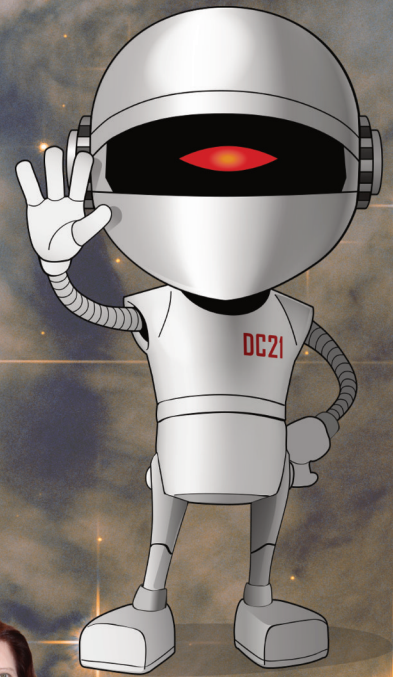


Columbus NASFIC 2020



★ ★ ★
DisCon III
The 79th Worldcon



John Harris
Artist Guest of Honor

Nancy Kress
Author Guest of Honor



Malka Older
Special Guest

Sheree Renée Thomas
Special Guest



Toni Weisskopf
Editor Guest of Honor

Ben Yalow
Fan Guest of Honor



Wednesday, 25 August – Sunday, 29 August 2021
Washington Marriott Wardman Park and Omni Shoreham Hotels

Membership rates will increase on 1 September 2020

Visit our website to learn about Capitalize! The DisCon III Fan Fund to financially support fans, staff, and program participants from marginalized communities

DisCon3.org
info@discon3.org

   
Worldcon2021

DisCon III Souvenirs
offworlddesigns.com/discon

While we had planned to gather in Columbus, Ohio this weekend for the NASFIC, 2020 had other plans for us. Because the coronavirus pandemic caused us to cancel our in-person convention, our team had to shift gears and take things in an entirely different direction. I am so proud of all the volunteers that have put in countless hours to create a virtual online event so we can celebrate our love for science fiction literature, art, music, games, media and all the sub-genres of science fiction this weekend, August 21-23, 2020.

The community of science fiction fans is resilient and determined. When faced with challenges it never fails that our community rises to the occasion, in spite of the hardships. Our marvelous team of volunteers helped us transition from a face to face event to the virtual event you experience this weekend. We have planned concerts, a memorial to Ohio fan and author, Mike Resnick, panels, demonstrations, the Prometheus Awards, an art show, a vendors hall, gaming, and the announcement of the nominations for the Chesley Awards. Hopefully with over 100 hours of programming you will find something to interest you. If you just want to sit and chat with other fans, there are spaces for that as well.

Science fiction for me has always been about vision and moving forward. Our team has tried to highlight that when developing this event. They have recruited a diverse group of presenters to inspire, engage and challenge you this weekend.

Without my tribe of fellow fans, I would not be who I am today. Scientists, techies, artists, makers, gamers, musicians, authors, poets, creators of all sorts and those of us who appreciate it all, can be advocates for each other moving forward and create a positive vision for the future.

I am eternally grateful for all those who helped encourage me and jumped in head first to make this virtual NASFIC a reality. I hope you will enjoy the North American Science Fiction Convention and escape the mundane for a little while.

Peace, love and light,
Lisa Garrison, Chair

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Virtual Registration

We have put a great team together to make this NASFiC totally VIRTUAL!

Instructions to join and participate for the weekend can be found at <https://columbus2020nasfic.org/how-to-attend.html>

Opening Ceremonies is at 3 pm on Friday, August 21st. That evening will also include a memorial to the great author, editor and mentor Mike Resnick, who unfortunately died this past year. Mike was a regular at Ohio cons and we are honored that his wife Carol and daughter Laura are trusting us with this event.

Other highlights for the weekend will include the Announcement of the Chesley Awards Nominees, and the Prometheus Awards. Please give yourself a break from the mundane world and join us, for the 2020 North American Science Fiction Convention!

Code of Conduct:

Before we went virtual Columbus 2020 NASFiC had adopted SOLAE's code of conduct which can be found on our website: <https://columbus2020nasfic.org/code-of-conduct-anti-harassment-policy.html>

In order to update this code for a virtual environment, we have made the following interpretations. Additional interpretations may be necessary.

Unfortunately, people get harassed for a wide range of reasons, the list in the code of conduct is not exclusive. Harassment for any reason is not acceptable. In response to harassment or other violations of this code of conduct, the committee and chair may take a variety of actions, including warnings, limits on posting or speaking, or temporary or permanent removal from the server.

Some channels are intended for specific purposes, and all spaces other than the virtual bar are expected to be family-friendly. If you are asked to move a conversation please do so.

Issues may be reported to @Moderator on the discord server or by posting in the #moderation-desk channel. On Zoom, please reach out to the Zoom host. Providing the name or discord account handle and screenshots of the concerning behavior. You can also email this information to operations@columbus2020nasfic.org.

Author Guest of Honor:

Brian Herbert

Brian Herbert, the son of famed science fiction author Frank Herbert, is the author of multiple New York Times bestsellers. He has won several literary honors and has been nominated for the highest awards in science fiction. In 2003, he published *Dreamer of Dune*, a moving biography of his father that was a Hugo Award finalist. His other acclaimed novels include *Sidney's Comet*, *Sudanna Sudanna*, *The Race for God*, and *Man of Two Worlds* (written with Frank Herbert), in addition to the Hellhole trilogy and twelve *Dune* series novels coauthored with Kevin J. Anderson. Herbert graduated from high school at age 16, and then attended U.C. Berkeley, where he earned a B.A. in Sociology.



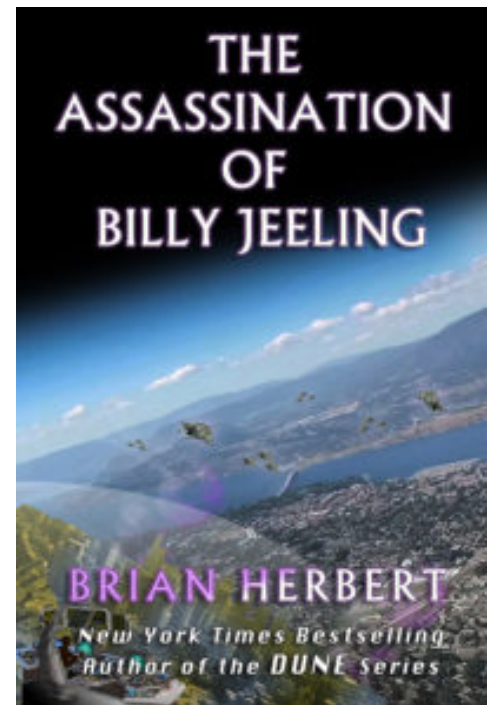
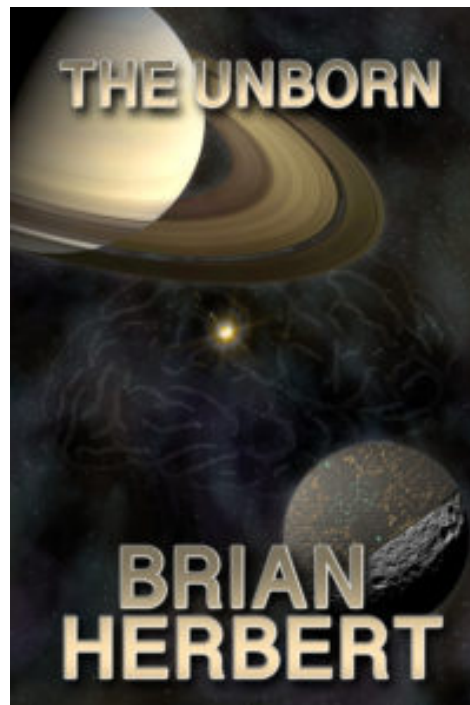
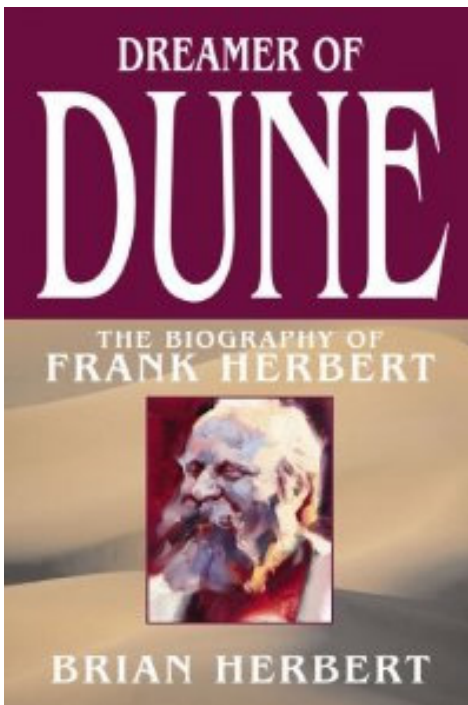
brianherbertnovels.com



twitter.com/DuneAuthor



facebook.com/brianherbertnovels



Author Guest of Honor:

Kevin J. Anderson

Kevin J. Anderson has published more than 165 books, 56 of which have been national or international bestsellers. He has written numerous novels in the Star Wars, X-Files, and Dune universes, as well as steampunk fantasy novels *Clockwork Angels* and *Clockwork Lives*, written with legendary rock drummer Neil Peart. His original works include the *Saga of Seven Suns* series, the *Terra Incognita* fantasy trilogy, and his humorous horror series featuring Dan Shamble, *Zombie PI*. He has edited numerous anthologies, written comics and games. Anderson and his wife Rebecca Moesta are the publishers of WordFire Press. His most recent novels are *Stake*, *Kill Zone*, and *Spine of the Dragon*.



wordfire.com



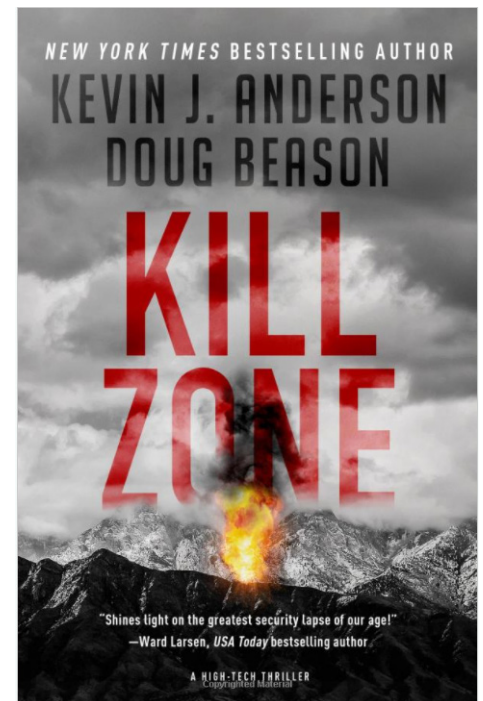
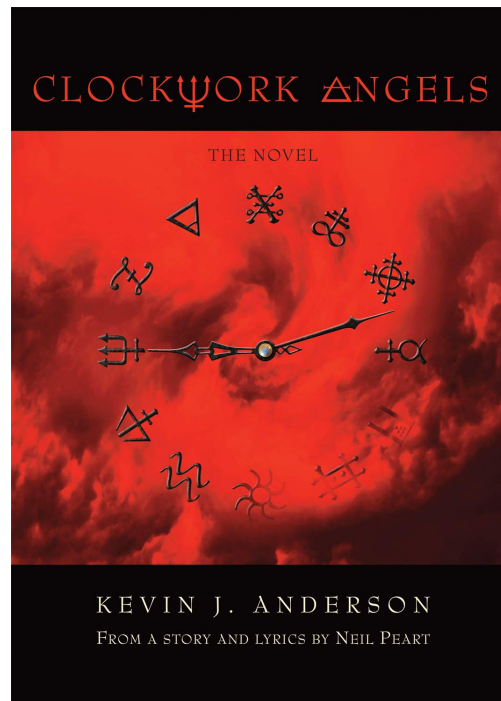
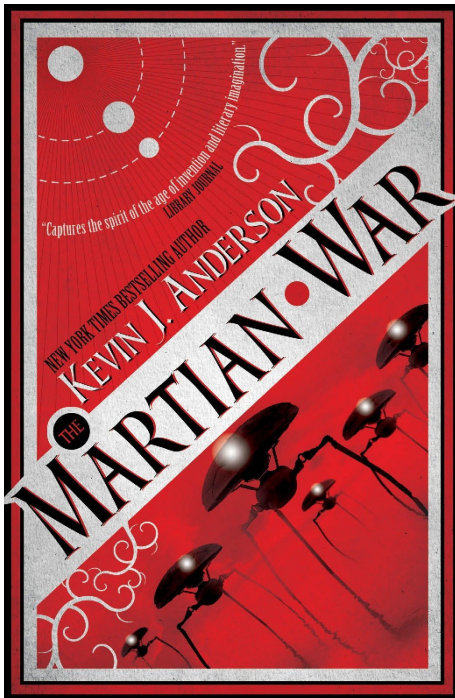
facebook.com/KJAauthor



twitter.com/TheKJA



instagram.com/TheRealKJA





Artist Guest of Honor:

Stephanie Law

Stephanie Law's images trace the boundary between dream and reality. She delves into the pictorial language of allegory, explores mythology in new contexts, chases tiny worlds of wonder from an insect's viewpoint, and highlights the beauty of growth and decay found in nature. She interweaves texture, watercolor, gold and silver leaf, ink, and creates intricate layered pieces with resin and custom designed frames. In a meld of organic patterns and familiar archetypes, her paintings pose a question on the nature of perception and beauty, and it is against this backdrop that the ephemeral guides and strange creatures dance and beckon the viewer to follow through her various series.

Archetypes, the basis for the universal appeal of mythological concepts, are one of the defining inspirations for her imagery. This is mingled with the movement of dance. Stephanie has been a dancer for almost two decades, and she uses that experience of how the human body moves and emotes to create a bridge into her artwork so that not only do the humans dance across the page, but the branches of her trees move with a sinuous grace, and the arrangement of inanimate elements has a choreographed rhythm and flow. Growing up in California, Stephanie has been surrounded by the wealth of natural inspiration all around her. The twisting boughs of live oaks from the hills near her home insinuate themselves into her paintings. The chaos of Nature's wild growth, and conversely the beauty of decay, echo in the textures and fractal patterns of her work.

She has worked in the fantasy genre for almost two decades now, and her art has appeared in various rpgs (Changeling, Blue Rose and Forgotten Realms), in ccgs (Legend of Five Rings, Magic the Gathering, Warlord, Bella Sarah), Spectrum, a line of fantasy gaming miniatures (Dark Sword Miniatures), the Shadowscapes Tarot, and the Dreamscapes series of watercolor technique books. She currently is working on an Oracle deck, and publishes her own art books under Shadowscapes Press, and exhibits in galleries in San Francisco, Seattle, and New York.



shadowscapes.com



facebook.com/Shadowscapes



twitter.com/shadowscapes



instagram.com/spmlaw



patreon.com/StephanieLaw



Editor Guest of Honor:

Christopher J. Garcia

A collection of thoughts from the man himself

I know you're supposed to get someone much cooler than yourself to write these things, but alas, I blew yet another deadline. I'm the Editor Guest of Honor, after all, which means the deadlines are mine to blow! Still, here, laying in my bed in Boulder Creek, California, typing this furiously, I think I'd probably want to have written this myself all along.

Because I'm that kind of guy.

So, a bio of me. I was born in Santa Clara, California in 1974.

I was born into fandom.

I wandered off.

I came back in 2000.

I've been here ever since.

That's what you NEED to know, but what about what I WANT you to know.

That is trickier.

Let's start with my dad, John Paul Garcia.

You see, Pops, as I called him, was a fan. He loved Star Trek, and El Santo movies, and comics, and books. He took me to my first cons, and made sure I had reference books about space and architecture and art and science and baseball and all the sorts of things that will keep a boys attention away from the literary world.

That's where Mom came in.

She was a librarian, and I would sit among the stacks at the San Jose Public Library and let my hands grab whatever had the best covers, and then read it until I was bored, and reached again. That was my pattern, and years later, 2018 to be exact, I MCed the Masquerade at Con Jose II: Con Harder on a stage that occupied the same space as those very SciFi and Fantasy stacks had occupied a couple of decades before.

When I returned to fandom, having dabbled in poetry, gambling, and filmmaking, I discovered something wonderful – Fanzines.



journeyplanet.weebly.com



facebook.com/JohnnyEponymous

My Dad had a bunch of them when I was a kid, and I had hung out with zinekids in college, but the moment I discovered creating my own fanzines was the moment it all changed. I was absolutely enthralled, and my days and nights were filled with writing, layout, art, and most just thinking how I could turn everything I was doing into something for my zines.

And it was magical!

I launched the Drink Tank in 2005, and that was the place for my brain droppings. Nothing so much as that. I would think it, become interested in it, and into the zine it would go. After a while, I met a man name of James Bacon and he became my co-editor, and that changed even more everything. We started Journey Planet. Well, James started it and I didn't say no. We managed to win a Hugo for The Drink Tank in 2011. I had something of a breakdown on-stage while we were winning.

You have your favorite author in the front row yelling “You won, Chris!” and then go up on stage to your friend, then fighting a good fight against cancer (that would be Jay Lake, who I still miss dearly) standing up there as the MC for the evening and keep your composure. It ain’t easy!

The next few years were a mid-life crisis, as you do. I got married to an amazing woman. We had two difficult, wonderful, thoroughly strange children. And Journey Planet won a Hugo for Best Fanzine.

I wasn’t there. I was at home, 5 month old JohnPaul Merlin Garcia slung over my shoulder sleeping. It was amazing watching them win and managing to not wake the little guy up with my minor breakdown.

It was a rough time for the Hugos.

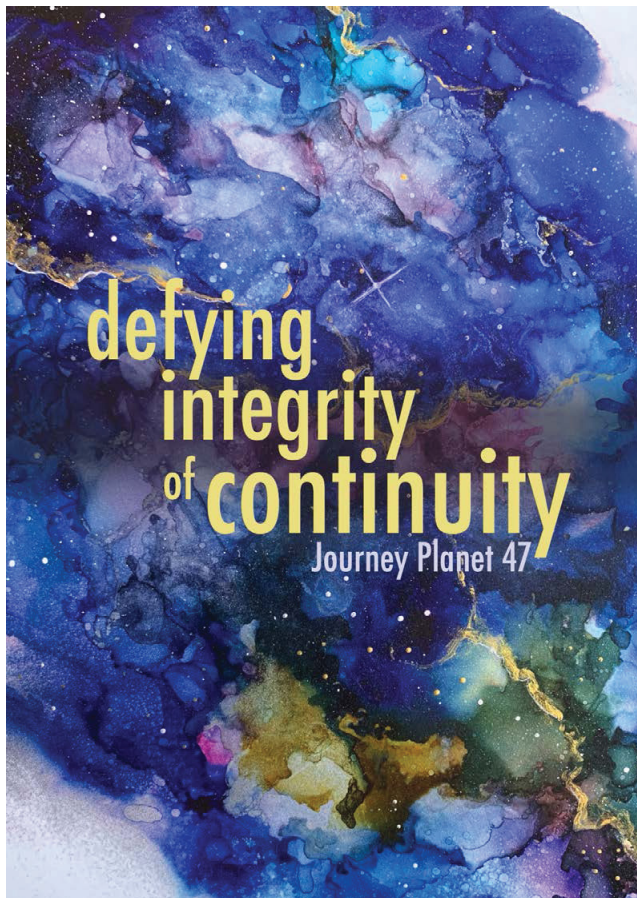
I’ve done many, many things, in addition to the zines. I was a curator for 20 years at a technology museum. I loved it. They laid me off. I ended up at an Educational Technology company, which is kinda fun!

I started podcasting about 2010, and have done about a dozen of them, notably Zodiac Speaking, about the Zodiac Killer, Three Minute Modernist, about Modern and Contemporary Art, and two literary discussion podcasts coming soon – VonneCast with Stephen Nelson, and Short Story, Short Podcast. I’ve always loved the sound of my own voice, towards which the fact I’m writing my own bio should motion, no?

I’ve covered Pro Wrestling for FanboyPlanet.com, appeared in about a dozen documentaries, produced a few, done some avant garde films, programmed film festivals, taken up painting, and mostly desperately tried to make this time I’ve got with all of y’all at least a little more fun!

These days, James and I, and a cadre of others, are still pumping out issues of Journey Planet, and after retiring The Drink Tank in 2015, I brought it back with Alissa McKersie-Wales and Chuck Surface as my co-pilots. There’s Claims Department, which is what happens when my mind is left alone too long.

And that’s me, I guess. I have stories, hundreds of them, but mostly, I just love being in and around fandom. It’s amazing to get to be a guest of honor, and while I wish I could be there to let you buy me one of those famous Columbus Calzones, this will do!



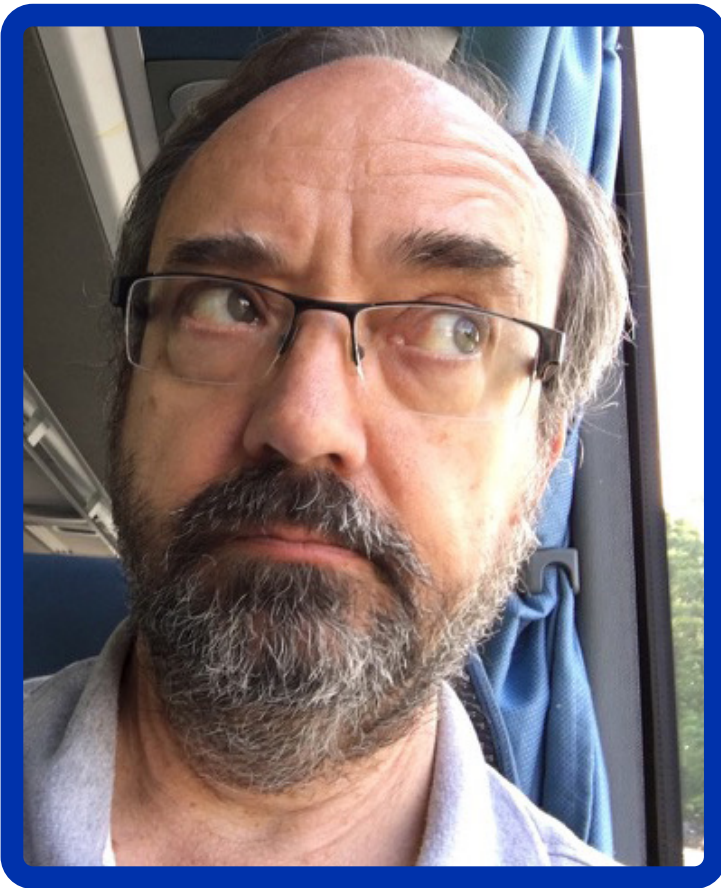
Science Guest of Honor:

Marc Millis

Marc Millis is best known for leading NASA's "Breakthrough Propulsion Physics" project (1996-2007) that explored advances in physics pertinent to the breakthrough goals of non-propellant spacedrives and faster-than-light flight. From there, he and his colleagues compiled the first scholarly book on those ambitions, "Frontiers of Propulsion Science" (AIAA 2009). In addition to identifying the next-step research toward such breakthroughs, the book describes how managing revolutionary research differs from the more traditional evolutionary research.

In 2010, Millis took an early retirement from NASA to continue these revolutionary pursuits via his nonprofit "Tau Zero Foundation." After resigning from Tau Zero in 2018, Millis re-joined the Ohio Aerospace Institute in 2019 to continue work on a NASA grant, "Breakthrough Propulsion Study," to assess options for interstellar flight. In the spring of 2017 and 2019, Millis collaborated on the "SpaceDrive Project" at Germany's Technische Universität, Dresden, which included giving a short course, "Interstellar Flight and Propulsion Physics." He also gave that course at Purdue University in the fall of 2017. His subject matter expertise spans physics, electronic engineering, cryogenic propellants, and electric space propulsion.

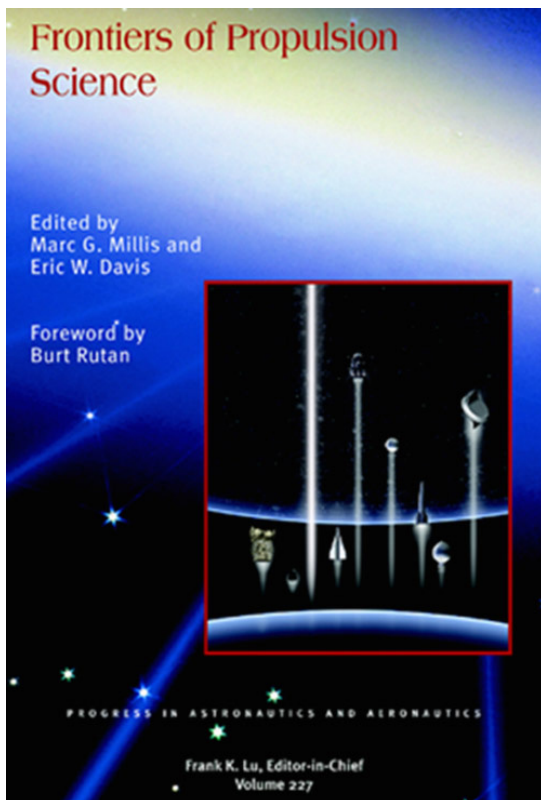
He's been featured in TV documentaries and magazine articles, conveying spaceflight prospects to general audiences. For hobbies, he's an accomplished scale model builder and has been a "maker-hacker" long before that phrase existed or was considered cool. Education includes a BS in Physics from Georgia Tech (1982), International Space University Summer Session (1998), and an MS in Physics Entrepreneurship from Case Western Reserve University (2006). You can read about Marc Millis' research on possible spacedrives at the Centauri Dreams blog here: centauri-dreams.org/2019/09/20/marc-millis-testing-possible-spacedrives/ You can also watch Marc Millis' TEDx talk Building 'Icarus' here: [youtube.com/watch?v=9doOLHeW8p4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9doOLHeW8p4)



[Marc Millis: Testing Possible Spacedrives](#)



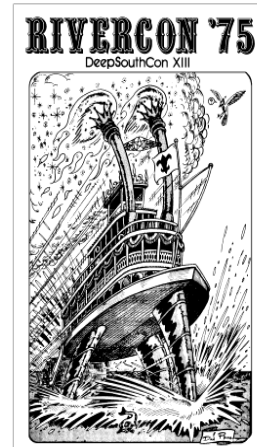
[TEDx Brussels 2010 - Building 'Icarus'](#)



Fan Guests of Honor:

Sue & Steve Francis

Sue and Steve Francis contributed greatly to the long-running success of RiverCon in Louisville, Kentucky. They are also recognized for their fan writing, and were the Down Under Fan Fund (DUFF) delegates from North America to Australia in 2008.



STEVE FRANCIS

WesterCon Burlingame, CA 1963
 DisCon 2 Washington DC 1974
 432
 36
 46 MidWestCon's in a row
 RiverCon 1983-2000

RiverCon 1975-2000
 NorthAmeriCon 1979
 ConCave 1985-2009
 L&N DSC 24 1986
 SerCon 1989
 Kubla Khan 1991-1995
 ConJuration DSC 1993
 BeachCon DSC 1996
 Son of BeachCon DSC 2000
 SunCon 1977 Operations
 IguanaCon 1978 Treasury
 Noreascon 2 1980 Treasury
 ConFederation 1986 Dealers Room Manager
 NolaCon 2 1988 Dealers Room
 Noreascon 3 1989 Bidding for 1994 Worldcon
 ConFiction 1990 Bidding for 1994 Worldcon
 Chicon V 1991 Bidding for 1994 Worldcon
 Dealers Room Manager/14 hour ballot count
 MagiCon 1992 Dealers Room/Ballot count
 LACon 3 1996 Dealers Room
 LoneStarCon 2 1997 Dealers Room Manager
 Bucconeer 1998 Dealers Room

FANNISH RESUME

First Con
First Worldcon
Number of Cons
Worldcons Attended
Longest Con Run
Cons Chaired

Cons Worked On

Worldcons Worked

SUE FRANCIS

MidWestCon Norwood, OH 1974
 MidAmeriCon Kansas City, MO 1976
 374

34
 43 MidWestCon's in a Row
 RiverCon 1983-2000
 L&N DSC 24 1986
 RiverCon 1975-2000
 NorthAmeriCon 1979
 ConCave 1983-2009
 L&N DSC 24 1986
 SerCon 1989
 Kubla Khan 1989- 1995
 ConJuration DSC 1993
 SmofCon 1993
 BeachCon DSC 1996
 SunCon 1977 Operations/Registration
 IguanaCon 1978 Registration

ConFederation 1986 Volunteer Dept Manager
 NolaCon 2 1988 Volunteers
 Noreascon 3 1989 Bidding for 1994 Worldcon
 ConFiction 1990 Bidding for 1994 Worldcon
 Chicon V 1991 Bidding for 1994 Worldcon
 Ran parties for bid
 MagiCon 1992 ConSuite Manager
 LACon 3 1996 Dealers Room
 LoneStarCon 2 1997 Events Division Head
 Bucconeer 1998 Dealers Room

AussieCon 3 1999 Registration
 Chicon 2K 2000 Fan Lounge/Ballot count
 Millennium Philcon 2001 Site selection
 ConJose' 2002 Site selection and ballot count
 TorCon 3 2003 Site selection and ballot count
 Noreascon 4 2004 Site selection & ballot count
 Interaction 2005 Dealers Room
 LACon IV 2006 Site selection & ballot count
 Denvention 3 2008 Site Selection+ballot count
 Anticipation 2009 Site Selection+Ballot count
 Aussiecon 4 2010 Dealers Room Manager

Renovation 2011 Green Room
 LoneStarCon3 2013 Dealers Room Manager
 Loncon3 2014 First Fandom Award Ceremony
 Sasquan 2015 First Fandom Award Ceremony
 MidAmeriCon2 2016 First Fandom Awards
 Worldcon 76 2018 First Fandom Awards
 Xanadu 1985 Nashville TN
 ConTact 1988 Evansville IN
 PhoenixCon 1990 Atlanta GA
 MidSouthCon 1991 Memphis TN
 Marcon 1992 Columbus OH
 JoPhan Family Reunion 1992 Birmingham AL
 Kubla Khan DSC 1995 Nashville TN
 InConJunction 2000 Indianapolis IN
 ConGlomeration 2001 Clarksville IN
 ConStellation 2001 Huntsville AL
 ConQuesT 35 2004 Kansas City MO
 ConCave 32 2011 Bowling Green KY
 Amateur video contest at Kubla Khan 1983
 Rebel PhoenixCon DSC 1992
 Rubble Tenacity DSC 2001
 Big Heart Millennium Philcon 2001
 DUFF 2008
 9.5
 Swancon 33 Perth, Western Australia

Worldcons worked cont.

AussieCon 3 1999 Convention merchandise
 Chicon 2K 2000 Fan Lounge
 Millennium Philcon 2001 Green Room and
 UK bid party and table
 ConJose' 2002 UK bid table and site selection
 TorCon 3 2003 Interaction membership table
 Noreascon 4 2004 Green Room & Interaction
 Interaction 2005 Green Room
 LACon IV 2006 Green Room
 DUFF table
 Reno in 2011 Bid Table
 A4 2010 Registration/Green Room
 Renovation 2011 Green Room
 LoneStarCon3 2013 Green Room
 Loncon3 2014 Big Heart Award Ceremony
 Sasquan 2015 Big Heart Award Ceremony
 MidAmericon2 2016 Big Heart Award
 Worldcon 76 2018 Big Heart Award

Fan Guest of Honor

ConTact 1988 Evansville IN
 PhoenixCon 1990 Atlanta GA

Marcon 1992 Columbus OH
 JoPhan Family Reunion 1992 Birmingham AL
 Kubla Khan DSC 1995 Nashville TN
 InConJunction 2000 Indianapolis IN
 ConGlomeration 2001 Clarksville IN
 ConStellation 2001 Huntsville AL
 ConQuesT 35 2004 Kansas City MO
 ConCave 32 2011 Bowling Green KY

Awards Received

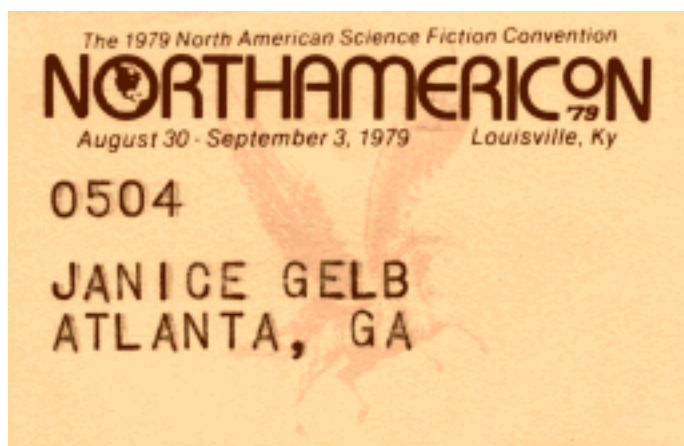
Rebel PhoenixCon DSC 1992
 Rubble Tenacity DSC 2001
 Big Heart Millennium Philcon 2001
 DUFF 3

Average Cons/year

8.6

Furthest Travel to Con

Swancon 33 Perth, Western Australia



Toastmaster and Filker:

Tom Smith

It has been said that “music makes us a family.” Okay, then: Tom Smith is the fat hippie uncle.

Weird Al with more books; Jonathan Coulton with more jokes; George Carlin with more Cthulhu. Tom is not your ordinary comedy musician. With the lyrical complexity of Ashman and Sondheim, the vocal fireworks of Meat Loaf, the comedic timing of Robin Williams, and the dynamic physique of the Skipper from Gilligan’s Island, the only thing he won’t do is be boring.

The first recording artist to be featured on both NPR’s Sound and Spirit and The Dr. Demento Show, and writer of the official chantey for Talk Like A Pirate Day, Tom has been praised by such diverse folk as singer/songwriter Christine Lavin, author Larry Niven, and webcomic creator Randy Milholland. He has over two dozen albums so far, blending comedy, tragedy, horror, science fiction, fantasy, romance, swashbuckling adventure, video games, popular culture, politics, religion, and the occasional recipe with virtually every genre of music you can imagine.

A mainstay at sf/fantasy conventions throughout the Midwest and across the country, Tom arranges and records at home, blending MIDI, loops, and all manner of software gadgetry... but on stage, it’s just him and his guitar, in a high-energy performance filled with laughter, shtick, and really, really bad puns.

If you have heard Tom live, you know what we’re talking about. If not... go. Brace yourself. And trust us: it’ll be a whole lot of fun.

Visit Tom online at tomsmith.bandcamp.com and [facebook.com/filkertom](https://www.facebook.com/filkertom)



tomsmithonline.com



[facebook.com/filkertom](https://www.facebook.com/filkertom)

SONGS OF **THE FUMP**
THE FUNNY MUSIC PROJECT

VOL. 1



Ring of Fire Guest:

Eric Flint

Eric Flint's writing career began with the novel *Mother of Demons*, published in 1997. With David Drake, he has collaborated on the six novels in the Belisarius series (*An Oblique Approach*, *In the Heart of Darkness*, *Destiny's Shield*, *Fortune's Stroke*, *The Tide of Victory* and *The Dance of Time*), as well as a novel entitled *The Tyrant*. His alternate history novel *1632* was published in 2000, followed by many sequels, several of which made the *New York Times* bestselling list. In addition to the twenty-five novels he has written in the *1632* series, he has edited twelve anthologies of short fiction set in that universe.

He is the publisher of Ring of Fire Press, which has so far published over sixty books, as well as the *Grantville Gazette*, a bi-monthly electronic magazine. The *Gazette* is mostly devoted to the *1632* series but also publishes general science fiction and fantasy stories. As of now, ninety issues have been produced since 2007.

Flint has co-authored a number of SF adventure novels with Dave Freer, including *Rats, Bats & Vats*, *The Rats, the Bats, and the Ugly*, and *Pyramid Scheme*. His comic fantasy novels *The Philosophical Strangler* and *Forward the Mage* came out in May of 2001 and March of 2002. He is also working on a major fantasy series with Mercedes Lackey and Dave Freer, the first four volumes of which are *The Shadow of the Lion*, *This Rough Magic*, *Much Fall of Blood*, *Burdens of the Dead* and *All the Plagues of Hell*.

Flint is also working on several other ongoing projects: —With David Weber on a series of novels set in Weber's Honor Harrington universe. The first three of these, *Crown of Slaves*, *Torch of Freedom* and *Cauldron of Ghosts*, have already appeared.

—A new alternate history series taking place in Jacksonian America, the first two volumes of which have already appeared: *1812: The Rivers of War* and *1824: The Arkansas War*.

—Further volumes in the *Joe's World* series, which began with *The Philosophical Strangler* and *Forward the Mage*.

—Hard SF adventure novels with Ryk Spoor, set in the universe they created in the *Bemmie* trilogy (*Boundary*, *Threshold* and *Portal*), which include *Castaway Planet*, *Castaway Odyssey* and *Castaway Resolution*.



ericflint.net



facebook.com/EricFlint1632

-Two SF adventure volumes with K.D. Wentworth, *The Course of Empire* and *The Crucible of Empire*. He has now finished the third volume in the series, *The Span of Empire*, with David Carrico, which was published in September of 2016.

In addition to his own writing, Flint is the editor of several series reissuing the works of past SF authors. These include James H. Schmitz, Keith Laumer, Christopher Anvil, Murray Leinster, Randall Garrett, Tom Godwin and Howard L. Myers. He was also the editor of the online science fiction and fantasy magazine, *Jim Baen's Universe*.

Flint graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1968, and later received a masters degree in history from the same university. Despite his academic credentials, Flint spent the next quarter of a century as an activist in the American trade union movement, working as a longshoreman, truck driver, auto worker, steel worker, oil worker, meatpacker, glassblower and machinist. He has lived at various times in California, Michigan, West Virginia, Alabama, Ohio, and Illinois. He now lives in northwest Indiana with his wife Lucille.



**Mike Resnick:
In Memoriam
By Laura Resnick**

“They say his father was a comet and his mother a cosmic wind, that he juggles planets as if they were feathers and wrestles with black holes just to work up an appetite.”

—Mike Resnick (1942-2020), *Santiago*

My father died on January 9, after nearly a year of constantly being in and out of the hospital. He chose to keep the severity of his illnesses private, mostly because he was sure, right up until the end, that he’d recover and live for years. And you know what? Good for him—I was glad not to see him go through Anger, Bargaining, and Depression—the traditional stages of grief between Denial and Acceptance.

But I knew this meant that a lot of people who would have liked to say goodbye would be shocked when I announced his death.

So after Pop’s final exit, I drove my mom home from the hospice center in the middle of that January night, then I sat down at my dad’s keyboard, with my grieving mother—his partner for almost 60 years—sitting near me, and started writing the news of his death on his Facebook page. I remember thinking if ever there was a time when I needed to get something exactly right on my first draft, this was it.

Within minutes of posting, I saw reactions and announcements swirling around Facebook in multiple languages. In the hours, days, and weeks that followed, there was a deluge of very moving public tributes to my father, as well as dozens of heartwarming private emails, cards, and phone calls.

My father was one of the most outstanding sf/f writers of his generation. He holds the record for the most Hugo Award nominations of any writer in science fiction history, having been nominated 37 times, and he won five times. He was nominated 11 times for a Nebula Award, winning once. He additionally won or was nominated for awards in Japan, Australia, Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, and Poland.

He was a prolific writer, releasing about 70 novels and hundreds of works of short fiction during his career, as well as hundreds of articles and essays. He was also a prolific editor, editing more than 40 short fiction anthologies over the years. Additionally, he was the founding editor of *Galaxy's Edge*, a short fiction magazine he continued working on until his death. Announcing his passing, the magazine's publisher, Shahid Mahmud, wrote, "I have lost my mentor, my partner and a very good friend."

One of Pop's proudest achievements in his later years was cultivating new talent in the genre. Upon learning of his death, John Scalzi wrote, "What I think you will see most in the tributes that will be coming out about him in the next few days is the fact he was a teacher and mentor to a great number of writers in the science fiction community, sharing advice about writing and the writing life over decades. There are working writers today who unironically think of themselves as 'Mike's children,' which is a testament to his influence."

My dad loved writing, science fiction, and sf/f fandom passionately, and he lived his dream by becoming an integral part of that world and experiencing significant recognition for his work.

But to me, he was, well, just my dad.

My dad thought the Andrews Sisters performed the last good pop music ever recorded. He loved dogs, hated vegetables, and was ambivalent about cats. He was severely color-blind, had flat feet, and was so incompetent in the kitchen he could barely make a peanut butter sandwich (his favorite food). He was obsessed with horse racing, as well as African history, culture, and wildlife.

My dad was completely devoted to my mom, and he wanted his cremated ashes to be mingled with hers someday (which I will eventually do).

And I knew in mid-December that my dad wasn't going to make it, because that's when he asked me to finish writing his final novel for him, *Lord of Nightmares*, the third book of an urban fantasy trilogy.

He had always wanted to collaborate with me. This was a perpetual refrain for years. He co-authored many stories and books with other writers, and he kept asking me to collaborate with him. I always refused, because co-writing anything with my dad would be bad for family harmony and my treasured sanity.

Years ago, I did agree to write the introduction to a collection of his co-authored short stories, *With A Little Help From My Friends*. As soon as I said yes, he started telling me exactly what he wanted me to write.

"This is why I will never collaborate with you," I told him. "THIS."

But in response to my father's dying request, I agreed to finish writing *Lord of Nightmares*. He left the book about half done, and for the remainder of the novel, there's a set of notes which, of course, tell me exactly what to write.

Cheers, old man—you got your way, after all. So go in peace.

* * *

Virtual Art Show

During the convention, the Online Art Show will be accessible via <https://columbus2020nasfic.org/art-show-at-con.html>.

The participating artists are listed below.

Melanie Unruh

Melanie is a Denver-area artist and maker, specializing in decorative and functional pottery, and fantasy and historical sartorial arts. A life-long fan of science fiction and fantasy literature, alternate worlds and cultures influence the styles and themes of her art. Melanie is an instigator for the Denver Victorian & Steampunk Society.

Raymond VanTilburg

I began selling paintings and drawings in the science fiction market at my first convention, Inconjunction in 1983. The next year I began selling my art on t-shirts, Marcon in Columbus was the first convention that I was selling my art on t-shirts. Many people knew me as “that guy who airbrushes t-shirts” in the dealers room. I continue to produce art for t-shirts at my company OffWorld Designs. I started showing and selling originals a few years ago in Science Fiction at any convention art shows that I attend.



reddit.com/user/Aircool66



etsy.com/shop/artofrayvantilburg



facebook.com/Art-of-Raymond-VanTilburg-293551964125127



instagram.com/aircool66

Espaca Sheriff

Espaca is a Californian living in the UK. She’s been participating in art shows and contributing illos to fanzines for a couple of decades now, but only recently got interested in hand-painted fans.



instagram.com/aircool66

Rachel Quinlan

Rachel Quinlan is an award-winning fantasy artist, based in Saint Clair Shores, Michigan. She graduated in 2001 from Michigan State University with a B.F.A. in Studio Art. Working primarily in inks, watercolor, gouache and graphite, she crafts images that are immersive, mysterious, and magical. Her work is heavily influenced by illustrators from the Golden Age and she enjoys exploring themes related to nature, fairy tales, folk lore, mythology and anything strange or unusual.



RachelQuinlan.com

Amanda Makepeace

Amanda Makepeace is a Chesley Award winning illustrator, working in both digital and traditional mediums. Through her art she explores mythology, magical beings, our connection to the planet and even distant worlds. She is the co-founder of the Bird Whisperer Project, a monthly art challenge focused on spreading the love of birds and art making. Amanda's art has appeared in ENnie award-winning games and on the covers popular independent novels and anthologies. She is a regular at Fantasy and SciFi conventions in the southeast.



AmandaMakepeace.com

Debbie Hughes

Debbie Hughes, a graduate of Furman University and the grand-daughter of the Impressionist Painter Hildegard Hamilton, is a published illustrator in the SF and Fantasy field with over 200 published works. Debbie has worked for Easton Press, Amazing Stories, Baen Books, WOC, Science Fiction Age Magazine, Paramount Interactive and many more. Her work has been exhibited at SF conventions in the U.S. and abroad and she has been the Artist Guest of Honor at over 14 Conventions. Currently, Debbie has concentrated on her own ideas: a combination of myths, fairy tales and enigmatic themes and elements born out of her years doing illustration. Recently, Debbie was inducted in the National Association of Women Artists and exhibits her work in NYC. Her contribution to Science Fiction is listed in: Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists of the Twentieth Century: A Biographical Dictionary.



DebbieHughes.com

Wendy Van Camp

Wendy Van Camp writes science fiction, regency romance, and poetry. Her writing blog No Wasted Ink features essays about the craft of writing, poetry, and author interviews. Wendy's short stories and poems have appeared in science fiction magazines such as "Quantum Visions", "Scifaikuest", and "Far Horizons". She has won Honorable Mention at the Writers of the Future Contest and her poetry has been nominated for an Elgin Award. Her books and poetry collections can be found on Amazon. Wendy also illustrates her original poetry as limited edition art prints.



NoWastedInk.com

Etsy etsy.com/shop/NoWastedInk

Johnna Klukas

Johnna Klukas creates work on science, science fiction and fantasy themes in mixed media, primarily wood.



TrainedTermites.com

SunnyJim Morgan

SunnyJim Morgan is an artist and bespoke shoemaker from Olympia, Washington. Working in a wide variety of mediums, Jim has lately been exploring leatherworking. Supervised by a trio of housecats, and inspired by a life long love of The Lord of the Rings, Anne McCaffrey, and Star Wars, basically, "I make stuff."

Etsy etsy.com/shop/HammerFairy

Kendra Tornheim

Kendra Tornheim is a software engineer and a jewelry artist who uses primarily wire, antique keys, and brass stampings hand-colored in a process that mimics the brilliant colors of enamels without using a kiln. Kendra's work focuses on pendants, earrings, and hair jewelry with a fantasy or steampunk flavor, and continues to incorporate new techniques, most recently hand-stamped text.

Etsy etsy.com/shop/SilverOwlCreations



facebook.com/SilverOwlCreations

Julie Faith McMurray

From early in my childhood I had a passion for art and wanted to create art but sadly I could not draw. Even though I could not draw I would inspire other to create art through my volunteer work. At the local community centre, I would volunteer to work with children that needed external help to create. Be it blind or death, unable to walk or move, I would help children my age to paint pictures, build structures create music and make textured art to touch and feel. They loved it.

I discovered art through various avenues be it museums & galleries and books or via my Humanities studies with the OU and my Japanese, Language, History and Cultural studies with Birkbeck. The Humanities course taught me how to study the history of art and write an essay or study the Unwitting testimonies of Art. My Japanese studies I learned about the history of art in many forms and also how to write over 400 Kanji. After a Japanese Lady on a train leaned over to her son and asked him to compliment me on my Japanese writing skills, I realised that I had a skill for art. She said "Your writing is so natural like a Japanese person". I delighted to hear and thanked her humbly.

Over the last 26 years I have been volunteering at Book Conferences and setting up art shows in galleries. The book conferences were mostly science fiction and fantasy although the art did not need to be themed. In fact, the art was wide ranging. I had exhibits of Jewellery, Wood Sculptures, 3D models, Fine art and Illustrative art. Artists from all over the world and different background and education would come to exhibit. The subjects exhibited covered all genres from gothic, space, portrait art to contemporary, modern and political art. I would walk around the exhibits and feel so inspired.

On the 1st Feb 2017 Neil McChrystal invited to do his 28day drawing challenge. Since then I have been doing a piece of art every day. Being able to create has given me so much happiness and Joy."

website1: "[Etsy Shop](<https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/SnowDragonsArt?ref=seller-platform-mcnav>)"

website2: "[SnowDragonsArt Website](<https://snowdragonsart.wordpress.com/>)"

Etsy etsy.com/uk/shop/SnowDragonsArt



SnowDragonsArt.wordpress.com

Dianita

Dianita is a fantasy artist born in Veracruz, Mexico and currently working and living in Texas. In her work she explores a world she'd love to live in, where humans and nature live in harmony and from time to time she likes to portray more personal themes, all in fantasy settings. She prefers working with traditional media being her favorites graphite, acrylics and oils. She's a member of the Mexicanx Initiative and has worked with private clients and book cover and interior illustrations.



facebook.com/dianitaart



twitter.com/dianita_art



instagram.com/dianita_art



patreon.com/artbydianita



artbydianita.com/shop

Sara Felix

Sara Felix is a two time Hugo finalist and Hugo base creator. She is the president of ASFA (The Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy artists). A mixed media artist she works primarily in inks and resin. She is a tiara queen and does weekly tiara giveaways on Concellation on Facebook.



sarafelix.com

Virtual Dealer Room

During the convention, the Online Dealer Room will be accessible via <https://columbus2020nasfic.org/dealers-at-con.html>.

Many dealers will be available to chat with you on Saturday, August 22 from 11 to 3 EDT via our Discord server.

The participating dealers are listed below.

Angelwear Creations

Angela Jones-Parker

Angelwear has your pretty shiny things! Take a look at my selection online!

Etsy etsy.com/shop/AngelwearCreations



pinterest.com/angelwear01



facebook.com/AngelwearCreations

Blackbird Books

Tim Caw

We feature Apocalypse, Post-Apocalypse, Dystopia, Horror, Sci-Fi, Anthology



amazon.com/Timothy-Caw/e/B07997W7X7

City of Dreaming Pylons

Clare Boothby

Hand-made jewellery and notebooks from Cambridge UK.

Commissions welcome!

Etsy etsy.com/uk/shop/CityOfDreamingPylons

Cogitation Zone

Lisa Hertel

Custom pottery, yarn bowls, coasters, pet portraits, amulets, tech sculpture, and more.



cogitation.org

Crystal's Idyll

Crystal Taggart

Your source for unique fantasy accouterments.



crystalsidyll.com

Etsy etsy.com/shop/crystalsidyll

The Dragon's Lair / Plushie Zoo**Edward Trachtenberg**

Huge selection of plush from aardvark to zebra

plushiezoo.biz**ESM Books****Cary Meriwether**

Online bookstore specializing in signed SF, Fantasy, and Mystery books

 ebay.com/str/esmbooks**Eye-Deas Fantasy Cat Art****Esther Reese**

Fantasy art prints featuring cats and dragons.

Fantasycatart.com etsy.com/shop/EYEDEAS**Fantanimals****Judy Peterson**

Puzzles, dragons, puzzles, dinosaurs, puzzles, animals, and more puzzles

fantanimals.com**FIAWOL Books****Tim Illingworth**

Pre-loved sf and fantasy books all at one low price.

fiawol-books.square.site/**Lora Gray, Artist****Lora Gray**

Dark fantasy and science fiction paintings, drawings and illustrations.

deviantart.com/loragrays/shop/prints**Ms. Kittys Closet****Carolyn Perkins**

Ms. Kitty's Closet creates quality faux fur accessories including various animal ears, tails, hoods in cuffs in a variety of style, colors and patterns.

 etsy.com/shop/mskittyscloset/**Paper Angel Press****Steven Radecki**

To bring new works of fiction and art to light. To give people a chance to realize their dreams.

paperangelpress.com

OffWorld Designs, Inc.

We specialize in original designed t-shirts for fans of Gaming, Fantasy, Geek Culture and more fandoms. We have Messenger Bags, Polo Shirts, Lapel Pins, Baseball Hats, to name a few items. We do our own screen printing & embroidery in house, to assure a quality product that will be enjoyed for years to come. Our motto: The Best T-Shirts in Fandom! Says it all.



offworlddesigns.com



<https://www.facebook.com/Art-of-Raymond-VanTilburg-293551964125127>



twitter.com/offworlddesigns



[instagram.com/aircool66/](https://www.instagram.com/aircool66/)

Ravensdaughter Designs - Celtic Art Store

Erin Rado

Mindfulness Art - Celtic Mandalynths and Finger Labyrinths. "Gray Warrior" Fantasy-Action Novel



CelticArtStore.net

Ravenwing Wearable Art

Darlene Ney

I make handmade jewelry including ear cuffs, near wraps, earrings, and feather hair ornaments

Etsy [ravenwingwearableart.etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/ravenwingwearableart)

Shooting Star Press

Cath Brinkley

Telling stories, connecting people, building communities, one world at a time.



ShootingStar.pub

Silicon Valley Authors

Valerie Frankel

We're all on Bookshop and Amazon! C. Sanford Lowe, G. David Nordley, Valerie Estelle Frankel, Sandra Saidak, J. Malcom Stewart, Sarah Stegall. Horror, fantasy, parodies, prehistoric goddess fiction, science fiction with actual physics & guides to Thrones, Star Wars, Buffy, Dr Who...



vefrankel.wordpress.com/silicon-valley-authors

Stephen B. Pearl

Stephen Pearl

Speculative fiction novels and anthologies featuring the work of Stephen B. Pearl. \n\nPost-apocalyptic, Urban fantasy, Norse Fantasy, and more.



[amazon.com/author/stephenpearl](https://www.amazon.com/author/stephenpearl)

Zumaya Publications LLC

Elizabeth Burton

Zumaya Publications: Supporting Irresponsible Reading for 20 Years



zumayapublications.com/ebook-store

Virtual Programming

All times Eastern Daylight Time

Friday, 12:00pm-6:00pm

Day	Call Time	Start	End	Room	Title
FRIDAY	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	12:50 PM	Scioto Even	Writing Real History Into Fictional Pasts
FRIDAY	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	12:50 PM	Olentangy Even	Youth & YA Fiction: Who's Reading Who?
FRIDAY	11:50 PM	12:00 PM	12:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Elsa Sjunneson
FRIDAY	12:20 PM	12:30 PM	12:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Phoebe North
FRIDAY	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	1:50 PM	Scioto Odd	COVID-FX: Staying Connected
FRIDAY	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	1:50 PM	Olentangy Odd	Alternative Publishing Panel
FRIDAY	12:50 PM	1:00 PM	1:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) John Wiswell
FRIDAY	1:20 PM	1:30 PM	1:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Jim C. Hines
FRIDAY	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:50 PM	Scioto Even	How Game Titles Work
FRIDAY	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:50 PM	Olentangy Even	Isaac Asimov at 100
FRIDAY	1:50 PM	2:00 PM	2:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Stephen Leigh
FRIDAY	2:20 PM	2:30 PM	2:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Kathryn Sullivan
FRIDAY	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:50 PM	Auditorium Odd	Opening Ceremonies
FRIDAY	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:50 PM	Scioto Even	Nuts & Bolts: Running a Non-Profit Lit Organization
FRIDAY	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:50 PM	Olentangy Even	Fandom Check-In: Where Are We At?
FRIDAY	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:20 PM	Auditorium Even	Concert: Chris Conway
FRIDAY	3:50 PM	4:00 PM	4:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Ada Palmer
FRIDAY	4:30 PM	5:00 PM	5:50 PM	Scioto Odd	COVID-FX: Selling Your Wares
FRIDAY	4:30 PM	5:00 PM	5:50 PM	Olentangy Odd	COVID-FX: Quarantine & the Future of Urban Fantasy
FRIDAY	4:30 PM	5:00 PM	5:50 PM	Auditorium Odd	Concert: Roberta Rogow
FRIDAY	4:30 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	Readings/No Stream	Office Hours with Jason Sanford (1st Hour)
FRIDAY	5:30 PM	6:00 PM	6:50 PM	Scioto Even	SF/F Artists Roundtable
FRIDAY	5:30 PM	6:00 PM	6:50 PM	Olentangy Even	Weekend Science Update

Virtual Programming

All times Eastern Daylight Time

Friday, 6:00pm-10:30pm

Day	Call Time	Start	End	Room	Title
FRIDAY	5:30 PM	6:00 PM	6:50 PM	Auditorium Even	Concert: Tom Smith
FRIDAY		6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Readings/No Strear	Office Hours with Jason Sanford (2nd Hour)
FRIDAY	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	7:50 PM	Scioto Odd	Librarians, Booksellers, Collectors, Oh My!
FRIDAY	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	7:50 PM	Olentangy Odd	Imaginary Book Club
FRIDAY	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	8:50 PM	Auditorium Odd	Mike Resnick Memorial
FRIDAY	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	10:00 PM	Kaffeeklatsches	Columbus 2020 NASFiC Room Parties
FRIDAY	7:20 PM	7:30 PM	7:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Laurence Raphael Brothers
FRIDAY	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:50 PM	Scioto Even	
FRIDAY	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:50 PM	Olentangy Even	BIPOC Roundtable
FRIDAY	7:50 PM	8:00 PM	8:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Michael Underwood
FRIDAY	8:20 PM	8:30 PM	8:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Jude-Marie Green
FRIDAY	8:30 PM	9:00 PM	9:50 PM	Scioto Odd	Emergent Gameplay
FRIDAY	8:30 PM	9:00 PM	9:50 PM	Olentangy Odd	Lessons Not Learned: The Future of Dystopian & Utopian Stories
FRIDAY	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	12:00 AM	Music Room	Open Filk with Tom Smith
FRIDAY	8:50 PM	9:00 PM	9:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Cat Rambo
FRIDAY	9:20 PM	9:30 PM	9:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Leonard Richardson
FRIDAY	9:30 PM	10:00 PM	10:50 PM	Scioto Even	Fantasy for YA vs Adults
FRIDAY	9:30 PM	10:00 PM	10:50 PM	Olentangy Even	COVID-FX: Horror Beyond 2020
FRIDAY	9:50 PM	10:00 PM	10:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Eboni Dunbar
FRIDAY	10:20 PM	10:30 PM	10:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Phoebe Barton

Virtual Programming

All times Eastern Daylight Time

Saturday, 10:00am-2:00pm

Day	Call Time	Start	End	Room	Title
SATURDAY	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:50 AM	Scioto Even	Surveillance & Society in SF
SATURDAY	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:50 AM	Olentangy Even	COVID-FX Writing & Reading About Pandemics During a Pandemic
SATURDAY	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:50 AM	Auditorium Even	Big Heart Award
SATURDAY	9:50 AM	10:00 AM	10:20 AM	Readings	(Reading) Daniel M. Kimmel
SATURDAY	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:50 AM	Kaffeeklatsches	Kaffeeklatsch with Marc Millis
SATURDAY	10:20 AM	10:30 AM	10:50 AM	Readings	(Reading)
SATURDAY	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:50 AM	Scioto Odd	Worldbuilding: Rituals and Symbols
SATURDAY	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:50 AM	Olentangy Odd	The Future of Anthologies
SATURDAY	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:50 AM	Auditorium Odd	Filk History & Stories
SATURDAY	10:50 AM	11:00 AM	11:20 AM	Readings	(Reading) Sheree Renée Thomas
SATURDAY	11:20 AM	11:30 AM	11:50 AM	Readings	(Reading) Alaya Dawn Johnson
SATURDAY	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	12:50 PM	Scioto Even	Women of a Certain Age: Writing Older Women Protagonists
SATURDAY	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	12:50 PM	Olentangy Even	The Ever-Expanding Universe of New Space Opera
SATURDAY	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	12:50 PM	Auditorium Even	Chesley Award Nominee Showcase
SATURDAY	11:50 AM	12:00 PM	12:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Danian Darrell Jerry
SATURDAY	12:20 PM	12:30 PM	12:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Valjeanne Jeffers
SATURDAY	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	1:50 PM	Scioto Odd	Favorite Queer SF/F
SATURDAY	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	1:50 PM	Olentangy Odd	Today in Audio Dramas!
SATURDAY	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	1:30 PM	Auditorium Odd	Prometheus Awards' 40th Anniversary Ceremony
SATURDAY	12:50 PM	1:00 PM	1:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Broad Universe Rapid Fire Reading
SATURDAY	12:45 PM	1:00 PM	1:50 PM	Music Room	Chantey Sing
SATURDAY	12:30 PM	1:30 PM	2:20 PM	Auditorium Odd	Visions of SF, Liberty, Human Rights: The Prometheus Awards over Four Decades, from F. Paul Wilson and Robert Heinlein to Today
SATURDAY	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:50 PM	Scioto Even	If Aliens Came To Earth

Virtual Programming

All times Eastern Daylight Time

Saturday, 2:00pm-6:30pm

Day	Call Time	Start	End	Room	Title
SATURDAY	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:50 PM	Olentangy Even	Roots in Two Places: Writing from a Dual Culture Experience
SATURDAY	1:50 PM	2:00 PM	2:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Caitlin Starling
SATURDAY	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	2:50 PM	Auditorium Even	Concert: Marilisa Valtazanou
SATURDAY	2:20 PM	2:30 PM	2:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Tobias S. Buckell
SATURDAY	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:50 PM	Scioto Odd	Future Worldcon Q&A
SATURDAY	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:50 PM	Olentangy Odd	The Legal Implications of Monster Hunting
SATURDAY	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:50 PM	Auditorium Odd	Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson: In conversation
SATURDAY	2:45 PM	3:00 PM	5:50 PM	Music Room	Open Filk
SATURDAY	2:50 PM	3:00 PM	3:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Mary Anne Mohanraj
SATURDAY	3:20 PM	3:30 PM	3:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Alma Alexander
SATURDAY	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:50 PM	Scioto Even	Common Threads: Game Writers & Designers
SATURDAY	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:50 PM	Olentangy Even	Deconstructing the Novella*
SATURDAY	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:50 PM	Auditorium Even	Turning Science Fiction into the Beginnings of Science
SATURDAY	3:50 PM	4:00 PM	4:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Vikram Paralkar
SATURDAY	4:20 PM	4:30 PM	4:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Silvia Moreno-Garcia
SATURDAY	4:30 PM	5:00 PM	5:50 PM	Scioto Odd	Information, Please!
SATURDAY	4:30 PM	5:00 PM	5:50 PM	Olentangy Odd	Worldbuilding: Innovations in Leadership & Governance
SATURDAY	4:30 PM	5:00 PM	5:50 PM	Auditorium Odd	What's Happening with Ring of Fire
SATURDAY	4:50 PM	5:00 PM	5:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Leigh Harlen
SATURDAY	5:20 PM	5:30 PM	5:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Wendy Van Camp
SATURDAY	5:30 PM	6:00 PM	6:50 PM	Scioto Even	Feminist Fables & Fairy Tales
SATURDAY	5:30 PM	6:00 PM	6:50 PM	Olentangy Even	COVID-FX: Film & Television Industries
SATURDAY	5:30 PM	6:00 PM	6:50 PM	Auditorium Even	Stories of RiverCon
SATURDAY	5:45 PM	6:00 PM	6:50 PM	Music Room	Online-Performance Workshop
SATURDAY	5:50 PM	6:00 PM	6:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Raven Oak
SATURDAY	6:20 PM	6:30 PM	6:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) dave ring

Virtual Programming

All times Eastern Daylight Time
Saturday, 7:00pm-11:00pm

Day	Call Time	Start	End	Room	Title
SATURDAY	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	7:50 PM	Scioto Odd	Myths & Legends: Culture Shifts & Societal Transformation
SATURDAY	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	7:50 PM	Olentangy Odd	The Power of Love: The Intersection of Speculative Fiction and Romance
SATURDAY	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	7:50 PM	Auditorium Odd	Concert: Tom Smith
SATURDAY	6:50 PM	7:00 PM	7:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Andrea Hairston
SATURDAY	7:20 PM	7:30 PM	7:50 PM	Readings	(Reading)
SATURDAY	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	10:00 PM	Kaffeeklatsches	Columbus 2020 NASFiC Room Parties
SATURDAY	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:50 PM	Scioto Even	Writers Helping Writers
SATURDAY	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:50 PM	Olentangy Even	Weathering the Storm: Creating in Times of Trouble
SATURDAY	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:50 PM	Auditorium Even	Ring of Fire Event
SATURDAY	7:50 PM	8:00 PM	8:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Premee Mohamed
SATURDAY	8:20 PM	8:30 PM	8:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Jennifer Blackstream
SATURDAY	8:30 PM	9:00 PM	9:50 PM	Scioto Odd	Contemporary Gothic Fiction
SATURDAY	8:30 PM	9:00 PM	9:50 PM	Olentangy Odd	Steampunk Lessons for a Post-Fossil Fuel Future
SATURDAY	8:50 PM	9:00 PM	9:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Steven Gould
SATURDAY	9:20 PM	9:30 PM	9:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Gillian Polack
SATURDAY	9:30 PM	10:00 PM	10:50 PM	Scioto Even	Fanzines!
SATURDAY	9:30 PM	10:00 PM	10:50 PM	Olentangy Even	Worldbuilding: Crime and Punishment
SATURDAY	9:45 PM	10:00 PM	10:50 PM	Music Room	Bawdy Songs
SATURDAY	9:50 PM	10:00 PM	10:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Ace Tilton Ratcliff
SATURDAY	10:20 PM	10:30 PM	10:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Jordan Kurella
SATURDAY	10:45 PM	11:00 PM	1:50 AM	Music Room	Open Filk

Virtual Programming

All times Eastern Daylight Time
Sunday, 10:00am-4:00pm

Day	Call Time	Start	End	Room	Title
SUNDAY	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:50 AM	Scioto Even	Researching the Golden Age
SUNDAY	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:50 AM	Olentangy Even	
SUNDAY	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:50 AM	Auditorium Even	Future of Policing: a Journey Planet Fanzine Workshop
SUNDAY	9:45 AM	10:00 AM	11:50 AM	Music Room	Open Filk
SUNDAY	9:50 AM	10:00 AM	10:20 AM	Readings	(Reading) Juliet McKenna
SUNDAY	10:20 AM	10:30 AM	10:50 AM	Readings	(Reading) Eric Flint
SUNDAY	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:50 AM	Scioto Odd	The Landscape of Jewish Science Fiction & Fantasy
SUNDAY	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:50 AM	Olentangy Odd	Technological Dreams of AfroFuturism
SUNDAY	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:50 AM	Auditorium Odd	Live Tiara Demonstration
SUNDAY	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:50 AM	Kaffeeklatsches	Kaffeeklatsch with Tom Smith
SUNDAY	10:50 AM	11:00 AM	11:50 AM	Readings	(Reading) Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association
SUNDAY	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	12:50 PM	Scioto Even	Running SF/F Organizations
SUNDAY	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	12:50 PM	Olentangy Even	Predicting the Post-Apocalypse: How Will We Be Saved?
SUNDAY	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	12:20 PM	Auditorium Even	Concert: Amy McNally
SUNDAY	11:45 AM	12:00 PM	12:50 PM	Music Room	Traditional Ballad Bingo
SUNDAY	11:50 AM	12:00 PM	12:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Steven H Silver
SUNDAY	12:20 PM	12:30 PM	12:50 PM	Readings	(Reading)
SUNDAY	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	1:50 PM	Scioto Odd	Ohio Fan Clubs & Cons
SUNDAY	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	1:50 PM	Olentangy Odd	Worldbuilding: Useful Adaptations for Disabled Characters
SUNDAY	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	1:50 PM	Auditorium Odd	Concert: Tom Smith
SUNDAY	12:50 PM	1:00 PM	1:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Valerie Valdes
SUNDAY	12:50 PM	1:30 PM	1:50 PM	Readings	(Reading) Malka Older
SUNDAY	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:50 PM	Scioto Even	COVID-FX: Publishing
SUNDAY	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:50 PM	Olentangy Even	Graphic Novels: Adaptations
SUNDAY	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:50 PM	Auditorium Even	Attending Worldcons Since 1974
SUNDAY	1:45 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	Music Room	Open Filk
SUNDAY	1:50 PM	2:00 PM	2:20 PM	Readings	(Reading) Eileen Gunn
SUNDAY	1:50 PM	2:30 PM	2:50 PM	TBD	(Reading) Bogi Takács and R.B. Lemberg
SUNDAY		3:00 PM	3:50 PM	Auditorium Odd	Closing Ceremonies
SUNDAY	3:45 PM	4:00 PM	6:50 PM	Music Room	Dead Dog Filk
SUNDAY	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	7:00 PM	Kaffeeklatsches	Dead Dog Party

Friday 12:00pm to 3:00pm

Writing Real History Into Fictional Pasts

12:00pm-12:50pm in Scioto Even

Moderator: Sherwood Smith

Panelists: Alaya Dawn Johnson, Eric Flint, Gillian Polack, Laurence Raphael Brothers, Anne Gray
Historical fiction and nonfiction writers discuss approaches and techniques for writing real events of the past into stories.

Youth & YA Fiction: Who's Reading Who?

12:00pm-12:50pm in Olentangy Even

Moderator: Kathryn Sullivan

Panelists: Christine Taylor-Butler, Marieke Nijkamp, Phoebe North

What do trends in SF/F youth and young adult fiction tell us about the values and perspectives of Gen Z?

(Reading) Elsa Sjunneson

12:00pm-12:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Phoebe North

12:30pm to 12:50pm in Readings

COVID-FX: Staying Connected

1:00pm to 1:50pm in Scioto Odd

Moderator: Walter Parker

Panelists: Alison Scott, Ben Yalow, Doug Piero Carey
How are local SF/F clubs and fan communities staying connected during COVID-19? What's working, what's not, what have we learned and what has yet to be tried?

Alternative Publishing Panel

1:00pm to 1:50pm in Olentangy Odd

Moderator: Raven Oak

Panelists: Jude-Marie Green, Sherwood Smith, Valerie Estelle Frankel

Learn about the ins and outs of alternative publishing, such as coops, e-publishing and self-publishing from those with experience. Bring your questions!

(Reading) John Wiswell

1:00pm to 1:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Jim C. Hines

1:30pm to 1:50pm in Readings

How Game Titles Work

2:00pm to 2:50pm in Scioto Even

Moderator: Prerecorded

Presenter: Leonard Richardson

"In 2009, while writing a novel about alien video games, Leonard Richardson uncovered the rules of rhetoric and syntax underlying the titles developers give their games. By following these rules, he was able to create dozens of realistic-sounding fictional games from distinct alien cultures.

Over the past ten years, video game developers in the real world have subverted and played with these rules, expanding what a game's title can say about the experience of play. In this presentation, Leonard goes over the rules and talks about how they've changed over time."

Isaac Asimov at 100

2:00pm to 2:50pm in Olentangy Even

Moderator: William S. Higgins

Panelists: Alec Nevala-Lee, Bill Higgins

Isaac Asimov, born 100 years ago, penned (well, typed) an immense number of books, both fiction and nonfiction.

(Reading) Stephen Leigh

2:00pm to 2:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Kathryn Sullivan

2:30pm to 2:50pm in Readings

Opening Ceremonies

3:00pm to 3:50pm in Auditorium Odd

Toastmaster: Tom Smith

Presenters: Lisa Garrison, Dale Mazzoli, Chris Garcia, Brian Herbert, Kevin J. Anderson, Marc Millis, Stephanie Law, Eric Flint

Welcome to the 2020 NASFiC! Come meet our Guests of Honor and find out how this whole "virtual" thing is expected to work, anyway. A fantastic weekend lies ahead, and we have some exciting announcements to make about it.

Friday 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Nuts & Bolts: Running a Non-Profit Lit Organization

4:00pm to 4:50pm in Scioto Even

Presenter: Mary Anne Mohanraj

Join Mary Anne Mohanraj for a presentation + Q&A on non-profits and their role in the field. Mohanraj will talk about conventions, magazines, and the Speculative Literature Foundation (www.speclit.org) -- a nuts-and-bolts presentation for those interested in running such things.

Fandom Check-In: Where Are We At?

4:00pm to 4:50pm in Olentangy Even

Moderator: Ben Yalow

Panelists: Foz Meadows, Isabel Schechter, Nicholas Whyte, Sumana (brainwane) Harihareswara
Welcome to NASFiC! What's going on in the world of fandom?

Concert: Chris Conway

4:00pm to 4:20pm in Auditorium Even

Chris Conway: Chris Conway is difficult to sum up in a few paragraphs as he is active in so many genres of music – singer-songwriter, new age, jazz, Celtic, world music, and electronic. This genre hopping makes him a moving target as an artist and keeps him below many people's radar, but there is a growing crowd of those in the know who enjoy the relentless creative flow of his music. Chris has travelled the world as Guest Of Honour at 5 filk conventions in the USA, Canada and the UK, and has won 5 Sam Awards (UK filk oscars).

(Reading) Ada Palmer

COVID-FX: Selling Your Wares

5:00pm to 5:50pm in Scioto Odd

Moderator: Jude-Marie Green

Panelists: Alison Scott, Michael R. Underwood, Valerie Estelle Frankel, Wendy Van Camp
How has the pandemic affected our SF/F professionals and creatives who've relied on foot traffic to sell their wares? Join our panel as they share impact stories and strategies.

COVID-FX: Quarantine & the Future of Urban Fantasy **5:00pm to 5:50pm in Olentangy Odd**

Moderator: Raven Oak

Panelists: Jennifer Blackstream, Laurence Raphael Brothers, Tessa McFionn

Mask wearing vampires? Quarantine empty streets? From grocery delivery to working-from-home, our normal lives have changed in the face of Covid-19. How will these changes impact the feature creatures and characters of urban fantasy? Join us as we discuss the future of writing urban fantasy and how quarantine will impact everything from world building and characters to plot.

Concert: Roberta Rogow

5:00pm to 5:50pm in Auditorium Odd

Roberta Rogow is a long-time Fan, who has been active in Filk since the 1970's. She's known for her Star Trek and other Media filk, but has also written "story songs" to her own tunes. She was inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame in 20123. Roberta also writes mystery stories, often using historical characters in fictional settings. When she is not attending SF or Mystery conventions, Roberta is a retired Children's Librarian living in New Jersey.

Office Hours with Jason Sanford (1st Hour)

5:00pm to 6:00pm in Readings/No Stream

Presenter: Jason Sanford

A big hit at the recent virtual Nebula Conference, Office Hours with Jason Sanford are now here at NASFiC. Jason will answer questions about getting published, places to get published and so on. Jason writes a column called Genre Grapevine. (1st Hour)

SF/F Artists Roundtable

6:00pm to 6:50pm in Scioto Even

Panelists: Guest of Honor: Stephanie Law, Amanda Makepeace, Rachel Quinlan, Ray VanTilburg
Join Artist Guest of Honor Stephanie Law and fellow artists as they discuss the business of art, their inspirations and what they'll be creating in the year to come.

Friday 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Weekend Science Update

6:00pm to 6:50pm in Olentangy Even

Moderator: Jim Beall

Panelists: Bill Thomasson, Bogi Takács, Jude-Marie Green, Premee Mohamed, Wendy S. Delmater

Our panel of scientists (and science-adjacents) take turns sharing news (and fake news) on their favorite areas of expertise (or not). Prepare to be informed (and entertained)!

Concert: Tom Smith

6:00pm to 6:50pm in Auditorium Even

For over thirty years, Tom Smith has been breaking hearts, minds, and rules of propriety with a huge number of comedic, dramatic, frenetic, and sometimes straight-up ludicrous songs. Winner of fourteen Pegasus Awards for Excellence in Filk, and member of the Filk Hall of Fame, Tom combines the rapid-fire silliness of Robin Williams, the lyrical acumen of Ashman and Sondheim, and the dynamic physique of the Skipper from Gilligan's Island. Catch him at a convention near you, and live the myth of Smith!

Office Hours with Jason Sanford (2nd Hour)

6:00pm to 7:00pm in Readings/No Stream

Presenter: Jason Sanford

A big hit at the recent virtual Nebula Conference, Office Hours with Jason Sanford are now here at NASFiC. Jason will answer questions about getting published, places to get published and so on. Jason writes a column called Genre Grapevine. (2nd Hour)

Librarians, Booksellers, Collectors, Oh My!

7:00pm to 7:50pm in Scioto Odd

Moderator: Chris M. Barkley

Panelists: Isabel Schechter, Merav Hofman, Michael R. Underwood, Misha Stone, Sarah Loch

Panelists discuss the different roles that librarians, booksellers, and collectors play in keeping science fiction alive

Imaginary Book Club

7:00pm to 7:50pm in Olentangy Odd

Moderator: Sumana Harihareswara

Panelists: Ada Palmer, Anne Gray, Mary Anne Mohanraj, Julia Rios

Panelists discuss amazing books they've read in the past year! The catch: none of those books exist.

Mike Resnick Memorial

7:00pm to 8:50pm in Auditorium Odd

Moderator: Martin L. Shoemaker

Panelists: Beth Meacham, Cat Rambo Eric Flint,, Joe Siclari, Kevin J. Anderson, Laura Resnick, Eric Flint, Steven H Silver, Sue Francis

Colleagues, friends, and family gather to say goodbye to the late great author and editor, Mike Resnick.

Columbus 2020 NASFiC Room Parties

7:00pm to 10:00pm in Kaffeeklatsches

Everyone Welcome!

Join us this evening in gather.town. We'll boogie down in this video conference tool that looks somewhat like a retro RPG video game. (Seriously you can press z to dance).

(Reading) Laurence Raphael Brothers

7:30pm to 7:50pm in Readings

BIPOC Roundtable

7:30pm to 8:00pm in Olentangy Even

Moderator: Valerie Valdes

Panelists: Andrea Hairston, Chris "Silver Spook" Miller, C.L. Polk, Vida Cruz, Vikram Paralker

Our panel of Black, Indigenous People of Color have a roundtable about the ways they've used their work to shed light on social injustices and the need for systemic change.

(Reading) Michael Underwood

8:00pm to 8:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Jude-Marie Green

8:30pm to 8:50pm in Readings

Emergent Gameplay

9:00pm to 9:50pm in Scioto Odd

Moderator: Victor Raymond

Panelists: Jeremy Holcomb, J. Holtham, Whitney "Strix" Beltran

Our panelists share stories of unintended emergent game play--when players go off-plan from the game designers' intent.

Friday 9:00pm to 10:30pm

Lessons Not Learned: The Future of Dystopian & Utopian Stories

9:00pm to 9:50pm in Olentangy Odd

Moderator: Brandon Wilson

Panelists: Christine Taylor-Butler, Elsa Sjunneson, John Wiswell, Mari Ness

The panel discusses: Where does the genre go now that so much of the dystopian warnings sci-fi warned us about were ignored? What does a dystopian world look like in a post-COVID, post-Trump, melting-polar caps world? Can we ever move back to utopianism? Should we do away with utopian and dystopian scenarios altogether?

Open Filk with Tom Smith

9:00pm to 12:00am in Music Room

Moderator: Tom Smith

With: Jeff Keller

[Unthemed open song circle] Come listen and/or make music in this unthemed song circle. All types of music are welcome, but expect to hear a bunch of songs related to science fiction, fantasy, science, and fandom.

(Reading) Cat Rambo

9:00pm to 9:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Leonard Richardson

9:30pm to 9:50pm in Readings

Fantasy for YA vs Adults

10:00pm to 10:50pm in Scioto Even

Moderator: Deirdre Murphy

Panelists: Alma Alexander, Farah Mendlesohn, Kathryn Sullivan, Sherwood Smith

Panel of fantasy writers and aficionados explore the ways fantasy stories differ depending on the age market.

COVID-FX: Horror Beyond 2020

10:00pm to 10:50pm in Olentangy Even

Moderator: Anne Gray

Panelists: Jordan Kurella, Leigh Harlen, Lucy A. Snyder, Premea Mohamed

Never has going to the grocery store been so fraught. For many of us, the year 2020 has been stranger than any fiction. Claustrophobia, the housemate from hell, children as innocent vectors, a possible 'sleeper' virus... How will our collective anxieties and disturbing new realities influence the themes and motifs of the horror genre beyond 2020? Our panelists explore the possibilities in light of pandemic deaths, quarantine, chaotic media narratives and other COVID-Effects.

(Reading) Eboni Dunbar

10:00pm to 10:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Phoebe Barton

10:30pm to 10:50pm in Readings

Saturday 10:00am to 12:00pm

Surveillance & Society in SF

10:00am to 10:50am in Scioto Even

Panelists: Dr. Nakeema Stefflbauer, Gadi Evron, Muhammad Aurangzeb Ahmad

AI: The Real Minority Report?

COVID-FX Writing & Reading About Pandemics During a Pandemic

10:00am to 10:50am in Scioto Even

Moderator: Pablo Defendini

Panelists: Alaya Dawn Johnson, Mike Chen, Lucy A. Snyder

Panelists discuss pandemic stories they have written and are reading during COVID-times. Which begs the question: Is doing that even a good idea?

Big Heart Award

10:00am to 10:50am in Auditorium Even

Moderator: Ben Yalow

Presenters: Sue & Steve Francis, Joe Siclari

The Big Heart is presented annually at the World Science Fiction Convention, to recipients that embody "good work and great spirit long contributed" to the sf community. In 2001 it was awarded to our Fan Guests of Honor, who are now part of the committee that administers the award. Come find out more about the history of the award and how to get involved if you'd like to have input in the selection process.

(Reading) Daniel M. Kimmel

10:00am to 10:20am in Readings

Kaffeeklatsch with Marc Millis

10:00am to 10:50am in Kaffeeklatsches

Moderator: (Kaffeeklatsch)

Worldbuilding: Rituals and Symbols

11:00am to 11:50am in Scioto Odd

Moderator: Julia Rios

Panelists: Kathryn Sullivan, Valerie Estelle Frankel, Sherwood Smith, LD Lewis

The Future of Anthologies

11:00am to 11:50am in Olentangy Odd

Moderator: Jason Sanford

Panelists: Dominik Parisien, Lucy A. Snyder, Neil Clarke

Our highly-regarded panel of editors discuss current trends in and future of anthologies.

Filk History & Stories

11:00am to 11:50am in Auditorium Odd

Panelists: Tom Smith, Juanita Coulson

An informal chat with Filk legend Juanita Coulson, who has been there from the beginning -- since before it was called Filk. A unique opportunity, and guaranteed to be entertaining!

(Reading) Sheree Renée Thomas

11:00am to 11:20am in Readings

(Reading) Alaya Dawn Johnson

11:30am to 11:50am in Readings

Women of a Certain Age: Writing Older Women Protagonists

12:00pm to 12:50pm in Scioto Even

Moderator: Farah Mendlesohn

Panelists: Andrea Hairston, Jennifer Blackstream, Gillian Polack

Our panelists discuss older heroines and protagonists across SF/F. Join them as they look at examples of older heroines and protagonists; and consider how changing the age of the heroine changes the story, and the advantages of having an "older" heroine.

The Ever-Expanding Universe of New Space Opera

12:00pm to 12:50pm in Olentangy Even

Moderator: Laurence Raphael Brothers

Panelists: Aliette de Bodard, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, Mary Anne Mohanraj, Valerie Valdes

The Ever-Expanding Universe of New Space Opera: While the genre has existed for ages, there are always new stories to tell, new planets to explore, and new characters to populate the universe with. Panelists discuss recent trends in space opera and how they reflect changing demographics of readers and writers, sociopolitical realities and concerns, and broader personal and cultural interests and narratives.

Saturday 12:00pm to 2:00pm

Chesley Award Nominee Showcase

12:00pm to 12:50pm in Auditorium Even

Moderator: Sara Felix

The Chesley Awards are the premier art awards in SF, given out by the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists (ASFA). Usually the Chesley Awards are presented at the World Science Fiction Convention, but this year the presentation has been delayed to October due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. ASFA President Sara Felix will both announce and showcase this year's nominees.

(Reading) Danian Darrell Jerry

12:00pm to 12:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Valjeanne Jeffers

12:30pm to 12:50pm in Readings

Favorite Queer SF/F

1:00pm to 1:50pm in Scioto Odd

Moderator: Charles Payseur

Panelists: Julia Rios, Valerie Estelle Frankel

Panelists review their favorite Queer SF/F Fiction

Today in Audio Dramas!

1:00pm to 1:50pm in Olentangy Odd

Moderator: Chris Garcia

Panelists: Eddie Louise, Erin Underwood, John

Medaille, Naomi Hinchin

Today in Audio Dramas! A look at Audio dramas, audiobooks, and fiction podcasts and why the time is now!

(Reading) Broad Universe Rapid Fire Reading

1:00pm to 1:50pm in Readings

Panelists: Jude-Marie Green, Cynthia Diamond, D. H. Timpko, Kathryn Sullivan, Roberta Rogow, Tessa McFionn

Broad Universe has a long tradition of Rapid-Fire Readings, where multiple readers each spend 5 to 10 minutes reading portions of their work. Broad Universe is an organization devoted to promoting women and other underrepresented gender identities in Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror.

Chantey Sing

1:00pm to 1:50pm in Music Room

Moderator: Mike Gibson

Performers: Jeff Keller, Becca Mandel

[Themed open song circle] Come sing (or just listen to, but we hope you'll sing) songs of the sea and sailing in all forms! Work songs from the age of sail are particularly welcome, but so are updates, parodies, and related filks.

Prometheus Awards' 40th Anniversary Ceremony

1:00pm to 1:30pm in Auditorium odd

Moderators: Michael Grossberg, Tom Jackson

Presenters: F. Paul Wilson, Sarah Hoyt

The Prometheus Awards, first presented in 1979 to F. Paul Wilson and administered by the nonprofit Libertarian Futurist Society (www.lfs.org), recognizes outstanding pro-freedom and/or anti-authoritarian speculative fiction. Winners are selected in a ranked vote by LFS members from finalist slates in annual categories for Best Novel and Best Classic Fiction (Hall of Fame). The 2020 awards ceremony features novelists F. Paul Wilson and Sarah Hoyt, with acceptance speeches by the winners. Among past winners: Hans Christian Anderson, Ray Bradbury, Ernest Cline, Cory Doctorow, Harlan Ellison, Robert Heinlein, Hoyt, Ursula LeGuin, Ken MacLeod, George Orwell, Jerry Pournelle, Terry Pratchett, Ayn Rand, L. Neil Smith, Neal Stephenson, Charles Stross, J.R.R. Tolkien, Harry Turtledove, Vernor Vinge, Kurt Vonnegut, Jo Walton, Jack Williamson, Wilson and Robert Anton Wilson.)

Visions of SF, Liberty, Human Rights: The Prometheus Awards over Four Decades, from F. Paul Wilson and Robert Heinlein to Today

1:30pm to 2:20pm in Auditorium Odd

Moderator: Tom Jackson

Panelists: F. Paul Wilson, Michael Grossberg, Sarah Hoyt, William H. Stoddard

If Aliens Came To Earth

2:00pm to 2:50pm in Scioto Even

Moderator: Kathryn Sullivan

Panelists: Christine Taylor-Butler, Daniel M. Kimmel, Douglas Johnson, Marc Millis, Stephen Leigh

Would they, though? Our esteemed panelists discuss....

Saturday 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Roots in Two Places: Writing from a Dual Culture Experience

2:00pm to 2:50pm in Olentangy Even

Moderator: Cheryl Morgan

Panelists: Alma Alexander, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Vikram Paralkar

Our panelists, all with roots in two or more separate cultures -- look at the ways having dual culture and language has guided their worldbuilding and storytelling.

(Reading) Caitlin Starling

2:00pm to 2:20pm in Readings

Concert: Marilisa Valtazanou

2:30pm to 2:50pm in Auditorium Even

Marilisa Valtazanou (guitar, voice, and most other instruments) is part of the folk duo Playing Rapunzel. She was born in Iowa, raised in Greece and now lives in London; she celebrates her multinational background by having a song in an obscure language for every occasion. She is easily recognised as the band member who will fearlessly play any instrument, including mandola, flutes, percussion, and even electric double bass.

(Reading) Tobias S. Buckell

2:30pm to 2:50pm in Readings

Future Worldcon Q&A

3:00pm to 3:50pm in Scioto Odd

Moderator: Anne Gray

Panelists: Bill Lawhorn and Colette H. Fozard (Discon III), Helen Montgomery (Chicon 8), Esther MacCallum-Stewart and Marguerite Smith (Glasgow in 2024)

Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson: In conversation

3:00pm to 3:50pm in Auditorium Odd

Panelists: Brian Herbert, Kevin J. Anderson

Join Guests of Honor Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson as they discuss their current and future projects.

The Legal Implications of Monster Hunting

3:00pm to 3:50pm in Olentangy Odd

Moderator: Misha Stone

Panelists: Day Al-Mohamed, Elsa Sjunneson, Leigh Harlen, Premee Mohamed

Our panel analyzes the legal implications of hunting vampires, demons, and other monsters in shows like Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Supernatural, and Wynonna Earp. Should vampires have due process? Can a monster hunter be liable if a demon's host dies during an exorcism? If it is murder to kill a monster, is being chosen or cursed to do so a plausible defense? Could ghosts have property rights to the houses they haunt if they lived there first? Tune in for this compelling discussion!

Open Filk

3:00pm to 5:50pm in Music Room

Moderator: Naomi Hinchin

Performer: Peggi Warner-Lalonde

[Unthemed open song circle] Come listen and/or make music in this unthemed song circle. All types of music are welcome, but expect to hear a bunch of songs related to science fiction, fantasy, science, and fandom.

(Reading) Mary Anne Mohanraj

3:00pm to 3:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Alma Alexander

3:30pm to 3:50pm in Readings

Common Threads: Game Writers & Designers

4:00pm to 4:50pm in Scioto Even

Moderator: Eddie Louise

Panelists: Chris "Silver Spook" Miller, Jeremy Holcomb, Phoebe Barton, Whitney "Strix" Beltran

Game writers and designers from several disciplines talk about the common threads of what they do, irrespective of media and form.

Saturday 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Deconstructing the Novella

4:00pm to 4:50pm in Olentangy Even

Aliette de Bodard, Eboni Dunbar, L.D. Lewis, Nino Cipri

Moderator: Dave Ring

Panelists: Aliette de Bodard, Eboni Dunbar, L.D. Lewis, Nino Cipri

Deconstructing the Novella: Authors Cipri, de Bodard, Dunbar and Lewis will discuss their own novellas as well as other celebrated titles, highlight some of the publishers putting them out, dig into some craft questions, and pull apart a few of the novella's tricks and challenges.

Turning Science Fiction into the Beginnings of Science

4:00pm to 4:50pm in Auditorium Even

Panelist: Marc Millis

See how to convert inspirational science fiction into science and engineering, by transforming the fiction into the first step of the scientific method: 'Defining the Problem.' The case study uses the fiction of non-rocket space drives, which can levitate above the ground and then ascend effortlessly into space. Multiple fictional images are examined, toyed with, distilled with analogies, and finally set in the context of a problem definition to guide credible inquires.

(Reading) Vikram Paralkar

4:00pm to 4:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Silvia Moreno-Garcia

4:30pm to 4:50pm in Readings

Information, Please!

5:00pm to 5:50pm in Scioto Odd

Moderator: Steven H Silver

Panelists: Alec Nevala-Lee, Anne Gray, Chris Garcia, Tom Smith

A panel of four experts are asked questions and can respond individually or in discussion. Can you stump the experts?

Worldbuilding: Innovations in Leadership & Governance

5:00pm to 5:50pm in Olentangy Odd

Moderator: Gadi Evron

Panelists: Ada Palmer, Andrea Hairston, Malka Older
Our panel draw from the wide range of speculative and science fiction to offer up their favorite visions of leadership as well as innovations in governance.

What's Happening with Ring of Fire?

5:00pm to 5:50pm in Auditorium Odd

(Reading) Leigh Harlen

5:00pm to 5:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Wendy Van Camp

5:30pm to 5:50pm in Readings

Feminist Fables & Fairy Tales

6:00pm to 6:50pm in Scioto Even

Moderator: Sherwood Smith

Panelists: Jennifer Blackstream, Jim C. Hines, Valerie Estelle Frankel

COVID-FX: Film & Television Industries

6:00pm to 6:50pm in Olentangy Even

Moderator: Steven Gould

Panelists: Brandon Wilson, Christopher J. Garcia, J. Holtham

Our panel discusses: How will the film and television industries be changed by COVID? As the industries shifts in response to quarantine and travel limitations, how do those decisions impact the creatives within their ranks - and the culture of storytelling? What will be different, and what opportunities lie ahead?

Stories of RiverCon

6:00pm to 6:50pm in Auditorium Even

Moderator: Joel Zakem

Panelists: Bob Roehm, Juanita Coulson, Sue and Steve Francis

Come join us for tales of early RiverCon events
RiverCon (founded by Cliff Amos, Sue & Steve Francis and Bob Roehm) was held in Louisville, KY from 1975 to 2000. It spawned the NASFiC in 1979 by running NorthAmeriCon.

Saturday 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Online-Performance Workshop

6:00pm to 6:50pm in Music Room

Moderator: Anabel Graetz

Get the most out of your virtual performances including musical presentations and costume competitions. Bring your best takes, or perform live and receive feedback from an experienced performer who has been “self-taping” successfully for several years. You will receive feedback, where relevant, on voice, movement, costume, and lighting. You don’t need a lot of fancy equipment, come to learn to use what you have effectively.

(Reading) Raven Oak

6:00pm to 6:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Dave Ring

5:30pm to 6:50pm in Readings

Myths & Legends: Culture Shifts & Societal Transformation

7:00pm to 7:50pm in Scioto Odd

Moderator: Victor Raymond

Panelists: Alma Alexander, Chris “Silver Spook” Miller

Our cross-genre and cross-discipline panel shares their favorite stories of great shifts and transformation. From resistance and collapse to evolution and re-emergence: it is the stuff of myths and legends!

The Power of Love: The Intersection of Speculative Fiction and Romance

7:00pm to 7:50pm in Olentangy Odd

Moderator: Sarah Loch

Panelists: Charles Payseur, Eboni Dunbar, Foz Meadows, Freya Marske, Leigh Harlen, Phoebe Barton

Speculative fiction and romance have always existed side by side in the “genre” subspace of fiction. Join panelists to discuss how worldbuilding can inform your romance plot (and vice versa) and how characterization tricks help you generate a strong romantic A or B plot.

Concert: Tom Smith

7:00pm to 7:50pm in Auditorium Odd

Tom Smith puts together a set of his favorite serious songs to touch your heart and mind.

Columbus 2020 NASFiC Room Parties

7:00pm to 10:00pm in Kaffeeklatsches

Everyone Welcome!

Join us in the evening for some Zoom parties. Various fan groups have volunteered to host Breakout Rooms.

Writers Helping Writers

8:00pm to 8:50pm in Scioto Even

Moderator: Steven Gould

Panelists: Christine Taylor-Butler, Dave Ring, Eileen Gunn, Steven Gould

Writers helping writers (paying forward) and its role in increasing diversity in the profession (and possibly its role in keeping marginalized groups out as well.) How who we choose to associate with, assist, promote, and read can positively and negatively change the faces of our industry and the range of peoples and cultures represented in that writing. Who held out their hand to you when you were starting out? How do you decide who you hold your hand out to now that you’re established?

Weathering the Storm: Creating in Times of Trouble

8:00pm to 8:50pm in Olentangy Even

Moderator: Jason Sanford

Panelists: Ace Tilton Ratcliff, Amanda Makepeace, John Medaille, John Wiswell, Raven Oak

A mixed panel of writers and artists discuss the challenges of making art and stories during a pandemic, as well as strategies for managing health and being active creators.

Ring of Fire Event

8:00pm to 8:50pm in Auditorium Even

(Reading) Premee Mohamed

8:00pm to 8:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Jennifer Blackstream

8:30pm to 8:50pm in Readings

Saturday 9:00pm to 11:00pm

Contemporary Gothic Fiction

9:00pm to 9:50pm in Scioto Odd

Panelists: Caitlin Starling, Jeannette Ng, Jordan Kurella, Mari Ness

Four contemporary authors of Gothic fiction discuss some of the latest trends in the genre, and how today's Gothics are in dialogue - or direct confrontation - with the works of the past.

Steampunk Lessons for a Post-Fossil Fuel Future

9:00pm to 9:50pm in Olentangy Odd

Moderator: Cat Rambo

Panelists: Bill Higgins, Eileen Gunn, Phoebe Barton, Jim Beall

Join our delightful and multigenerational panel as they discuss: What lessons can be learned from steampunk and 'old technology' - what books or screen stories would you take with you to learn how to thrive in a de-industrialized world? What can be applied from steampunk when writing fiction set in the post-fossil fuel age?

(Reading) Steven Gould

9:00pm to 9:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Gillian Polack

9:30pm to 9:50pm in Readings

Fanzines!

10:00pm to 10:50pm in Scioto Even

Moderator: Anne Gray

Panelists: Chris M. Barkley, Steven H Silver, Joel Zakem

Our panel of fanzine experts talk about the ins and outs of fanzines.

Worldbuilding: Crime and Punishment

10:00pm to 10:50pm in Olentangy Even

Panelists: Chris "Silver Spook" Miller, Foz Meadows, Preme Mohamed

With calls to Defund the Police and conversations of prison abolition entering public consciousness, our panelists discuss alternative takes on traditional crime and punishment. What gets called a crime? Who or what entities enforce the law? What does justice and restitution look like -- and what can be re-imagined?

Bawdy Songs

10:00pm to 10:50pm in Music Room

Moderator: Anabel Graetz

Performer: Merav Hoffman

[Themed open song circle] Sing or listen to songs of lust, sex, the joy of procreation: songs about sex that are fun, funny and wonderful are all welcome; violence and coercion are not, and the scatological is discouraged. Bawdiness in any orientation is welcome. A virtual sing like no other!

(Reading) Ace Tilton Ratcliff

10:00pm to 10:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Jordan Kurella

10:30pm to 10:50pm in Readings

Open Filk

11:00pm to 1:50am in Music Room

Moderator: Merav Hoffman

Performer: Deirdre M. Murphy

[Unthemed open song circle] Come listen and/or make music in this unthemed song circle. All types of music are welcome, but expect to hear a bunch of songs related to science fiction, fantasy, science, and fandom.

Sunday 10:00am to 11:00am

Researching the Golden Age

10:00am to 10:50am in Scioto Even

Moderator: Nicholas Whyte

Panelist: Alec Nevala-lee, Farah Mendlesohn

Hugo nominated non fiction authors Alec Nevala-Lee and Farah Mendlesohn talk about the joys of non fiction research and writing, and the perils of writing about Big Names during a zeitgeist shift.

Future of Policing: a Journey Planet Fanzine Workshop

10:00am to 10:50am in Auditorium Even

Moderator: Anne Gray

Panelists: Erin Underwood, Errick Nunnally, James Bacon, Christopher J. Garcia

The Co-editors discuss and encourage you to consider contributing to this issue. SF often uses police to examine the gray areas of good vs bad as well as to question authority and explore the evolution of our humanity, it also gives us a view into who we are today and who we may become tomorrow, Today, policing is creating history in unprecedented ways from the tragic murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis to elected parliamentarians being stopped in London because they are Black, the brutal suppression of hope and democracy in Hong Kong. How is the trope of police and/or law enforcement depicted in science fiction? Is there potential for exploring new law enforcement options? Is there a solution in SF that can help to deconstruct, redesign, and rebuild a police force that truly reflects a better future? What questions do you want to ask and answer?

Open Filk

10:00am to 11:50am in Music Room

Moderator: Alex Wittenberg

Performer: Sybille Maab

[Unthemed open song circle] Come listen and/or make music in this unthemed song circle. All types of music are welcome, but expect to hear a bunch of songs related to science fiction, fantasy, science, and fandom.

(Reading) Juliet McKenna

10:00am to 10:20am in Readings

(Reading) Eric Flint

10:30am to 10:50am in Readings

The Landscape of Jewish Science Fiction & Fantasy

11:00am to 11:50am in Scioto Odd

Moderator: Isabel Schechter

Panelists: Daniel M. Kimmel, Gillian Polack, Steven H Silver, Valerie Estelle Frankel

A panel of Jewish writers and creators from across the SF/F universe discuss Jewish science fiction and fantasy.

Technological Dreams of AfroFuturism

11:00am to 11:50am in Olentangy Odd

Moderator: Brandon Wilson

Panelists: Dan Tres Omi, Eboni Dunbar, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, Sheree Renйe Thomas

From the cotton gin to extractive mining to facial recognition software - breakthroughs in technology have often come at a heavy cost to Black communities throughout the world. Will the liberation of Black minds and bodies depend on more or less technology? What would it look like if technology truly served us all? Drawing from examples in books, graphic novels and film, our group discuss the technological dreams of AfroFuturism.

Live Tiara Demonstration

11:00am to 11:50am in Auditorium Odd

Sara Felix (demonstration)

Kaffeeklatsch with Tom Smith

11:00am to 11:50am in Kaffeeklatsches

Ten lucky attendees get to hang out with the funniest filker in town. You must sign up in advance. The sign up form opens at 3 pm on Friday, August 21 and is open until the group is maxed out or the event begins, whichever happens first.

(Reading) Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association

11:00am to 11:50am in Readings

Panelists: Wendy Van Camp, Akua Lezli Hope, Christina M. Rau, David C. Kopaska-Merkel, Denise Dumars, F.J. Bergmann, John Philip Johnson, LindaAnn LoSchiavo, Michael Janairo

Nine poets share their work in this group reading from the Science Fiction and Fantasy Poetry Association.

Sunday 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Running SF/F Organizations

12:00pm to 12:50pm in Scioto Even

Moderator: Victor Raymond

Panelists: Cheryl Morgan, Eileen Gunn, Mary Anne Mohanraj, Sumana Harihareswara

Creators, directors, publishers, and nonprofit leaders discuss the trials and victories of running magazines, publishing companies, and other SF/F businesses and organizations. They discuss logistics, strategy, budgets, and the effects of gender and race on their experiences as leaders. And they share what they wish they'd known ten years ago.

Predicting the Post-Apocalypse: How Will We Be Saved?

12:00pm to 12:50pm in Olentangy Even

Ada Palmer, Bogi Takacs, Dave Ring, Tobias S.

Buckell, Premee Mohamed

It's the post-apocalypse - how will humanity be saved? Our panel mine their favorite stories about the post-apocalypse for clues at what might rescue or restore humanity.

Concert: Amy McNally

12:00pm to 12:20pm in Auditorium Even

Amy McNally (also known as Amy McFiddler) is that chick in a skirt and no shoes who sits on the floor with a violin and a stash of Pixy Stix. Yeah, that one, with the hair. She's been hanging around jam circles like that for 20 years, and has been playing fiddle for over 30 years now. She plays with The Toolies, The Mad City Jug Band, Wild Mercy, and Play It With Moxie. Singing with Lady Mondegreen, performing guerrilla accompaniment, and on recordings with Seanan McGuire, Adam Selzer, and other assorted musicians and rogues, she does folk, Celtic, and historical music too, but considers herself a filker first. She currently lives in the Midwest, and likes Doctor Who, sugar, roller coasters, single malt, books, and pie, although maybe not all at once.

Traditional Ballad Bingo

12:00pm to 12:50pm in Music Room

Moderator: Red Kovatch

Performers: Becca Mandel, Naomi Hinchin

[Themed open song circle, with a twist!] Join the fun as attendees take turns performing traditional ballads for the assemblage. Listen carefully to mark your Ballad Bingo cards when you detect such classic tropes as drowning, pregnancy out of wedlock, or murder of a loved one. Web-based bingo cards will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to lead songs, but you needn't sing to play! Winners will get links to photos of valuable prizes.

(Reading) Steven H Silver

12:00pm to 12:20pm in Readings

Ohio Fan Clubs & Cons

1:00pm to 1:50pm in Scioto Odd

Moderator: Joel Zakem

Panelists: Chris M. Barkley, Doug Piero Carey, Julie Washington, Michael Grossberg

Veterans of the Ohio fan club and convention community share stories from the past and look to the future.

Worldbuilding: Useful Adaptations for Disabled Characters

1:00pm to 1:50pm in Olentangy Odd

Moderator: Raven Oak

Panelists: Ace Tilton Ratcliff, Day Al-Mohamed, Elsa Sjunneson, Marieke Nijkamp

It's typical in science fiction stories with disabled characters, for authors to create adaptive devices that circumvent the disability. In essence, the disability doesn't matter because the protagonist has special eyes, or hearing powers, etc. Our panel of disabled folks discuss worldbuilding adaptive devices that are actually *adaptive* and don't make the protagonist function as able-bodied.

Sunday 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Concert: Tom Smith

1:00pm to 1:50pm in Auditorium Odd

For over thirty years, Tom Smith has been breaking hearts, minds, and rules of propriety with a huge number of comedic, dramatic, frenetic, and sometimes straight-up ludicrous songs. Winner of fourteen Pegasus Awards for Excellence in Filk, and member of the Filk Hall of Fame, Tom combines the rapid-fire silliness of Robin Williams, the lyrical acumen of Ashman and Sondheim, and the dynamic physique of the Skipper from Gilligan's Island. Catch him at a convention near you, and live the myth of Smith!

(Reading) Valerie Valdes

1:00pm to 1:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Malka Older

1:30pm to 1:50pm in Readings

COVID-FX: Publishing

2:00pm to 2:50pm in Scioto Even

Moderator: Cheryl Morgan

Panelists: Dave Ring, Neil Clarke, Pablo Defendini

Our panel of publishers respond to questions from the audience and discuss the state of SF/F publishing since the pandemic: what's changed, what's not?

Graphic Novels: Adaptations

2:00pm to 2:50pm in Olentangy Even

Moderator: Anne Gray

Panelists: Jamar Nicholas, Tobias S. Buckell, Valerie Estelle Frankel, Jim Ottaviani

What happens when a story is adapted into a graphic novel? What is gained and what is, perhaps, lost? New adaptations of old narratives can potentially improve the representation of women and minorities in the genre. Come find out about recent developments and the issues inherent to the process.

Attending Worldcons Since 1974

2:00pm to 2:50pm in Auditorium Even

Open Filk

2:00pm to 3:00pm in Music Room

Moderator: Batya Wittenberg

Performer: Sybille Maab

[Unthemed open song circle] Come listen and/or make music in this unthemed song circle. All types of music are welcome, but expect to hear a bunch of songs related to science fiction, fantasy, science, and fandom.

(Reading) Eileen Gunn

2:00pm to 2:20pm in Readings

(Reading) Bogi Takács and R.B. Lemberg

2:30pm to 2:50pm in TBD

Closing Ceremonies

Toastmaster: Tom Smith

Presenters: Lisa Garrison, Chris Garcia, Brian Herbert, Kevin J. Anderson, Marc Millis, Stephanie Law, Eric Flint, Sue Francis, Steve Francis

Well, how did it go? We will hear some last thoughts from our Guests of Honor and Chair, and also welcome your feedback on this glorious Virtual NASFiC experiment.

Dead Dog Filk

4:00pm to 6:50pm in Music Room

Moderator: Sally Headford

Performer: Peggi Warner-Lalonde

Haven't gotten enough? Still looking to catch up with friends? Too tired to sign off? Come to the dead dog session! Music is encouraged, but structure is eschewed.

Dead Dog Party

4:00pm to 7:00pm in Kaffeeklatsches

The Prometheus Award

The Prometheus Awards, first presented in 1979 to F. Paul Wilson and administered by the nonprofit Libertarian Futurist Society (www.lfs.org), recognizes outstanding pro-freedom and/or anti-authoritarian speculative fiction. Winners are selected in a ranked vote by LFS members from finalist slates in annual categories for Best Novel and Best Classic Fiction (Hall of Fame). The 2020 awards ceremony features novelists F. Paul Wilson and Sarah Hoyt, with acceptance speeches by the winners. Among past winners: Hans Christian Anderson, Ray Bradbury, Ernest Cline, Cory Doctorow, Harlan Ellison, Robert Heinlein, Hoyt, Ursula LeGuin, Ken MacLeod, George Orwell, Jerry Pournelle, Terry Pratchett, Ayn Rand, L. Neil Smith, Neal Stephenson, Charles Stross, J.R.R. Tolkien, Harry Turtledove, Vernor Vinge, Kurt Vonnegut, Jo Walton, Jack Williamson, Wilson and Robert Anton Wilson.)

This year the awards will be followed by a Panel about it's history.

Prometheus Awards' 40th Anniversary Ceremony

Saturday, August 22nd - Afternoon



Moderator: Michael Grossberg

Michael Grossberg co-founded the Libertarian Futurist Society (lfs.org), established in 1981 to sustain the Prometheus Awards, and chairs the Prometheus Awards Best Novel Finalist Judging Committee, which selects annual slates of finalists. A theater critic and arts reporter since the early 1980s, Michael has contributed to six books, including critical essays for the annual Best Plays Theatre Yearbook, and an essay/afterword for the first paperback edition of J. Neil Schulman's Prometheus-winning novel *The Rainbow Cadenza*; written reviews for *Reason* magazine, wrote a regional column for years with *Backstage*, the national performing-arts weekly; and helped lead the American

Theatre Critics Association and administer its national new-play and regional-Tony awards. Michael won the 2019 Society of Professional Journalists awards for Best Critic in Ohio (also 2015) and Best Arts Reporting (won seven times).



Moderator: Tom Jackson

Tom Jackson, an Ohio resident, is a newspaper reporter for The Sandusky Register who has also worked as a reporter in Cleveland, Ohio, and in Oklahoma. He writes a blog, RAWillumination.net, devoted to writers Robert Anton Wilson and Robert Shea (Prometheus Hall of Fame winners for *The Illuminatus Trilogy*). He has been active in fandom for years, contributing to fanzines, attending conventions and participating in the apas APA-50 and FAPA. He is a member of the board of the Libertarian Futurist Society (lfs.org), which presents the Prometheus Award, and serves as a judge on the Prometheus Award nominating committee.



**Presenting Best Novel category:
Prometheus winner F. Paul Wilson**

F. Paul Wilson, a New Jersey resident, Grand Master Horror award-winner and Prometheus Award Lifetime Achievement winner, has written over 60 books spanning science fiction, horror, adventure, medical thrillers, young-adult, etc. – including the Prometheus Award (www.lfs.org) winners *Wheels within Wheels*, an sf murder mystery; *Sims*; *Healer*; and *An Enemy of the State*. Wilson, who sold his first story to *Analog* in 1970 and has 8 million books in U.S. print, is best known as creator of the urban mercenary Repairman Jack

(featured in his latest novel *The Last Christmas*). Among his New York Times bestsellers: *The Keep* (also a 1983 Paramount film), *The Tomb*, *Harbingers*, *By the Sword*, *The Dark at the End*, and *Nightworld*.



Presenting Hall of Fame category: Prometheus winner Sarah Hoyt

Sarah Hoyt, a Colorado resident, is an American science fiction, fantasy, mystery, and historical fiction writer. After moving to the United States in the early 1980s, and becoming a U.S. citizen in 1988, she began writing under her own name and under the noms de plume Sarah D'Almeida, Elise Hyatt, Sarah Marques, Laurien Gardner and Sarah Marques de Almeida Hoyt. Hoyt won the 2011 Prometheus Award for Best Novel for her science fiction novel *Darkship Thieves*, the first in a future-history series of novels set within our solar system and including a libertarian anarchist society in the asteroids. She also won the 2018 Dragon Award for Best Alternate History Novel for *Uncharted*, co-authored with Kevin J. Anderson.

Uncharted, co-authored with Kevin J. Anderson.

Visions of SF, Liberty, Human Rights: The Prometheus Awards over Four Decades, from F. Paul Wilson and Robert Heinlein to Today

How have our visions of a free, dynamic and better future, with universal respect for each other's rights, evolved and changed in science fiction/fantasy? What about cautionary dystopian visions, from Orwell's 1984 and *Animal Farm* to Doctorow's *Little Brother*? Prometheus-winning authors Sarah Hoyt (*Darkship Thieves*), William H. Stoddard and F. Paul Wilson (*An Enemy of the State*, *Repairman Jack* series) will join journalists Michael Grossberg and Tom Jackson in examining the perennial tensions between Liberty and Power and cooperation versus coercion, as reflected in these and other authors' diverse Prometheus Award winners over the past 40 years.

Saturday, August 22nd - Afternoon

Panelist: Michael Grossberg



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Panelist: William H. Stoddard

William H. Stoddard is a copy editor specializing in scientific and scholarly publications. He has written more than two dozen GURPS supplements for Steve Jackson Games, beginning with *GURPS Steampunk* in 2000, which won an Origins Award for best role playing supplement. He is the president of the Libertarian Futurist Society, and many of his essays and reviews have appeared on its Prometheus blog (<http://lfs.org/blog/>).



Panelist: F. Paul Wilson

F. Paul Wilson, a New Jersey resident, Grand Master Horror award-winner and Prometheus Award Lifetime Achievement winner, has written over 60 books spanning science fiction, horror, adventure, medical thrillers, young-adult, etc. – including the Prometheus Award (www.lfs.org) winners *Wheels within Wheels*, an sf murder mystery; *Sims*; *Healer*; and *An Enemy of the State*. Wilson, who sold his first story to *Analog* in 1970 and has 8 million books in U.S. print, is best known as creator of the urban mercenary Repairman Jack (featured in his latest novel *The Last Christmas*). Among his New York Times bestsellers: *The Keep* (also a 1983 Paramount film), *The Tomb*, *Harbingers*, *By the Sword*, *The Dark at the End*, and *Nightworld*.

Staff and Volunteers

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And a whole-lot more. There have been so many of you who have helped us through the bidding process and with planning for the in person convention who are not represented on this list. So many who volunteered and then got waylay-ed by our new realities and where unable to continue through to the convention.

We appreciate all of you!

TAKE TO THE STARS

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