

Balticon 48 Program Participants

A Kovacs
 John La Polla
 Marnen Laibow-Koser
 Ruth Lampi
 L. Jagi Lamplighter
 Geoffrey Landis
 Grig Larson
 Dan Lathrop
 Rick Leider
 Chris Lester
 Gary Lester
 Neal Levin
 Jennifer Liang
 Bryan Lincoln
 Carey Lisse
 Timothy Livengood
 Andy Love
 Nathan Lowell
 Mike Luoma
 Perrienne Lurie
 Kristina Lynch
 Mark MacDicken
 Gail Z Martin
 Maugorn
 Jessica May
 Jason McClain
 Mike Mcphail
 Bernie Mojzes
 Michelle Moore
 Tee Morris
 Christopher Morse
 Nate Nelson
 Laura Nicole
 Christine Norris
 Barry Nove
 Nutty Nuchtchas
 Hugh O'Donnell
 Kat Otis
 Joshua Palmatier
 Patches
 Pavlina
 Marianne Pease

T.J. Perkins
 Catherine Petrini
 Larry Pinsker
 Sarah Pinsker
 Christopher Pisano
 Andrew Plotkin
 Scott Pond
 Jennifer R. Povey
 Bruce F. Press
 Lita Proctor
 Michael Rafferty
 Brian Rathbone
 Nobilis Reed
 Sarah Richardson
 Ray Ridenour
 Betsy Riley
 Dave Robison
 Scott Roche
 Zan Rosin
 James Daniel Ross
 Ann Rudolph
 Don Sakers
 Carol Salemi
 Brandon Sanderson
 Kathreja Sarfati
 Lee Sarfati
 J. Daniel Sawyer
 PJ Schnyder
 Lawrence M. Schoen
 Darrell Schweitzer
 Melissa Scott
 Norm Sherman
 H. Paul Shuch
 Alex Shvartsman
 Scott Sigler
 Hildy Silverman
 David Sklar
 Jay Smith
 Chris Snelgrove
 Maria V. Snyder
 Bud Sparhawk
 Devo Spice

Jon Sprunk
 Janet Stephens
 Ian Strock
 Linda Swann
 Kate Szkotnicki
 Brett Talbot
 Andrea Trask
 Mary Turzillo
 Michael Underwood
 Mark Van Name
 Arthur Vincie
 Yasaman Vrd'dhi
 Jo Walton
 Jean Marie Ward
 Joy Ward
 Brent Warner
 Robert Waters
 Lawrence Watt-Evans
 Diane Weinstein
 Robbie Whiplash
 Alex White
 Steve White
 John Taylor Williams
 DC Wilson
 Steven H. Wilson
 Leona Wisoker
 Batya Wittenberg
 John C. Wright
 Cindy Young-Turner
 Marv Zelkowitz
 Alan Zendell
 Darren Zieger

For the most current list
 of program participants
 and their bios, see:
[www.balticon.org/
 participants.html](http://www.balticon.org/participants.html)

Baltcon 48 Program Participant Bios

JoAnn Abbott



"You look great—I can fix that" is the latest motto of JoAnn Abbott, who has had more fun than anyone should creating zombies and horror SFX for local films and TV shows the past four years. She competes in the master class at Masquerades in both Sci-Fi and historical divisions, and is known for her unusual outfits, such as the Root Canal Fairy and Grandma GaGa.

Danielle Ackley-McPhail



Award-winning author Danielle Ackley-McPhail has worked both sides of the publishing industry for longer than she cares to admit. Currently, she is a project editor and promotions manager for Dark Quest Books. Her published works include five urban fantasy novels: *Yesterday's Dreams*, *Tomorrow's Memories*, *Today's Promise*, and two books in the *Bad-Ass Faerie Tale* series, *The Halfling's Court* and *The Redcaps' Queen*. She is also the author of the solo science fiction collection *A Legacy of Stars*, the non-fiction writers' guide *The Literary Handyman*, and is the senior editor of the *Bad-Ass Faeries* anthology series—*Dragon's Lure* and *In an Iron Cage*. Her work is included in numerous other anthologies and collections.

Danielle is a member of the Garden State Speculative Fiction Writers, the New Jersey Authors Network, and Broad Universe, a writers' organization focusing on promoting the works of women authors in the speculative genres. Danielle lives in New Jersey with husband and fellow writer Mike McPhail, mother-in-law Teresa, and three extremely spoiled cats. She can be found on LiveJournal (damcphail, badassfaeries, darkquestbooks, lit_handyman), Facebook (Danielle Ackley-McPhail), and Twitter (DMcPhail). To learn more about her work, visit www.sidhenadaire.com, www.literaryhandyman.com, or www.badassfaeries.com.

Jhada Addams



Winner of the much coveted Iron Chef: Erotica A La Carte Golden Artichoke award at Balticon 45, Jhada Addams writes erotic horror and erotica, as well as working as a medium consultant for Pennsylvania-based paranormal investigative group Cressona Paranormal. She eulogizes those who have crossed over, challenges popular notions and is a kinked, socially marginal, anarcho-shamanic Santeria

Priestess.

D.H. Aire

D.H. Aire has walked the ramparts of the Old City of Jerusalem and through an escape tunnel out of a Crusader fortress that Richard the Lionheart once called home. He's toured archaeological sites from diverse cultures that were hundreds, if not thousands, of years old...experiences that have found expression in his writing of his *Highmage's Plight* series. D.H. Aire is the author of *Highmage's Plight* and *Human Mage* (Dec. 2013). His short stories appear in anthologies, and the next novel of his series, *Highmage*, is being serialized in the ezine *Separate Worlds*. Sample chapters of his forthcoming YA urban fantasy novel, *Dare2Believe*, are available on Wattpad.com. The author is originally from St. Louis, Missouri, and currently resides in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. To learn more, visit the author's website at www.dhr2believe.net and on Twitter at @dare2believe1.

Day Al-Mohamed



Day Al-Mohamed is co-editor for the upcoming anthology *Trust & Treachery* and hosts the multi-author blog *Unleaded: Fuel for Writers*. In addition to speculative fiction, she also writes comics and film scripts. Her recent publications are available in *Daily Science Fiction*, *Crossed Genres* anthology *Oomph—A Little Super Goes a Long Way*, and *GrayHaven Comics'* anti-bullying issue *You Are Not Alone*. She is an active member of the Cat Vacuuming Society of Northern Virginia Writing Group, and Women in Film and Video. When not working on fiction, Day is Senior Policy Advisor with the U.S. Department of Labor. She has also worked as a lobbyist and political analyst on issues relating to health care, education, employment, and international development. She loves action movies and drinks far too much tea. She lives in Washington, DC, with her wife, N.R. Brown, in a house with too many swords, comic books, and political treatises. She can be found online at www.DayAlMohamed.com and @DayAlMohamed.

Leigh Alexander

Leigh Alexander has been dancing since the age of three. She has explored many styles of dance including modern, tap, jazz, hip hop, country line, ballroom, African and Native American, but her main focus has always been ballet. As a youth, she studied under Towson's Children's Dance Division with Patty Enoch Bond, where she was able to gain a strong foundation in the Royal Academy of Dance. In

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high school, Leigh was accepted into the dance program at Carver Center for the Arts. After graduation, Leigh went on to receive her Associate of the Arts degree from Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) in Dance. During her attendance, Leigh was awarded "Outstanding Dancer of the Year" for two consecutive years. In addition, she also received the only scholarships offered in the dance department, both years in attendance. She graduated from Goucher College in 2008, where she earned her B.A. in Dance Therapy.

Leigh began her teaching career at age 11 as an assistant at Kingsville Recreation Center. After three years she was awarded her own classes. Leigh went on to teach creative movement, ballet, tap, modern and lyrical to varying age groups around Maryland, including Maryland School of Ballet and Modern Dance (MSBMD).

Leigh's passion in the field of dance has led her in many directions, including costume design. In 2006 she started designing and crafting dance costumes for herself and received several awards for outstanding craftsmanship at local and national conventions. In 2008 she began designing and constructing costumes for several dance companies including Deep Vision Dance Company and Full Circle Dance Company. She has been honored to create and design the costumes for multiple MSBMD and Baltimore Ballet productions.

Scott Andrews

Scott H. Andrews lives in Virginia with his wife, two cats, nine guitars, a dozen overflowing bookcases, and hundreds of beer bottles from all over the world. His short fiction won a \$1000 prize from the *Briar Cliff Review* and has appeared in *Weird Tales*, *On Spec*, and *Space and Time*. He writes, teaches college chemistry, and is editor-in-chief and publisher of the Hugo Award and World Fantasy Award-finalist fantasy magazine *Beneath Ceaseless Skies* and its Parsec Award-finalist podcast.

Catherine Asaro



Catherine Asaro has written more than 25 books in SF, fantasy, and thrillers. Her novel *The Quantum Rose* and novella *The Spacetime Pool* won the Nebula Award. Among her distinctions, she is a multiple winner of the Analog Anlab and RT BOOKClub Award for Best SF Novel. Her recent books are *The Nebula Awards Showcase 2013* (editor), *Carnelians*, and the anthology *Aurora in Four Voices*. Her novel *Undercity* is due out from Baen in 2014. She completed two terms as SFWA president and during her tenure established the Andre Norton Award for Young Adult fiction.

Catherine has a Ph.D. in chemical physics from Harvard and teaches math, physics, and chemistry. She has been a speaker at various institutions, including Georgetown, Harvard, and the US Naval Academy. As a futurist in the think-tank SIGMA, she advises the government and business sector on trends affecting national security. A former dancer, she performed across the country and founded the Mainly Jazz Dance group at Harvard. As a vocalist, she has two CDs. In 2012, the video of her song "Deep Snows" was a nominee for Best R&B Music Video at the World Music and Independent Film Festival. Visit her on Facebook at Catherine.Asaro.

John Ashmead



John Ashmead has B.A. in physics from Harvard, summa cum laude, and a master's in physics from Princeton. For several years he was an assistant editor for *Asimov's SF Magazine*. Currently he is a computer consultant, making sure you get your bills and TV commercials on time (www.ashmeadsoftware.com). No thanks necessary; the work is its own reward. And he is also finishing up a Ph.D. dissertation, "Quantum Time" (www.timeandquantummechanics.com), doing occasional talks at SF conventions, and building a website to help you build interesting

maps on the internet (www.mapsndata.com). His lifetime goal is to build a really practical time machine.

Lisa Ashton



Lisa Ashton is a local Master-level costumer. Her Balticon presentation last year was "Dance of Destruction," the image of the blue six-armed goddess Kali. She loves beadwork and quilting, and in her spare time, fishing and hunting. Her new project is "Miss Lizzy's Traveling Historical Fashion Show," which preserves and exhibits Victorian era clothing and photos. She spends most of her spring and summer at flea markets.

Thomas G. Atkinson



Thomas G. Atkinson has been making costumes since shortly after his birth (his "Baby With Bib and Carrots" was voted "Best Use of Roots and Tubers" at GerberCon '64). He attended his first con in 1976 and has been a permanent fixture since. His costumes include "The Empire State Building," "Chernobyl Clean-Up Crew," "2010 Pajamas," "Winter's End (Potted Plant)," "Spaceman Spiff," and a score of re-creation outfits including *Star Wars* and *Star Trek*. His greatest costuming achievement was as part of "Fridays at Ten," a rocking tribute to the original *Twilight Zone*, which won Best in Show at the 2001 Worldcon Masquerade. Thomas is one of the world's greatest *Star Wars* fans. He started collecting *Star Wars* toys and memorabilia when the first movie came out in 1976, and he has not stopped since. His collection forms the basis of The Star Toys Museum, of which Thomas is Curator. Thomas lives at Meerkat Meade with his husband, writer Don Sakers.

Sarah Avery



Sarah Avery is an escaped academic who writes contemporary and epic fantasy. *Tales from Rugosa Coven* (Dark Quest Books, 2014) is a trio of linked novellas about very real Pagans in a New Jersey even weirder than the one you think you know. This weekend Fantastic Books is celebrating the release of *Trafficking in Magic, Magicking in Traffic*, a themed anthology Avery coedited with David Sklar, which features stories by James Enge, Elizabeth Bear, and Darrell Schweitzer. Her short fiction has appeared in *Jim Baen's Universe*, and in *Black Gate*, where she also contributes a regular column. You can follow her adventures in writing, teaching, and parenting at SarahAvery.com.

Jared Axelrod



Jared Axelrod is a science fiction and fantasy author of "Cockroach Strikes" as well as *The Battle of Blood & Ink*, a graphic novel published by Tor, and is the writer, producer and main voice talent of the companion podcast *Fables of the Flying City*. His written work has been published on the website I Should Be Writing, as well as in the anthologies *Have Blaster Will Travel*, *Gimme Shelter*, *Podthology: The Pod Complex*, and *The Sovereign Era: Year One*. He currently resides in Philadelphia with his immensely talented wife.

Sue Baiman

Sue Baiman is the mom of three talented boys. She is also a Dream Polisher and Whip Wielder (freelance editor). Additionally, she is a poet, knitter, writer, yarn dyer, photographer, artist, voice actor, and free spirit. She has been dyeing Balticon Colorways (sock yarn where the colors are inspired by participants from the New Media programming) since 2010. Her first volume of poetry, *Deep Breaths & Chocolate*, was published in 2013. She curates a blog on creativity

comprised completely of guest posts at ChocolateScotch.com and many of her poems are available online at SueBaiman.com. She is also the voice of Nobilis Reed's *Monster Whisperer* series of stories.

Eric Bakutis



T. Eric Bakutis is an author and game designer based in Maryland. His debut fantasy novel, *Glyphbinder*, is now available from your favorite bookstore. His short stories have been published in various anthologies and short fiction markets. He is a regular member of the BSFS Critique Circle and spends his spare time writing, playing video games, watching movies with lots of explosions, and walking and being walked by his excitable dog. Eric is always happy to chat about writing, the writing process, and working in or entering the game industry, as well as many other geeky pastimes. You can find more information about his novels, short stories, and game projects at www.tebakutis.com, or follow him on Twitter or Facebook.

Rob Balder



Rob Balder is a professional webcomic creator who has also ventured into game design, comedy music, publishing and new media business development. Most of his time is consumed writing and producing *Erfworld*, an epic fantasy/comedy comic about an obsessive strategy gamer who is summoned to fight a real war. From 2004 to 2011, Rob also wrote and performed comedy songs, and recorded two solo CDs. In October 2011, Rob reluctantly announced he was putting all music-related activities on indefinite hiatus in order to focus on comics and business. He is the associate editor of *Nth Degree*, a fanzine covering genre fiction, gaming, comics, fandom and more. He writes science fiction and fantasy, including one unpublished novel and many short stories and poems. In August 2010, Rob launched a collaborative project with six-time Hugo award winner Ben Bova. *A Duel in the Somme* is a 24-page color comic based on a story by Dr. Bova, and illustrated by nationally-syndicated cartoonist Bill Holbrook. The comic appears in its entirety at www.duelinthesomme.com.

Philippa Ballantine



New Zealand-born fantasy writer and podcaster Philippa (Pip) Ballantine is the author of the *Books of the Order* and the *Shifted World* series. She is also the co-author with her husband Tee Morris of the *Ministry of Peculiar Occurrences* novels. Her awards include an Airship, a Parsec, the Steampunk Chronicle Reader's Choice, and a Sir Julius Vogel. She currently resides in Manassas, Virginia, with her husband, daughter, and a furry clowder of cats.

Jason Banks



Jason spent six years in the army as a cook paratrooper, "aka a flying spoon." While on active duty, he developed a love for podcasting, audiobooks, and new media. Jason has been into anime for as long as he can remember. He created his blog and podcast and first attended Balticon in 2012.

Brick Barrientos



Brick Barrientos captained his high school "It's Academic" team to the Washington, DC, finals and the University of Maryland to the College Bowl national championship. Although he only won one day on *Jeopardy*, he did beat all-time *Jeopardy*

winnings leader Brad Rutter in a pickup Host Your Own Jeopardy game. Brick moderates, judges, writes and edits for the National Academic Championship and reads for high school and college tournaments in the Washington and Baltimore area. He has run science fiction trivia contests at local cons as well as Mythcon and the Buccaneer Worldcon when they came to the area. Brick currently hosts a movie trivia games show called *Silver Screen Test* that can be seen at bit.ly/7wp48S. Contact him if you consider yourself a movie buff and would like to be a contestant. Brick worked at the Securities and Exchange Commission and has since worked for investment advisers in compliance and proxy recommendations. He is married, with a daughter who attended conventions as an infant and now drags her parents to anime cons. Brick admits to having at least one cat.

Alan F. Beck



Alan F. Beck has been an artist, designer and illustrator for over 30 years, doing work for many major corporations including book covers and magazine illustrations. His work has been exhibited in art shows and science fiction/fantasy conventions all across the country. He has won numerous awards and honors including two Chesley award nominations and a Hugo Award nomination, and received a "Body of Work" Award at the LA Con IV WorldCon Art Show, Anaheim, CA, plus "Best of Show" award at the 2010 ReConStruction NASFiC in Raleigh, NC. Alan's work tends to be realistic and surrealistic in nature, often whimsical and humorous. His paintings and prints can be found in collections in the US, Canada and Europe. He has recently published a children's book, *The Adventures of Nogard and Jackpot*, and is creator of the "Mouseopolitan Museum of Art." His artwork and concepts are produced using acrylics, watercolor, pastels, 3-D modeling and image manipulation programs. His art can be found in *Space and Time* magazine, *The Fantasy Art Bible*, assorted e-zines and various book covers.

Martin Berman-Gorvine



Martin Berman-Gorvine is the author (as Martin Gidron) of *The Severed Wing* (Livingston Press, 2002), which received the 2002 Sidewise Award for Alternate History (Long Form) at the International Science Fiction Convention in Toronto in 2003, the novel *36* (Livingston Press, 2012), and *Seven Against Mars* (Wildside Press, 2013). His short story "Palestina," set in an alternate history in which Israel lost its war of independence, was published in *Interzone* magazine's May/June 2006 issue, and his short story "The Tallis" appeared in *Jewish Currents* magazine in May 2002. Martin is a professional journalist, currently serving as a reporter for Bloomberg BNA's *Human Resources Report*. His website is www.martinbermangorvine.com, and he can be found sharing blog space with the characters from *Seven Against Mars* at martianperspective.blogspot.com. He lives in the suburbs of Washington, DC, with his wife, three orange tabby cats, two other cats of unknown color that are always hiding, and a sort of Muppet dog.

Joshua Bilmes

Joshua Bilmes is president of JABberwocky Literary Agency, which represents author guest of honor Brandon Sanderson, 2013 Compton Crook Award winner Myke Cole, and many other bestselling and award-winning sf/f authors, including Charlaine Harris, Peter V. Brett, John Hemry/Jack Campbell, Elizabeth Moon, Simon R. Green, Jon Sprunk, Joshua Palmatier, and Tanya Huff.

Danny Birt

Award-winning author Danny Birt has been a contributor to several sci-fi, fantasy, and professional magazines, anthologies, and journals. Formerly, he was an editor for *Flashing Swords Magazine* and Ancient Tomes Press, and is now a freelance editor. His fantasy series *The Laurian Pentology* is being published through Dark Quest Books, with the final book in the series, *Beginning a Beginning*, premiering at Balticon this year. His first children's/YA novel, *Between a Roc and a Hard Place*, won recognition with The National Parenting Center's 2010 Seal of Approval, *Creative Child Magazine's* 2010 Seal of Excellence, and was named one of Dr. Toy's Best Picks of 2010. In addition to literary publication, Danny composes classical and folk music, such as his nonstop hour-long piano solo "Piano Petrissage," and the ever-peculiar album *Warped Children's Songs*. Danny's humorous music has been featured on radio and internet programs such as *The Dr. Demento Show* and *The Funny Music Project*.

Michael Black

Michael A. Black is the author of 20 books and over 100 short stories and articles. He has written in various genres, including mystery, thriller, sci-fi, westerns, and horror.

J.R. Blackwell

J.R. Blackwell is a writer and photographer. She has published fiction, games and photography in books, magazines, newspapers and online. Her first book, *Shelter in Place*, won an ENnie award. She currently works as a contributing photographer to *Philadelphia Weekly*.

Arnold T. Blumberg

Dr. Arnold T. Blumberg is a publisher (ATBPublishing.com), author, book designer, educator, pop culture historian, and internationally recognized zombie expert. He co-authored 2006's *Zombiomania*, one of the first exhaustive guides to zombie cinema that helped define the parameters of zombie movies. He was editor of *The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide*, curated a pop culture museum, and teaches courses at the University of Baltimore—including the world-renowned "Zombies in Popular Media," superhero mythology, apocalyptic media, and media literacy—and Comic Book Literature at UMBC. He has contributed to horror and SF essay collections on everything from *Doctor Who* to the Golem; he has also written official *Doctor Who* fiction for Big Finish *Short Trips* and co-authored the *Howe's Transcendental Toybox* guides to *Doctor Who* merchandise. He lectures on zombies, comic book history, and other media topics; has made appearances in film (*Doc of the Dead*), on TV, radio, and online venues; and has two ongoing podcasts—*Doctor of the Dead* (doctorofthedead.com) and *The G2V Podcast: The Pop Culture Audio Magazine* (g2vpodcast.com). Find him on Twitter at @DoctoroftheDead and @G2VPodcast.

Walt Boyes

During the day, Walt is an award-winning journalist, analyst and consultant on manufacturing and automation, but at night, he transforms into the Bananaslug of Baen's Bar and writes science fiction, fantasy and alternate history. He is on the editorial board of the *Grantville Gazette* and is working on a novel with Eric Flint and Rick Boatright, and the 1632 Companion with Joy Ward, to whom he considers himself very lucky to be married.

David Brawley

David is a gamer, blogger, Trekkie, and all around geek. When not designing dungeons, writing blog posts for his gaming blog towerofthearchmage.blogspot.com or reading the latest book in his newest favorite series, he's most often found hiking with his corgis. In a previous life, David managed the game section at a very large comic/anime/toy/game store, while in this life he counts beans for the NIH.

Alessia Brio

Take one part Appalachian redneck, one part aging wet dream, and one part filthy-minded wordsmith. Mix well and serve with chocolate-covered cherries. There you have the one and only Alessia Brio. Alessia writes all colors and flavors of erotica, from heterosexual to menage to same sex, and from twisted to humorous to deeply touching. (Sometimes, usually by accident, it even qualifies as Romance.) Her work has earned her critical acclaim in the form of an EPIC eBook Award for Best Erotica (*fine flickering hungers*), two EPIC eBook Awards for Best Erotic Anthology (*Coming Together: Against the Odds* and *Coming Together: Into the Light*), two Next Generation Indie Book Awards for Erotica (*Squeeze Play* and *Coming Together: For the Cure*), and a *Romantic Times* Top Pick (*Coming Together: For the Cure*) in addition to a plethora of glowing online reviews.

Charlie Brown

Charlie Brown is a writer, filmmaker and podcaster originally from New Orleans. He now lives in Los Angeles and will soon graduate from USC with a master's in Professional Writing. His stories have appeared in *Jersey Devil Press*, *The Menacing Hedge*, and *Aethlon*. He also runs Lucky Mojo Press and edited their first anthology, *Dirty Magick: Los Angeles*.

N.R. Brown

N.R. Brown has a passion for books. During the day she splits her time between being a librarian and performing improv...while at night she is a horror/dark fantasy writer and blogger. Her work has appeared in *Chiaroscuro* (www.chizine.com), *Clockwork Chaos*, and the upcoming *Bad Ass Faeries: It's Elemental*.

Peter Bryant

Peter is a published artist, writer, game designer, and podcaster. He has worked with R. Talsorian, Tri Tac Games, Dilly Green Bean Games, Chapter 13 Press, and Knighthawk Games. His current projects are: writing and game design for Tri Tac Games, Rogue Chess, Cube of Death, the *Tri Tac PodCast*, and the *MythWits* web series.

K.T. Bryski

K.T. Bryski is a Canadian author and podcaster. She made her podcasting and publishing debut with *Hapax* (Dragon Moon Press, 2012). Select credits include stories in *Black Treacle* and *When the Hero Comes Home Vol. II* (Dragon Moon Press, 2013), the libretto for *East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon: A Children's Opera* (Canadian Children's Opera Company, 2014), and various scripts for Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto. KT is thrilled to be attending the Stonecoast MFA Creative Writing program. By

day, she works in the Black Creek Historic Brewery, and she is currently working on her next novel.

Stephanie Burke



Have You Been Flashed?

Stephanie is a multi-published multi-award-winning wife and mother of two whose unparalleled imagination causes her no end of trouble. From sex-shifting shape-shifting dragons to undersea worlds, up to sexually confused elemental fey and homo-erotic mysteries, all the way to pastel-challenged urban sprites, Stephanie has done it all, and hopes to do more. Stephanie is an orator on her favorite subject of writing and world building, a sometimes teacher when you feed her enough coffee and donuts, an anime nut, a costumer, and a frequent guest of various sci-fi and writing cons where she can be found leading panel discussions or researching more and varied legends and theories to improve her writing skills. Stephanie is known for her love of the outrageous, strong female characters, believable worlds, male characters filled with depth, and interracial that make the reader sit up and take notice. Currently Stephanie writes for Changeling Press, Ellora's Cave, Loose-Id press, Red Rose, Renaissance E Books, Tease Publishing, Total E Bound, Beautiful Trouble Publishing and hopes to add more to her résumé. You can reach Stephanie at Theflashcat.net, www.facebook.com/TheFlashCat, Flamekeeper@yahoo.com, or email her at Flashycat2004@aol.com.

Laura Burns



Laura Burns has been a contract engineer with NASA missions since 1998. She worked on the James Webb Space Telescope and Landsat 8. Currently, she is working on the Joint Polar Satellite System. She spent the summer of 2007 in Beijing at the International Space University and has returned to ISU as a Guest Lecturer. She is the head of the Parsec Awards Steering Committee, the premier award for science fiction podcasting. She enjoys speaking to the public on space-related topics at conventions and science festivals. She tweets about space and science at @moonrangerlaura. In addition to her interest in space, she is a long-time science fiction and fantasy fan, photographer, board game player, knitter, and traveler.

Jonette Butler



Jonette, a confirmed volunteering addict, has been active in the SF/F fan community since the beginning of this millennium.

Mildred Cady



Games, writing, crafting, acting, costuming, real and alternate history, historical lifestyles, and cooking are the main interests of Mildred's life. She's turning those into stories for herself and her friends, games to play with friends, and a podcast (the *Picnic Basket* podcast). At Balticon this year she'll be bringing a more in-depth view into Victorian Gambling and Parlor Games, a Whist Tournament, and stories and discussion over in the New Media track.

Jack Campbell / John Henry



Jack Campbell (John G. Henry) is the dashing and audacious author of the *New York Times* best-selling *Lost Fleet* series (*Dauntless*, *Fearless*, *Courageous*, *Valiant*, *Relentless* and *Victorious*). His most recent book is *Steadfast*, the latest in the *Lost Fleet—Beyond the Frontier* series (which also includes *Dreadnaught*, *Invincible* and *Guardian*). His next book will be *Imperfect Sword* in the *Lost Stars* series. He is also the author of the *Stark's War* and *Sinclair/JAG in Space* series. His alternate American Civil War novella *The Last Full Measure* was published by Subterranean. His short fiction has appeared in places as varied as the last *Chicks in Chainmail* anthology and *Analog* magazine (most recently "The War of the Worlds—Chapter Eighteen" in the January/February 2013 issue). He also has stories in the anthologies *Breach the Hull*, *So it Begins*, *By Other Means* and *Armor*, as well as the essay "Liberating the Future in Teenagers From the Future" (about the Legion of Super Heroes). After retiring from the US Navy and settling in Maryland, John began writing. John lives with his wife (the indomitable S) and three great kids. His children are all on the autistic spectrum.

Christine Chase

Christine Chase, daughter of science fiction author Robert R Chase, has been an otaku since she was in high school, and wrote a report for her Japanese class about anime and manga. She now spends too much time writing fanfic, pondering the theological implications of *Gundam Wing*, and convincing other people that anime is not "just for geeks."

Robert R. Chase



Robert R. Chase is the author of three published novels (one a Compton Crook finalist) and about two dozen short stories published in *Analog* and *Asimov's*.

Carl Cipra



Carl started reading F/SF in his pre-teen years and has been hooked ever since. He became involved with Fandom back in the 1970s (by way of the SCA in Southern California) and is one of the founding members of Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians. He really enjoys moderating discussion panels at conventions and is looking forward to all the fascinating discussions at Balticon this year. Mundanely, Carl is the program manager for instructor-training in a much-maligned, three-letter Government agency.

Brenda Clough



Brenda Clough writes science fiction and fantasy, mainly novels. Nine of her novels have been published. Her two recent novels are available in e-format: *Revise the World*, a time travel novel, and *Speak to Our Desires*, dark fantasy/detective. Brenda also writes short stories and occasional non-fiction. She blogs every week at the *Book View Cafe Blog*.

John Cmar

John Cmar, M.D., has been long enthralled with horrible infections that could spell doom for humankind, as well as sanity and skepticism in the practice of medicine. He is currently an Instructor of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and the assistant director of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore. He is the lead physician in Sinai's Ryan White

initiative, which provides medical care and social assistance to patients with HIV infection who are without medical insurance. In his role as program director for the Internal Medicine residency program at Sinai, he teaches an annual course series in Evidence-Based Medicine, among many other duties. He also does infectious diseases outreach in Baltimore television and print media, and is the guest-in-residence on the monthly *Midday on Health* show with Dan Rodricks on 88.1 WYPR radio in Baltimore. John is a science fiction and fantasy fan, avid gamer, and podcast enthusiast. He currently blogs and podcasts on skeptical, medical, and geeky topics on *The Saint Nickanuck of the Tundra Online Memorial Hospital* (saintnickanuck.com).

Doc Coleman

Doc Coleman is a blogger, podcaster, voice actor, and writer. He started off writing tech reviews and short stories in 2010, and soon branched out to podcasting and voice acting. He was the stowaway crew member on *Galley Table*, and is still producing his own podcast, *The Shrinking Man Project*. His voice acting credits include "A Midsummer Night's Dream" from *Pirate's Cove*, "Absolution" from

Scrivener's Circle, the YA novel *Ginny Dare*, and live performances of *Metamor City* at Balticon 45 and 47, and *Stargazers* at Balticon 46. He is part of the newly formed League of Extraordinary Vocalists. His stories have appeared in the Ministry of Peculiar Occurrences' *Tales from the Archives*, the *Way of the Gun* anthology, and the Steampunk Special Edition of *Flagship* magazine. In 2014 he will publish his first novel, *The Perils of Prague*, the first novel in the series *The Adventures of Crackle and Bang*. Find out about all of Doc's projects at Swimming Cat Studios (SwimmingCatStudios.com). When he isn't juggling projects, making a living, or mainlining podcasts, Doc is a gamer, an avid reader, a motorcyclist, a home brewer and beer lover, a fan of renaissance festivals, and frequently a smart-ass. He lives with his lovely wife and two Maine Coon cats in Germantown, MD.

Lesley Conner

Lesley Conner is a writer and the social media editor and marketing leader for Apex Publications. She spends her days pestering book reviewers, keeping the Apex blog in order, and chatting about books, writing, and anything else that crosses her mind. She's currently looking for a

home for her first novel *The Weight of Chains*, which she recently finished. For updates on everything Apex follow her on Twitter at @ApexBookCompany. For everything else, you can find her at @LesleyConner.

Paul Cooley

A writer, podcaster, and software architect from Houston, Texas, Paul Elard Cooley has been writing since the age of 12. In 2009, he began producing free psychological thriller and horror podcasts, essays, and reviews available from Shadowpublications.com and iTunes. His stories have been listened to by thousands and he has been a guest on such notable podcasts as *Podioracket*, John Mierau's *Podcast Teardown*, *Geek Out with Mainframe*, *Shadowcast Audio*, and *Vertigo Radio Live*. In 2010, his short story "Canvas" and novella *Tattoo* were

nominated for Parsec Awards. "Tattoo" became a Parsec Award finalist. He has collaborated with *New York Times* bestselling author Scott Sigler on the series *The Crypt* and co-wrote the novella *The Rider* (projected to release in 2014). In addition to his writing, Paul has contributed his voice talents to a number of podofiction productions. In addition to his own show, he is a co-host on the renowned *Dead Robots' Society* writing podcast.

Iver P. Cooper

Iver P. Cooper has been an active contributor to Eric Flint's "1632" shared universe, with more than 20 short stories and more than 40 articles published so far in the online *Grantville Gazette* (some to be reprinted in Ring of Fire Press eBooks), and another short story in the hardcover anthology *Ring of Fire II*. His anthology of braided short stories (*1636: Seas of Fortune*) was published in January 2014 by Baen and Simon & Schuster. He has been a panelist at Albacon, Capclave, Balticon, Farpoint and RavenCon. Iver is an intellectual property law attorney with Browdy & Neimark, Washington, DC. He has received legal writing awards from the American Patent Law Association, the U.S. Trademark Association, and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, and is the sole author of *Biotechnology and the Law*, now in its twenty-something edition. In his spare time, such as may exist, he teaches swing and folk dancing, and participates in local photo club competitions. Iver is married, with a son who is a public policy analyst, and a daughter who is a copywriter.

Vonnie Crist

Vonnie Winslow Crist, B.S. Art-Ed, M.S. Professional Writing, Towson University, is author-illustrator of *The Enchanted Skean*, "The Greener Forest" and "Owl Light" (sf/f stories), *River of Stars* and *Essential Fables* (myth-based poetry), *Leprechaun Cake* and *Other Tales* (children's), *Blame it on the Trees* and *For the Good of the Settlement* (sf/f eBooks).

Published in Canada, Australia, Finland, Spain, Italy, UK, and the United States, she's a Pushcart Nominee who's received awards from L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future, the Maryland State Arts Council, and Pen Women. She's had over 1,000 illustrations published; her sf/f art has been featured on the covers of *Spaceports & Spidersilk*, *Bards and Sages Quarterly*, *Illumen*, *Aoife's Kiss*, *Scifaikuest*, and *FrostFire Worlds*; and Alban Lake Publishing printed a 2014 calendar featuring her speculative paintings. Vonnie enjoys celebrating the power of myth in her writing and art: www.vonniewinslowcrist.com and vonniewinslowcrist.wordpress.com.

Rinn Critzer

Rinn is a veteran Washington, DC-based actress of classical, musical, and modern American theater. Some of the highlights of her career include singing with the Dave Brubeck Quartet at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, DC, and working under the musical direction of Tony Award nominee Michael John LaChiusa. Also, as a

professional theater management volunteer, Rinn received the League of Washington Theaters "Off Stage Award" in 2009. She also plays the roles of Ma Hyter and Hettie Hyter in *Shotgun Mythos*. Deborah trained at Georgetown Washington University, the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts, and the Shakespeare Theatre Company.

Mike D'Ambrosio

Michael is well-known for his *Fractured Time* trilogy and his *Space Frontiers* series. Recently, his new novel *Princess Pain*, book one of the new *Pain* series, was published and released by Blackwyrms Publishing. Michael also writes screenplays, some adapted from his novels. He participates in more than 10 conventions a year around the country. Look for more news and appearances on Michael's projects at www.fracturedtime.com.

A.L. Davroe

A.L. Davroe writes speculative fiction for teens and adults. She is the author of *City Steam*, *Salvation Station*, and *For Your Heart*. Her upcoming YA Cyberpunk novel, *Nexis*, is due for publication in August.

Keith DeCandido

Keith R.A. DeCandido (www.decandido.net) has written BILLIONS AND BILLIONS of books. No, really! His latest is *The Klingon Art of War*.

Susan de Guardiola

Susan de Guardiola has been active in fandom for more than 30 years as a costumer, masquerade emcee, and all-around fan. She is a social dance historian who may often be found in musty library stacks researching dance from the 16th to the early 20th century, which she teaches at workshops and dance events across the United States and in Russia. In her spare time, she plays high-speed online

Scrabble.

Ming Diaz

Ming has been perpetually interested in storytelling, clowning, facepainting, and costuming for the past 40-some years while actually making an income/playing at being an electronics tech. He has never worked a day in his life. When allowed free rein, he will teach basic communication skills to teens, turning them into presentation critics. You can usually find him in the Fast Track area or follow the tracks of bread crumbs to a panel area during the day.

Tim Dodge

Tim Dodge is a writer and podcaster from Syracuse, NY and the author of two podcast novels. *Acts of Desperation*, his first, is a thriller about a guy who gets in way over his head and has to fight for his life. His second, *Purgatory*, is a comedy about the afterlife and was also published in print and eBook form. His third book, tentatively titled *And Ghosts Return*, is about a ghost hunter, the woman he loves, and the haunting in her home that is trying to kill them both. Tim also hosts the podcast *The Geek Side of Life*, an exploration of geek culture one podcast at a time, where he's interviewed notables such as Starla Huchton, John Anealio, John Mierau, K.T. Bryski, and the creators of *Cards Against Humanity*. In his spare time, he holds down a day job, serves as a trustee on two library boards, plays RPGs with some guys who are every bit as disturbed as he is, picks up his guitar now and then, and humbly obeys the wishes of his German shepherd. He is still aglow from the Boston Red Sox victory in the 2013 World Series, and his friends wish he would get over it.

Tom Doyle

Tom Doyle's contemporary fantasy novel from Tor Books, *American Craftsmen*, will be released just a few weeks before the convention. His collection of short fiction, *The Wizard of Macatawa and Other Stories*, includes his WSFA Small Press Award and Writers of the Future Award stories. He writes science fiction and fantasy in a spooky turret in Washington, DC. You can find the text and audio of many of his stories on his website, www.tomdoylewriter.com.

James Durham

James Durham, writer/producer/composer, is the undead-loving creator of the award-winning FETIDUS (The Foundation for the Ethical Treatment of the Innocently Damned, Undead and Supernatural), which is about to launch a thrilling new season in 2014. He's also one of the time-twisted minds behind the sci-fi indie film *95ers*, which was recently picked up for distribution and should be hitting stores soon. He works in film, new media and music production while simultaneously singing, dancing, and doing amazing feats of acrobatics. That last part is false. Visit jamesdurham.com for more information.

Collin Earl

Attorney Collin Earl focuses on both litigation and transnational work in the areas of business, personal injury, intellectual property, domestic and consumer protection. Collin is a professional novelist—he writes books! He also deals with social media, author branding and the business of being an author.

Gary Ehrlich

Gary Ehrlich stalks the hallways of northeast conventions and assorted filk conventions. In mundania he is a mild-mannered structural engineer for a major trade association, representing them on material design standards committees and at building code hearings. At cons he can be found on a stage or in the filk room, offering songs of space flight, lunar colonies and hyperspace hotels. Gary is a three-time chair of Conterpoint, the DC area's incarnation of NEFilk, the Floating Northeast Filk Con, has filled other roles for Conterpoint and for 1997's Second Concerto, and is currently Balticon's Director of Filk and Other Musical Mayhem. In April 2012 Gary was inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame for his contributions to the filk community. Gary appears on five collections of convention recordings: "How Many of them Can We Make Die?" (Conterpoint '96), "The Filk Was Great..." (Conterpoint '00), and "Millennium Pandemonium, Volume 1" (MilPhil '01) by Kludge Audio, and USB Productions' "Triskaidekafilkia" (FilkONTario 13) and "Filk Heroes" (FilkONTario 14).

Gaia Eirich

Gaia is a Master costumer and has been attending and costuming at conventions for over a decade. For the last 16 years she has been sewing and creating costumes in a wide variety of forms including fantasy, historical, and anime costumes for conventions and commissions, belly dance costumes for a studio, wedding dresses, accessories, and also basic quilt-making. She has also worked as a costume manager in a theater and is currently working on belly-dance costume alterations for a studio. She is an active member of the Greater Columbia Fantasy Costumer's Guild (GCFCG), the local chapter of the International Costumer's Guild (ICG).

Peter Eirich

Peter was first introduced to Euro-style boardgames by Hal Haag at a long-ago Balticon, and has been playing them regularly ever since. He was the first Euro-games champion at the Congress of Gamers event in Rockville, MD, and regularly competes at the Games Club of Maryland's EuroQuest event. His favorite strategy game is Twixt, and he earned a second place finish in the first (and only) Twixt tournament ever held at BPA's World Boardgaming Championships. But mostly he plays games for fun, and especially railroad-type board games, having been a train buff since almost his earliest memories. A graduate of MIT, his technical career has focused on software and systems analysis.

Christiana Ellis

Christiana Ellis is an award-winning writer and podcaster, currently living in Cambridge, MA. Her podcast novel, *Nina Kimberly the Merciless*, was both an inaugural nominee for the 2006 Parsec Award for Best Speculative Fiction: Long Form, as well as a finalist for a 2006 Podcast Peer Award. *Nina Kimberly the Merciless* is available in print from

Dragon Moon Press. Christiana is also the writer, producer and star of *Space Casey*, a 10-part audiodrama miniseries which won the Gold Mark Time Award for Best Science Fiction Audio Production by the American Society for Science Fiction Audio and the 2008 Parsec Award for Best Science Fiction Audio Drama. In between major projects, Christiana is also the creator and talent of many other podcast productions including *Talking About Survivor*, *Hey, Want to Watch a Movie?* and *Christiana's Shallow Thoughts*.

Judi Fleming

Judi Fleming is an instructional systems designer for the federal government by day and writes both fiction and non-fiction in the evenings when she isn't doing gourd art, gardening or caring for her critters. She is a graduate of Seton Hill University's master's program in writing genre fiction. Her fiction has appeared in various anthologies

including *Hazard Yet Forward*, *Bad-Ass Faeries*, as well as the *Best Laid Plans*, *No Man's Land* and *Dogs of War* volumes in the *Defending the Future* military sf series.

Billy Flynn

With a background in radio and podcasting, acting is a natural outlet for a former class clown. Billy Flynn has spent years working in radio creating comedic characters to entertain listeners. Hosting events such as The Boom Effect telethon and The Parsec Awards led to some acting opportunities. Billy Flynn has appeared in the plays *Much Ado About Murder*, *Annie*, *Murder at Avedon Hill*, *THY*, and provided voice work for *Power in the Blood*, *The Amazing Pulp Adventures of Mr. Adventure*, *Requiem of the Outcast*, *Sci-Fi Shenanigans*, *Star Trek Miami*, and anywhere else that will have him. Billy Flynn can also be heard announcing roller derby for the River City Rollergirls. His goal is to one day be the voice of a super-hero in a cartoon.

Flynnstress

Flynnstress brings a sultry, feminine voice to Geek Radio Daily's sometimes weekly podcast, *GRDsWeekly*. She is originally from Maryland, and went to school at George Mason University and University of Phoenix. When Flynnstress is not co-hosting *GRD*, she helps teachers integrate 21st century skills in the classroom with inspiring Ed

Tech, as an Instructional Technology Resource Teacher. She loves WordPress and graphic design, and she is slowly but surely teaching herself coding. You can also likely find her playing roller derby with the River City Rollergirls (derby name Thistle Hurt) or snuggled up with a book. She loves *Doctor Who*, *Firefly*, steampunk, *Star Trek*, *The Matrix*, partying with her friends, being a Grammar Nerd, and meeting new people. Flynnstress also loves to travel, watches way too much TV, and admits to being addicted to Facebook.

John L. French

John L. French is a crime scene supervisor with a major East Coast crime laboratory. As a break from the realities of his job he writes science fiction, pulp, horror, fantasy and, of course, crime fiction. His books include *The Devil of Harbor City*, *Souls on Fire*, *Past Sins*, *Here There be Monsters*, *Paradise Denied* and (with Patrick Thomas) *The Assassins' Ball*. He is the editor of *Mermaids 13: Tales from the Sea*; *Bad Cop*, *No Donut* (which features tales of police behaving badly) and *To Hell in a Fast Car* (which features stories of everyone else behaving badly).

Clint Gaige

Clint Gaige has been writing and producing video for over 20 years. As co-owner of Growth Media Services, he has produced corporate videos, training videos and commercials for businesses organizations and government agencies. He is also a successful writer, with four novels and numerous short stories to his credit. His work has appeared in *Bullet Magazine*, and he was nominated for the Pushcart Prize. In addition to being the creator, director, and man behind the curtain of the series *Shotgun Mythos*, his film work includes the short films *Dogmatic Siblings*, *Brothers and Perspective*, the feature-length films *Making the Mob* and *Violent Karma* and the educational series *Classroom Moments*.

Darla Gaige

Darla Gaige has been a producer and co-writer on a number of projects including *Violent Karma* and *Perspective*. She is also co-creator and lead writer on the educational series *Classroom Moments*. She is an avid reader who handles most of the research for the world of *Shotgun Mythos*. It is her dedication to chasing down the historical mysteries and staying true to the legends that leads to both head-pounding frustration and flashes of inspiration from the writers.

Allie Gamblin

Allison Gamblin has been in the blogging community since 2001. She started out on MindSay.com and by 2008 had transitioned to a professional blogger with a PR 2 level site. In 2009 she began the GetFound Consulting firm and has been assisting numerous clients ranging from government contractors to small authors and podcasters. Allison is a mom to a beautiful Elf Princess and wife to the fabulous Brand Gamblin. She has three pets and a hectic schedule.

Brand Gamblin

Author, video producer, and puppeteer Brand Gamblin was a video-game programmer for ten years before creating the cult YouTube comedy hit "Calls For Cthulhu." He is the author of several sci-fi novels, and has been a finalist for the Parsec multiple times.

Monique Gaw

Monique Gaw is an active actress in the indie film world. She has been seen in the films *Perspective*, *Violent Karma* and *Cowboy Killer* as well as a number of short films. Monique has also been featured in a television campaign for Melson Gems. She has also appeared in the web series *Milgram and the Fastwalkers*, and is currently playing the role of Summer in the series *Shotgun Mythos*.

Pamela L. Gay

Dr. Pamela L. Gay is an astronomer, writer, and podcaster focused on using new media to engage people in science and technology. Through CosmoQuest.org, she works to engage people in both learning and doing science. Join her project, CosmoQuest, to map our solar system in unprecedented detail through citizen science projects, and to learn astronomy through media productions such as *Astronomy Cast*. Through this weekly podcast, Fraser Cain and Dr. Gay take you on a facts-based journey through our cosmos, exploring not only what we know, but how we know it. In addition to podcasting, she also works to communicate astronomy to the public through her blog Starstryder.com, and through frequent public talks, and mass media. Her writing has appeared in *Astronomy*, *Sky and Telescope*, and *Lightspeed* magazines, and she has appeared in episodes of *The Universe* and National Geographic's *Top Secrets*.

Thomas Gideon

Thomas Gideon is the host and producer of the award-winning *Command Line* Podcast, an in-depth exploration of the intersections of geek culture, hacktivism, public policy, and technology. He is also co-host of the *Libation Liberation Front* podcast, an ongoing discussion of the good life and the freedom to pursue it.

Veronica Giguere

Veronica "V." Giguere is a voice artist and author who has appeared in a variety of audio projects and podcasts covering genres such as science fiction, erotica, fantasy, horror, romance, and steampunk. She is a co-author of the *Secret World Chronicles* podcast novel series, as well as the narrator and voice for a plethora of heroes and villains therein. Along with Cedric Johnson, she has recently published *Broken*, an inner-city cyberpunk story that involves boxing, medical technology, and coffee. Her voice work has been heard on a wealth of podcast fiction magazines, fullcasts, audiobooks; and on rare occasions, she has appeared as herself. She has voiced spoiled supervillains, tempting demons, fierce pirates, suspicious journalists, Greek goddesses, white foxlings, virus-laden robots, and a young woman facing an odd spider infestation. When she isn't bringing the voices in others' heads to life, V. masquerades as a mild-mannered academic whose specialties include time management, learning strategies, and preparing for the zombie apocalypse. All Hail the Magic Spreadsheet.

James Gossard

Screenwriter, playwright and fiction writer James L. Gossard is a coauthor of the award-winning screenplays *In Mind* and *Mobtown*. His latest screenplay, *White Dust*, is a thriller, currently being pitched and vetted in LA. His stage plays have been produced and have received multiple awards, including the Individual Artist Award from the Maryland

State Arts Council. James also teaches and works as an independent business consultant and business writer.

Stephen Granade

Stephen Granade is a physicist who specializes in sensors for robotic vehicles. He has worked on devices that can read your fingerprint from 10 feet away, systems that let unpiloted helicopters land automatically, and a video-based sensor that helped guide the Space Shuttle to the Hubble Space Telescope. If you're afraid of the robot revolution, Dr. Granade is probably someone to watch out for. He also worked with NASA on the Advanced Video Guidance Sensor (AVGS), which measures the distance from a spacecraft to a target satellite so that the spacecraft can dock gently with the satellite. When AVGS was first tested on orbit as part of the Demonstration of Autonomous Rendezvous Technology mission, the sensor guided the spacecraft right to the satellite, where the two promptly collided. This worried NASA but made the Department of Defense very interested. He is a podcaster and can currently be heard on the *Disasterpiece Theatre* podcast, where he and his co-host Alex White pitch terrible movie ideas that Hollywood might still make. He is involved with DragonCon TV, and his scientific commentary has appeared on *Jalopnik*, FoxNews.com, and *CBS Marketwatch*.

Bob Greenberger

Bob Greenberger has worked for Starlog Press, DC Comics, Gist Communications, Marvel Comics, Weekly World News, Famous Monsters of Filmland, and ComicMix. He is the co-founder of Crazy8Press. As a freelancer, Bob has written numerous *Star Trek* novels and short fiction in addition to short works of science fiction, fantasy, and nonfiction covering a wide array of topics. Bob makes his home, with his wife Deb, in Howard County, MD, and teaches high school English in Owings Mills.

Jennifer Grier

Dr. Jennifer Grier is Senior Scientist and Education Specialist, Planetary Science Institute (www.psi.edu/about/staff/jgrier/jgrier.html). Dr. Grier is a planetary scientist, astronomy educator, speculative fiction writer, and poet. She studies the surfaces of the terrestrial planets and asteroids, especially the formation, morphology, and age of impact craters. Dr. Grier enjoys engaging with students and the general public about astronomy through workshops, classes, and museum exhibits. She is the first author of the textbook *The Inner Planets* published by Greenwood Press. Dr. Grier's poems and stories have appeared in *Space and Time*, *Niteblade*, *Liquid Imagination*, and in an anthology by the Maryland Writer's Association entitled *Life In Me Like Grass On Fire*. Dr. Grier contemplates various astronomy facts and speculative fictions on her blog *Fictional Planet* (onewritersmind.blogspot.com) and @grierja on Twitter. Asteroid 7807 Grier was named in her honor.

Val Griswold-Ford

Val Griswold-Ford is the author of the *Dark Horseman* novels *Not Your Father's Horseman*, *Dark Moon Seasons* and *Last Rites*, all from Dragon Moon Press. She is also the co-editor of *The Complete Guide to Writing Fantasy: the Opus Magnus* (with Tee Morris) and *The Complete Guide to Writing Fantasy: The Author's Grimoire* (with Lai Zhao), also from Dragon Moon Press, and has self-published the short e-novella *Snow*. She has published several short stories in various anthologies online and in print, and is owned by three cats.

She and her husband live in New Hampshire with said cats. You can find her at www.vg-ford.com or on Twitter as @vg_ford.

Eta Hack

Eta, a mild-mannered home daycare mother, currently works with the Shore Leave, Farpoint and Balticon conventions as the Children's, Teen, and/or Youth tracks coordinator. She acknowledges that she may have some issues, but she loves what she is doing. Feel free to contact her if you want to be part of Children's or Teen programming!

Mor Hall



Mor Hall has been acting since the age of 14, when she was selected for a Washington Opera performance of *The Thunder of Horses*. Since then she has performed in a myriad of stage performances ranging from Shakespeare (*Macbeth*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Twelfth Night*) to contemporary plays (*The Bully*, *The Wild Party*). She, with a group of friends in high school, established a Shakespearean theatre company in Fredericksburg, VA, which has continued to present shows to the public for over a decade. During her time with opera, Mor fell in love with the process of becoming something she wasn't through the magic of makeup. She continued her education of the subject into college (James Madison University) where she began making money doing the makeup for various theaters. She currently is appearing as Leahan in the series *Shotgun Mythos*.

Elektra Hammond



Elektra Hammond emulates her multi-sided idol Buckaroo Banzai by going in several directions at once. She's been involved in publishing since the 1990s—now she writes, concocts anthologies, reviews movies for buzzymag.com, and edits science fiction for various and sundry. When not freelancing or appearing at science fiction conventions, she travels the world judging cat shows.

Michael Hanson

Michael H. Hanson is a member of the GSSW (Garden State Speculative Writers), the HWA, and The Fictioneers. He created the ongoing *Sha'Daa* shared-world anthology series which is now being published by Moondream Press, an imprint of Copper Dog Publishing LLC (currently consisting of *Sha'Daa: Tales of the Apocalypse*, *Sha'Daa: Last Call*, *Sha'Daa: Pawns*, and the soon to be published *Sha'Daa: Facets*). He published two collections of mainstream poetry in print (*Autumn Blush* and *Jubilant Whispers*, whose second editions will be released by Racket River Press) and is presently compiling his third poetic anthology, *Luminous Lullabies*, and an illustrated collection of poems for children, *The Great Soap Rebellion*, both to be released by Pumpkin Hill Press. In 2013, his short story "Failure to Comply" was published in Perseid Press's *What Scares the Boogey Man* anthology, his short story "Truth Will Conquer" was published in Gabrielle Faust's *High Stakes: A Vampire Anthology*, his short story "The ITTT" was published in Janet Morris's *Heroes in Hell (HIH)* anthology volume *Dreamers in Hell*. Michael had stories in the last two *HIH* volumes, *Lawyers in Hell* and *Rogues in Hell*. His short story "The Traveling Luminous Museum" will be published in Perseid Press's *Terror by Gaslight* anthology, edited by John Manning.

Michael is the founder of the international writers club The Fictioneers, a non-profit organization created in 2007 to encourage the writing of sci-fi, fantasy, and horror, and the creative interaction of fledgling writers with more experienced professionals. The Fictioneers, whose current roster is made up of over 145 authors world-wide, is loosely modeled after those fun children's clubs

of mid-20th Century radio fame (Captain Midnight, Little Orphan Annie, etc.). Michael is a staff editor at The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. www.northcountrypoet.com, www.facebook.com/michael.h.hanson.3, www.facebook.com/pages/Michael-H-Hanson/196660673791787, www.shadaa.com, www.thefictioneers.com.

Eric Hardenbrook

Eric freely admits that he creates because it is cheaper and more effective than therapy or shock treatment. He resides in central Pennsylvania with his beautiful wife and daughter, but was born and raised in New England. After many years in commercial architectural firms, he shifted his focus and is now an application engineer with a software company that works with architecture and engineering firms. He is a fan, author and artist—usually in that order. He has been part of the team running the Watch The Skies science fiction and fantasy group and publishing the *Watch The Skies* fanzine for the past 14 years. When not working on a project, he enjoys board games, the occasional video game, and is an old school role player. Find him at *The Pretend Blog* (www.ehardenbrook.com).

P.C. Haring

P.C. Haring is a writer.

Kelly Harmon



Kelly A. Harmon used to be a newspaper reporter. She found reporting to be by turns exciting (for example, covering a murder trial) and excruciatingly boring (for example, covering itty-bitty town council meetings). Most other stories managed to fall between those extremes on a sliding scale of interesting. Eventually, she moved away from full-time reporting and editing owing to the extreme boredom of the routine. Stories were still interesting, but the rote mechanics of the job became anathema. Nonetheless, she still writes non-fiction... because she can't seem to leave it alone. When not crazed with the need to freelance, she writes fantasy and dark fantasy with the occasional science fiction piece. Her story "Lies" was short-listed for the 2008 Aeon Award. Her novella *Blood Soup* won the July 2008 Fantasy Gazetteers Novella Contest and was published in 2009. It's been reissued electronically by Pole to Pole Publishing as both an ebook and audio book. The print version will be available soon. Ms. Harmon's new novel, *Stoned in Charm City*, is available now.

Lauren Harris

Lauren is a fantasy writer, voice actress, and the fantasy review columnist for *Orson Scott Card's Intergalactic Medicine Show* magazine. She is the co-creator of 2012 Parsec Finalist, *Pendragon Variety Podcast* for aspiring writers of genre fiction, where she is known as "Scribe." Her voice acting can be heard on Audible.com as well as fiction podcasts such as *EscapePod*, *The Guild of the Cowry Catchers*, *The Dunestee Audio Fiction Magazine*, and *The Drabblecast*. Though she spent three years living in Tokyo, she currently resides in a renovated tobacco shed in rural North Carolina, where she is pleased to have running water, wifi, and all her teeth.

Katie Hartlove

Katie Hartlove (MS professional writing) has been actively involved in many aspects of the writing and publication process. Her poems and short stories have appeared in magazines and anthologies. She has been editing for about 10 years. In 2009, she began Book Mark It Promotions (book-mark-it.com) and provides marketing solutions to authors around the country. In 2010, she opened Cold Moon Press, which recently released Vonnie Winslow Crist's collection, *Owl Light*. Visit Cold Moon Press at coldmoonpress.com.

J.P. Harvey

J.P. is a husband, father and career military officer. He's a life-long science fiction fan and geek, and is doing his best to raise his son to be the same.

Melissa Hayden

Melissa is a fantasy reader and blogger working through the mundane life undercover as a bookkeeper during the day. By night, she enjoys journeying through fantasy worlds created by others and herself. She reviews and posts at her blog, *My World*, in words and pages at: melissamelsworld.blogspot.com.

CJ Henderson

CJ Henderson is the creator of the first supernatural detective, author of some 70 books/and or novels, plus hundreds and hundreds of short stories and comics. This witty, charming, cancer-surviving man-about-village is one of the most beloved rascals of our age. We know this is true because he told us so himself.

Reesa Herberth

Reesa grew up in Hawaii, and had passing acquaintance with Nevada, California, and Arizona before settling in northern Virginia. She spends her days solving problems at a non-profit, and her nights and weekends making trouble in alternate realities. With her partner, Michelle Moore, she is the author of the award-winning *Ylendrian Empire* series, the most recent of which is *In Discretion*, a charming romp through a dying space station filled with not!zombies. Her next book, *Peripheral People*, a sci-fi thriller about psychic cops, serial killers, and squishy feelings, will be released in June of 2014. You can find Reesa on Twitter as @reesah, and read about her ongoing adventures with art and writing at: www.michelleandreesawrite.com.

Inge Heyer

Inge Heyer was born and raised in Berlin, Germany. She completed her secondary education there, after which she accepted a scholarship to study martial arts and the Japanese language at Tenri University in Tenri, Japan. She then decided to follow her interest in astronomy (fueled by watching way too much *Star Trek*) and came to the U.S. to pursue a B.A. in physics and astronomy at Smith College in

Massachusetts. Following this, Inge obtained a master's degree in astronomy at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, after which she accepted a job as data analyst for the Hubble Space Telescope. Fourteen years later Inge moved back to Hawaii to lead the science education and outreach efforts for the Joint Astronomy Centre in Hilo. After five years and a short stay in Wyoming to obtain her doctoral degree in Science Education, she moved back to Baltimore to be a visiting assistant professor in the physics department of Loyola University Maryland, teaching astronomy and physics. Since 2012 she is also a guest science blogger on StarTrek.com. And in case you were wondering how the Hubble images got into episodes of *Babylon-5* and *Star Trek*, you're looking at the trouble-maker who instigated this...

Sharon Hill

Sharon Hill is a geologist and has a Ed.M. focusing on Science and the Public. She has been an advocate for science and critical thinking for over 20 years, and has published pieces for *Skeptical Inquirer*, *Skeptical Briefs*, *Skeptic*, and *Fortean Times*. Her main effort is running the popular critical thinking news blog

Doubtful News (doubtfulnews.com), but she also writes a monthly column for the *Skeptical Inquirer* web site called "Sounds Sciencey." She is also a scientific consultant for the Center for Inquiry. The paranormal, cryptozoology and anomalous natural phenomena are particularly fun subject areas that Ms. Hill has researched and loves to discuss. She is currently working on a book about paranormal investigators.

Lee Hillman

Lee C. Hillman died at the age of 13 months. Since her suspicious return to life, she has been busy conquering worlds too numerous to mention. She has published short stories in the *Bad-Ass Faeries* and *Defending the Future* series and in the anthology *TV Gods*. She also writes fanfiction under the penname Gwendolyn Grace. Lee, or her alter-egos Gwen or Gwenly, is also an actor, singer, and songwriter. She also remains on the board of HPEF, an educational non-profit that produced Harry Potter conventions. For the past six years, her major online project has been writing in and moderating the shared fanfiction-role-playing game "HP Alternity," found on Dreamwidth.

Abigail Hilton

Abigail Hilton is the author of more than ten novels and short story collections, including the Guild of the Cowry Catchers series. She has produced and podcast much of her own work, including five novels with a full voice cast. She co-hosts the Parsec-winning *Fullcast Podcast* with Bryan Lincoln—a show on fullcast production. Her fiction podcasts have generated well over a million downloads.

Larry Hodges

Larry Hodges' first novel, *Sorcerers in Space*, came out in November 2013 from Class Act Books. A resident of Germantown, MD, Larry is an active member of Science Fiction Writers of America with over 70 short story sales. He's a graduate of the six-week 2006 Odyssey Writing Workshop and the 2008 Taos Toolbox writers' workshop. He's a full-time writer, with eight books and over 1500 published articles in over 140 different publications. He also writes about and coaches the Olympic sport of table tennis, is a member of the USA Table Tennis Hall of Fame (Google it!), and once beat someone using an ice cube as a racket. Visit him at www.larryhodges.org.

Jeannette Holloman

Jeannette is a member of the Greater Columbia Fantasy Costumers Guild. Her costumes have been featured in *Threads* magazine and *The Costume Makers Art*. She has participated in several WorldCon, CostumeCon and Malice Domestic award-winning costumes. She is a voice-over artist. She is married to author, costumer and technocrat Ron Robinson.

Thomas R. Holtz Jr.

Dr. Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., is a dinosaur paleontologist specializing in the origin, evolution, adaptations, and paleobiology of carnivorous dinosaurs (especially Tyrannosaurus and its kin). He is a faculty member of the Department of Geology at the University of Maryland, College Park, a research associate of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum

of Natural History, and is on the Scientific Council of the Maryland Science Center. In addition to his technical publications, Dr. Holtz has written several books for the general audience (such as *Dinosaurs: The Most Complete Up-To-Date Encyclopedia for Dinosaur Lovers of All Ages*), and has been a consultant on numerous TV documentaries. Dr. Holtz is the Faculty Director of the College Park Scholars–Science and Global Change Program (www.geol.umd.edu/sgc/). He lives in Upper Marlboro, MD with his wife (long-time Balticon costumer Sue Shambaugh), a trio of cats, and the Inland bearded dragon Dr. Emilio Lizardo.

Patrick Holyfield

P.G. Holyfield is the creator of SpecFicMedia.com and hosts several podcasts through the site, including *Beyond the Wall: A Game of Thrones* podcast, *SFM.com Presents: Consumption*, and *SFM.com Presents: Tintin Forever*. P.G. is also the author of the award-winning novel *Murder at Avedon Hill*, and has finally gotten around to

working on a sequel. P.G. got his start in new media with the award-nominated audio drama of *MaAH*, and the follow-up short story anthology, *Tales of the Children*. P.G. lives in North Carolina with too many animals (children included) to name in the space provided here.

Starla Huchton

A geek of all trades, Starla Huchton has been crafting stories in various genres since 2007. Her first novel, *The Dreamer's Thread*, was released as a full cast audiobook podcast, becoming a double-nominee and finalist for the 2010 Parsec Awards. After releasing short fiction of steampunk, noir fantasy, and other varieties, she released the first three books of the Sci-Fi Romance *Endure* series in 2013.

All three books of the *Evolution* series will be released in 2014, as well as a Steampunk Fantasy novel, *Master of Myth* (the *Antigone's Wrath* series, Book 1), which was the first-place winner of the Crested Butte Writers' contest, *The Sandy*, in 2012. When not writing, Starla trains three Minions, a black lab, and a military husband while designing book covers for independent authors and publishers at designedbystarla.com.

Walter Hunt

Walter H. Hunt has been writing for most of his life and was Arisia Author GoH in 2009. His first four *Dark Wing* novels were published by Tor Books and are now available from Baen as eBooks. His novel *A Song In Stone* deals with Rosslyn Chapel and the Templars. Current projects include *1632* novels with Eric Flint, an 18th century alternate history novel, and the

forthcoming *Elements of Mind* from Spencer Hill Press. He has a background in history, with a B.A. degree from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, ME, and he speaks two other languages (German and Spanish). A member of the Masonic Fraternity, Walter has served as Master of two different Lodges in Massachusetts. He is a devoted baseball fan and board gamer; his first published game was published

in 2011 by Rio Grande Games. He has been married for more than half of his life, and he and his wife have one daughter who is a product of their affection and unusual joint sense of humor.

Michelle Hymowitz

Michelle has been playing strategy board games and card games for as long as she can remember, but really started getting into German board games in 1990.

Chris Jackson

Fantasy Author Chris A. Jackson's 2014 projects include a sequel to his first *Pathfinder Tales* novel, *Pirate's Honor*, *Pirate's Promise*, to be released in December, his first release with Privateer Press, a *Skull Islands Expeditions* novella, and the culmination of the Kindle bestselling *Weapon of Flesh* trilogy, *Weapon of Vengeance*.

Nancy Janda

Rarely mistaken for a mundane, Nancy Janda has been attending science fiction conventions with her partner Larisa Van Winkle since Paracon in 1982. She has illustrated for fanzines since the 1980s, and exhibits her artwork at convention art shows. You'll see her at conventions, usually giving workshops on such topics as Amber Polishing, Electric Origami, and whatever other creative topic has caught and held her fancy.

Mark Jeffrey

Mark Jeffrey was one of the very first people ever to podcast an MP3 audiobook novel online. His first podcast novel, *Max Quick: The Pocket and the Pendant*, was released in 2005 and has received over 2.5 million downloads to date. It was published in hardcover by Harper Collins in 2011. Mark is the author of *Prisoner of Glass* (2014), *Age of Aether* (2013) and the Armand Ptolemy series.

Mark co-founded Glossi.com, a site where anyone can easily create digital magazines suitable for tablets and other devices. He has been named one of "50 to Watch" by *Variety* magazine, a "Hero of Multimedia" by *Entertainment Weekly* and was a featured speaker at the very first Harvard Conference on The Internet and Society. Mark Jeffrey holds a B.S. in computer science from the University of New Hampshire.

Paula S. Jordan

Paula S. Jordan is the author of "The Gift of Unbinding" (May 2001) and "Two Look At Two" (April 2011), both in *Analog*; "Voorh," her novella-length sequel to "Two Look At Two," has recently been purchased for publication there. After B.A. degrees in history and drama and several years as a freelance writer, she earned a B.S. degree in physics and worked as an orbit analyst for NASA and NOAA. She supported more than 30 unmanned science and weather missions including the Clementine mission that first discovered water on the moon. Now retired, she is at work on more short stories and her first real novel. She blogs regularly at Darkcargo.com.

Jason Kalirai

Dr. Jason Kalirai is a research astronomer at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, MD. He was recently selected as one of Baltimore's "40 under 40" and selected as Maryland's Outstanding Young Scientist for 2013. He obtained his Ph.D. in astrophysics in

2004 from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC, Canada. His research interests include studying the formation and evolution of stars and nearby galaxies using both ground and space-based telescopes. Dr. Kalirai is also the Project Scientist for the James Webb Space Telescope. Follow Jason on Twitter at @JasonKalirai.

Amy Kaplan

A.L. Kaplan's love of books started at an early age and sparked a creative imagination. It wasn't until late in high school that she began to write down the many stories in her head. She holds an M.F.A. in sculpture from the Maryland Institute College of Art and spent several years teaching art in the public school system. When not writing or indulging in her fascination with wolves, she works as the props manager for a local dinner theatre. She is also the secretary of the Maryland Writers Association's Howard County Chapter. The proud mother of two wonderful young adult daughters, she lives in Maryland with her husband and dog. To keep up with A. L.'s writing, visit her blog at alkaplan.wordpress.com.

Alma Katsu



Alma Katsu is the author of *The Taker* trilogy, a highly acclaimed epic supernatural love story. The third book, *The Descent*, was published in January 2014 (Gallery Books). She has an M.A. in fiction from Johns Hopkins University. She is a former career intelligence officer and currently works for a think tank. Find out more about her work at www.almakatsu.com.

Mark Kilfoil

Mark "The Encaffeinated ONE" Kilfoil is a podcaster, software developer, audio editor, radio host, pen-and-paper gamer, geek and nerd. Since the mid 90s, he has hosted two radio shows on campus radio, and in 2006 transformed one of them into the award-winning podcast *The WEIRD Show*, which captured a Parsec award for "Best Infotainment" in 2008. As that show continues into its eighth year and nearly 300 episodes of strange news, odd ideas and weird views, he has participated in a handful of other podcasts, including being one of the principal hosts of *The 9th HeroesCast*. He's worked on audio drama projects both big and small, from single-person parodies ("Brink In A Box") to mid-cast short comedy ("Wasted Tape") to large-cast series (audio editor/voice actor for *Buffy Between the Lines* and *Angel Between the Lines*). He's written a handful of short stories, and his novelette, *Tainted Roses*, was transformed into a 2013 Parsec-nominated podiobook. He currently works as the program director of CHSR-FM, a campus/community radio station in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.

Holliann Russell Kim



Holliann R. Kim was the winner of the 2013 BSFS Amateur Writing Contest. She has an M.Phil. in Popular Literature from Trinity College Dublin (Ireland) and a B.A. in English from Gettysburg College, concentrating her research on folklore and young adult speculative literature. A native of Maryland, she currently resides in Columbia. Her website is www.holliannkim.com.

Daniel M. Kimmel



Daniel M. Kimmel is past president of the Boston Society of Film Critics and founding co-chair of the Boston Online Film Critics Association. His reviews can be found at Northshoremovies.net. He writes on science fiction films for SciFiMoviePage.com and *Space and Time* magazine. He was nominated

for a Hugo Award for *Jar Jar Binks Must Die...and other Observations about Science Fiction Movies*. His latest book is his first novel, *Shh! It's a Secret: A novel about Aliens, Hollywood, and the Bartender's Guide*. Both are available from Fantastic Books.

T. Jackson King



T. Jackson King writes hard science fiction, anthropological sci-fi, military SF, dark fantasy/horror and contemporary fantasy/magic realism. He has worked as a federal archaeologist in the American Southwest, as a newspaper reporter, and has traveled widely overseas. His newest SF novel, *The Memory Singer*, is being released at Balticon by Fantastic Books Publisher Ian Strock. While he began reading sci-fi in the fourth grade, Tom didn't write his first novel until he was 38, and it was rejected. He had better fortune with his second novel *Retread Shop* about a young man orphaned on an Alien-run space station devoted to interstellar trade. Since then he has had 11 more sci-fi/fantasy books published. They are *Anarchate Vigilante* (2014), *Galactic Vigilante* (2013), *Nebula Vigilante* (2013), *Galactic Avatar* (2013), *Stellar Assassin* (2013), *Speaker to Aliens* (2013, Wilder Publications), *Star Vigilante* (2012), *The Gaeen Enchantment* (2012, Wilder Publications), *Little Brother's World* (2010, Fantastic Books), *Judgment Day and Other Dreams* (2009, Fantastic Books), *Ancestor's World* (1996, Ace Books; with A.C. Crispin; 2012) and *Retread Shop* (1988, Warner Books; 2012, Wilder Publications Inc.). Tom has 16 stories sold to magazines like *Analog* and *Pulphouse*. He loves hiking, overseas travel and ancient history. Tom lives in Los Alamos, NM.

Rachel Elizabeth Kolar

Rachel Kolar is a graduate of Kenyon College whose work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine*, *Leading Edge*, *Tales of the Talisman* and *The Colored Lens*. She, her husband, and their two children live in Laurel, MD. When not writing dark fantasy or changing diapers, she enjoys playing complicated board games, hiking, and getting far too excited about Halloween.

Jonah Knight

Jonah is the Show Runner for Antimatter Press, a small publisher designed around the episodic TV production mode. Antimatter has over a dozen titles in development. He is also the co-host of the Parsec-nominated *Pros And Cons* podcast, a show about geek music and convention culture. Oh, and he is a four-time musical/filk GoH.

Brian Koscienski



Brian Koscienski developed his love of writing from countless hours of reading comic books, losing himself in the different worlds and adventures within the colorful pages. He had minor successes early in his career by getting a few short stories published in independent 'zines, but found more success in partnering with Chris Pisano. As a writing team, they have had stories, articles, graphic novels, and poetry published, and most recently their debut novel, *The Shattered Visage Lies*, was published by Post Mortem Press.

A Kovacs



A Kovacs is the Director of Døøm at Empty Set Entertainment, and a founding partner at Audacity, a San Diego-based management company that builds world class events and manages one-of-a-kind talent. She's a movie geek, *Doctor Who* fan, skeptic and science nerd. She doesn't like chocolate all that much.

Ruth Lampi



Ruth Lampi is a lady adventurer, writer, illustrator, sculptor and nomadic periwig purveyor. She enjoys starting small businesses, art projects and book series, serializing and socializing online, gaming with friends, and cosplaying at conventions. Her first three books can be found online and in paperback through www.worldofshandor.com. After earning her B.F.A. in Fine Art at Moore College

of Art and Design, Ruth has had art and writing published in a number of small press and gaming publications. She has written several adventure modules, and co-authored *Hero's Handbook: Eladrin for Goodman Games* with Jessica Van Oort, her frequent accomplice, as well as the story "Unto the Interface," in the cyberpunk anthology *Foreshadows*, a collaborative project between writers and composers. Ruth publishes an ongoing web novella series of illustrated adventure novels, including *The Alarna Affair*, *The Germhacht Episode*, and *The Tembelaka Voyage*, coming soon in paperback and eBook formats. She can usually be found about the artist's alley and art show, and will probably have a new hair and eye color daily to thoroughly confuse matters.

L. Jagi Lamplighter

L. Jagi Lamplighter is the author of the YA fantasy *The Unexpected Enlightenment of Rachel Griffin*. She is also the author of the *Prospero's Daughter* series: *Prospero Lost*, *Prospero In Hell*, and *Prospero Regained*. She has published numerous articles on Japanese animation and appears in several short story anthologies, including *Best of Dreams of Decadence*, *No Longer Dreams*, *Coliseum Morpheuon*, *Bad-Ass Faeries* anthologies (where she is also an assistant editor) and the Science Fiction Book Club's *Don't Open This Book*. When not writing, she switches to her secret identity as wife and stay-home mom in Centreville, VA, where she lives with her dashing husband, author John C. Wright, and their four darling children, Orville, Ping-Ping Eve, Roland Wilbur, and Justinian Oberon.

John La Polla



John La Polla is a systematic entomologist. His research encompasses the full spectrum of activities associated with systematics including taxonomic revisions, species descriptions, the study and codification of morphological and molecular characters, phylogenetics, biogeography, and the discovery and documentation of biodiversity. A key element of his research program is to merge the techniques of both morphological and molecular analyses to create a powerful framework for addressing interesting, organism-based questions. His focal organisms are primarily ants, although he has ventured into projects involving other hymenopterans (bees and wasps) and non-hymenopterans as well that are associated with ants (primarily scale insects). Ants fascinate him and are his inspirational wellspring for doing science.

Grig Larson



Grig "Punkie" Larson (b. 1968) was born in Cyprus on British soil, the only son of a pair of Swedish-American descendants. He grew up in Northern Virginia, finding fandom through D&D, FanTek, and *Rocky Horror*. He works as a systems administrator by day, and by night he's an author, open source advocate, runs Katsucon, narrates the Balticon Podcast, and works for the DC Rollergirls. A staple in VA/DC/MD science fiction and anime fandom since the 1980s, he's been a panelist, moderator, emcee, actor, sketch writer, convention adviser, narrator, and the kind of sub-fame that keeps people from asking, "Hey, how'd HE get in here?" He's done everything from chair a convention to being the guy who vacuums the staff suite. In no particular order.

In 1993, his first book, *The Saga of Punk Walrus*, became a cult classic. Since then he's been published in *Gateways*, several short story anthologies, and written several sketches and spoofs for various acting venues. You can often see him at Balticon, Katsucon, Anime Mid Atlantic, and DC Rollergirl home bouts. He is a Redditor and also seen posting on the *Ars Technica* forums. *Trolley* was his first published steampunk/horror novel in 2011.

Marcus Lawrence



Marcus started his theater career in avant-garde theater productions such as the often-controversial Cherry Red Productions *Kenneth, What is the Frequency?* and *Cinema Verite* and even appeared nude in their popular event *Day Old Plays*. He then moved into more classic American Theater, appearing in *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Harvey*, as well as stretching his range with VpStart Crow Productions ranging from Steinbeck and Dickens to August Strindberg's *The Ghost Sonata*. He would go on to do Greek in Richmond (*Agamemnon's Daughters*), Shakespeare in Fredericksburg (*Twelfth Night*) and most notably Dionysus in *The Bacchae* at The Capitol Fringe Fest. Marcus also starred in crime noir films *Violent Karma* and *Perspective*, as well as numerous short films and commercials. He has shown a more comedic side in Old Virginia Film's *Lily's Thorn*, appearing as Lily's buffoonish ex-husband, and then as a French bank robber in Old Dominion's TV Show *From the Files of Interpol* for the Discovery Channel. He currently stars in the role of Joss Washburn on the series *Shotgun Mythos*.

Rick Leider



Film reviewer/screenwriter R. Allen Leider began his career in 1970 at CBS news as copy boy for *The CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite*. In 1973, he became features writer for *The Monster Times* and went on to work at *Show, Celebrity and Glitter* magazines and other international publications. His photojournalistic work has been syndicated worldwide. He lives in Manhattan, NY with wife Barbara, a professional photographer. In 1984, he created the original story and screenplay for *The Oracle* (1985), and hosted his own radio show, *Cinemascene*, on WWFM for five years. Presently, he writes and edits the online *Black Cat Review* magazine. His newest projects are the *Wicca Girl* trilogy, a magical fantasy action-adventure following 18-year-old Druscilla Marie d'Lambert from her Medieval childhood through her transformation to Witch Queen to her modern day assignments as a supernatural MI-6 agent. He also edits and co-publishes the *Hellfire Lounge* anthology series.

Chris Lester

Chris is the creator of *The Metamor City Podcast* (www.metamorcity.com), a sci-fi/fantasy series where magic meets technology in a city of dark wonders. The podcast won Parsec Awards for outstanding audio fiction in 2008 and 2009, and has garnered over three million episode downloads to date. His latest novel, *Things Unseen*, was released in e-book in June 2013 and in print in March 2014. Trained as a biologist at the University of California–Santa Cruz, Chris switched careers in 2008 and now works as a science teacher in Oakland, CA. When he isn't writing or planning lessons, he enjoys playing piano and guitar, reading, and exploring California's many beautiful parks. He lives in the Bay Area with his partner and their three loud but adorable cats.

Gary Lester

Gary Lester is the senior editor of Channel-37.net, a publisher of online serial fiction. He also is Creative Director of Channel 37's parent Company, Greyrock Publishing, LLC. Gary Lester has one fantasy novel, *Ursula the Yellow. Season One!*, an anthology published with co-author Paul Lagasse, is a compilation of stories from Channel 37. He has also published various single story e-books.

Neal Levin

Neal Levin is a game designer and writer from New Jersey. In 2001 he founded Dark Quest Games and learned to pour his brain directly to paper with some attempt to filter the results. This has culminated in many products with varying degrees of success. He is also the publisher behind Dark Quest Books (Palomino Press, Sparkito Press, Star Song Press, Dullalah Press, & DTF Publications.) As a short story author he has work in anthologies from many other publishers. His latest novel is *The Whispering of Dragons*, the first book in the *Salient Dreams* series.

Jennifer Liang

A lifelong fan of science fiction and fantasy, Jennifer is the Chair of JordanCon and the current president of the Southern Fandom Confederation, the South's oldest regional science fiction fan club. She is the co-webmaster of www.dragonmount.com, the largest *Wheel of Time* community discussion site online. Jennifer has been a featured presenter at WorldCon, MiniCon, LibertyCon and the North American Science Fiction Convention, and served as the Robert Jordan *Wheel of Time* track director at Dragon Con for over a decade. She blogs about local restaurants, recipes, and sustainable living as *Northside Food* and has had her writing featured on Tor.com and *Cracked*.

Bryan Lincoln

Bryan Lincoln is an audio producer and physicist.

Carey Lisse

Dr. Carey Lisse's scientific interests are broad, and he is as interested in solar system and planet formation and evolution as he is in the search for water and life in the galaxy. He does this using comets and asteroids and Kuiper Belt objects left over from the beginning of the solar system as tracers. Born and raised in Maryland near Washington DC, his early college studies (A.B. from Princeton, M.S. from UC Berkeley, M.S. from UMD) were in solid state physics and physical chemistry. He began his astronomy career in 1985 when he

was hired on as an instrument scientist at NASA/Goddard on the Nobel prize-winning COBE project, where for 10 years he was steeped in studying the history of the cosmos and infrared astrophysics. He moved over to planetary studies when he wrote his dissertation on comets detected in the COBE all-sky survey in 1992. He continued his post doctoral work at UMD, where he used his cross-disciplinary astrophysics-planetary training to discover X-ray emission from comet C/1996 B2 Hyakutake with ROSAT while observing its close perihelion passage from the NASA/IRTF on Mauna Kea. He went on to work at STScI from 1999-2001, where he helped design and build the current HST/WFC3 camera.

In 2001 he moved back to UMD, where he worked on the Deep Impact (DI) mission from start to finish, helping to design, build, launch, operate, and analyze its workings. Since 2004 he has worked at JHU-APL in Laurel, MD, one of the centers of excellence for solar system studies in the country, where they are orbiting Mercury, orbiting and roving Mars, circling Saturn, and speeding towards Pluto. At APL in 2005 he obtained seminal Spitzer measurements of the dust excavated from the interior of comet 9P/Tempel 1 by the DI experiment, and continued working on the DI Extended mission to comet 103P/Hartley 2 in 2010. Between the comets he studied Earth and Mars as examples of extra-solar planets using DI remote sensing. At APL in 2009 he helped discover glassy silica evidence of a massive planet forming collision in the nearby HD172555 system, which was employed to interpret the asteroidal nature of the Wesley impact onto Jupiter. In 2012 he demonstrated that a Late Heavy Bombardment (LHB) must be occurring in the nearby Eta Corvi system, which can be used to learn more about our own LHB. In 2013 he led NASA's Comet ISON Observing Campaign (CIOC) to study that unique Sungrazing comet on its first passage through the inner solar system since its scattering into the Oort Cloud 4.56 Gy ago.

Timothy Livengood

Tim Livengood is a planetary scientist who counts neutrons, measures infrared colors of planetary atmospheres, and used to catch some ultraviolet rays, back in the old days. He has also done some visible-light spectrophotometry of Earth and the moon and Mars from space. He was a co-investigator of the EPOCH investigation of NASA's EPOXI mission, and was the education and public outreach team leader for EPOCH. These days, most of his time is spent worrying about water on the moon. Tim has a B.A. in physics from Washington University in St. Louis (guess what city it can be found in!), and a PhD in physics from "The" Johns Hopkins University. During his idyllic college summers, he killed rats and various cell cultures in an underground laboratory using a linear accelerator. Tim is also a professional storyteller, using his life in science as a source for new ideas and new material for stories, and using his experience in storytelling to convey science and the understanding of the world gained from science.

Andy Love

Andrew Love has master's degrees in electrical engineering and physics. He has given talks about the science of science fiction and other topics to a wide range of audiences. He's married to children's author Pamela Love (author of *A Loon Alone*).

Nathan Lowell

Nathan Lowell has been a writer for more than 40 years, and first entered the literary world by podcasting his novels. His sci-fi series, *The Golden Age of the Solar Clipper*, grew from his long-time fascination with space opera and his own experiences shipboard in the U.S. Coast Guard. Unlike most works which focus on a larger-than-life hero (prophesized savior, charismatic captain, or exiled prince), Nathan centers on the people behind the scenes—ordinary men and

women trying to make a living in the depths of space. In his novels, there are no bug-eyed monsters or galactic space battles; instead he paints a richly vivid and realistic world where the “hero” uses hard work and his own innate talents to improve his station and the lives of those of his community.

Mike Luoma



Mike Luoma writes science fiction and comics, produces and hosts the weekly *Glow-in-the-Dark Radio* podcast (glowinthedarkradio.com), and can be heard weekdays on The Point, Vermont's Independent Radio Network (pointfm.com), where he's also music director. He's just released a graphic novel version of the first book in his *Vatican Assassin* trilogy—a science fiction adventure

adapted by Mike and artist Cristian Navarro. He's currently writing the third novel in his new series, *The Adventures of Alibi Jones*, the follow-up to *Alibi Jones and The Sunrise of Hur*, his latest novel. You can listen to Mike read his works for free—look for Mike Luoma on iTunes for free, downloadable podcast versions of all his books.

Perrienne Lurie

Perrienne Lurie is an infectious disease epidemiologist and public health physician for the Pennsylvania Department of Health. She has been active in fandom for many years, and served as the email liaison for the Baltimore in 1998 Worldcon bid, deputy program coordinator for BucCONeer, Hugo ceremony director for Torcon 3, and worked on many other regional and Worldcons. She currently runs the gaming area for Capclave and has run the Balticon Green Room for way too long. She's also active in the Central PA (European strategy board) Game Club.

Jeff Lyman

Jeff Lyman is a Writers of the Future winner and Odyssey writing program participant. He has co-edited or contributed to a number of anthologies with Danielle Ackley McPhail and has been published in *Orson Scott Card's Intergalactic Medicine Show*.

Mark MacDicken



Professional family entertainer for close to four decades, Mark MacDicken performs comedy magic as the eccentric wizard “Flabbergast.” As well as being an accomplished actor and comedy magician, Mark is also a top-notch puppeteer and balloon sculptor. Often seen as

Spiffy the Clown, he has performed at hundreds of birthday parties and larger events, as well as theme parks and on cable television. At fan conventions, he also appears in his other original characters, the mad Professor Probius and the comical Commander McBragg. Mark has performed puppets for such companies as Knott's Berry Farm, Keebler, and Kaiser-Permanente. Back in the day of public access television, he produced his own children's show, *Tinker's Toybox*. His stage acting credits span numerous community theatre productions, children's theatre, comedy improv, and murder mystery dinner theatre. Other interests include cartooning, songwriting, and all things steampunk! When he's not dressing up in costumes and playing with his toys, Mark is a special education teacher at an elementary school in Northern Virginia. He has a B.F.A. degree in Drama from the University of Southern California, and a M.Ed. in Special Education from George Mason University. Mark lives with his wife, adult son and daughter, and senile cat.

Gail Z. Martin



Gail Z. Martin is the author of the new epic fantasy *Reign of Ash* (Orbit Books, 2014) and *Deadly Curiosities* (urban fantasy series, July 2014, Solaris Books), set in Charleston, SC. She is also the author of *Ice Forged* in *The Ascendant Kingdoms Saga*, *Reign of Ash* (2014) and *War of Shadows* (Orbit Books, 2015), plus *The Chronicles of The Necromancer* series (*The Summoner*, *The Blood King*, *Dark Haven*, and *Dark Lady's Chosen*) from Solaris Books and *The Fallen Kings Cycle* (*The Sworn* and *The Dread*) from Orbit Books. She writes two series of e-book short stories: *The Jonmarc Vahanian Adventures* and the *Deadly Curiosities Adventures*.

Gail's work will appear in at least four new anthologies in 2014: *Clockwork Universe Steampunk vs. Aliens*, *Athena's Daughters*, *Icarus: A Graphic Novel* (stretch goal author), the British Fantasy Society's *Unexpected Journeys* and *With Great Power*. Other U.S./U.K. anthologies include *Magic* (Solaris), *The Bitten Word* and *The Mammoth Book of Ghost Stories by Women*. Find her at www.ChroniclesOfTheNecromancer.com, on Twitter @GailZMartin, on Facebook.com/WinterKingdoms, at DisquietingVisions.com blog and GhostInTheMachinePodcast.com. She leads monthly conversations on Goodreads and posts free excerpts of her work on Wattpad.

Jessica May

Skinner Co. is a three-person podcasting powerhouse of creativity and unexpected dance moves. They write, narrate, illustrate, and sing, as needed, all of which lends itself well to their current main project, *Flash Pulp*.

Jason McClain



Jason is no stranger to the costume/cosplay world, nor is he a stranger to the stage, from emceeding children's masquerades at New York Comic Con to judging masquerade at Celebration V. He is also an accomplished convention DJ at Anime USA and Katsucon.

Mike McPhail



Story-engineer and Trench-author Mike McPhail is best known as the editor of the award-winning *Defending The Future* (DTF) series of military science fiction anthologies. Currently he is the administrator for the Dark Quest Books imprint DTF Publications (www.defendingthefuture.com). As a member of the Military Writers Society of America, he is dedicated to helping his fellow service members (and deserving civilians) in their efforts to become authors, as well as supporting related organizations in their efforts to help those “who have given their all for us.” Web: www.milscifi.com.

Bernie Mojzes



Bernie Mojzes is very fond of coffee, but also of whiskey and other sundry beverages. Two Christmases ago, his spousal unit got him a seltzer machine, which is a fabulous bubble-making device. Possibly of more interest in this venue is that fact that he is a writer with stories in a diverse variety of anthologies and magazines, and also publishes and co-edits the online 'zine *Unlikely Story* (formerly and still occasionally *The Journal of Unlikely Entomology*). For more, go to www.kappamaki.com and www.unlikely-story.com.

Michelle Moore

Michelle Moore, co-author of the *Ylendrian Empire* series along with Reesa Herberth, spends the majority of her time juggling (fictional) spaceships, con men, and psychic cops, all of which you can read about in *The Balance of Silence* (2010), *The Slipstream Con* (2011) and *Peripheral People* (Summer 2014). Find her online at: www.michelleandreesawrite.com.

Tee Morris

Tee Morris has been writing adventures in far-off lands and far-off worlds since elementary school. His first work, *Morevi: The Chronicles of Rafe and Askana*, would become a top-selling title for Dragon Moon Press, an EPPIE finalist for Best e-book Fantasy of 2003, the first book to be podcast in 2005, and a Parsec Award Finalist for Best Podcast Novel in 2006. Podcasting *Morevi* led to the founding of Podiobooks.com and collaborating with Evo Terra and Chuck Tomasi on *Podcasting for Dummies*. It also won acclaim and accolades for his first solo title, *Billibub Baddings and The Case of the Singing Sword*, the podcast winning a 2008 Parsec Award for Best Audio Drama. While writing fantasy is his passion, his journalism chops were still called upon when commissioned to write articles for BenBella Books's *Farscape Forever: Sex, Drugs, and Killer Muppets* and *So Say We All: Collected Thoughts and Opinions on Battlestar Galactica*. He was also tapped to write *All a Twitter*, a definitive guide to working with Twitter. With his diverse background in science fiction, writing, and social media, Tee has hosted presentations at venues across the country and around the world including The Library of Congress, BlogWorld, CREATE South, and Te Papa Tongawera.

In 2011, Tee returned to writing fiction with *The Ministry of Peculiar Occurrences* series, written with his wife, Pip Ballantine. Their first title in the series, *Phoenix Rising*, won the 2011 Airship Award for Best in Steampunk Literature, while both *Phoenix Rising* and *The Janus Affair* were finalists in Goodreads' Best in Science Fiction of 2011 and 2012. In 2013 Tee and Pip released *Ministry Protocol*, an original anthology of short stories set in the Ministry universe. Now in 2014, following a Parsec win for their companion podcast, *Tales from the Archives*, Tee and Pip celebrate the arrival of their third book, *Dawn's Early Light*. When Tee is not creating something on his Macintosh, he enjoys a good run, a good swim, martial arts (which he will start up again, someday), and putting together new playlists to write by. His other hobbies include cigars and scotch, which he regards the same way as anime and graphic novels: "I don't know everything about them, but I know what I like." (And he likes Avo and Arturo Fuente for his smoke, Highland Park for his scotch!) He enjoys life in Virginia alongside Pip, his daughter, and three cats.

Christopher Morse

Christopher X. Morse is an actor, writer, and podcaster. He received a B.A. in theater from Temple University and used those skills to produce the 2012 Parsec Award-winning podcast *Supervillain Corner*. He spends his free time writing speculative fiction with the love and support of his wife Erica.

Nate Nelson

Former professional wrestler, video gamer and avid comic book collector, Nate Nelson is a well-rounded geek. Nate graduated from the Illinois Center for Broadcasting and was hired as the producer for the *Mackay in the Morning* show at a suburban Chicago radio station. While in radio, he found a passion for voice acting and audio production, occasionally taking on the role of assistant production director at the station. In 2009, Nate moved to Baltimore and stepped in front of the camera as the co-host of the Baltimore-based TV show *Godamus Game Review*.

Since moving to Baltimore, Nate has been expanding his résumé to include audio dramas, commercials, films and two other web series: *Hamilton Street* and *Rebels and Rejects*. He co-starred in *Shotgun Mythos* Season 1 as Gryson. He reprised his role in a cameo for *Death of A Speaker*, a *Shotgun Mythos* short film, and "World Without Sin," Season 2 of *Shotgun Mythos*.

Laura Nicole

Voice actress extraordinaire, Laura Nicole has been recording since 2004 and has performed a wide range of characters on various audio productions. Along with her vocal talent, Laura has also published short stories for various anthologies, including *Flying Island Press* magazine. To find more information about her work and to listen to her podcast *Gypsy In The Attic*, visit her website at www.gypsyLaura.com.

Christine Norris

Christine is the author of several YA fantasy novels, including *A Curse of Ash and Iron*, coming in July 2014 from Strange Chemistry books, the *Library of Athena* series, and "When Pigs Fly," a short Steampunk story included in *Gaslight and Grimm*, the anthology from Dark Quest Books that will be launching at Balticon. In the Muggle world she is a

school librarian.

Nutty Nuchtchas

Nuchtchas is a Graphic Artist and Designer by day, and a Podcaster, Fine Artist, Author, Cosplayer, Activist, and all around Geek by night. She is the host of the *Nutty Bites* podcast, co-host of the *Beyond the Wall* podcast, and co-host of the Terrestrial Radio shows and podcasts, *EPIC!* and *Run for Your Life*. She is often a frequent guest on many other podcasts and blogs. The only thing preventing her from truly taking over the geek world is time and patience.

Hugh O'Donnell

Hugh J. O'Donnell is a writer and podcast producer living in Western New York. He is the host and editor of the *Way of the Buffalo* podcast, and the producer of the audio book *The Dark Wife*, written by Sarah Diemer. His short fiction has been published in *Bards and Sages Quarterly*, the *Method to the Madness* anthology, and others. He can be found online at hughjodonnell.wordpress.com.

Kat Otis

Kat Otis lives a peripatetic life with a pair of cats who enjoy riding in the car as long as there's no country music involved. Her fiction has appeared in *Orson Scott Card's Intergalactic Medicine Show*, *Daily Science Fiction*, and *Marion Zimmer Bradley's Sword & Sorceress XXVI*. She can be found online at katotis.com or on Twitter as @kat_otis.

Joshua Palmatier

Joshua Palmatier is a fantasy writer with a Ph.D. in mathematics from Binghamton University. He has five novels on the shelves: the *Throne of Amenkor* series (*The Skewed Throne*, *The Cracked Throne*, *The Vacant Throne*) and two novels written under the pseudonym Benjamin Tate (*Well of Sorrows*, *Leaves of Flame*). He has written numerous short stories for anthologies and is the co-editor of two anthologies with Patricia Bray. He has also founded a new small press called *Zombies Need Brains LLC*, which will focus on producing SF&F anthologies. His next novel, *Shattering the Ley*, will be released in July

2014, and look for the anthology *Clockwork Universe: Steampunk vs. Aliens* sometime in Spring 2014. Find out more at the websites www.joshuapalmatier.com, www.benjamintate.com, and www.zombiesneedbrains.com.

Pavlina



Pavlina has many talents and interests. Chief among these is her passion for costuming. She has made both original and recreation, from fantasy to science fiction to anime/manga-inspired costumes. She has recently relocated to the land Down Under and is experimenting in upside down costuming. It looks rather the same as right side up costuming, in her opinion, but these things need detailed examination.

She is happy to be back in the U.S., if only for a short visit. She is looking forward to making the world's best costume one of these days.

TJ. Perkins



TJ. Perkins is a gifted and multi-award-winning author with 12 books out in the mystery/suspense and fantasy genre for young readers. She has been published numerous times in a wide variety of magazines, anthologies and websites.

Catherine Petrini

Catherine is a recovering "Sweet Valley High" author who writes fiction and nonfiction, mostly for kids and teens. Her 20 YA series novels, all published by Bantam or Simon & Schuster, are under pen names. They include a dark fantasy, mysteries, thrillers, school stories, and a historical saga. In her fiction, she's sicced a werewolf on London, created psychopathic murderers, and devastated Southern California in an earthquake. One of her pen names is a household name, but she signed a secrecy agreement, so if she told you, she'd have to kill you. She's now writing a science fiction novel. Back-burner books include a time-travel fantasy series, a YA school story, and a comic novel for adults. Her nonfiction YA and juvenile books cover a variety of topics, including dragons, Italian-American immigrants, the Cherokee, and Stonehenge. Catherine is an active member of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA), an officer of the National Federation of Press Women, and a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators. She has won the University of Virginia's Washington Society Fiction Medal and numerous awards from the National Federation of Press Women for writing, editing, and photography. She has a master's degree in fiction writing from Johns Hopkins University and a B.A. in English from the University of Virginia. A former magazine editor and radio host, she lives in Alexandria, VA.

Larry Pinsker



Rabbi Larry Pinsker was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He has served synagogues in communities including San Antonio, New York City, Toronto, and Winnipeg, Manitoba. He founded Manhattan's West End

Synagogue.

Rabbi Pinsker holds degrees in Philosophy and Religion (B.A., Antioch College) and Religion and Psychology (M.A., Temple University). He has been honored with two Doctor of Divinity degrees, *honoris causa*, one from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (2001) and the other from the Jewish Theological Seminary (2007). He has taught courses on Judaism, medical ethics, Bible, and world religions, but often infuses his courses with materials from science fiction.

As a teenager growing up in Chicago, he joined the Chicago Science Fiction Society and had the privilege of regularly meeting with Algis Budrys, Fred Saberhagen, Earl Kemp, and many other mainstays of the Chicago science fiction pro and fan communities. He attended his first WorldCon at Chicago's Conrad Hilton Hotel during the late Pleistocene, at which *Stranger in a Strange Land* was awarded the Hugo for best novel. He made his way to Washington, D.C. for the next WorldCon at which one Hugo went to *The Man in the High Castle*, and another to toastmaster Isaac Asimov for "adding science to Science Fiction." (Pinsker, having suggested to the 1963 Con committee that they give an award to Dr. Asimov, who griped about never having received a Hugo, felt somewhat guilty when the author complained that his whole bit about getting no respect from the science fiction community was permanently ruined.)

Sarah Pinsker



Sarah Pinsker is a Baltimore-based singer/songwriter and fiction writer. She has three albums on various independent labels: two solo, one with her band, the Stalking Horses. A fourth is forthcoming. She has toured clubs and festivals from Seattle to Boston. She co-hosts the

Dangerous Voices reading series at BSFS. Her stories have appeared in *Asimov's*, *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, and several anthologies, including *Long Hidden: Speculative Fiction from the Margins of History*. Her 2013 *Strange Horizons* novelette, "In Joy, Knowing the Abyss Behind," was nominated for a Nebula Award.

Andrew Plotkin



Andrew Plotkin became fascinated with interactive fiction at the age of eight, due to the effects of an ancient gnomish curse. It turns out that gnomish curses are incurable, so he's been messing around with it ever since. History will remember him for renaming the Mafia game to Werewolf. There's probably a curse involved there too.

Scott Pond



Scott E. Pond is the owner/proprietor of Scott E. Pond Designs, LLC. He is a creative powerhouse in the realm of digital and print publications, art, and graphic designs, boasting diverse experience in e-book and traditional print cover art, cover layout and graphic design, interior layout and desktop publishing, digital and traditional illustration, photography, marketing and promotional branding, personal branding, and general design services. With clients ranging from indie and small press authors to Parsec Award-winning and *New York Times* best-selling authors—in addition to clients in other industries and various entertainment outlets—his expansive abilities and variable pricing model are the perfect one-stop fit for any project and any client, big and small.

Jennifer R. Povey



Jennifer R. Povey is in her early forties, and lives in Northern Virginia with her husband. She writes a variety of speculative fiction, while following current affairs and occasionally indulging in horse riding and role-playing games. She has sold fiction to a number of markets including *Analog*, *Digital Science Fiction*, and *Cosmos* and has written a handful of RPG supplements, some of which are available from Occult Moon Publishing. She also writes comic books, with forthcoming publications from Emerald Star Comics and QEW Entertainment. Her first novel, *Transpecial*, was published by Musa Publishing in April 2013.

Bruce F. Press

Bruce Press is a Photographer, Geek, Skeptic, Atheist and rabid consumer of podcasts. He is the least productive member of the Parsec Awards Steering Committee. Bruce Press is owner and principal photographer of Bruce F. Press Photography.

Lita Proctor

Dr. Lita Proctor, a leading researcher in her field, has had a long standing fascination with all things microbial from her early days as a microbial oceanographer to her hobby collecting edible mushrooms to her interest in the microbes that live in our homes. In this symposium, she will talk about the newest microbial frontier—the human microbiome. The human microbiome is the rich community of microorganisms (viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa) that live on every surface of your body, inside and out. There's no where you can hide from these microbes—they can even be found in your blood and your brain. These microbes are not germs but in fact are partners working with your body to support your immune system, produce nutrients and fend off invading pathogens. Dr. Proctor plans to share what scientists are learning about the human microbiome and what the future of this field holds."

Daniel F. Purcell

Daniel Purcell is a stage and screen veteran with roles in *Run for Your Wife* in Castaways Repertory Theater, which won him a Best Actor Award, as well as *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* for Rooftop Productions and *California Suite* for Fauquier Community Theater. He has also appeared in the films *For the Glory*, *Dead on Delmarva*, *Sis Ana* and *Jamesy Boy*, as well as the TV shows *The Men Who Built America* and *House of Cards*. He plays Lir in *Shotgun Mythos* and the *Shotgun Mythos* short film *Death of a Speaker*.

Brian Rathbone

Brian Rathbone is the creator of the fantasy series *The World of Godsland*. A former horse trainer and admitted technology geek, Brian enjoys connecting with other creative minds.

Nobilis Reed

A few years ago Nobilis Reed decided to start sharing the naughty little stories he scribbled out in hidden notebooks. To his surprise, people actually liked them! Now, he can't stop. The poor man is addicted. His wife, teenage children, and even the cats just look on this wretch of a man, hunched over his computer, and shake their heads. Clearly, there is no hope for him. The best that can be hoped for is to just make him as comfortable as his condition will allow. Symptoms of his condition include two novels, several novellas, numerous short stories, and the longest-running erotica podcast in the history of the world. A full case history can be found at www.nobiliserotica.com.

Sarah Richardson

A member of the Greater Columbia Fantasy Costumers Guild (GCFCG), Sarah has been costuming ever since she figured out how to make a cape out of a sheet. Now her creations are a bit more involved, but she always enjoys an opportunity to expand her costuming wardrobe. Sarah also likes being able to meet and talk

with fellow costumers/cosplayers and is constantly on the lookout for new recruits for the GCFCG. So you like costumes? Want to come hang out with our guild?

Ray Ridenour

Ray Ridenour has been an artist for 45 years, and a Balticon participant since 1967. At SF conventions and in general he's exhibited paintings, drawings and stained glass sculptures and windows. He has sat on many convention panels as both member and moderator. Ray has been in fannish and non-fannish plays, as well as two horror films, one as a featured player. He lost his head in that one. Outside of fandom, he spent 20 years as a professional artist and community liaison for Baltimore City housing departments. He's built commercial displays for department stores, done illustrations for the *Baltimore Sun*, and done private projects for individuals and community institutions.

Betsy Riley

Author/artist Betsy A. Riley writes in multiple genres (including poetry) under several pen names (e.g., Cassandra Hex, Desdemona Pike). She also operates Blue Dragon Press.

Dave Robison

Dave Robison is the creator and co-host of *The Roundtable Podcast*, a podcast where writers are given the opportunity to workshop their story ideas with established authors. In addition, Dave is a voice-over performer and narrator, lending his voice to audio fiction podcasts across the podosphere, including productions from *Escape Artists*, *The Drabblecast*, *District of Wonders*, and more. He has also narrated audio books for Tantor Media. A passionate advocate for collaboration and community-driven creative endeavors, Dave continues to explore new ways to leverage the creative power of many minds into a single project.

Scott Roche

Scott Roche is a writer, husband, father of three, and a complete maniac. This is the only possible explanation for why he is also an anthology editor and guest host on *The Dead Robots' Society*. There is not enough time or caffeine in all the world for him to do what he wants, but he'll die trying. You can find information about all of his projects by going to www.scottroche.com.

Zan Rosin

Suzanne is an assistant legal librarian for a national law firm headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, while dabbling in non-profit law and literary contracts. For nearly 20 years, she has been involved with various non-profit organizations, including American Jewish Congress, Philadelphia Science Fiction Society (PSFS), Philcon, and volunteers for various cons up and down the East coast. She is also one of the managers for the Philadelphia Film Festival as well as a member of the Pennsylvania Costumer's Guild and the Pennsylvania Browncoats. When not working cons, she participates in panel discussions including how to run a con, basics of copyright law, internet privacy (or the lack thereof) and media panels.

James Daniel Ross

James Daniel Ross is a native of Cincinnati, OH, who first discovered a love of writing during his education at The School for the Creative and Performing Arts. While he began in simple, web-based vanity press projects, his affinity for the written word soon landed him a job writing for

Misguided Games. After taking a large part in writing and designing *Children of the Sun*, he continued as a freelancer on various contracts with BBRACK productions. After a slowdown in the gaming industry made jobs scarce, he began work on *The Radiation Angels: The Chimerium Gambit* as his first novel. Soon came *The Radiation Angels: The Key to Damocles*, *Snow and Steel*, *The Last Dragoon*, *The Legacy of Fox Crow: I Know Not*, as well as many novellas and short stories. Another fantasy novel is coming soon, as well as *Fox Crow: The Opus Discordia*. He still keeps his ditch digging edge in case it is needed, however.

Don Sakers

Don Sakers was launched the same month as Sputnik 1, so it was perhaps inevitable that he should become a science fiction writer. As a writer and editor, he has explored the thoughts of sapient trees (*The Leaves of October*), brought ghosts to life (*Carmen Miranda's Ghost is Haunting Space Station Three*), and beaten the "Cold Equations" scenario. Since 2009, Don has been the book reviewer for *Analog Science Fiction & Fact*, where he writes the "Reference Library" column in every issue. Don's most recent books are *Children of the Eighth Day* and *Meat and Machine*.

Carol Salemi

Carol competes as a Master, working in all aspects of costuming (over 40 years) from teaching and creating to judging and masquerade directing. Each competition costume involve new/fun/challenging techniques that keeps it fresh. Her most recent work can be seen on TLC's *My Big Fat American Gypsy Wedding*. She's a medical massage therapist (24 years), works for Regal Cinemas, Sondra Celli Designs, has jobs in the Haunt Industry and likes making steampunk items... check out her jewelry in the Art Show!

Kathreja Sarfati

Kat Sarfati is an artist and amateur author, mostly of fan fiction. She has worked anime and science fiction conventions since 2004 and currently sits on the board of Anime USA.

J. Daniel Sawyer

The author of 14 books and thirty-odd short stories, at age 10 J. Daniel Sawyer developed an interest in espionage and diplomacy through his relationship with his great-uncle, a longtime CIA courier and international agricultural scientific envoy. When not plotting out the political future of the solar system, writing his lurid crime series *The Clarke Lantham Mysteries*, or suffering from acute bouts of tech journalism, he spends his hours stalking the San Francisco back country with a camera and a sports car in search of North America's ultimate driving road. For stories, contact info, podcasts, and more, visit his home page at www.jdsawyer.net.

PJ Schnyder

Born and raised in the Northeast, PJ Schnyder spent her childhood pretending to study for the SATs by reading every fantasy and sci-fi novel she could borrow from the local and school libraries. She was introduced to the wonderful world of romance a decade later by her best friend at an anime convention in Seattle. PJ recently received

the Golden Leaf award for *Bite Me* and is a contributing author to the Parsec-award winning *Tales from the Archives* Vol. 2 of *The Ministry of Peculiar Occurrences*. She has also won honors from the Fantasy, Futuristic and Paranormal RWA PRISM awards for her novella, *Hunting Kat*.

Lawrence M. Schoen

Lawrence M. Schoen holds a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology, with a focus in psycholinguistics. He spent 10 years as a college professor, and has done extensive research in the areas of human memory and language. He currently works as the director of research for a series of mental health and addiction recovery facilities in Philadelphia. He's also one of

the world's foremost authorities on the Klingon language, and since 1992 has championed the exploration of this constructed tongue and lectured on this unique topic throughout the world. In addition, he's the publisher behind a speculative fiction small press, Paper Golem, aimed at serving the niche of up-and-coming new writers as well as providing a market for novellas. And as if that weren't enough to keep him busy, he's also a certified hypnotherapist. In 2007, he was a finalist for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer. He received a Hugo Award nomination for Best Short Story in 2010 and a Nebula Award nomination for Best Novella in 2013, and again in 2014. His next novel is coming from Tor Books, probably sometime in 2015, and might be described in an elevator pitch as *Dune* meets *Sixth Sense* with elephants!

Darrell Schweitzer

Darrell Schweitzer co-edited *Weird Tales* magazine for 19 years. He is author of *The Mask of the Sorcerer*, *The Shattered Goddess*, and *The White Isle*, plus about 300 stories. He is a four-time World Fantasy Award nominee and one-time winner.

Melissa Scott

Melissa Scott was born and raised in Little Rock, AR, and studied history at Harvard College, where she was involved with the now-defunct SF 'zine that spawned the Harvard/Radcliffe Science Fiction Association and was introduced to a new round of media SF, particularly *Doctor Who*. She earned her Ph.D. from Brandeis University in the comparative history program with a dissertation titled "The Victory of the Ancients: Tactics, Technology, and the Use of Classical Precedent." She also sold her first novel, *The Game Beyond*, and quickly became a part-time graduate student and a—almost—full-time writer. Over the next 29 years, she published 32 original novels and a handful of short stories, most with queer themes and characters. She won the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer in 1986, and won Lambda Literary Awards for *Trouble and Her Friends*, *Shadow Man*, and *Point of Dreams*, the last written with long-time partner and collaborator, the late Lisa A. Barnett. She has also been shortlisted for the Tiptree Award. She won a Spectrum Award for *Shadow Man* and again in 2010 for the short story "The Rocky Side of the Sky." Her most recent short story, "Finders," has been selected for Year's Best SF 2013. Her latest novels

are *Silver Bullet*, written with Jo Graham, the third volume of *The Order of the Air*, and *Fairs' Point*, the third full-length *Points* novel. Scott can be found on LiveJournal at mescott.livejournal.com.

Norm Sherman



Norm Sherman is the charismatic host and editor of the three-time Parsec Award-winning audio fiction magazine *The Drabblecast*, as well as the chief editor of the long-running weekly science fiction podcast *Escapepod*. His eponymous CD, featuring folk story songs of mob torture gone awry, chupacabers and milking whales for cheese debuted in 2007 won the Editor's Choice Award at cdbaby.com

and an Honorable Mention in the Indie International Songwriter's Competition the same year. Norm is a writer, humorist and musician based out of Baltimore, MD.

H. Paul Shuch



Dr. SETI is the stage name of the blatant exhibitionist who inhabits the body of noted author and educator Dr. H. Paul Shuch (rhymes with luck). A cross between Tom Lehrer and Carl Sagan, it is said that Dr. SETI sings like Sagan and lectures like Lehrer. Armed with a laptop

computer and an acoustical guitar, Dr. SETI travels the world making the search for life in space accessible to audiences as diverse as humanity itself.

Alex Shvartsman



Alex Shvartsman is a writer, translator and game designer from Brooklyn, NY. Over 50 of his short stories have appeared in *Nature*, *InterGalactic Medicine Show*, *Galaxy's Edge*, *Daily Science Fiction*, and many other venues. He's the editor of the *Unidentified Funny Objects* annual anthology

series of humorous SF/F, as well as of *Coffee* and *Dark Expanse* anthologies. Read his fiction at www.alexshvartsman.com.

Scott Sigler



New York Times best-selling novelist Scott Sigler is author of the *Infected* trilogy (*Infected*, *Contagious* and *Pandemic*), *Ancestor* and *Nocturnal*, hardcover thrillers from Crown Publishing; and the co-founder of Empty Set Entertainment, which publishes his *Galactic Football League* series (*The Rookie*, *The Starter*, *The All-Pro*, *The MVP* and soon, *The Champion*). Before he was published, Scott built a

large online following by giving away his self-recorded audiobooks as free, serialized podcasts. His loyal fans, who named themselves "Junkies," have downloaded over eight million individual episodes of his stories and interact daily with Scott and each other in the social media space.

Hildy Silverman



Hildy Silverman is the publisher of *Space and Time*, a four-decade-old magazine featuring fantasy, horror, and science fiction. She is also the author of several works of short fiction, including "The Vampire Escalator of the Passaic Promenade" (2010, *New Blood*, Patrick Thomas, ed.), "The Darren" (2009, *Witch Way to the Mall?*, Esther Friesner, ed.), "Sappy Meals" (2010, *Fangs for the Mammaries*,

Esther Friesner, ed.), and "Black Market Magic" (2012, *Apocalypse 13*, Diane Raetz, ed.). In 2013, she was a finalist for the WSFA Small Press Award for her story, "The Six Million Dollar Mermaid"

(*Mermaids 13*, John French, ed.). In the "real" world, she is a Digital Marketing Communications Specialist at Siemens Hearing Instruments.

David Sklar



David Sklar grew up in Michigan, where the Michipeshu nibbled his toes when Lake Superior was feeling frisky. His work has appeared in such places as *Strange Horizons*, *Ladybug*, and *Scheherazade's Façade*. He coedited the anthology *Trafficking in Magic/Magicking in Traffic*, which launches at Balticon this year, and his novel *Shadow of the Antlered Bird* will be re-released in October

from Eggplant Literary Productions. David lives in New Jersey with his wife, their two barbarians, and a secondhand familiar. For more about David and his work, please visit davidwriting.com.

Jay Smith



Jay Smith is the creator and executive producer for the Parsec Award-winning audio drama series *HG World*. Since 2009, Jay and his company of players and producers have been telling the story of survivors in the middle of a global zombie uprising. Now in its third season, this "satellite" production has featured over 60 characters and 50 actors on

four continents, making it a production truly on a global scale. Inspired by the golden age of radio, Jay draws from the work of Orson Welles and Arch Oboler, and looks to modern audio dramatists like Douglas Adams and Dirk Maggs as inspiration to create a rich, realistic world of survival horror laced with dark comedy and compelling human drama. Jay holds a B.A. in English and is enrolled in Seton Hill University's Master of Fine Arts program in Popular Fiction. *HG World* can be heard by subscribing through iTunes or visiting the show web site www.goodmorningsurvivors.com.

Chris Snelgrove



Chris Snelgrove is the principal at DarkFire Productions, a digital media company focused on producing audiobooks and e-books for authors and small publishers. He is also a best-selling fiction author at SilverStone Books, where he writes fantastical stories of mystery and mayhem with his partner in crime, Collin Earl. Chris has

been a voice talent for over 20 years, focusing on audiobook narration, corporate training, and marketing over the last seven years. He currently lives in Colorado with his wife and four boys.

Maria V. Snyder



Maria V. Snyder switched from meteorologist to novelist when she wrote the *New York Times* best-selling *Study* series (*Poison Study*, *Magic Study* and *Fire Study*). Born in Philadelphia, Maria dreamed of chasing tornados and earned a B.S. degree in meteorology from Penn State University.

Unfortunately, she lacked the necessary forecasting skills. Writing, however, lets Maria control the weather, which she does in her *Glass* series. Maria earned an M.A. degree in writing from Seton Hill University where she is currently teaching. Maria's latest release is *Taste of Darkness*, the final book in her award-winning *Healer* series.

Bud Sparhawk

Bud Sparhawk has published one mass market paperback novel: *Vixen* (Cosmos, 2008) and two print collections: *Sam Boone: Front to Back* (Foxacre Press, 2001) and *Dancing With Dragons* (Wildside Press, 2008). He has three e-novels available through Amazon and other channels.

Bud has been a three-time novella finalist for the Nebula award: "Primrose and Thorn" (*Analog*, May 1996), "Magic's Price" (*Analog*, March 2001), and "Clay's Pride" (*Analog*, July/August 2004). His work has appeared in two Year's Best anthologies: *Year's Best SF # 11* (EOS, David Hartwell, editor) and *The Year's Best Science Fiction, Fourteenth Annual Collection*, (St. Martin's Press, Gardner Dozois, editor.)

Bud's short stories have appeared frequently in *Analog*, less so in *Asimov's*, as well as in four *Defending the Future* and other anthologies, publications and podcasts. He has put out several collections of these published works in e-book format. He writes a weekly blog on the pain of writing at budsparhawk.blogspot.com.

Devo Spice**Devo Spice**

Devo Spice is a nerdcore and comedy rapper from New Jersey who has been called "the red-headed stepson of Weird Al Yankovic and Eminem." His demented brand of hip hop made him one of the most popular artists on the nationally syndicated Dr. Demento Show. He had three songs in the top 25 year-end countdown for 2013. Devo Spice founded the comedy rap group Sudden Death, whose songs "Cellular Degeneration," "Getting Old Sucks" and "Pillagers" were the numbers 1, 2, and 4 most requested songs on Dr. Demento in 2007. In 2012 Devo Spice's song "In The 80s" was the fourth most requested song of the year. Devo Spice is celebrating the release of his *Doctor Who* concept album *I Am The Doctor* which features one song per incarnation of the Doctor plus the title track. He will have copies on hand at the convention for sale.

Devo Spice performs regularly across the country at music clubs, comedy clubs, and science fiction conventions. He has shared the stage with Dr. Demento, MC Lars, MC Frontalot, Jonathan Coulton, Paul and Storm, and many others. The live show features videos and animations synchronized with the music, resulting in a hilarious show that goes over very well with a variety of audiences. Devo Spice is also the chair of FuMPFest, a new convention taking place in Chicago in June for funny music. Dr. Demento is the GoH for 2014.

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Jon Sprunk

Jon Sprunk is the author of the *Shadow Saga* (*Shadow's Son*, *Shadow's Lure*, and *Shadow's Master*). *Shadow's Son* was a finalist for the Compton Crook Award, as well as a nominee for the David Gemmell Award for Best Debut Novel and Best Fantasy Novel. The first book of his new epic fantasy series, *Blood and Iron*, is now available. Jon is also a mentor at the Seton Hill University Writing Program. For more on his life and works, visit www.jonsprunk.com.

Ian Randal Strock

Ian Randal Strock is the owner and publisher of Fantastic Books/ Gray Rabbit Publications (www.FantasticBooks.biz), and the editor of SFscope.com (the news of the speculative fiction fields). In his free time, he's an author of fiction (his most recent story appeared in the April 2014 issue of *Analog*) and non-fiction (including *The Presidential Book of Lists*, which Random House published in 2008).

Linda Swann

Linda Swann is a costumer who has 30 years of experience working with local amateur theater companies. She also teaches DIY costumes at Musical Artist Theater camps during the summer and sings with the local parody band, Boogie Knights. When not costuming or singing, she teaches 6th grade Language Arts in Severna Park.

She loves steampunk, *Doctor Who*, fairy tales, Marvel comics (sorry, Bob Greenberger), and her ever-indulgent husband and furry children.

Kate Szkotnicki

Kate is a costumer and tech head hanging out in Virginia. When she's not working on her various hobbies, Kate teaches the next generation as a high school home economics teacher.

Mary Turzillo

Mary Turzillo's Nebula-winner, "Mars is No Place for Children," and her *Analog* novel *An Old-Fashioned Martian Girl* are recommended reading on the International Space Station. She has been a finalist on the British SFA, Pushcart, Stoker, Dwarf Stars and Rhysling ballots. Her forthcoming book, a collaboration with Marge Simon, is *Sweet Poison*, from Dark Renaissance. Her poetry collection *Lovers & Killers* won the 2013 Elgin Award for Best Collection. Mary lives in Berea, OH with her scientist-writer husband, Heinlein Award recipient Geoffrey A. Landis.

Michael Underwood

Michael R. Underwood is the author of the *Ree Reyes* urban fantasy series (*Geekomancy*, *Celebromancy*, *Attack the Geek*), and the forthcoming epic fantasy *Shield and Crocus*. Michael is also the North American Sales and Marketing Manager of Angry Robot Books (including sister imprints Strange Chemistry and Exhibit A). With Sarah Pinsker, Michael is the co-host of the *Dangerous Voices Variety Hour* readings series.

Mark Van Name

Mark L. Van Name is a writer, technologist, and spoken word performer. He has published five novels (*One Jump Ahead*, *Slanted Jack*, *Overthrowing Heaven*, *Children No More* and *No Going Back*), as well as an omnibus collection of his first two books (*Jump Gate Twist*); edited or co-edited three anthologies (*Intersections: The Sycamore Hill Anthology*, *Transhuman*, and *The Wild Side*); and written many short stories. Those stories have appeared in a wide variety of books and magazines, including *Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, many original anthologies, and *The Year's Best Science Fiction*.

As a technologist, he is the CEO of a fact-based marketing and technology assessment firm, Principled Technologies, Inc., which is based in the Research Triangle area of North Carolina. He has worked with computer technology for his entire professional career and has published over a thousand articles in the computer trade press, as well as a broad assortment of essays and reviews.

As a spoken word artist, he has created and performed three shows—"Science Magic Sex"; "Wake Up Horny, Wake Up Angry";

and “Mr. Poor Choices”—and also frequently leads humor panels at SF conventions. For more information, visit his web site, www.marklvannname.com, or follow his blog, marklvannname.blogspot.com.

Arthur Vincie



Arthur is a writer, line producer and director. He recently wrote/directed *Found In Time* (sci-fi), which is currently touring festivals and won “Best Sci-Fi Feature” at both Shriekfest and Shockerfest. Focal Press just published his book on film preproduction, *Preparing For Takeoff*. His first feature, *Caleb's Door* (drama), is available on DVD and VOD. He's currently developing a supernatural/war mini-series, *The Spectral City*, and a sci-fi “drama” feature, *Vision*. He's also line produced over a dozen independent features.

Yasaman Vrd'dhi



Yasaman Vrd'dhi has studied dance for 21 years and taught dance for 10 years. She is trained in classical and fusion belly dance, Native American dance, modern dance, hip hop and martial arts. She is also a fiction writer/poet, model, journalist and director of belly dance conventions. Yasaman has perfected her own belly dance style called M.A.D Fusion (Modern Arts Dark Fusion style Belly Dance). Follow Yasaman on Youtube, and through her website: www.yasamanmadfusion.com.

Jean Marie Ward



Jean Marie Ward writes fiction, nonfiction and everything in between, including novels (2008 Indie Book double-finalist *With Nine You Get Vanyr*) and art books. Her stories appear in numerous anthologies, such as *The Modern Fae's Guide to Surviving Humanity* and the award-winning *Hellebore & Rue*. The former editor of *Crescent Blues*, she is a frequent contributor of video interviews and short subjects to Buzzymag.com. Her website is JeanMarieWard.com.

Joy Ward



Joy spent over 20 years as a consumer psychology consultant and nonfiction writer before publishing her first novel, *Haint*. Since then she has published another book with Missal Dixon, *Interviews from the Ark*, and a number of short stories in various anthologies. She also is known as one of the first professional bloggers. Joy is also known as a dog rescuer and behavioral expert. She lives in St. Louis, MO, with her brilliant husband, writer and editor Walt Boyes, and a constantly changing number of dogs.

Brent Warner

Brent Warner works in the aerospace industry as a thermal engineer. (Translation: he does heating and air conditioning in space.) In his spare time, he likes to do calligraphy and barbarian interlace.

Robert Waters



For the past 20 years, Robert E. Waters has served in the gaming industry, first as a managing editor at The Avalon Hill Game Company, and then as a producer, designer, and writer for several computer game studios. He is currently a designer at Breakaway LTD. Robert has been publishing fiction

professionally since 2003, with his first sale to *Weird Tales*, “The Assassin’s Retirement Party.” Since then, he has sold over 25 stories to various online and print magazines and anthologies, including stories to Padwolf Publishing, The Black Library (Games Workshop), Dragon Moon Press, Marietta Publishing, Dark Quest Books, Mundania Press, *Nth Degree/Nth Zine*, Cloud Imperium Games, and the online magazine *The Grantville Gazette*, which publishes stories set in Baen Books’ best-selling alternate history series, *1632/Ring of Fire*. Most recently, Robert has put his editorial skills to task by co-editing the anthology *Fantastic Futures 13* (Padwolf Publishing), which features science fiction and fantasy stories about Earth’s potential future. From time to time, he also writes short fiction reviews for *Tangent Online*. He also served for seven years as an assistant editor for *Weird Tales*. Robert is currently living in Baltimore, MD with his wife Beth, their son Jason, their cat Buzz, and a menagerie of tropical fish who like to play among the ruins of a sunken Spanish galleon. His website can be found at www.roberternestwaters.com.

Lawrence Watt-Evans

Lawrence Watt-Evans has been a full-time author for over 30 years, with over 40 novels and more than a hundred short stories to his name, including the Hugo-winning short story “Why I Left Harry’s All-Night Hamburgers” and the fantasy series *The Legends of Ethshar*.

Diane Weinstein

Diane Weinstein was assistant editor and art director for *Weird Tales* magazine for 15 years. She was also a jack-of-all-trades at Wildside Press for several years and has been the art editor of *Space and Time Magazine* since 2007. She has attended Balticon since 1980.

Robbie Whiplash



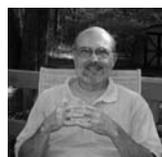
Robbie Whiplash is a professional musician and actor. Robbie is the composer and score writer for the series *Shotgun Mythos*; he also plays the role of the character Ari. Robbie’s other projects include 1332 Records recording artists The Recently Deceased, Machines of Living Death and Omnishlash.

Alex White



Alex White is a writer, podcaster, cover artist and composer. He wrote the three-time Parsec Finalist podcast *The Gearheart*, and is the co-host of Parsec finalist *Disasterpiece Theatre*.

Steve White



Steve White was born in Norfolk, VA in 1946 and served as a Naval Intelligence officer in the Mediterranean and in the Vietnam War Zone. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia Law School and an associate member of the Virginia Bar. In addition to the best-selling *Starfire* military science fiction series with David Weber, he has written several popular science fiction adventure novels for Baen. They include the trilogy comprising *The Disinherited*, *Legacy* and *Debt of Ages*, which combine fast-paced space opera with Arthurian mythology. He has also written the galaxy-spanning adventure *Prince of Sunset*, and its sequel *Emperor of Dawn*, the secret-history science fiction novel *The Prometheus Project*, the high fantasy novel *Demon's Gate*, and the time-travel adventure *Blood of the Heroes*. His most recent solo novels are *Saint Antony's Fire*, an alternate-history

fantasy set in Elizabethan times, and *Wolf Among the Stars*, a sequel to his earlier science fiction novel *Eagle Against the Stars*.

Extremis, a new novel in the *Starfire* series, this time in collaboration with Chuck Gannon, was released in May 2011. *Sunset of the Gods*, the second novel in the *Temporal Regulatory Authority* series of time travel novels that began with *Blood of the Heroes*, is due for release this month, and a third novel, *Pirates of the Timestream* (in which the time travelers meet the real pirates of the Caribbean) is now in the pipeline.

Steve lives in Charlottesville, VA. He is married and has three daughters, the youngest of whom he and his wife found and adopted in Russia...but that's another story.

John Taylor Williams



John Taylor Williams is a full-time multimedia producer, composer, and sound designer. He specializes in new media recording, video broadcasting and post-production on various platforms including podcasts, multi-casts, training modules and live streaming of audio and video events and news packages. He edits and masters *The Cory Doctorow Podcast* on a weekly basis (craphound.com). Together with Thomas "cmdlnr" Gideon, he co-hosts the *Libation Liberation Front* podcast (libationliberationfront.com). He has been involved in audio engineering and DIY recording for over 20 years and multi-camera video broadcasting for over eight years. In his free time, he home brews beer and mixes mean drinks. He likes to make jewelry, odd musical instruments and furniture.

DC Wilson

D.C. Wilson is a short story writer who has contributed to a number of anthologies, including the first three Bad-Ass Faeries anthologies. The occasional podcaster, D.C. also blogs at write2armbears.blogspot.com.

Steven H. Wilson

Steven H. Wilson has written for *Starlog*, DC Comics' *Star Trek* and *Warlord*, and, most recently, served as principal writer and director for Prometheus Radio Theatre and publisher of Firebringer Press. His original science fiction series, *The Arbiter Chronicles*, currently boasting 19 full-cast audio dramas and the novel *Taken Liberty*, has won the Mark Time Silver Award and the Parsec Award for Best Audio Drama (long form). His third novel, *Unfriendly Persuasion*, was released in 2012, and four Arbiter Logs e-books were released in the summer of 2013. He is also a contributor to the *ReDeus* series from Crazy 8 Press, and, as of this writing, has contributed three tales of the mythological gods' return to earth.

As a podcaster, besides hosting the *Prometheus Radio Theatre* podcast, he has recorded Lester Del Rey's *Badge of Infamy* for podioobooks.com, performed multiple roles in J. Daniel Sawyer's production of *Antithesis*, and contributed narration to the audio novel *Geek Love*. Active in science fiction fandom since 1984, he has written, drawn, edited and published fanzines, acted and directed with a comedy troupe, and served as a gopher, a con chair or a guest at roughly a hundred conventions.

Wilson, who works as CIO for Howard County (MD) Fire & Rescue, holds degrees from the University of Maryland College of Journalism and the Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering. He lives in Elkridge, MD, with his wife Renee and sons Ethan and Christian. His weekly blog of ramblings on various topics, plus all kinds of information about his work, past, present and future, is available at www.stevenhwilson.com.

Leona Wisoker



Leona Wisoker writes novels, short stories, and, on occasion, when she's feeling particularly dangerous, poetry. She is the author of the *Children of the Desert* series, a science-fantasy epic in which world-shaking events unfold with nary a wizard or spaceship in sight.

Batya Wittenberg

Batya "The Toon" Wittenberg is, in no particular order: a successfully transplanted New Yorker, an Orthodox Jew, a filker, a happily married woman, a certified master of Pun Fu, a superlative cook, a founding member of filk group Lady Mondegreen, a habitual online roleplayer, a fanfic writer, and in no particular order.

John C. Wright

John C. Wright has published short stories in *Isaac Asimov's SF Magazine*, in *Year's Best SF 3* (David Hartwell, ed.) and in William Hope Hodgson's *Night Lands: Eternal Love* (Andy W. Robertson, ed.) His three novels of the *Golden Oecumene* series, *Golden Age*, *Phoenix Exultant*, and *Golden Transcendence*, have received critical praise. His mom also liked it, even though she only read the first half. His next novel, *Last Guardian of Everness* (fantasy), was published in 2004 by Tor Books. John Wright is a retired attorney, newspaperman and newspaper editor. His works include the *Golden Age* series, the *War of the Dream* series, the *Orphans of Chaos* series, *Null-A Continuum*, *Count to a Trillion*, *The Hermetic Millennia*, and *The Judge of Ages*, as well as several short stories in a number of *Year's Best* anthologies, and the *Night Land's* website/anthology. He lives in fairy-tale-like happiness with his wife, the authoress L. Jagi Lamplighter, and their four children, Orville, Ping-Ping, Roland and Just Wright.

Cindy Young-Turner



Cindy Young-Turner has been writing for most of her life. At age 12, she won her first writing contest, a local contest in her small hometown in Massachusetts calling for stories written in the style of Edgar Allan Poe. Thus began her love of stories that are dark and fantastical. She believes genre fiction can be just as well written and valuable as literature. The universal themes of love, hate, revenge, and redemption are present regardless of whether characters live in the distant future, on other planets, or in fantastical realms. By day she edits and does business development for international development projects. In her free time, she works on inspiring her characters to fight for change and justice in their imaginary worlds. Her published works include the fantasy novel *Thief of Hope* and a short prequel, *Journey to Hope*.

Marv Zerkowitz



Marv Zerkowitz is a Professor Emeritus of Computer Science at the University of Maryland College Park. His research interests are in experimental software engineering and technology transfer, where he has studied the introduction of new computer technology into organizations such as NASA and the Department of Defense. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers (IEEE), a Golden Core member of the Computer Society, and has published 200 conference and journal papers on aspects of computer technology (none intentionally science fiction). His interests include skepticism, where he is on the board of the National Capital Area Skeptics, bible studies (who wrote those books and why they were written), and reading science fiction, which he has been doing since

the Golden Age of Science Fiction (i.e., since he was 12). As an aging Geek, he used to totally understand how gadgets like the original IBM PC worked, can still set the clock on his home DVD player, but doesn't understand who or why anyone wants an iPhone.

Alan Zendell



Alan Zendell spent more than 40 years as a scientist, aerospace engineer, software consultant, database developer, and government analyst. He spent two years working on the first manned lunar mission, then moved on to a variety of near-Earth satellite projects, and Pentagon support for anti-ballistic missile systems. As the aerospace industry became more oriented toward the military, he applied his skill set to health care and social service systems, and ultimately branched out into software and database consulting. He has written several short pieces in a variety of genres and completed five novel manuscripts, three of which have found their way into print and e-books. *Wednesday's Child* is hard science fiction with a different twist on time travel; *The Portal* is a science-fiction love story set in a dystopian 22nd-century America; and *Critical Focus* is a contemporary political novel that addresses the major issues facing present-day America.

Darren Zieger



Darren Zieger is a singer, songwriter, web designer, and humorist who somehow still finds time to keep a boring day job. A Philadelphia native, he currently resides in the Washington, DC, metro area with his wife, journalist Anne Zieger. In his spare time, he publishes *Slouching Toward Bohemia*, a poorly drawn web comic.

In Memoriam

Morgan Nightbear, 1962-2014. Semi-pro photographer, fan, and friend to more than he knew.

"Do you ever think of me/ and get lost in the memory when you do, I hope you smile/ and hold that memory a while."

— *I Still Remember*, by Blackmore's Night

Lord & Lady keep him, and may his memory be a blessing.



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