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
Perrianne 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 Strook
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
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 Fairies 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 Omph–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.
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 Brier 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), Carmelians, 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.ashmeadssoftware.com). No thanks necessary; the work is its own reward. And he is also finishing up a 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 Travelling 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 Cover (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 Traffick in Magic, Magick 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 pod 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 SueBaimain.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 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 Shattered 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, podiobooks, 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 captured 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/2wpPAB. 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 ReConStuction 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 “Mouseopolitain 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 Bidron) 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 Chaolaine 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 filk music, such as his nonstop hour-long piano solo “Piano Petriissage,” 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 Zombiemania, 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 Granville 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 towerofarchmage.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 Treadle 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
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.

**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 underwater 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@yahoogroups.com, or email her at Flashycat2004@aol.com.

**Jack Campbell / John Hemry**

Jack Campbell (John G. Hemry) 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 *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 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 Rodrick 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](http://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](http://www.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 podiofiction 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-sixth 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](http://www.vonniewinslowcrist.com) and [vonniewinslowcrist.wordpress.com](http://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.
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 Blackwyrm 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](http://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](http://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 Macatowa 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](http://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](http://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 ’03) by Kludge Audio, and USB Productions’ “Triskaidekaftikia” (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 Erich

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 Cthulu.” 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Leah 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, concots anthologies, reviews movies for [buzyvimag.com](http://buzyvimag.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 Scarets 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](http://www.northcountrypoet.com), [www.facebook.com/michael.h.hanson.3](http://www.facebook.com/michael.h.hanson.3), [www.facebook.com/pages/Michael-H-Hanson/196666673791787](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Michael-H-Hanson/196666673791787), [www.shadaa.com](http://www.shadaa.com), [www.thefictioneers.com](http://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](http://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 Dunesteef 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](http://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 [coldmoongress.com](http://coldmoongress.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: melissa-melsworld.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 tells 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 "Yendrian 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 an 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 Gwenny, 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.

Jeanette Holloman

Jeanette 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.
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.

P.G. 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; “Vooorh,” 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 Gaean 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.
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 bous. 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 (Agapememon’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 Myths.

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 Drucilla 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’s not 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 current president of the Southern Fandom Dreams community discussion site online. Jennifer has been a lifelong fan of science fiction and fantasy, Jennifer is the Chair of the BSFAN Balticon 48 event. She blogs about local restaurants, recipes, and sustainable living as an American Science Fiction Convention, and served as the Robert featured presenter at WorldCon, MiniCon, LibertyCon and the North Dreams. Gary has work in anthologies from many other publishers. His science fiction, The Whispering of Dragons, 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.

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 speedming 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 glasys 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 (prophesied 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.

Perrianne Lurie

Perrianne 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 BuckCONeer, 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 Knot’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


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 emceeing 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 Yndriand 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 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 Myths Season 1 as Gryson. He reprised his role in a cameo for Death of A Speaker, a Shotgun Myths short film, and “World Without Sin,” Season 2 of Shotgun Myths.

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 SFR&F anthologies. His next novel, Shattering the Ley, will be released in July
Pavolina

Pavolina 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.

T.J. Perkins

T.J. 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 siced 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.

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.
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?

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 hobbit 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 that 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.

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: I Know Not, 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 S/F/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, 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 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.

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.

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 (Geekamancy, Celebramancy, 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”;
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 interface.

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 Bizz, 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 Eshhar.

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 Omnislash.

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.
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, streaming 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 “cmdn” 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 podiobooks.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 flk 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 Ocucmene 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 Zelkowitz

Marv Zelkowitz 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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