



P.S.F.S. News

The Newsletter of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society

January 1995

Elections '95

Nominations

President:

Oz Fontecchio (*D. Schweitzer, D. Field*) Accept
Hank Smith (*J. Desmond, Lew Wolkoff*) Accept

Vice-President:

Pete Radatti (*J. Prenis, Tony Finan*) Pending
Todd Dashoff (*L. Wolkoff, none*) Decline

Secretary:

Marguerite Rutkowski (*H. Smith, J. Desmond*)
Pending (later Declined)

Wayne Rector (*R. Kabakjian, Margaret Trebing*)
Pending

Tim Binder (*B. Boyle, R. Kabakjian*) Accept

Bridget Boyle (*T. Finan, none*) Decline

Joni Dashoff (*Mark Trebing, R. Kabakjian*) Decline

Treasurer:

Mark Trebing (*T. Dashoff, T. Graybill*) Accept

Todd Dashoff (*J. Syms, none*) Decline

Tim Binder (*T. Finan, several*) Decline

Two Year Director:

Tony Finan (*J. Fontecchio, C. Kabakjian*) Accept

Steve Fox (*J. Syms, H. Lazarus*) Decline

One Year Director:

Bridget Boyle (*J. Carroll, T. Finan*) Accept

Gene Olmsted (*L. Wolkoff, G. Feldbaum*) Accept

Sara Paul (*G. Olmsted, several*) Decline

Tim Binder (*T. Finan, J. Dashoff*) Accept (later
Withdrawn)

Membership Status

(Note: Status changes from Inactive to General or General to Active become effective after the meeting has adjourned)

Nominees: Greg Ventura, Sharon Carroll-Ventura,
Mitch Marmel, Ray Rooney

New Members: Gail Freedman

Members at the December Meeting: 54

(53 active, 1 general, 0 inactive)

Non-Members at the December Meeting: 5

P.S.F.S. Birthdays

If you don't see your name here and you would like to, please send your name and birth date (year not necessary) to: P.S.F.S. Birthday List, Philadelphia S.F. Society, P. O. Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

Jan 2 Sandy Meschkow

Jan 5 Diane Scott

Jan 6 Bill Wells

Jan 10 Robert Torpey

Jan 17 Richard Kabakjian

Jan 20 Jared Dashoff

Jan 23 Michael J. Taylor

Jan 23 Sharon Whitney

Jan 26 Richard Perkins

Jan 27 Fran Costanzi

Jan 28 Neal Allen

Jan 31 Alan M. Dashoff

Feb 6 Mark Roth

Feb 7 John Baltadonis

Feb 8 Mattie Brahen

Feb 16 Debra Ruh

Feb 25 John Prenis

Feb 28 Lynn J. Zappini

Proxy Information

Active and general members who are entitled to vote at a meeting of the membership may authorize another member (in good standing) to vote for that member by proxy. Your proxy must be in writing, signed and dated by you. The proxy must be sent or given to the Secretary for filing. A proxy's instructions may be specific or general. Specify whether the holder may reassign the proxy. (You may want to name two or three people in case the first one is not at the meeting.)

Board of Directors

President, Oz Fontecchio..... (215) 342-1672
Vice-President, Peter V. Radatti..... (610) 828-4566
Secretary, Richard Kabakjian..... (610) 623-1139
Treasurer, Ed Rutkowski..... (610) 277-0209
2 Yr. Director, Todd Dashoff..... (215) 676-4194
2 Yr. Director, Barbara Higgins..... (215) 725-8825
1 Yr. Director, Mark Trebing..... (215) 943-3462

Questions? Comments? Contact any Board Member at the above numbers, or use the Hot Line; please call at a reasonable time.

Minutes

December General Meeting

Minutes of the General Meeting, held on December 9, 1994, 8:00 p.m., in the South America Room at International House, 37th & Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia, PA.

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m.

Proxies:

Rose Wolkoff to Lew Wolkoff

Corrections to the Minutes

In the October General Meeting Minutes under "New Business: Membership Status/Attendance" where it says "Ozzie reported that Board had voted in favor ...", it should read "Ozzie reported that the Board had voted to recommend to the membership to vote in favor"

Under "New Business: Membership Pins" it says that Ozzie recapped Barb's motion and report. Mark Trebing thought the motion should have been reprinted since it was approved. *(The motion was not re-printed for two reasons. One, to save space and, two, it was already printed in the September Board Meeting Minutes. CK)*

He also questioned the vote being recorded as "Passed 24 + 0 to 30 + 0." The vote should read "Passed 24 + 0 to 3 + 0."

Mark asked that the proxies be listed before any votes.

Minutes were approved as corrected.

Officers' Reports

President: Oz reported that Diane Weinstein resigned as the voice of the Society's Hot Line. Susan James has been appointed as her replacement.

The restaurant downstairs is still not open.

Vice-President: Not here.

Secretary: If you have anything you would like to see in the Newsletter please send or give it to the Secretary in writing.

Treasurer: As of 1-4-95:

Meridian Checking	18,999.30
Corestates Checking	17,127.11
Corestates Savings	2,896.03
<u>Vanguard</u>	<u>69,860.00</u>
Total	108,882.44

Pay your dues.

Senior Two Year Director, Barb Higgins: she waved.

Special One Year Director, Todd Dashoff: "Hello."

One Year Director, Mark Trebing: No report.

Committee Reports

Philcon 1995: Bob Eggleton has been confirmed as our Guest Artist. One of our Special Guests will be Connie Willis.

If you want to be on the committee see Oz or come to the meeting in January.

Programming: Oz announced tonight's speaker, Jack Chalker, who hadn't yet arrived. *(Jack Chalker was unable to attend. He will be rescheduled later in 1995.)* February's guest will be Mike Resnick. March's guest will be Julian May.

January is election night. *(Remember if you*

haven't paid your dues for 1994 you can NOT vote. See Ed Rutkowski if you don't remember if you've paid. CK)

Book and Movie Discussions: See "Upcoming Events".

Special Events: See "Upcoming Events".

No Fund: John Prenis thanked John Desmond his donations. We have several bags of good stuff for you to enjoy. Please take as much as you want.

Publicity: Pam sent out new flyers for the December meeting with information on Jack Chalker. Pam moved, Mark second, a budget increase of \$55 so she could purchase the 1995 Publicity Guide for Philadelphia. Passed.

Space Sciences: Hank Smith has information on several upcoming events, and a petition about NASA's Delta Clipper. See him if you're interested.

Lew Wolkoff moved to invite Lancaster Congressman Bob Walker (as the new head of the Space and Technology Committee) to speak at one of our monthly P.S.F.S. meetings. Oz explained that the Programming Committee has invited speakers to the all the meetings for this term (through the end of March). Lew said that's only three meetings. Oz pointed out that the current programming committee was not authorized to invite anyone for the next term. He also explained that programming was usually done by the committee, not by a vote of the Society, so Lew's motion was out of order. Lew Wolkoff moved, Hank Smith second, that the Society direct whoever is in charge of booking people after March 31st to invite Congressman Walker to come and speak at a meeting. Someone asked if he was a Democrat or a Republican. Oz said he was a Republican. Gary Feldbaum said although the motion was parliamentary correct, in keeping with past tradition, he moved, Tony Finan second, to amend that the Society *recommend* that he be invited. Passed 23 + 1 to 0. Tony Finan moved, Mark Trebing second, to table the motion until after the Election meeting. Failed 10 to 14 + 1. Mattie Brahen wanted to know why we're inviting a political figure to speak at a meeting and would we be siding with one political party and would we give equal time to the other political parties? Lew tried to point out that we've had other political figures speak at our meetings before. Oz said he was out of order and that the Society has never recommended that the [programming] person do anything before. Joni Dashoff pointed out that we don't have to stick to the SFWA or ASFA membership list to invite speakers. Our job is to educate on science, science fiction, and the future of our society as a whole. The man's job seems to be directed towards that. She felt that his speech would not be "political", but directed by his work on his committee. She believed it was well within our 501(c)3 charter. Oz responded to Joni by saying the important issue is not about whether or not we approve of the current political changes. Oz felt that the person in charge of inviting programming guests should be allowed to invite whomever he wants and that our Society's members not have any say in the matter. John Prenis asked Lew if he had any reason to believe [Mr. Walker] had something interesting and exciting to tell us. Lew said [Mr. Walker] was effectively in charge of setting congressional policy on science and

technology for the next two years. Lew pointed out that if the majority of the Society felt they wanted to have a particular person speak at a meeting it would be within the purview of [the programming committee] to respond to their wishes. Lew said if the majority votes that way they're saying we as a group want to hear this person. Oz said he understood what majorities mean very well. Lew asked if Oz was afraid of having someone other than himself dictate the policy. Oz said not at all and asked that Lew hold himself within order. Bridget Boyle asked for clarification. She felt that there were two different issues on the floor; the Society's ordering the programming committee to invite a particular person and the motion to invite Congressman Bob Walker. She asked Oz which issue he was against; the order or the person. He said "that it was unwise to mandate to whoever holds that position who they should be recommended to invite and I said that was without regard to whatever you think about the Republicans and these people taking over." Laura Syms felt that the programming committee should be open to suggestions from individuals, but that we don't need a mandate or motion put forth before the entire Society. Henry Lazarus said he didn't feel comfortable with a Congressman here. He said it's possible no one will show up to hear him. He thought a Congressman would be too important to be here. Darrell said we should wait and see who the next programming head is then go to that person privately and suggest the person you would like to hear. Mark Trebing said he would like to see, if we have a science fact speaker, which we don't have very often, someone qualified to speak on where we are on the cutting edge of technology or research as opposed to a political figure who's just going to tell us where we're going to spend money. He also wanted to know why we choose to invite this fellow when there's been a Democratic representative available for years. Gary reminded us that our Society can not advocate particular [political] views, because it would violate our 501(c)3 status.

Barb Higgins moved, Joni Dashoff second, to substitute that we consider inviting Congressman Bob Walker to Philcon 1995 as part of Science Programming instead of to a monthly P.S.F.S. meeting. Passed many to few.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Annual Meeting: The Board has recommended that the January meeting of the Society be held on Friday, January 20th instead of Friday, January 13th to avoid conflict with the convention called "Arisia" since a fair number of P.S.F.S. members will want to attend that convention. Several people spoke in favor of moving the meeting. Diane Scott asked if it would cause a problem with the meeting notice. Oz said that it would not, that it will give Rich an extra week to do it in. Passed many to one.

Refreshments: Jan Guidatti moved, Rich second, that the Society provide healthier foods, like fruit and crackers, at the monthly meetings along with the usual. Hal Lynch said he remembered Oz asking for a volunteer to take over the refreshments. He reminded us that one

of the perks is that the person buying the refreshments could purchase anything they wanted. Passed 18 to 6. Carol Kabakjian had a point of information. She said this motion, which basically directs the Refreshments committee to have fruit at the meetings, was exactly the same thing we just argued against doing to the Programming committee. Mark Trebing moved, Tony Finan second, to reconsider the previous motion and to change it to a recommendation. The vote to reconsider was passed 17 to 7. Janis said that among all the people who voted to have fruit someone should volunteer to do it. Hank Smith said he'd volunteer. The recommendation passed. Joni asked if she should reduce the number of donuts. Oz said that all of the refreshments should be purchased within the same budget. Oz directed Joni and Hank to get together to discuss how to allocate the budget.

Writers Retreat: Steve Fisher said that Andre Norton has decided to devote her estate to the founding of a writers' retreat in Tenn. This would be a place for writers of genre fiction to go to and stay for four to six weeks while they're working on whatever their next project is. This would include cabins for the writers, a large reference library (including her 10,000 volume library and Robert Adams library). They've bought the land, but he didn't know how far along the rest of the plans were. Steve Fisher moved, Mattie Brahen second, that we get more details and see how our Society could help. Passed unanimously. Oz created a committee to look into the subject and appointed Steve Fisher as chair.

Joyce Carroll moved, Tony Finan second, to extend business to cover nominations. Passed unanimously.

Nominations: Henry Lazarus moved, many second, to open nominations for all official positions of the Board. Nominations were taken and then, seeing no more nominations, they were closed. (See *Nominations for details*.)

We will need a motion to reopen nominations next month.

Only Active members in good standing can vote. If you wish to vote and you haven't paid your dues, you *must* do so before the elections. You can send your dues to the P.O. Box.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Upcoming Events

For details, call Ozzie Fontecchio (215) 342-1672.

Movie Excursions:

Contact Ozzie if you have any suggestions.

Book Discussions:

January — *1984*, by George Orwell. Sunday, January 22, at 2:00 pm, at the Weinstein's, 1312 Harrison St., Philadelphia, (215) 288-4827.

February — *The Puppet Masters*, by Robert A. Heinlein. Time and place TBA.

March — *Grass*, by Sherry S. Tepper. Time and place TBA.

Board Meeting Minutes

January Board Meeting

The Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, January 2nd, at the Trebings' home. Called to order at 8:10 p.m. Board members present: Ozzie, Rich, Ed, Barb, Todd, Mark. Others: Janis, Margaret T.

Officers' Reports

President: We've been contacted by the public relations department of Barnes & Noble in Bryn Mawr. They want to do a series of science fiction nights, because of what they perceive as [P.S.F.S.'s] influence on the science fiction community. The first one is scheduled for Saturday, January 28th, at 2:00 pm, their featured guest will be Michael Swanwick. Oz will ask for volunteers to attend the function at the next P.S.F.S. meeting. There will also be one in February and one in March. Ed said we need a special flyer to promote our Society. Oz will be talking with Pam Fernsler.

We received from Thorsus Productions, Mark Bettish, a request. Mr. Bettish is putting together a new science fiction series and feels we would be a good group to let him know what science fiction fans think about his stuff. He sent us three review tapes of the scripts and would like us to review them.

Vice-President: Not here.

Secretary: Last month's minutes are not available.

Treasurer: No report.

Two Year Director, Barb Higgins: has ordered the pins. There may be production delays, because our logo is a little more complicated than the manufacturer thought. Barb will keep us informed.

Special One Year Director, Todd Dashoff: Todd spoke with the International House and confirmed the change in date. Todd suggested speaking with the B. Daltons in Willow Grove.

One Year Director, Mark Trebing: No report.

Committee Reports none.

Old Business:

Membership Status Appeal: Oz reported that he received an oral status appeal from Laura Paskman Syms in September. The Board made a general recommendation for the Society (which was adopted in October), but didn't cover Laura's particular case. The Board discussed the subject at the September Board meeting and told Laura that if she attended the October and December meetings they would reconsider her appeal at the January Board meeting. Ozzie verified that she did attend both meetings. Rich felt that Laura was certainly well enough aware of the Society's current activities, considering her intense involvement on the Philcon Committee, to qualify in spirit as an Active member. No one else wished to debate the issue, so Oz called for the vote. Passed 5 to 0. (*The Secretary is currently awaiting receipt of Laura's membership appeal in writing, since the By-Laws require it.*)

New Business:

Philcon 1995: Todd wanted to know if we're planning on having parties, flyers, etc. at Arisia and/or Boskone. Oz is trying to get another guest. Ozzie will work on it.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.

Announcements

If you have **any** announcements or reports, the best way to make sure they are reported accurately is to submit them in writing. The Secretary (and his assistant) would greatly appreciate it.

The Annual Membership Status list was in last month's newsletter, and your current status (for the 94-95 period) is on your mailing label. If you are not listed as an Active Member, and you believe you should be, contact the Board of Directors. Only Active Members who are not suspended may vote in the January elections.

The elections of the Board of Directors of P.S.F.S. will be held at the Annual Meeting in January 1995. If the January meeting is canceled, the elections will be held at the first General Meeting in 1995 that takes place.

Directory 1994: will be ready "real Soon now".

Avi Freedman is making available to the Society several Internet accounts on Net Access at no charge. Philcon, the Society, the 2001 bid committee, etc. will be able to use the accounts.

The Millennium Philcon: The next open meeting of the Philadelphia Worldcon in 2001 bid committee will be held at 2pm, Sunday, January 22nd, at the Dashoff's.

The Dashoffs regret to announce the passing of their beloved cat Snowball.

1989 Philcon Program Books in hard cover are available through Todd Dashoff.

Philcon T-Shirts and P.S.F.S. Carry Bags are for sale. See Ed Rutkowski.

Philcon '93 Masquerade Video copies are still available.

Robin's Bookstore has agreed to give all members of the Society a 15% discount on all regularly-priced merchandise. Bring in a copy of this newsletter, and show them this announcement, to receive your discount. Robin's Bookstore is located at 108 South 13th Street, Philadelphia.

Membership Attendance: Please sign the sign-in book yourself. We want *your* signature, not someone else's in your space. This will help us to verify that you are who you say you are.

Copies of the By-laws and Standing Rules will be available at the P.S.F.S. meeting.

PSFS News

The Corporate Minutes & Newsletter of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society
Rich Kabakjian, Secretary, Editor & Publisher
Carol Kabakjian, Assistant Editor
Henry Lazarus & Lee Weinstein, Contributing Editors

PSFS News is looking for articles of interest to the Society, line art or drawings, letters of comment, reviews, or just about anything, as long as it isn't more than a few minutes. Please send all submissions to P.O. Box 8303, Philadelphia PA 19101, or give them to the Secretary in writing. Deadline for any particular month is usually two weeks prior to the next General Meeting of the Society.

PSFS News is free to Active and General Members of the Society in good standing. Non-members or inactive members may subscribe to PSFS News for \$10/year. Other clubs and Societies may trade for their newsletters.

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The Lazarus Review

by Henry Leon Lazarus

I think the trend is finally cracking in the domination of women's science fiction of the last few years that allowed some publishers to cut their slush pile in half. There have been some good writers appearing in that period, but I distrust trends.

If a *Midshipman's Hope*, (paper from Aspect) by David Feintuch, is to become captain, then becoming one practically overnight might be a nightmare if your starship encounters computer glitches, mutiny, and alien encounters. This is another of a British Napoleonic Navy in space and I hope this trend continues.

Robert Charrette, who practically created a trend in game-based novels with his *Shadow Run* trilogy, has started a fun new trilogy detailing the start of magic in our high tech future and the return of King Arthur in *A Prince Among Men* (paper.)

Harlan Ellison's unfiled screenplay of Isaac Asimov's *I, Robot* has been printed with new color pictures (trade). Who knows what we would have actually seen if Harlan hadn't said the producer "had the intellectual capacity of an artichoke"?

Women's fantasy short stories come alive in *The Best of Marion Zimmer Bradley's Fantasy Magazine* (paper).

The metaphysical thought experiment involving Schrödinger's cat is stretched beyond belief in *Quarantine* by Greg Egan (paper from Harper Prism). This is the explanation found when, thirty years after the solar system is placed in a bubble cutting off the stars, a detective goes after a mentally incompetent girl who has disappeared from a mental institution. I especially liked the idea of buying commercial programs to enhance thinking.

In modern Seattle, Hansel and Gretel's nemesis is a child molester, calling for the services of *The God Mother* (hard from Ace), Elizabeth Ann Scarborough's romp through five modernized fairy tales. Both I and my thirteen-year-old daughter enjoyed it heartily.

Superheroes (trade), edited by John Varley, is a collection about real-world, super-powered characters in which the lawyer jokes get a little heavy.

Spider Robinson has some stories set in a new bar in *Callahan's Touch* (paper). The old bar was nuked, but that's another story.

Sideshow by Rick Shelly (paper) takes the 13th Spacebourne Assault Team out of the main war on a bloody rescue mission to find a top secret lab. Mr. Shelly is an ex-NCO and really knows his stuff.

The Kligh, imps of earth, air, fire, and water, are what the Bards of *Sing the Four Quarters* by Tanya Huff (paper from DAW) use to work their magic. When the duke of a border fortress is compromised, a pregnant ex-princess bard has to rescue him and stop the meanies from crossing the border in strength.

I was late getting to Susan Dexter's *The Wind Witch* (paper from Del Rey) because it took so long to get going. Once this second tale of the warhorse of Esdragon does get going, this time stopping raiders from the sea, it's a lot of fun.

Barbara Hambley's *Bride of the Rat God* (paper) is odd. Most writers would have told the tale of a mad chinese god let loose in 1920's Hollywood as a comedy. Ms. Hambley

plays it straight, which is disconcerting until you get used to it.

The End of the Frame by Bill Adams and Cecil Brooks (paper) is the second and better tale of Larkspur, thought missing and in hiding a century after his disappearance, a Shakespeare of the future. This time he's starring in a play written and directed by someone posing as him and the plot gets wierder before the action is done. If the authors can wrap this up in the third novel, this will be a keeper.

Out of This World, the first third of Lawrence Watt-Evans's tale of three universes in conflict (ours, a galactic empire out of fifties science fiction, and a Tolkien-like fantasy world) is finally out in paper. I can't wait for the rest.

The Flight of Michael McBride by Midori Snyder (hard from Tor) is a wierd combination of Irish fantasy and a western. The hero is on the run from the unseeleie court because he is half elvish and ends up on a deadly cattle drive.

Paula Volsky's tale of an evil uncle messing with necromancy in a cold Russian-like country, *The Wolf of Winter* is finally in paper from Bantam Spectra.

Alexander Jablovkov's deep tale of repressed memories and forgotten government secret projects in a future where playing with the mind is common, *Nimbus*, is also out in paper (Avonova).

And for western lovers there's a new Stellar Ranger tale, *Lone Star* (paper) about a dirty governor selling out the natives on a colony planet with the only ranger to stop him in the middle of a hurricane.

Nomination of Officers

Bylaws, Article VI, Section 3:

- (a) All nominations submitted in advance of the meeting at which an election is scheduled shall be in writing, signed by an active member, seconded in writing by an active member and submitted to the Secretary of the Society. The membership may by majority vote permit nominations made in advance of the election meeting to be made orally from the floor.
- (b) Nominations shall be received and announced at the first regular meeting in December, and again immediately prior to the election for that office.
- (c) No nomination shall be accepted unless the person nominated is present at the meeting at which their nomination is submitted or that person's written consent to be nominated for that office is filed with the Secretary of the Society.
- (d) Nominations and seconds may be made orally from the floor at the Annual Meeting, and at any meeting at which an election is conducted. The names of the members making the nomination and the second shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Call the P.S.F.S. Hotline

(215) 957-4004

P.S.F.S. — Philcon — Meeting Info — Leave Messages
Last-Minute Meeting Cancellation Info (Snow-outs)

Meeting Notices

Unless otherwise specified, General Meetings of the Society will be held on the second Friday of each month in the South America room at International House, 37th & Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia, PA. Business meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Program starts at 9:00 p.m.

January Annual Meeting will be held Friday, January 20, 1995. It's Election Night. *Note date change!*

February General Meeting will be held Friday, February 10, 1995. The program speaker will be author, Mike Resnick.

Board of Directors: next meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 8:00 pm, at Pete Radatti's, 210 W 12th Ave., Conshohocken, (215) 828-4566.

Philcon '94 Debriefing: has not been scheduled yet.

Philcon '95: the first meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 1995, 2:00 pm, at Todd & Joni Dashoffs', 830 Barlow St., Philadelphia, (215) 676-4194.

About the Society

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society is a non-profit organization that meets monthly to discuss and promote science fiction and fantasy in literature, the arts and popular culture. Meetings are held the second Friday of each month, at the International House, 37th & Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia. Meetings consist of business proceedings from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., followed by a guest speaker involved in some area of science fiction or fantasy, such as writers, editors, artists, publishers, etc...

In addition, P.S.F.S. sponsors an annual science fiction conference, Philcon, and has many special interest subgroups, such as the Book Discussion Group, which meets monthly to discuss a work of science fiction or fantasy, and the Special Events Group, which attends science fiction and fantasy movies and other events.

Membership in the Society is open to everyone. Becoming a member is easy: attend 1 meeting (we'll say, "Hello"). At your second meeting, you can nominate yourself for membership (or ask someone else to nominate you). At the next meeting you attend following your nomination, you're eligible to be voted in as a General Member. Our current dues are \$15.00 for a full year's membership, and attendance at 5 meetings each year maintains the status of Active Member.



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