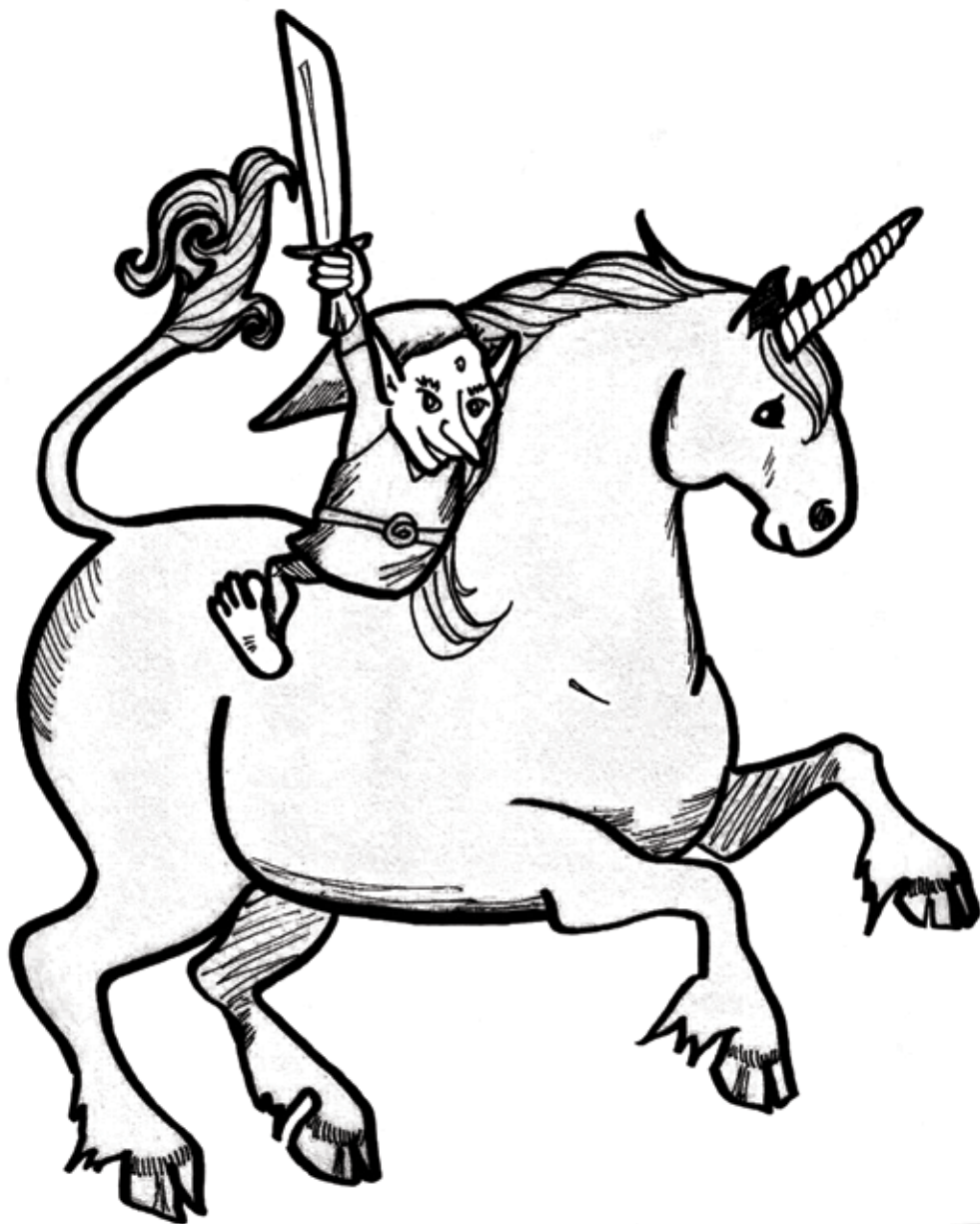


# EPIC CONFUSION



# CONCLAVE INC.

## STATUS REPORT #1

Once again, the convention staff of ConClave had a wonderful time putting together the con for 2011, and our members have been telling us how much they enjoyed themselves. It's time to tell you about our plans for 2012.

ConClave has decided to take on the dreaded task of a comprehensive **HOTEL SEARCH**. As those who run conventions know, this can be a painful time-consuming process. Until the search is complete, we cannot announce dates or guests.

ConClave also believes this is a time for us to think about how we want to proceed. Fandom is changing. Many fen now prefer to attend more specialized conventions, such as gaming or anime cons. Even the face of the publishing industry is changing, with many authors choosing to use small press or electronic publishing. We need to re-tool ConClave to continue to bring you the enjoyment you expect. This will take time because we want to get it right.

With all of these considerations in mind, we hereby announce:

***CONCLAVE WILL NOT HOST ITS ANNUAL CONVENTION IN 2012.***

**But please check our web site for 2013 updates.** During this coming year, we will meet, discuss, and plan. Our web site and e-mail addresses will be maintained, and we encourage you to use them. We hope you continue to give us your feedback, support, and ideas.

We will send Status Reports as they are warranted. At a minimum, we will send one in October, 2012. In that report we will outline the decisions we have made during this reorganization year. **We will include convention ads from our ad swap partners, just as we would in a printed program book. We will also provide links to our ad swap partners on our web site, so that visitors can jump to *their* sites for all the latest information.**

Over the years, ConClave has seen the creation of ideas, beauty, and new life. We have provided opportunities for people to learn, try new things, and tackle challenges. We have argued and talked and laughed together, mourned the passing of friends and cheered the blossoming of love, danced to the music, shared our dreams, and had a LOT of fun! We want all those things to continue.

We hope you will join us as we explore new directions. Thank you.



— BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CONCLAVE, INC., AND THE CONCLAVE CONCOM

**CONCLAVE, INC., P.O. Box 2915, ANN ARBOR, MI 48106-2915**

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**FACEBOOK:** <http://www.facebook.com/pages/ConClave-Inc/154085077106>

**LIVE JOURNAL:** [http://community.livejournal.com/conclavesf\\_org](http://community.livejournal.com/conclavesf_org)

# APIC CON FUSION

**MARRIOTT TROY, MICHIGAN, JANUARY 20-22, 2012. THE ANN ARBOR SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION AND THE STILYAGI AIR CORPS PROUDLY PRESENT OUR THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY.**

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## OPS

Operations (Ops) is the 24 hour nerve center of the convention. Staffed with talented energetic people whose concern is to make sure the Convention functions smoothly, we are here to help! Ops will have a lost-and-found, bulletin board for leaving messages, and is the place to register once registration

closes. If you need directions or any other ConFusion info, stop on in and say hello to Ryan and Anna Carey or any of our other Ops staff members. §

## PARTIES

Many groups throw room parties at ConFusion on Friday and Saturday nights. They aren't official convention functions, but they are a lot of fun. Here's what you need to know about room parties:

If you're hosting one:

- your room needs to be on a party floor (floors 15-17)
- you can advertise your party with fliers only on the cork boards in the elevator lobbies. All other signage will be removed.
- it is your responsibility to follow state and local laws on alcohol and controlled substances, and to avoid entanglements with hotel security or, worse yet, law enforcement.

If you're looking for parties to attend:

- check the cork boards for fliers.
- cruise the party floors (15-17) for less well-advertised parties. §

## DEALERS

The Dealer's Room, which can be found in Salon A, B, C, and D, is chock full of delights and goodies for everyone of all ages to delight all of your senses. I know we all say, "I don't have any extra money", "Money's tight right now", but I'm sure your wallet has a few dollars hiding in it for that special something and that is what we've tried to delight your senses with here this weekend.

Food and drinks are only allowed in the room for the dealers' personal use behind their tables. (We have to feed them or they turn into gremlins or something after midnight!)

The hours for your spending pleasure are Friday 4pm to 9pm, Saturday 10am to 6pm, and Sunday 10am to 3pm. So come on in and buy some of the wonderful things that our special dealers have brought for you. §

## GAMES

For the schedule of board and card games, please see the sheet handed out in the Mediterranean room. §

## THANKS

Epic ConFusion would like to thank Subterranean Press and John Scalzi for donating *The Sagan Diary* by John Scalzi which you received with your registration badge. §

## POLICIES

We ask that you wear your con badge at all times. Please remember that a con badge will be required for entry to all convention functions, to include the ConSuite, Dealer's Room, and all panels. A badge is only recognized if it has a number and is registered to you. Please do not lend your badge to anyone, as it will result in both the lender and the borrower being ejected from the convention.

Please notify us in Operations if you have any problems or concerns. We can only fix what we are told is broken, and the Operations desk (the coatroom across from the ballrooms on the main floor) is staffed 24 hours to take care of your needs. Addition-

ally, you will be able to call the front desk and ask to be transferred to Ops.

The ConFusion Convention Committee reserves the right to expel any attendee without a refund should they forget the common sense rules of respect, tolerance, and peaceful conditions for others attending the convention. Should you wish to contest your unreasonable expulsion, you can do so by sending your complaint, in writing, to plead your case. All attendees are invited to attend the "What Did We Do Right, and What Can We Do Better" session on Sunday to tell us what you liked and did not like. The panel is typically at 3PM in Dennison I/II, but please check your schedule book for the most up-to-date information.

Most importantly, have fun. Please enjoy your time and do what you can to make the time that others spend at your con more enjoyable. With that in mind, here are a few less-than-obvious (and in some cases all-too-obvious) rules:

### **CONTROLLED & ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES:**

Regardless of your personal views, drugs are illegal in Michigan. Medicinal marijuana notwithstanding, you know what could get you busted. So do we. So do the authorities. Please do us all a favor and just don't partake.

### **WEAPONS & REPLICA WEAPONS:**

Officially, if it looks like a real firearm, it is a real firearm, so real or realistic firearms are NOT permitted at the con, regardless of status. Peace-bonding, disassembly, or lack of functionality do not change this. Absolutely no real or realistic firearms. All other weapons should be brought to Operations to get a red yarn mark indicating that your weapon is peace-bonded—that you will not draw or wield your weapon. No weapons—sword, staff, martial arts device, or whatever—should be used in any fighting, mock or otherwise, or brandished in any way short of posing for a photograph. Violators of this policy will be asked ejected from the convention.

### **BDSM & PUBLIC “LEWDNESS”:**

Many fans enjoy this opportunity to flaunt their leather, lace, PVC, duct-tape, and other costuming choices, often with very skin-presenting results. Please keep in mind, though, that “Safe, Sane, and Consensual” includes

bystanders and other convention members. Please adhere to the legal regulations covering nudity and cover the essential “bits” while in the public areas. Also, no BDSM equipment should be demonstrated in those public areas, so we ask that you get your whips, floggers, cats ‘o nine-tails, crops and other implements of BDSM fun peace-bonded with purple yarn. What you do with them in your own room is your own business, but please be aware that other con-goers did not consent to see you flogging your partner in the hallway.

Please also be aware that the age of consent is 16. We all know what 15 will get you...

### **ALCOHOL:**

Michigan's minimum drinking age is 21. This is not a guideline, but a law, so please don't expect to be made an exception and please recognize that we will ask to see ID before serving. We also reserve the right to stop serving anyone who appears to have overindulged. It is our job to help provide fun, but it is our job to help provide safety too; we appreciate your help in doing both.

If you are sharing your personal stash of alcoholic beverages, whether at a room party or while wandering about, please ensure that all recipients are of age. Anybody (or party) found allowing minors to consume alcoholic beverages will be immediately shut down. No warnings, no exceptions.

If you do consume, please do not drive. Michigan has very strict laws and a .08 BAC limit. If you have been drinking, and you need to be someplace, please contact Operations and they will do whatever is in their

## **POLICIES, CONTINUED**

power to ensure that you do not have to drive while intoxicated. Please, please, do not drink and drive.

### **INTERNAL ALCOHOL POLICY:**

Michigan State Law dictates that only those of legal drinking age (21) with a valid, government issued photo ID will be served alcoholic beverages. Some examples of valid ID:

- A state or territory issued driver's license containing both photograph and date of birth
- A state issued ID card containing both photograph and date of birth
- A military ID card
- A valid passport

Beyond those requirements, ConFusion has the following strictures about the service of alcohol during the convention:

- Alcoholic beverages will only be served by a Service-Certified member of staff

Service-Certified staff must meet the following requirements:

- Must be members of convention committee, staff, or board
- Must have been trained in the requirements contained in this document
- Must have submitted a signed and dated version of this document to Operations and/or the convention Chair
- Must remain entirely sober during service duty hours
- Must have their badge labeled as Service-Certified in whatever manner proscribed by the convention committee of that year's convention

Should a Service-Certified member of staff not be available to serve, alcohol service shall be halted until such time as such a member can be found.

When serving, the following rules must be followed:

- Server must ask to see a valid photo ID.
- The date of the ID should be checked to ensure it is AFTER the current date in 1990.
- Server must ask if the customer is over 21 years of age AND if the customer is legal to drink in the state of Michigan.
- Server must verify that the customer is wearing a valid convention badge.
- Server must verify that the customer's badge does not say "DO NOT SERVE" on the face.
- Server must observe that the customer is not visibly intoxicated. Some symptoms:
  - Slurred speech
  - Difficulty in standing or walking
  - Bloodshot, glassy eyes
  - Obnoxious or mean (& isn't Jer\_)
  - Falling down
  - Inability to sit up straight
  - Can't find mouth with glass
  - (When in doubt, ask for help)

Finally, server must observe that the customer does not already have a drink.

Alcoholic beverage can only be served within the ConSuite, and only between the hours of 1pm and 2am.

When serving, each customer must be reminded that alcoholic beverages cannot leave the ConSuite for any reason. §

# PRO GOH: PATRICK ROTHFUSS

Patrick Rothfuss had the good fortune to be born in Wisconsin where long winters and lack of cable television brought about a love of reading and writing. His mother read to him as a child, and his father taught him to build things. If you are looking for the roots of his storytelling, look there.

Growing up, Pat didn't apply himself and failed to live up to his full potential. Despite the fact that he seemed to have no interest doing something productive with himself, Pat's parents continued to love him. They also were encouraging, but in a very general way, as he seemed to have no actual talents to speak of.

Having enjoyed the hard sciences in high school, Pat began college as a chemical engineer. He soon abandoned that, and decided to become a clinical psychologist. He eventually abandoned that as well, admitted he had no idea what he wanted to do with his life, and changed his major to Undeclared despite the fact that he had been in college for over three years.

Over the next six years Pat lived the life of an itinerant student, working three jobs and studying everything that interested him: philosophy, medieval history, eastern theater, anthropology, sociology.... After nine years as



an undergraduate Pat was forced by university policy to finally complete his undergraduate degree.... in English.

While wandering through college, Pat learned he had a knack for writing. He wrote poetry for a local literary series, a satirical advice column for the local paper, and scripts for a radio comedy show. Two months before he graduated, Pat finally finished the project he

had been working on for over seven years, a mammoth story centering around the life of a man named Kvothe.

After two excruciating years of grad school, Pat returned to teach at the University he had grown to love as a student. During this time his book was rejected by roughly every agent in the known universe. In 2002 a piece of Pat's novel, cleverly disguised as a short story, won first place in the Writers of the Future contest. Pat's story, *The Road to Levinshir*, was published in Volume 18 of their anthology, and they flew him out to their fabulous writers workshop in LA.

It was at that workshop that Pat met Kevin Anderson, who introduced him to his agent, Matt Bialer. Eventually Matt brought Pat in contact with his current, beloved editor, Betsy Wollheim, president of Daw Books.

## PATRICK ROTHFUSS, CONTINUED

And that's how *The Name of the Wind* came into existence.

Pat continues to live in central Wisconsin. He still lacks cable television, and the long winters force him to stay inside and write. He still teaches at the college he grew to love as a student, and acts as advisor for the College Feminists and the local Fencing Club.

When not reading and writing, Pat wastes his time playing video games, holds symposia at his house, and dabbles with alchemy in his basement.

He loves the world and the characters he has created, and he loves that people are getting the chance to meet them.

*Bio cribbed from Patrick Rothfuss's web site.* §

## FAN GOH-TOM SMITH

Hi there! I'm Tom Smith, and I sing. And I'm silly,

And this is one of my favorite conventions.

I've been coming to ConFusion since it was out at the long, long-defunct Plymouth Hilton. And it's where I've had many of my fannish Life Highlights.

I've smooched several wonderful ladies over the years at this con, debuted dramatic songs and dreadful puns. Met Pete Grubbs at 'Fusion. Sang for my grandmother, Garboo, the one I wrote the song about, at 'Fusion — the one and only time she heard me in concert.

Met my best friend here, as well as the love of my life (although she swears it was the ConClave prior). I've performed here in double sets with Heather Alexander, S. J. Tucker,



Throwing Toasters. I sang for our late friend, Dave Always, here.

And, every time I'm here, I am surrounded by friends.

Really, that's why we all got into fandom, right? We wanted to find other people with whom to share our likes and loves. Comic books, games, movies, novels of epic fantasy, trading cards, costuming, spaceships, demon weapons, com-

puters, you name it — we just weren't feelin' the love in The Real World.

Turns out we were perfectly capable of creating a Real World of our own. And doing so with a whole bunch of like-minded people just makes it stronger, warmer, and more fun.

Yeah, I sing, and I'm silly. But it's awfully lonely to sing and be silly without people to share the music and laughs. Fortunately,



as previously mentioned, every time I come here, I am surrounded by friends, of whom you are very likely one. And, if not? Come on up and say Hi.

And we will sing and be silly together, and the Real World in which we live will be that much stronger, warmer, and more fun.

Tom Smith has a ridiculous amount of music available at [tomsmithonline.com](http://tomsmithonline.com). He also hangs out on LiveJournal and Facebook as “filkertom”. §

## SCIENCE GOH: HARLEY THRONSON

Dr. Harley Thronson works at the Sciences and Exploration Directorate, and is working on planned space missions far out beyond where we’ve gone before - which we think is pretty darned “Epic”!

Dr. Thronson’s current responsibilities include assessment of advanced human/robotic programs at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) in coordination with other NASA Centers the scientific community. He is leading the GSFC team that proposed multiple experiments on the International Space Station (ISS), as well as using the ISS as a testbed for future large optical systems in space. He is also chair of



the GSFC-led team that has designed long-duration space habitation systems. He has served as the NASA HQ program scientist for the Hubble Space Telescope (HST), the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), the Spitzer Space Telescope, and the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA), among other missions.

Dr. Thronson received his Ph.D. in astrophysics in 1978 from the University of Chicago and has been a faculty member and on the senior staff of the Universities of Arizona and Wyoming, and the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh. He has published more than 110 research papers and co-edited 12 books. §

# TOASTMASTER — JIM C. HINES

## THE BALLAD OF JIM C. HINES

(Best sung to “The Ballad of New Orleans,” but the theme from The Beverly Hillbillies will also work)

*Come and listen to the ballad of a workin’ writin’ man  
Who tries to tell his stories in whatever way he can  
He’s puttin’ down his paragraphs, he’s tightenin’ his prose,  
He’s wranglin’ those tales, and he doesn’t care who knows...*

*“I mean Hines, my friends.*

*Jim Hines, outlaw rider of the fantasy plains.”*

*Well, Jim came to this world back in 1974,*

*And he grew up tellin’ stories like you’d never heard before,  
Some folks say that he was born with pen and paper in his  
hand,\**

*It was clear from the beginnin’ Jim had mighty big things planned...*

*“I mean tales, my friends.*

*Tales from Jim Hines, outlaw reader of the fantasy plains.”*

*He wrote a couple stories like a startin’ writer should,  
And he wrote a couple more because the first ones weren’t that good,  
And in 1999 he started publishin’ a few,  
But the best was yet to come, and that was somethin’ Jim Hines knew...*

*“I mean books, my friends.*

*Books from Jim Hines, outlaw writer of the fantasy plains.”*

*He began with Goblin Quest put out in 2004,  
DAW picked it up in oh-and-six, and he was out the door,  
With two more Jig adventures\*\* and some princesses with brains,\*\*\*  
Look out, world, ‘cause Jim C. Hines was finally at the reins!*

*“I mean Hines, my friends.*

*Jim C. Hines, outlaw bad-ass of the fantasy plains.”*

*Next year is Libromancer,\*\*\*\* he’s got short stories in stacks,  
And his blog is like an episode of Smart Guys On Attack,\*\*\*\*\*  
So you’d best attend the ballad of this workin’ writin’ man,  
‘Cause he’s tellin’ us the best of tales, and all because he can.*



*"I mean Hines, my friends.*

*Your Guest of Honor.*

*Jim C. Hines, outlaw bad-ass readin' writer of the fantasy plains."*\*\*\*\*\*

(\*For the sake of Jim's mother, we hope not.)

(\*Goblin Hero and Goblin War, both available from DAW Books.)

(\*\*\*The Stepsister Scheme, The Mermaid's Madness, Red Hood's Revenge, and The Snow Queen's Shadow, all available from DAW Books.)

(\*\*\*\*Jim's first hardcover! We're so proud.)

(\*\*\*\*\*Seriously, when does he sleep?)

(\*\*\*\*\*WHEN FOOTNOTES ATTACK!)

## **SPECIAL GOH: ROXANNE METDA KING**

*Photo credit: Kevin Nickerson*

Roxanne King grew up in the Detroit suburbs. She has been attending ConFusion since ConFusion 6 and/or 7 - probably. Somewhere in that date range, in any case. She moved around a lot in the 1980s. In the 1990s, she lived in the Chicago area and helped out with their conventions while studiously avoiding actually serving on a concom. She helped with the



Steve, sons Greg and Kevin) and this time joined right in, helping to run ConFusions by serving as the Treasurer for both ConFusion and the Ann Arbor Science Fiction Association, the parent organization for five years. In 2009, she had a "bicycling epiphany" and began regularly cycling to work in Ann Arbor from her home in Dexter, eight miles away. She began attending cycling events, particularly road and

various Chicons, again while avoiding any official position. In the early 1990s, she began hosting the parties for General Technics, known as the GT Suite. These offered a place for fans with a particular hands-on technical interest to come together and show off their latest creations in a convivial setting featuring drinks and munchies. In 2003, she returned to the Detroit area with her family (husband Steve, sons Greg and Kevin) and this time joined right in, helping to run ConFusions by serving as the Treasurer for both ConFusion and the Ann Arbor Science Fiction Association, the parent organization for five years. In 2009, she had a "bicycling epiphany" and began regularly cycling to work in Ann Arbor from her home in Dexter, eight miles away. She began attending cycling events, particularly road and cyclocross races. Her husband has called her "bi-fannish" which is perhaps the best term for it. She is an avid knitter. She earned her diploma from the Ann Arbor Institute of Massage Therapy in September 2011. She is employed as a bookkeeper by a daycare and Crazy Wisdom Bookstore in Ann Arbor. Feel free to say hi and introduce yourself if you see her in the hall! §

# SUBTERRANEAN PRESS SPECIAL GUESTS

## Brent Weeks

Brent Weeks was born and raised in Montana. After getting his paper keys from Hillsdale College, Brent had brief stints walking the earth like Caine from Kung Fu, tending bar, and corrupting the youth.



(Not at the same time.) He started writing on bar napkins, then on lesson plans, then full time. Eventually, someone paid him for it. Brent lives in Oregon with his wife, Kristi. He doesn't own cats or wear a ponytail. §

## Robin Hobb

Robin Hobb is a fantasy novelist best known for her stories set in the Realm of the Elderlings. Fitz and the Fool, characters whose tales span nine books or three trilogies are perpetual reader favorites. Their story began in **The Farseer Trilogy** (*Assassin's Apprentice*, *Royal Assassin*, *Assassin's Quest*). **The Liveship Traders Trilogy** (*Ship of Magic*, *Mad Ship*, and *Ship of Destiny*) continue the chronicle of that world, followed by **The Tawny Man Trilogy** (*Fool's Errand*, *Golden Fool*, and *Fool's Fate*.)



Robin's most current work is *The Inheritance and Other Stories*, a story collection that also contains work by Megan Lindholm, Robin's other pseudonym.

**The Rain Wild Chronicles** are also set in the Realm of the Elderlings and feature some of the characters from **the Liveship Trad-**

**ers Trilogy**. Those tales being with *Dragon Keeper* and *Dragon Haven*. A third volume will be published in 2012.

Robin Hobb currently lives in Tacoma, Washington with her husband Fred. She cherishes her fond memories of growing up in Alaska. Her experiences there have definitely flavored many of her book settings. She has four grown offspring who also live in Tacoma, and three rambunctious grandchildren. §

## Joe Abercrombie

Joe Abercrombie was born in Lancaster, England, on the last day of 1974. He was educated at Lancaster Royal Grammar School and Manchester University, then moved to London and spent ten years working as a freelance TV editor, mostly on documentaries and live music, cutting concerts for bands from Iron Maiden to Coldplay. For much of this time he was spending his late nights bent over the keyboard, working on his take on epic fantasy. *The Blade Itself* was published in 2006, and now has publishers in more than 20 countries. Its sequels, *Before They are Hanged* and *Last Argument of Kings*, followed in 2007 and 2008. *Best Served Cold*, a standalone book set in the same world, was published in June 2009, and a second standalone, *The Heroes*, in January 2001, when it made no. 3 on the Sunday Times Bestseller list. Joe now lives in Bath with his wife, Lou, and his daughters Grace and Eve. §



## Peter Brett

The first non-school book without pictures Peat ever read was *The Hobbit*. Around the same time, his older brother left a copy of X-men #162 lying around. These two seemingly random events would shape the course of his life to come.

After some years of failed attempts to become a comic book artist, Peat began writing in earnest in high school, finishing his first novel, *AN UNLIKELY CHAMPION*, in 1990. (Not so very) tragically, the manuscripts for that awful, awful, book are lost.

He went on to the University at Buffalo, where he studied Dungeons & Dragons,



fencing, and girls. Somehow, he also managed to earn a (totally useful!) Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in Art History in 1995.

Following college, Peat spent approximately 8 months managing a comic shop and pondering what to do with his life. He then went into medical publishing, squandering ten years of his physical prime sitting in a cubicle. He contented himself with writing books he never hoped to sell.

In June of 2007, his hard work and perseverance paid off, as he sold his 4th novel, *The Painted Man*, along with two sequels, to Del Rey Books. Several international sales for the book followed, and in October of 2007, he left his day job to pursue writing full time. \$

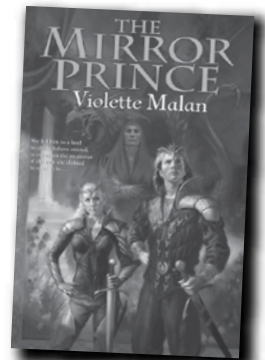
# VIOLETTE MALAN

Look for **THE SHADOWLANDS**



A sequel to  
**THE  
MIRROR  
PRINCE**

**Coming  
Soon**



2006



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# FRIDAY SCHEDULE

**4:00 PM**

## **BOARDROOM** Vision of Escalflowne'

Hitomi Kanzaki is a typical high school girl, with typical high school problems. When a vision of a young man battling a dragon becomes a reality, she finds herself involved in events and life changes that will stay with her forever as she adventures on Gaea.

**6:00 PM**

## **BOARDROOM** Planetes

The year is 2075, and mankind has reached a point where journeying between Earth, the moon and the space stations is part of daily life. Welcome to the work-a-day world of the near future, a place where exploration is not the mission, it's keeping people safe. Part of that safety mission is space debris, which can cause excessive and even catastrophic damage to spacecrafts and equipment. This is the story of Technora's Debris Collecting section, its EVA worker, Hachirota "Hachimaki" Hoshino, and the newcomer to the group, Ai Tanabe.

## **KIDFUSION SUITE** Shake, Rattle and Roll

*Kristy and Charley Gamble, Alex Brandt* Make some noise makers and shake your sillies out while freeze dancing.

## **TEENFUSION** Hilarious Hats Go Hunting

*Lisa Garrison-Ragsdale* Make a hat from duct tape and newspaper and wear it while hunting for autographs around the convention. All those that complete the hunt will get a reward at the end of con.

**7:00 PM**

## **ATHENS** Comic Book Movies

*Alex Drummer, Andrew Drummer, Kelly Rowe, Andrew Eadie* Stan Lee must be constantly doing the velociraptor due to all of the awesome things they can do with movies nowadays. How has the movie industry influenced comic books and vice versa? Are these good changes? Furthermore, what would be the best and worst comic books to turn into movies?



# THE 70TH WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

AUG. 30-SEPT. 3, 2012  
HYATT REGENCY CHICAGO  
[WWW.CHICON.ORG](http://WWW.CHICON.ORG)

## GUESTS OF HONOR

**MIKE RESNICK**  
AUTHOR GOH

**JANE FRANK**  
AGENT GOH

**ROWENA MORRILL**  
ARTIST GOH

**PEGGY RAE SAPIENZA**  
FAN GOH

**STORY MUSGRAVE**  
ASTRONAUT GOH

**JOHN SCALZI**  
TOASTMASTER

**SPECIAL GUEST: SY LIEBERGOT**  
NASA FLIGHT CONTROLLER, APOLLO EECOM

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP RATES

Attending Membership:	\$ 195	Upgrades:	
Young Adult (17-21):	\$ 100	Supporting to Attending:	\$145
Child (5-16):	\$ 75	Supporting to Young Adult:	\$ 50
Supporting Membership:	\$ 50		

All Prices in U.S. Dollars. Rates good through 03/31/2012. Rates Go Up 04/01/2012.

**FOLLOW CHICON 7 ON FACEBOOK (CHICON-7),  
LIVE JOURNAL (CHICON7) AND TWITTER (CHICON\_7)!**

"World Science Fiction Society," "WSFS," "World Science Fiction Convention," "Worldcon," "NASFiC," "Hugo Award," and the distinctive design of the Hugo Award Rocket are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

## FRIDAY 7:00 PM CONTINUED

### **BOARDROOM** Tales of the Abyss

A child of a noble house finds his life a total fabrication and he comes to realize he shouldn't exist. This epic adventure tale is an anime adaptation of the computer game by the same name, Tales of the Abyss.

### **DENNISON III/IV** Improve the Con!

*Sheryl Bradakis, Dr. Lucy Kennedy, Limey Zrnich, Amy Zrnich, Anna Carey, Brian Decker, Aaron Thu* The Ann Arbor Science Fiction Association are giving away micro-grants to enable more fun at ConFusion... come present your ideas to the AASFA Board!

### **KIDFUSION SUITE** Super Silly Science

*Kristy and Charley Gamble, Dustin Wenzel* You CAN do this at home! Come learn some science experiments that you can take home and impress your friends.

### **SALON E I, Suck**

*Jim C. Hines [M], Patrick Rothfuss, John Scalzi, Scott Lynch, Joe Abercrombie* Our Guest of Honor, Toastmaster, and other writing luminaries play "dueling suck" with their own works, trying to see who can best generate a vacuum.

### **SALON F** Fantasy and Horror

*Steve Buchheit [M], Peter V. Brett, Ferrett Steinmetz, Violette Malan, Howard Andrew Jones* Science Fiction and horror have long had a strong relationship. Can the same be said of fantasy and horror, or are the two genres not compatible?

### **SALON G** Race, Gender, and Class

*Steven Harper Piziks [M], Kameron Hurley, Kristine Smith, Sarah Zettel, Jay Lake* The dynamics of race, class, and gender play a significant role in the politics and economics of the real world. How often do they have a similar impact in fiction, and what are some good examples of it in genre?

### **SALON H** Reading with Saladin Ahmed and Cat Rambo

*Saladin Ahmed, Cat Rambo* Join one of Michigan's hot new authors and a former ConFusion Guest of Honor as they read from forthcoming works.

### **TEENFUSION** CocoaClatch Reading and Q&A

*Merrie Haskell, DJ DeSmyter* Join a young adult author or two as they share a selection from one of their novels. Enjoy Cocoa and Cookies while listening and asking questions about their writing adventures.

### **DENNISON I/II** A Potpourri of Health and Longevity Practices

*Ben Best* A variety of health and longevity practices will be discussed with a critical view



to scientific justification. Techniques discussed will include sleep, exercise, organic food, meditation, massage, calorie restriction, supplements, and cryonics, among others. Ben Best has bachelor's degrees in pharmacy and physics, and is currently President of the Cryonics Institute.

### **LOBBY BY REG DESK** So this is your first Con? The Tour!

*Special GOH Roxanne Meida King [M], Dave Stein* Come along and find out from others who've been here before what to do, how to have fun and other exciting things at ConFusion.

**8:00 PM**

### **KIDFUSION SUITE** Badges, Beads and Beans

*Larc Bogdan, Lisa Garrison-Ragsdale* Decorate your badges, make bracelets, necklaces and other creations and mosaics with beads and beans.

### **SALON E** Opening Ceremonies and Speeches by our Guests of Honor

Authors- Patrick Rothfuss; Fan- Roxanne Meida King; Scientist- Dr. Harley Thronson; Music - Tom Smith; Toastmaster - Jim C. Hines; Subterranean Press Special Guests- Joe Abercrombie, Robin Hobb, Peter V. Brett, Brent Weeks

### **TEENFUSION** Roll your Role – D&D for beginners

*Brian Bay* Brian Bay will lead you as you create a character to use during the D&D game to be held Saturday. He will coach you on the basics of role-playing and the rules of Dungeons and Dragons.

**8:30 PM**

### **BOARDROOM** Project Ako

The daughter of superhero parents and her friendship with an alien princess. The aliens finally come after many years and want their princess back.

**9:00 PM**

### **NILES** Cheshire Moon

*Eric Coleman, Lizzie Crowe* Start the weekend with a concert by one of filk music's best new duos.

### **BOARDROOM** Freedom

Eden, a lunar colony, is the last enclave of human civilization, with the earth dead and desolate from overcrowding and pollution... or so the schools teach. While out on the lunar surface Takeru finds evidence this is a lie, in the form of a "message in a bottle".

## FRIDAY 9:00 PM CONTINUED

### **DENNISON III/IV** Epic Rocky Horror

*Tim Downing, Bett, Maggi Idzikowski* An overview of the Rocky Horror Picture Show and its fandom, covering the movie and plot, history, RHPS audience participation, props and etiquette. Q & A. Recommended for both RHPS 'virgins' who have not seen the film and those reminiscing.

### **DENNISON I/II** The Mystery of Entropy

*Ben Best* Entropy is a physical concept often mystified by physics teachers and misused by philosophers and biologists. The physics and demystification of entropy will be explained with minimal mathematics.

### **CONCIERGE** Gin Tasting- Not Your Grandmother's Bathtub!

*Wyn Jones, Sharon Myers-Shaw* Join Sharon Myers-Shaw and Wyn Jones for a gin tasting. A range from old style London Dry to new regional gins will be served. Discussion of history, recipes, and comparison of types. Tasting will be samples of each gin both straight and in tonic water. Suggested donation is \$10.00 or a bottle of gin to add to the tasting. Sign up in advance at Ops.

### **DENNISON III/IV** The Five Areas of Identity Theft & Identity Theft Products

*George Andaluz* Are you or have you been a victim of Identity Theft? Did you know that there are five areas of Identity Theft? Learn what they are and what you can do to protect yourself against them. Find out more information about Identity Theft products, their similarities and differences. Raffle and Prizes. Must be present to win.

### **SALON F/G/H** Dessert Reception with the Guests of Honor

This is a great place to walk right up to your particular favorite author or panelist for a quick chat or just to meet someone new. People, food and drink will be on hand.

### **DENNISON I/II** Dawn & Greg Naked Comedy Show, Superhero Style

*Dawn Kuczvara, Greg Williams* It's a bird! it's a plane! It's...what the hell did Dawn just say?! That wasn't kid friendly.... Listen as Dawn and Greg mock a comic book movie of their choice! Watch in awe as they display their superpowers of wit and offensiveness against the evil villain of badly done superhero movies!

## 10:30 PM

### **NILES** Open Filk

Join the music! Come to sing, play, recite, or listen. All are welcome

**11:00 PM**

**CONCIERGE** **The Chocolate Ritual**

*Sarah Smith* A decadent ConFusion tradition.

**SATURDAY**

**12:00 AM**

**BOARDROOM** **High School of the Dead**

It's the zombie apocalypse! As people try to escape the infection, a group of high schoolers try to find their own way to safety.

**9:00 AM**

**CONCIERGE** **Non-Denominational Meditation Time**

**BOARDROOM** **So this is your first Con?**

*Roxanne Meida King [M], Dave Stein* Come along and find out from others who've been here before what to do, how to have fun and other exciting things at ConFusion.

**DENNISON I/II** **How Reading Science Fiction Turned Me into an Anthropologist**

*Henri Gooren* This lecture explains how a Dutch boy became a cultural anthropologist by starting to read American science fiction author Jack Vance at age nine. It is a testimony that reading science fiction can change your life forever.

**DENNISON III/IV** **How to Discover Science Fiction Fandom**

*Jeff Beeler [M], Joel Zakem* How have people have found science fiction fandom over the years? Why do they stay in it? How can we make it easier for them to find us in the future?

**10:00 AM**

**BOARDROOM** **Hidden Anime in America**

*Terry Williams [M]* Think anime in America started with Robotech? (1986) Actually no. By that time it had a 15 year head start. Through video and movie clips, this presentation will chronicle events that reflect on how anime is perceived today.

**DENNISON I/II** **Evolution and Behavior**

*Richard Herrell* Vampire bats share. Chimps patrol. Ants and crabs farm. Bees dance. Humans empathize. This talk examines the relationship between evolution and behavior. Expect to participate with an active learning exercise or two.

## SATURDAY 10:00 AM CONTINUED

### **NILES** Reading the Stuff

*Jeff Beeler [M], Stewart Sternberg* How to Start a Science Fiction discussion group.

### **SALON E ... Over the Horizon**

*Tobias Buckell [M], Kristine Smith, Doselle Young, Michelle Sagara West* Forget the next big thing, what's the thing after that, or that? Be it technology or art or the fusion of the two, panelists discuss what kinds of things might we be looking at beyond the next generation of innovation.

### **SALON F** Grammar Police

*Anne S. Zanon [M], Christian Klaver, Jason Sanford, Charles P. Zaglanis* Grammar and spelling are two of the fundamental building blocks of writing. The importance of doing it right might seem obvious, but many people get it wrong anyway. What are the core rules, what's optional, and when can you break the rules?

### **SALON G** Video Games

*Ferrett Steinmetz, Stewart Sternberg* Most young adults spend more time playing video games than at the movies or watching television. What part does science fiction play in their entertainment world?

### **TEENFUSION** Saturday Morning Anime

Join your friends for your daily fix of Anime. Feel free to "MST3K" it along the way if you wish.

### **SALON H** Reading with Peter V. Brett and Brent Weeks

*Peter V. Brett, Brent Weeks* Join two of our Special Guests, courtesy of Subterranean Press, as they read from forthcoming works.

### **CONCIERGE** Kaffeeklatsch with Toastmaster Jim Hines

*Jim C. Hines* Sign up at Operations.

### **ATHENS** Reading with Jay Lake and Howard Andrew Jones

*Jay Lake, Howard Andrew Jones* Join two exciting authors as they read from forthcoming work.

### **KIDFUSION SUITE** Cartoons, Crafts and Crayons

*Kristy and Charley Gamble, Dustin Wenzel* Come watch cartoons and make a craft or color.

### **DENNISON III/IV** The History of the Graphic Novel

*Geralyn Lance, Kelly Rowe* Not all graphic novels are created equal. In fact, most graphic novels are actually trade paperbacks; a collection of comic books put into a book for simpler reading. However, many graphic novels are phenomenal stories, and have changed the way comic books are written. Listen as Geralyn and Kelly discuss the history of the graphic novel and the most influential of this genre.

**11:00 AM**

**BOARDROOM** **Phoenix: Persistence of Time**

Osamu Tezuka's epic tale of the eternal cycle of the phoenix, and how mankind chases after the dream of eternal life.

**CONCIERGE** **Knit and Bitch**

*Roxanne Meida King [M], Wyn Jones* A knitting gathering, where attendees discuss knitting for a few minutes, and then we all sit around and knit at each other for the rest of the hour.

**KIDFUSION** **Kookieklatch Storytime**

*Larc Bogdan, Alex Brandt, Selected Guest Readers* Cookies and stories.

**NILES** **Costume Creation**

*Alex Drummer, Kevin McLeod, Justin Coluzzi* Have a costume you've been wanting to make? Need some tips on how to build your next prop? Come ask the members of N.U.E.T (the Nearly Useless Entertainment Team) and see some of what they have already done. If you have a costume you want to show off come on over.

**SALON E** **2011 in Genre Film**

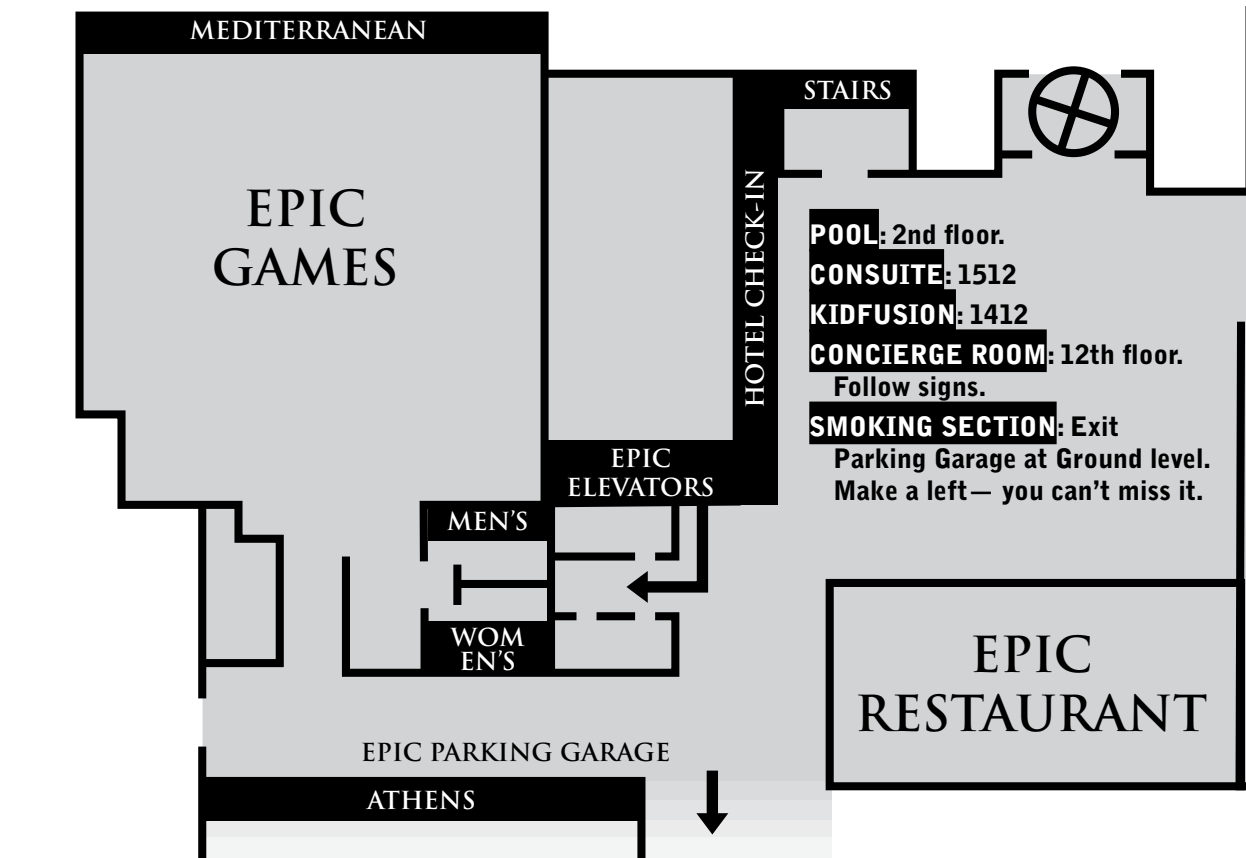
*John Scalzi [M], David M Stein, Andrew Drummer, Alex von Thorn, Rick Jackson* A discussion of the science fiction, fantasy and horror films of 2011. How did this year's output compare with other recent years? What did you like, what did you hate?

**SALON F** **The Legacy of Thud & Blunder**

*Scott Lynch [M], Elizabeth Bear, Howard Andrew Jones, Violette Malan* Over 30 years ago, Poul Anderson wrote a seminal essay on the question of realism, especially in heroic fantasy. What effect has it had on the genre and is it still the problem that Anderson identified?

**SALON G** **Business 101**

*Gretchen Ash [M], Carrie Harris, Brent Weeks, Catherine Shaffer* The role of writer-as-small-business continues to evolve, but by now it seems certain that the creative arts will never be as free from the messy business of business as they once, if ever, were. How to manage that side of professional writing is a tricky, but conquerable hurdle. How do you do it? Where do you start? Come here to find out.



**SATURDAY 11:00 AM CONTINUED**

### **SALON H** Killer Parties

*Kameron Hurley [M], Cat Rambo, Steve Buchheit, Myke Cole, Michelle Sagara West*

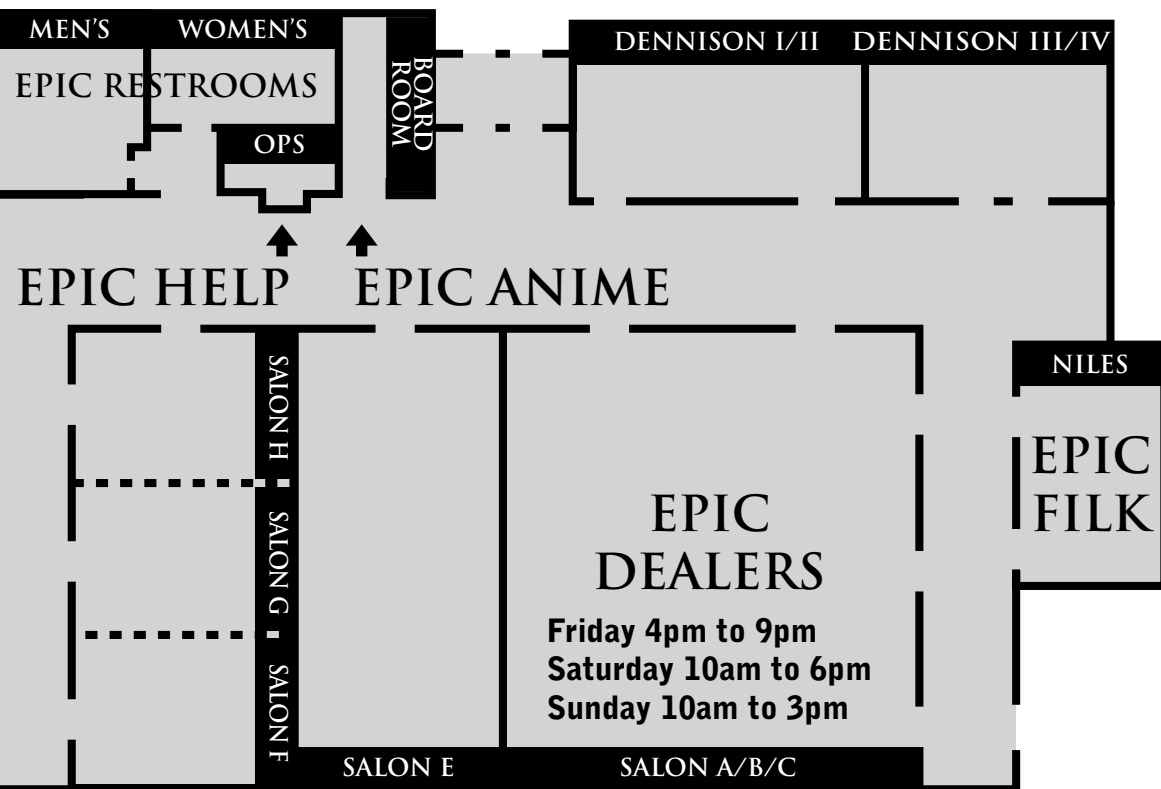
No, not the one in 1421 that's going to go all night long, but the fictional, multi-character sort. What makes a good group, and how is it the ones that work seem to work really, really well? Is it more than just getting the Jock, the Princess, the Burnout, the Nerd, and the Rebel together in the school library?

### **TEENFUSION** Writers Workshop

*Al Bogdan* Al Bogdan will lead you in an adventure in writing. He will touch base on the basics of a good story and character development and hopefully you will have the beginnings of your own adventure at the end of the session.

### **ATHENS** Reading with Kristine Smith and Jim C. Hines

*Kristine Smith, Jim C. Hines* Join Kristine Smith and our Toastmaster, Jim Hines, as they read from the forthcoming *Modern Fae* anthology, due out in March.



## **DENNISON I/II** NASA's James Webb Space Telescope and Beyond

*Dr. Harley Thronson* The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is NASA's major astronomical observatory for this decade and will allow scientists from around the world to explore the very earliest periods of formation of galaxies. This talk will describe the current status of JWST, its expected discoveries, and candidate astronomy missions to follow.

## **DENNISON III/IV** Philosophy of Self Defense

*Heather Gutterman* Class Description: The needs of self defense can raise challenging ethical questions. This round table discussion style panel gives participants the opportunity to explore their personal ethical concerns surrounding questions involving self defense, including "Is is ever appropriate to harm another?" and "Do individuals have a responsibility to learn to defend themselves?" Many viewpoints will be encouraged to allow for an understanding of multiple perspectives.

**SATURDAY 12:00 PM**

## **ATHENS** Introduction to Comic Books

*Kelly Rowe, Andrew Eadie, Dean Stahl* Never read a comic book in your life? Was Christopher Reeve donning the tights the last time you thought about reading a comic book? Do you wonder what the hell graphic novels are? Then this panel is for you! Listen as our fearless panelists discuss the best comics to dip your toes into.

## **DENNISON III/IV** Learn about OpenBSD

*Marcus Watts, Steve Andre* OpenBSD is a variant of UNIX, known for its security. An overview will be given on some of its main features. Installation help is available depending on interest.

## **KIDFUSION SUITE** Epic Egg Drop

*Richard Herrell, Matthew Ragsdale* Can you create an Epic Egg protection device? Come see what you can build out of cardboard and foam then see if it is enough to protect your egg.

## **NILES** Writing Funny

*Mark Bernstein, Tom Smith, Eric Coleman* Hear our panelists talk about the elements of comedy writing.

## **SALON G** SF on TV

*Alex von Thorn [M], Stewart Sternberg, David M Stein, Ferrett Steinmetz* From Game of Thrones to Eureka: It's now 2012 what was the best and worst of genre television in the last 12 months?

## **SALON F** The History of Corsets and Choosing the Correct Style for You

*Jessica Crutchfield* In this class I will cover a brief history of corsets, different styles and they shape that they provide. I will also talk about corset dos and don'ts and what to expect when wearing a corset.

## **DENNISON I/II** From Earth to the Moon... ...Almost: Why Free Space Could be the Next Major Destination for Human Space Flight

*Dr. Harley Thronson* Since the end of the Apollo Program, plans for human space flight have generally emphasized major goals, such as Mars or a return to the Moon. There is another option that many experts think makes more sense: free space beyond Earth orbit and almost to the Moon.



**12:45 PM**

**BOARDROOM** **Guin Saga**

A swordsman awakes with a name ringing in his ears, and no memory as to who and what he is. Suddenly he finds his peace disturbed as two escaping children, literally falls into his lap. The fleeing royalty that are being pursued by an invading army and there is only Guin to come to their aid.

**1:00 PM**

**CONCIERGE** **Will the Real Fan GoH...**

*Tom Smith, Roxanne Meida King, Jeff Beeler [M]* Fan Guest of Honour Introduction/ Induction a traditional ConFusion event wherein all the previous ConFusion Fan GoHs who are in attendance welcome the new Fan GoH to the club.

**NILES** **Your Five Minutes of Fame**

*Mark Bernstein* We provide the stage, you provide the talent. Open sign up at Niles, with up to eight slots available.

**SALON E** **Worldbuilding 101**

*Cat Rambo [M], Patrick Rothfuss, Tobias Buckell, Peter V. Brett, Brent Weeks* H e y kids, let's build a world! It's been over 50 years since Tolkien set a high bar for the depth and breadth of constructing a fantasy world. With Guest of Honor Patrick Rothfuss, our panelists discuss what it takes to make a world that readers can feel immersed in.

**SALON F.** **Science in Fantasy**

*Jason Sanford [M], Catherine Shaffer, Jim C. Hines, Cindy Spencer Pape* Does the scientific method have a place in fantasy or does the presence of magic and active gods and such preclude it? Whether it leads to technology, or just a scientific understanding of the setting and magic, what can the practice of science add to fantasy?

**KIDFUSION** **KidFusion Closed for 1 Hr**

**SALON G** **What is ConFusion's Masquerade?**

*Limey Zrnich* New to the Masquerade, ConFusion, etc? Come and find out what all the fuss is about!

**SALON H** **Natural-Sounding Dialogue**

*Kristine Smith [M], John Scalzi, Myke Cole, Christine Purcell, Christian Klaver* Writing dialogue is not just recreating how people talk, but an art within the art of writing, distilling conversation down to bare essentials. Who does it well, and how do you do it in your own writing?

## SATURDAY 1:00 PM CONTINUED

### **DENNISON I/II** The Physics of Digital vs. Film Photography

*Dr. Phil Kaldon* Taking pictures in 2011 versus 1981. Just a matter of putting a sensor where film used to go? Not exactly. And can't you just fix everything in PhotoShop? Not exactly. If you understand how cameras have changed in the last thirty years, you'll take better pictures.

### **ATHENS** Reading with Joe Abercrombie and Robin Hobb

*Joe Abercrombie, Robin Hobb* Join two of our Special Guests, courtesy of Subterranean Press, read from forthcoming works.

### **DENNISON III/IV** Religion in Science Fiction: Analyzing a Shift of Focus

*I* Associate Professor of Anthropology Henri Gooren explores Orson Scott Card's thesis that science fiction has neglected the topic of religion, because of its positivist hard-science roots. The conclusion also contrasts the subgenres of science fiction and fantasy to analyze why fantasy has come to dominate the genre.

## 2:00 PM

### **ATHENS** Guest of Honor Q&A

*Patrick Rothfuss* An open question and answer session with our Guest of Honor Patrick Rothfuss!

### **BOARDROOM** Dirty Pair

The Dirty Pair OAV's are back in print after ten years of not being available. They will be out by the time of the convention. Kei and Yuri are back in action as they head off to a prison asteroid to rescue the warden and stop the riot. During the chaos of a Halloween party that is citywide, they have to stop a runaway Battle Android before it goes into battle mode.

### **CONCIERGE** A Toast to Mike Glicksohn!

*Joel Zakem [M], Jeff Beeler* Mike was the Fan Guest of Honour at the first ConFusion and attended every year after that up to 2011 as he was too ill to attend and he passed away only weeks after the convention. He was a guiding spirit of the convention over the years and only wanted a toast in his memory.

### **POOL ...** KidFusion Pool Time

*Kristy and Charley Gamble, Larc Bogdan, Lisa Garrison-Ragsdale, Alex Brandt* Join your fannish friends at the pool for some fun and games. Parents are encouraged to stay with their children if they are not adept at swimming.

## **SALON E** Trilogy: The Base Unit of Fantasy?

*Joe Abercrombie [M], Brad Beaulieu, Saladin Ahmed, Michelle Sagara West, Jay Lake* Sure, with series like *The Wheel of Time* and *A Song of Ice and Fire*, fantasy series have gone well beyond three books, but is the trilogy a necessary minimum, or can fantasy novels stand alone?

## **SALON H** The Shared Universe

*Cindy Spencer Pape [M], Cat Rambo, Elizabeth Bear, Steve Buchheit, Tobias Buckell* Tie-ins, adaptations, reboots, and collaborations all see authors writing in fictional universes created by or shared with other authors and creators. What are some of the rewards and challenges of working in this environment?

## **NILES** Mark Bernstein Concert

*Mark Bernstein* Local singer/songwriter/storyteller Mark Bernstein takes the stage for an hour.

## **DENNISON I/II** Human Space Flight Beyond Earth: Why “Sooner” Is so Much More Important than “Later”

*Dr. Harley Thronson* Clever and inventive individuals have been proposing options for human space flight to take humans to Mars, to colonize the Moon, or to explore asteroids. In a realistic budget and political environment, these are all at least a few decades into the future. What might be instead achieved much sooner. And why?

## **DENNISON III/IV** Costuming Comic Book Characters

*Alex Drummer, GERALYN LANCE, Limey Zrnich* Spandex and capes, what the hell does a person do with those? Listen to awesome comic book costumer Alex discuss his best techniques!

## **SALON F** Reading with Dr. Phil Kaldon and Ferrett Steinmetz

*Dr. Phil Kaldon, Ferrett Steinmetz* Join a Writers of the Future winner and a Clarion writer as they read from forthcoming works.

## **SALON G** YA Literature: Can the Youth Share?

*Anne Harris, Merrie Haskell, Robin Hobb* Teens and panelists discuss the appeal of Young Adult Literature to those who are no longer young adults and decide if there is a line that cannot be crossed or if more makes merrier. Selected Teens and Panelists

**3:00 PM**

## **BOARDROOM** Fairy Tail

*Lucy Heartfelt* has the talent of a celestial mage but to make money with her talents she needs to join a Guild. But in her journey to Magnolia, to check out Guilds, she runs across an unscrupulous magician enslaving women.

## SATURDAY 3:00 PM CONTINUED

### DENNISON I/II YA: Fantasy v. Science Fiction

*Ferrett Steinmetz [M], Merrie Haskell, Christine Purcell, Carrie Harris, Steven Harper Piziks* Fantasy seems to dominate the shelves when it comes to YA literature, but science fiction has been gaining popularity with the likes of *The Hunger Games*. Can science fiction continue to grow in popularity, and go beyond the dystopia, or will fantasy remain the giant of genre?

### DENNISON III/IV I Really HATE...

*Bill Korsak [M]* Anyone can come in and have 3 minutes to details something in fandom that they hate/despise/etc while anyone else gets the chance to give a one minute rebuttal.

### KIDFUSION SUITE Legos

*Matthew Ragsdale, Alex Brandt* Build a robot or a space ship! Legos will be out and ready for you to create! You are only limited by your imagination. (Until 5pm)

### SALON E The Writing Process

*Elizabeth Bear [M], Dr. Phil Kaldon, DJ DeSmyter, Sarah Zettel, Anne Harris* How do authors go about the actual process of writing, does it change over time or across projects, and is there any general advice, or is it all individual?

### SALON F Crowdsourcing a Novel: Q&A

*Tobias Buckell* In 2011, Ohio author Tobias Buckell successfully used Kickstarter to fund a new novel in his *Xenowealth* series. Now he's here to answer your questions about the process, and discuss the other ways in which the concept of crowdsourcing can further publishing.

### TEENFUSION D&D game

*Brian Bay* Brian Bay is the Dungeon Master of this beginner level Dungeons and Dragons game. If you were not able to roll your own character on Friday night, you can still play. (3hrs)

### NILES Peggi Warner-Lalonde Concert

*Peggi Warner-Lalonde, Carolyn Brown* Welcome Toronto-area filker Peggi Warner-Lalonde, in concert.

### ATHENS Reading with Jason Sanford and Bradley Beaulieu

*Bradley Beaulieu, Jason Sanford* Join a pair of authors new to ConFusion as they read from forthcoming works.

## **SALON A/B/C High Weirdness in the Dealer's Room**

*Jeff Beeler [M], Rick Jackson* We will channel Timothy O'Leary, Robert Anton Wilson and Philip José Farmer as we seek the truly odd and whimsical in our otherwise "ordinary" dealer's room.

## **SALON G Bicycle racing the impact of technology**

*Roxanne Meida King [M], Limey Zrnich* A talk about the impact of technology like carbon fibre, etc. not too mention biological advances like steroids and human growth hormones.

## **SALON H E-Reader Round Up and Show and Tell**

*Jeff Beeler [M], Katherine Becker* Got an ebook reader for Christmas and want to show it off or learn how to more with it? Then bring it along to this panel and swap tips with other users.

## **ATHENS Reading with Steven Harper Piziks and Violette Malan**

*Steven Harper Piziks, Violette Malan* Join two multi-talented authors as they read from forthcoming works.

**4:00 PM**

## **KIDFUSION Legos**

*Matthew Ragsdale, Alex Brandt* Build a robot or a space ship! Legos will be out and ready for you to create! You are only limited by your imagination. (3-5pm)

## **SALON F Non-Western Fantasy**

*Peter V. Brett [M], Saladin Ahmed, Kameron Hurley, Christian Klaver, Howard Andrew Jones* Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and South America are fertile grounds for the sort of medieval fantasy that dominates the shelves, but most of what's there is historically rooted in European traditions and myths. Who is doing the best at exploring outside the box, and what other cultures and histories offer opportunities for the aspiring writer?

## **SALON G Care and Feeding of the Writer**

*Elizabeth Bear [M], Jim C. Hines, Catherine Shaffer, Gretchen Ash, Robin Hobb*  
Writers can be notoriously eccentric, especially in terms the conditions under which they create. How do the people who cope with a writer under their roof accommodate such a strange creature, and help to maximize their writerly efficiency?

## SATURDAY 4:00 PM CONTINUED

### **SALON H** The Lure of the Undead

*John Scalzi [M], DJ DeSmyter, Carrie Harris, Steve Buchheit, Ferrett Steinmetz* In books, movies, and video games, the various forms of the undead are as popular as ever. We're dating vampires, gunning down zombies, and... mostly ignoring mummies, but only for now. Come listen to our writers discuss the appeal to the undead, and what might be done to keep them fresh and new, so to speak.

### **BOARDROOM** .. Megazone 23

Motorcycle enthusiast Shogo mistakenly comes into possession of an experimental government prototype bike, but the Government has other ideas and wants it back. In a desperate attempt to save himself, he plans to expose the bike to the public on a live TV show hosted by a popular singing star. But there are more secrets than just a transforming military motorcycle. Shogo begins to unravel the mystery of the bike, and the truth about the world he thought he knew.

### **CONCIERGE** Molecular Gastronomy & Modernist Cooking

*Tammy Coxen [M]* No one's quite sure what to call it, but restaurants and home cooks are bringing science into the kitchen to transform the tastes and textures of food. Tammy Coxen of Tammy's Tastings will demonstrate spherification, foaming, and other fun science tricks for the kitchen.

### **DENNISON I/II** Hardware Discovery Commands in Linux

*Kevin O'Brien* Users of any computer will have need from time to time to get detailed information about their hardware. You could open up your computer, try to identify the make and model of each component, and do some Google searching, But fortunately there is an easier way. Linux comes with built-in commands that give you all the information you will likely ever need.

## 5:00 PM

### **SALON E** Mass Author Autograph Session

ConFusion's authors will be lined up to sign your books. Authors planning to be here include: Patrick Rothfuss, Jim Hines, Joe Abercrombie, Robin Hobb, Peter V. Brett, Brent Weeks, John Scalzi, Merrie Haskell, Doselle Young, Jay Lake, Bradley Beaulieu, Anne Harris, Saladin Ahmed, Carrie Harris, Cat Rambo, Elizabeth Bear, Scott Lynch, Catherine Shaffer, Dr. Phil Kaldon, Steven Harper Piziks, Tobias Buckell, Violette Malan, Steve Buchheit, Michelle Sagara West, Kristine Smith, Kameron Hurley, Jason Sanford, Howard Andrew Jones, Ferrett Steinmetz, and Christian Klaver

## **SALON F** Character Development

*Alex Drummer, Kevin McLeod, Justin Coluzzi* Have you always wanted to make an original character to go to a Con or other event as? Do you have a basic idea but don't know where to really begin? The members of N.U.E.T (the Nearly Useless Entertainment Team) will see what they can do to help. If you think you have made some nice original characters come and share them with others who want to know.

## **SALON G** The Other in Comics

*Kelly Rowe [M], Carrie Dalton, Doselle Young, Geralyn Lance, Dean Stahl* Long have comic books only been representative of white and straight men. Marvel threw the world for a loop by having a team of characters that was made up of multiple ethnicities with the X-Men, but progress has been slow in including characters that aren't straight and white. Even characters that are any ethnicity different than Caucasian have the problem of being white-washed. Gay characters are quickly killed, and females rarely get a backstory that doesn't involve rape and children being taken away. Our panelists will be discussing the few "other" characters in comic books, the best written characters, and tropes that we wish would be avoided.

## **BOARDROOM** Planetes

(see Friday at 6:00 pm)

## **ATHENS** Swordfighting with Live Steel

*Kevin McLeod* A demo of swordfighting and stagefighting with real steel – signup at Ops in advance, limited participants.

## **BOARDROOM** .. Trinity Blood

The human race... Post Armageddon. Even in this future time, the war between the vampires and the humans continue to persist. Even as humans settle other worlds, protection is still required. In order to protect the humans from the vampires, Vatican has to rely on other allies to counter the situation. The protagonist, a priest called Peter Abel Nightroad, travels through the countries as a representative for the Vaticans. However, he is also part of "Ax", a special operations group controlled by the Cardinal Catherina. His encounter with a young girl called Esther will determine the struggle and survival between the human race and the vampires.

## **ATHENS** Drawing for Comics

*Dean Stahl* Author and artist of Headlocks and Headaches discusses drawing and comic books!

## SATURDAY 5:00 PM CONTINUED

### **KIDFUSION SUITE** Cartooning with Kurt Erichsen

*Kurt Erichson* Kurt Erichson, our favorite Midwest cartoonist, leads us in an Epic cartooning session and shows us how perspective affects what we see.

### **DENNISON III/IV** Ozma Plus Fifty: My Week among the Searchers for Extraterrestrial Intelligence

*Bill Higgins* The modern quest to seek evidence for extraterrestrial civilizations began half a century ago. Bill Higgins recounts his journey to a distant valley filled with radio telescopes, where he met with scientists, writers, and artists in the birthplace of modern SETI.

## 6:00 PM

### **KIDFUSION** KidFusion Closed for 1 Hr

## 7:00 PM

### **DENNISON I/II** Tom Smith Concert

*Tom Smith* Our Fan Guest of Honor, in concert. Come hear the songs and jokes that have made Tom a favorite at Confusion, year after year.

### **KIDFUSION... Pizza/PJ Party**

Additional charge applies THIS IS A PAID EVENT Come ready to party in your pajamas! We will have pizza, pop, popcorn along with movies, games and crafts. Register for this event at the registration table. (7pm-1am)

### **SALON F** Masquerade Muster

Participating in the Masquerade? Come and get your picture taken, and get in place for the masquerade!

### **BOARDROOM** Last Exile

In a world that looks like the 19th century with anti-gravity devices, Claus and Lavie are pilot and co-pilot of a Vanship and act as couriers. They become involved with a mysterious mission after rescuing a little girl from a strange star-shaped killing machine. Not willing to let the girl die, they complete the mission by delivering her to the legendary mercenary ship Sylvana, only to become part of the crew as fighter pilots.

### **BOARDROOM** Interactive: Make a Music Video

*Terry Williams* [M]



## **TEENFUSION** Harry Potter Masquerade Party

Come dressed as your favorite Harry Potter Character as we watch several of the movies and play some trivia for chocolate. We will start with one and end with the final battle but what we watch in between will be up to you! (Until 1am)

**8:00 PM**

## **CONCIERGE** Chili Cook-Off..

*Richard Herrell* Come enjoy the chili at our second annual open chili cook-off invitational! If you want to participate, contact Richard Herrell. Who's cuisine will reign supreme? You will be the judge. (Tasting Period, chilli should already be prepared)

## **SALON E** Masquerade

Ladies and gentlemen BAMM! Hear all about it - ConFusion's Masquerade theme is Biff Pow!! Comic Heroes and Villains come Battle out on our Stage Saturday night. From Wood Pulp to Pixels don your cape in the nearest phone booth and see you there. If you are not part of the comic contingent please know that we welcome all genres.

## **SALON H** (Un)Necessary Anachronism

*Merrie Haskell [M], Patrick Rothfuss, Violette Malan, Joe Abercrombie, Brent Weeks*

Medieval-set fantasy prefigures a lot of things that we have gotten used to, like quick communication, egalitarian social and political organizations, and knowledge of things like disease transmission and sanitation. Can these kinds of things find their way into medieval fantasy believably, or are they just a necessary cheat in order to make fantasy settings seem at least slightly recognizable?

## **ATHENS** Reading with Elizabeth Bear and Scott Lynch

*Elizabeth Bear, Scott Lynch* Come listen to Elizabeth Bear and Scott Lynch read from forthcoming works.

## **SALON G** Reviews and Criticism: Taking them Gracefully

*Robin Hobb [M], Howard Andrew Jones, Jason Sanford, Christine Purcell, Charles P. Zagnanis* Both reviews and criticism are a fact of life for the writer. What are the right and wrong ways to deal with reviews and criticism? How can you use them to improve your work, and what sort of criticism can you safely ignore?

**SATURDAY 8:30 PM**

**BOARDROOM R.O.D**

(Read Or Die... why not? After all this is a convention celebrating the literary form) Yomiko Readman is asked to come out of school teacher retirement and return to her identity as "The Paper", a secret underground operative for the British Library with the incredible power of complete control over paper. She is called to duty when a book that could spell the end of the world is stolen, and she must take it back. Going with two other operatives, she attempts to take it back and save the world.

**9:00 PM**

**DENNISON I/II The Rocky Horror Muppet Show**

*Tom Smith and cast* What if The Muppets decided to put on a production of Rocky Horror? Tom Smith wrote the script, and this is the first time it's been performed in the Midwest since 1987. What could go wrong?

**CONCIERGE Elven Toast**

*Host William Hobbel* BYOB. Get there early if you want to participate in this tradition! All are welcome.

**10:00 PM**

**DENNISON III/IV Macross Frontier: The False Songstress**

The 25th colony fleet is comprised of 10 million humans, all looking for a new planets to colonize. A visit from the celebrity singer Sheryl Nome, is a treat, but few realize there is a military reason for her visit.

**10:30 PM**

**NILES Theme Filk: Covers**

We did this last year, and it went well enough to repeat. The rules are simple - you can perform anything you want, as long as it was written by someone other than you. Extra worthless points if it's by someone in the room, or at least at the con.

**11:00 PM**

**SALON E Dance**

Dennis Rocks our World, Epic ConFusion Style

**11:30 PM**

**NILES Open Filk**

See yesterday's description, and/or just show up.

# SUNDAY

**12:00 AM**

## **DENNISON III/IV Vampire Hunter D**

In the year 12,090 A.D technology and the supernatural have overtaken the world. But thanks to the overzealous ambitions of man, the world remains desolate and despotic. What's left of the human race is divided into various towns and cities living in fear of vampires who compose and exist as the Nobility, fending off the monsters and mutants as a result of their existence.

**10:00 AM**

## **ATHENS Reading with John Scalzi and Tobias Buckell**

Join two of the most prolific authors in Ohio as they read from forthcoming work.

## **BOARDROOM Light and Pixels - An Introduction to 3D Art**

*Terry Williams [M]* Ever get an idea of trying 3D art on your home computer but were intimidated by the learning curve and money? This presentation is designed to introduce you to the basic concepts to help you start learning this electronic medium.

## **KIDFUSION CSI – Kidfusion**

*Richard Herrell* Did a dragon kill the alien or was it the other way around? How do we figure it out? Richard Herrell teaches us the steps involved in crime scene investigating.

## **SALON F The Politics of Steampunk**

*Cindy Spencer Pape [M], Steven Harper Piziks, Cat Rambo, Christine Purcell* Epic fantasy, especially in the Tolkien mold, is often criticized for idealizing the pastoral culture of the medieval past. In that same way, steampunk has been criticized for idealizing the repressive and imperialistic Victorian period.

## **SALON G Novels to the Small Screen**

*Doselle Young [M], DJ DeSmyter, Ferrett Steinmetz, Dr. Phil Kaldon* *True Blood* and *The Song of Ice and Fire* saga have made the jump to television, and Gaiman's *American Gods* and King's *Dark Tower* saga are headed there in the near future. Is television uniquely suited to the adaptation of the novel, or is this a short-lived trend featuring a handful of works with crossover appeal?

## **SALON H Bicycling for the Masses**

*Roxanne Meida King [M], Limey Zrnich* Bicycling as a viable future form of transportation.

## **TEENFUSION Kirigami/Origami**

Learn the Japanese arts of Paper Cutting and Paper Folding

**SUNDAY 11:00 AM**

**KIDFUSION KidFusion Gaming**

*Lisa Garrison-Ragsdale, Alex Brandt, Matthew Ragsdale* Come enjoy a game of Apples to Apples, Kids of Catan or Kids of Carcassonne. Other games will be available and feel free to bring one to share.

**BOARDROOM Legend of Galactic Heroes**

For decades, the Galactic Empire has been locked in an interstellar war with the Free Planets Alliance, a conflict that involves thousands of spaceships and millions of soldiers on both sides. For Reinhard von Musel, this the chance for him to get out of ground forces accept a ship assignment aboard the destroyer Hameln II.

**SALON E Small Stories in Epic Fantasy**

*Bradley Beaulieu [M], Robin Hobb, Patrick Rothfuss, Jason Sanford, Brent Weeks* Sure, sure, it's time to take down the dark lord of the realm and restore the numinous holy relic to its proper place in the kingdom, while squaring off against an army of slaving hordes... but can we take time out for the heroine to find her peace with her strained relationship with her mother? Can the humorous bard deal with the pain that drives him to make a clown of himself? Or does epic fantasy require epic stories, and only epic stories?

**SALON F The Action, It Rises**

*Merrie Haskell [M], Violette Malan, Charles P. Zaglanis, Saladin Ahmed, Doselle Young* A respected and well-liked film critic complained that the basic three-act structure could be characterized as "THE ACTION. IT RISES." What is rising action, and how does it apply to the act-based structure of storytelling? Can you write in five acts? 6? 8?

**SALON H The Multi-Creative Author**

*Catherine Shaffer [M], John Scalzi, Steven Harper Piziks, Myke Cole, Anne Harris* Creativity does not always strike in a single direction, and many authors have creative impulses in other media. From music to drawing, acting to the fiber arts, writers express their creativity in any number of alternative ways. Come listen to a few discuss their favorite creative hobbies and how it impacts their writing, if at all.

**TEENFUSION CocoaClatch Reading and Q&A**

*Carrie Harris* Join a young adult author or two as they share a selection from one of their novels. Enjoy Cocoa and Cookies while listening and asking questions about their writing adventures.

**CONCIERGE LoungeKaffeeklatsch with Dr. Harley Thronson**

*Dr. Harley Thronson*\*Sign up at Operations\* An informal social gathering for coffee and conversation. Harley talks about coffee, **NASA**, exploring **space**, you know, no big whoop.

## **ATHENS** Reading with Kameron Hurley and Michelle Sagara West

*Kameron Hurley, Michelle Sagara West* Join two newcomers to ConFusion as they read from forthcoming work.

## **DENNISON I/II** High-Tech Construction Materials

*Philip Proefrock* Presentation looking at recent high-tech building materials, some of which are available for home construction and remodeling. New building materials are being developed with properties that enable them to save energy, improve construction efficiency, and provide new abilities.

## **SALON G** Future of the Publishing Industry

*Roxanne Meida King [M], Jim C. Hines, Rick Jackson* As it shifts rapidly from paper books to Kindle and other electronic media what are the ramifications for the industry and the reader?

**SUNDAY 12:00 PM**

## **KIDFUSION** KidFusion Closed for 1 Hr

## **NILES** Powderfilk Biscuits

*Mark Bernstein* Are you a shy person? We want to hear from you. This is a safe, no-criticism forum for discussing the problems of being heard in a filk circle when you're shy.

## **SALON E** Science and Society Panel

*Dr. Harley Thronson, Dr. Phil Kaldon, Ben Best, Dr. Henri Gooren* A free flowing discussion of the impact of science on society and of society on science.

## **SALON G** SFOHA Meeting

*Rick Jackson [M], Joel Zakem* Open meeting of the Science Fiction Oral History Association. All are welcome.

## **DENNISON I/II** Why a WorldCon in Detroit?

*Jeff Beeler [M], Alex von Thorn, David M Stein, Tammy Coxen, Anna O'Connell* We hosted one in 1959 and co-hosted one in Cleveland in 1965 and bid on a NASFIC for 1985 but nothing since. Why is this? Could we try, should we try again? Why or why not? How would we do it?

## **DENNISON III/IV** Native American Culture and History

*Daniel Petrie* Life on the reservation, how the natives helped the whites in time of need, and the true version of Thanksgiving.

**SUNDAY 12:00 PM CONTINUED**

**BOARDROOM** **City Hunter: Bay City Way**

Ryo tries to meet Koari at a new convention center dinner party, but instead has to deal with a South American dictator whose objectives is to take over the center's supercomputer in order to crack the United States missile launch codes.

**KIDFUSION SUITE** **Epic Sign Language**

*Catherine Bay* Catherine Bay will teach us how to do some basic sign language and play some signing games with us that you can take home and teach our friends.

**NILES** **Dead Dog Filk**

Stick around for one last chance to share in the music.

**SALON F.** **Women in Combat**

*Carrie Harris [M], Jim C. Hines, Scott Lynch, Kristine Smith, Kameron Hurley* The role of female combatants has grown in the west over the past several years, continuing the question of what role women can and should play in warfare. Our expert panel discusses the facts and fiction of women in combat.

**SALON H** **Anime and Manga**

*DJ DeSmyter, Doselle Young* What we love and hate: Teens and panelists discuss why they like Anime and Manga and what are some of the highs and lows in the genre. Selected Teens and Panelists

**ATHENS** **Reading with Sarah Zettel and Cindy Spencer Pape**

*Sarah Zettel, Cindy Spencer Pape* Join two prolific Michigan authors as they read from forthcoming works.

**DENNISON I/II** **What is the Stilyagi Air Corps?**

*Jeff Beeler [M], Erik Kauppi* What was it? Where is it going? Hear from two past social directors of the Air Corps.

**SALON G** **Horses and Swords and Castles, Oh My!**

*Myke Cole [M], Patrick Rothfuss, Peter V. Brett, Joe Abercrombie, Bradley Beaulieu* A bold adventurer sits down in an inn, over a bowl of hearty stew...and before long, he (or she) is astride a trusty steed, sword in hand, galloping up toward an imposing castle. Are these props necessary to fantasy, or can they be given a new and interesting twist, or even substituted entirely?

**1:40 PM**

**BOARDROOM** **Fairy Tail**

Lucy takes her first assignment.

**2:00 PM**

### **ATHENS** Reading with Patrick Rothfuss

*Patrick Rothfuss* Join our Guest of Honor for a reading of his very own words.

### **KIDFUSION** Epic Relaxation

*Kristy and Charley Gamble, Larc Bogdan* Make a memory book of your weekend while relaxing and munching on leftover snacks from the convention.

### **SALON F** The Future of Books

*DJ DeSmyter [M], Michelle Sagara West, Gretchen Ash, Sarah Zettel* The e-book revolution seems to be upon us, but whither books themselves? Will they only live on as collector items, or will there be a significant market for them for the foreseeable future? What about books means they might persist even as ebook readers get cheaper and more ubiquitous?

### **SALON G** Genre-Blending Fantasy

*Myke Cole [M], Cindy Spencer Pape, Scott Lynch, Bradley Beaulieu, Saladin Ahmed* What sort of subgenres lend themselves to inclusion within the fantasy framework? What are some good examples of genre blending, and are there subgenres which just won't work at all?

### **TEENFUSION** Friendship Bracelets

*Christine Pellar-Kosbar* Come make some friendship bracelets to share with your new friends and take home to your old ones.

### **BOARDROOM** New Series Preview

There are several new series and we will be taking this last bit of time to show you what's may be available.

**3:00 PM**

### **SALON E** Closing Ceremonies

*Brian Decker* Come hear the final words to Epic Confusion from ConCom and interested GoHs.

**4:00 PM**

### **SALON E** . Feedback Session

Please come and let us know what we did right and what needs to be worked on. Everyone is encouraged to come and comment. If you cannot stay this late leave a written comment with Ops. As many of the ConCom and hotel staff as we can gather will be there.

## ON INTO THE NIGHT

### CONSUIE Dead Dog Party

Come up to the 15th Floor and find out what the consuite has left over and hang with other people who are not yet ready to call it a weekend.

§

## EPIC PEOPLE

Convention Chair ..... Brian Decker

ConChair Assistant..... Sheryl Bradakis

Consuite ..... Chuck Child

Dealers Room ..... Angie Fox

Gaming ..... John Davis

Hotel Liaison ..... Jer Lance

KidFusion..... Charly & Kristy Gamble

Operations..... Ryan Carey

Ops Assistant ..... Anna Held-Petrak

Publicity ..... Jeff Beeler

Registration ..... Aaron Thul

Ribbons..... Bill Korsak

Room Parties ..... Jer Lance

TeenFusion ..... Lisa Garrison-Ragsdale

Treasurer ..... Amy Zrnich

Volunteers ..... Elizabeth Stroik

Volunteers Deputy ..... Bob Brodis

Web Site ..... Steve King

Programming Head... Randy Bradakis

Programming Deputy.. Lucy Kennedy

Anime Programming..... Jeff Beeler

Comics Programming . Geralyn Lance

Costume ProgrammingAlex Drummer

Masquerade ..... Limey Zrnich

Fan Programming..... Jeff Beeler

Filk Programming ..... Mark Bernstein

Literary Programming ... Dave Klecha

Media Programming ..... Jeff Beeler

Science ProgrammingRichard Herrell



# TO ABSENT FRIENDS

ConFusion is missing a few of its old friends this year.

## MIKE

Almost every January, for more years than I care to remember, I sometime battled inclement weather by driving north from Kentucky in order to attend Confusion. Among the many reasons for attending this con was the fact that, until last year, I knew that I would be spending some time with Mike Glicksohn.

Though he probably would have shrugged it off, Mike, who passed away on March 18, 2011 at the age of 64, was one of the giants of his generation of fans. Mike's fannish achievements were many, including a Hugo (shared with the late Susan Wood) for their fanzine Energumen and three Faan awards as best letterhack. Also, unlike many fanzine fans, he continued to enjoy attending conventions, especially this one. Mike was very proud of the fact that, until he missed last year's because of health reasons, he was the only individual who had attended every Confusion as well as its predecessor, the A Squared Relax-Icon.

Some of my favorite Confusion memories are of party hopping with Mike, Susan Manchester (his wife), various other friends and soon to be friends. Mike genuinely liked people, and he went out of his way to make everyone he met feel welcome. He was one of a kind and will be missed.

-Joel D. Zakem

## LARRY

Larry Tucker had a major stroke in August 2011 and is in long term care at Northfield Place 8633 North Main St., Whitmore Lake, MI 48189 PH: (734) 449-4431 He would appreciate visitors as he can't use the phone or a computer. Larry worked on the first ConFusion and attended every one up until this past year. He may even be here this year. He was our ConChair 1978-80, Toastmaster 1982, 1998 and Fan Guest of Honor in 1988.

## RUSTY

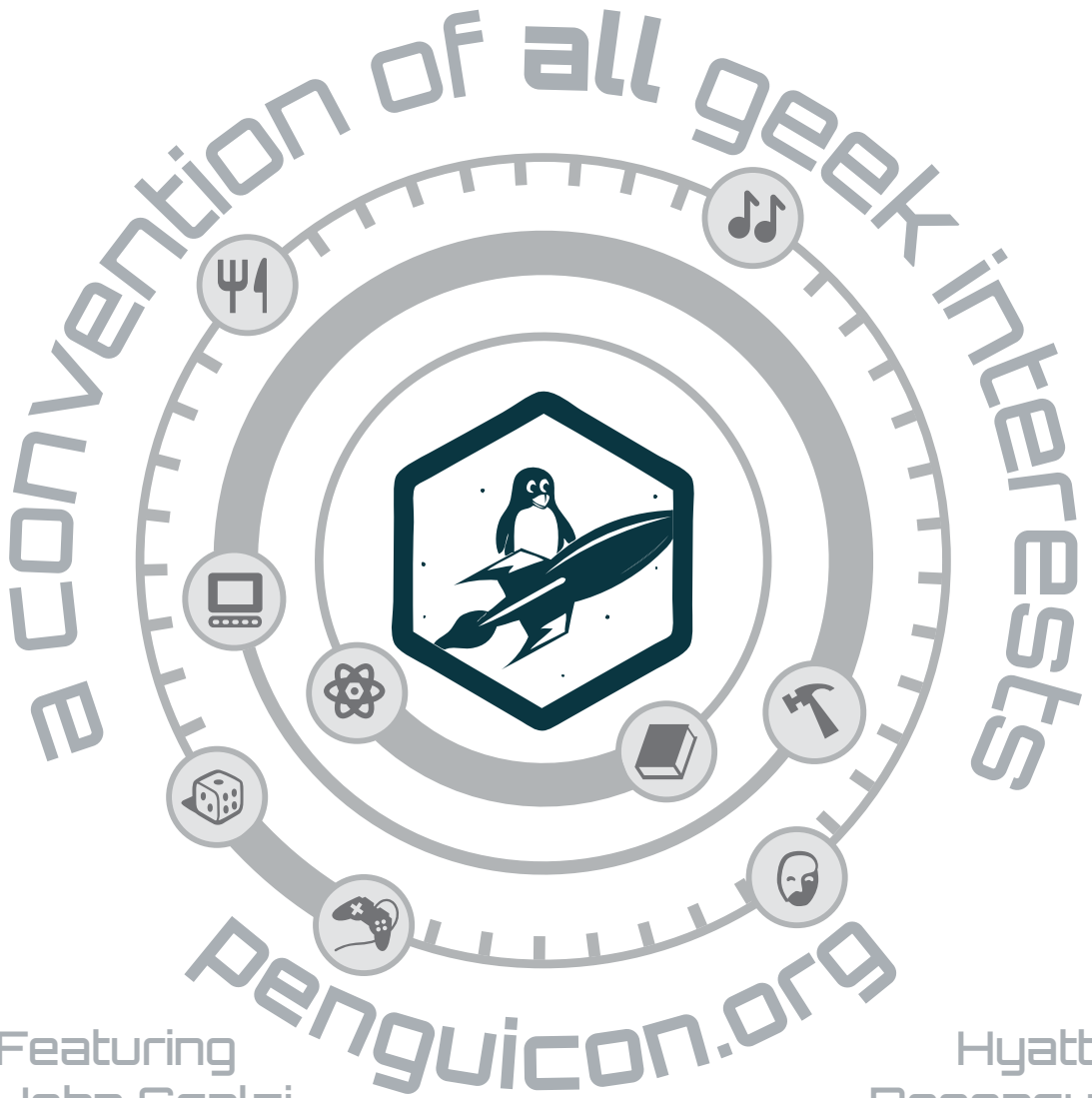
Rusty Hevelin joined SF fandom at 19 in 1941. After service in the Marines during WWII in places like Peleliu, he was prominent in SF fandom from the 40s on. His friendly presence was often found in the dealer's room behind tables of books and magazines at ConFusion. When Ro Nagey was creating the first ConFusion Rusty was an important source of advice and support. Rusty was our Toastmaster in 1980 and Fan Guest of Honor in 1992. Rusty died December 27, 2011 at the age of 89.

## ELESSAR

If there was a Stilyagi Party or Wednesday Night Bar Meeting or ConFusion in the 1980s and 90s Elessar Tetramariner was often the life of it. He passed away on November 11, 2011.

# AUTOGRAPHS





Featuring  
John Scalzi  
and More!

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**PENGUICON**  
APRIL 27-29, **2012**  
DEARBORN, MICHIGAN