

Tropicon VIII



The Orlando Area Science Fiction Society Presents



Our 3rd Spring
Science Fiction
Convention
May 11-13, 1990

Guest of Honor

Joan D. Vinge

Artist Guest of Honor

Robert Daniels, JR

Fan Guest of Honor

Joe Siclari

Toastmaster

Jim Frenkel

Other Guests Confirmed So Far

Michael Bates

Richard Byers

Charles L. Fontenay

Gay Haldeman

Joe Haldeman

Lee Hoffman

Ingrid Nellson

Jeanette Spencer

Ruth Thompson

Rick Wilber

Holly Bird

J.M. Dillard

Joseph Green

Jack C. Haldeman II

Mary Hanson-Roberts

Brad Linaweaver

Andre Norton

C.L. Swann

Phil Tortorici



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Welcome to TROPICON VIII

The South Florida Science Fiction Convention

December 1-3, 1989
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

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Blood Drive	Peggy Ann Dolan
Book Display	Edie Stern
Costume Contest	Cindy Warmuth & Terri Wells
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...and our thanks to the many other volunteers without whom TROPICON
VIII would not be possible!

Art Credits:

C. L. Swann	Cover
Gail Bennett	3, 5, 7, 9, 22
Peggy Ranson	23



A Welcome From the Co-Chairmen

Welcome to TROPICON VII, the South Florida Science Fiction Convention. Whether you are attending your first science fiction convention or are a veteran of many, you can find something interesting to do, talk about, look at, listen to, buy, or otherwise engage your sense of wonder throughout all of your waking hours. From TROPICON's always interesting programming, reknowned art show, and well-stocked dealer's room to our superb late night filksinging, delicious banquet (you **did** buy a ticket, didn't you?), and our first full fledged masquerade (!), there is always something happening for YOU to be interested and involved in.

But wait, there's MORE! We also have author readings, the Robert A. Heinlein memorial blood drive, gaming, video, a unique and popular trivia contest, a "meet the pro's" party, a hospitality suite, and late night parties. And, if despite all of this, you find that you still have free time on your hands, we would like to encourage you to volunteer to help us out. We are always in need of someone to check badges, help clean up the hospitality suite, fetch water for speakers, or otherwise help make this convention enjoyable for all of its attendees.

One would think after 7 years that it would be easy to do an eighth convention. But, like the eighth climb of Mount Everest, or the eighth trip to the moon (someday), each convention has its own unique challenges and opportunities. This year Judy and I had to take over as co-chairmen in July when the previous chairman had to resign for personal reasons. There is always some information lost in a transfer like that, but I hope that with the help of our experienced committee and staff, we can produce a TROPICON that we and you can be proud of. We are also in a newer, more upscale hotel this year. This should provide a more pleasant physical environment for our convention, but also requires that we maintain a minimum level of decorum as well. This starts with our weapons policy:

1. NO WEAPONS! (We will make exceptions for peacebonded weapons as part of a costume in the masquerade pageant.)
2. No hospitality suite refreshments outside the hospitality suite (especially not on the mezzanine or the lobby levels, or in function rooms).
3. No signs or posters attached to hotel surfaces. (Doors, walls, elevators, etc.)
4. No alcoholic beverages served to individuals under 21. This is not just a good idea, it is the *law*.

Despite all of that, there is no excuse for all of you not to meet our guests, have fascinating discussions with other attendees, actively participate in the multitude of activities, and in general have a wonderful time. We even hope to have fun ourselves.





Where can you find Russian translations, computer networks, municipal finance, medieval history and a thief named Hanse? These are all part of the life of Lynn Abbey, TROPICON VIII's Guest of Honor.

Writing fantasy for over a decade, Lynn Abbey spent years working as a computer systems analyst in the financial districts of New York City. According to Starlog Magazine, she even worked on budget proposals to help save the city from bankruptcy during its financial crisis. This seems like an unusual occupation for a woman with a college degree in History who now spends her time creating fictional characters with swords and spells.

In 1979, her first novel, *Daughter of the Bright Moon*, was published by Ace. This fantasy featured a strong female protagonist, Rifkind, whose clan has been massacred, leaving her to survive and thrive on her own. A sequel, *The Black Flame*, appeared in 1980. Rifkind is the first of Lynn Abbey's strong female protagonists, a hallmark of her work. Rifkind has proved so popular that Tor has issued a Crossroads Adventure Book based on the saga, *Warhorn*.

Lynn's heroines are often warriors or sorceresses (or both!). They are strong, believable characters that readers can identify with. Her characters are movers and shakers, fiercely independent women. Lynn writes "*fantasy in the classic tradition*", with a feminist twist.

In the decade since the publication of her first book, she has written five

more fantasy novels, and co-edited 12 volumes of Thieves' World stories with her husband, author Robert Asprin. The first Thieves' World book appeared in 1979. This series is the prototype for the multitude of shared universe series which abound in science fiction and fantasy today. The latest in the ongoing Thieves' World anthology sees publication this month from Ace. The title to watch for is *Stealers' Sky*.

The Thieves' World shared universe is a unique cooperative effort. The recipe for success is thus. Proceeding along a chronology predetermined by Lynn Abbey, each author works within the framework of the themes for that volume, developing new characters and tales. Geography and some characters are shared, and each story must fit within the guidelines. ("*No, you cannot kill 200 people. No, you cannot silt up the harbor.*")

The creative talents of ten and more authors are then turned loose. As any fan of Thieves' World will tell you, this has led to lively and interesting stories, creating an engaging tapestry of history and myth.

While Bob Asprin tends to the business and contract aspects of the anthology, Lynn Abbey is the continuity editor for Thieves' World. In addition to writing the comic book adaptation (as well as her own books), she juggles the requirements of the Thieves' World authors and ensures that this joint creation presents a consistent alternate reality to its' large public. And not only the reading public, as Thieves' World has also been adapted to board game, and fantasy role-playing game formats.

Lynn often writes in a pseudo-medieval setting. She explains, "*I write fantasy literature primarily because anachronistic settings allow a less cluttered approach to the human condition....The temptation to wallow in the neurosis of modern-day humanity is considerably lessened.*" Her background in history lends an air of realism and solidity to what are clearly tales not of the world we know.

Lynn's fantasy, *Unicorn & Dragon*, is set in the time of the Norman conquest. The book focuses on two sisters, one a witch. In this novel and others, Lynn has developed the art of magic as it should have been. She mixes history, myth, and symbolism to make a combination that feels right to her. She doesn't stick to all the "rules".

A departure from her historical fantasies, Lynn's novel, *The Guardians*, is full of magic, but magic with its' own logic. Manhattan is the background for a tale full of malevolent spirits whose depredations are contained only by witchy ritual. Heroine Lise Brown is thrust unsuspecting into a very different New York City, one where she makes all the difference in the world.

Her stories have appeared in the anthology *Alien Encounters*; and the *Merovingen Nights*, and *Heroes in Hell* series. Works in progress include more in the *Unicorn & Dragon* series, projected to be six volumes, and the last book of the *Daughter of the Bright Moon* saga, *The Dawn Wolves*.

TROPICON is an opportunity to meet the author behind the works. Join us in welcoming TROPICON VIII's Guest of Honor, Lynn Abbey.

continued on page 8



One thing about writing about Leslie Turek is that it's sure to embarrass her. Well, heck, that's what makes this so much fun. It's not that I like embarrassing people. It's just that there's something in Leslie that makes her shrug off praise or compliments. And there's a lot to compliment. So knowing that she has to just sit there while I say neat stuff about her makes it that much more fun.

Let's see now, what do I want to tell you about Leslie Turek?

1. Leslie Turek chaired a Worldcon AND LIVED! Leslie is one of the main reasons that Noreascon II, the 1980 Worldcon, was a good convention. A lot of people remembered liking N2, and because of that, I think, they trusted Boston to do well at N3. The fact that Leslie has remained actively involved in fandom, in NESFA, at Boskones, and at Noreascon 3, is a tribute to her sanity. This explains why you will see Joe Siclari trying to drag her into a corner during TROPICON so that he can find out her secret. ("C'mon, Leslie, how'd you do it? Drugs? Meditation? C'mon!")

2. Leslie Turek is one of the most tolerant, forgiving and reasonable people I know. This does not mean that Leslie is a wimp. She has many strong opinions. It's just that she's far more willing than most opinionated fan-type people to try and see the other side of the story. In fact, in situations where I think she should be angry, or upset, or at least annoyed, she ends up giving me good reasons not to be pissed off.

Actually, we have an agreement. She stays calm, and I get to be pissed off and say nasty things.

3. Leslie is a project manager for XAIT. XAIT used to be CCA. What does it do? Sorry, I don't know. (*"What does a project manager do, Leslie?" "Well, she manages projects." "Gee, thanks, Les."*) Actually, Leslie never said that, but I don't understand enough of that type of work. Leslie tends to keep everyone calm, pitch in where needed and still has good things to say about people. Again, she's no wimp. But, I suspect that many people at her company, who often face heavy deadlines and inadequate support would have quit long ago, if it weren't for her.

4. If Leslie could live in a small house in the country with a very big yard, she'd leave in a minute. Well, as long as there were really good restaurants nearby, and a lot of friends. Leslie is an outdoor freak. Unlike many of us, who have to be pushed out the door during nice days, Leslie spends as many hours as humanly possible tramping around in the mud, getting cold and dirty.

Leslie likes to ride horses, likes to go orienteering (ask her - it's generally the art of getting lost and finding your way out. Fun, huh?), driving out in the country and spending every waking moment in her garden. She lives for the nice weather and everything about the countryside. She is currently studying landscape design for fun. Leslie is one of those fans with real interests and a multidimensional life. She also can't imagine anyone being interested in it beside her. She's wrong - it's really very interesting.

6. The way Bostonians know it's really cold is if Leslie Turek says it's too cold to eat ice cream. If it's too cold for her, we all go inside, wrap up in every piece of clothing we own and fire up the teapot. Forget going outside - it's absolutely too cold to do anything else. This is also very helpful when you're trying to determine if it's spring yet.

7. Leslie is invaluable in planning things. For the 3+ years in which we all ran around trying to plan a Worldcon, any time there was an impasse, or we all felt frazzled or stuck, Leslie would look up from her notes and say *"well, how about if we~"* and come up with the solution. Had she but known what we meant when we said *"gee, Leslie, we could just use your advice on occasion"* and how much she would end up doing for the '89 Worldcon, she would have moved to Paducah.

Leslie is very good company, and delights in good conversation. She has a wide range of interests and is knowledgeable without ever being boring. So go up to her this weekend, and say something like *"Hi, want some chocolate chip ice cream? What's landscape design? That sounds neat."* and watch her get all embarrassed. It'll be worth it. You'll make a good friend.



by Andi Shechter

Toastmaster C. J. Cherryh



TROPICON VIII's Toastmaster is Caroline Janice Cherryh. If you follow the Campbell and Hugo awards, then you are already familiar with C. J. Cherryh. The John Campbell Award is given to the best new writer of the year. C. J. earned this award in 1977. The Hugo is given to the best fiction of the year. C.J.'s most recent Hugo was awarded in 1989 for best novel.

C. J. Cherryh excels in both the fantasy and science fiction genres. Her keen sense of what shapes a culture shows in her work – the civilizations and aliens she portrays are complex, and believable. Her Hugo nominated novel, *Cuckoo's Egg* (1985), takes place entirely within the culture of the alien Shonunin. It is gripping, and thoroughly convincing.

The universe of Union and the Alliance has been the setting for half a dozen of her books, including both of her Hugo winning novels, *Downbelow Station* (1981) and *Cyteen* (1988). With a richness of detail added by the many tales set on this background, this future history is intricate and fascinating. *Rimrunners* (1989) is the latest book in this universe.

In addition to being a fine science fiction writer, C. J.'s fantasy works have enthralled many readers. Her latest fantasy, *Rusalka* (1989), is based on Russian myth. C. J. is currently co-authoring fantasy novels, the *Sword of Knowledge* series, each with a different co-author. The first in the series, *A Dirge for Sabis*, was written with TROPICON VI Filk Guest, Leslie Fish.



by Edie Stern

Lynn Abbey

A Selected Bibliography

Novels:

- Daughter of the Bright Moon (1979) -
- The Black Flame (1980) - sequel
- The Guardians (1982)
- The Soul of the City (1986) - with C.J. Cherryh
and Janet Morris
- Unicorn & Dragon (1987)
- Conquest (1988) - (Unicorn & Dragon 2)

Anthologies: - edited with Robert Lynn Asprin

- Thieves' World, Book 1 (1979)
- Tales From the Vulgar Unicorn, Thieves' World, Book 2
- Shadows of Sanctuary, Thieves' World, Book 3
- Storm Season, Thieves' World, Book 4
- The Face of Chaos, Thieves' World, Book 5 (1983)
- Wings of Omen, Thieves' World, Book 6 (1984)
- The Dead of Winter, Thieves' World, Book 7 (1985)
- Soul of the City, Thieves' World, Book 8 (1986)
- Blood Ties, Thieves' World, Book 9 (1986)
- Aftermath, Thieves' World, Book 10 (1987)
- Uneasy Alliances, Thieves' World Book 11 (1988)
- Stealers' Sky, Thieves' World, Book 12 (1989)



Special Filk Guest – Julia Ecklar



Julia Ecklar could probably sing the Ft. Lauderdale phone book and make it come out gorgeous.

This, of course is highly unfair. Equally unfair is the fact that she has a vocal range somewhere up in the stratosphere, and can reach the kind of notes ordinary mortals can only reach with the aid of pins stuck in the posterior at the appropriate moment.

As if this weren't bad enough, she is the writer of a totally unreasonable number of wonderful songs, with melodies that stay with you and continue to haunt you for days after you've heard them.

And the songs! Bad enough she can write songs that make your hair stand on end – but she also writes songs that can make you cry, make you laugh, make you want to go out and kill something – even songs that make you glad you are a closet Trekkie. She's done any number of memorable pieces on subjects most of us would never associate with filk – like Helen Keller's "Teacher", or mainstream fiction ("A Rose for Emily"). She's written the song this is probably, next to "Mary O'Meara", the single most performed piece in filk – "Daddy's Little Girl" – which is the theme song Firestarter should have had. She's done some amazingly beautiful media pieces that should make those who look upon media fen as something less than human go hide their heads in shame – like "Crane Dance", inspired by Karate Kid.

Most of us would hate her if we didn't like her so much – because she's also a genuinely fun person to have/be around.

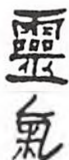
Because Julia is the madwoman who brought you "Rest Stop" – the world's first country'n'western, space truckin' song. She is the person who instigated Threadfall at a con at which Anne MacCaffrey was GoH (with Christmas tinsel). At the same con she organized the ritual burning of firelizards. She is – unlike any number of people I can think of – perfectly capable of making hilarious fun of the things she takes most seriously. To see what I mean, see if you can't catch her doing "I hate little fire lizards" – or "He's Dead, Jim" – or "Catatonia County Rag". One thing I can tell you, being around Julia is never dull. You may wake up in the state pen, but it's never dull.

There's no reason she should need any other talents besides exercising those talented vocal cords and writing those wonderful songs, but, sigh, she's also an aspiring writer of sf and fantasy, with a copious amount of work published in several fanzines. And all this before the age of twenty-five. I won't tell you how old she really is; actually I suspect she's really one of Lazarus Long's relatives – around 200 or so, but eternally youthful. After all, nobody normal could do all the things she does – could they?

Whatever else you do at TROPICON, make certain you catch Julia at the concert; it will be an experience you'll remember for a long time. And do your best to come by the open filks as well; no matter what she sings, it's always a treat to listen to her.

And while you're at it – keep your eyes peeled for that name on the bookstands, because you will soon see it there, maybe even as you read this. Check out the dealers' room and see if one of our enterprising dealers has her newest!

by Misty Lackey



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Challenge

by Julia Ecklar

Chorus:

Am I have no use; *D* I have no pride;
Am I have no hope, so they say of me. *G E*
Am Mahn past his youth; *G* Mahn past his prime;
Am G AmEmAm Mahn outward bound now in in-fa-my.

Am Raised hani male in an old hani clan; *D*
Am Golden-maned, thunder-voiced, long I held Mahn land. *G Am G Em*
Am I was lord, I was god, I was Mahn to the core; *G Am Em*
Am My own son clipped my ears, now I rule no more. *D Am Em Am*

Shamed by defeat, too proud to die;
Hani male, I feel passions I can't deny.
I took shelter with females and from defeat ran
Just to find greater shame in more distant lands.

And now...

Chorus:

Feared like a beast; kept like a child.
"Clear the Rows! Hani male!" ring the cries so wild.
Both on ship and in port, my defeat stalks with me
In closed minds that deny what a male might be.

Proud hani male with a strong hani hand;
I can think past my instincts, I'll make my stand!
And gods rot any merchant refusing to see
I am lord of myself as no beast could be.

And now...

Chorus:

...outward bound now in infamy.
A male outward bound now for victory! (repeat of last line)

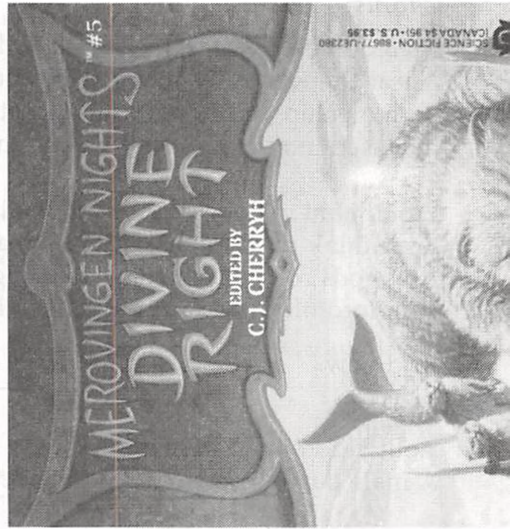
© 1985 by Julia Ecklar

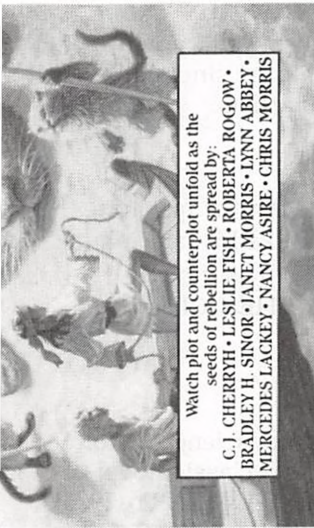
Join C. J. Cherryh and today's top writers on
another journey into exotic Merovingen ...

D Merovingen Nights™ #5
DIVINE RIGHT
Edited by C.J. Cherryh



As the summer heats up and the tangle-lilies clog the canals, boat traffic slows to a crawl, while rumors of sabotage escalate. But the tangle-lilies are more than a mere nuisance, for they have the potential to break the hightowners' long-standing fuel monopoly. As the plants proliferate throughout Merovingen, their spread generates anger among the dissatisfied canalers and fear in hightown circles.





Watch plot and counterplot unfold as the seeds of rebellion are spread by:

C. J. CHERRYH • LESLIE FISH • ROBERTA ROGOW •
BRADLEY H. SINOR • JANET MORRIS • LYNN ABBEY •
MERCEDES LACKEY • NANCY ASIRE • CHRIS MORRIS

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But far more than the tangle-lilies threatens the peace of Merovingen. For the Janists have found a long-sought-for means of spreading forbidden technological knowledge to the canalers, even as the Nev Hettek agents led by Magruder see their plot to infiltrate and gain control of some of the great Houses placed in sudden and unexpected jeopardy. And, with the city's future already in peril, will the discovery of an intelligent, nonhuman native race shift the precarious power balance and spark a long-feared revolt?



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Other TROPICON Guests

Gail Bennett

Gail Bennett is a commercial artist who discovered fandom in 1981. Since then she has exhibited in art shows around the country and in England, and has illustrated 7 books, including *The Doctor Who Cookbook* and the *Doctor Who "Fix Your Fate"* series. She has also written and illustrated for many fanzines. Gail illustrated "Once More" for the *MagiCon Bookmark* anthology.

Sarah Clemens

Sarah Clemens is a professional artist as well as an author, having appeared in *RIPPER!*, a collection of Jack the Ripper stories edited by Gardner Dozois and Susan Casper. She has also written scholarly articles, and is working on another novel. Sarah illustrated "Florida" for the *MagiCon Bookmark* anthology.

Hal Clement

Harry Clement Stubbs has been writing SF since 1942. His logical scientific extrapolations have gained him recognition as one of the field's foremost writers of "hard-science" stories. His more famous works include the novels *NEEDLE* (1950), *MISSION OF GRAVITY* (1955), *CLOSE TO CRITICAL* (1964), and *THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE* (1978). His most recent novel is *STILL RIVER* (1987). He is also quite a good artist.

Will Eisner

Will Eisner is the creator of *The Spirit* and many other well known comics characters. He has been involved with graphic art since the 1940's, and has influenced many other major comics artists.

Charles Fontenay

Charles Fontenay wrote S-F between 1954 and 1964. Many of his stories are adventures "built around a scientific gimmick", unlike his later philosophical writing, such as "The Keyen of Fu Tze" (1977). His novels include *TWICE UPON A TIME* (1958) and *THE DAY THE OCEANS OVERFLOWED* (1964).

Joseph Green

Joseph Green has been writing thoughtful, philosophical science fiction since the early 1960's. His *GOLD THE MAN* (1971) is a classic novel of the loneliness of the superman. *CONSCIENCE INTERPLANETARY* (1973) examines the question of defining (and detecting) intelligence. Mr Green is public affairs science writer for NASA, and is involved in all aspects of the space program. He wrote "The Ultimate Prejudice" for the *MagiCon Bookmark* anthology.

Jack Haldeman II

Much of Jack Haldeman's S-F is in a humorous vein. He has also written a number of short stories on sports themes, a rare sub-genre. His scientific background is evident in his writing. His novels include VECTOR ANALYSIS (1978), THERE IS NO DARKNESS (1983 - with Joe Haldeman), and THE FALL OF WINTER (1985). He wrote "Blue Story" for the MagiCon bookmark anthology.

Lee Hoffman

Long time fan, Lee Hoffman edited the most important fanzine of the early 1950's, QUANDRY. Lee is the author of over 25 novels, including science fiction, westerns, and historical romances, Her S-F includes THE CAVES OF KARST, ALWAYS THE BLACK NIGHT, CHANGE SONG, and TELEPOWER. She was GoH at TROPICON I, and wrote "Once More" for the MagiCon Bookmark Anthology.

Carl Lundgren

Carl Lundgren has been a very well known artist in the Science Fiction field for more than a decade. He has been the recipient of numerous honors, including Hugo nominations. He was the cover artist for a series of reprints of Robert Heinlein novels. He has recently relocated to Florida with his wife Michelle and daughter. Help give them welcome.

Vincent Miranda

Vincent Miranda is a science fiction historian and critic. He was science fiction editor for the Saturday Evening Post and Curtis Books. He has made several commercials and educational films, and the horror film Truth or Dare.

Gary Alan Ruse

Gary Alan Ruse writes science fiction, mystery, and fantasy. His story "The Phantom Chamber" appeared in the NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. His novels include THE GODS OF CERES MAJOR, MORLAC: The Quest of the Green Magician, and DEATH HUNT ON A DYING PLANET.



Guest of Honor Exhibit

TROPICON VIII's special exhibit about our guests will be located in the art show. We will again be displaying works by our Guests of Honor, and works by our other guests as well. Please stop by and have a look - you'll find unusual pieces, food for thought, and reminders of our guests work, assembled by Edie Stern.

Robert A. Heinlein Memorial Blood Drive

We are again including a blood drive as a part of the program at TROPICON. The Blood Bank will have a room (courtesy of the Hilton Hotel) on the meeting room level on Saturday, and donations will be accepted beginning at 10 AM. You will find a sign up schedule at the room, so that you will not have to wait to donate.

Virginia Heinlein has allowed us to dedicate the TROPICON Blood Drive to the memory of her late husband - the man who encouraged a generation of S-F readers to become blood donors, and whose death last year was felt as a personal loss by many.

If you give blood or show proof of having given within the previous month, you will get some prizes and a donor button, and if you give, perhaps receive a bit of special attention and encouragement from some of our guests. You will also honor the memory of the "Grandmaster of Science Fiction." Most importantly, you may save a life. If you can, please give blood.



Tropicon VIII Weapons Policy

We don't care **what** Florida's weapons law says: **No** weapons are allowed at TROPICON! The current state of mind of the South Florida public regarding such things makes the potential risk too great. If it even **looks** like a weapon, leave it home. The **only** exception is from 1 hr before to 1 hr after the Masquerade, and then you must be a Masquerade competitor, it must be peace bonded, and you must have a special weapons pass. Should purchases of weapons-type items be made in the Dealer's Room, those items must be suitably wrapped and carted off immediately for storage in your room or vehicle. We're sorry that current events have made such measures necessary, but we're confident that everyone understands the reasons and we do appreciate your cooperation.

Bargains in the Bazaar!

Only a few more shopping days until Christmas (and Channukkah...)- so what better place to find that unusual gift for that hard-to-please person on your list, be he fannish or mundane, than the TROPICON dealer's room? Books, jewelry, games, comics, - the simple and the sublime are at your fingertips. Please remember to check out the array of TROPICON T-shirts and other goodies available at the SFSFS sales table - pick up a souvenir and help support our super weekend at the same time. TROPICON IX memberships will also be available for sale at this table.

Please keep in mind: No food or drink is permitted in the dealers' room, and there is absolutely **No Smoking**; this is for everyone's health and safety, and the safety of the dealers.

Gaming

The TROPICON Game Masters are looking for a few good Player Characters. This year's role-playing games will include Advanced Dungeons & Dragons, Champions, Dr. Who, and others. There will be free tables available for pickup games as well, so we urge all gamers to come out. Come enjoy the adventure!

Video Lair

TROPICON's video program this year will be on a wide screen TV with stereo equipment. Part of the program will be an animation festival, and we will have some special surprises. We will also attempt to hook up a live feed on Saturday night for the current Star Trek episode.

TROPICON's Trivia Contest - Free-For-All

TROPICON will again have on Friday night its' regular unique style trivia contest. Participants will receive wooden nickels here for correct answers (Flak jacket recommended). Each nickel will be worth ten cents in the dealer's room. There will be hundreds of chances to win. TROPICON's Triviamaster is know-it-all Vincent Miranda.



TROPICON VIII Program Panels

FRIDAY

Movie Masochism: On the Screen or In the Audience

Why are we entertained by bad/cult sci-fi movies? What is the "Rocky Horror" phenomenon? The "King Dinosaur" phenomenon? Is it masochism? What do people see in these movies?

Opening Ceremonies

A welcome to TROPICON VIII. Introduction of guests & staff.

Can Men Really Write Fantasy?

Why are so many current fantasy stories that are marketed with SF written by women? What makes a good fantasy? Why is fantasy so popular currently?

Meet our Celebrities Party (with cash bar)

Many of the announced guests will gather for talk and refreshments. Come and spend some time with them.

An Evening of Song with Julia Ecklar (An SF and Fantasy Concert)

Come listen to Julia do what she does so well.

SATURDAY

Writing and Editing in a Shared Universe

How is writing in a shared universe different? How is editing one different from editing an anthology?

Fantastic Art for Fun and Profit -

How to sell & how to buy SF Art

How to buy and sell art. What the different kinds of prints are. What methods of display work best. How and why shows and contests are important.

Science (or the lack thereof) in early Science Fiction (slide show)

A slide show produced and presented by Joe Green

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Leslie Turek, But Didn't Know Who to Ask

An group interview of our Fan Guest of Honor led by Joe Siclari with audience participation.

Speculative Climatology: The Greenhouse Effect and Global Warming, Depletion of the Ozone Layer, Nuclear Winter, and Why the Dinosaurs Died.

Ecological Domsday scenarios. The greenhouse effect, the effects of climate changes on farming, Chemistry as it relates to this, meteorology, etc.

Sing a Song of Sixpence: Merchandising Filk

Has the merchandising of filk had a good or bad influence on the sub-fandom? What effect has the breakup of Off Centaur had? How to find filk merchants, how to select good filk books and tapes. Has "professional" recording methodology resulted in over-produced tapes?

If I Ran the Zoo Con

Leslie Turek and others run the game devised to be a role-playing simulation of running a Worldcon. Leslie provides anecdotes on scenarios, backgrounds, etc.

South Florida Professionals Showcase:

What have they been doing lately?

Local writers and artists will update us about what they are working on.

Art Auction I

A short Saturday auction for multi-bid pieces and pieces bid by Saturday attendees.

Banquet/ GoH Speech

There will be a Cash Bar starting at 6:30 PM; Dinner at 7:00, and GoH speech at 8:00.

The First Annual South Florida Flamingo Masque (Masquerade) will take place after the banquet and speeches in Dania Ballroom C.

SUNDAY

The Reality Connection: Making your fiction ring true

What kind of educational background prepares one to write believable SF/fantasy?

Artists Draw Off

The usual suspects play the popular one-upsmanship game.

Why Does It Have to Be Purple?

Artists and illustrators talk about how cover art is selected, how an artist goes about illustrating a book, how an artist is selected for a particular book, and the role of the publisher's art director.

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Lynn Abbey, But Didn't Know Who to Ask

An interview led by Joe Siclari with audience participation.

Art Auction 2

All pieces with at least 2 bids will go to auction.

Closing Ceremonies and Feedback Session

Come thank our guests for attending TROPICON. A short compliment and critique session will follow.



Masked Madness!

The First Annual Masked Flamingo Masquerade will take place on Saturday night after the banquet. It will be a full presentation-style masquerade, with prizes and ribbons in many categories including, of course, Best of Show. For those of you a bit shy to strut your stuff on stage, we'll also be having a Hall Costume Contest running for all three days of the convention.

Participants in the Masquerade must register at the Convention Registration desk before 3 PM Saturday. There will be a Masque coordination and preparation meeting with required attendance for all entrants at 5 PM. Weapons pass: If you plan on wearing a weapon as part of your costume, it **must** be peace bonded, and you **must** have a special pass. Remember to inform the Masque staff at the preparation meeting in order to get your pass.

The Hall Costume contest will have three judges each giving out one prize a day. That's right - 9 prizes during the course of the convention. The winners will be announced at Closing Ceremonies.



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Art Show and Auctions

TROPICON's Fantastic Art Show has something for everyone who appreciates fine SF and Fantasy art, from the rocket's red glare to the unicorn's whimsical stare. Perhaps that's why it has been called "The best in the Southeast"! Collectors take note: Some pieces will be available at a quicksale price, which entitles you to immediate purchase of the item by cash or check. We would appreciate it if you would leave the item on display through Sunday morning, however, for the enjoyment of all TROPICON attendees.

Art auctions will be held on Saturday at 5:00 PM and on Sunday at 2:30 PM (please stay alert for time shifts - we all know how these things work!) You must be present to bid and you must pay at the end of the auction.

Please remember: No food or drink is permitted in the Art Show room. No photography is permitted without WRITTEN consent of the artist. All bags, parcels, etc. must be taped shut or checked at the door. And NO SMOKING!



Art Auction Rules:

1. All pieces for sale carry bid sheets. Once a bid is written down, please do not erase or cross it out.
2. If the "Quick Sale" price is paid at the time of the first bid, the piece is yours. (Please consider leaving the piece on display until at least after the judging.)
3. No piece of art can be sold at "Quick Sale" price if it has a previous bid.
4. All items with two bids go to auction.
5. If paying by check, you must present two forms of identification (one must be pictorial).
6. We MUST charge sales tax - sorry, take it up with Governor Bob!
7. You must have your receipt to pick up your artwork.



South Florida Science Fiction Society

TROPICON VIII is sponsored by the South Florida Science Fiction Society (SFSFS), a non-profit organization established for literary and educational purposes. SFSFS was founded in 1985 by Joe Siclari and Nancy Atherton to foster the appreciation of Science Fiction in literature. The Society also has special interest committees which focus on S-F and fantasy in other media.



SFSFS meets monthly to conduct lively discussions, meet visiting professionals, and enjoy informative programs presented by guest speakers. The club produces *Solstice*, a magazine showcasing members' writings and artwork. The club's monthly newsletter, *The SFSFS Shuttle*, keeps members up to date on meetings, club outings, local events of special interest, and club discounts. Members also receive the annual MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY and have access to the SFSFS library of print and audio-visual materials. Once a year the club sponsors TROPICON, the South Florida Science Fiction Convention.

Find out how easy it is to join the Science Fiction literary club in South Florida. Information on SFSFS is available at Registration or from any SFSFS member (look for the SFSFS T-shirts) or write to: SFSFS; P.O. Box 70143; Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143

In 1987, SFSFS was recognized by the IRS as a non-profit educational organization under IRS code 501(c)(3)

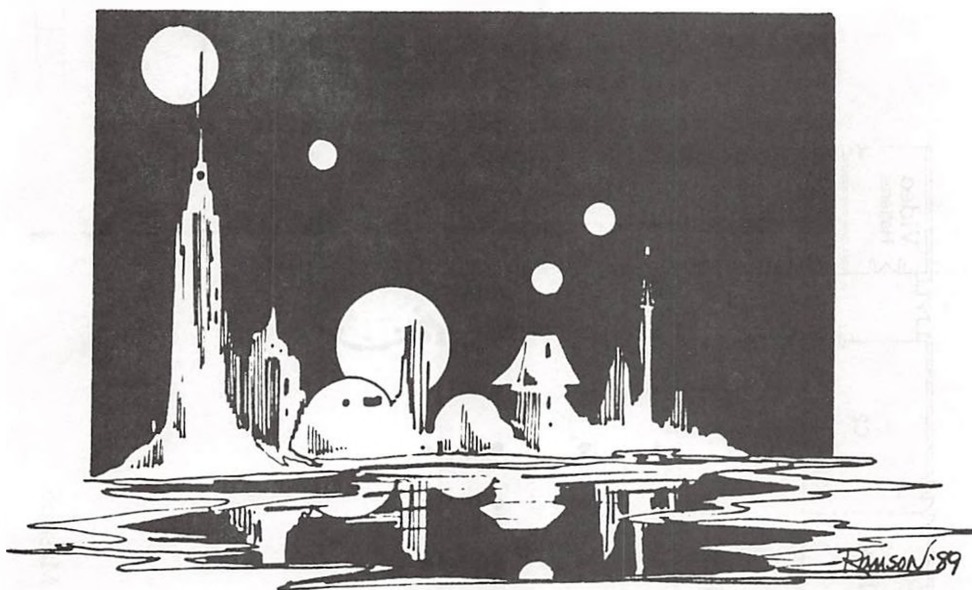
TROPICON & SFSFS History

TROPICON:

	Year	Guests of Honor	Chairman	Attendees	Location
TROPICON I	3/1982	Lee Hoffman	Joe Siclari	125	Boca Raton
TROPICON II	12/1983	Marion Zimmer Bradley	Joe Siclari	145	Fort Lauderdale
TROPICON III	1984	Forrest J Ackerman & Vincent Di Fate	Joe Siclari	175	Fort Lauderdale
TROPICON IV	1985	Robert Bloch	Joe Siclari	225	Fort Lauderdale
TROPICON V	1986	Gardner Dozois	Nancy Atherton	250	Deerfield Beach
TROPICON VI	1987	George R. R. Martin & Kelly Freas	Joe Siclari & Gail Bennett	350	Fort Lauderdale
TROPICON VII	1988	Toastmaster: Jack L. Chalker Poul Anderson & Walter A. Willis	Edie Stern	265	Fort Lauderdale
TROPICON VIII	1989	Lynn Abbey & Leslie Turek Toastmaster: C. J. Cherryh	Judy Bemis & Tony Parker	???	Dania
TROPICON IX	1990		Judy Bemis & Tony Parker	???	Dania

SFSFS:

	Year	Chairman	# Members
	1985	Joe Siclari	62
	1986	Joe Siclari	110
	1987	Bill Wilson	85
	1988	Carol Gibson	75
	1989	Edie Stern	85



In Memoriam

Dan Alderson, *Fan*

Bruce Robbins, *Fan*

Hans Helmut Kirst, *Author*

Ross Rocklynne, *Author*

John Myers Myers, *Author*

Norman Saunders, *Artist*

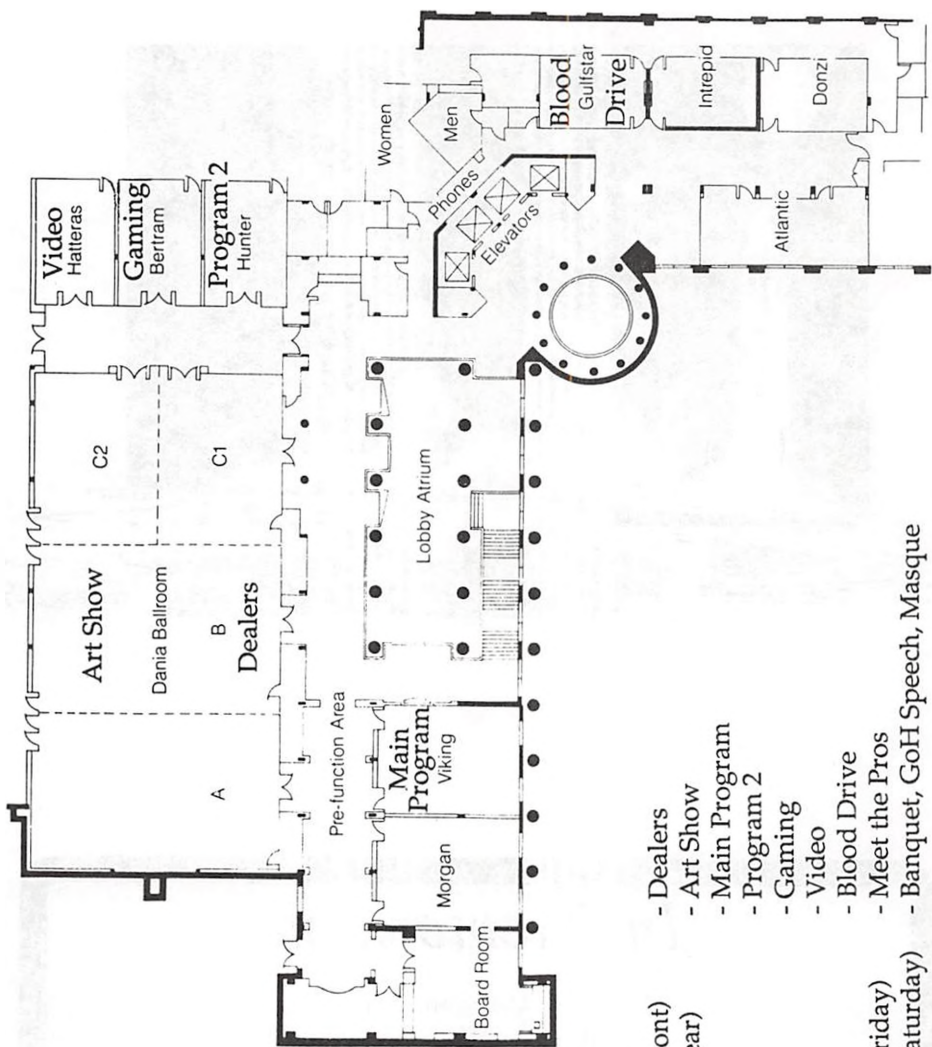
Peggy Parrish, *Author*

William F. Temple, *Author/ Fan*

Elmer Perdue, *Fan*

John W. Wall, *Author*

Dave Prosser, *Fanzine Artist*



Dania Ballroom B
 Dania Ballroom B
 Viking
 Hunter
 Bertram
 Hatteras
 Gulfstar
 Dania Ballroom C1
 Dania Ballrooms C1 & C2

(front)
 (rear)

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- Art Show
- Main Program
- Program 2
- Gaming
- Video
- Blood Drive
- Meet the Pros
- Banquet, GoH Speech, Masque

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