

PSFS News

The Newsletter of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society

May 1999

Our May Guest:

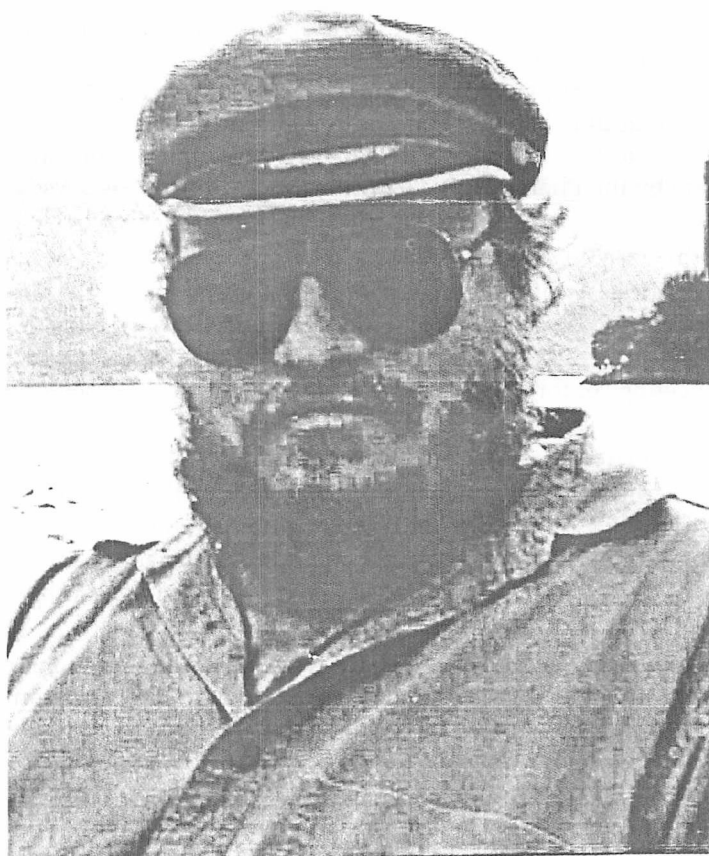
George R. R. Martin

(Bio info and photo taken verbatim from http://www.sfwa.org/members/Martin_GRR/)

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George R.R. Martin was born September 20, 1948 in Bayonne, New Jersey. Father: Raymond Collins Martin, longshoreman, deceased. Mother: Margaret Brady Martin. Two sisters, Darleen Martin Lapinski and Janet Martin Patten. Attended Mary Jane Donohoe School and Marist High School. B.S. Journalism 1970, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, summa cum laude. M.S. Journalism 1971, Northwestern. Conscientious objector. Did alternative service 1972-1974 with VISTA, attached to Cook County Legal Assistance Foundation. Directed chess tournaments for the Continental Chess Association 1973-1976. Journalism instructor, Clarke College, Dubuque, Iowa, 1976-1978. Writer-in-residence, Clarke College, 1978-79. Story editor, *Twilight Zone*, CBS Television, 1986. Executive Story Consultant, *Beauty and the Beast*, CBS Television, 1987. Producer, *Beauty and the Beast*, CBS Television, 1988. Co-Supervising Producer, *Beauty and the Beast*, CBS Television, 1989. Executive Producer, *Doorways*, Columbia Pictures Television, 1992-93. Married Gale Burnick 1975, divorced 1979, no children. Present home in Santa Fe, N.M.

Began writing very young. Sold monster stories to other neighborhood children for pennies, dramatic readings included. Became a comic book fan and collector in



Board of Directors

<i>President</i>	Tim Binder..... (215) 634-8730
<i>Vice President</i>	Tina Blanco..... (215) 744-6045
<i>Secretary</i>	Rich Kabakjian..... (610) 623-4388
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ronald Tansky..... <i>unlisted</i>
<i>2 Year Director</i>	Tony Finan..... (215) 744-6045
<i>2 Year Director</i>	Shelley Handen..... (610) 642-6061
<i>1 Year Director</i>	Gary Feldbaum..... (215) 673-4044

Questions? Comments? Contact any Board Member at the above numbers.

To send e-mail to the board, write to board@psfs.org

high school, and began to write fiction for comic fanzines (amateur fan magazines). First professional sale made in 1970 at age 21: "The Hero," sold to *Galaxy*, published in February, 1971 issue. Other sales followed. Wrote part-time throughout the 1970s while working as a VISTA Volunteer, chess director, and teacher; became a full-time writer in 1979. Member, Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America (South-Central Regional Director 1977-1979, Vice President 1996 - present), Writers' Guild of America, West.

Membership Status

Note: Status Changes are effective after meeting adjournment.

First Timers: Judy DiCanio

Nominees: Hugh Casey, Jeff Linden

New Members: Bill Couture

Members at the April Meeting: 47

(41 active, 6 general, 0 inactive)

Non-members at the April Meeting: 4

Announcements

Copies of any official PSFS correspondence should be sent to the Secretary for filing in the Society's official records.

Newsletter Submissions and Announcements can be e-mailed to secretary@psfs.org, mailed to the Society's P.O. Box or the Kabakjian's home address, or given to the Secretary or Rich K. in writing at the meetings.

The copies of the Bylaws are available to all Society Members. Just ask the Secretary if you want a copy.

The Millennium Philcon® will be held Aug. 30 - Sept. 2, 2001, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. You can register as an attending or supporting member now. Rates from 4-5-99 through 11-15-99 are: Conversion from Supporting \$70; New Attending \$135; Child (born after 9-1-89) \$50; New Supporting \$40. Make checks payable to: The Millennium Philcon. You can register at P.S.F.S. meetings or request one through the mail. The Millennium Philcon is run by the Phanadelphia Corporation. "Philcon" is a registered trademark of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and is used with permission.

Meeting Announcements: the next General meeting of Millennium Philcon committee will be held on Sunday, May 16, 1999, 1pm, at the Trebing's home. There is a Brainstorming meeting set for Sunday, June 6, 1999, 2 pm, at the Koehler's home.

The Listserve is up and running. Any P.S.F.S. or Philcon department heads have automatic access to the listserve. If you aren't on the list and want your name added to the mailing list please get your e-mail address to Tony Finan. Any Philcon department heads have to recommend others who they think deserve to be on the list.

Annual Dues for this year are now payable. *This is your second notice.* Please see the Treasurer or the Assistant Treasurer at the meeting or send your dues payment to the Society's P.O. Box. Some people still owe dues for 1998-1999, having been attending meetings. These people are still classified as suspended and will have to pay *both* year's dues to return to good standing. The Treasurer will be given a list of those names.

Shelley Handen found a copy of *Lathe of Heaven* at her home after the book discussion.

Agendas: See page 5 for this month's agendas for the next Philcon meeting and the May PSFS meeting.

General Meeting Minutes

These are the minutes of the General meeting held on April 9th, 1999, at International House. The meeting was called to order at 8:04pm.

Proxies: Becky Jollensten to Tim Binder (Tim Binder); .
(*Note: name in brackets is person who handed proxy to the Secretary.* CK)

If you need to use a proxy for an upcoming meeting, and you can't get it to the Secretary in time yourself, you can give it to any of the Board or Society members to be passed on to the Secretary at the meeting. You should also call the Hot Line to confirm the proxy.

Corrections to the Minutes: Zandos should be spelled Xandos. Rebecca Marcus was made a member at the March '99 meeting. (*Sorry Rebecca.* CK)

Officers Reports:

President: Tim said, "Hi. This is my first meeting as President and yet I have this strange feeling of *deja vu*." Tim took a straw poll to see how many wanted to: 1) keep the [business] meetings the same; 2) make the [business] meetings longer as needed. He said the Board would discuss it at the Board Meeting.

Vice President: Tina said, "Hi ya'll. I'm back." She withdrew Becky's nomination to Oversight, because Becky "has a life".

Secretary: Rich said, "Hello, again. Please sign in. You know the rules, you know the drill... everything Carol said last month, I said." (*Yada, yada, yada...*)

Treasurer: Ron said your Dues are due. He will be taking dues money at the meetings. Gary Feldbaum will be assistant Treasurer. Gary reported that we have: just under \$32,000 in Vanguard; in the main checking account we have about \$9,600; we have \$4,000 and change in the secondary account; and about \$2,000 to \$3,000 in the savings account. We have cash on hand. We have checks to deposit and checks to write.

Senior Two Year Director (Shelley): no report.

Junior Two Year Director (Tony): "Philly doesn't hold a candle to London."

One Year Director (Gary): "In the nine days since I've assumed office I've done absolutely nothing." (There was much applause.)

John Syms moved, Lynn Cohen Koehler second, that we give a vote of thanks to all out-going Board members and Board members taking new jobs. Tim asked if there was discussion. Seeing none he said, "All in favor please say thanks." (There were many voices heard.) "All opposed say I volunteer for any position the President wishes to put me in." (There were no voices heard.)

Committee Reports:

Philcon '99: Tony said we hope to have a meeting date set by the end of this meeting. (*The meeting was held on 4-18-99,*

at the Dashoff's. See Meeting Notices for future dates. CK)

Philip K. Dick Award: Bridget Boyle, as the agent representing the award committee, went to Norwescon. The awards were given out on Friday night, April 2nd. The winning book was *253: The Print Remix* by Geoff Ryman (published by St. Martin's Griffin). Special citation was given to: *Lost Pages* by Paul Di Filippo (published by Four Walls Eight Windows). The Philip K. Dick Award is presented annually for distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States. The 1998 judges were Jeff VanderMeer (chair), James Alan Gardner, Angus MacDonald, Lance Olsen, and Sarah Zettel.

Publicity: Shelley said she and Bruce at a [public TV, channel 35] fund raiser for Dr. Who in New Jersey. They're going to have another one in June and Shelley would like to have more publicity and representation of our Society there.

Education Committee: Lew reported that they've responded to the letter they received.

Programming: Oz reported that he is still working on some of our future speakers. (See Meeting Notices for list of Speakers.)

Special Events: Bruce Bloom and Shelley Handen scheduled an open movie night at their home on April 30, 1999. They're showing *Six-String Samurai*. Oz reported that Diane Weinstein's first movie event will be *The Matrix* on Saturday evening around 8:00pm, April 17, 1999, at the Franklin Mills theater in North-East Philly. Oz was contacted by a local producer, Mike Pringle, who's putting together a science fiction TV series in Philadelphia. The name of the show is called *Upper Change*.

Book Discussion: May's book will be *Neverwhere* by Neil Gaiman, on Sunday, May 23; the movie may be shown at the meeting. Call Oz at (215) 563-7538 for more info.

Space Sciences: Hank Smith has a list of events to be held in the near future. Please see him for details.

No Fund: John Prenis thanked everyone who donated items. He said we have lots of stuff. "Take all you want, but eat all you take."

P.S.F.S. Cook Book "To Serve Fan": is in dire need of recipes. We would like to publish in time for Philcon.

Old Business:

Meeting Dates: July: will be the 3rd Friday, but not in our usual room. September: will be the 3rd Friday.

e-mail Proxies: Tim reported that the Board voted unanimously to recommend that the Society adopt the following policy as a standing rule (as printed in the February 1999 Newsletter): e-mail proxies will be accepted with voice confirmation on the P.S.F.S. Hotline. If the Secretary is unable to retrieve the voice confirmation (s)he is to contact the proxy maker. Q: how soon after sending the e-mail proxy do you have to make the confirmation call? A: As soon as possible. Preferably immediately. Q: If the Secretary is unable to retrieve the confirmation how would (s)he know that they even did it? A: If the Secretary receives an e-mail proxy (s)he will call the hotline for the ver-

ification. If the verification can't be retrieved (because of system problems, etc.) (s)he is to call the maker of the proxy. Q: Why can't we just accept digital signatures? A: because it's not a "legal" signature. Q: If the Secretary receives an e-mail proxy at a meeting and it's used for the deciding vote what happens if it turns out to be a bogus proxy? A: The Secretary (or assistant Secretary) can go down to the first floor pay phone and call the hotline before the vote is taken.

Rich suggested an amendment: that the maker of the e-mail proxy send a "cc" of the e-mail proxy to the Secretary. Gary moved, John Desmond second, to divide the question; to vote on the standing rule as stated and then refer further amendments of the standing rule back to the Board for consideration. Rich withdrew his amendment. Passed many to none.

Budget Items: 1) Movie Discussion: decrease budget from \$300 to \$25. Someone (didn't get name) moved, no second, to change it to \$100. Tony said, after talking to Shelley, that the \$300 was for renting a movie at a theater, not for the movie discussion budget. (Note: Oz made the request at the Board meeting for the \$300 budget on behalf of Diane Weinstein, who was put in charge of movie special events. I thought he meant Movie Discussion, but he evidently meant Movie Excursions. CK) The budget for the Book Discussion group used for phone calls to group members. Laura Syms felt that we should give all discussion groups should be given the same amount. If we give the movie group money to rent tapes then we should give the book group money to buy books. Laura suggested that everyone who attends the movie group donate some money toward the rental costs. (Those who attend the book discussions buy their own books. CK) The person who made the first motion to amend (I still don't have a name) made another, Lynn K. second, to change the amount of \$25 to \$50. Amendment passed 18 to 12. Motion as amended passed by voice vote.

Mark Trebing moved, Lew Wolkoff second, to extend business to 9:10. Passed many to few.

2) Annual Banquet: the motion to remove this budget item was brought off the table. The motion failed 8 (for) to 29 (against). It was requested that the Banquet be better publicized. 3) Publicity: the motion to increase this budget item from \$750 to \$1500 was brought off the table. The motion passed 22 (for) to 11 (against).

Future Philcon: Gary reminded us that there was a motion still on the table since January that we had to take care of.

Someone moved, someone else second, to extend business for 5 minutes. Passed many to 1. (Again I couldn't recognize the voices on the tape. Please make sure the Secretary gets your name if you're making or seconding a motion. The law requires that we have them. CK)

Gary asked for a consensus to move on the motion we've had pending since January. Tim called for a vote. Passed many to one. (The motion Gary said was pending, wasn't. This is an excerpt from the February 1999 Newsletter: "Gary once again restated the motion. He said, 'the motion is to amend the original motion to be as follows: that the So-

ciety establish a committee to explore the possibility of holding a Philcon following the Millennium Philcon and to specifically include the possibility of holding it in the months following November.' Tina called for a vote on the amendment. Passed unanimously including proxies. Then she called for the vote on the motion as amended. Passed unanimously including proxies." CK)

New Business:

Dues Increase: Carol K. moved, Hank S. second, to table discussion till next month. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned around 10:45 pm.

Board Meeting

These are the minutes of the PSFS Board meeting held on April 12th, 1999, at Tim's home. The meeting was called to order at 8:12 pm.

Board members present: Tim, Tina, Rich, Ron, Shelley, Tony, and Gary.

Others present: Bruce B. and Sandra Tansky.

Corrections to the minutes: none.

Officers Reports

President: "Hi."

Vice President: "Hi."

Secretary: "Hi."

Treasurer: Ron said a lot of members have paid their dues. The Board voted unanimously to make Gary Feldbaum assistant Treasurer. They adopted the resolution for signatory.

Two Year Director (Shelley): "Hi."

Two Year Director (Tony): "Hi."

One Year Director (Gary): "Hi."

Committee Reports:

Programming: The Board had a conference vote (previous to the Board meeting) "to confirm the expenditure of \$950 parenthetically within the Programming budget to get Laurell K. Hamilton here due to circumstances beyond our control at the time." (Quote is from the Board meeting tape and said by Tim. CK)

Net-related: The board discussed issues relating to the e-mail list. The Board is working on a P.S.F.S. Announcement list.

Future Philcons: Philcon oh one oh one: Officially appointed to the research committee are: Tony Finan, Gary Feldbaum, and Tim Binder. Other appointments are pending. Tony Finan was appointed as the 2001 Worldcon liaison so we can better coordinate with that group.

Publicity: There have been no appoints as of the Board meeting.

Old Business: none.

Meeting Dates: July: will be the 3rd Friday. September: will be the 3rd Friday.

New Business:

Meeting Start Time: Tony moved, Gary second, that P.S.F.S. now starts its business meeting promptly at 7:30pm

instead of the normal 8 o'clock, starting with the June meeting. Tim pointed out that there was much resistance to this at the last meeting. The general consensus of the Board was that we usually go past 9pm with our business. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18pm.

e-mail Proxies: (as passed at the April 1999 General Meeting):

"e-mail proxies will be accepted with voice confirmation on the P.S.F.S. Hotline. If the Secretary is unable to retrieve the voice confirmation (s)he is to contact the proxy maker." This standing rule was referred back to the Board for consideration of amendment. Tony asked what the policy was for fax proxies. (There is no mention of the word "fax" in the Bylaws or Standing Rules. CK) The Board decided they need to look into this subject further and report on it at the June meeting.

Motion: The Board spent time discussing a motion that was never made and voted unanimously not to recommend it.

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 pm.

See Meeting Notices for details on the next meeting.

PSFS Budget (Comparison)

<u>Item</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Meeting Space	3,000.00	3,000.00
Secretary	1,000.00	1,000.00
Publicity	750.00	750.00
Programming	5,000.00	5,000.00
Treasurer	200.00	200.00
Special Events	500.00	350.00
Milton Award	350.00	
Refreshments	600.00	600.00
Oversight	100.00	100.00
P. O. Box	110.00	125.00
Archives	25.00	25.00
Book Discussion	25.00	25.00
No Fund	0.00	0.00
Hotline	20.00	300.00
Board Emergency	300.00	300.00
President Emergency	300.00	300.00
Bulk Mail Permit	85.00	95.00
Philip K. Dick Award	800.00	850.00
Annual Banquet	600.00	450.00
Art Group	175.00	
Movie Discussion	0.00	300.00
Internet Domain Reg.		105.00
Non-Profit Reg. fee		15.00
Insurance	1,800.00	2,200.00
TOTAL	\$15,740.00	\$16,090.00
+/- from previous year		350.00

Meeting Agenda

Preliminary Agenda for the May 1999 PSFS meeting:

Call to Order (8 PM!)

Corrections to Minutes

Officers' Reports (as necessary)

Special Order of Business (as necessary)

Standing Committees (as necessary)

Special Committees (as necessary)

Old Business:

- Adoption of dues increase (to \$18/individual, \$30/couple), recommended by the Board (4-3), to become effective April 1, 2000.

New Business:

- None at this time.

Program

- George R. R. Martin

Adjournment

If anyone has additional business they wish to conduct at the May meeting, they should contact Tim immediately (the sooner, the better).

Philcon Action Items

The following items, not necessarily in this order, will be discussed on the listserve and/or at the next Philcon '99 meeting:

1. Committee membership rate (*Should committee members pay and how much?*)
2. Program Participant membership policy (*Should we offer free membership to participants only if they're on multiple panels? Or maybe a discount per panel, ex. 1 panel = 1/3 off*)
3. Free membership policy (*What are they and who gets them?*)
4. Gofer enticement policy (*Should we raise the number of hours needed to get the rollover?*)
5. Publicity (*What kind and how much? Is it really doing any good?*)
6. Den Policies: membership rate (*Carol would like to have one rate for all. She suggests \$10 per. It would include: committee, assistants, and overachieving staff. GoH's would be free. Arrangements for Friday lunches would be made pre-con.*)
7. Can we get small coffee set-up for filkers.
8. Live Games policy.

Hugo Award Nominations

Aussiecon 3, the 57th annual World Science Fiction Convention, has released this year's nominations for the Hugo Awards and the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer. Winners will be announced at the convention in Melbourne, Australia, Sept. 2 - 6, 1999.

Best Novel

- *Children of God*, Mary Doria Russell (Villard)
- *Darwinia*, Robert Charles Wilson (Tor)
- *Distraction*, Bruce Sterling (Bantam Spectra)
- *Factoring Humanity*, Robert J. Sawyer (Tor)
- *To Say Nothing of the Dog*, Connie Willis (Bantam Spectra)

Best Novella

- "Aurora in Four Voices", Catherine Asaro (Analog, Dec 1998)
- "Get Me to the Church On Time", Terry Bisson (Asimov's, May 1998)
- "Oceanic", Greg Egan (Asimov's, Aug 1998)
- "Story of Your Life", Ted Chiang (Starlight 2, Tor, Nov 1998)
- "The Summer Isles", Ian R. MacLeod (Asimov's, Oct/Nov 1998)

Best Novelette

- "Divided by Infinity", Robert Charles Wilson (Starlight 2, Tor, Nov 1998)
- "Echea", Kristine Kathryn Rusch (Asimov's, Jul 1998)
- "The Planck Dive", Greg Egan (Asimov's, Feb 1998)
- "Steamship Soldier on the Information Front", Nancy Kress (Future Histories, 1997; Asimov's, Apr 1998)
- "Taklamakan", Bruce Sterling (Asimov's, Oct/Nov 1998)
- "Time Gypsy", Ellen Klages (Bending the Landscape: Science Fiction, Overlook, Sep 1998)
- "Zwarte Piet's Tale", Allen Steele (Analog, Dec 1998)

Best Short Story

- "Cosmic Corkscrew", Michael A. Burstein (Analog, Jun 1998)
- "Maneki Neko", Bruce Sterling (F&SF, May 1998)
- "Radiant Doors", Michael Swanwick (Asimov's, Sep 1998)
- "The Very Pulse of the Machine", Michael Swanwick (Asimov's, Feb 1998)
- "Whiptail", Robert Reed (Asimov's, Oct/Nov 1998)
- "Wild Minds", Michael Swanwick (Asimov's, May 1998)

Best Related Book

- *The Dreams Our Stuff Is Made Of: How Science Fiction Conquered the World*, Thomas M. Disch (The Free Press)
- *Hugo, Nebula & World Fantasy Awards*, Howard DeVore (Advent:Publishers)
- *Science-Fiction: The Gernsback Years*, Everett F. Bleiler (Kent State University Press)

- *Spectrum 5: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art*, Cathy Fenner & Arnie Fenner, eds. (Underwood Books)
- *The Works of Jack Williamson: An Annotated Bibliography and Guide*, Richard A. Hauptmann (The NES-FA Press)

Best Dramatic Presentation

- *Babylon 5* : "Sleeping in Light" (Warner Bros)
- *Dark City* (New Line Cinema)
- *Pleasantville* (New Line Cinema)
- *Star Trek: Insurrection* (Paramount)
- *The Truman Show* (Paramount)

Best Professional Editor

- Gardner Dozois
- Scott Edelman
- David G. Hartwell
- Patrick Nielsen Hayden
- Stanley Schmidt
- Gordon Van Gelder

Best Professional Artist

- Jim Burns
- Bob Eggleton
- Donato Giancola
- Don Maitz
- Nick Stathopoulos
- Michael Whelan

Best Semiprozine

- *Interzone*, David Pringle, ed.
- *Locus*, Charles N. Brown, ed.
- *The New York Review of Science Fiction*, Kathryn Cramer, Ariel Haméon, David G. Hartwell & Kevin Maroney, eds.
- *Science Fiction Chronicle*, Andrew I. Porter, ed.
- *Speculations*, Kent Brewster, ed.

Best Fanzine

- *Ansible*, Dave Langford, ed.
- *File 770*, Mike Glyer, ed.
- *Mimosa*, Richard & Nikki Lynch, eds.
- *Plokta*, Alison Scott & Steve Davies, eds.
- *Tangent*, David A. Truesdale, ed.
- *Thyme*, Alan Stewart, ed.

Best Fan Writer

- Bob Devney
- Mike Glyer
- Dave Langford
- Evelyn C. Leeper
- Maureen Kincaid Speller

Best Fan Artist

- Freddie Baer
- Brad Foster
- Ian Gunn
- Teddy Harvia

- Joe Mayhew
- D. West

John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer (*Not a Hugo*)

- Kage Baker*
- Julie E. Czerneda*
- Nalo Hopkinson*
- Susan R. Matthews*
- James Van Pelt*

* denotes second year of eligibility

PSFS News

PSFS News is the Newsletter and Corporate Minutes of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, published monthly as a benefit of membership. It is available free to Active and General Members of the Society, and to any SF club or organization wishing to trade newsletters. Non-members or Inactive Members may subscribe at an annual cost of \$10/year.

PSFS News welcomes submissions, and is seeking to expand. Anyone wishing to contribute articles (book or movie reviews, discussion group or convention reports, announcements, etc.) is encouraged to do so. We prefer that articles be e-mailed (send to secretary@psfs.org), but they may be mailed if necessary to the P.O. Box. Deadline is two weeks before the next general meeting.

PSFS News is produced on a Macintosh using ClarisWorks 5.0, and is printed on a LaserJet 2100. Emailed articles may be either submitted as plain text, or as attached ClarisWorks files (use macbinary or binhex if available). Other file formats may be possible. Artwork or photos are also welcome in any graphics format, or we can scan originals if mailed to us.

PSFS News Editor, Publisher, & Secretary: Rich Kabakjian. Assistant to the Secretary: Carol Kabakjian. Regular contributors: Henry Lazarus, Lee Weinstein. All contents © 1999 by The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the individual contributors.

Call the PSFS Hotline
(215) 957-4004

PSFS & Philcon Meeting Info
Leave Messages
Last Minute Meeting Cancellation Info

Philcon Meeting Minutes

These are the minutes of the Philcon '99 meeting held on April 18th, 1999, at the Dashoff's home in Philadelphia. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.

Committee members present: Roll was not taken.

Officers Reports: none given at this meeting. (Carol thanks Lynn for filling in and taking notes. CK)

Department Reports: none given at this meeting.

New Business:

Committee Appointments: We have two Vice-Chairs this year: Lynn Cohen Koehler and Laura Paskman Syms.

Philcon '99 Budget: (See the Budget printed elsewhere in this Newsletter for exact numbers. CK) The convention at best broke even last year. It was decided that we need to "be lean and mean" this year. Tony went down the list as printed in the June 1997 Newsletter with updates from the 1998 budget by Rich & Monster (our computer). Each Department Head had a chance to verify the amount as printed or request a correction. **Decision:** revisit items that attendance count will impact in Sept. or Oct. Here are some of the highlights of the discussion. **Art Show:** Joni will be buying plastic shelving for the Print Shop. Need phone/swipe box update; possibly buy cell phone; try Nextel phones. Gary and Pete will look into it. **Babysitting:** Winnie suggested adding hourly sitting. Gary was concerned about the legal aspects. **Con Suite:** There were soda and snack left overs. Not sure how much. Some sodas were left over from other departments as well. Bill will be cutting back on some quantities this year. **Den:** spent over \$1,000 last year. Carol plans to have more relaxed Den this year and will *not* be open 24 hours (Friday: open when we can till 2am; Saturday: 8am to 2am; Sunday: 8am to when we have to close.) All checks for Den memberships should be made payable to Philcon or P.S.F.S. There will be receipts for all memberships. The staff of Den and Babysitting pay for 1/2 of the cost of the attached room, because the room is used for storage and prep for their department. The memberships for Den were used as reimbursement, not to be counted as part of the actual budget. **Filking:** Contest: \$ mostly = cost of trophies. **Coffee Set-up:** Filkers need coffee. Could we sneak coffee or hot water in thermal carafes? Q: is there different sizes of coffee set-ups? A: At the de-briefing meeting Crystal said they got a "lavish" set-up on Friday and a "chintzy" one on Saturday. This makes the answer *yes*, there are different size set-ups. Crystal does supplement and they get 2 to 3 cases of soda from Con Suite each night. We might be able to get a smaller set-up and supplement. Q: How many filkers come to Philcon? A: About 100. We need to keep the filkers happy. **Gaming:** The money for soda (6 cases) is included in the Con Suite budget. **Green Room:** Drink Chits: Not all the guests have been getting the chits. Carol said if Hotel Liaison can give her the chits by the Panic meeting she can put a chit in the holder with each program participant's badge. Drink chits is a good will thing and keeps everyone happy. **Guest of Honor:** WAM: Suggestion - make it

\$50 or \$75 per day per GoH (guest listed on flyer) and figuring 3 days for each = \$300 or \$450. GoHs have been allowed to bring their spouse or SO. We will not turn away their children. **Hotel:** Rental (Func. Space): We need to discuss room variations. Possibly give back some up-stairs space for A, B, and C. Tony, any division/department heads, and other interested parties will discuss this. **Operations:** Beepers: Note to Philcon committee members: if you use a beeper at Philcon and you have your own, please let Todd know. We should check the possibility of a different system (maybe some kind of cel-phone or radio system). Lynn suggested that Gary, Pete, Tony, Laura or whoever look into the costs of renting/buying various systems. **Insurance:** will be checked into. **Phones:** we get 5 free phones. **Publications:** Suggestion - print fewer copies (1700-2000) of the Program Book and pocket program. Suggestion - get bids from different printers. **Publicity:** Lynn suggested we add what's left of the pre-con event budget to the publicity budget. Gary said there are several major cons before ours. We could send a flyer to other East Coast sf groups and ask them to print and distribute it with their newsletters. **Registration:** 6-page flyer is mail bulk, the confirmations are not. **T-Shirts:** We will be taking bids this year. (Note: this year's budget is \$1,123 less than last year's budget as of July 1998. CK) The budget as printed in this newsletter passed unanimously.

Publicity: Where, when, and how often to publicize was discussed. We will try to get as many free articles as we can in conjunction with paid advertising. Lynn suggested combine P.S.F.S. and Philcon Publicity and create a committee of everyone who has an interest or experience with publicity. Let them have one meeting to brainstorm and come back to P.S.F.S./Philcon with their decisions. Tony said we have plans in this direction. Becky J. suggested we advertise on the net. Carol suggested advertising on the TV information channels and maybe the sci-fi channel. Rich suggested getting Darkover's mailing list. Joni said we should have the articles about a month in advance; one week before the event is too close and two months before is too far away. John suggested advertising in Locus, Asimov's, etc.

Next Meeting: See last page for meeting information.

Adjourned at approximately 6:00 pm.

1999 Philcon Budget

as of April 18, 1999

Art Show		Masquerade Video	600
Awards	15	Projection TV	600
Equipment	450	Media Ops (Films/Video)	1,500
Mailing	750	Meet the Pros Party	675
Phone	65	Miscellaneous	
Reception	2,500	Operations	50
Set-up	150	Beepers	250
Xeroxing	150	Nursing Supplies	25
Babysitting		Phones	130
Supplies	130	Phone call expenses	100
Room	485	Programming	
Con Suite	2,100	Mailings	200
Contingency	500	A.V. Coordinator	3,200
Dealers Room		Workshops	
Mailing	400	Artists	25
Surcharge	850	Costume	25
Electricity	100	Writers	10
Den	600	Science Prog.	25
Room	485	Filk Prog.	
Exhibitions	75	Childrens Prog.	100
Filking		Programming Ops	50
Filkers Coffee	350	Easels	
Filk Contest	50	Publications	
Gaming Room	60	Advertising	100
Gaming Liaison	50	Flyers	1,500
Gopher	100	Pocket Program	1,600
Green Room		Program Book	4,500
Food	350	Web Page free	
Coffee Set-up	1,100	Publicity/Media Rel.	1,400
Guest Bar (drink chits)	500	Pre-con events	250
Guests of Honor		Registration	
Transportation	5,500	Badges	300
Food	600	Postage	1,000
WAM	450	Ribbons	200
Hotel Liaison		Supplies	250
Curtains	400	Secretary	10
L Room Exp. (non-con)	375	SFWA/ASFA	1,000
Rental (Func. Space)	12,000	Signs	160
GoH rooms	2,000	T-Shirts	
Security	720	Transportation	40
Tips	1,000	Treasury	300
Information	50	Administration Division	25
Logistics	600		
Masquerade	600	TOTAL (so far)	57,160
Masq. Ribbon Awards	300		

Philcon '99 Committee

(Known as of May 6, 1999)

Chairman.....	Tony Finan
Vice-Chair.....	Lynn C. Koehler, Laura P. Syms
Secretary.....	Carol Kabakjian
Treasurer.....	Ron Tansky
Asst-Treasurer.....	Gary Feldbaum
Royal Assassin.....	Keith Frye
Administration Division	<i>Laura Paskman Syms</i>
ASFA Liaison.....	<i>Bob Walters</i>
Gopher Recruitment/Personnel.....	Ed Rutkowski
Hotel Liaison.....	Bridget Boyle
Information.....	Sara Paul
Logistics.....	David Brill
Operations/Security.....	Todd Dashoff
Quartermaster.....	Bob Schwier
Registration.....	Rich Kabakjian
Registration, Green Room.....	Joe Neff
SFFWA Liaison.....	<i>Ann Crispin</i>
Signs.....	Wayne Rector
Transportation.....	Tina Blanco
Web Mistress.....	Becky Jollensten
Programming Division	<i>Oz Fontecchio</i>
A.V. Coordinator.....	Alex Latzko
Art Programming/Workshop.....	<i>Rick & Wendy Frane</i>
Costumers' Programming.....	<i>Vicki Warren</i>
Filking/Filk Programming/Song Contest.....	Crystal Paul
Green Room.....	Rosemarie Freeman
Main Programming.....	Oz Fontecchio, Darrell Schweitzer
Main Prog. Asst.	<i>Mattie Brahen</i>
Meet the Pros Party.....	Becky Jollensten
Party Dance.....	Tim Binder
Programming Ops.....	Shelley Handen, Bruce Bloom
Publications.....	<i>Tim Kahler</i>
Publications, Flyers.....	Becky Jollensten
Science Programming.....	Hank Smith, Mike Fisher
Writers' Workshop.....	Darrell Schweitzer
Fixed Functions Division	<i>John Syms</i>
Art Show.....	Joni Dashoff
Babysitting.....	Winona Whyte-Schwier
Con Suite.....	Bill Flynn
Dealers' Room.....	Devra Langsam
Dealers' Room Security.....	<i>Mitch Marmel</i>
Den.....	Carol Kabakjian
Exhibitions.....	Ira Kaplowitz
Gaming Room.....	Becky Kaplowitz
Special Games Liaison.....	Pat Betz
Masquerade Co-Ordinator.....	<i>Vicki Warren</i>
Masquerade Tech.....	Alex Latzko
Media Operations (Film, Video).....	Greg Ventura
Media Operations (Anime).....	Tristan Mayer
P.S.F.S. Sales.....	Ric Ivey
Publicity/Media/Press Relations (pre-con).....	Lisa Blanco

(Names in italics are last year's positions, unconfirmed for 1999.)

Books for May

by Henry Leon Lazarus

There's a thin line dividing genre Science Fiction and Fantasy from literature. What has always seemed amazing to me is that line keeps moving. Many authors, using sf themes, like time travel, near future tales, and vampire tales, have made the transition. Other authors, often writing at the same level or even better, seem permanently trapped in the genre sections, and never reach the wider audience they deserve.

Sherri S. Tepper is definitely one of them. Her work takes a very humanistic view of future technology and she tends to write of worlds with pastoral backgrounds. Her last novel, *Six Moon Dance* (Avon Eos) now out in paper, dealt with a planet that seemed to violate all sorts of strictures and required a Great Questioner to determine if the world should be abandoned. Of course what seemed horrific turned out to be valuable and honorable. The opposite is true of *Haven in Singer from the Sea* (hard from Avon Eos). It is a pleasant pre-industrial world run by a benevolent aristocracy. But nursing mothers seem to be dying at a horrible rate and many aristocrats enjoy extended life spans. I like the fact that Ms. Tepper while being both feminist and environmental, has strong male characters and still considers humans to be included in their environment.

Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Talents* (hard from Seven Stories Press) which I got from the library after it was nominated for a Nebula, shows a really horrid near future with electron collars making slaves out of enemies and criminals. It is told by diary excerpts written by the founder of the next great religion with interpretations by her daughter who was taken from her too young to really remember her. It is very powerful. But the villains are all conservative Christians. Which, in my opinion, moved the book frightfully close to being propaganda from the liberal left.



I picked the theme of this column because of Maria Doria Russell's *Children of God* (Trade from Fawcett) which I just bought. Found in the fiction section of the book store, it is the sequel to *The Sparrow* and tells the how Father Sandoz is hijacked back to Rakhat where the effects of his first voyage have upset their culture. If the first novel was extremely Catholic and guilt filled, the sequel represents Ms. Russell's conversion to Judaism and is far more optimistic. Robin Hobb's second book about the live ships, wooden ships that somehow live, *Mad Ship* (hard from Bantam Spectra) will probably never find itself in the general



fiction section but the level of characterization and depth of human insight should put it there. This middle book tells of the launching of the beached, insane ship *Paragon* to rescue the ship *Vivacia*, captured by Pirates in the first book, *Ship of Magic* (paper), and now succumbing to the lure of adventure that piracy represents.. Kage Baker's *Company* is comprised of immortals, recruited from all of time and made immortal, and used to shepherd treasures to the future, was created by twenty-third century time travelers. Joseph, a ten thousand year old veteran is modified to look like *Sky Coyote* (hard from Harcourt Brace and company), god of a sixteenth century California tribe whose culture is being collected. With time travelers from the future come to help, and actually get in the way, Ms. Baker sets up the conflict in the next book when these immortals reach the future by dint of living though the remaining centuries. I thought it was funny that these "native" Americans reflect the values of modern California than the typical "native" Americans. I got this book from the library, but I think it is filed in the fiction sections too.

Denise Vitola's horribly poor future and her lycanthrope detective go on a trip "up the river" in *The Red Sky File* (paper from ACE) a phrase with literal meaning because the prison camps line the banks. Their main superstition is based on reincarnation and with polluted, monster filled waters, sunken treasure, and a rebellious prison group give Ty's enhanced lunar strength all the problems she can handle. This is a great series that could easily be filed in the mystery section, and the great joke of the series is that in spite of all the superstitious beliefs of the popula-

tion, everything has a rational explanation. Alan Dean Foster's African hero and friends find their quest taking them into *The Thinking Kingdoms* (hard from Aspect) where the beliefs of the people pose as much problems as the wild nature did before. This is a fun series, started in *Carnivores of Light and Darkness* (paper), with a very modest hero who always manages to find the right way out of each predicament.

Tom Deitz is one of the best writers about young adults, their foibles, misjudgements, and relationship problems. *Bloodwinter* (trade from Bantam Spectra) starts a tale of five of them. Caught up in greed for some magic jewels and the potential war between the low country who are burning their forests faster than they can be regrown, and the high country, whose riches might buy them out of their problems. I just wish that plague hadn't rid the countries of wiser heads because so much of their problems come from their own lack of impulse control. Leo Frankowski has his young hero grow up after being sent to the military (after getting his girl friend pregnant through a hole in the wall the separated the sexes) in *A Boy and His Tank* (Hard from Baen). Eventually he manages to win the war in a fun tale of extremely powerful war machines. The problem is the virtual reality the tanks provide makes it difficult to tell real from created reality. David Brin's *Foundation's Triumph* (hard from Harper Prism) could easily have been written by the master himself, Isaac Asimov. Concluding the trilogy started by Greg Bear and Gregory Benford, Mr. Brin has Hari Seldon rejuvenated to face the problems of chaos in his psycho-history equations. I just wish Dr. Asimov hadn't complicated his simple thesis by trying to add the robot stories to his Foundation series.

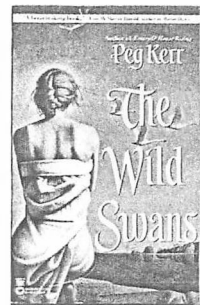
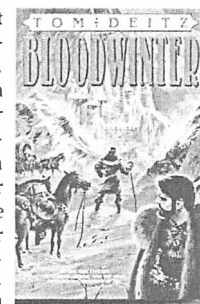
I don't know whether it was Andre Norton or Rosemary Edghill who thought of putting U.N.C.L.E. (yes the television series) agents in the Napoleonic age as agents for England, in *The Shadow of Albion* (hard from TOR). Putting it in an alternate 1805 was also smart because it removed the dead hand of history from the problems of a missing Danish Princess and the hidden French King. It's a lot of fun, but, because of the addition of magic, one of the major puzzles was solved by hand waving magic. I hope any sequel would have enough sense to keep all puzzles natural and a problem for the reader to solve. Anne Logston may be more predictable and generic in her plotting, but she does know how to use magic well. *Waterdance* (paper from ACE) the tale of a woman with minor magical talents who wants to be a swordsman. Impulsively rescuing one her people's enemies from the bone priests who had captured him, she finds love and adventure where she least expects it.

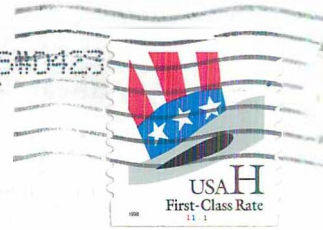
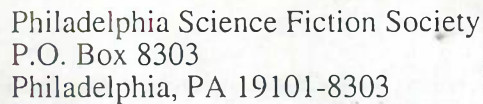
Peggy Kerr writes in the literary vein. My daughter liked her version of the Swan Princes in *The Wild Swans* (Trade from Aspect) but passed over the other story, the tale of a young gay man in the early 1980's when AIDS began to hit. I'm not sure how the two fit together, but both are good. Craig Shaw Gardner is still in his depressing, literary mode. Writing under the alias of Peter Garrison, he tells of a world of castles and tunnels perpetually at war, that somehow connects to our Earth and drags gangsters and teenagers into *The Changeling War* (trade from ACE). I'm still not sure what is going on, but intend to keep reading.

Star Trek fans will enjoy *Strange New Worlds II* (trade from pocket), fan fiction edited by Dean Wesley Smith, John J. Ordover, and Paula M. Block.

Authors with their collections of their own work include James P. Hogan, *Rockets, Redheads, and Revolution* (paper from Baen); Mercedes Lackey, *Werelhunter* (paper from Baen); and Darrell Schweitzer (a fantasy and horror writer very popular in England), *Refugees from an Imaginary Country* (hard from Owlswick Press and W. Paul Ganley). The other collection this month is *Twice Upon a Time* (paper from DAW), humorous new looks at fairy tales selected by Denise Little.

Jane Routley's sequel to *Mage Heart, Fire Angels* (Avon Eos), both of which I've read twice) is out in paper. I want a new Dion tale. Also in paper is Lois McMaster Bujold's tale of how Miles Vorkosigan solves a mystery on *Komarr* (Baen) and meets his future wife, Jerry Jay Carroll's tale of detective fighting ufo aliens *Inhuman Beings* (ACE) which is enough fun to put it on my reread list, David Drake's *Northwind Trilogy* (Baen) which I haven't read, and Elizabeth Lynn's odd tale of a were-dragon in a medieval background, *Dragon's Winter* (Ace) that never coalesced for me.





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1. The first group of people who are not in the labor force are those who are not in the labor force because they are not in the labor force.

Rich & Carol Kabakjian, East
Lansdowne, PA; (610) 623-
4388.

Membership in the society is open to everyone. Becoming a member is easy. Attend your first meeting; we'll say "Hello." At your second meeting, you can nominate yourself for membership or ask someone else to nominate you. At the next meeting you attend following your nomination, you're eligible to be voted in as a General Member. Our current dues are \$15 for a full year (\$24 for couples), and attendance at 4 meetings each year maintains the status of Active Member.