D-C9-D-C9

C9 Cmaj7
The little light, that from the moon,
C9 Cmaj7
Enchants the very heart of night,
F Am7
Is so small, so very small,
Cmaj7 C D
That one raised finger eclipses it all.
F G7 C
So small, and yet the dream is grand,
F C G
Of going to that distant land.
D
So outward dream,
C9
So outward dream,
G - D - C9
And onward go.

Suspended on the sea of night,
Above the moon, we gaze upon
The earth a-glow, so blue a-glow,
And yet, my hand's farewell can stop that show.
And so, into the starry sky

We sail, and wave our last goodbye.
So outward dream
So outward dream
G - D - C9 - C - C/B - E
And onward go.

Break:

E9 D
There lies beyond the galaxy
E9 D A
A space so vast that there can be no reckoning.
E9 D
In dreams and in humility,
E9 D A
I raise my hands to my home stars a-beckoning:
C9 D
The Milky Way, lost in th' embrace
C9 D
Of wond'ring hands that reach for space.

And so I sigh, I, dreaming, sigh,
For I will never pass the sky.
My aching hands, my reaching hands
Will never catch earth or stars within their span.
I can but dream of what may be,
And all that we will some day see.
So outward dream,
And outward dream,
And onward go.

So outward dream,
And outward dream,
And onward go.

PRAYER AT THE SPACE WINDOW ©1999, Judith Hayman

Bm- C -Bm- C -D -E

Bm C
Sunlight in the Cathedral
Bm C
Splashes on the hand hewn stone
F C
A tapestry of blazing colour spreading
D E
Warmth upon the building's bones

My pilgrimage ends at this window.
I, drowning, fall into the light:
No saints or angels, but the endless tumbling
Dance of earth and moon in flight.

Cmaj7 C D
What ear, hears the dreams and the unspoken prayers
D7 Am
Of those of this curious faith
Asus2 Bm
Built not on the hope of god's grace
E7 A-Amaj7-D-E
But on visions of flight into space.

Moonrock anchors the Space Window
Anchors dreams more than a faith,
Reminder of a world that we once touched
In our brief voyaging to space.

That first small step made all the difference,
The giant leap that still survives,
Deep in the hearts of all the dreamers here
Who keep that dream alive.

What ear, hears the dreams and the heartbroken prayers
Of us of this curious faith
Holding dear, not the hope of god's grace,
But our memories of flight into space

Moonlight falls in the Cathedral.
The window's washed in shades of grey.
Will we once again illuminate
Our escape from Earth's domain?

A quiet day in the Cathedral,
Work and will made real this place.
So, shall we storm the halls of power
Now, to realize dreams of space?

What ear, hears our dreams and our outspoken prayers,
As we beg with our curious faith,
That governments and gods grant their grace,
So we'll venture once more into space?

Cmaj7
Into space...
D
And we'll venture
C
Once more
G-D-E-E-Bm-C....
Into space

The National Cathedral in Washington, D. C. is an English Gothic Cathedral built in modern times using ancient - and modern - techniques. One of its windows is dedicated to Scientists and Technologists, but is commonly known as The Space Window. The upper lancet contains a piece of lunar rock presented to the Cathedral for this use by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. It was my favorite spot when we visited in 1992. A poster of the window hangs in my living room and was the inspiration for this piece.

**SAMPLE SONGS by THE
1999 NOMINEES FOR BEST WRITER/COMPOSER**

VELVET

© 1992 Talis Kimberley

He sleeps the deep deep sleep of the sated lover
He dreams the twisting dreams of a human man;
She leaves the tumbled bed and the warm bedcover
And shuts the bedroom door with a gentle hand
She needs no candlelight when the full moon calls her
Her cambric gown lies on the floor

She puts on velvet like a second skin
Beast without, woman within
She puts on velvet, cloak and hood
She knows what's next, nothing good
She puts on velvet, fits like a glove
She doesn't hate and she doesn't love
She's a beast without and a woman within
When she puts on velvet like a second skin.

She stalks the deep dark woods like a savage creature
She hunts because she needs to kill
She scents the prey, and touches a brief, bright rapture
It never lasts but she knows what will...
She stills; she leaps - and a neck snaps backward
She feeds till the hunger is appeased:

She puts on velvet like a second skin
Beast without, woman within
She puts on velvet, cloak and hood
She knows what's next, nothing good
She puts on velvet, fits like a glove
She doesn't hate and she doesn't love
She's a beast without and a woman within
When she puts on velvet like a second skin.

She's home to wash herself of the blood she's wearing
Her lover's still asleep upstairs
He barely stirs - she slips in beside him swearing
It'll never be his blood she wears
So long as some dumb beast can be found by morning
The kiss which wakes her lover needn't ... hurt

She puts on velvet like a second skin
Beast without, woman within
She puts on velvet, cloak and hood
She knows what's next, nothing good
She puts on velvet, fits like a glove
She doesn't hate and she doesn't love
She's a beast without and a woman within
When she puts on velvet like a second skin.

Second skin - second skin... oooh.

INISH'S SONG

by Cyndi McQuillin

I stand on the hillside and I look to the sea,
All the white-winged ships in the harbor below.
No more shall I wander the wide world so free...
All the magic has left me, now I've only the dream.

Chorus:

But once I rode proudly on a swanship's broad helm,
A master of currents, of the wind and the sea.
I captained my vessel with a strong heart and hand;
The stars were my compass, and the wind sang to me.

Now I make my home in the dales by the lea,
But sometimes those dales look like waves when they
roll.

And sometimes, in moonlight, the swans call to me,
And when I hear wind-song I return to the sea.

Chorus:

But once I rode proudly on a swanship's broad helm,
A master of currents, of the wind and the sea.
I captained my vessel with a strong heart and hand;
The stars were my compass, and the wind sang to me.

There's a footfall beside me and I smile as I see
That you've followed me here just as you always do.
I turn from the harbor as you speak to me,
The warmth of your touch all the anchor I need.

For once I rode proudly on a swanship's broad helm,
A master of currents, of the wind and the sea.
Now you captain my soul with a soft heart and hand,
And love is my compass when your heart sings to me...

And love is my compass, for your heart sings to me!





*ON JUNE 21, 1996, THREE (OR FOUR, OR FIVE, OR HOWEVER MANY IT WAS...) LOCAL
FEN DISAPPEARED INTO THE RAMADA INN WHILE RUNNING A CONVENTION*

FOUR YEARS LATER, THEIR PLANS WERE FOUND...

BUT THEIR COMMON SENSE WAS STILL MISSING, SO THEY DECIDED TO DO IT AGAIN....

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**SAMPLE SONGS by THE
1999 NOMINEES FOR BEST WRITER/COMPOSER**

SPIRIT OF THE WIND
©1997 Martian Trophy Music
Lyrics by Karen Linsley and Lloyd Landa
Music by Karen Linsley

Intro: Am D Am G Am Am Bb Am G Am

Am D
She rides 'neath the stars a silver grey phantom
Am G Am
Her mane in the moonlight a shimmering veil
Am Bb
He spotted her first just north of El Paso
Am G Am
Gliding above an old Indian trail
Am D
Could this be the one the Navaho worshipped
Am G Am
Could this be the symbol that moved the Cheyenne
Am Bb
He'd heard her name spoken and whispered at camp fires
Am G Am
From the plains of Montana to the old Rio Grande

CHORUS

Am Bb
And she rides, rides, rides through the night
F Dm E
Her mystery drawing him in
Am Bb
And she flies, flies, flies from his sight
F Dm E Am G Am G
The ghostly horse they call Spirit of the Wind.

Am D
It's said that she came from across the wide ocean
Am G Am
The first of her kind to set foot on this land
Am Bb
Though she died in the blaze of a long-ago battle
Am G Am
She appears as a vision to taunt every man
Am D
It's said she was a symbol of freedom
Am G Am
To those who felt bound by mortality's chains
Am Bb
The life of the one who could tame her and ride her
Am G Am
Would never be severed by death's cruel blade

CHORUS

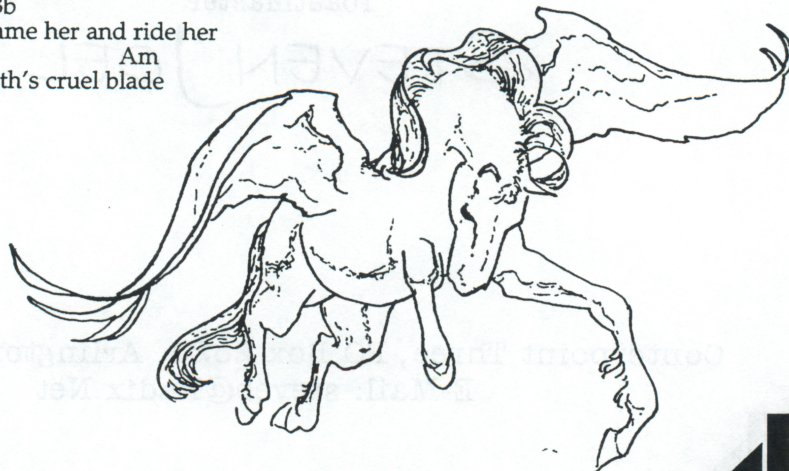
Am Bb
And she rides, rides, rides through the night
F Dm E
Her mystery drawing him in
Am Bb
And she flies, flies, flies from his sight
F Dm E Am G Am G
The ghostly horse they call Spirit of the Wind.

Am D
With each passing night he sensed himself closer
Am G Am
To touching the magic that held him enthralled
Am Bb
The sought-after secret that tantalized others
Am G Am
Was soon to be his if he held his resolve
Am D
At long last he found her beside the Grand Canyon
Am G Am
Where cliffs tumble downwards in oranges and reds
Am Bb
As he reached out to touch her, she swiftly soared out-
wards
Am G Am
He stumbled and fell to his knees at the edge

CHORUS

Am Bb
And she rides, rides, rides through the night
F Dm E
Her mystery drawing him in
Am Bb
And she flies, flies, flies from his sight
F Dm E Am G Am G
The ghostly horse they call Spirit of the Wind.

Outro chords: Am Am G G Am Am G G Am Dm G E
Am



**SAMPLE SONGS by THE
1999 NOMINEES FOR BEST WRITER/COMPOSER**

**STOP SINGING OSE
OR I'LL KILL YOU**
©1995 by Paul Kwinn

When I got into filking, it was for funny stuff
Tom Lehrer was my deity, I couldn't get enough
But there are some less silly folk who seem to disagree
They make you cry and wanna die, and usually off-key

Please someone do something happy
My tears are all but run out
Stop singing ose or I'll kill you
And that'll give you someth'n to cry about

So I would sit through one, then I'd sit through two and three
The plants all started wilting, overdosed on minor keys
The air was awfully heavy, and humid from the tears
Forgot completely how to smile, felt like it had been years

I've heard enough of diseases
The horrors of plague and of gout
Stop singing ose or I'll kill you
And that'll give you someth'n to cry about

Tell me what rocket scientist had this idea of fun:
"Let's sit and cry for hours, singing sad stuff by the ton
For surely we'll be loved by the hankie retail stores,
And if our listeners suicide, well that will just draw more."

It's time for me to say something
Though some may think me a lout
Stop singing ose or I'll kill you
And that'll give you someth'n to cry about

So I am on a mission to stop the ose-y hordes
I re-tune their guitars so that they can't play minor chords
A tank of nitrous oxide I keep within my bag
I aim and fire at maudlin folks, they laugh until they gag.

I'll bring the fun back to filking
I've got it all figured out
Stop singing ose or I'll kill you
And that'll give you someth'n to cry about

WHERE THE MAGIC IS REAL
©1998 by Paul Kwinn

Through all of my life, I've had one lasting wish
I want to see magic up close
I've read all the stories, I've played all the games
But I wave my hands and no energy flows
Oh you can be Lancelot, you can be Aragorn
Me, I'll take Gandalf and Merlin too
Cause I want to do impossible things
But this world won't let my dreams come true

[Chorus]
Take me... to where the magic is real
All I want is a world where natural laws
Can be bent by a wizard's will
Is it too much to ask for a big book of spells
And a place they can be fulfilled?
Take me... to where the magic is real

Now some folks have said, if you look hard enough
There are small magics that you can find
But while I couldn't live without music and love
That's not quite what I had in mind
And some magic's inside of computers
That's why I make my living there
But computers can't yet make real things
Out of nothing but thin air

[Chorus]

[Bridge]
Imagine the possibilities
When you're wearing the pointy hat
You could mend broken bones, walk through walls
Talk with your dog and cat
See anywhere and then teleport there
Have a chat with your late uncle Paul
Make rain go away when you need a nice day
Or the very best part of all..

You could fly...
You could fly...
Just you and the sky
Fly....

Oh I'll forge ahead, there's good things in life
I'll fly not in clouds but in dreams
And my latest computer manual
Is plenty arcane, it seems
But if I disappear, don't worry for me
After all it's understood
I might have gotten lucky
And found someone who could...

[Chorus]



Closing Notes

We do not share parents
Nor do we share a common name
We have found a bound through music
We are family just the same
Distance is no boundary
We connect through space and time
Each word conveys our meaning
Our care shows in each rhyme

And the ties that bind us
Are joy and kindness
And the gift we give is our song

(excerpt from Filk Garden,
w&m D. Huey 8/27/99 ©)

Here it is... Sunday, and I
am still singing. Even
when I am too tired to
stand, I can somehow
find the strength to sing
out another note or two.

I wrote the words above
as a gift to a dear filk
friend, a clumsy attempt to
convey to her—and everyone
in our community—the
immense joy that comes from sit-
ting in the circle, sharing songs,
stories, laughter and tears. My hope
is that you are taking home with you many memo-
ries of perfect moments from this weekend. And
that you return again next year for even more!

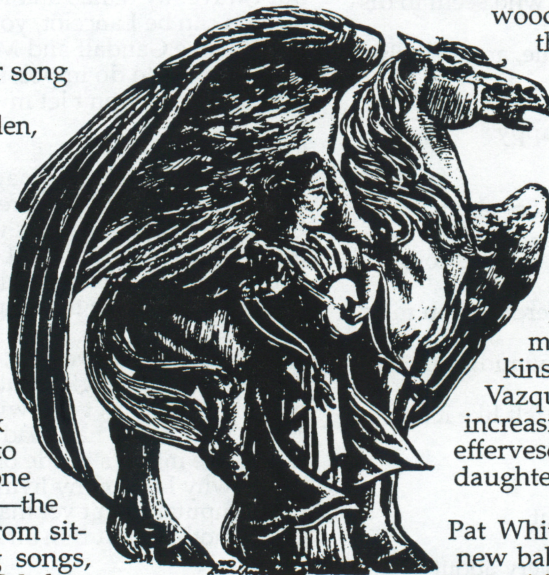
We are grateful that the staff of the wildly wonder-
ful Dublin Wyndham is eager to welcome us again
next year. Mark your calendars now for October 27
- 29, 2000. Don't miss your opportunity to hear the
delightful Talis Kimberley, our Guest of Honor, or
the fabulous witticisms of our Toastmaster, Mark
Bernstein. And save a spot in the circle for our Lis-
tener Guest of Honor, Joy Parker. Try your hand at
writing a song for our Songwriting Contest on the
topic *License to Drive* or for our Lyric Writing Con-
test on the topic *Sweet Sixteen and Never...*

We also implore and encourage you to nominate
your favorite songs, writers, and performers for the
2000 Pegasus Awards. There's a blank ballort form
available at the Con Registration Desk. Take one,
copy it, and spread it far and wide. The 2000 cate-
gories are: **Best Filk Song, Best Performer, Best
Writer/Composer, Best End of the World Song,
and Best Food or Drink Song.**

This year, we lost our very dear friends Buck
Coulson and George "Lan" Laskowski. We
will miss their presence in our circle, but
we will never forget them in our
hearts.

Anyway, it's been an up & down

year (mostly up) for OVFF con-
com members. Jana Murphy got her dream
job; sometimes, it's a nightmare, but she's
been working at making it wonderful. Jan
Wagner recently brought home ribbons, rib-
bons & more ribbons from her first equestrian
event. Lori Coulson has become increasingly
involved in the Church of All Worlds and men-
tioned something about scaring people in the
woods at night. (Note: Lori is NOT
the Blair Witch!)



BJ Mattson sings with the
Columbus Symphony Cho-
rus; if you're in town over the
December holidays, check
out the Messiah Sing-a-long!

Kathy Hamilton continues to
be our beacon of hope, keep-
ing us organized, our docu-
ments beautiful, and our pump-
kins masterfully carved. Emily
Vazquez Coulson continues her ever
increasing battle to keep up with her
effervescent elementary-school aged
daughter, Miranda.

Pat Whitten is adjusting to her sporty
new baby, a Geo Metro Tracker. How-
ever, it's no replacement for her real
love—daughter Jinny became Mrs. Andrew Eigel
on September 11, 1999. (Best wishes, Jinny &
Andrew!!)

Shelby Bartellis—co-ConChair & best friend
extraordinaire—is currently looking for a better
job... um, I mean, is very happy (yeah, right) with
her current employer. However, if you have need
of a really good problem-solver, team leader & all-
around kick-ass employee, I'll email you her
resume.. (g).

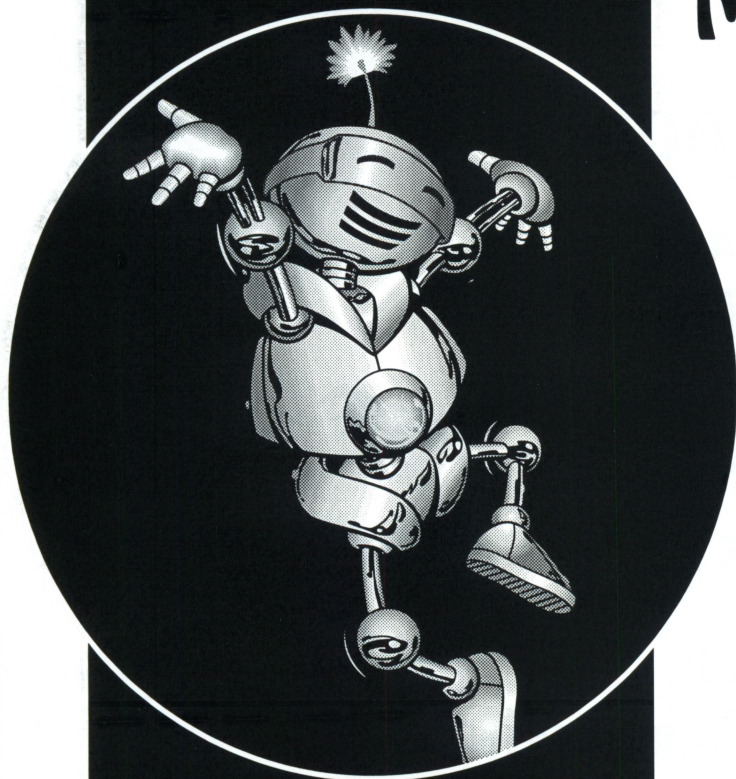
And I am still waiting on my phone call from
Ecuador. Many of you know that my husband,
Bob, and I have been going through the adoption
process for a long, long time now. Well, nearly two
years, anyway. And they keep saying that they'll be
calling us Very Soon Now. Maybe even after this
document goes to press? We can only hope... Just
doing my best to keep up with the population
explosion of young filkers (yeah, Mew & Ed! Yeah,
Alan & Alta!)

There are too too many people to thank individ-
ually, but to all of our guests, program partici-
pants, friends, family & fen, we couldn't do
OVFF without you. Thank you.

Diana Huey

Co-Conchair
OVFF 15

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mundane life
turning you into
a ROBOT?
Escape to a
weekend of
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dreams of
wonder!!**



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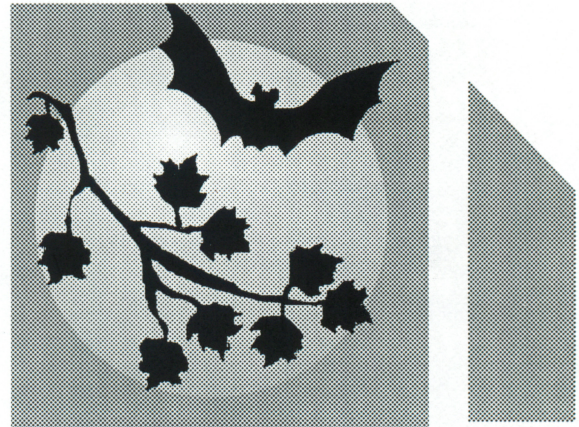
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***GUEST OF HONOR*
TALIS KIMBERLEY**



***TOASTMASTER*
MARK BERNSTEIN**



***LISTENER OF HONOR*
JOY PARKER**

***INTERFILK GUEST*
TBA**