

2006 Confluence Pocket Program

The 18th Pittsburgh Science Fiction Conference

Kaffee Klatsches, Teas, Literary Beers and the Amber Workshop require sign-up at Registration. You must be 21 or older to sign up for a Literary Beer.

Friday, July 28, 2006

4:00pm

[New York/Delaware] Writing Your First Novel So, you want to write your first novel...How do you start? How do you finish? What if you're a writer who doesn't want to write novels? *Stephen C. Fisher, Alan Katerinsky, Wen Spencer (M), Django Wexler*

[New Jersey] Using SF Tropes to Get Your Point Across (Avoiding Clichés) What are SF tropes? How are they different from literary tropes? When does an idea shift from being a trope to being a cliché? *William H. Keith (M), Paul Melko, Catherynne M. Valente, Michail Velichansky*

[Maryland] Filk "Mad Libs" Randy will ask for nouns, verbs, adjectives, and so on to take the place of lyrics in well-known filk songs. The titles of the songs aren't divulged until the substitutions have been made. Then we get to sing the results...if that's even possible. *W. Randy Hoffman*

[Virginia] Video: *The Call of Cthulhu* (2005)

5:00pm

[Connecticut] Art Show & [Ohio] Dealers Room Open

[New York/Delaware] Is Science Limiting SF? Can we write strong science fiction without interstellar travel? What about without time travel? Life extension? *Kenneth B. Chiacchia (M), Dave Creek, Geoffrey Landis, Karl Schroeder, Mary Turzillo*

[New Jersey] An Introduction to Filk Science fiction-related music and singing has long been an important part of Confluence. So, what is filk? How did it get started? Is it different in other parts of the world? *Juanita Coulson, Lawrence Dean, Pete Grubbs, W. Randy Hoffman (M)*

[Maryland] Workshop: Getting an Audience to Listen Sass! has many ways to catch the eardrums of an audience: Tell them a story, throw in some social commentary, make them laugh. *Sandy Andina, Susan Urban*

[Virginia] Video: *Cast a Deadly Spell* (1991)

[302] Writers Workshop (Prereg Required) Susan Hanniford Crowley

[304] Reading — Charles Oberndorf

6:00pm

[New York/Delaware] How Genre TV Has Influenced YA Are YA series becoming more Buffy—like, with the dark side of the spirit world, a little sex and rock 'n' roll? Conversely, has YA fiction, with their strong female heroines had an impact on genre TV? *Robert T. Jeschonek, Herb Kauderer, David Barr Kirtley, Tamora Pierce, Thomas Seay (M)*

[New Jersey] We Are the Orcs So what if the mainstream doesn't take us seriously! So what if people are returning to the closet for being SF/F readers! We're skiffy writers/readers, we're proud, and we're not going to

take it! *Tobias Buckell, S. C. Butler (M), Susan Dexter, Kathy Morrow, Joshua B. Palmatier*

[Maryland] The 2006 Pegasus Brainstorming Poll Discuss the poll of possible nominees for filk's 2006 Pegasus Awards. *W. Randy Hoffman*

[304] Reading — John A. Taylor

7:00pm

[New York/Delaware] The Nature of Consciousness

While the true nature of consciousness isn't understood, the panel will discuss how it's been presented in SF. Where does it come from? Can a human's consciousness change? Is consciousness limited to organic beings? What about Als? *Daryl Gregory, Jim Grimsley, Herb Kauderer, Erica Neely (M)*

[New Jersey] Alpha Report: News from the Annual Speculative Writers Workshop for Young People. Hear from the workshop's creator and some of the staff about how the week went. *Tobias Buckell, Ann Cecil, David Barr Kirtley, Thomas Seay, Diane Turnshek (M)*

[Maryland] Filk Concert — Tom Jeffers

[Virginia] Video: *In the Mouth of Madness* (1995)

[304] Reading — Karl Schroeder

7:30pm

[Maryland] Filk Concert — Fianna Christina Chamberlain, Thom Gressman

8:00pm

[Connecticut] Art Show & [Ohio] Dealers Room Close

[New Jersey] Writing Around Plot Killers Overcoming "teleporter disease"—what happens when a spiffy skiffy tool can rob a story of any drama. If a plot point hinges on tracking down data, do you create a society without an Internet? *Bud Sparhawk (M), Wen Spencer, John A. Taylor, Michail Velichansky*

[New York/Delaware] Poexry Readings of SF poetry. *Ann Cecil (M), Kenneth B. Chiacchia, Herb Kauderer, Geoffrey Landis, Mary Turzillo*

[Maryland] Comedy Block Concert: Rob Balder, Sudden Death, Worm Quartet Listener discretion advised for the Worm Quartet set.

[302] Beer Tasting (Must be 21 to Sample) *JJ Walton*

[304] Ghost Stories ...will haunt you... *Alan Irvine*

9:00pm

[New York/Delaware] Friday Night Interviews Join Ookla the Mok as they interview some of our program participants. Joe Pepper & Wolfram Neff will also be performing. *Rand Bellavia & Adam English (M); Geoffrey Landis, Lawrence Dean, Ginjer Buchanan, William H. Keith, Fruma Klass, James Morrow, William Tenn, Diane Turnshek, Mary Turzillo, Michail Velichansky*

[New Jersey] Creating Ageless Fiction—Balancing Morals and Story

Is there strong SF/fantasy that isn't obviously tied to a particular time? How did the writer break away from current mores? *Juanita Coulson, Daryl Gregory, Robert T. Jeschonek, Tamora Pierce, Michelle Sagara West (M)*

[Virginia] Video: *Dark City* (1998)

[302] **Literary Beer (Sign-up, 21 and Over)** *K. Chiacchia, K. Schroeder*
[304] **Reading** — S. C. Butler

10:00pm

[New York/Delaware] **Filk Concert** — **Ookla the Mok**

[Maryland] **Trivia for Chocolate** Think you know SF/F-related trivia? How much chocolate you can win with correct answers? *Jim & Laurie Mann*

[302] **Literary Beer (Requires Sign-up, Over 21)** *James & Kathy Morrow*

[304] **Reading** — **Jim Grimsley** (Listener Discretion) "Wendy" is a disturbing story, bought a major magazine, then rejected by the magazine's legal staff. Here's a dangerous vision about a man's quest to fulfill his desires.

11:00pm

[New York/Delaware] **Open Filk (Listen and Join in!)**

[Virginia] **Video:** *Alien* (1979)

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9:00am

[302] **Writing Exercises** (Bring paper & pen) *Alan Irvine*

[Virginia] **Video:** *Howl's Moving Castle* (2004)

10:00am

[Connecticut] **Art Show & [Ohio] Dealers Room Open**

[New Jersey] **Welcome to Fandom** Is this your first convention? Here's the place to find answers to your questions, or just find new questions!

Ginjer Buchanan, Juanita Coulson, Laurie Mann (M), Erica Neely

[302] **Kaffee Klatsch (Requires Sign-up)** *Alan Katerinsky, Herb Kauderer*

[304] **Reading** — **Mary Turzillo**

[403] **Fantasy Worlds: Beyond Knights & Castles** Fantasy without the clichés of the Middle Ages—castles, knights, an old wizard, and a young orphaned lad embarking on a quest. *Django Wexler*

11:00am

[New York/Delaware] **The Future of *Star Trek*** What will JJ Abrams bring to future *Star Trek* movies? Will *Star Trek* re-emerge as a movie franchise?

TV series? Cartoon? What about all those Internet videos? *Dave Creek, Susan Hanniford Crowley, Kevin Hayes (M), Robert T. Jeschonek*

[New Jersey] **SF Poetry** How does poeetry relate to the rest of the poetry scene? *Tim Esaias (M), Alan Katerinsky, Herb Kauderer, Geoffrey Landis, Mary Turzillo*

[Maryland] **Guitar Workshop** — **Pete Grubbs**

[Ohio] **Autographing** *Catherynne N. Valente, Django Wexler*

[Virginia] **Video:** *Dracula* (1931)

[302] **Kaffee Klatsch (Sign-up)** *John Taylor, Michelle Sagara West*

[304] **Reading** — **Tobias Buckell**

[403] **Robots and the Future of Rescue Missions** *Kenneth B. Chiacchia*

12:00 noon

[New York/Delaware] **Our Blasphemer Is Better Than Your Blasphemer**

While Dan Brown is the most famous "literary blasphemer" these days, SF writers in general, and James Morrow in particular, are much more creative

blasphemers than the author of *da Vinci Code*. *Kathryn Cramer (M), Stephen C. Fisher, Paul Melko, James Morrow*

[New Jersey] **The Nature of Time**

Speculation about the fabric of spacetime and the fact—fiction interface: loop quantum gravity, the twin paradox, spin networks, chronology protection, relativity theory, the grandfather paradox, wormhole time machines using the Casimir Effect, atomic horology... *Diane Turnshek*

[Maryland] **Filk Concert** — **Steve Simmons**

[Ohio] **Autograph** *Geoff Landis, Mary Turzillo, Sandy Andina, Susan Urban*

[302] **Kaffee Klatsch (Requires Sign-up)** *Juanita Coulson, Wen Spencer*

[304] **Reading** — **David Barr Kirtley**

[403] **Reading** — **Eric Davin**

12:30pm

[Virginia] **Video:** *Frankenstein* (1931)

1:00pm

[New York/Delaware] **New Space Opera** Space opera has evolved from being a negative term meaning "dressed up western" to a positive term describing imaginative, literary and award-winning fiction set usually in a solar system far, far away. How has this evolution occurred, and who are the best space opera writers now? *Dave Creek, David Hartwell (M), Karl Schroeder, Bud Sparhawk*

[New Jersey] **Don't Be a Bobblehead: Stupid Things to Avoid in Prose**

Avoiding nods, smiles, POV facial expressions, clenched jaws, anachronisms, speech tags, vanilla verb-pairs... *Tim Esaias*

[Maryland] **Filk Concert** — **Erica Neely**

[Ohio] **Autographing** *Susan Dexter, Robert T. Jeschonek, James Morrow*

[302] **Kaffee Klatsch (Sign-up)** *Charles Oberndorf, Diane Turnshek*

[304] **Reading** — **Fruma Klass**

[403] **Art Demo: Inventing Alien Organisms** *Chris Hutson*

2:00pm

[New York/Delaware] **Designing Robots for Long-Term Social Interaction** *Alan Schultz*

[New Jersey] **Science Fiction as Internal Dialogue With Older Literature**

In "Kafka and his Precursors," Jorge Luis Borges wrote: "The fact is that each writer creates his precursors. His work modifies our conception of the past, as it will modify the future." How can current work be in a "dialogue" with past work? How can a past dialogue modify future work? *Eric Davin, Tim Esaias, Herb Kauderer (M), David Barr Kirtley, William Tenn*

[Maryland] **Filk Concert** — **Pete Grubbs**

[Ohio] **Autographing** *William H. Keith, Tamora Pierce, Karl Schroeder*

[Virginia] **Video:** *The Mummy* (1932)

[302] **Kaffee Klatsch (Requires Sign-up)** *Dave Creek, Robert T. Jeschonek*

[304] **Reading** — **Beth Bernobich**

[403] **Poeetry Workshop** What distinguishes Poeetry from mainstream poetry? Is it content, or something more? What exactly is it that people are

doing differently? *Ann Cecil, Mary Turzillo*

2:30pm

[New York/Delaware] Interaction Challenges in Human Robot Space Exploration *Illah Nourbakhsh (Illah may be replaced by Greg Armstrong)*

3:00pm

[New York/Delaware] Guest of Honor Talk: Science Fiction and the Solar System *Geoffrey Landis*

3:30pm

[Virginia] Video: *The Mummy* (1999)

4:00pm

[New York/Delaware] Robots & Planetary Exploration What are some of the issues in using robots in space exploration? Will they replace astronauts? *Geoffrey Landis (M), Erica Neely, Illah Nourbakhsh, Alan Schultz*

[New Jersey] Repressive Societies in Fiction and Fact If SF is escapist and dystopias are out of fashion, does that mean we're living in a dystopia now? *Eric Davin, James Morrow (M), Thomas Seay*

[Maryland] Filk Concert — Sass!

[Ohio] Autographing *D.B. Kirtley, J.B. Palmatier*

[302] Tea with Tammy (Requires Sign-up at Registration) *Tamora Pierce*

[304] Reading — William Tenn

[403] Stenciling Demo *Susan Dexter*

5:00pm

[New York/Delaware] Understanding the Publishing Biz How do publishing companies decide what to publish? Advances are getting smaller all the time—why is this happening when books are so expensive? *Beth Bernobich, Ginjer Buchanan (M), Robert T. Jeschonek, Bud Sparhawk*

[New Jersey] Is CGI Ruining Movie Storytelling? Is some directors' love of special effects overwhelming story and character? We'll discuss movies where the CGI enhanced the story & where effects ruined it. *David Brody, Susan Hanniford Crowley, Timothy Liebe, Laurie Mann (M), Kathy Morrow*

[Maryland] Filk Concert — Jonathan Coulton

[Ohio] Autographing *Tobias Buckell, Juanita Coulson, David Hartwell*

[302] Literary Beer (Sign-up, Over 21) *Geoffrey Landis, Mary Turzillo*

[304] Reading — Wen Spencer

[403] Understanding the Fine Points of Grammar So many people who want to write simply don't know the difference between "like" and "as," or when to use "I" and when to use "me." Listen to examples from "Vanity Pressings" —quotes from some vanity press books. *Fruma Klass*

6:00pm

[Connecticut] Art Show & [Ohio] Dealers Room Close

[Maryland] Dementia vs. Filk?

Musicians have started performing & advocating broad comedy music—called "dementia" for its association with radio's Dr. Demento Show. Some dementia artists view some filkers as stodgy & unwelcoming, while some filkers view some dementia artists as rude & uncaring about fandom. Worm

Quartet will also participate. *Rob Balder, Tom Jeffers, Erica Neely (M)*
[Virginia] Video: *Dracula* (1992)

8:00pm

[New York/Delaware/New Jersey] Parallax Second Players Present "Guards & Dragons" Doors open 7:45

[302] Literary Beer (Requires Sign-up) *S. C. Butler, Stephen C. Fisher*

[304] Bedtime Stories (& hot chocolate & cookies!) *Catherynne M. Valente*

8:30pm

[Virginia] Video: *Brotherhood of the Wolf* (2001)

9:00pm

[302] Literary Beer (Requires Sign-up) *Daryl Gregory, Alan Irvine*

9:30pm

[New York/Delaware/NJ] Featured Filk Concert — Lawrence Dean

11:00pm

[New York/Delaware/New Jersey] Open Filk (Listen and Join In)

[Virginia] Video: *Shaun of the Dead* (2004)

Sunday, July 30, 2006

9:00am

[302] Writing Exercises (Bring paper & pen) *Diane Turnshek*

[New Jersey] Christian Fandom Special Interest Group

[Virginia] Video: *Abbot and Costello Meet the Mummy* (1955)

10:00am

[Connecticut] Art Show & [Ohio] Dealers Room Open

[New York/Del] 2005: Science Fiction Year in Review Hugo ballots are due July 31 — what were your favorite works of the last year? *Beth Bernobich, Kathryn Cramer, Jim Mann (M), Charles Oberndorf*

[New Jersey] Pre-Dreadnought Battleships *Tim Esaias*

[304] Reading — Paul Melko

10:30am

[Virginia] Video: *Attack of the Mushroom People* (1963)

11:00am

[New York/Delaware] Point of View How do you decide what point of view is appropriate for your story? How do you approach establishing point of view in your fiction? *Joshua B. Palmatier, Tamora Pierce (M), Thomas Seay, Michelle Sagara West*

[New Jersey] Open Reading (Requires Sign-up at Registration) Have a short (under 5 minute) piece ready to show off in public? Sign up and see if you're ready for an audience. *Ann Cecil*

[Maryland] Playing to the Blogosphere Almost anyone can get their music distributed over the Internet, but is gaining an audience tough as ever? How does one make a tuneful impression on the Internet-enabled fans? Sudden Death will also participate. *Rob Balder, Jonathan Coulton*

[304] Reading — James Morrow

[403] Honor Harrington's Universe *Timothy Liebe*

12:00 noon

[Connecticut] Art Show Closes

[New York/Delaware] Turning Science into SF How to twist a solid piece of science into speculative fiction. *Tobias Buckell, William H. Keith, Geoffrey Landis, Diane Turnshek (M)*

[New Jersey] The Script's the Thing! Is writing a speculative play different from writing a traditional play? Is adapting a speculative story into a script a challenge? What about audiobook scripts? *David Brody, Jim Grimsley (M), Kevin Hayes, Timothy Liebe*

[Maryland] Writing Folk Songs for Fun (& Profit?) Lawrence Dean's song "Beyond the Distant Hills" has been covered commercially. Lawrence will talk about writing songs that can appeal to fan and mundane alike, and maybe even make some money!

[Virginia] Video: *The Last Man on Earth* (1964)

[302] Kaffee Klatsch (Requires Sign-up) *Fruma Klass, William Tenn*

[304] Reading — Michail Velichansky

[403] Exploring the Virtual World *Bud Sparhawk*

1:00pm

[302] Kaffee Klatsch (Requires Sign-up) *Beth Bernobich, William H. Keith*

[304] Reading — Tamora Pierce

[403] Reading — Joshua B. Palmatier

[Maryland] Filk Concert — Sue Gartland

[New York/Delaware] Controversial SF Does SF still have themes that editors or publishers won't accept? Is it getting better or worse? Panelists discuss their adventures in publishing controversial fiction. *Ginjer Buchanan (M), Tim Esaias, Jim Grimsley, James Morrow, Charles Oberndorf*

1:30pm

[New Jersey] Art Show Auction

[Virginia] Video: *Chinese Ghost Story* (1987)

2:00pm

[Connecticut] Art Show Pick-up and Pay

[New York/Delaware] Is Fantasy Taking Over? It seems that fantasy is more popular than ever. Why? Are readers only looking for escapism? *Beth Bernobich, David Hartwell (M), Paul Melko, Django Wexler*

[Maryland] Dead Dog Filk

[302] Kaffee Klatsch (Requires Sign-up) *J.B. Palmatier, C.N. Valente*

[304] Reading — Geoffrey Landis

[403] Amber Polishing Workshop (Runs Until 3:30, Requires Sign-up)

Pay \$10 for materials, learn about amber polishing and take a sample home. *Nancy Janda*

3:00pm

[304] Reading — Thomas Seay

[New York/Delaware] What's It Like to Have Your Work Adapted for Stage or Screen? William Tenn talks about seeing his short story

"Winthrop Was Stubborn" adapted for the stage, and about some of his earlier stories adapted for Fifties TV.

[Ohio] Dealers Room Closes at 4:00pm.



Some of our items are on the sleeping floors; take the stairs or the elevator (down the hall, past Registration) to get to these items:

- Con Suite: 301-303
- Kaffee Klatches/Literary Beers: 302
- Readings: 304
- Solo Talk/Readings/Bid Parties: 403

Confluence Program thanks:

- Greg Armstrong for loaning the data projector and for serving as a possible last-minute program replacement.
- Judi Miller for providing signing for some of the filk items.
- Susan Hanniford Crowley for reviving the Writers Workshop.

Memberships are available for the 2007 Confluence, to be held at the Doubletee in Moon Township. Stop by the Registration table on Saturday afternoon or Sunday to purchase your 2007 membership. Check our Web site for information on PARSEC and Confluence: <http://www.parsec-sff.org>

**Confluence 2006 Grids
Friday Schedule**

Time	Program (NY/DE)	Program (NJ)	Filk (MD)	Video (VA)	302	Readings 304
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4pm	Writing First Novel	Using SF Tropes	Mad Libs	<i>Call of Cthulhu</i>		
5pm	Is Science Limiting SF?	Intro to Filk	Getting an Audience to Listen	<i>Cast a Deadly Spell</i>	Writers Workshop (Open to Preregistered Attendees Only)	Charles Oberndorf
6pm	How Genre TV Has Influenced YA	We Are the Orcs	Pegasus Award Brainstorming			John A. Taylor
7pm	Nature of Consciousness	Alpha Report	Concert: Tom Jeffers	<i>In the Mouth of Madness</i>		Karl Schroeder
			Concert: Fianna			
8pm	Poetry	Writing Around Plot Killers	Concert: Rob Balder, Sudden Death, Worm Quartet			Beer Tasting
9pm	Guest Interviews	Creating Ageless Fiction		<i>Dark City</i>	Lit Beer: Ken Chiacchia, Karl Schroeder	S. C. Butler
10pm	Filk Concert: Ookla the Mok		Trivia for Chocolate		Lit Beer: James & Kathy Morrow	Jim Grimsley
11pm	Open Filk			<i>Alien</i>		

Sunday Schedule

Time	Program (NY/DE)	Program (NJ)	Filk (MD)	Video (VA)	302	304	403
9am		Christian Fandom SIG		<i>Abbot and Costello Meet the Mummy</i>	Writing Exercises		
10am	2005: Science Fiction Year in Review	Pre-Dreadnought Battleships			<i>Attack of the Mushroom People</i>		Paul Melko
11am	Point of View	Open Reading	Playing to the Blogosphere				James Morrow
noon	Turning Science into SF	The Script's the Thing!	Writing Folk Songs for Fun (and Profit?)	<i>Last Man on Earth</i>	KK: F. Klass, W. Tenn	Michail Velichansky	Exploring the Virtual World
1pm	Controversial SF		Concert: Sue Gartland		<i>Chinese Ghost Story</i>	KK: B. Bernobich, W. Keith	Tamora Pierce
		Art Show Auction					

2pm	Is Fantasy Taking Over?		Dead Dog Filk		KK: J. Palmatier, C. Valente	Geoffrey Landis	Amber Polishing Workshop
3pm	What's It Like to Have Your Work Adapted?					Thomas Seay	

Confluence 2006 Grids
Saturday Schedule

Time	Program (NY/DE)	Program (NJ)	Filk (MD)	Video (VA)	Autographs (OH)	302	304	403	
9am				<i>Howl's Moving Castle</i>		Writing Exercises			
10am		Welcome to Fandom				KK: A. Katerinsky, H. Kauderer	Mary Turzillo	Fantasy Worldbuilding	
11am	Future of Star Trek	SF Poetry	Guitar Workshop	<i>Dracula</i>	C. Valente, D. Wexler	KK: J. Taylor, M. West	Tobias Buckell	Robots & Rescues	
noon	Our Blasphemer Is Better Than Yours	Nature of Time	Concert: Simmons		<i>Frankenstein</i>	G. Landis, M. Turzillo, S. Andina, S. Urban	KK: J. Coulson, W. Spencer	David Kirtley	Eric Davin Reading
1pm	New Space Opera	Don't Be a Bobblehead	Concert: Neely			S. Dexter, R. Jeschonek, J. Morrow	KK: C. Oberndorf, D. Turnshek	Fruma Klass	Chris Hutson Art Demo
2pm	Designing Robots for Social Interaction	SF As Internal Dialogue with Older Literature	Concert: Grubbs	<i>The Mummy (1932)</i>	W. Keith, T. Pierce, K. Schroeder	KK: D. Creek, E. Jeschonek	Beth Bernobich	Poetry Workshop	
	Interaction Challenges Between Robots/ Humans								
3pm	GOH Talk: SF & the Solar System				<i>The Mummy (1999)</i>				
4pm	Robots and Planetary Exploration	Repressive Societies	Concert: Sass!	D. Kirtley, J. Palmatier		Tea with Tammy	William Tenn	Susan Dexter Stencil Demo	
5pm	Understanding the Publishing Business	Is CGI Ruining Movie Storytelling?	Concert: Coulton	T. Buckell, J. Coulson, D. Hartwell		Lit Beer: G. Landis, M. Turzillo	Wen Spencer	Understanding Grammar	
6pm			Dementia vs. Filk?	<i>Dracula (1992)</i>					
7pm	Go get some dinner! Check the Restaurant Guide if you need any ideas...								
8pm	Play: <i>Guards and Dragons</i>			<i>Brotherhood of the Wolf</i>		Lit Beer: S. C. Butler, S. C. Fisher	Bedtime Stories		
9pm						Lit Beer: D. Gregory A. Irvine			

	Featured Filker Concert				Gregory, A. Irvine		Wine Tasting
10pm							
11pm	Open Filk		<i>Shaun of the Dead</i>				