

# PSFS News

The Newsletter of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society

October 1998

*Our October Guests:*

## Warren Lapine & Angela Kessler

### Membership Status

*Note: Status Changes from inactive to general or general to active become effective after the meeting has adjourned.*

**First Timers:** Ben Carpenter, Steve Saker

**Second Timers:** Timothy Callahan, Luke Menichelli,  
Joe Neff, Maria Veriengia

**New Members:** Bob Bruhin

**Returning Inactives:** Debra Ruh

**Members at the September Meeting:** 51  
(45 active, 5 general, 1 inactive)

**Non-members at the September Meeting:** 7

### Announcements

*Copies of any official PSFS correspondence should be sent to the Secretary for filing in the Society's official records.*

**Newsletter Submissions and Announcements** can be e-mailed to [rak@netaxs.com](mailto:rak@netaxs.com), mailed to the Society's P.O. Box or the Kabakjian's home address, or given to the Secretary or Rich K. in writing at the meetings.

**Art Group** - meets the first Saturday after the P.S.F.S. Meeting every month at 10 a.m. for 4 hours. Please help P.S.F.S. by supplying your own materials such as pencils, paper, and other art supplies. You can contact hosts Bridget Boyle or Barb Higgins for the specific supplies you'll need. Call (215) 423-2076 or e-mail at "[bridget@phillynet.com](mailto:bridget@phillynet.com)" or "[bridget@psfs.org](mailto:bridget@psfs.org)" for more information or directions.

**The Millennium Philcon®** will be held Aug. 30 - Sept. 2, 2001, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. You can register as an attending or supporting member now. Rates are guaranteed till the end of this year. If you voted and were a pre-supporter it's \$50; if you voted, but didn't pre-support it's \$60; if you didn't vote or pre-support it's \$125; there are other prices listed on the registration form. You can register at P.S.F.S. meetings or request one through the mail. The Millennium Philcon is run by the Philadelphia Corporation. "Philcon" is a registered trademark of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and is used with permission.

**Philadelphia Bike Club** - on Sunday, November 15, will have their second annual Sunday Breakfast Ride which starts at 8:45am, at 22nd & Spring Garden and ends at the Adam's Mark Hotel around 11:00am.

### Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	Tina Blanco.....	(215) 744-6045
<b>Vice President</b>	Tim Binder.....	(215) 634-8730
<b>Secretary</b>	Carol Kabakjian.....	(610) 623-1139
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gary Feldbaum.....	(215) 673-4044
<b>2 Year Director</b>	Tony Finan.....	(215) 744-6045
<b>2 Year Director</b>	Shelley Handen.....	(610) 642-6061
<b>1 Year Director</b>	Oz Fontecchio.....	(215) 563-7538

*Questions? Comments? Contact any Board Member at the above numbers.*

*To send e-mail to the board, write to [bored@cyber.com](mailto:bored@cyber.com)*

## Meeting Minutes

These are the minutes of the General meeting held on September 11th, 1998, at International House. The meeting was called to order at 8:12pm.

**Proxies:** none.

**Corrections to the Minutes:** Timothy Callahan's name was inadvertently left off the "First Timers" list for the August meeting. Tina called for a vote to approve the minutes as corrected. Passed many to few.

### Officers' Reports:

**President:** Tina reported that due to a dental emergency Allen Steele wouldn't be here tonight, but Michael Swanwick has graciously taken his place. Tina has found out that Lunacon is on her wedding and wants [Lunacon] changed. Hint to Ira D. who is chair. Lew suggested changing the venue of her wedding to the convention. Tina said no.

**Vice President:** Tim said, "Hi. I'm the Vice President. Thank you."

**Secretary:** Carol said, "I'm the Secretary. I'm here."

**Reminders to the members:** 1) Please sign in the book or it doesn't count toward your membership determination. The book is on the Treasurer's table from before the meeting starts until it's declared closed after the guest speaker is done. 2) If you've got an announcement, meeting, or special event you want listed in the newsletter please give me the information *in writing*. If I don't receive the information in written form I won't guarantee that your notice will be listed (*accurately if at all*) in the Newsletter. You can e-mail me at rak@netaxs.com, come to the meeting and give the information to me or to Rich (at the Treasurer's table), or snail mail it to the P.O. Box or my home address (in the Society's Directory).

**Treasurer:** Gary arrived late. If there is anyone who believes they've paid their dues and got a notice that they didn't please contact Gary. He will go through his records and let both you and Rich know. All amounts below are approximate. (Note: At the September 1997 meeting the last reported total was \$74836.82 in our accounts. CK)

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
CoreState accounts	\$ 17,000.00
Vanguard Account	\$ 40,000.00+
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$ 57,000.00</u>

**2 Year Director (Tony):** said, "Hi. Summer is over. I have a life again, at least as much as Tina lets me have."

**2 Year Director (Shelley):** No report.

**1 Year Director (Oz):** said we will go to Madd Maxx restau-

rant, at 34th & Walnut Sts., after tonight's meeting.

**Special Order of Business:** none.

### Committee Reports:

**Philcon '99:** Tina named Tony Finan for Chair of Philcon '99. We will have the ratification vote at the October meeting. Remember, you have to be an Active member in good standing (*your dues must be paid before the vote comes up*) to vote. This will be a Special Order of Business.

Bylaws Article X, Section 5 (d) The appointment by the President of the Chairman of the Conference Committee shall require approval by a majority of the active members of the Society, who are present and voting in person or by proxy. This vote shall be conducted by written secret ballot after written notice of at least two (2) weeks.

**Programming:** (See Meeting Notices for list of Speakers.)

**Special Events: Ultra Zone:** It will be irregular; whenever we plan to get a group together we'll inform you if you're on our list. See Tony to get on the list. It's a version of laser tag. **Moonlight Maltz Maze:** Saturday, October 3rd, at Hopewell, NJ. We plan to get lost in a corn field. It's the night of the full moon, so they run it in the twilight. It's also the weekend of their fall festival and we plan to get there around 4pm. Contact Tony Finan for directions.

**Penn Renn Faire:** Sunday, October 4th. It's their Celtic theme weekend. It's located just outside Mount Hope PA, near Hershey, just off the turnpike. There is a discount on the entry fee if you're in costume. **Anniversary Banquet:**

will be Saturday, October 10th, at the University City Sheraton, 36th & Chestnut Sts. in the Georgian Room, Lower Level. The room is larger, and has better facilities. The meal is chicken cordon bleu. The cost of the meal will be \$25.41. It will start at 6 p.m. with an open cash bar. Supper will be around 7 p.m., then a short program and dancing. **Mobie Excursions:** The Rocky Horror Picture Show will be shown on Saturday, October 24th, 11:15pm. Special guest, Sal Piro.

All movies are at the Harwan Movie Theater at Mount Laurel, NJ, on the Black Horse Pike, one block above Kings Hwy, right off of 295. All movies start at 10:30pm. October 9th, Friday, *Evil Dead 2* plus an unknown special feature. October 30th, Friday, *The Fog* and Dario Argento's *Demons*. October 23rd, Friday, the H.P. Lovecraft double feature; *Re-Animator* and *From Beyond*. **A Boris Karloff Tribute:** with special guest star Sarah Karloff (daughter). October 25th. Time and place TBA. **Halloween Party:** Saturday, October 31st, at Tim Binder & Becky Jollensten's home, Philadelphia. Everyone's invited. For further information contact Tim or Becky.

**Book Discussion:** October's book will be *Snow Crash* by Neil Stevenson. November's book will be *St. Leibowitz and the Wild Horse Woman* by Walter M. Miller, Jr. Terry Bisson is the uncredited writer of this book and may be persuaded to attend the book discussion. Call Oz at (215) 563-7538 for more info. (Book and author names were not given to me in

*writing and may not be correct. CK)*

**Publicity:** Shelley has publicity flyers. See her if you want some.

**Cook Book:** Carol said we're still collecting recipes. We only have recipes from two or three of you and would like to have some from many of you. If we get enough recipes we will publish and make some money for the Society. The recipes can be in any category. If it's a joke recipe, please let me know so I can list it that way. Recipes can not be copy-written so if your favorite recipe comes from a cookbook you can still submit it.

**Space Sciences:** Hank Smith has a list of events to be held in the near future. Please see him for details.

**No Fund:** John Prenis said, "the No Fund has an amazing abundance of neat stuff tonight so I'm taking it all home with me." There was much laughter. Someone yelled, "What've you done with John Prenis?" More laughter. John said, "We have some really neat items. One of which is a rowing machine which I am *not* taking home with me." He thanked everyone who contributed stuff. He said take whatever you want, because he didn't really want to take it home.

**T-Shirts:** Tony had no report.

**Movie Theater Rental:** (re. *Everybody Else is Doing it, Why aren't We?* in the June 1998 Newsletter.) Tony said it would cost approximately \$100 an hour. This includes the projectionist and they get to take all the concession stand proceeds. We're responsible for the movie rental. Tony asked for suggestions of movies like *Bladerunner* and *Metropolis*. We want to have a theater of our own where we can show classic science fiction films. Contact Tony if you're interested.

## Old Business:

**Motion Tabled from the July meeting:** The motion was to send SF books to a college professor in Russia (*see Lew for name, etc. CK*) who teaches courses on American science fiction and fantasy. Lew was to get back to us with information about the costs of shipping the books. Lew had copies of his proposal with him. It was 1 1/2 pages long and included a list of suggested books. It also included details of the costs involved with purchasing and shipping the books. If you're interested in the ~~gory~~ fine details contact Lew for a copy. Here is a brief synopsis: 26 to 30 books were suggested; paperbacks weigh average of 6 oz. and cost \$5.95 to buy. Post Office's M/Bag shipping service by ship (two month's time) @ \$.79 per pound. Air shipping is 7-10 days @ \$4.41 per pound. In the end Lew moved, Todd second, to budget \$209.67 for the purchasing and shipping of the books. Lew said he would take donations of as many of the books on the list as possible which would help keep the cost of book purchases at a minimum. He said if he goes over budget he will make up the difference. After the usual round of debate the motion passed 20 to 5. (*Note: Darrell donated many of the books. Thanks Darrell. CK*)

## New Business:

**Motion:** Hank moved, Tim B. second, to move the January 8th meeting to the 15th if possible because of Arisia. Several motions were made, but not recognized. Tony moved, Tina second, that P.S.F.S. donate \$1999.99 to their wedding. This motion was out of order. Tina called for discussion on the original motion. Todd moved, Lew second, to amend the motion to include changing the February 12th meeting to the 19th because of Boskone and Costumecon. Tina called for discussion on the amendment. Several people thought it was a good idea. Oz objected to moving the February meeting on the grounds that our guest speaker, Robert Sawyer, might not be able to be here on the new date. He proposed that we talk with him before we make the change. Tim B. moved, no second, to split the question. Bob S. suggested that we defer the subject to the Board. Todd moved, several second, to extend business by 5 minutes. Passed. Todd and Lew withdrew their amendment. Todd moved, Lew second, to replace their amendment with Oz and Bob's suggestions which means that, along with moving January's meeting, February's meeting will be moved subsequent to finding out if the guest can be moved and letting the Board handle it. Vote to amend the original motion. Passed many to 2. Vote on the amended motion. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:50pm.

## Board Meeting Minutes

These are the minutes of the PSFS Board meeting held on September 15th, 1998, at Carol's home. The meeting was called to order at 8:19pm.

**Board members present:** Tina, Tim, Carol, Gary, Tony, Shelley, and Oz.

**Others present:** Bruce B., Becky J., Hank, and Rich K.

**Corrections to the minutes:** none.

## Officers' Reports

**President:** said, "Hi ya'll. My feet hurt. It's a bitch planning a wedding." No report.

**Vice President:** No report.

**Secretary:** No report.

**Treasurer:** "International House has not called me back yet so I can't confirm about specific Friday nights." Gary felt we should act as if we have the changes. Tim asked Gary how much money the Society has in its accounts. Gary said he gave a report at the P.S.F.S. meeting.

**Two Year Director (Tony):** waved, silently.

**Two Year Director (Shelley):** no report.

**One Year Director (Oz):** left voice mail messages for Robert Sawyer. Oz proposed an alternative solution since we will be moving the February meeting in any case. Oz will ask if Robert Sawyer can move to the 3rd Friday of February, if he can't Oz can offer him to speak to our Society in a differ-

ent month, if the Board will authorize it. Oz made his offer a motion, Tony second. Tina called for a vote. Passed unanimously.

### Committee Reports:

**Publicity:** Tim asked if John Desmond was part of the Publicity committee. Shelley said he was. After some discussion about erroneous information be made public it was decided that all net postings should be cross-posted. All information for postings, flyers, etc. should be verified before being released. Any last minute changes in guest speakers, etc., or breaking news, should be relayed to the Board, to Shelley for Publicity, and to the Tanskys for the Hotline..

### Old Business:

**Movie Theater Rental:** Tony asked if we want to proceed with it. Costs would be: \$100 per hour which will give us their staff and security, they get full concessions. We would probably do double features. We will show science fiction. It will probably cost us about \$700-800 including film rental. We can set our own price for admission which we get to keep. We will have to do our own advertising. Carol asked if we would get enough admissions to off-set the costs. Tony said the Harwan seats over 300. He said if we get 150 people at \$5 per person that's \$750. The first event will not be till after the first of December. Tony said he wants the Board's opinion before he takes the idea to the Membership. All the Board members were in favor of investigating it. Gary made it a formal motion, Tony second. Passed unanimously. Gary will check with our insurance about coverage and Tony will check with the theater to see if their insurance will cover us.

**New Business:** none.

Adjourned at 9:30pm.

See Meeting Notices for details on the next Board meeting.

## Philcon Meeting Minutes

These are the minutes of the Philcon '98 meeting held on September 13th, 1998, at the Kabakjian's home in East Lansdowne. The meeting was called to order at 1:37pm.

**Committee members present:** Sara P., Mike F., John & Laura S., Lew, Oz, Joe N., Pat B., Tony, Tim B., Becky J., Joni, Bridget, Shelley, Bruce, Hank, Darrell, David B., Bob S., Gary, Rosemarie, Alex L., Rich & Carol, Ed R.

### Officers' Reports:

**Chairman:** Tony said hi.

**Secretary:** Carol needs your committee lists by the end of October, but would prefer to have them by the October Philcon meeting. Publications needs them by October 7. The end of October is the deadline for your Program Participant/Guest lists. There will be an updated phone list at the next meeting. If you need a Registration form for your committee see Carol. **Remember:** Staff has to pay for memberships unless they have rollovers from last year.

**Treasurer:** there will be money at the con. You can't have it. If you want/need money at the con you will have to let Gary know in advance what you want, the form in which you want it, and when you want it. Of course, just because you want it doesn't mean you'll get it. We will continue to use the system we've used for the last couple of years; forms to transfer money and maybe forms for checks so we can keep track of them. *Please sign and date the forms as they move.* It's important for accounting purposes. We've got even more cash boxes this year. Joni will need cash boxes for Art Show sales at 1:30 on Sunday.

**Fixed Functions Division Head:** John said hi. He's here. His departments are reporting; he'll let them report.

### Department Reports:

**Programming:** Rich reminded Oz that Crystal has volunteered to run a Regency Ball if we need to fill some program time and space. She can put one together on short notice. Oz said he will talk to her. Programming has left space for the Regency Ball to be held on Friday after the Meet the Pros party. Oz asked for an increase in Programming's budget to \$1000. Passed unanimously. Darrell said they've made the initial mailing. We're receiving replies. We have a tentative program grid. Most of the annual pieces of programming will be at the same places and times. We need to know what Tom Savini wants to do. The address given for the writers' workshop is wrong, but it won't cause too many problems (it's Darrell's mother's address).

**Hotel Liaison:** Laura said Bridget is her heir apparent. She will be the one taking everyone's information for their needs with the hotel. Bridget is very good and knows what she's doing. This will probably be Laura's last year as Liaison.

**NOTE:** Everyone is responsible for booking their own sleeping room.

### PSFS News

PSFS News is the Newsletter and Corporate Minutes of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, published monthly as a benefit of membership. It is available free to Active and General Members of the Society, and to any SF club or organization wishing to trade newsletters. Non-members or Inactive Members may subscribe at an annual cost of \$10/year.

PSFS News welcomes submissions, and is seeking to expand. Anyone wishing to contribute articles (book or movie reviews, discussion group or convention reports, announcements, etc.) is encouraged to do so. We prefer that articles be e-mailed (send to [rak@netaxs.com](mailto:rak@netaxs.com)), but they may be mailed if necessary to the P.O. Box. Deadline is two weeks before the next general meeting.

PSFS News is produced on a Macintosh using ClarisWorks 5.0, and is printed on a Desk-Writer 320. Emailed articles may be either submitted as plain text, or as attached Claris-Works files (use macbinary or binhex if available). Other file formats may be possible. Art-work or photos are also welcome in any Mac graphics format, or we can scan originals if mailed to us.

PSFS News Editor & Publisher: Rich Kabakjian. Secretary: Carol Kabakjian. Regular contributors: Henry Lazarus, Lee Weinstein. Missing in action: Tasha Kelly. All contents © 1998 by The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the individual contributors.

**Film/Video/Anime:** Tony said we will have it. It's official, film no longer exists. He thanked the Science Fiction Continuum; they have allowed us publicity showing rights to a lot of stuff we don't usually see.

**Program Ops:** No report. If you know anyone who might want to work for Programming Ops let Shelley know.

**Logistics:** Bob said there will be a truck. We will have to go to NJ for Masquerade's lighting.

**Babysitting:** will happen as long as you bring her children.

**Registration:** flyers were mailed. Reg's are being received. Tony asked because the mailing was late how long would we be taking the \$30 rate? Rich said if anyone writes that they didn't get their flyer until after the cutoff he won't argue about it. (*Unless they try it in mid October. CK*) Joni asked about the rollovers for the Art Show volunteers who worked Sunday. Carol told Joni to send her the usual list and she would make sure they were taken care of. Alex asked what the per unit cost of the registration process was. It would be based on the costs of the badges, badge holders, program book, pocket program, and all other handouts put with the reg packet. We have over 200 reg's. (*closer to 400 at press time - RK*) We'll be open until 11pm on Friday.

**Publicity/Press Relations:** Hank has been distributing flyers. They will be based in the main hallway, not the Green Room this year.

**Science Programming:** Hank hasn't fill all his program slot yet but plans to. He is planning panels on dinosaurs and robotics among others and is open to suggestions.

**Masquerade:** Alex (Masq. Tech.) said we will have one. There is a possibility of using the Masq. sound system for the party.

**A.V. Coordinator:** would like your list of needs two weeks before the con.

**Program Book Ads:** The deadline is October 1. Lew has sent out 45 letters to different groups. Avon Press contacted us by e-mail. They want two pages. Bantom is interested in space. We're trading ads with Balticon. Sam Conway, with Anthrocon, wants to trade. He will also try to provide us with Sunday breakdown helpers. Lew will tell him we will trade ads \$ for \$. Lew wants authorization before he talks with them or other groups formally. Tony gave him the go-ahead. Lew would like to contact Paramount or Lucasfilms if anyone has contact addresses. A couple of places have asked for trading ads for major gaming. In exchange for a 1 or 2 page ad Wizards of the Coast will run a certified tournament. Tony would rather have paid ads. Gary said we can't do it, because it's recreational. Steve Jackson only wants free memberships in exchange for running a game. Gary said we could put him on a program and give him a participant membership.

**Green Room Registration:** Carol has recruited Joe Neff to run Green Room Registration.

**Personnel/Gofer Recruitment:** Ed wants your requests for warm bodies as soon as possible.

**Art Show:** Joni said, "Hi. This is not necessarily good or bad, but I don't like being editorialized. In last month's minutes when I reported the problem in not getting the bulk mail paid up and the flyer on time for me to send before BucConeer so that I had to send after BucConeer. I now have repercussions. It is not that the Art Show is not full or it will be. It's that I have confusion from my artists based on the information that was not changed in the six page flyer or on the website which still lists the closing date as September 15th and the fact that... yeah, I know, and here's the answer to that one. It's not that I didn't try. The point is that what people have been getting between the September first and now is confusing. They've gotten the six page flyer which's implied that I sent out a mailing in July when it-mine was only sent basically a week before the six page flyer. And I gave them information to the six page flyer in expectation four months ago that it would not be as close as they were. I've had, like I said, people have checked the website and come up with this same information. It is not, however, stopping them from sending in forms and requests for space. So it's only a matter in calming ruffled feathers, but I don't appreciate having to do that before I get around to telling the last batch 'No, sorry, you applied too late', but we are getting names. We are getting space requests though I haven't opened it to find out who all's asking for what, but we will have our usually good looking Art Show. So, I would like a complete report for my department and this time, just so that there is hopefully some understanding in whoever is Treasurer next year and whoever is creating flyers and culling information next year, the reasons for asking for this information to be given or ready and available in June. Now, I understand that Dealers did its mailing without a [2] page flyer in it. (*Clarification: the Dealer's Mailing did go out with a Registration Form, but no Hotel Card (Hotel Room Rates were not available for inclusion when they were needed, despite 4 months of asking for them.) - RK*) They got the master sent... given to them at the last meeting, off record, so that they could send it at least with the confirmation letters so people will have the hotel booking information. I also distributed a copy of the master to Programming because they asked for it because when mine had been printed they chose to make a single master again to make it run faster so I had two masters available to give away, but it's really needs to be done right with the two page ready by June first or we have repercussions. I don't know what Registration's at right now, but I do know that everybody was figuring things would be a little late after BucConeer which is not as late as it was. The other news is that I will not at the October meetings so Todd will be giving my department report. In general it follows up with what Ed just said and Tony just said; we need bodies on Thursday night for move out and for Friday set-up and for Sunday teardown and Sunday move out at the rates of return that Tony stated. I will order the pizza for those who are at my house on Thursday and I will leave a

sheet with Todd to turn around for sign up and I will try contacting those other people who said they would send volunteers separately. We always seem to have more than enough for Thursday and Friday; it's always Sunday that we have trouble with. Other than that I turned my forms into Hotel and I expect to have no trouble this year." Show up Thursday about 6pm, loading will start at 7. (*Reminder to all: I don't have to print reports at all, just motions, who made and seconded them, and the results of the votes for them.* CK) Tony suggested we post a sign at Personnel then move to the con suite on Sunday to let everyone know about the double/triple time.

**Art Program:** will happen. Wendy Frane wants to know how many and when her time slots are.

**Operations:** is under the impression that it will happen. Todd is thinking of reducing the number of beepers from 25 to 20. If you think you need a beeper tell him. If you already have a beeper you can use that at con. Tony suggested having a couple extras in case we have some that don't work. Also we want to have all our Guests (the ones listed on our flyer) to have beepers.

**Con Suite:** we have one. Carol has decided not to use the soda machine. If con suite is buying the soda for your department and you haven't received the list or if you don't give me the corrections to your list by the October meeting you will get the same as you got last year. Art Show and Ops's soda will be delivered at the October meeting. Soda run will happen after the run to NJ for masquerade's lighting.

**Information:** Sara said, "Hi." There will be information. We will have a phone. Mike Fisher is her assistant. We can speak to her or him. They have a very good staff, be nice to them. Tony suggested we call T.G.I.Friday's and Denny's and warn them [the con members] are coming. John S. suggested we try to get them to give [the con members] a discount if they wear our con badges. Warn them they will need extra wait staff. Mike said we can't give information if we don't get information. Carol suggested having some SEPTA tokens available. It was suggested to have info. about how to find local hospitals, pharmacies, bookstores, pizza shops, maybe the Zoo, and other local points of interest.

**Dance Party:** will be Saturday night after the Masquerade so they won't have to strike the sound equipment and the dance can start quickly. It was suggested that the dance floor was set up before the Masquerade and used as a wheelchair seating area during Masquerade.

**Web Page:** if you have anything you want on it please let Becky Jollensten know.

**Party Czar:** if you know anybody who's having a party, be it open or closed, e-mail, call, or write Becky Jollensten. Open parties *must* be non-alcoholic. Closed parties should be by invitation and you are responsible for checking ages at your own party.

**Meet the Pros Party:** will be the same as last year. It will

start around 9pm.

**Quartermaster:** David said we'll be there. He needs volunteers. Anything you put in Logistics must be pre-packed and tagged. Please leave a list of names of all people who are allowed to have your items.

**Filk Czar:** We won't have a song writing contest this year as Crystal was tied up with Bucky.

**Publications:** The deadline for the Program Book cover is October 7.

### Old Business:

**Surveys:** Lew said he would like to do the surveys this year since he didn't get to do one last year due to unforeseen circumstances. Tony asked him to refresh our memories. It's a four page survey to be included with the reg packet, to be filled out at or after the con. It would have general and department oriented questions about what was liked or disliked. Tony asked how much it would cost. Lew didn't know, but would have the information for the next meeting. Tony said we'll discuss it at the October meeting.

### New Business:

**Function Space:** Tony said we have new programming space upstairs: Franklin 1 & 2 and Adams A & B. There will be some changes: Gaming Room will be moved upstairs which opens Gettysburg 3&4 for programming. Laura thought it might not be a good idea to have gaming upstairs since it's 24 hours. The hotel still has the 3am closing in the contract. We can get away with 24 hour gaming downstairs, but not on the main floor. Laura was worried about noise and fans using the lobby after 3am. Several of the committee assured her that gamers (not L.A.R.P. players) will stay in the room and only venture out to use the bathroom or eat. Laura asked if we could wait on a final decision until she and Bridget could talk to the hotel. Tony said we would put them in the room farthest down the hall in Adams B, but he would wait to make the final decision. Someone else said that gamers don't always stay in the room. Some will get together in small group to discuss strategies, especially role players. He was assured that role players (L.A.R.P.) was not part of gaming. The Game Room is for board games. Laura said the Hotel Liaison should be consulted about space allocation. The previous Liaison insisted on doing it all on his own. Laura didn't need that much control, but would like the courtesy of being consulted. Laura said the 3am closing was for all functions, not just programming, but the clause may not even be in this year's contract. The rest of the extra space will be used for fringe programming. Joni said that several people who are in charge of fringe programming would like to have all their programming in the same place. Ex. all art prog. in one room, all costume prog. in another. Oz planned to do that. Laura reminded everyone that we currently don't have Grand Ballroom A, B, & C except for 3 to 5 on Saturday. We probably will have it, but Laura will have to negotiate for it. We've never had it in our contract. Every year



# Philcon '98 Dept. Heads

(Known as of September 23, 1998)

Chairman..... Tony Finan  
 Vice-Chair..... Laura Paskman Syms  
 Vice-Chair..... Todd Dashoff  
 Secretary..... Carol Kabakjian  
 Treasurer..... Gary Feldbaum  
 Chair's Bodyguard..... Keith Frye

**Administration Division** ..... **Laura Paskman Syms**

ASFA Liaison..... Bob Walters  
 Gopher Recruitment/ Personnel..... Ed Rutkowski  
 Hotel Liaison..... Laura Paskman Syms  
 Information..... Sara Paul  
 Logistics..... Bob Schwier  
 Operations/Security..... Todd Dashoff  
 Quartermaster..... David Brill  
 Registration..... Rich Kabakjian  
 Registration, Green Room..... Joe Neff  
 SFFWA Liaison..... Darrell Schweitzer  
 Signs..... Wayne Rector  
 Transportation..... Tina Blanco

**Programming Division**..... **Oz Fontecchio**

A.V. Coordinator..... Tim Kahler  
 Art Programming/Workshop..... Rick & Wendy Frane  
 Childrens' Programming..... Lynn Cohen Koehler  
 Costumers' Programming..... Vicki Warren  
 Filking/Filk Programming/Song Contest..... Crystal Paul  
 Green Room..... Rosemarie Freeman  
 Main Programming..... Oz Fontecchio, Darrell Schweitzer  
 Main Programming Secretary..... Mattie Brahen  
 Meet the Pros Party..... Becky Jollensten  
 Party Dance..... Tim Binder  
 Programming Ops..... Shelley Handen, Bruce Bloom  
 Publications..... Tim Kahler  
 Science Programming..... Hank Smith  
 Writers' Workshop..... Darrell Schweitzer

**Fixed Functions Division**..... **John Syms**

Art Show..... Joni Dashoff, Barb Higgins  
 Babysitting..... Winona Whyte-Schwier  
 Computer Room..... Avi Freedman  
 Con Suite..... Carol Kabakjian  
 Dealers' Room..... Devra Langsam  
 Dealers' Room Security..... Mitch Marmel  
 Den..... Cynthia Moreno  
 Exhibitions..... Ira Kaplowitz  
 Gaming Room..... Becky Kaplowitz  
 Special Games Liaison..... Pat Betz  
 Masquerade Co-Ordinator..... Vicki Warren  
 Masquerade Tech..... Alex Latzko  
 Media Operations (Film, Video)..... Tony Finan  
 Media Operations (Anime)..... Greg Ventura  
 P.S.F.S. Sales..... Ric Ivey  
 Publicity/Media/Press Relations..... Larisa Bekerman

# 1998 Philcon Budget

as of July 1998

Art Show		Masquerade Video	600
Awards	25	Media Ops (Films/Vi	1,900
Equipment	800	Miscellaneous	
Mailing	800	Operations	95
Phone	75	Beepers	300
Reception	2,500	Insurance	0
Triplicate Forms	150	Nursing Supplies	0
Set-up	150	Phones	130
Babysitting		Functions	
Supplies	130	Meet the Pros	500
Room	490	Pre-con events	450
Con Suite	2,300	PhilconTV	600
Contingency	500	Programming	
Dealers Room		Mailings	1,000
Mailing	600	A.V. Coordinator	3,200
Surcharge	850	Workshops	
Electricity	100	Artists	25
Den	600	Costume	25
Exhibitions	125	Writers	10
Filking		Science Prog.	25
Filkers Coffee	395	Filk Prog.	
Filk Contest	50	Childrens Prog.	50
Gaming Room	75	Programming Ops	200
Gopher	200	Easels	
Green Room		Publications	
Food	350	Advertising	100
Coffee Set-up	1,050	Flyers	1,500
Guest Bar (drink chit	600	Pocket Program	1,600
Guests of Honor		Program Book	4,500
Transportation	5,500	Web Page free	
Food	1,100	Publicity/Media Rel.	1,200
WAM	800	Registration	
Hotel Liaison		Badges	300
Curtains	350	Postage	1,000
L Room Exp. (non-	375	Ribbons	300
Rental (Func. Spac	11,000	Supplies	100
Security	720	Secretary	10
Tips	1,200	SFWA/ASFA	1,888
Information	50	Signs	150
Gaming Liaison	50	T-Shirts	
Logistics	600	Transportation	40
Masquerade	1,200	Treasury	300
Masq. Ribbon Awa	300	Administration Divisi	25
		<b>TOTAL (so far)</b>	<b>58,283</b>

## Books for October

by Henry Leon Lazarus

Disasters are part of life. Whether personal, like the hard disk crash I just lived through; public, like what President Clinton is living with; or economic, like what Russia is going through, we all live through disasters and somehow find the courage to survive them. Fictional disasters can teach us how to handle ourselves during them, and also provide relief our disaster could always be worse. Science fiction and fantasy provide some real doozies of disasters. This month was filled with them.

Stephen Baxter, who has been showing how NASA has destroyed itself in previous novels, now has a real disaster (the most unlikely I've ever heard of) to force NASA to launch a new and desperate Apollo mission to the Moon. The problem is dust from moon rocks, or *Moonseed* (hard from Harper Collins) that contains alien nanotechnology from a starship that aeons ago hit the Earth and separated it from the Moon. In contact with earth this stuff starts dissolving the Earth and unlocking volcanoes. Mr. Baxter provides very realistic views of this unlikely occurrence and interesting characters that keep you glued to the pages. His solution is not very likely, but also very interesting. In Wil McCarthy's *Bloom* (hard from Del Rey), the things that dissolve the Earth, Mars, and Venus are organic dust from the stars. Humanity, which now lives in colonies in the Asteroid Belt and around Jupiter send a desperate mission to the inner Solar System with new technology that can investigate this phenomena. Told by a reporter on the tiny ship, the crew faces not only physical dangers, but also opposition from humans who believe the bloom is really beneficial. I really like the way Mr. McCarthy developed his odd human civilizations living on the edge of this calamity.



Humanity has all but destroyed the Earth in World War III and is sending out starships looking for a new home. At the same time something is dissolving the universe and that something may be God. Michael Capobianco and William Barton take a crew of six raunchy humans on a trip to the heart of that *White Light* (trade, Avon Eos). I was reminded of a language test I took in the Army decades ago. The designers of the test made things weirder and weirder until I couldn't follow it anymore. If you can follow *White Light* to the end, you might find God. I got lost.

George Zebrowski believes that at some time we will send prisoners to the ultimate prison, in mined out asteroids sent on solar orbits that won't return until all the sentences are over. *Brute Orbits* (hard from Harper Prism) is told from the unsettling view of those prisoners. I wouldn't want to be them. Fred Saberhagen returns with a new Berserker novel in which an especially bright Berserker machine, *Shiva in Steel* (hard from TOR), attacks a secret military base. Mr. Saberhagen's heroes are odd-ball characters rather than dedicated military types. A smuggler, a charismatic would-be Napoleon, his dedicated followers, and a psychopath all provide the elements that can stop this unstoppable life destroyer.

I was awaiting eagerly for David Weber's *Echoes of Honor* (hard from Baen) because I really have enjoyed the series so far. The series, starting with *On Basilisk Station* (inexpensively reprinted for new readers) showed a courageous female Hornblower of the future, and the previous novel left Honor Harrington in *Enemy Hands* (paper). But in spite of Peep attacks on the rise and Honor trying to escape the hellish prison planet, the best I can call the book is routine. It is not up to the fun of the rest of the series. Article 23 (paper from Baen) is William R. Forstchen's law for treason which his space cadets face on a training flight with a mad captain like out of *The Caine Mutiny*. It was fun and exciting.

I really enjoy what Deborah Chester has done with the *Alien Chronicle* trilogy she is doing for Lucasfilms.. The middle

book, *The Crimson Claw* (paper from ACE), takes the golden Aaroun, Ampris from gladiator to freedom from ruling reptile, the Viis. It is just as much fun as the first. Rick Shelly is one of the best tale teller of ground-pounders of the future. Lon Nolan, now *Lieutenant* (paper from Ace) in the Dirigent Mercenary Corps has an exciting time when one world in a system invades its richer neighbor. This was perfect for reading while waiting for my daughter to board her bus to Israel, exciting enough to keep interest, while not complicated enough to worry about details. Mike Resnick tells of *The Widomaker Unleashed* (paper from Bantam Spectra) in which the real gunfighter now awoken healed has to find a safe place for himself in a galaxy filled with killers trying to cash in on his reputation.

Patricia A. McKillip is a lyrical writer so it makes sense that her latest is *Song for a Basilisk* (hard from ACE). It is about the only survivor of a ruling house, the evil head of the ruling house which supplanted it, and a mysterious musical magic. Margaret Weis and David Baldwin replace vampires with disciples of an immortal dragon in their tale of deadly killers in the night, *Dark Heart* (hard from Harper Prism). Justin, the disciple who lost his first wife to the black death, is fascinated by a police woman investigating a murder he committed. This is only the first of a trilogy and I look forward to the next. I also like the first of Dave Duncan's tales of the King's Blades, *The Gilded Chain* (hard from Avon Eos) about the life of a swordsman who serves faithfully, but eventually has to confront his king who has slipped into evil.

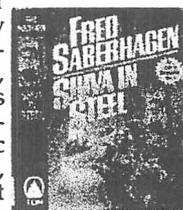
I found the concept of a fighter allergic to magic interesting in Doranna Durgin's *Wolf Justice* (paper, Baen). Reandn has to protect a diplomat entering his country from her enemies. I always like fast action. Mercedes Lackey and her husband Larry Dixon have another tale of the village of Errold's Grove and another barbarian invasion. In *Owlsight* (hard, DAW) the barbarians are sick and Kiesha, who is learning to be a magical healer, has to figure out how to heal them. Andre Norton tells of a place where there is a *Scent of Magic* (hard from Avon Eos). Willidane, a herbalists apprentice with a true scent talent has to find the evil corrupting her kingdom so her princess can marry a prince.

I'm not sure I liked Brian Stableford's *Inherit the Earth* (hard from TOR) about big corporations blocking true immortality, but he does make interesting arguments for creating artificial plagues to sterilize most of humanity. I also have mixed feelings about Peter Delacorte's *Time on My Hands* (trade from Washington Square Press) about a writer sent from our time (with a time machine discovered in a museum of industry in Paris) to Hollywood in 1938 with a mission to stop Ronald Reagan from ever becoming President. I really enjoyed his depiction of the golden years of the movie studios and of the younger Ronald Reagan (who keeps getting himself killed) but I wish the book didn't need a sequel to wrap things up.

Elizabeth Hand's *Last Summer at Mars Hill* (trade from Harper Prism); Patricia Anthony's *Eating Memories* (paper from Ace); and Paul Di Filippo's *Ribofunk* (paper from Avon Eos) are all collected short works of the authors.

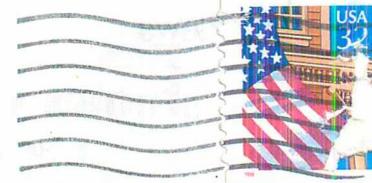
Other collections include *Black Swan, White Raven* (trade from Avon) fairy tales selected by Ellen Datlow and Terri Wilding; *Departures* (paper from Del Rey), alternate history stories reprinted by Harry Turtledove; *The Best of Crank* (hard from TOR) by its editor, Bryan Cholfin; *Sisters of the Night* (paper from Aspect) original vampire tales selected by Barbara Hambly and Martin H. Greenberg; and the eighth in the Man-Kzin wars series, *Choosing Names* (paper from Baen).

Paperback reprints include Katharine Kerr's *The Red Wyvern* (paper from Bantam Spectra), the eighth in her reincarnation/Celtic series; William Shatner's *In Alien Hands*, the second about a boy with a secret in his DNA; Patricia Kennealy-Morrison's latest Celts in space novel, *Black Mantle* (paper from Harper Prism); Dave Duncan's conclusion to his Great Game trilogy, *Future Indefinite* (paper from Avon Eos); Janny Wurts long continuation of her tale of two princes, *Fugitive Prince* (Harper Prism); Sean Stewart's odd tale of the waxing of magic in the future, *The Night Watch* (Ace); and a new trade paperback printing of Christopher Stasheff's *The Warlock in Spite of Himself*, a classic far better than any of the endless sequels





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 Philadelphia, PA 19101-8303



**NYSFS, The Lunarians Inc. (T)**

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 New York, NY 10008-3566

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## Meeting Notices

### General Meetings

Unless otherwise specified, General Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month in the South America Room at International House, 37th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Business meeting starts at 8 pm. Program starts at 9 pm.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Guest/Agenda</u>
October 9, 1998	Warren Lapine ( <i>publisher</i> ) & Angela Kessler ( <i>editor</i> )
November 13, 1998	Philcon
December 11, 1998	Stephen Youll ( <i>artist</i> )
January 8, 1999	Annual Meeting
February 12, 1999	Robert Sawyer
March 12, 1999	Laurel K. Hamilton
April 9, 1999	Jack McDevitt
May 8, 1999	George R. R. Martin

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host/Location</u>
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### Board of Directors

Wed., Oct. 7, 1998, 8:30pm	Tim Binder, 228 E. Thompson Street, Philadelphia, PA; (215) 634-8730
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### Philcon '98 Meeting

Sun., Oct. 11, 1998, 1:00pm	Todd Dashoff, 830 Barlow St, Philadelphia; (215) 676-4194
Sun., Nov. 8, 1998, 1:00pm	Todd & Joni Dashoff, 830 Barlow St, Philadelphia; (215) 676-4194

## About the Society

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society (PSFS) 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 International House, 37th and Chestnut Streets, 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, PSFS 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 your first 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 for a full year (\$24 for couples), and attendance at 4 meetings each year maintains the status of Active Member.