

P.S.F.S. News

The Newsletter of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society

November/December 1994

Our December Guest:

Jack Chalker

Bio: Jack Chalker

Jack L. Chalker was born in Baltimore on December 17, 1944. He began reading at an early age and naturally gravitated to what are still his twin loves: science fiction and history. While still in high school, Chalker began writing for the amateur science-fiction press and in 1960 launched the Hugo-nominated fanzine *Mirage*. A year later he founded The *Mirage* Press, which grew into a major specialty publishing company for nonfiction and reference books about science fiction and fantasy. During this time, he developed correspondence and friendships with many leading SF and fantasy authors and editors. He is an internationally recognized expert on H.P. Lovecraft and on the specialty press in SF and fantasy.

After graduating with twin majors in history and English from Towson State College in 1966, Chalker taught high school history and geography in the Baltimore city public schools with time out to serve with the 135th Air Commando Group, Maryland Air National Guard, during the Vietnam War era, and, as a sideline, sound-engineered some of the period's outdoor rock concerts. He received a graduate degree in the esoteric field of the History of Ideas from Johns Hopkins University in 1969.

His first novel, *A Jungle of Stars*, was published in 1976, and two years later, with the major popular success of his novel *Midnight at the Well of Souls*, he quit teaching to become a full-time professional novelist. That same year, he married Eva C. Whitley on a ferryboat in the middle of the Susquehanna River and moved to rural western Maryland. Their first son, David, was born in 1981.

Chalker is an active conversationalist, a traveler who has been through all fifty states and in dozens of foreign countries, and a member of numerous local and national organizations ranging from the Sierra Club to the American Film Institute, the Maryland Academy of Sciences, and the Washington Science Fiction Association, to name a few. He retains his interest in consumer electronics, has his own satellite dish, and frequently reviews computer hardware and software for national magazines. For five years, until the magazine's demise, he had a regular column on science fantasy publishing in *Fantasy Review* and continues to write a column on computers for *S-100 Journal*. He is a 3-term past treasurer of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, a noted speaker on science fiction at numerous colleges and universities as well as a past lecturer at the Smithsonian and the National Institutes of Health, and a well-known auctioneer of science fiction and fantasy art, having sold over five million dollars' worth to date.

Chalker has received many writing awards, including the Hamilton-Brackett Memorial Award for his *Well World* books, the Gold Medal of the prestigious *West Coast Review of Books for Spirits of Flux and Anchor*, the Daedalus Award, and the E.E. Smith Skylark Award for his career writings. He is also a passionate lover of steamboats and particularly ferryboats and has ridden over 300 ferries in the U.S. and elsewhere.

He lives with his wife, Eva, sons David and Steven, a Pekingese named Mavra Chang, and Stonewall J. Pussycat, the world's dumbest cat, in the Catoctin Mountain region of western Maryland, near Camp David. A short story collection with autobiographical commentary, *Dance Band on the Titanic*, was published by Del Rey Books in 1988.

Minutes

October General Meeting

Minutes of the General Meeting, held on October 14, 1994, 8:00 p.m., in the Europe room at International House, 37th & Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia, PA.

The meeting was called to order at 8:09 p.m.

Corrections to the Minutes

There were no corrections to the Minutes.

Officers' Reports

President: Oz reported that the Society has won a Community Service Award from WHY? The plaque will be given to Archives.

Oz said that it was his sad duty to report that Pat Paul passed away on Sunday evening (October 9). A number of Society members attended his funeral [Friday, October 14]. Mattie Brahen moved, Carol Kabakjian second, to donate \$100 to the American Cancer Society. Passed. Mattie also had a card for Crystal Paul that the members of the Society could sign.

The restaurant downstairs is still not open, so the Society will socialize at Chili's.

Vice-President: Pete said he's not really here.

Secretary: Rich reminded the Philcon committee members of the October meeting at the Dashoff's.

If you have anything you would like to see in the Newsletter please send or give it to the Secretary in writing.

Treasurer: As of 10-14-94:

Meridian Checking	4,203.92
Corestates Checking	2,213.12
Corestates Savings	5,875.25
Vanguard	69,042.94
Total	81,335.23

Pay your dues.

Senior Two Year Director, Barb Higgins: Not here.

Special One Year Director, Todd Dashoff: said that is was a shock, even knowing of Pat's illness, to hear that he had passed to suddenly. The service was very nice. It was well attended by the fannish community. Crystal has gotten a lot of support from her friends. Please continue to give her your support. Todd felt a visit or phone call would be appreciated. Oz added that they were about to have their first anniversary (in November). Crystal's address and phone number are in the Directory.

One Year Director, Mark Trebing: .

Committee Reports

No Fund: John Prenis thanked Ira Kaplowitz, John Desmond, and Darrell Schweitzer for their donations. We have several bags of good stuff for you to enjoy. Please take as much as you want.

Programming: Oz introduced tonight's speaker, Jeff Bredenberg. November's guest will be C. J. Cherryh. December's guest will be Jack Chalker.

January is election night. (Remember if you

haven't paid your dues for 1994 you can NOT vote. See Ed Rutkowski if you don't remember if you've paid. CK)

February's guest will be Mike Resnick.

Book and Movie Discussions: See "Upcoming Events".

Special Events: See "Upcoming Events".

Oz said we have a bunch of folks who have signed up for the annual banquet, but not paid for it. Please pay Marguerite Rutkowski (the acting Treasurer).

A Franklin Institute trip has been scheduled for after Philcon. They have a special Star Trek paraphernalia and memorabilia exhibit in addition to it's usual scientific exhibits between now and the end of the this year. They have offered us a special discount if we can get at least ten (10) members of P.S.F.S. together at one time. The usual fee to see the exhibits including the Star Trek exhibit would be \$9 per person. Our discount rate would be \$7.50 per person. (There were "ooohs" and "aaahs" from the members.) Oz said, "But wait, there's more!" Adding the Omniverse Theater admission to the regular price would make it \$12, our discount would make it \$9. The cost of seeing the Institute, the Theater, and the Planetarium would normally be \$14, our discount rate would be \$10.50. This is not combinable with any other discount.

Joni suggested trying to get a group together at Philcon to go see the exhibit. Pete said we got a call from a group called "Uniquely Philadelphia" which would like to run a tour of interesting things in the city to be organized at Philcon and they are willing do this all by themselves if they get a certain number of people. Pete couldn't remember all the details, but it's fairly inexpensive and a nice tour. It included a bus ride. It will cost us nothing and if they make enough money they'll share some of it with us. Joni asked if they would include the Franklin Institute tour. Pete said their tour is customizable and felt they would be agreeable to it. Rich wanted to know how much they would charge the fans.

The get-together will be 10am on Saturday, December 3rd.

Space Sciences: Hank Smith has information several upcoming events if you are interested. He has a petition about the Delta Clipper. See him if you're interested.

Proxies:

Sara Paul to Gene Olmstead
Gery Feldbaum to Todd Dashoff
Barb Higgins to Todd Dashoff

Special Business:

Philcon 1995 Chairman Ratification Vote: Oz said that he has nominated himself as Chairman for Philcon 1995. Pete has agreed to be his Vice Chair if Oz is ratified. Mark Trebing, Diane Weinstein, and Diane Scott handed out ballots as the Secretary called the roll of "Active members in good standing". The ballots were counted and the result is that Oz Fontecchio will be the Chairman of Philcon 1995.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Membership Status/Attendance Ozzie reported that Board had voted in favor of reducing the number of meetings needed for Active status in the August 1993 thru October 1994 status period from five to four. Carol pointed out that this was NOT the first time when we've had the maximum number of meetings members could possibly attend reduced from 14 to 12. It happened in the August 1989 thru October 1990 period. No special dispensation was given the membership for that year. Lynn Cohen Koehler asked if they were consecutive meetings or election meetings? Rich asked if it mattered. Carol said they were not consecutive, but one was an election meeting. Todd asked if the change would affect anyone's status for [the October] meeting. Oz said it would not. Someone asked how many people would be affected by the change. Oz said it would only be a few people. This same person asked if it's only a few why couldn't they ask the Board individually? *(After the close of the October meeting there were eight people with a total of four meetings for the period. CK)* Oz called for the vote (Active members only). Passed 31 + 2 to 1.

Membership Pins Ozzie recapped Barb Higgins motion and report on getting pins for the Society. Oz read the Board's recommendation from the September Board meeting. Todd asked if we would have time to have the pins made if we want to sell them at Philcon. Oz said that Barb felt there would be enough time. Ira asked for a clarification of the phrase "give them to members"; does it mean free of charge? Oz said yes. Darrell said if we give all the members pins who would be left to buy them? Oz said Barb felt there would be [collectors]. Oz said he didn't know. Margaret Trebing asked if there would be an obvious visual difference. Several people said they would be. Margaret recommended that the two variations of pin have different colors. Carol said that from doing the minutes she got the impression that the pins for the Society members would be of a lot better quality and appearance than the ones for sale. Oz called for the vote. Passed 24 + 0 to 30 + 0.

Meeting time extension Ozzie asked for a motion to extend the meeting time for 10 minutes. Moved by many, second by many, and passed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Board of Directors

President, Oz Fontecchio.....(215) 342-1672
Vice-President, Peter V. Radatti.....(610) 828-4566
Secretary, Richard Kabakjian.....(610) 623-1139
Treasurer, Ed Rutkowski.....(610) 277-0209
2 Yr. Director, Todd Dashoff.....(215) 676-4194
2 Yr. Director, Barbara Higgins.....(215) 725-8825
1 Yr. Director, Mark Trebing.....(215) 943-3462

Questions? Comments? Contact any Board Member at the above numbers, or use the Hot Line; please call at a reasonable time.

Board Meeting Minutes

October Board Meeting

The Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, October 17, at Barb Higgins' home. Called to order at 8: p.m. Board members present: Ozzie, Rich, Ed, Barb, Todd, Mark, Pete (phone). Others: Janis, Margaret T.

Officers' Reports

President: No report.

Vice-President: Not here.

Secretary: No report.

Treasurer: No report.

Two Year Director, Barb Higgins: said she was sorry she couldn't attend Friday's meeting. She thanked the Board for getting the pins passed.

Special One Year Director, Todd Dashoff: went to Pat Paul's funeral. As funerals go it was nice, but he wished there hadn't been a need for one.

Todd said he's taken care of the insurance and beepers for Philcon.

One Year Director, Mark Trebing: "I'm reading Harvest of Stars."

Committee Reports

Program Guests See Meeting Notices.

Philcon 1995 Bob Eggleton will be our Guest Artist. Pete has agreed to be Vice-Chair.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Fan Meets Fan (aka Matchmaker) for Philcon 1994 Mark was concerned about the consequences of the Society's "possible participation in the contributing of the delinquency of a minor or harassment." Most of the Board was confused as to what this department of Philcon was suppose to do. Mark thought it had nothing to do with science fiction and therefore we should not be doing it. Mark said he was not against getting fans together to talk about like interests in science fiction.

(When this department was originally discussed it was to be a way for fans of like interests to get together, such as fans of "Babylon 5" or "Star Trek". It was not supposed to be a Dating Service. CK)

The service was not advertised in the flyer since it was supposed to be "at con only". A separate mailing was requested by the department head, but was told it would cost too much. Oz called Pete and after explaining the situation was told that Pete had not authorized a mailing. Pete said he would call Becky immediately and tell her not to send out a mailing.

Mark moved, Rich second, that the Board recommend that the Matchmaking/Dating Service not happen at Philcon. Passed 3 to 1 with 3 abstentions.

Mark said that his motion was *not* to recommend but that the Board *direct* the Philcon committee to not have the Matchmaking/Dating Service at Philcon. Oz took a another vote. The vote failed 2 to 5.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.

Announcements

If you have any announcements or reports, the best way to make sure they are reported accurately is to submit them in writing. The Secretary (and his assistant) would greatly appreciate it.

The Annual Membership Status list is in this newsletter, and your current status (for the 94-95 period) is on your mailing label. If you are not listed as an Active Member, and you believe you should be, contact the Board of Directors. Only Active Members who are not suspended may vote in the January elections.

The elections of the Board of Directors of P.S.F.S. will be held at the Annual Meeting in January 1995. If the January meeting is canceled, the elections will be held at the first General Meeting in 1995 that takes place.

The Sci-Fi Channel: has given us the rights to all their in-house made movies for Philcon. This represents about 8 to 10 hours of free programming. (Tony asked that this be of public record.) As an addendum Pete said that Warner Brothers has made Philcon an offer.

Lynn Cohen Koehler introduced her new daughter.

Directory 1994: will be ready "real Soon now".

Avi Freedman is making available to the Society several Internet accounts on Net Access at no charge. Philcon, the Society, the 2001 bid committee, etc. will be able to use the accounts.

The Millennium Philcon: The next open meeting of the Philadelphia Worldcon in 2001 bid committee will be held on Saturday, December 10th, at 2pm, at the Dashoff's.

1989 Philcon Program Books in hard cover are available through Todd Dashoff.

Philcon T-Shirts and P.S.F.S. Carry Bags are for sale. See Ed Rutkowski.

Philcon '93 Masquerade Video copies are now available.

Robin's Bookstore has agreed to give all members of the Society a 15% discount on all regularly-priced merchandise. Bring in a copy of this newsletter, and show them this announcement, to receive your discount. Robin's Bookstore is located at 108 South 13th Street, Philadelphia.

Membership Attendance: Please sign the sign-in book yourself. We want your signature, not someone else's in your space. This will help us to verify that you are who you say you are.

Copies of the By-laws and Standing Rules will be available at the P.S.F.S. meeting.

Nomination of Officers

Bylaws, Article VI, Section 3:

(a) All nominations submitted in advance of the meeting at which an election is scheduled shall be in writing, signed by an active member, seconded in writing by an active member and submitted to the Secretary of the Society. The membership may by majority vote permit nominations made in advance of the election meeting to be made orally from the floor.

(b) Nominations shall be received and announced at the first regular meeting in December, and again immediately prior to the election for that office.

(c) No nomination shall be accepted unless the person nominated is present at the meeting at which their nomination is submitted or that person's written consent to be nominated for that office is filed with the Secretary of the Society.

(d) Nominations and seconds may be made orally from the floor at the Annual Meeting, and at any meeting at which an election is conducted. The names of the members making the nomination and the second shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Upcoming Events

For details, call Ozzie Fontecchio (215) 342-1672.

Movie Excursions:

Saturday, Dec. 10th — "Star Trek: Generations" around 8 pm at the United Artists 69th St., Upper Darby.

Saturday, Dec. 17th — "Interview with the Vampire", AMC Orleans 8, Cottman & Bustleton Aves, call Oz for time.

Book Discussions:

January — 1984, by George Orwell. Jan. 22, 2:00pm at the Weinstein's.

February — *The Puppet Masters*, by Robert A. Heinlein. Time and place TBA.

Membership Status

(Note: Status changes from Inactive to General or General to Active become effective after the meeting has adjourned)

First Timers: Greg Ventura, Sharon Carroll-Ventura

Nominees: Rick Newswanger

New Active: Rosemarie R. Freeman

Members at the October Meeting: 53

(51 active, 2 general, 0 inactive)

Non-Members at the October Meeting: 3

P.S.F.S. Birthdays

If you don't see your name here and you would like to, please send your name and birth date (year not necessary) to: P.S.F.S. Birthday List, Philadelphia S.F. Society, P. O. Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

Dec 4 Donald Field	Jan 5 Diane Scott
Dec 4 Cynthia Moreno	Jan 6 Bill Wells
Dec 14 Beth Weiner	Jan 10 Robert Torpey
Dec 16 Scott Bayer	Jan 17 Richard Kabakjian
Dec 17 Jack L. Chalker	Jan 20 Jared Dashoff
Dec 18 Wayne Zimmerman	Jan 23 Michael J. Taylor
Dec 22 Tony Finan	Jan 23 Sharon Whitney
Dec 22 Joni Brill Dashoff	Jan 26 Richard Perkins
Dec 23 Kim Betancourt	Jan 27 Fran Costanzi
Dec 24 Hank Smith	Jan 28 Neal Allen
Dec 29 Marie D. Radatti	Jan 31 Alan M. Dashoff
Jan 2 Sandy Meschkow	

Proxy Information

Active and general members who are entitled to vote at a meeting of the membership may authorize another member (in good standing) to vote for that member by proxy. Your proxy must be in writing, signed and dated by you. The proxy must be sent or given to the Secretary for filing. A proxy's instructions may be specific or general. Specify whether the holder may reassign the proxy. (You may want to name two or three people in case the first one is not at the meeting.)

Call the P.S.F.S. Hotline

(215) 957-4004

P.S.F.S. — Philcon — Meeting Info — Leave Messages
Last-Minute Meeting Cancellation Info (Snow-outs)

P.S.F.S. Membership Status as of 10/31/94

with number of meetings attended

By the decision of the Society, for this determination period only, anyone with four (4) meetings is an Active Member.

(Members marked with an asterisk () are currently suspended and cannot vote)*

Active Members (82)

9 Allen, Neal
5 Andersen, Maja
5 Binder, Timothy
8 Boyle, Bridget Joyce
10 Brahen, Mattie
11 Breakstone, Alan
9 Brill, David
8 Brown, Dennis
5 Carroll, Joyce L.
9 Corprew, Charles E.
6 Crosson, Jerry
11 Dashoff, Joni Brill
11 Dashoff, Todd
9 Desmond, John
11 Dietz, Eric
7 Dyke, Sue
9 Feldbaum, Gary K.
8 Fernsler, Pamela J.
4 Ferree, Richard
9 Field, Donald
7 Finan, Tony
8 Fisher, Stephen C.
4 Foco, Roger
4 Foley, Megan
8 Fontecchio, Janis
12 Fontecchio, Ozzie
6 Fox, Steve
7 Freedman, Avi
5 Freeman, Rosemarie R.
7 Graybill, Terry S. S.
9 Guidotti, Jan
6 Higgins, Barbara
5 Himes, Gregory
4 Honebrink, Anthony J.
10 Hottenrott, Peter
11 James, Susan
6 Jollensten, Rebecca
12 Kabakjian, Carol
12 Kabakjian, Richard
7 Kahler, Timothy
11 Kaplowitz, Ira
9 Kaplowitz, Rebecca
7 Knott, David
4 Koehler, Lynn E. Cohen
6 Lazarus, Henry
11 Lynch, Hal
5 Mann, Stephen
7 * Mansfield, Bernard
12 McKnight, Ann
6 Mininger, Tom
5 Norton, Anne
5 Olmsted, Gene

8 Paul, Sara M.
12 Perkins, Richard
5 Poliner, Mark
4 Pomerantz, Sandy
11 Prenis, John
5 Radatti, Marie D.
9 Radatti, Peter V.
6 * Rector, Wayne
9 Rutkowski, Edward
10 Rutkowski, Marguerite
11 Schwarzl, Marie
11 Schweitzer, Darrell
11 Schwier, Bob
9 Scott, Diane
4 Smith, Deb
12 Smith, Hank
9 Snitkin, Saul
4 Syms, John
8 Torpey, Robert
5 Trebing, Margaret E.
6 Trebing, Mark
8 Weinstein, Diane
8 Weinstein, Lee
6 Wells, Bill
5 Wells, Terri
9 Whyte-Schwier, Winona
10 Wolkoff, Lew
5 Wolkoff, Rose Anne
6 Zappini, Lynn J.
8 Zimmerman, Wayne

General Members (12)

2 Andersen, Marian "Wolf"
2 Bayer, Scott
3 Fairman, Gail
3 * Fisher, Michael
3 * Hamill, Gene
2 * Hoffing, Eddie
2 Kamel, Al
2 * Moreno, Cynthia
2 Penn, Eric Hilton
2 Purdom, Sara
2 Purdom, Tom
3 Syms, Laura Paskman

Inactive Members (115)

Adams, Carol
Agnew, Jack
Allen, David
Attiya, Barbara
Attiya, Yoel
Baltadonis, John

Bell Jr., Cliff
Bell, Karen Carter
Betancourt, John
Betancourt, Kim Hermo
Betancourt, Michael
Bishop, Ed
Botwinich, Milton
Bushyager, Linda
Bushyager, Ronald
Carpenter, Leonard
Carson Jr., William
Casper, Sue
Cassidy, Terence
Chalker, Jack L.
Cohen, Michael Jeffrey
Costanzi, Fran
Crosson, Lynn Manascalco
Curran III, Frank J.
DeWeese, John
Disch, Tom
Dozois, Gardner
Duane, Diane
Edeiken, Yale
Flutter, Frank
Frank, Elaine
Gallen, Russell
Gelfand, Larry
Harris, Karen
Harris, Neil
Herkart, Janet P.
Herkart, Paul G.
Hevelin, Rusty
Houseknecht, Kirsten
Houseknecht, Wayne
Howarth, Matt
Johnson, Barbi
Johnson, Keith
Kasten, Jeffrey
Kessler, Louis
Knepper, Michael S.
Kowalczyk, David C.
Lawler, Joann
Levin, Mark
Light, Dale
Lloyd, Paul M.
Lombardi, Giorgio
Lombardi, Sylvia Vega-de
Lundgren, Carl
Lundgren, Michele
MacIntyre, F. G. "Froggy"
Madle, Robert A.
Malik, Julia
Mariella, Dr. R.
Meier, Wilma Fisher

Meschkow, Marian Ozwald
Meschkow, Sanford Zane
Moller, Michelle
Moore, Bernadette
Morris, Paulion A.
Myers, David
Nealon, Christine
O'Connor, Janis
Paul, Crystal (Hagel)
Paul, Patrick
Pavlat, Peggy Rae
Pelekanos, Anastasios
Petersen, Eric
Phillips, Meg
Phillips, Thierry
Pierson, Roxana
Piwovar, Roy S.
Pollotta, Nick
Post, J. B.
Ranieri, Roman
Renner, Theresa
Richards, Frank
Rider, Sylvia W.
Rittenhouse, Walt
Robertson II, C. A.
Roth, Mark
Roth, Sunshine
Rothman, Milton
Rowland, Amy
Ruh, Debra
Scithers, George
Seeböhm, Karina
Sherman, David
Smith, Donna M.
Smith, Richard R.
Snyder, Deborah
Staub, Manny
Stockel, David
Sullivan, Kathy O.
Szent-Gyorgyi, David
Taylor, Mike
Thorpe, Randi
Vargo, Chris
Weiner, Beth Paczolt
Weiner, Don
Weinstein, Michele
Whitley, Eva
Whitney, Chuck
Whitney, Sharon
Wilkins, Howard
Wills, Jim
Wood, Leslie M.
Wurts, Janny
Wyman, Jan
Yarsawich, Jean

The Lazarus Review

by Henry Leon Lazarus

Ghosts, Goblins, and, of course, Vampires are what characterize the late fall for me. I don't like being scared, but the un-dead make for lively reading.

Witness *Guilty Pleasures* and *The Laughing Corpse* (paper from Ace), both by Laurell K. Hamilton. If vampires and zombies really existed, then zombies wouldn't be allowed to work in kitchens because they rot and vampires would have their own weird strip joints and a church that really would provide eternal life. You might even need a court order to kill a vampire. In the first book Anita Blake, a petite, blonde vampire killer and zombie raiser, has to uncover the illegal vampire murderer, and in the second she has to stop a mad, killer zombie. Both make Anne Rice seem like wet spaghetti.

In the *Engines of God* (hard) by Jack McDevitt, ghosts of murdered civilizations lead archaeologists to the puzzle of their death. While I don't buy the solution to the puzzle, getting there is must reading for any archaeologist.

L.E. Modesitt, Jr. has a strange tale of an alternate present, of spies and ghost research, and most of all *Of Tangible Ghosts* (hard from Tor). It seems that armies don't like fighting when they've created too many ghosts — creating a very different present with steam engines and a weak government. (Half the fun here is the odd-ball connections to our world.) An ex-spy, ex-government minister, and professor of economic politics is forced into action when a ghost dissolver is invented.

Maureen F. McHugh's bureaucratic monsters are kept out of sight in *Half the Day is Night* (hard) as a banker and her newly hired bodyguard find themselves having to escape a very well developed under-sea city of the future.

Gene Wolfe's *Calde's of the Long Sun* (hard), the third in a series about the huge starship and its electronic gods, is becoming more difficult for me to read as revolution breaks out to put our priest on the long absent Calde's seat.

Paperback reprints from Tor include Charles Sheffield's retelling of *Treasure Island* in the future, *Godspeed*, a scientific puzzle about California of the future, two generations after most of the population disappeared in *Vanishing Point* by Michella Roessner, and an excellent alternate past tale of the Norse, who never took up Christianity, attacking the Saxons of England in *The Hammer and the Cross* by Harry Harrison.

The ghost of a dead Magician haunts the lesbian soldier, sister to the hero of *The Far Kingdoms* in *The Warriors Tale* (hard from Del Rey), by Allen Cole and Chris Bunch. Easily the book of the month, the adventure sweeps the captain of the woman's legion across uncharted seas in chase of this evil spirit.

Anne McCaffrey's collection, *Chronicles of Pern*, is out in paper for Pern fans.

Monsters that eat people are created by *The Sword of Maiden's Tears* by Rosemary Edgehill (paper from DAW) that was lost by an elf lost in our New York. Normally I won't read elfy-welfy stories (the elf is even described as looking like Mr. Spock), but I started this and now I'm stuck waiting for the sequel.

The Law of Becoming (paper) continues Kate Elliott's

complicated tale. It exists on three levels. On the Barbaric level, the interdicted planet is well on its way to being conquered by a Genghis Khan. The high-tech humans who seemed to be lost in their resistance against the alien Chapalii are aided by the Jarens lost in their new high tech existence, and finally even the Chapalii seem to be different than what we assumed earlier. It will probably take another couple of long books to get through this puzzle. It's been worth the read so far.

One of my favorite characters, David Weber's Honor Harrington, the female Hornblower in space, returns to Manticore after her previous win to face a *Field of Dishonor* (paper from Baen). The cowardly captain, who pulled his ship out of her last fight, is cashiered from the Navy and inherits an Earldom at the same time. He is not above using the Code Duello to get his way, leaving Honor with a lose-lose situation. I still can't wait for the next book.

If I Pay Thee Not in Gold (paper) is a weird fantasy combination of Piers Anthony and Mercedes Lackey and will elate and infuriate both of their fans. In a world where women can create temporary things, a young, powerful witch has to find her rightful place.

Isaac Asimov lovers will really appreciate *Inferno* (trade from Ace) by Roger MacBride Allen. Mr. Allen really captures the good Doctor's style in this new mystery about the robot with no laws who has a murdered governor in a locked room to contend with.

Angus Wells has moved out of the generic fantasy with *Lords of the Sky* (trade from Bantam Spectra). This excellent tale is about a member of the remember's guild, a Storyteller in a society that loves its slaves too much. The previous slaves fled centuries before and now launch kamakazi-type attacks upon them with magic flying boats; the current slaves, descendants of humans created from animals, are on the verge of revolt; and over everything hangs the dreams of the forgotten dragons.

Arthur C. Clarke's last tale of *The Hammer of God*, about an asteroid that has to be stopped from hitting Earth, is out in paperback.

Peter S. Beagle's elegant *The Innkeeper's Song* about a dying wizard and the three women who come to help him is finally available in trade from Roc.

William H. Keith, Jr., the only writer able to correctly handle tales of giant robot warriors (he calls them Warstriders), is back with a new one, *Jackers* (paper from Avonova). The revolution against the Japanese star empire intensifies, and the characters find themselves interacting with the genies, the genetic constructs who are the slaves of that future. Catch up with *Warstrider* and *Rebellion* if you can. This series is too much fun to be missed.

Finally for Christmas presents, for your friends who like science fiction movies, you're not going to go wrong with *The Art of Star Wars*, a three-book set of trade paperbacks from Del Rey that includes the complete script of the movie mentioned as well as enough drawings to make a Star Wars fan drool.

Star Trek fans will love *Where No Man Has Gone Before* (hard from Pocket) by J.M. Dillard. There was enough new stuff, especially about the new series, to excite me.

The Lazarus Review

by Henry Leon Lazarus

Sometimes I wonder what to include in this column of fantasy and science fiction. It's difficult to decide when things like wars of the future can be treated in general fiction.

Take Tom Clancy's *Debt of Honor* (hard from Putnam) which tells the story of a war with Japan. Well researched, and with edge-of-the-seat plotting, Mr. Clancy makes the case that if the U.S. actually stripped our Army and Navy, even a small country with some clout might get adventurous. His detailing of the flaws in the New York Stock Exchange that allows Japan to cause a stock market crash is so real that one wonders if it might really be possible. Still, since the war is quashed so easily, I wondered if he were making an argument against such wars happening rather than the reverse.

Norman Spinrad's *Pictures at 11* (hard from Bantam) could also happen in the near future. When a small television station is taken hostage by eco-terrorists, their need to sell the story and make money from it overrides the danger to them, and effectively makes hostage the whole country. It's a delicious black comedy not to be missed. And it could happen next week.

Sheri S. Tepper is a wordsmith. Her novels flow like poetry in a unique way that is very addicting. She tends to be very concerned with over-population and prefers people problems over technology descriptions. *Shadow's End* (hard from Bantam Spectra), her latest, is not as strong as usual because of the very complicated set of problems. People are colonizing planets by wiping out all other life forms and, in one part of the galaxy, aliens are wiping out humans. One planet in the area hasn't been affected, and may offer a solution.

A Plague of Angles (paper) works much better. It is the story of a quest on a depopulated future Earth with returned monsters and android soldiers.

I am totally convinced that after three thousand pages of a long series, the characters tell the author that they want a rest — a time for small changes for them to get on with their lives. That's the only explanation I have for Robert Jordan's *Lord of Chaos* (hard from Tor) which continues the very long fantasy *Wheel of Time* series about a vast Tolkien-like fight between good and evil. It still reads well, and Mr. Jordan is one of those rare writers who can handle male and female characters correctly, hedging much of his interaction on personality conflicts between the sexes.

Queen City Jazz (hard from Tor) by Kathleen Ann Coonan takes the standard story of a barbarian going to the ultra-modern utopia and changed it with nano-technology into an unrecognizable mad dream. It seems that the nano's have been hit with a virus that has warped Cincinnati into an insane vision that has to be cured.

Judith Tarr's *Spear of Heaven* (hard) is a delightful visit to shangri-la of her magical world. In a world of magic, shangri-la is a place where magic is feared. Thus the people there are destroying the gates that would bring others to them. The current descendants of the sun god, a mother and her young daughter have to deal with the problem.

Moving Mars by Greg Bear (paper) is a major novel that ends its tale of a Martian colony revolt by a result given

in the title.

The book of the month is *The Ruins of Ambrai*, volume one of *Exiles* by Melanie Rawn (hard from DAW). It felt like an adult game of Hooks and Ladders. Lennfell is a colony world that has replaced technology with magic. Two philosophies of magic, one that wants total control to bring the colony to a utopia, and the other that wants magic separate from politics are at war. Previously their battle almost destroyed the world, so now they are more subtle. A few remaining ladders (many forgotten) exist all over the world to provide instant travel from one point to another. The book goes at a run as one side has nearly gotten control of the world and is hunting down the others.

Brother to Dragons, Companion to Owls (paper from Avonova) by Jane Lindskold is an absolutely delightful tale of a near autistic woman (she talks only in famous quotes) with the ability to listen to inanimate objects. Thrown on the streets and hunted for her talents, she finds friends and help-mates in future street people.

In *Daughter of Elysium* (paper), Joan Slonczewski returns to the ocean world she wrote about in *A Door into Ocean*, years and new characters later, to tell of the conflict between the technological colonists and ecologically minded natives.

I really enjoyed David Gemmell's *Legend* (paper from Del Rey). He takes the classic medieval-city-under-siege story and adds an ancient hero who has never lost a battle. It becomes a solid read about passing the torch, and finding courage where death awaits.

Mercedes Lackey returns to her tales of free bards with *The Robin and the Kestrel* (paper from Baen). They have to face both a music loving ghost and a town gone gaga over religion in this fun tale.

End of an Era (paper from Ace) by Robert J. Sawyer is a convoluted mixture of going back in time to see the dinosaurs, the puzzle of alternate time track where time travel might not exist, and the silliness of a blob from Mars. Somehow Mr. Sawyer packs them in together for something that is fun.

Allen Steele's *The Jericho Iteration* (hard) is a predictable, but fun, tale of a reporter on the run in earthquake torn St. Louis. There's also a plot to take over the country. It would have been better had Mr. Steele known the difference between a small local free paper that wouldn't have investigative reporters and a large daily that could protect its staff.

PSFS News

The Corporate Minutes & Newsletter of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society
Rich Kabakjian, Secretary, Editor & Publisher
Carol Kabakjian, Assistant Editor
Henry Lazarus & Lee Weinstein, Contributing Editors

PSFS News is looking for articles of interest to the Society, line art or drawings, letters of comment, reviews, or just about anything, as long as it isn't more minutes. Please send all submissions to P.O. Box 8303, Philadelphia PA 19101, or give them to the Secretary in writing. Deadline for any particular month is usually two weeks prior to the next General Meeting of the Society.

PSFS News is free to Active and General Members of the Society in good standing. Non-members or inactive members may subscribe to PSFS News for \$10/year. Other clubs and Societies may trade for their newsletters.

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Meeting Notices

Unless otherwise specified, General Meetings of the Society will be held on the second Friday of each month in the South America room at International House, 37th & Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia, PA. Business meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Program starts at 9:00 p.m.

December General Meeting will be back in the South America room, Friday, December 9, 1994. Our scheduled speaker is Jack Chalker.

January Annual Meeting will be held Friday, January 13, 1995. It's Election Night.

February General Meeting will be held Friday, February 10, 1995. The program speaker will be author, Mike Resnick.

Board of Directors: next meeting will be held on Monday, January 2nd, 8:00 pm, at Mark & Margaret Trebing's, 1970 New Rodgers Rd #L41, Levittown, PA, (215) 943-3462.

Philcon '94 Debriefing: has not been scheduled yet.

Philcon '95: no meeting has been scheduled yet.

About the Society

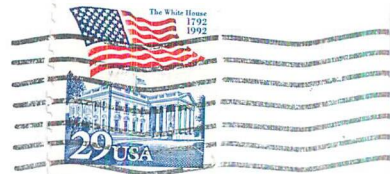
The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society is a non-profit organization that meets monthly to discuss and promote science fiction and fantasy in literature, the arts and popular culture. Meetings are held the second Friday of each month, at the International House, 37th & Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia. Meetings consist of business proceedings from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., followed by a guest speaker involved in some area of science fiction or fantasy, such as writers, editors, artists, publishers, etc...

In addition, P.S.F.S. sponsors an annual science fiction conference, Philcon, and has many special interest subgroups, such as the Book Discussion Group, which meets monthly to discuss a work of science fiction or fantasy, and the Special Events Group, which attends science fiction and fantasy movies and other events.

Membership in the Society is open to everyone. Becoming a member is easy: attend 1 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 \$15.00 for a full year's membership, and attendance at 5 meetings each year maintains the status of Active Member.



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