

## Balticon 49 Program Participants

Danielle Ackley-McPhail	Elizabeth Gmaz	Christine Norris
D.H. Aire	James L. Gossard	Nutty Nuchtchas
Day Al-Mohamed	Stephen Granade	Hugh J. O'Donnell
John Ashmead	Elektra Hammond	Joshua Palmatier
Lisa Ashton	Eric Hardenbrook	Ada Palmer
Sarah Avery	P.C. Haring	Marianne Pease
Sue Baiman	Kelly A. Harmon	Rabbi Larry Pinsker
Jason Banks	Lauren Harris	Sarah Pinsker
Brick Barrientos	Katie Hartlove	Scott E. Pond
Martin Berman-Gorvine	Bjorn Hasseler	Jennifer R. Povey
Deja Biernesser	Melissa L. Hayden	Brian Rathbone
Steve Biernesser	RDK Herman	Nobilis Reed
Joshua Bilmes	Inge Heyer	Ray Ridenour
Walt Boyes	Larry Hodges	Ron Robinson
Alessia Brio	Dr. Tom Holtz, Jr.	Dave Robison
Charlie Brown	Starla Huchton	Scott Roche
KT Bryski	Michelle Hymowitz	James Daniel Ross
Stephanie M. Burke	Jabraan Ismail	Adam Ruben
Karen Burnham	Kamran Ismail	Carol Salemi
Laura A. Burns	Noam Izenberg	Ruth Sanderson
Mildred Cady	Leslie Johnston	Lee Sarfati
Jack Campbell/John Hemry	Paula S. Jordan	Patrick Scaffido
Robert R. Chase	Robert I. Katz	Sam Scheiner
Cheshire Moon	Miriam Winder Kelly	Lauren Schiller
Debi Chowdhury	Bill Kennedy	Burkhard Schulz
J Sook Chung	Mark "the Encaffeinated ONE" Kilfoil	Darrell Schweitzer
Michael Chuong, MD	Dr. Beatrice Kondo	Kristin Seibert
Dave Clement	Sharon Landrum	Alex Shvartsman
Jack Clemons	Grig Larson	Hildy Silverman
John Cmar	Marcus Lawrence	John Skylar
Doc Coleman	Gary L. Lester	Jay Smith
Paul E. Cooley	Emily Lewis	Chris Snelgrove
Iver P. Cooper	Bryan Lincoln	Maria V. Snyder
Meriah Crawford	Carey Lisse	David Sobkowiak
Vonnie Winslow Crist	Marcia Litt	Steven R. Southard
Lizzie Crowe	Dr. Tim Livengood	Bud Sparhawk
Charlene Taylor D'Alessio	Paul Loeschke	Janet Stephens
Keith R.A. DeCandido	Andy Love	Edie Stern
Tim Dodge	Steve Lubs	Kathryn Szkotnicki
Tom Doyle	Mike Luoma	Thomas "Brett" Talbot, MD
Alexandra Duncan	Perriane Lurie	Patrick Thomas
James Durham	Karen M	Jason Tuell
Collin Earl	Barbara Mabie	Michael R. Underwood
Scott Edelman	Mark MacDicken	Mark L. Van Name
Gaia Eirich	Dr. Barry Margulies	Jo Walton
Christiana Ellis	Gail Z. Martin	Jean Marie Ward
Leighland Feinman	Tom Mays	Robert E. Waters
Judi Fleming	Jason McClain	David Harten Watson
Billy Flynn	Jack McDevitt	Robbie Whiplash
Flynnstress	Mike McPhail	Alex White
John L. French	Christie Meierz	Steven H. Wilson
Clint Gaige	Jeff Meyer	Dr. Jennifer Wiseman
Allison Gamblin	Sunny Moraine	Trisha J. (T.J.) Wooldridge
Brand Gamblin	Alexander Mui	Phoebe Wray
Dr. Charles E. Gannon	Erica Neely	Bart Young
Pamela Gay	Nate Nelson	Jeff Young
Veronica Giguere	Laura Nicole	Cindy Young-Turner
		Marv Zelkowitz

## Balticon 49 Program Participant Bios



### 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 and has recently started her own press, eSpec Books.

Her published works include five urban fantasy novels—*Yesterday's Dreams*, *Tomorrow's Memories*, *Today's Promise*, *The Halfling's Court* and *The Redcaps' Queen*—and a young adult steampunk novel, *Baba Ali and the Clockwork Djinn*, written with Day Al-Mohamed. She is also the author of the solo science fiction collection *A Legacy of Stars* and the non-fiction writers' guide *The Literary Handyman*, and is the senior editor of the *Bad-Ass Faeries* anthology series, *Dragon's Lure*, and *In an Iron Cage*. Her work is included in numerous other anthologies and collections.

Danielle is a member of the Garden State Speculative Fiction Writers, the New Jersey Authors Network, and Broad Universe, a writer's 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 Facebook (Danielle Ackley-McPhail) and Twitter (@DMcPhail). To learn more about her work, visit [www.sidhenadaire.com](http://www.sidhenadaire.com) or [www.badassfaeries.com](http://www.badassfaeries.com).



### Leigh Alexander

Leigh Alexander has been dancing since the age of three. She has explored many styles of dance including modern, tap, jazz, hip hop, country line, ballroom, African and Native American, but her main focus has always been ballet. As a youth, she studied under Towson's

Children's Dance Division with Patty Enoch Bond, where she was able to gain a strong foundation in the Royal Academy of Dance. In 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 BA 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. Her most notable projects are Howard County Ballet's *Nightingale*, Baltimore Ballet's *Firebird*, and Maryland School for Ballet and Modern Dance's *Nutcracker*, *Adventures Under the Sea* (inspired by *Finding Nemo*), and *Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer*. She is now designing and creating costumes for Goucher College and Deep Vision Dance Company.



### Day Al-Mohamed

Day Al-Mohamed is co-editor of the anthology *Trust & Treachery* and hosts the multi-author blog *Unleaded: Fuel for Writers*. In addition to speculative fiction, she also writes comics and film scripts. Her recent publications are available in *Daily Science Fiction*, *Crossed Genres* anthology *Oomph—A Little Super Goes a Long Way*, and GrayHaven Comics' anti-bullying issue *You Are Not Alone*. She is an active member of the Cat Vacuuming Society of Northern Virginia Writing Group, and Women in Film and Video. When not working on fiction, Day is Senior Policy Advisor with the US 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](http://www.DayAlMohamed.com) and at [@DayAlMohamed](https://twitter.com/DayAlMohamed).



### John Ashmead

John Ashmead has a BA in physics from Harvard (summa cum laude) and a master's in physics from Princeton. He's working on a physics dissertation, *Time & Quantum Mechanics*, on how to quantize time using the same rules as we use for space. ("Experimentally testable, which is always nice!") John got his start as an editor at *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction* magazine. He's currently working with Darrell Schweitzer on an anthology, *Tales From the Miskatonic University Library*. By day, he's a database admin and developer at Nistica, which produces the optical switches used to control the Internet. He does a bit of database and web consulting on the side. But his life's ambition is to develop a practical and cost-effective time machine.



### Lisa Ashton

Lisa Ashton is a long-time participant and costumer at Balticon, known for beaded pieces and historical reproductions. Last year she was Kali in the Masquerade Best in Show winner "It's Tough To Be A God." She has also won awards for quilts, beadwork, sewing and costumes at the Montgomery County Fair, as well as winning an award for the Flying Spaghetti Monster.



### Sarah Avery

Sarah Avery is a writer of fantasy, an escaped academic, an ambivalently entrepreneurial private tutor, a former Army brat, and an occasional book reviewer. Her collection of contemporary fantasy novellas, *Tales from Rugosa Coven*, was published by Dark Quest Books in 2013. In 2014, Fantastic Books published *Trafficking in Magic, Magicking in Traffic*, a themed anthology she co-edited with David Sklar, which includes stories by Darrell Schweitzer, Elizabeth Bear, and James Enge. Her short fiction has appeared in *Fantasy Scroll*, *Jim Baen's Universe*, and *Black Gate*, where she also reviews series fantasy. She married her high school sweetheart, and they live in Maryland with their sons.

### 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](http://ChocolateScotch.com) and many of her poems are available online at [SueBaiman.com](http://SueBaiman.com). She is also the voice of Nobilis Reed's *Monster Whisperer* series of stories.



### Jason Banks

I have been a voracious reader since I was a kid, and started listening to podcasts in 2006 after my reading led me to Scott Sigler's work while on deployment to Iraq. Then it was one thing after another; I met Tee Morris and Pip Ballantine in 2010 after I left the service. They suggested Balticon and doing my own podcast.

I said I could never do that. Two years later I started *The Talk Nerdy 2 Me Podcast* and participating in Balticon as a panelist on the anime track and in the viewing room, instead of just attending the convention.



### Brick Barrientos

Brick Barrientos has been playing in and organizing trivia contests for too long. He captained the University of Maryland to the College Bowl national championship. Brick was a one-day winner on *Jeopardy!*, defeating a four-time winner. These days he hosts a movie trivia game show called *Silver Screen Test* that can be found at [www.silverscreentest.com](http://www.silverscreentest.com). Brick has been running the science fiction trivia contest at Balticon for more than 20 years and ran the trivia contest for Buccaneer, the Worldcon in Baltimore. His current day job is in compliance for an investment advisor.



### Martin Berman-Gorvine

Martin Berman-Gorvine is the author of five science fiction/fantasy novels: the Sidewise Award-winning novel *The Severed Wing* (Livingston Press, 2002); *36* (Livingston Press, 2012); *Seven Against Mars* (Wildside Press, 2013); *Save the Dragons!* (Wildside Press, 2013), which was a finalist for the Prometheus Award; and *Ziona: A Novel of Alternate History* (Amazon/CreateSpace, 2014). Wildside Press is publishing a sixth novel, *Heroes of Earth*, in the spring of 2015.



### Steve and Deja Biernesser

Filkers, Dorsai Irregulars (both of them), retired US Air Force officers (yes, both of them), tree farmers (she's not so sure about this one), it all began with a guitar. She surprised him with a guitar as a Christmas present in 1994. When he realized how much she'd spent, he decided he'd better learn how to play it, since at that point he had no clue. After much practice (by him), and prodding (by her) over the years, they discovered that folks liked to hear them sing. Enjoyment for all concerned ensued. They cover the waterfront from funny to serious, energetic to folk ballad. They made quite an impression when they were the Interfilk guests to FilKONtario in 2012. They were right in the middle of performing their Interfilk concert when Steve ditched their play list and gave her a surprise 25th anniversary present by having Alexander James Adams (who flew in from the west coast specifically for this purpose) join them on stage as Steve sang one of Alec's songs to Deja, with Alec backing him on the fiddle. The female listeners loved it—"so romantic," one noted. Many of the married or otherwise committed male attendees were ticked off at Steve for screwing up the grading curve and giving their partners ideas of what they might expect. Unfortunately, nothing that elaborate is in the works for this year, but their music should still be great fun.

### Joshua Bilmes

Joshua Bilmes founded JABberwocky Literary Agency in 1994, and represents *New York Times* bestselling authors Brandon Sanderson, Charlaine Harris, Peter V. Brett, Jack Campbell, Simon R. Green and Elizabeth Moon. Moon, Myke Cole and T.C. McCarthy are among many Compton Crook winners and finalists he has represented, and Balticon was the first convention he attended as a professional agent.



### Arthur Boorman

Arthur Boorman is a special educator/case manager at Severna Park High School and the faculty advisor to Severna Park High School Science Fiction and Fantasy Club. He holds a BA from the State University of New York, an MA from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, an administration certificate from McDaniel College, and Advanced Professional Certificates in special education, secondary mathematics, and administration. He is a staff blogger and critic for the ComicWow! Network. He is a

member of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society, the Greater Columbia Fantasy Costumer's Guild, and a life member of the HP Lovecraft Historical Society. He was a paratrooper and combat engineer in the US Army and served in the first Persian Gulf War. In his spare time, he teaches yoga at his local YMCA and at a Disabled Veterans Program in Frederick, MD.

### Walt Boyes

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



### 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 erotic fiction, from heterosexual to menage to same sex, and from twisted to humorous to deeply touching. Alessia now focuses the majority of her time and energy on Coming Together, her charity publishing label. Coming Together attained its 501(c)(3) exemption in 2014, making it the sexiest nonprofit on the planet.

### Charlie Brown

Charlie Brown is a writer and filmmaker from New Orleans. He currently lives in Los Angeles, where he recently received his master's in professional writing from the University of Southern California and also runs Lucky Mojo Press (editing the *Dirty Magick* series) and Mojotooth Productions. He has made two feature films: *Angels Die Slowly* and *Never A Dull Moment: 20 Years of the Rebirth Brass Band*. His fiction has appeared in *Oddville Press*, *Writing Disorder*, *Jersey Devil Press*, *The Menacing Hedge*, *Aethlon*, and *what?? Magazine*.



### KT Bryski

KT Bryski is a Canadian author, podcaster, and Pokémon Master. She made her podcasting and publishing debut with *Hapax*, an apocalyptic fantasy with Dragon Moon Press (2012) and she has stories in *Black Treacle Horror Magazine*, *When the Hero Comes Home Vol. II* (Dragon Moon Press) and *Tales from the Archives* (Imagine That! Studios). Select play writing credits include scripts for *Black Creek Pioneer Village*, *East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon* (Canadian Children's Opera Company), and *Key of D Minor* (Sears Ontario Drama Festival). In 2014, her short story "Under Oak Island" was a Parsec finalist. She ventured into RPGs with "Yeti's Parole Officer," released in 2014 from Choice of Games.

When she's not writing, KT can often be found frolicking in petticoats, educating the general public about Victorian social history. In addition, KT writes and edits the *Black Creek Growler*, the official blog of the Black Creek Historic Brewery. And sometimes, she plays SNES. KT still lives in Toronto with her long-suffering roommates. She is currently at work on her next novel.



### Stephanie M. Burke

Stephanie Burke is a mad woman that must be stopped... or at least that's what her editor says. She makes her home in Baltimore where she creates thousands of worlds where she manipulates her characters like puppets and abuses hot tea. Along the way she picked up a lot of awards and has written a lot of books that she won't stop talking about, and she has a legion of crazed fans who think just like her.



### Karen Burnham

Karen Burnham is vocationally an electromagnetic engineer and avocationally a science fiction critic and reviewer. Professionally she has worked on NASA projects including the Orion and Dream Chaser spacecraft. In the science fiction world, her reviews appear in *Locus Magazine*, *Strange Horizons*, *NYRSF*, *Cascadia Subduction Zone*, *SFSignal*, and others. She has been twice nominated for the British Science Fiction Award, most recently for her book-length work on the literature of Greg Egan for the University of Illinois Press. She lives near Baltimore with her husband and two children.



### Laura A. Burns

Laura A. Burns has been a space enthusiast her entire life. She has worked as an engineer with various NASA contractors for almost 17 years. She has worked on the James Webb Space Telescope, Landsat 8 and the Joint Polar Satellite System. During the summer of 2007, she spent nine weeks in Beijing, China at the International Space University and has returned as a guest lecturer. She enjoys speaking to the public on space related topics at conventions and science festivals. She tweets about space and science at [@moonrangerlaura](https://twitter.com/moonrangerlaura). In addition to her interest in space, she is a long time science fiction and fantasy fan, photographer, board game player, knitter, podcast listener, and book collector. She has had two photo exhibitions at Constellation Books in Reisterstown, MD. Laura is the head of the Parsec Awards Steering Committee, the longest running speculative fiction podcasting award, and has lent her voice to several podcasts. Reach her on Twitter at [@parsecawards](https://twitter.com/parsecawards).



### Mildred Cady

Games, writing, crafting, acting, costuming, real and alternate history, historical lifestyles, and cooking are the main interests of Mildred's life. She's turning those into stories for herself and her friends, games to play with friends, and

a podcast (the *Picnic Basket* podcast). At Balticon this year she'll be bringing a more in-depth view into Victorian Gambling and Parlor Games, a Whist tournament, and stories and discussion over in the New Media track.



#### Jack Campbell/John Henry

Jack Campbell (John Henry) is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Lost Fleet* series, the *Lost Stars* series, and the *Pillars of Reality* series. His most recent books are *The Lost Stars—Imperfect Sword*, *The Lost Fleet: Beyond The Frontier—Steadfast*, and *The Dragons of Dorcastle* (steampunk meets high fantasy). John's works have been published in eleven languages. His short fiction includes works covering time travel, alternate history, space opera, military SF, fantasy, and humor. John has also written articles on real declassified Cold War plans for US military bases on the moon, and "Liberating the Future: Women in the Early Legion" (of Superheroes) in Sequart's *Teenagers From the Future*. At somewhat erratic intervals he presents his talk on "Everything I Needed To Know About Quantum Physics I Learned From The Three Stooges", showing how Stooze skits illustrate principles of quantum physics.

John is a retired US Navy officer who served in a wide variety of jobs including surface warfare (the ship drivers of the Navy), amphibious warfare, anti-terrorism, intelligence, and some other things that he's not supposed to talk about. Being a sailor, he has been known to tell stories about Events Which He Says Really Happened (but which cannot be verified by any independent sources). This experience has served him well in writing fiction. He lives in Maryland with his indomitable wife "S" and three great kids (all three on the autism spectrum).



#### Robert R. Chase

Robert R. Chase is a past Compton Cook finalist who has published more than two dozen stories in *Analog* and *Asimov's*, as well as three novels. His story, "Decaying Orbit," has been selected for Baen's first *Year's Best Military SF and Space Opera*.



#### Cheshire Moon

Cheshire Moon is a fanciful melding of trickster bird Lizzie Crowe and mad hatter Eric Coleman. These two-time Pegasus Award recipients are part of the growing music genre known as MythPunk, bringing old gods and folk tales into modern day, and bringing faerie tale princesses into the light of dark magic. They weave journeys of song and story, bringing their listeners along for the ride. Care to come along?

#### Debi Chowdhury

Debi is working at being a writer. She has published poetry and short stories; has been a lecturer; and runs the writers' workshop at Albacon and Pi-Con.

#### Michael Chuong, MD

Dr. Chuong is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Maryland Medical Center and Maryland Proton Treatment Center. He specializes in treating tumors of the gastrointestinal tract, head and neck, and lymphomas. While being active in the clinic, Dr. Chuong is also involved in clinical and translational research including clinical trial design.

#### Dave Clement

"Decadent Dave"—60 years a country/folk musician, 50 years a F&SF reader and fan, 30 years a filker. He is an FHO member, Pegasus award winner and an Aurora award winner. He has two solo albums and three "Dandelion Wine" albums. "Encouraging and spreading the fun and joy and rewards of participating in music and the fannish family...that's why I do it."



#### Jack Clemons

Jack Clemons has a master of science degree in aerospace engineering. He has spent most of his professional career as an aerospace engineer, an air-and-space industry professional, and as an author. He was a lead engineer on NASA's Apollo Moon program, and was program manager for the development of the onboard software for NASA's Space Shuttle. Later in his career Jack was a senior vice president of engineering at Lockheed Martin. He is a published author and a member of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA). His non-fiction, short fiction and science fiction have appeared in numerous magazines, books and anthologies. He writes a bi-weekly science and technology blog for *Amazing Stories Magazine Online*. Jack appeared as himself in the "Command Module" episode of the Discovery Science Channel six-part documentary *Moon Machines*. He has written and made numerous presentations about the space program, on the importance of systems engineering (for non-engineering audiences), and on why science matters. He is currently writing a memoir about his time on the Apollo and Space Shuttle programs.



#### John Cmar

John Cmar, MD, 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 the assistant director of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, and an instructor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is the lead physician in Sinai's Ryan White initiative, which provides medical care and social assistance to patients with HIV infection who are without medical insurance. In his role as program director for the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Sinai, he teaches an annual course series in evidence-based medicine, among many other duties. He also does infectious diseases outreach in Baltimore television and print media, and is the guest-in-residence on the monthly *Midday on Health* show with Dan Rodricks on 88.1 WYPR radio in Baltimore. John is a science

fiction and fantasy fan, avid gamer, craft beer aficionado, and podcast enthusiast. He currently blogs and podcasts on skeptical, medical, and geeky topics at [johncmr.com](http://johncmr.com).



#### Doc Coleman

Inspired by the creative voices of new media, Doc Coleman is an emerging figure in the podiosphere. After a tour as Galley Table's regular stow-away, and producer of his own podcast *The Shrinking Man Project*, Doc has broadened his scope to include voice acting and writing. 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 Balticons 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. He is self-publishing his first novel, *The Perils of Prague*, the first novel of the series *The Adventures of Crackle and Bang*.

Find out about all of Doc's projects at Swimming Cat Studios ([SwimmingCatStudios.com](http://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 cats in Germantown, MD.

#### Paul E. Cooley

A writer, podcaster, and software architect from Houston, TX, 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](http://Shadowpublications.com) and iTunes. His stories have been listened to by thousands and he has been a guest on such notable podcasts as *Podiorocket*, 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 release in 2015). In addition to his writing, Paul has contributed his voice talents to a number of podifiction productions. His bestselling novel, *The Black*, was released in 2014. The sequel is slated for release in the second quarter of 2015 along with several other titles.

He is a co-host on the renowned *Dead Robots' Society* writing podcast and enjoys interacting with readers and other writers.



#### Iver P. Cooper

Iver 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. Iver's 1632 universe braided story anthology *1636: Seas of Fortune* was published by Baen as a trade paperback

in January 2014 and as a mass market paperback in February 2015. He is working with Eric Flint on a novel set in Ming China.

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 US Trademark Association, and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, and is the sole author of *Biotechnology and the Law*, now in its 20-something edition. In his spare time, such as may exist, he teaches swing and folk dancing, and participates in local photo club competitions. Iver is married, with a son who is a public policy analyst, and a daughter working at Universal Orlando as a copywriter.



#### Meriah Crawford

Meriah Lysistrata Crawford teaches research and writing at Virginia Commonwealth University, and is a private investigator, writer, and editor. She's published stories in several genres, as well as essays, a variety of scholarly work, and a poem about semicolons. The anthology *Trust & Treachery: Tales of Power and Intrigue*, which Meriah co-edited, was published in May 2014. Her doctoral dissertation explores the functions of the second person, as well as offering a new perspective on the components of point of view in general—and it's way more interesting than it sounds. For more information, visit [www.mlrcrawford.com](http://www.mlrcrawford.com).



#### Vonnie Winslow Crist

Vonnie Winslow Crist, BS Art-Ed, MS 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).

#### Charlene Taylor D'Alessio

Charlene Taylor D'Alessio has been illustrating in the fantasy and science fiction genre for over 30 years. She is known for her exquisite painted ties, humorous fantasy paintings of hamsters, cats, dragons, owls and miniature astronomical pieces. She has had several published pieces including a children's book cover, a calendar, and a puzzle, "Magic Cat Spells." She also does commissions. Look for her artwork at most sci-fi con art shows.



### Keith R.A. DeCandido

Keith R.A. DeCandido is launching his short story collection *Without a License* at Balticon. He has a catapult and everything. Other recent work includes *Star Trek: The Klingon Art of War*, *Sleepy Hollow: Children of the Revolution*, *Gryphon Precinct*. He has stories in *Stargate: Far Horizons*, *Out of Tune*, *Bad-Ass Faeries: It's Elemental*, *With Great Power*, *The X-Files: Trust No One*, and *Buzzy Mag Online*, an adventure for the "Firefly: Echoes of War" RPG, and rewatches of various bits of the *Star Trek* and *Stargate* franchises for [Tor.com](http://Tor.com). Find out less at his cheerfully retro website at [DeCandido.net](http://DeCandido.net).



### Ming Diaz

Ming has been perpetually interested in storytelling, clowning, face painting, 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 fiction writer, non-fiction freelancer and podcaster living in Syracuse, NY. He is the author of the podcast novels *Acts of Desperation* and *Purgatory*. Print and electronic versions of *Purgatory* were published in 2012. He is currently seeking publication for his latest novel about a ghost hunter in New England. He also has a short story scheduled for release in the *Tales From the Archives* podcast in 2015. He is the host of the occasional podcast *The Geek Side of Life* ([www.thegeeksideoflife.com](http://www.thegeeksideoflife.com)) and writes a blog titled *If My Thought-Dreams Could Be Seen* ([www.timdodgestories.com](http://www.timdodgestories.com)). A lifelong bookworm, he serves as a trustee on two library boards and was elected president of one while he was out of the room getting donuts. His current work in progress is a novel about street musicians hypnotizing pedestrians with subliminal messages in their music.



### Tom Doyle

Tom Doyle's next contemporary fantasy novel of occult military intrigue from Tor Books, *The Left-Hand Way* (sequel to *American Craftsmen*), will be released on August 11, 2015. His collection of short fiction, *The Wizard of Macatawa and Other Stories*, includes his WSFA Small Press Award and Writers of the Future Award stories. He writes science fiction and fantasy in a spooky turret in Washington, DC. You can find the text and audio of many of his stories on his website, [www.tomdoylewriter.com](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 2015. He's also one of the time-twisted minds behind the sci-fi indie film *95ers* (2013). 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.



### Scott Edelman

Scott Edelman has published more than 85 short stories in magazines such as *Postscripts*, *The Twilight Zone*, *Absolute Magnitude*, *The Journal of Pulse-Pounding Narratives*, *Science Fiction Review* and *Fantasy Book*, and in anthologies such as *Why New Yorkers Smoke*, *The Solaris Book of New Science Fiction: Volume Three*, *Crossroads: Southern Tales of the Fantastic*, *Men Writing SF as Women*, *MetaHorror*, *Once Upon a Galaxy*, *Moon Shots*, *Mars Probes*, *Forbidden Planets*, *Summer Chills*, and *The Mammoth Book of Monsters*. His most recent short story was published in the anthology *The Monkey's Other Paw: Revived Classic Stories of Dread and the Dead*.

A collection of his horror fiction, *These Words Are Haunted*, came out from Wildside Books in 2001, and a standalone novella, *The Hunger of Empty Vessels*, was published in 2009 by Bad Moon Books. He is also the author of the Lambda Award-nominated novel *The Gift* (Space & Time, 1990) and the collection *Suicide Art* (Necronomicon, 1992). His collection of zombie fiction, *What Will Come After*, came in 2010 from PS Publishing, and was a finalist for both the Stoker Award and the Shirley Jackson Memorial Award. His science fiction short fiction has been collected in *What We Still Talk About* from Fantastic Books.

He has been a Stoker Award finalist five times, both in the category of Short Story and Long Fiction.

Additionally, Edelman worked for the Syfy Channel for more than 13 years as editor of *Science Fiction Weekly*, *SCI FI Wire*, and *Blastr*. He was the founding editor of *Science Fiction Age*, which he edited during its entire eight-year run. He also edited *SCI FI* magazine, previously known as *Sci-Fi Entertainment*, for more a decade, as well as two other SF media magazines, *Sci-Fi Universe* and *Sci-Fi Flix*. He has been a four-time Hugo Award finalist for Best Editor.



### 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).



### Zachary Eirins

Zachary Eirins studied the evolution of religion in the West for his undergraduate degree. He currently works as a Brain Coach at Marbles: The Brain Store.



### 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 *GRDsWeekly* and occasionally the *Geek Radio Daily show*. Flynnstress is originally from Maryland, and went to school at George Mason University and University of Phoenix. The Richmond, VA area is now her home. She helps teachers integrate 21st century skills in the classroom with inspiring ed tech. Flynnstress was not always a geek; husband, Billy Flynn, got her hooked on favorites like *Star Trek*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *Doctor Who*, and *Firefly*. You can most likely find her playing roller derby with the River City Rollergirls or snuggled up with a book. Flynnstress also loves to travel, watches too much TV, admits to being addicted to Facebook, and is trying to save the earth, one recycled can of coke at a time. She might also have her baby geek, "Wonder Baby," in tow.



### John L. French

John L. French has worked for more than 30 years as a crime scene investigator and has seen more than his share of murders, shootings and serious assaults. 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*, *Past Sins*, *Souls on Fire*, *Here There Be Monsters* and *Paradise Denied*. He's also written several books with co-conspirator Patrick Thomas, the latest of which is *The Assassins' Ball*. John is the editor of *Bad Cop*, *No Donut*, *Mermaids 13: Tales of the Sea*, and *With Great Power*. One of these days John will get a website and a Facebook page but in the meantime he can be contacted at [jfrenchfam@aol.com](mailto:jfrenchfam@aol.com).



### 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*.



**Allison Gamblin**

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

**Brand Gamblin**

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

**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](http://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](http://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*.

**Veronica Giguere**

Veronica "V." Giguere is a narrator, author, and educator. In love with her microphone for nearly nine years, she has voiced spoiled supervillains, tempting demons, Communist metahumans, fierce pirates, anxious technomancers, secret agent archaeologists, suspicious journalists, foxling pirates, enchanted princesses, and a young woman facing an odd spider infestation. She is a coauthor of the *Secret World Chronicles* podcast novel series and her other writings include inner-city cyberpunk, psychological thrillers, and zombies. When she isn't telling you your favorite stories, Veronica masquerades as a mild-mannered academic whose specialties include time management and academic resource instruction.

**James L. Gossard**

James L. Gossard is a Maryland screenwriter, playwright, and fiction writer. He has received multiple awards in the humanities and for writing. StoryPros named his screenplay *White Dust* in its Top Ten Action-Thrillers for 2014. Gossard's other screenplays have

also placed in the Final Draft Screenwriters competitions, among others. His stage plays have been produced and have received multiple awards, including the Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award for *September Moon*. He is currently working with his co-writer, Gabe Fremuth, to develop the five issue *Mobtown* graphic novel series. Other current projects include his new sci-fi screenplay, *Greenskin*, and a new stage play, *Oysters*. James earned his MA in writing from Johns Hopkins University. Follow James on Twitter at [@jameslgossard](https://twitter.com/@jameslgossard). His website is [www.jameslgossard.com](http://www.jameslgossard.com).

**Stephen Granade**

Stephen Granade is a physicist who specializes in sensors for robotic vehicles. His current research involves sensors for unpiloted airplanes. 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. His PhD research was on trapping and cooling neutral atoms to nearly absolute zero by using really powerful lasers, vacuum systems, and a fair amount of Mountain Dew. During that research he only set fire to himself once, shocked himself twice, and still has two working eyes. He has won awards for presentations to non-scientist audiences and has provided scientific commentary for [FoxNews.com](http://FoxNews.com), CBS Marketwatch, and Jalopnik. In his spare time he is part of the *Disasterpiece Theatre* podcast, writes computer games, and is involved with Dragon Con TV.

**Paul Halpern**

Physicist and science writer Dr. Paul Halpern is the author of fourteen popular science books, exploring the subjects of space, time, higher dimensions, particle physics, and cosmology. His most recent book is *Einstein's Dice and Schrödinger's Cat* *How Two Great Minds Battled Quantum Randomness to Create a Unified Theory of Physics*. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Fulbright Scholarship, and an Athenaeum Literary Award. A regular contributor to NOVA's *The Nature of Reality* physics blog, he has appeared on numerous radio and television shows including *Future Quest*, *Radio Times*, and *The Simpsons 20th Anniversary Special*. He lives near Philadelphia. More information is at: <http://phalpern.com>.



### Elektra Hammond

Elektra Hammond emulates her multi-sided idol Buckaroo Banzai by going in several directions at once. She's been involved in publishing since the 1990s—now she writes, concocts anthologies, reviews movies for [buzzymag.com](http://buzzymag.com) and edits science fiction for various and sundry. Her latest story, "Salamander Bites," can be found in the anthology *Temporally Out of Order* edited by Joshua Palmentier and Patricia Bray. When not freelancing or appearing at science fiction conventions, she travels the world judging cat shows.



### Eric Hardenbrook

Eric is a fan, an author and an artist, usually in that order. Eric lives in central Pennsylvania with his gorgeous wife and daughter. He writes science fiction and fantasy to try to get the stories out of his head. When he's being a fan he helps run Watch The Skies ([www.watchtheskies.org](http://www.watchtheskies.org)) and assists in the publication of their monthly fanzine. He can be found (at least some of the time) at *The Pretend Blog* ([www.ehardenbrook.com](http://www.ehardenbrook.com)). When not working on those things, Eric enjoys the occasional video or board game and is an old school role player.

### P.C. Haring

P.C. Haring is a writer.



### Kelly A. Harmon

Kelly A. Harmon was born on the Baltimore Beltway at 120 miles-per-hour in the front seat of a Ford Mustang. In the wee hours of the morning, with rising humidity ready to swamp the day, she took her first breath of H&S baked bread, the tang of salt air coming off the harbor and the scent of Old Bay wafting out of McCormick's. Baltimore was in her blood then, as it is now.

In the intervening years, she's lived all over Maryland, written for local newspapers and beyond, and come home to Baltimore to write her *Charm City Darkness* series.

When the voices in her head leave her alone, she can be found haunting Enoch Pratt Library, roaming around Canton, or stopping by the Westminster Burying Grounds for a one-sided chat with Edgar Allan Poe.

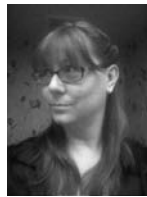
### Katie Hartlove

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 [coldmoonpress.com](http://coldmoonpress.com).



### Bjorn Hasseler

Bjorn Hasseler found "1632" in a public library. Then he found the 1632 conferences at Baen's Bar and discovered that fans were encouraged to write. He has now had ten stories and a three-part serial published, all in the 1632 universe, and is the assistant editor of the *Grantville Gazette*. He grew up outside Watertown, NY, graduated from Gettysburg College (political science) and Capital Bible Seminary (theology), and has worked as a War of 1812 reenactor, assistant athletic director, data administrator, and adjunct professor. He is currently an education coordinator at the University of Maryland University College.



### Melissa L. Hayden

Melissa is a fantasy reader, blogger, and freelance content editor. During the daylight hours of mundane life she works undercover as a bookkeeper. By night, she enjoys journeying through fantasy worlds created by others and herself. She reviews at *My World...* in words and pages and you can learn more about her content editing services at [MelissaLHayden.com](http://MelissaLHayden.com).



### Inge Heyer

Inge Heyer has spent decades developing a unique expertise in astronomy communications across a variety of settings, including college classrooms, K-12 schools, informal educational settings, professional scientific journalism, and science fiction venues. Born and raised in Berlin, Germany, she completed her secondary education there before accepting a scholarship to attend Tenri University (Japan), where she studied Japanese. After later earning an undergraduate degree in physics and astronomy from Smith College, she earned a master's degree in astronomy from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and a PhD in science education from the University of Wyoming. In addition to her professional work as senior data analyst at the Space Telescope Science Institute, Dr. Heyer also served as the public information officer at the Joint Astronomy Centre, where she led the education and public outreach efforts. She has earned Shodan in both Judo and Karate, and serves as guest science blogger for [StarTrek.com](http://StarTrek.com). Dr. Heyer currently teaches astronomy and physics at Loyola University Maryland and serves as deputy press officer for the American Astronomical Society. And if you have ever wondered how those beautiful Hubble images got into science fiction series like *Babylon 5* and *Star Trek*, Inge is the trouble-maker who instigated this.



### Larry Hodges

Larry Hodges' first novel, *Sorcerers in Space*, from Class Act Books, came out in November 2013. It's a humorous fantasy that parodies the U.S.-Soviet space race of the 1960s, but with sorcerers instead of astronauts. A resident of Germantown, MD, Larry is an active member of Science Fiction Writers of America with more than 70

short story sales. He's a graduate of the six-week 2006 Odyssey Writers Workshop and the 2008 Taos Toolbox Writers Workshop. His story "The Awakening" was the unanimous grand prize winner at the 2010 Garden State Horror Writers Short Story Competition. His story "Rationalized" won the November 2011 Story Quest Competition. He's a full-time writer with eight books and over 1500 published articles in more than 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](http://www.larryhodges.org).



#### Thomas R. Holtz Jr.

Dr. Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., is a dinosaur paleontologist specializing in the origin, evolution, adaptations, and paleobiology of carnivorous dinosaurs (especially Tyrannosaurus and its kin).

He is a faculty member of the Department of Geology at the University of Maryland, College Park, a research associate of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, and is on the Scientific Council of the Maryland Science Center. In addition to his technical publications, Dr. Holtz has written several books for the general audience (such as *Dinosaurs: The Most Complete Up-To-Date Encyclopedia for Dinosaur Lovers of All Ages*), and has been a consultant on numerous TV documentaries. Dr. Holtz is the faculty director of the College Park Scholars–Science and Global Change Program ([www.geol.umd.edu/sgc](http://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.



#### Starla Huchton

A geek of all trades, Starla Huchton has been crafting stories in various genres since 2007. She is a three-time finalist for Parsec Awards for her podcast fiction work, and was the first place winner for Science Fiction & Fantasy in the Sandy competition in 2012. Her work spans science fiction, fantasy, New Adult Romance, Young Adult titles, steampunk, contemporary, and various other varieties of stories. She is greedy and likes all the genres! When not writing, Starla trains three Minions, a black lab, and a military husband while designing book covers for independent authors and publishers at Designed By Starla.

#### 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.



#### Jabraan Ismail

Jabraan Ismail is a cinematographer, director and editor. He has a liberal arts degree in cinema and film production. From working on narrative films to corporate commercials, he has over

seven years of professional production experience. He aims to help others learn about filmmaking by teaching workshops and seminars throughout North America.



#### Kamran Ismail

Kamran Ismail is a director and videographer. He received a bachelor's degree in electronic media and film. He has directed many short films and has recently directed his first feature film.

In addition to his narrative work, he has produced videos for non-profit organizations as well as documentaries.



#### Noam Izenberg

Noam Izenberg has been a planetary scientist at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory since 1997. He's interested in the processes that change the appearance and compositions of planetary surfaces. From the solar wind and cosmic rays of "space weather" to the atmospheres, winds and waves of planetary weather systems, to impact craters and the internal processes of volcanism and tectonism, the surfaces of solar system bodies are always evolving. The different processes change the appearance of a surface in different, and sometimes surprising, ways. Dr. Izenberg has been an instrument scientist on the NEAR Shoemaker mission to the asteroid 433 Eros, and the MESSENGER mission to Mercury.



#### Tom Jewell

Tom has been attending Balticon off and on for 35 years. He's an all-around fan of SF&F reading, watching, gaming and costuming. He will be running a Warhammer 40K game for the early-birds at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday.



#### Leslie Johnston

Leslie Johnston has been costuming since the 1970s. She has made more hall and competitions costumes than she can remember, and works with a variety of materials and techniques and loves to experiment. She has won awards competing at Worldcon, Costumecon, Balticon, Westercon and Baycon masquerades. In her professional life she works in digital preservation for cultural organizations, and can talk about that for hours at a time.



#### Paula S. Jordan

Paula S. Jordan is the author of three *Analog* stories, including "Voorh," a novelette, (July/August 2014.) That story and her previous *Analog* entry, "Two Look At Two" (April 2011,) are adaptations from a present-day alien-contact novel in progress. Her first professional publication, "The Gift of Unbinding" (May, 2001), also appeared in *Analog*. She is now at work on more short stories as well as the novel.

After degrees in history and speech and several years as a freelance writer, Paula earned a BS in physics and worked 13 years as an orbit analyst for NASA and NOAA. She supported more than 30 unmanned science and weather missions including the lunar-orbiting Clementine mission that first detected water on the moon. Paula blogs regularly at her website [PaulaSJordan.com](http://PaulaSJordan.com) and on the collaborative sf/f book blog at [Darkcargo.com](http://Darkcargo.com).



#### Mark "the Encaffeinated ONE" Kilfoil

Mark "the Encaffeinated ONE" Kilfoil is a coffee devotee and lifelong omnivorous geek, exploring scifi and fantasy stories and being a continuous tabletop RPG player for the last three decades. He's a long-time broadcaster, having volunteered at his campus-community radio station for nearly a dozen years before becoming staff in 2010. He began podcasting in 2006 with *The WEIRD Show* ([theweirshow.com](http://theweirshow.com)), winning a Parsec award in 2008 for "Best Infotainment Show" and nominated again in 2012. A podcast adaptation of his novella "Tainted Roses" was nominated in 2013 for a Parsec award for "Best Speculative Fiction Story: Small Cast (Novella Form)." Mark holds a master's in computer science and worked as a professional software developer for several years. He does professional and amateur narration, contributing to *Starship Sofa* and *Far-Fetched Fables* for nearly a dozen stories. He occasionally blogs on deeper concepts of podcasting at [UnderstandingPodcasting.com](http://UnderstandingPodcasting.com). Mark currently works as the program director of CHSR-FM, a campus/community radio station in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.



#### Dr. Beatrice Kondo

Dr. Beatrice Kondo is an evolutionary biologist, specializing in the evolution of complex behaviors (such as migration), and a member of the Center for Biotechnology Education faculty at the Johns Hopkins University. She teaches master's and post-master's classes in molecular and cellular biology, including molecular phylogenetics and comparative animal physiology. Two of her publications focus on Maryland's state bird, the Baltimore oriole.



#### Grig Larson

Grig "Punkie" Larson (b. 1968) was born in Cyprus on British soil, the only son of a pair of Swedish-American descendants. He grew up in Northern Virginia, finding fandom through D&D, FanTek, and *Rocky Horror*. He works as a systems administrator by day, and by night he's an author, open source advocate, runs Katsucon, narrates the Balticon Podcast, and works for the DC Rollergirls. A staple in VA/DC/MD science fiction and anime fandom since the 1980s, he's been a panelist, moderator, emcee, actor, sketch writer, convention adviser, narrator, and the kind of sub-fame that keeps people from asking, "Hey, how'd HE get in here?" He's done everything from chair a convention to being the guy who

vacuums the staff suite. In no particular order.

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



#### Gary L. Lester

Gary L. Lester is the senior editor of [channel-37.net](http://channel-37.net). He and fellow editor and writer Paul Lagasse co-host Channel 37's *Audio Invasion* podcast. He and Paul also co-wrote *Channel 37 Season One!*, an anthology. Gary also wrote the award winning fantasy novel *Ursula the Yellow*, as well as numerous short stories and ebooks. Current projects include developing a Channel 37 web series.



#### Emily Lewis

Emily is a high school Latin teacher in Northern Virginia and member of The Pericles Group. Since she recently moved to VA, you may know her from the Boston branch of Sassafrass, but she sings with whatever branch she happens to be near at the time! In addition to singing, Emily is an avid SciFi/Fantasy fan, an active Swing and Salsa dancer, and an ice hockey player. She is also an energetic sponsor in Junior Classical League at both the Virginia and National levels. When she has a minute to breathe, she may tweet at [@blueathena14](https://twitter.com/blueathena14).

#### 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 (AB from Princeton, MS from UC Berkeley, MS from UMD) were in solid state physics and physical chemistry. He began his astronomy career in 1985 when he was hired on as an instrument scientist at NASA/Goddard on the Nobel prize-winning COBE project, where for 10 years he was steeped in studying the history of the cosmos and infrared astrophysics. He moved over to planetary studies when he wrote his dissertation on comets detected in the COBE all-sky survey in 1992. He continued his post doctoral work at UMD, where he used his cross-disciplinary astrophysics-planetary training to discover X-ray emission from comet C/1996 B2 Hyakutake with ROSAT while observing its close perihelion passage from the NASA/IRTF on Mauna Kea.

He went on to work at STScI from 1999-2001, where he helped design and build the current HST/WFC3 camera.

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



#### Marcia Litt

Marcia Litt was doing a little ballet and modern as far back as elementary school, and first found Medieval and Renn in college. Come 1997 she found her way to Markland's Thrir Venstri Foetr (Three Left Feet) and from there Vintage Ballroom and other partner dancing, like Swing and most recently Blues. She's been happily helping people get from "what is this" to "I can have fun tonight" in all manner of dances for a good decade. If you want to do more Swing in DC/Balt she can likely point you somewhere any day of the week, and is easily findable helping with Flying Feet classes and events at Glen Echo (or handling parts of their Facebook presence.)



#### Dr. Tim Livengood

Tim Livengood is a planetary scientist who measures the composition, temperature, and wind velocity in planet atmospheres. Most recently, he has been using the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter to investigate where water may be hidden on the Moon. He was a co-investigator of NASA's EPOXI mission, and was the education and public outreach team leader for EPOCh. Tim graduated from Towson Senior High School in 1980 and from Washington University in St. Louis in 1984. During his college summers, he killed rats and cell cultures in an underground laboratory using a linear accelerator. He finished a doctorate in physics and astronomy at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in 1992. He moved to Goddard Space Flight Center in 1991 and has worked there ever since. He is also an active storyteller and will tell you about it, amusingly and at length.

#### 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*).



#### Mike Luoma

Mike Luoma writes and publishes science fiction and comics, creates the weekly *Glow-in-the-Dark Radio* podcast and hosts middays on "The Point," Vermont's Independent Radio Network, where he's also the music director.

His first novel, 2005's *Vatican Assassin*—science fiction set during an interplanetary Western/Muslim war—introduced "BC," killer for the New Catholic Church in 2109. The graphic novel adaptation with artist Cristian Navarro came out last year. The audiobook, narrated by Mike, is available through Audible. The ebook of the original novel is available free everywhere. BC's story continues in the rest of Mike's *Vatican Assassin* Trilogy—*Vatican Ambassador* and *Vatican Abdicator*.

Mike's third novel in his second series *The Adventures of Alibi Jones*—*Alibi Jones and The Hornet's Nest*—comes out this Memorial Day. Alibi is the son of BC. It's 20-something years later. Alibi is a Mediator for the Solar Alliance Interplanetary Force, negotiating interstellar trade arrangements and other matters with alien races. At least, in theory. The novels *Alibi Jones* and *Alibi Jones and The Sunrise of Hur*, short story collection *Alibi Jones and the Time War of The Devrizium* and issue one of the comic "The Adventures of Alibi Jones" are available now. Hear Mike read his work free each week—currently previewing the new Alibi Jones novel—look for "Mike Luoma" on iTunes for his *Glow-in-the-Dark Radio* podcast and free, downloadable audio books from [Podiobooks.com](http://Podiobooks.com). Find out more at [glowinthedarkradio.com](http://glowinthedarkradio.com).

#### Perrienne Lurie

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

#### Karen M

Karen is the lackey to Head GM and LARP Mistress Miriam (Emi) Steiner. In short, she handles all paperwork, communications, admin jobs (both large and small), and anything else that gets hurled her way. Oh, and she GMs too, as well as acting as a researcher and creative consultant. "It's basically like herding cats...never a dull moment."



### Barbara Mabie

Barbara has been sewing since she was young. Taught by her grandmother, she would sew bags and help her grandmother sew “yo-yo quilts.” She learned how to bead, make jewelry, and create other DIY things by 2004 and has been making hand-made items ever since. Getting her cosmetology license in 2007 has taught her how to style hair, wigs, and apply make-up. Also an avid gamer, she attended her first convention, Pax East 2012, and fell in love with the costuming and cosplay world. Since then she has developed her sewing, wig styling, and prop making skills and created Mabie Knot Designs & Cosplay, her commission business in which she currently runs with her husband and other half, Jay.



### Mark MacDicken

Mark MacDicken has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in drama from the University of Southern California, and a Master of Education degree in special education from George Mason University. As an actor and puppeteer, Mark toured with live shows for the Keebler Company and Kaiser-Permanente. He produced and performed on his own public access television series for kids. Mark has performed at literally hundreds of celebratory events as Spiffy the Clown, and more recently as Flabbergast the Wizard. He now teaches special education at an elementary school, where he frequently supports the curriculum with performances at special events and video projects. Besides Flabbergast, students at his school have seen him as a mad scientist and as a steampunk explorer. Mark lives with his wife and two grown children in Northern Virginia.

### Dr. Barry Margulies

Dr. Margulies received an SB at MIT, doing research with Drs. Eyal Ron and Robert Langer. He earned his PhD at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine under Dr. Wade Gibson, and also did his post-doctoral studies at Hopkins, with Dr. Janice Clements, both in molecular virology. He has been a faculty member at Towson University since 2001. His research encompasses studies in the molecular biology of human herpes viruses, and new methods for the long-term prevention of recurrent outbreaks of human and veterinary alpha herpes viruses.



### Gail Z. Martin

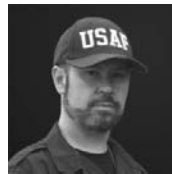
Gail Z. Martin is the author of the new epic fantasy novel *War of Shadows* (Orbit Books) which is Book Three in the *Ascendant Kingdoms Saga*; *Iron and Blood: The Jake Desmet Adventures*, a new steampunk series (July 2015, Solaris Books) coauthored with Larry N. Martin; and *Vendetta: A Deadly Curiosities Novel* in her urban fantasy series set in Charleston, SC (2016, Solaris Books). She is also the author of *Ice Forged* and *Reign of Ash* in the *Ascendant Kingdoms Saga*, the *Chronicles of The Necromancer* series (*The Summoner*, *The Blood King*, *Dark Haven*, *Dark Lady's Chosen*) from Solaris Books; and the *Fallen Kings Cycle* (*The Sworn*, *The*

*Dread*) from Orbit Books. Gail writes two series of ebook short stories: *The Jonmarc Vahanian Adventures* and *The Deadly Curiosities Adventures*, and her work has appeared in more than 20 US/UK anthologies.



### Jason McClain

Jason is a software engineer by day, and a costuming and sculpting hero by night. His experiences has led him to sit as craftsmanship judge for both NYCC and Celebration V. He has also been on stage many times as an MC for children's masquerades at NYCC and Celebration V as well. He is a founding member of Cosplay Burlesque and served as their MC until 2013. His expertise as a DJ has also led him to perform at several Katsucon dances and currently has been running the Katsucon and AnimeUSA dance-off for 10 years. Currently, he and his wife, Barb, are both halves of Mabie Knot Cosplay and Designs.



### Mike McPhail

Author and graphic artist Mike McPhail is a member of the Military Writers Society of America; he is dedicated to helping his fellow service members (and those 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.” He is best known as the editor and illustrator of the award-winning *Defending The Future* series of military science fiction anthologies ([www.defendingthefuture.com](http://www.defendingthefuture.com)). In 2015 he added the title of small press publisher, as the co-owner of eSpec Books LLC ([www.especbooks.com](http://www.especbooks.com)). See his website at [www.milscifi.com](http://www.milscifi.com).



### Christie Meierz

Bestselling author Christie Meierz has been writing since she was seven years old. After raising several rambunctious boys, she took to writing space opera and planetary romance set in an empathic civilization on the edge of a dystopic Earth empire. Her published works include her PRISM award-winning debut novel, *The Marann*, and her most recent book, *The Fall*, which was released in March 2015. In her universe, 500 years in the future, she explores how empaths would live together and what can happen when empaths and normal humans collide. Christie now lives in Pittsburgh with her mathematician husband and an assortment of stuffies. When she's not writing, she writes about writing on her blog, *Meierz Musings*, and on Facebook, where she welcomes comments and friend requests

### Jeff Meyer

Jeff has completed bachelor's degrees in computer science and mathematics, with a master's in applied internet technology. He has also run a college theater company for multiple season and written and directed stage adaptations of the stories of Edgar Allan Poe. In addition, he has performed with several amateur theater companies and one professional, as well as working on multiple student films.

**John Monahan**

John Monahan is a science writer and long-time science teacher in Baltimore City. He has taught at both the middle school and high school levels, and has had the opportunity to integrate science fiction into his science curriculum and teach courses in writing science fiction. In addition, he is the author of the book *They Called Me Mad: Genius, Madness and the Scientists Who Pushed the Outer Limits of Knowledge*.

John is a long-term resident of Baltimore and is a graduate of Towson University, where he received a bachelor's degree in science and a master's degree in professional writing. Currently, he blogs on his *Mad4Science* blog at [mad4science@wordpress.com](http://mad4science.wordpress.com).

**Sunny Moraine**

Sunny Moraine's short fiction has appeared in *Clarkesworld*, *Strange Horizons*, *Nightmare*, *Lightspeed*, and *Long Hidden: Speculative Fiction from the Margins of History*, among other places. They are also responsible for the novels *Line* and *Orbit* (co-written with Lisa Soem), *Labyrinthian*, and the *Casting the Bones* trilogy, as well as *A Brief History of the Future: Collected Essays*. In addition to authoring, Sunny is a doctoral candidate in sociology and a sometimes college instructor; that last may or may not have been a good move on the part of their department. They unfortunately live just outside Washington, DC in a creepy house with two cats and a very long-suffering husband.

**Alexander Mui**

Alexander Mui is a professional artist based in Baltimore. He was awarded the Hodson Trust Merit Scholarship to Johns Hopkins University where he is studying for his BS in molecular biology. He served as a senior editor for the award-winning *Johns Hopkins News-Letter* and is known for designing the popular mascot, Johnny Hopkins. He graduated the top of his class from the Army and Navy Academy where he served as the Battalion Executive Officer and earned numerous awards including the Atkinson Silver A and the National Military Officers Association Award.

He is known in the fandom community for his artwork, academic panels, and his work with various conventions. He has worked for cons in leadership and advisory roles including most recently serving as the Design Chair for San Francisco's BABSCon, forming the first Design Department in the community that fought for the rights and fair treatment of artists. He is also known for his research into the history of fan conventions, tracing their history from the early 1930s to their modern incarnation. His research interests also include the history of narrative art, the evolution of culture from the earliest shamanic traditions to modern fandoms, and the history of the Japanese visual novel medium. His academic panels have been presented at cons across the nation including AnimeExpo, Otakon, BronyCon, Comic Con, and more. His most popular panel is *100 Years of Narrative Art*.

Alexander is best known for his artwork, especially his tarot card decks, military coin designs, engraving styled artwork, and experimental pony art blog with +10,000 followers. His recent

art awards include placing in the Maryland State Government Common Cause Political Cartoon Contest and the *MAD Magazine* Art Envelope of the Month.

Alexander just finished writing *The West Point of the West: The History of the Army and Navy Academy*, the first book on the history of American military education, to be published by History Press. He is currently working on several others.

View his artwork on [SouthParkTaoist.Deviantart.com](http://SouthParkTaoist.Deviantart.com); contact him at [Alexander@jhu.edu](mailto:Alexander@jhu.edu) and follow him on Twitter at [@VisualHistories](https://twitter.com/VisualHistories).

**Nate Nelson**

Former professional wrestler, video gamer and avid comic book collector, Nate Nelson is a well-rounded geek. Nate graduated from the Illinois Center for Broadcasting and was hired as the producer for the *Mackay in the Morning* show at a suburban Chicago radio station. While in radio, he found a passion for voice acting and audio production, occasionally taking on the role of assistant production director at the station. In 2009, Nate moved to Baltimore and stepped in front of the camera as the co-host of the Baltimore-based TV show *Godamus Game Review*. Since moving to Baltimore, Nate has been expanding his résumé to include audio dramas, commercials, films and two other web series: *Hamilton Street* and *Rebels and Rejects*. He co-starred in *Shotgun Mythos* Season 1 as Gryson. He reprised his role in a cameo for *Death of A Speaker*, a *Shotgun Mythos* short film, and "World Without Sin," Season 2 of *Shotgun Mythos*.

**Laura Nicole**

In the year 2005, Laura Nicole discovered that her funny voices and accents that she picked up on her travels had turned into a passion for recording audio dramas. As her super skills in recording were honed, she began tinkering with audio production. She also started writing her own fantasy stories, which she lovingly shares exclusively at Balticon. Recording as the "Gypsy in the Attic" is how she shares her recording experiences and wild interviews with other authors and voice actors with the public. If you see this woman and know her work, she is likely to hug you. You have been warned.

**Christine Norris**

Christine Norris is the author of several speculative fiction works for children and adults, most notably the *Library of Athena* series. She is extremely overeducated, having a BS from Temple University (kinesiology), a BA from UMUC (English), AND a master's in library and information science from Southern Connecticut State. All of which means she loves to be in the library, which is her secret day job (whoops...).

She is married with one son, two rescued cats, a rescued Jack Russell, and a rescued palomino rabbit. There's a lot of rescuing. She also has a complete weakness for

*Doctor Who*, *Sherlock*, and other British television shows, as well as an addiction to movies, re-told fairy tales, and police procedural shows. She also believes in fairies. Christine is represented by Jordy Albert of the Booker Albert Literary Agency.



### Nutty Nuchtchas

Artist by day, blogger and podcaster by night, Nuchtchas (nicknamed Nutty—artist, blogger, podcaster, gamer, role player, and self professed “Geek Queen”) is the chief editor and director of [nimlas.org](http://nimlas.org) and NIMLAS Studios. While currently based in New Brunswick, Canada with spouse and Dragon, Nuchtchas is often traveling back where she came from, New York and all around the United States.

### Hugh J. 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 creator of the forthcoming *Freelance Hunters* adventure fiction podcast. His serial short fiction series, *140 Characters*, updates daily at [hughjodonnell.com](http://hughjodonnell.com).



### Joshua Palmatier

Joshua Palmatier is a fantasy author with a PhD in mathematics. His most recent novel is *Shattering the Ley* from DAW Books, the start of a new series, set in a city powered by the magic of the ley lines.

The sequel, *Threading The Needle*, is forthcoming. His first novel, *The Skewed Throne*, was a finalist for the Compton Crook award and is the first book in the *Throne of Amenkor* trilogy, followed by *The Cracked Throne* and *The Vacant Throne*. He edits anthologies with co-conspirator Patricia Bray (the most recent called *Clockwork Universe: Steampunk vs Aliens*) and is the founder of the small press *Zombies Need Brains*, which produces SF&F themed anthologies. Find out more about the press and future anthologies at [www.zombiesneedbrains.com](http://www.zombiesneedbrains.com) and [www.facebook.com/zombiesneedbrainsllc](https://www.facebook.com/zombiesneedbrainsllc), and more about Joshua himself at [www.joshuapalmatier.com](http://www.joshuapalmatier.com) and [www.facebook.com/joshua.b.palmatier](https://www.facebook.com/joshua.b.palmatier).



### Ada Palmer

Ada Palmer’s first science fiction novel, *Dogs of Peace*, is forthcoming from Tor in 2016. She is an historian of the Renaissance, Enlightenment, classical reception, the history of books, publication and reading, and the history of philosophy, heresy, science and atheism. She teaches in the History

Department at the University of Chicago, and researches in Italy, often in Florence or at the Vatican Library. She is the composer for *Sassafrass*, an *a cappella* group performing fantasy, SF and mythology-themed music, whose Viking musical play *Sundown: Whispers of Ragnarok* came out on CD and DVD this year. She researches anime/manga, especially Osamu Tezuka, early post-WWII manga and gender in manga, and has worked as a consultant for many anime and manga publishers.

She blogs for [Tor.com](http://Tor.com), and writes the philosophy and travel blog [ExUrbe.com](http://ExUrbe.com).



### TJ Perkins

TJ Perkins is a gifted and well-respected author in the mystery/suspense genre for YA and fantasy for teens. TJ has eight YA mysteries under GumShoe Press, a new five book fantasy series entitled *Shadow Legacy* with Silver Leaf Books, and a picture book for young New Age children.

Always a strong presence at Balticon, TJ conducts writer workshops for adults. Her short stories for young readers have appeared in the *Ohio State 6th Grade Proficiency Test Preparation Book*, *Kid’s Highway Magazine*, and Webzine *New Works Review*, just to name a few. She’s placed five times in the CNW/FFWA chapter book competition. Her short story of light horror for tweens, “The Midnight Watch,” was published in October 2007 by *Demon Minds Magazine*. Her story “Soul Searching” was published in *Pacific Review 2014*. Several of her other short stories appeared in many anthologies in 2014.



### Rabbi 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 (BA, Antioch College) and religion and psychology (MA, Temple University). He has been honored with two Doctor of Divinity degrees, *honoris causa*, one from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (2001) and the other from the Jewish Theological Seminary (2007). He has taught courses on Judaism, medical ethics, Bible, and world religions, but often infuses his courses with materials from science fiction.

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



### Sarah Pinsker

Sarah Pinsker is the author of the novelette “In Joy, Knowing the Abyss Behind,” winner of the 2014 Sturgeon Award and 2013 Nebula Award finalist. Her story “A Stretch of Highway



Two Lanes Wide" is a 2014 Nebula finalist. Her fiction has appeared in *Asimov's*, *Strange Horizons*, *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, and *Lightspeed*, among others, and in anthologies including *Long Hidden*, *Fierce Family*, and *The Future Embodied*. She is also a singer/songwriter and toured nationally behind three albums on various independent labels: (*Charmed*, Disappear records; *Wingspan*, Reinventing Records; *This is Your Signal*, The Beechfields, with the Stalking Horses). A fourth is forthcoming. She lives in Baltimore, MD, and can be found online at [sarahpinsker.com](http://sarahpinsker.com) and on Twitter at [@sarahpinsker](https://twitter.com/sarahpinsker).



#### Scott E. 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 eBook 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* bestselling authors (such as Scott Sigler, Matt Wallace, Paul E. Cooley, and many others)—in addition to clients in other industries and various entertainment outlets—his expansive abilities are the perfect one-stop fit for any project and any client, big or 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*, and has written RPG supplements, some of which are available from Occult Moon Publishing. Her first novel, *Transpecial*, was published by Musa Publishing in April 2013. Her most recent release is the apocalyptic science fiction novella *Mother*, first of *The Silent Years* series.



#### Brian Rathbone

Best known for writing epic fantasy fiction and telling bad dragon jokes on Twitter, Brian Rathbone also spends too much time thinking about unicorns. His *World of Godsland* ebooks and podcast novels have garnered millions of downloads and thousands of five-star ratings.



#### Nobilis Reed

Nobilis Reed has a dirty mind, and he's not afraid to use it. His creative accomplishments nearly always center around smut: his short stories and novellas have been published with Circlot Press, Forbidden Fiction, and Sizzler Editions; and his podcast, *Nobilis Erotica*, presents erotic science fiction and fantasy stories to thousands of listeners every month. When he's not struggling with the Shatner

Comma, editing audio like a madman, or directing voice talent making orgasmic noises into microphones, his hobbies include sleeping and eating. You can find his website at [nobiliserotica.com](http://nobiliserotica.com).



#### 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.



#### Dave Robison

Dave Robison is the managing director of WonderThing Studios, a production/development studio dedicated to fostering the craft and presentation of storytelling in all its forms. In 2012 he founded *The Roundtable Podcast*, providing writers the opportunity to brainstorm story ideas with established authors. In April 2015, he launched *Vex Mosaic*, a monthly e-zine featuring essays on culture as viewed through speculative fiction media. In July, Dave will open "The Shattered Worlds Collaborative Storyverse" to the public, a story world where visitors can add their own story elements and use the setting for their own storytelling explorations. The first novel set in the Shattered Worlds will be published in late 2015, a collaborative effort with Alasdair Stuart and Colin F. Barnes (with additional support from Mercedes Yardley and Sarah Chron).

Dave is also a gifted vocal performer, lending his voice to audio fiction productions from *EscapePod*, *Pseudopod*, *Podcastle*, *The Drabblecast*, *Starship Sofa*, *Tales to Terrify*, and more. You can learn more about his many projects—including samples from his vocal performances—at [www.wonderthingstudios.com](http://www.wonderthingstudios.com).



#### James Daniel Ross

James Daniel Ross is a journeyman novelist. After years and years of splitting his time between a day job and writing at night, a sympathetic boss shoved him out the door and made sure that he pursued his dream full-time. Facing the elements with only a laptop and pure grit, this heroic author has managed to lose 65 pounds, a steady paycheck, and contact with the outside world.

He can often be found wandering barefooted in the world's most stylish rags pleading, "Buy my books? Please?" He has been spotted on street corners with a sign: "Will show not tell for \$\$\$" and has been picked up by local police for conjugating in public.

He is credited with: *The Radiation Angels Series*, *The Chimerium Gambit*; *I Know Not*, *The Legacy of Fox Crow*, *The Whispering of Dragons*, *The Last Dragon*, and many short stories. So far his unscheduled unemployment has allowed him to complete the sequel to Fox Crow, *The Echoes of Those Before*, and begin on *Dwarf Wars*, a novel for the RPG Heroes Tears, the sequel to *Those Before*, and the sequel to *The Whispering of Dragons*.



#### Adam Ruben

Adam Ruben received his bachelor's degree from Princeton University and his PhD in biology from Johns Hopkins, where he taught courses in the departments of English, Film & Media Studies, Summer & Intersession programs, and the School of Education. He writes the humor column "Experimental Error" in the otherwise respectable journal *Science*, and he is the author of *Surviving Your Stupid, Stupid Decision to Go to Grad School* (Random House, 2010). Adam has been seen on the Food Network's *Food Detectives*, the Science Channel's *Head Rush*, the Travel Channel's *Secrets at the Kremlin*, and NPR's *All Things Considered*; he currently co-hosts *Outrageous Acts of Science* on the Science Channel, *Superhuman Science* on Discovery International, and *Weather Gone Viral* on the Weather Channel. He also hosts a web video series called "Ask Adam about Grad School" for the *Journal of Visualized Experiments*.

Adam regularly travels the country and has now performed at graduate schools and scientific conferences in 25 states and five countries. His first one-man show, "Please Don't Beat Me Up: Stories and Artifacts from Adolescence" was named one of the top five solo shows of 2011 by *Maryland Theatre Guide*, and this summer he'll debut his second solo show, "I Feel Funny," at the Capital Fringe Festival. Adam is a storytelling teacher with Speakeasy DC and a producer for the DC and Baltimore chapters of Mortified. Adam lives with his wife and two children in Washington, DC.

#### Carol Salemi

Carol Salemi costumes at the Master level and has been involved in all aspects of costuming for over 50 years, trying her hand at everything from teaching, creating, and competing to judging and masquerade directing. Each competition costume usually involves some new, fun, or challenging technique that keeps it fresh. While best known for media recreations and Native American clothing, her most recent work can be seen on TLC's *My Big Fat American Gypsy Wedding*. Carol enjoys working as a medical massage therapist (27 years), and works part time for Regal Cinemas and Sondra Celli Designs with seasonal jobs in the Haunt Industry. She likes creating steampunk accessories and fashion...so check out her jewelry in the art show!



#### Patrick Scaffido

Patrick Scaffido is a poet, podcaster, author, and musician currently releasing his surrealistic dark fantasy novel, *Storyteller Chronicles: The Horde*, as a series of musical podcasts through Podiobooks. He has taught history and English literature. He wanted to major in psychohistory like in the *Foundation* novels

but had to settle for semiotics and the analysis of trends in popular culture. He blames whichever scapegoat happens to be convenient.



#### Sam Scheiner

Sam Scheiner is a long-time fan and scientist. He grew up in the Pittsburgh area and got involved in fandom during college. At the University of Chicago he reincarnated the science fiction club. He met his wife at Windycon in Chicago, and his daughter attended her first con at the age of four weeks, sleeping underneath a huckster table. Currently he is involved in the Washington Science Fiction Association and is a past chair of the local convention, Capclave. His scientific areas of expertise are ecology and evolution, and he has published eight books, including *The Ecology of Plants* and *The Theory of Ecology*, and over 80 scientific papers. He has also co-authored a book with SF author Phyllis Eisenstein on arthritis. For the past 16 years he has worked at the National Science Foundation giving away money.



#### Burkhard Schulz

Burkhard Schulz received a PhD in molecular biology from the Free University Berlin, Germany. After a postdoctoral stay at the University of Arizona, working with the model plant *Arabidopsis*, he became a group leader at the Max-Planck-Institute for Plant Breeding Research, in Germany. As a faculty member at Purdue University he developed a program on maize plant architecture and herbicide resistance in weeds.

He is now a faculty member at the University of Maryland.

Burkhard is interested in molecular genetics of plants, using cutting edge technology and bioinformatics approaches to investigate plant architecture and acquired herbicide resistance. The main plant species he works with are maize, barley, giant ragweed, and sorghum.



#### Darrell Schweitzer

Darrell Schweitzer is the author of about 300 published stories, plus three novels, *The White Isle*, *The Shattered Goddess*, and *The Mask Of The Sorcerer*. His most recent short story collection is *The Emperor of the Ancient Word* (Wildside, 2014). He is a former editor of *Weird Tales*. He admits that his career has been growing tentacles of late; his fiction has appeared in an increasing number of Lovecraftian and Cthulhu Mythos anthologies, and he has edited two such himself, *Cthulhu's Reign* (2010) and *That Is Not Dead* (2015). He was also knighted in 2014, into the Order of St. David of Trebizond, which is not totally delusional, but very, very obscure.

#### Kristin Seibert

Kristin Seibert travels the length and breadth of the country to experience and participate in the vast American folk community. She brings that experience to the microphone and calls lively, warm dances that will move your feet and put a smile on your face.



### Alex Shvartsman

Alex Shvartsman is a writer, translator and game designer from Brooklyn, NY. Over 70 of his short stories have appeared in *InterGalactic Medicine Show*, *Nature*, *Galaxy's Edge*, *Daily Science Fiction*, and many other magazines and anthologies. He won the 2014 WSFA Small Press Award for Short Fiction. He is the editor of the *Unidentified Funny Objects* annual anthology series of humorous SF/F. His collection, *Explaining Cthulhu to Grandma and Other Stories*, was released in February 2015.



### 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*, Thomas, ed.), "The Darren" (2009, *Witch Way to the Mall?*, Friesner, ed.), "Sappy Meals" (2010, *Fangs for the Mammaries*, Friesner, ed.), "Black Market Magic" (2012, *Apocalypse 13*, Raetz, ed.), and "The Bionic Mermaid Returns" (2014, *With Great Power*, French, ed.). In 2013, she was a finalist for the WSFA Small Press Award for her story, "The Six Million Dollar Mermaid" (*Mermaids 13*, French, ed.). In the "real" world, she is a Digital Marketing Communications Specialist at Siemens Hearing Instruments.



### Jay Smith

Jay Smith is an award-winning author, podcaster, director, and audio dramatist. He is the creator and executive producer for the audio horror series *HG World*. Since its debut, episodes of *HG World* and its spin-off series, *The Diary of Jill Woodbine* and *The Googies* have been downloaded close to a million times. Download from [www.goodmorningsurvivors.com](http://www.goodmorningsurvivors.com) or subscribe for free on iTunes. *Hidden Harbor Mysteries* is a pulp era radio adventure with a stellar cast of voices directed by acclaimed audio producer Bryan Lincoln. Check it out at [www.hiddenharbormysteries.com](http://www.hiddenharbormysteries.com).

Jay's books include the gamer-geek satire *Rise of the Monkey Lord*, *Blue Collar Gods*, *Seven 'til Sunrise*, *The Diary of Jill Woodbine*, *HG World: The Audio Scripts*, and *Hidden Harbor Mysteries: Anatomy of A Modern Audio Drama Series*. Jay holds a BA in Creative Writing and is working on his Master of Fine Arts degree from Seton Hill University's innovative Writing Popular Fiction program.



### Chris Snelgrove

Chris Snelgrove is the principal at DarkFire Productions, a digital media company focused on producing audiobooks and ebooks for authors and small publishers. He is also a bestselling 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 more than 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

Meteorologist turned novelist, Maria's been writing fantasy and science fiction since she was bored at work and needed something creative to do. Over a dozen novels and numerous short stories later, Maria's learned a thing or three about writing. She's been on the *New York Times* Best Seller list, won a half-dozen awards, and has earned her MA degree in writing from Seton Hill University where she's been happily sharing her knowledge with the current crop of MFA students. She also enjoys creating new worlds where horses and swords rule, 'cause let's face it, they're cool, although she's been known to trap her poor characters in a giant metal cube and let them figure out how to get out.

### David Sobkowiak

David's creative efforts began at a young age. At six he was recording comedy sketches into a Radio Shack tape recorder. At 13 he started writing novels based on vivid dreams. At 17 he was a DJ and at 20 he was working as a sound engineer for a local rock band in Buffalo, NY.

His belief in collaborative works led him to voice acting for several audio drama groups and to the co-founding of BrokenSea Audio Productions with some of the best and brightest talents from around the world.

As a husband and father he knows firsthand how important collaboration is in everyday life, and he brings that belief to all of the many projects he has worked on over the years. Presently he is working on new creative endeavors including novels, short stories and scripts.



### Steven R. Southard

Steven R. Southard's short stories appear in nine different anthologies including *Dead Bait*, *Quest for Atlantis*, and *Cheer Up, Universe!* He's the author of the *What Man Hath Wrought* series, with 12 stories at last count. An engineer and former submariner, Steve takes readers on voyages to far-off places aboard amazing vehicles accompanied by engaging characters. He has tampered with several genres including steampunk, clockpunk, science fiction, fantasy, and horror...and seems to have gotten away with it. Set sail for [stevenrsouthard.com](http://stevenrsouthard.com) to learn more about his fictional adventures.



### Bud Sparhawk

Bud Sparhawk has published one mass market paperback novel: *Vixen* (Cosmos, ISBN 978-08439-5945-1, 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. His novel *Distant Seas* will be coming from Fantastic Books in April 2015 as trade paperback and eBook.

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 audio books. He has put out several collections of his published works in ebook format. He resides in Annapolis, MD, with his wife of 55 years and writes a weekly blog on the pain of writing at [budsparhawk.blogspot.com](http://budsparhawk.blogspot.com).



#### Janet Stephens

Janet Stephens, a self-trained experimental archaeologist, grew up in Kennewick, WA, and Columbus, OH. She is a graduate of Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA, with a BA in dramatic art. Janet is a Maryland Senior Cosmetologist and educator working at Studio 921 Salon in Baltimore. Janet's interest in recreating ancient Roman hairstyles began with a chance visit to the Walters Art Museum in 2001; she is now the recognized authority on the topic. Janet presents her research at universities, museums and archaeology conferences. She has published articles in the *Journal of Roman Archaeology* and *EXARC—the Journal of Experimental Archaeology*. Janet has a popular YouTube channel devoted to period-appropriate historical hairdressing from antiquity through the 19th century. Her research has been featured by the *Wall Street Journal*, the BBC and National Public Radio.



#### Kathryn Szkotnicki

Kate is an avid costumer who comes from an anime cosplay background. She's been actively costuming for almost 15 years and various east coast anime and SF cons. When she's not making costumes for herself, she's teaching the next generation. Kate is a Family and Consumer Science (Home Ec) teacher at Loudoun Valley High School. After school, she works with the school's drama department on costumes for various productions, and advises the school video game club. In her spare time, Kate also crafts for the Desert Bus for Hope fundraiser in November. Kate lives in Harper's Ferry, WV, with her cat Othello. When she's not sewing or crafting, she enjoys reading, playing video games, gardening and retrocomputing.

#### Jason Tuell

Jason Tuell, PhD, is director of the National Weather Service Eastern Region. He oversees operations for the region, which provides weather, water, aviation, and climate services to more than 93 million people in 21 states, from Maine to northern

Georgia, and westward to Ohio. The NWS Eastern Region includes 23 weather forecast offices, three river forecast centers and four center weather service units. The regional headquarters is located in Bohemia, NY, on central Long Island. Dr. Tuell started his meteorological career as a weather officer in the Air Force in 1981. He had assignments at Offutt Air Force Base, Eglin Air Force Base, Andrews Air Force Base and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Along with two others, Dr. Tuell established and taught an in-resident graduate program in atmospheric sciences at the Air Force Institute of Technology during his last Air Force assignment.

Dr. Tuell joined the NWS in 2002 as chief of the Office of Science and Technology's Development Branch and has supported many projects since then, including the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS), Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD), and Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS) programs. As chief of the Meteorological Services Division he played a key role in improving operations and services for fire weather, aviation, marine, tsunami, and coastal services. Dr. Tuell holds a BS degree in physics from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in atmospheric sciences from Georgia Institute of Technology.

#### Michael R. Underwood

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



#### Mark L. 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, Mark is a co-founder of a fact-based marketing 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 more than 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 four shows—"Science Magic Sex"; "Wake Up Horny, Wake Up Angry"; "Mr. Poor Choices"; and "Mr. Poor Choices II: I Don't Understand"—and also frequently leads humor panels at SF conventions.

For more information, visit his website, [www.marklvanname.com](http://www.marklvanname.com), or follow his blog, [marklvanname.blogspot.com](http://marklvanname.blogspot.com), or Twitter account, [@mvanname](https://twitter.com/mvanname).



#### Jean Marie Ward

Jean Marie Ward writes fiction, nonfiction and everything in between, including novels (2008 Indie Book double-finalist *With Nine You Get Vanyr*) and art books. Her stories appear in numerous anthologies, such as *Athena's Daughters*, *The Clockwork Universe: Steampunk Vs. Aliens*, *The Mammoth Book Of Tales From The Vatican Vaults* (coming in summer 2015), 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](http://Buzzymag.com). Her website is [JeanMarieWard.com](http://JeanMarieWard.com).



#### Robert E. Waters

Robert E. Waters is a game designer and science fiction and fantasy author. Since 2003, he has sold more than 30 stories to various online and print anthologies and magazines, including the *Grantville Gazette*, the online magazine dedicated to stories set in Eric Flint's "1632" alternate universe. His first novel, *The Wayward Eight: A Contract To Die For*, was published in 2014 under Winged Hussar Press, and is set in the "Wild West Exodus" universe. He lives in Reisterstown, MD, with his wife Beth, their son Jason, a cat named Buzz, and a tank of freshwater fish.



#### David Harten Watson

David Harten Watson is the author of *Magic Teacher's Son* (Book One of the *Magicians' Gold* series), a young adult fantasy novel published by Pen-L Publishing on October 1, 2014 (see [www.Pen-L.com/MagicTeachersSon.html](http://www.Pen-L.com/MagicTeachersSon.html)). David has worked in a wide variety of jobs including US Army Armor officer (tank platoon leader at Fort Knox), camp counselor (Keewaydin Camps), teacher, tax preparer, car salesman, traveling photographer, track photographer, solar energy entrepreneur, and computer programmer. Raised in Buffalo, NY, he graduated from Calasanctius School and has degrees from Princeton University, Canisius College, and Buffalo State College. David is currently an information systems analyst at NJIT in Newark, NJ. He's the organizer of the Woodbridge Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers Meetup, which he founded in 2008. In his free time, he likes to go kayaking, and he's an actor in a no-budget horror movie being filmed in New Jersey, playing the role of a police detective. David also participates in Cowboy Action Shooting (a type of LARP using real 1800's-style six-shooters, lever action rifles, and coach guns) under the alias "Derringer Dave." He lives in New Jersey with his wife (a native of Ecuador, not Eldor), their two sons, and two cats.



#### 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 began writing screenplays when he was 17, schooling himself in the Hollywood traditions of Joseph Campbell, Robert McKee, and anyone else who could give him a form for a paint-by-numbers story. Over his college years, he wrote four feature-length screenplays, all of which he hopes will be buried by the sands of time. In 2006, he wrote his first novel for a friend's literary magazine. It was gonzo pulp fiction filtered into cyberpunk, and he says he conceived most of it while hammered. Again, he hopes it disappears forever. Ever since, Alex has been writing novels, and he loves it. He podcasted one of them; it has been a Parsec Award finalist three times. He is currently represented by Connor Goldsmith of Fuse Literary. His publishing debut, *Every Mountain Made Low*, arrives in 2016, published by Solaris.

#### 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*, boasting 19 full-cast audio dramas and the novel *Taken Liberty*, has won the Mark Time Silver Award and the Parsec Award.

His third novel, *Unfriendly Persuasion*, was released in 2012, and four Arbiter Logs eBooks were released in the summer of 2013. He also contributed three tales to the *ReDeus* series from Crazy 8 Press. As a podcaster, besides hosting the *Prometheus Radio Theatre* podcast, he has recorded Lester Del Rey's *Badge of Infamy* for [podiobooks.com](http://podiobooks.com), performed multiple roles in J. Daniel Sawyer's production of *Antithesis*, and contributed narration to the audio anthology *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](http://www.stevenhwilson.com).



### Dr. Jennifer Wiseman

Dr. Jennifer Wiseman is a senior astrophysicist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, where she serves as the Senior Project Scientist for the Hubble Space Telescope. She previously headed Goddard's Laboratory for Exoplanets and Stellar Astrophysics. She studies star-forming regions of our galaxy using radio, optical, and infrared telescopes, with a particular interest in interstellar molecular gas cloud cores, protostars, and related outflows. She earned a bachelor's degree in physics at MIT (where she discovered a comet) and a PhD in astronomy at Harvard University. Dr. Wiseman is also interested in science policy and public science outreach and engagement. She has served as an elected Councilor of the American Astronomical Society, and she enjoys giving public talks on the excitement of astronomy and scientific discovery.



### Trisha J. Wooldridge

Trisha J. Wooldridge is the current president of Broad Universe and a senior editor for Spencer Hill Press. She's also a member of New England Horror Writers, the Horror Writers Association (HWA), and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). Under her full name, she writes grown-up horror short stories that occasionally win awards, like the EPIC 2008, 2009 for anthologies *Bad-Ass Faeries 2: Just Plain Bad* and *Bad-Ass Faeries 3: In All Their Glory* and a Stoker nomination for the anthologies *Epitaphs* and *Wicked Seasons*. You can also find her in *Corrupts Absolutely?*, *Holiday Magick*, *Once Upon An Apocalypse*, and *Demonic Visions 5*. She has co-produced the Spencer Hill Press anthologies *Unconventional* and *Doorways To Extra Time*. In her child-friendly persona of T.J. Wooldridge, she's published three novels: *The Kelpie*, *The Earl's Child*, and *Silent Starsong*. As if she weren't busy enough, Trish is also the writing partner for the webcomic *Aurelio* at [www.thevampireaurelio.com](http://www.thevampireaurelio.com). Find out more at [www.anovelfriend.com](http://www.anovelfriend.com).



### Jeff Young

Jeff Young is a bookseller first and a writer second—although he wouldn't mind a reversal of fortune. He received a Writers of the Future award for "Written in Light," which appears in the *Writers of the Future* volume 26. He has contributed to the anthologies *By Any Means*, *Best Laid Plans*, *Dogs of War*, *In an Iron Cage*, *Fantastic Futures 13* and *Clockwork Chaos*. Jeff was also published in the magazines *Realms*, *Cemetery Moon*, *Trail of Indiscretion*, *Realms Beyond*, *Carbon14* and *Neuronet*. Jeff is an editor with Fortress Publishing for their Drunken Comic Book Monkey line as well as the anthology *TV Gods*.

He has led the Watch the Skies SF&F Reading Group of Harrisburg and Camp Hill for more than 14 years. Jeff is also an instructor for the Step Back in Time class at Dreamwrights Youth and Family Theater. Step Back in Time prepares children to enjoy all aspects of Renaissance Faires by learning about

dress, language, culture, history and more. Step Back in Time's 11th year begins in July. Finally, Jeff is also the proprietor of the online eBay and Etsy shop Helm Haven, which produces Renaissance and steampunk costume pieces.



### 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 in 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.

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Art by Joe Mayhew