

# STAR CHART

## THE CHICON 8 NEWSLETTER



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Day 3

September 3, 2022

Adapted from [Online Blog](#)

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### ***Sunrise Edition: Day Three***

*“The library deeps lay waiting for them. Out in the world, not much happened. But here in the special night, a land bricked with paper and leather, anything might happen, always did.”*

-Ray Bradbury, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*

As a librarian by trade, this sequence in Bradbury’s coming-of-age fantasy was *bound* to make an impression on me (light puns are the best part of waking up, right? Anyone?). The language is striking, giving these seemingly inert objects made of paper and leather a life of their own. It is a life that is somehow more promising, more tangible, more real than reality itself. It is the power of stories to change the world.

On this third day of Chicon 8, the library encounters of Will Halloway and Jim Nightshade came to mind for a couple of reasons. The obvious connection would be the fantastic exhibit now on display at the American Writers Museum, *Ray Bradbury: Inextinguishable*. If you have the chance to walk down to Michigan Avenue, it is well worth your time (or you can scroll through the virtual exhibit, featuring excellent histories and interactive 3D models). Then again, it could simply be the wondrous truth that Bradbury touches upon: these stories, filled to the brim with dreams, have the power to reshape reality. Yesterday, I attended a terrific workshop hosted by author Michael Zapata, “Last Evenings on Earth: Writing the Otherworldly.” In addition to giving us insightful writing ideas and tools for our craft, Zapata showed us how the real and unreal become tethered in fiction. Our reality informs our stories and our stories let us see through the eyes of another, changing our world in surprising ways. And here, in the very real city of Chicago (or wherever our members may reside), we are celebrating this magical transmutation of stories becoming our reality.

Of course, there are problems with the lines that follow in *Something Wicked*, and we should be willing to acknowledge the limitations of cultural representation in our favorite novels. However, the ideas remain strong and can be reborn with the help of new voices. Zapata suggested that we read *Our Dead World* by Bolivian author Liliana Colanzi, which draws inspiration from Bradbury’s *Martian Chronicles*. However, she uses this inspiration to tell a new story about marginalized peoples and contemporary Latin American culture. We are always building upon the stories of the past, revisiting these ideas with a new perspective.

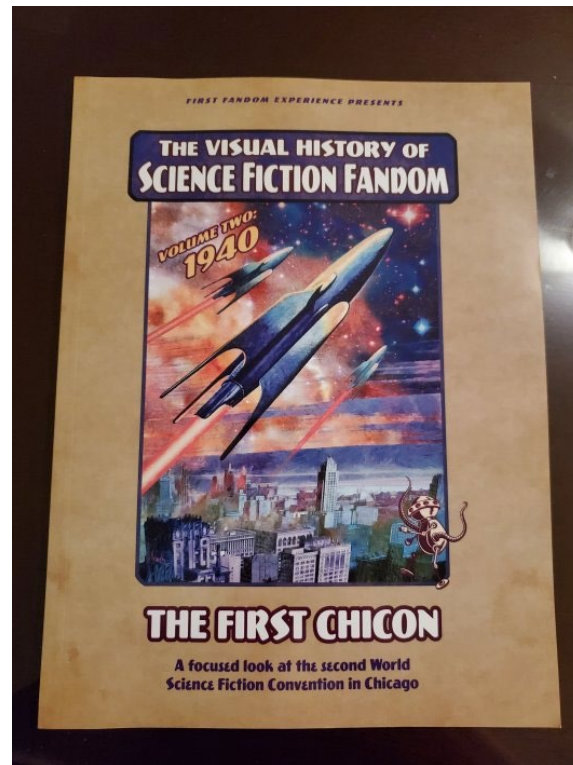
The convention halls are waiting, surrounding us with paper and ideas and the words that change us forever. How will the “unreal” shape the realities of today?

-Rex Allen Hughes, *Newsletter Editor*

## ***Chicon Updates, Morning of Day 3***

### **The First Chicon**

Want to learn more about the First Chicon and our Guest of Honor, Erle Korshak? Stop by *The First Fandom Experience* table in the Dealers Room and pick up a copy of their new book!



### **WSFS Business Meetings on YouTube**

You can watch the proceedings of the WSFS (World Science Fiction Society) as they appear in the YouTube channel. Be sure to bookmark this channel for future recordings!

### **Werewolf Game in Breezeway**

Jack Frost will be hosting a Werewolf game in the 2nd floor Breezeway connecting the East and West Towers at Midnight, Saturday night. Please note that this is NOT convention function space; the hotel has given permission to use this public space to host the game and can take that permission away if we are not respectful of all hotel guests who may use it at the same time. All are welcome to join us.

### **Fan Gathering : Number 6, *The Prisoner*, Portmeirion, Secret Agent (D-Man)**

On Sunday, September 4th, at 6:30-7 pm in the Acapulco Room, join Dave Lally (immediate past chair of ESFS, which runs the annual Eurocons, and first-time visitor to the US!) for a chat regarding all things Number 6. A raffle will be held with proceeds going to Fan Funds, TAFF, GUFF, etc. Some items focus on the famous *Prisoner* "Village," Portmeirion. These include village maps, two bottles of No 6 Stout (one full and one empty... sorry).

Also, you can hear news regarding LocationCon, August 2024 (one week before Glasgow Worldcon). Starting in London and ending in Glasgow the day before that Worldcon starts, we visit two *Prisoner* locations (Number 6's London house and the above village in NW Wales) plus other SF sites (London TARDIS, Steed's *Avengers* Flat, and H G Well's Tripod, plus sites from *The Wicker Man*). Look for *The Prisoner* and LocationCon leaflets around Chicon 8. Be seeing you!

### **Poster Art for “Man and Atom Society”**

If you were admiring the display of poster art by Kelly Freas at the “Man and Atom Society” booth, you might be interested to know that there are six total pieces. These are being displayed in rotation, two at a time, so come by Saturday, and then Sunday or Monday, to see the whole set.

### **Making Clones... I mean, Copies!**

If people need photocopies, there is a FedEx/Kinko's in the Illinois Center through the pedway off the West Tower (Gold Level). It is on the pedway level to the left once you get into the Illinois Center. The FedEx/Kinko's is open Saturday from 10 am – 6 pm. It is closed Sunday and Monday. Black and white copies can be made for 17 cents each.

### **Experience the Launch of NASA's SpaceX Crew-5 Mission**

A NASA science expedition to the international space station wants 35 social media users to get a behind-the-scenes look (on the ground). Applications are due Tuesday, September 6th, 3 PM EST.

*Special thanks to David Lally, C.D. Carson, Helen Montgomery, Kevin Standlee, Jack Frost, Jodi Schneider, and Polly Peterson for contributing to the Sunrise Edition. The Star Chart newsletter is produced with the (much appreciated) help of several folks, including our Publications team, roving reporters Suzan Spitzberg and Michael Nelson, and various contributors.*



### ***I Sing the Body Fannish! A Preview of Raks Geek***

We're excited to offer you this brief introduction to the performance company *Raks Geek*, who will be performing during this evening's Masquerade, starting at 8 pm!

A Time Out Chicago Critics' Pick, *Raks Geek* is the premiere belly dance, flow arts, and fire performance company by geeks for geeks. They broke the internet's collective brain with a viral video of a Wookiee belly dancing to a four-piece Klingon band, playing an original song in Shyriiwook.







*Raks Geek* is based in Chicago, but they've made waves nationally and internationally on MSN, The Daily Mail, and WGN-TV through their commitment to blend a high degree of artistic and technical mastery with fun, creativity, and themes from nerd culture. They were featured on UK Channel 4 TV's "50 Funniest Moments of the Year" and voted runner up for "Best Dance Troupe" by the Chicago Reader.

Founded by Dawn Xiana Moon back in 2012, *Raks Geek* showcases the talents of belly dancers and object manipulators who are each stars in their own right. They've performed everywhere from Germany to Argentina and dance for hundreds of people every week.

Company members include Kamrah, who has taught and performed at Tribal Fest (the largest fusion belly dance festival in the world); Lee Na-Moo, winner of the 2010 Chicago Oriental Dance Competition, member of modern/contemporary company Joel Hall Dancers, and touring cast with Bellydance Evolution; Gaea Lady, who won "Best Debut" and "Most Classic" at the Burlesque Hall of Fame in 2016 and is ranked internationally in the "Top 50 Most Influential Burlesque Artists" (2018 and

2019); Michi Trota, multiple Hugo Award winner and former board member of the Chicago Full Moon Fire Jams; and director Dawn Xiana Moon, who was named "Best Stage Performer" (2019 and 2020) and "Best Dancer" (2019) by the Chicago Reader and recently appeared on Britain's Got Talent.



Don't miss your chance to witness the creativity and talent of *Raks Geek* during this evening's Masquerade, starting at 8 pm!

*Special thanks to Dawn Xiana Moon for providing content and photographs for this post. Photos are credited to Braden Nesin, Peter Serocki, and Bartek Karas (all photos taken prior to Chicon 8).*



## ***Party News for Saturday***

Social gatherings are on the horizon! The following party list is available for all members. Some parties include times that are to be determined (TBD) and may receive updates throughout the day.

You can also find a full party list on the Chicon Parties page! However, if there are any updates or additional details, you will find these changes reflected in this newsletter post and our Chicon Signals evening post.

You can also find information for big parties in your pocket program. We hope you'll enjoy the **Saturday Night Open Filks at 8:30 pm** and **Saturday Night Dance Fever, Featuring DJ John Scalzi at 10:00 pm!**

### **Parties for Saturday, September 3, 2022**

#### **31st Floor**

##### **CoNZealand Thank You Party**

Skyline Suite, Room 3176 – 6pm

If you have been craving NZ chocolates and soda... if no one else can help... and if you can find them (oh, who are we kidding – it's Room 3176, alright?), you need the K-team! Come to the CoNZealand Thank You Party on Saturday.

There will be LOTS of kiwis!  
(And Kiwi Chocolate!)

There will be LOTS of kiwis and Kiwi chocolate!  
(And Kiwi soda!)

There will be LOTS of kiwis and Kiwi chocolate and Kiwi soda!  
(It's called L&P.)

Yes, I know the Kiwi soda is called L&P! There will be LOTS of kiwis and Kiwi chocolate and Kiwi soda CALLED L&P!!!  
(Well done.)

Thanks.

##### **Court & Country: Fans of Musick**

Room 3170 – 7pm – Light snacks, mead tasting

#### **32nd Floor**

##### **Starbase Indy**

River View Suite, Room 3271 – 9pm

##### **The Purple Night Party**

River View Suite, Room 3270 – 8pm until whenever

It's the Purple Party! Celebrate all things Purple! Purple food! Purple drink, purple clothing, purple décor! Meet the One-Eyed Purple People Eater! Purple garb is highly recommended and will be provided for those so foolish as to have none. Craig W. Stanfill, your host, was inspired by an event in his first book, "Terms of Service." Come and find out more!

#### **33rd Floor**

##### **Seattle 2025**

3352/54 Millennium Suite – Starting at 8pm

##### **Rochester Fantasy Fans / Buffalo in 2024 NASFiC**

River View Suite, Room 3370 – Starting at 9pm

##### **General Technics**

3383, Starting at 8pm

##### **"Tune in Tomorrow" Book Launch**

3358E Millennium Suite – Starting at 7pm

#### **34th Floor**

##### **The Royal Manticoran Navy**

3470 Park Suite, 8pm – 1am

##### **Bullet Point Press Launch Party**

Room TBD, 8pm

## ***WSFS Preliminary Business Meeting Report (Saturday)***

Saturday's First Main WSFS Business Meeting started by considering the unfinished material from yesterday's Preliminary meeting before taking up constitutional amendments. The meeting adopted resolutions D.5 and D.6 regarding the war in Ukraine and about one of the Chengdu's Worldcon guests of honor. The meeting referred both of the standing rule amendments C.1 and C.2 to committees with instructions to report improved versions at next year's Worldcon. The meeting then finally was able to take up the ratification of constitutional amendments passed on from past Worldcons, re-ratifying item E.1, "E Pluribus Hugo," referring item E.2 to a committee to clarify wording and report back to Sunday's meeting, and ratifying all of the other constitutional amendments pending ratification (E.3 through E.5). All references to item numbers are to the WSFS Business Meeting agenda, which is available on the Chicon website.

Kevin Standlee, Ben Yalow, and Nicholas Whyte were elected to three-year terms on the WSFS Mark Protection Committee, the body that manages the intellectual property of Worldcon such as the name "Hugo Award." The WSFS MPC will meet on Monday at 1 PM in Dusable in the West Tower.

Sunday's second Main Business Meeting will start with Site Selection business, including the announcement of the results of the 2024 Worldcon and 2023 NASFiC elections and potentially Question Time for future seated Worldcons and bids for the 2024 NASFiC and 2025 Worldcon. After Site Selection business, the meeting will receive the report regarding constitutional amendment E.2 and act on its ratifications. Once all site selection and ratification business concludes, the meeting will start considering the newly proposed Constitutional amendments starting with F.2, the consideration of which was rescheduled to be handled before F.1 by the Preliminary Business Meeting. After that, the meeting will consider the remaining newly proposed constitutional amendments F.3 through F.8.

The Sunday Business Meeting will start at 10 AM sharp in Crystal Ballroom B on the ground floor of the West Tower, following the rescheduled Worldcon Chairs Photo at 9:30 AM. If, as seems likely, the meeting is unable to complete the consideration of all newly-proposed constitutional amendments by the end of Sunday's meeting, there will be a final "overflow" WSFS Business Meeting starting at 10 AM Monday, also in Crystal Ballroom B.

*Special thanks to Kevin Standlee for contributing the WSFS report.*



## ***2022 Sidewise Award Winners***

The Sidewise Awards for Alternate History were conceived in late 1995 to honor the best "genre" publications of the year. The award takes its name from Murray Leinster's 1934 short story "Sidewise in Time," which explores a world in which a strange storm allows people to travel between alternate worlds. The first Sidewise Awards were announced in Summer 1996 at L.A.Con III. In 2022, the jury members for the award were Matt Mitrovich, Olav Rokne, Kurt Sidaway, and Steven Silver.

Each year, two awards are given. The Best Long Form Award is presented to the best novel or complete series. The Best Short Form Award is given to the best work under 60,000 words. In addition, at the discretion of the judges, a Special Achievement Award may be presented for a significant body of work or a specific novel or story which was published prior to the inception of the award. A complete list of past winners may be found on the Sideways Awards website. This year's awards were announced at Chicon 8: The 80<sup>th</sup> World Science Fiction Convention in Chicago on September 3rd, following a panel discussion of Alternate History.

Author Eileen Gunn will be joining the Sidewise Award Panel beginning in 2023.

### **2022 Sidewise Award for Best Long Form Alternate History**

*Civilizations*, by Laurent Binet, translated by Sam Taylor (Farrar, Straus and Giroux & Harvil Secker, originally published in French by Grasset in 2019)

### **2022 Sidewise Award for Best Short Form Alternate History**

*Gunpowder Treason*, Alan Smale (*Tales from Alternate Earths 3*)

For more information about the Sidewise Award and a list of past winners/finalists, please see the website or contact Steven Silver at [shsilver@sfsite.com](mailto:shsilver@sfsite.com).

*Special thanks to Steven Silver for submitting this report.*



### ***Chicon Signals: Day 3 Updates and Hugo Streaming Details***



HUGO AWARD<sup>SM</sup>

### **Hugo Ceremony Streaming Details**

The Hugo Award Ceremony will be streaming on YouTube! The channel will be added to our Hugo updates tomorrow. You can also save this channel as a bookmark in your browser or set to “Watch Later” in your YouTube account.

The ceremony is not being streamed on Airmee!

## Program Updates (as of September 3 – All times are CDT)

### Session Room Change

**Feedback Session – Monday** (Monday at 4:00 PM), Room has changed from Regency Ballroom D to Michigan 1 / Airmeet 6

### Sessions Added

#### Reading – Jack Dann

Saturday at 8:30 PM in Airmeet Readings  
Format: Reading, Area(s): Readings  
Virtual Reading – Jack Dann

#### Virtual Feedback Session – Sunday

Sunday at 5:30 PM in Airmeet 3  
Format: Other, Area(s): Convention Functions  
Eddie Louise, Jennifer Rhorer

#### Reading – Rebecca Roanhorse

(Saturday at 1:30 PM)

### Participant Changes

#### Craft and Chat: Writing Fashion with Mary Robinette Kowal

(Sunday at 10:00 AM)  
Added: Michi Trota

#### Fandom Talks: SFF Anime and Comics

(Sunday at 2:45 PM)  
Added: Terry Gant

#### Virtual Feedback Session

(Sunday at 4:30 PM)  
Added: Eddie Louise  
Added: Jennifer Rhorer

#### Reading – Jack Dann

(Saturday at 8:30 PM)  
Added: Jack Dann

## Volunteers Needed for Program Gophers and Move Out

Do you have some time to spare and want to fill it? Stop by Program Ops in Columbian and offer to help be a Gopher. Grab a blank volunteer slip from the desk downstairs from Columbian to record your hours and get some free stuff! If you have some time on Tuesday, Sept 6, we could use some help unloading the art show grid into a couple of different storage units in different parts of town. Please email [logistics@chicon.org](mailto:logistics@chicon.org) if you can lend a hand, likely from about 9am-4pm.

## Worldcon Chairs Photo Rescheduled to 9:30 AM Sunday

The Worldcon Chairs Photo Session has been rescheduled to 9:30 AM Sunday morning in Crystal Ballroom B, 30 minutes before the WSFS Business Meeting. If you are a former / current Worldcon Chair or know one who is present here at Chicon, please let them know that the photo session has been moved from 1 PM to 9:30 AM.





## **Upcoming Services and Meetings**

**Ecumenical Christian Service (open to all):** Interfaith Room (Gallery 2 on the Blue Level, across the sky bridge), Sunday, 10 am

**Friends of Bill W Meetings:** Interfaith Room (Gallery 2 on the Blue Level, across the sky bridge), Daily, 6pm to 7pm

## **Poster Art for “Man and Atom Society”**

If you were admiring the display of poster art by Kelly Freas at the “Man and Atom Society” booth, you might be interested to know that there are six total pieces. These are being displayed in rotation, two at a time, so come by Saturday, and then Sunday or Monday, to see the whole set.

## **Gaming Area**

Looking for a place to play some games? Visit the Gaming Area, located on the Third (3rd) floor of the West Tower. We have lots of games you can borrow, space for pick-up games, and a number of scheduled games throughout the weekend. More details are available in the online program at [guide.chicon.org](http://guide.chicon.org).

## **Werewolf Game in Breezeway**

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*Special thanks to Leane Verhulst, Paul Schneider, Jack Frost, Kevin Standlee, Ian Stockdale, Richard Man, and C.D. Carson for contributing to the Chicon Signals.*



## **Tananarive Due and Steven Barnes in Conversation with Each Other**

Having Guests of Honor Tananarive Due and Steven Barnes spend an hour in conversation with each other was brilliant. They covered how they met, ways in which they inspire each other to do better, their early careers, and so forth. It was a very fascinating and intimate hour of good conversation! You can find more information about our Guests of Honor on the Chicon 8 website!









### ***Ad Astra: All the Stars were Laughing***

If you heard laughter from the Michigan 3 room yesterday afternoon, it was because 5 teams of 4-6 players each were raucously attempting to vie for honors in a pub trivia contest.

Six categories included questions about Chicago facts, sci-fi musical trivia, “match the captain to his ship,” Hugo facts, and much more! Can you answer any of these questions on your own or with a friend? Remember, no peeking at those cell phones in pub trivia!

*What year did Chicago become a city?  
How old was Phillip K. Dick when he died?  
Name the 5 authors who have won 3 Hugos.  
How many people are in the running for Hugos this year?*

Competition was stiff. The score difference was less than 10 points at the end! New friends were made, and a good time was had by all.

Let’s look back on some of the memorable moments shared by our members! And please look forward to our coverage of the Masquerade and other Chicon 8 performances tomorrow...

**Out of CONtext:** “Is it Sword & Sorcery when the sword is a chainsaw?”

Chengdu and Chicon 8 Committee Members





Is that a little star turtle hanging out in the exhibit hall? By the Great A'Tuin, it is!



A little *Mechanical Hound* coffee goes a long way toward keeping this editor bright-eyed and lightning bolt-tailed! Coffee courtesy of the fine folks of the Ray Bradbury Center Table, found in the Exhibit Hall. Supplies may be limited, but they have lots of other cool stuff and they're so nice!



**Daily Daisy:** “What a great day!!! Please tell a volunteer that they ‘R2’ AWESOME. \*giggle\* Be a Daisy! Say thank you!”



*Special thanks to Suzan Spitzberg, Richard Man, Randee Dawn, and Maria Eskinazi for contributing to this edition of Ad Astra.*

**End of Day Three Newsletter Posts**