

# PSFS News

The Newsletter of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society

September 1998

*Our September Guest:*

# Alan Steele

## Membership Status

*Note: Status Changes from inactive to general or general to active become effective after the meeting has adjourned.*

**First Timers:** Joshua Megerman, Luke & Matt Menichelli, Joe Neff, Maria Veriengia, Rick Weinstock, James Woodend

**Second Timers:** Bob Bruhin

**New Members:** Ray Lopez

**Returning Inactives:** Pat Betz

**Members at the July Meeting:** 46  
(43 active, 2 general, 1 inactive)

**Non-members at the August Meeting:** 10

## 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 [rak@netaxs.com](mailto:rak@netaxs.com), 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.

**Art Group** - meets the first Saturday after the P.S.F.S. Meeting every month at 10 a.m. for 4 hours. Please help P.S.F.S. by supplying your own materials such as pencils, paper, and other art supplies. You can contact hosts Bridget Boyle or Barb Higgins for the specific supplies you'll need. Call (215) 423-2076 or e-mail at "[bridget@phillynet.com](mailto:bridget@phillynet.com)" or "[bridget@psfs.org](mailto:bridget@psfs.org)" for more information or directions.

Isaac Asimov's robot novels *The Caves of Steel* and *The Naked Sun* are being developed into a two-part, four-hour miniseries for the Sci-Fi Channel, by the same production company that did the ABC miniseries *The Stand* and *The Langoliers*. They are also working on a six-hour miniseries version of Frank Herbert's *Dune*, also for the SciFi Channel.

New Line Cinema is producing a \$130 million trilogy of live-action films based on Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. It may be released as a Christmas-Summer-Christmas event series during the 2000-2001 calendar year. The films will be shot consecutively on location in New Zealand by director, co-producer and co-writer Peter Jackson, who has been developing the trilogy for more than two years, as well as the proprietary software to be used in the extensive computer-generated post-production phase.

**Star Trek: Deep Space 9's** 7th and final season marks a first for the franchise: the entire season will be a pre-planned 26-episode video-novel (arc), culminating in the series finale.

**ReBoot**, the entirely computer-generated animated series, starts on the Cartoon Network in January, complete and uncut, including the unseen (in the US) 3rd season.

**The Millenium Philcon** will be held August 30 - September 2, 2001, at the Philadelphia Convention Center. Todd thanks everyone who helped us to win it. Todd especially wanted to thank all those who worked at this year's Worldcon who were not even on the committee. He will be sending out personal thank-you notes to everyone involved. Todd hopes that we'll continue to help them for the next three+ years. Todd thanked everyone who voted on the bid. Then he made a plea to everyone who was at the meeting and everyone who will be reading this Newsletter to send us their names, address, and phone/e-mail and tell us what area you would like to help with, because there will be plenty of opportunity for everyone. You can register as an attending or supporting member now. Rates are guaranteed till the end of this year. If you voted and were a pre-supporter it's \$50; if you voted, but didn't pre-support it's \$60; if you didn't vote or pre-support it's \$125; there are other prices listed on the registration form. You can register at P.S.F.S. meetings or request one through the mail. We won by 200 votes out of approximately 2000; we also won every day's voting.

## Meeting Minutes

These are the minutes of the General meeting held on August 14th, 1998, at International House. The meeting was called to order at 8:11 pm.

**Proxies:** none.

**Corrections to the Minutes:** In the One Year Director's report - it *was* "the 4th Friday thing that we're doing" *not* "the final Friday thing". Darrell said the Book Discussion report [for September] was total scrambled. The names Terry and James are correct the rest is wrong. (See the report in this issue for the correct information. CK) Tina called for a vote to approve the minutes as corrected. Passed many to few.

### Officers' Reports:

**President:** Tina said, "Well, well, well, well, well. My ghod. Philly in 2001 won the bid." Tina called for a round of applause. Tina got a job, on South St. at Pearl, in the craft department.

**Vice President:** Tim has a *new* job that he likes. He offered his condolences to Philly in 2001. "We won 2001, no not we. We being Phanadelphia, not P.S.F.S. won 2001. We [P.S.F.S.] don't have to worry about it *you* do."

**Secretary:** Carol said she can't say she's got a new job. She's losing hers at the end of October, but she's looking forward to November. Carol has a copy of Leslie Fish's catalog if anyone is interested in buying her tapes or books.

**Reminders to the members:** 1) Please sign in the book or it doesn't count toward your membership determination. The book is on the Treasurer's table from before the meeting starts until it's declared closed after the guest speaker is done. 2) If you've got an announcement, meeting, or special event you want listed in the newsletter please give me the information *in writing*. If I don't receive the information in written form I won't guarantee that your notice will be listed (*accurately if at all*) in the Newsletter. You can e-mail me at rak@netaxs.com, come to the meeting and give the information to me or to Rich (at the Treasurer's table), or snail mail it to the P.O. Box or my home address (in the Society's Directory).

**Treasurer:** Gary said it's come to his attention that some of you got notices that your dues weren't paid. Normally the information is recorded by to himself and Rich for the Secretary at the time of payment, however some names were missed for unknown reasons. If there is anyone who believes they've paid their dues and got a notice that they didn't please contact Gary. He will go through his records and let both you and Rich know.

**2 Year Director (Tony):** said, "Hi. Summer's almost over. I'll have a life again." Todd (who is chair of Philly in 2001) said, "Wrong." Tony replied, "Whaddaya mean wrong?"

Todd said, "I know where you live, too."

**2 Year Director (Shelley):** No report.

**1 Year Director (Oz):** Not here.

**Special Order of Business:** none.

### Committee Reports:

**Programming:** (See Meeting Notices for list of Speakers.)

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

**Special Events:** **Ultra Zone:** It will be irregular whenever we plan to get a group together we'll inform you if you're on our list. See Tony to get on the list. It's a version of laser tag. **Expedition to Wildwood:** Saturday, September 12, we're considering going down to Wildwood. They have a post season and coasters. Tony wasn't sure if our insurance would cover it. Carol said it might if it's an official meeting, but you won't get her on a coaster. **Penn Renn Faire:** Sunday, October 4. It's their Celtic theme weekend. It's located just outside Mount Hope PA, near Hershey, just off the turnpike.

**Publicity:** Shelley will make up flyers and send them out as soon as she has information about our September and October guests.

**T-Shirts:** Tony had no report.

**Book Collection Committee:** Kirsten had no report.

**Cook Book:** Carol said we're still collecting recipes. If we get enough recipes we will publish.

**No Fund:** several people had bags of stuff to take.

**Book Discussion:** **September's** book will be *Talking Man* by Terry Bisson. **October's** book will be *St. Leibowitz and the Wild Horse Woman* by Walter M. Miller, Jr. Call Oz at (215) 563-7538 for more info. (Book and author names that were not given to me in writing may not be correct. CK)

**Old Business:** none.

### New Business:

**Motion:** P.S.F.S. founder, John Baltadonis, passed away recently. Todd moved, John S. second, to donate \$100 as directed by the President once we figure out the appropriate place to put it. Passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Carol moved, Hank second, to open the Philcon 1999 committee as an other body. Passed many to one.

**P.S.F.S. Budget increases:** Gary said Commonwealth of PA has instituted an annual registration requirement of \$15 for non-profit organizations. He also determined that although we obtained the service mark with Philcon we have never registered it as a fictitious name with the Commonwealth as we're required to do and advertise it in various newspapers and magazines. Gary moved, Rich F. second, that the Treasurer be given a total of \$215 to cover the fees and ads. Passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned** at 11:10 pm.

## Board Meeting Minutes

These are the minutes of the PSFS Board meeting held on August 24th, 1998, at Ozzie's home. The meeting was called to order at 8:33 pm.

**Board members present:** Tina, Tim, Carol, Gary, Tony, Shelley, and Oz.

**Others present:** Bruce B., Becky J., Hank, and Rich K.

**Corrections to the minutes:** none.

### Officers' Reports

**President:** said, "Hi ya'll. Sorry for the delay. I just got out of work at 8." No report.

**Vice President:** said, "Hi." No report. "PECO sucks. We've lost power for the second time this summer." This last time was for a three house radius around their house. Tim announced that if you can get Digital Cable, do it. "It's cool".

**Secretary:** "Ditto."

**Treasurer:** "Me too. We've got money, don't spend it." Carol said that the Society's members are getting concerned about how much money we have/don't have and she asked if we could have at least a total. Gary said he'd work one up. Gary has started compiling a list of those who've paid their dues and will get it to the Secretary as soon as possible.

**Two Year Director (Tony):** said, "It's summer. I'm brain dead."

**Two Year Director (Shelley):** no report.

**One Year Director (Oz):** No report.

### Committee Reports:

**Programming:** (See Meeting Notices for list of Speakers.)

**Web Stuff:** Tony asked when we're going to get around to the getting the list up. Tim said depends on when Becky gets a T1 in her office so Tim can get his spare computer back. The target date is September 3rd.

**Old Business, New Business:** none.

**Adjourned** at 8:52 pm.

See Meeting Notices for details on the next Board meeting.

### Board of Directors

|                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>       | Tina Blanco..... (215) 744-6045    |
| <b>Vice President</b>  | Tim Binder..... (215) 634-8730     |
| <b>Secretary</b>       | Carol Kabakjian.....(610) 623-1139 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>       | Gary Feldbaum.....(215) 673-4044   |
| <b>2 Year Director</b> | Tony Finan.....(215) 744-6045      |
| <b>2 Year Director</b> | Shelley Handen.....(610) 642-6061  |
| <b>1 Year Director</b> | Oz Fontecchio.....(215) 563-7538   |

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

To send e-mail to the board, write to [bored@cyber.com](mailto:bored@cyber.com)

## Philcon Meeting Minutes

These are the minutes of the Philcon '98 meeting held on August 23rd, 1998, at the Dashoff's home in Philadelphia. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm.

**Committee members present:** Todd & Joni, Ira D., Ira & Becky K., Bob S. & Winnie, Lew, Hank, Ed. R., Rosemarie, Cynthia, Crystal, Sara P., John & Laura S., David B., Mike F., Jan, Danny, Tony, Tim B., Keith, Tim K., Lynn K., Devra, Shelley, Gary, Darrell & Mattie, Rich & Carol

### Officers' Reports:

**Chairman:** Tony thanked everybody for coming and said he'd like to annoy everybody who didn't. He said he'd like to wish well all those who survived Worldcon. Tony said he'd like the people who are using "chair" of various departments to stop using it in their e-mail (and other places) it's confusing and misleading. You know who you are. (The correct term is "department head". CK) Use the department title you are entitled to. The only person allowed to make up department names is Tony, the Chair of the convention.

**Vice-Chairs:** Todd had no report. Laura said, "ditto."

**Secretary:** Carol said, "I repeat what she said."

**Treasurer:** Gary said we don't have any revenue. Then he was handed money from Registration and Dealers' Room. He had the checkbook with him. Our box has been paid twice. Gary gave Todd a check for the bulk mailing which should be in the Post Office's possession on Monday.

**Fixed Functions Division Head:** John said he had nothing to be handled right now other than the things that are already being handled.

**Administration Division Head:** Laura had no report.

**Programming Division Head:** Oz was not here.

### Department Reports:

**Film/Video:** Tony said they're still in the process of picking films. They will do *Forbidden Planet* this year. We'll also have more independent movies. We're in good shape.

**Quartermaster:** David said we'll be there.

**Art Show:** Joni said the mailing has not gone out yet. She has finally gotten the flyer to put in the mailing, but is waiting for money to be put into the bulk mailing account. Gary & Todd said it would be done in the couple of days. Tony said there is an e-mail link to Todd's e-mail box on the web page for Art Show info. Joni said that's not what she needed. She wants a message to show up on the web to let artists know the mailing hasn't gone out yet so they don't have to call her. Tony told her to give him the text of the message and he'd make sure it got on. Barb Higgins is her cohead. Wendy Frane was listed on the committee list in the Newsletter as head of Art Programming/Workshops. (This was an unconfirmed listing. Sorry for the confusion. CK) She agreed to do the job on Thursday at Worldcon.

**Art Show Hangings:** Sam Conway said that Anthrocon (an East coast furry con) has begged asked if we could/would lend them some of our Art Show equipment for their con in

1999. They used to be in Albany, but have moved to the Valley Forge Hilton. This is their second official con and it's held over the 4th of July weekend. They pushed Philly and Philly area fandom and cons. They might be able to provide bodies for move-in/out for Philcon in exchange. They are a non-profit organization. They will swap ads for program books. Passed unanimously.

**Registration:** Rich got the 6-page flyers on Wednesday. He worked on the database on Thursday. He will have the flyers out before September 1st. We have some pre-reg. We received only 35 Staff/Gofer rollovers. **Remember only Staff and Gofers** who've paid for memberships to last year's con and have worked the prerequisite number of hours are entitled to rollovers.

**Den:** Cynthia said she misses us and misses coming to these meetings. There will be food. Membership: Committee & Assistants are \$5; Staff & Gofers (pay at door) are \$15. We can handle 18-20 gofers. Cynthia is recovering from a minor heart attack. She only has one helper confirmed and needs 2 or 3 more. She needs several crockpots. She would like to rent a medium refrigerator. Laura will check into it.

**Filk Czar:** Crystal asked if we had a Filk Guest yet. No, but we've been approached by the "Don't Quit Your Day Job Players", a group of writers, etc. most of whom come to Philcon anyway. It's too late to get filker/filk group as a Special Guest since the flyers are already printed (and the committee doesn't want to spend the money for transportation, room(s), food, and membership(s)). However, we could have one as a Program Participant for Masquerade half-time if we don't already have one. After much discussion it was decided to check if Masquerade has booked their half-time entertainment yet. Final proposal: If Masq. doesn't have any half-time entertainment Crystal is authorized by the committee to offer the usual free Program Participant membership plus up to \$200 to be used however Crystal sees fit. Passed many to three. We won't have a song writing contest this year as Crystal was tied up with Bucky. Crystal can put together a Regency Ball at any time if we need more programming.

**Personnel/Gofer Recruitment:** Ed wants your requests for warm bodies as soon as possible.

**Logistics:** Bob said there will be a truck with high street clearance.

**Green Room:** Rosemarie will be losing Sharon Carroll-Ventura (Green Room Registration). Tony said they'll work on finding someone. Rosemarie is working with Carol on the coffee problem.

**Gaming Room:** Becky said if you know anyone who wants to run a tourney or game workshop contact her.

**Publicity/Press Relations:** Hank said they had a late start. He has been distributing flyers. At con Press Relations will be run out of the hallway.

**Science Programming:** Hank is open to suggestions. Tony again said everyone should plan on having the same space just in case we don't get the extra space.

**Program Book Ads:** Lew has sent out 19 letters to fan groups. The pro letter hasn't gone out yet. Avon Press contacted us by e-mail. They want two pages. Lew has sent them the rates and will send them the official letter this week. Lew requested a web link.

**Babysitting:** will happen. Winnie said as long as you bring her children she will sit on them. Her sister is her assistant. Parents have to work a couple of hours if they have kids there.

**Hotel Liaison:** Laura said the entire hotel staff is new this year. **Reminder:** September's meeting is the hotel meeting. Please have your requests ready. If you can't be there you can send the info via e-mail or snail mail to the Society's addresses. Laura is looking for primary trainees to take over next year because she doesn't want the job any more.

**Con Suite:** we have one. We have a offer from Bucky through Hal Haag for their leftover soda. We will need to rent a soda machine and the equipment that goes with it. It would limit the flavors of soda we would have since there is a lot of the soda they will give us. It will eliminate a lot of cans, but we will need to buy more cups. This will not affect the other departments soda supply. Maintenance could be a problem, however Carol will be willing to make the person Bucky used an assistant in her department (with a free membership). Hal was to send us information in writing about costs and quantities. Laura moved, several second that we create a sub-committee to look into it. Passed. Laura will check with the hotel to see if they will allow this type of thing. (Note: as of the printing of this Newsletter we have not gotten the information. Carol has decided it's not worth the hassle. CK)

**Exhibitions:** The mailing will be going out this week. Anthrocon would like a table. The Mummies will be back. We need to confirm just what they want to do.

**Dealers' Room:** We've received a lot of dealer applications, but not some of our more usual people. Some are waiting till after Worldcon & Pennsic to see how much money they have left. Jane Sibley had a table for last year, but couldn't come due to the storm. We re-sold her table. She didn't get a refund. Mercedes Hayes is in a similar situation. In both cases the money will be applied to a table for each of them for this year. Devra will assign tables at the beginning of September. Franklin Mint has requested a table. Lew requested a list of dealers who will be at the con. It was suggested that he mail to all dealers on our mailing list.

**Children's Programming:** If we're given space we will have some. Lynn and John requested that a line be added to the letter for the Program mailing about children's programming. Children's Programming ran 4 tracks for 5 days at Bucky and was run by Lynn Koehler, Joyce Carroll Grace, and Anne Norton.

**Programming:** Laura needs the program grid by the September Philcon meeting. The mailing should be going out in the next two weeks. They will put something in about children's programming. If you know anyone who can do a

program for children or other programming please contact Mattie so Programming can send them a mailing. Mattie is updating their mailing list.

**Publications:** The 6 page flyer is done. Tim wants all information as early as possible for the Pocket Program. Bruce Jensen may do a new piece of artwork just for the Program Book cover. Lew requested asking Bruce if he would do a logo for our daily at con Newsletter.

**A.V. Coordinator:** Tim asked to have a line added to the Program mailing requesting that people do not bring their own equipment.

**Program Ops:** No report. Margaret Trebing will be her assistant.

### Old & New Business: none

**Surveys:** Lew said he would like to do the surveys this year since he didn't get to do one last year due to unforeseen circumstances. Tony asked him to refresh our memories. It's a four page survey to be included with the reg packet, to be filled out at or after the con. It would have general and department oriented questions about what was liked or disliked. Tony asked how much it would cost. Lew didn't know, but would have the information for the next meeting. Tony said we'll discuss it at the September meeting.

Adjourned at 3:30 pm.

See Meeting Notices for details on the next meeting. The September meeting **MUST** start immediately at 1:00pm. You may show up any time after 12 noon. Parking is free.

## Japanimation Review

by Ed Rutkowski

Japanese animation (Japanimation, or anime) has become a popular sub-genre among science fiction fans, and this article is one in what is hopefully a series by various PSFS members on this topic. For this article I will start by discussing what may be the biggest japanimation event in America this year, and that is the release on September 1 of "Kiki's Delivery Service" by Disney studios.

"Kiki's Delivery Service" is based on a book by Eiko Kadono and was directed by the current grand master of Japanese animation, Hayao Miyazaki. It was released on Japanese theater screens in August of 1989 to considerable financial success. The story, set in a world similar to but not quite Earth, deals with a young witch named Kiki who on her 13th birthday leaves home to make her place in the world. Riding her broomstick and accompanied by her black cat familiar Jiji she travels to a small city, where she meets up with a local baker and his wife. In the narrow, crowded streets of this city she establishes a small delivery service using her broom as transport. The plot evolves into a coming of age story as she forms a number of different friendships and has several memorable adventures.

What makes this release unusual is not that it is the

first translation of a Miyazaki work into English. Several have been dubbed previously, the best of which include "Cagliostro's Castle", "Laputa", and "My Neighbor Totoro", the latter released by Fox Video and considered possibly the finest animated dubbing ever. Even Kiki has been previously dubbed, by Carl Macek in 1993 and shown on JAL trans-Pacific flights. What makes this a milestone in animation history is that this is being backed by the full power and money of Disney Studios. When Disney first bought the international distribution rights to most Ghibli studio (Miyazaki's production house) videos in 1997 there was a fear that their real interest was in keeping this product from competing with their own animated features. After all, Miyazaki movies often center around or costar young children, are beautifully drawn (if not perhaps as fully animated as Disney's due to budget limitations) and have strong family values, a cornerstone of the market Disney tries to keep to itself. This release shows the opposite to be true, that Disney views this as a money making venture in its own right.

Disney's dub has a load of first rate (read expensive) acting talent, including Kirsten Dunst (from "Interview with a Vampire") as Kiki, Phil Hartman in his last role as the voice of her cat Jiji, Debbie Reynolds and others. The opening and ending songs were also changed to new English songs and some new pieces of music were added. However, by terms of the contract signed with Miyazaki, nothing was cut from the film, so it should meet its original run time of 102 minutes. By the time you read this you will know the true extent of their marketing campaign but it will likely be significant. And once good overseas animation is shown to be profitable to major studios we can expect to see significantly more of the top animated movies released in America. So go ahead, rent the movie, and if you like it enough please buy it. And who knows, maybe some day an American film house will realize that animated movies don't always need sugary sweet songs to be a success.

### 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 [rak@netaxs.com](mailto:rak@netaxs.com)), 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 DeskWriter 320. 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 Mac graphics format, or we can scan originals if mailed to us.

PSFS News **Editor & Publisher:** Rich Kabakjian. **Secretary:** Carol Kabakjian. **Regular contributors:** Henry Lazarus, Lee Weinstein. **Missing in action:** Tasha Kelly. All contents © 1998 by The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the individual contributors.

## Philcon '98 Dept. Heads

(Known as of August 23, 1998)

Chairman..... Tony Finan  
 Vice-Chair..... Laura Paskman Syms  
 Vice-Chair..... Todd Dashoff  
 Secretary..... Carol Kabakjian  
 Treasurer..... Gary Feldbaum  
 Chair's Bodyguard..... Keith Frye

### Administration Division ..... Laura Paskman Syms

ASFA Liaison..... Bob Walters  
 Gopher Recruitment/Personnel..... Ed Rutkowski  
 Hotel Liaison..... Laura Paskman Syms  
 Information..... Sara Paul  
 Logistics..... Bob Schwier  
 Operations/Security..... Todd Dashoff  
 Quartermaster..... David Brill  
 Registration..... Rich Kabakjian  
 SFFWA Liaison..... Darrell Schweitzer  
 Signs..... Wayne Rector  
 Transportation..... Tina Blanco

### Programming Division ..... Oz Fontecchio

A.V. Coordinator..... Tim Kahler  
 Art Programming/Workshop..... Rick & Wendy Frane  
 Childrens' Programming..... Lynn Cohen Koehler  
 Costumers' Programming..... Vicki Warren  
 Filking/Filk Programming/Song Contest..... Crystal Paul  
 Green Room..... Rosemarie Freeman  
 Main Programming..... Oz Fontecchio, Darrell Schweitzer  
 Main Programming Secretary..... Mattie Brahen  
 Meet the Pros Party..... Becky Jollensten  
 Party Dance..... Tim Binder  
 Programming Ops..... Shelley Handen, Bruce Bloom  
 Publications..... Tim Kahler  
 Science Programming..... Hank Smith  
 Writers' Workshop..... Darrell Schweitzer

### Fixed Functions Division ..... John Syms

Art Show..... Joni Dashoff, Barb Higgins  
 Babysitting..... Winona Whyte-Schwier  
 Computer Room..... Avi Freedman  
 Con Suite..... Carol Kabakjian  
 Dealers' Room..... Devra Langsam  
 Dealers' Room Security..... Mitch Marmel  
 Den..... Cynthia Moreno  
 Exhibitions..... Ira Kaplowitz  
 Gaming Room..... Becky Kaplowitz  
 L.A.R.P. Liaison..... ?  
 Masquerade Co-Ordinator..... Vicki Warren  
 Masquerade Tech..... Alex Latzko  
 Media Operations (Film, Video)..... Tony Finan  
 Media Operations (Anime)..... Greg Ventura  
 P.S.F.S. Sales..... Ric Ivey  
 Philcon TV 1..... ?  
 Publicity/Media/Press Relations..... Larisa Bekerman

## 1998 Philcon Budget

as of July 1998

|                       |        |                       |               |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Art Show              |        | Masquerade Video      | 600           |
| Awards                | 25     | Media Ops (Films/Vi   | 1,900         |
| Equipment             | 800    | Miscellaneous         |               |
| Mailing               | 800    | Operations            | 95            |
| Phone                 | 75     | Beepers               | 300           |
| Reception             | 2,500  | Insurance             | 0             |
| Triplicate Forms      | 150    | Nursing Supplies      | 0             |
| Set-up                | 150    | Phones                | 130           |
| Babysitting           |        | Functions             |               |
| Supplies              | 130    | Meet the Pros         | 500           |
| Room                  | 490    | Pre-con events        | 450           |
| Con Suite             | 2,300  | PhilconTV             | 600           |
| Contingency           | 500    | Programming           |               |
| Dealers Room          |        | Mailings              | 200           |
| Mailing               | 600    | A.V. Coordinator      | 3,200         |
| Surcharge             | 850    | Workshops             |               |
| Electricity           | 100    | Artists               | 25            |
| Den                   | 600    | Costume               | 25            |
| Exhibitions           | 125    | Writers               | 10            |
| Filking               |        | Science Prog.         | 25            |
| Filkers Coffee        | 395    | Filk Prog.            |               |
| Filk Contest          | 50     | Childrens Prog.       | 50            |
| Gaming Room           | 75     | Programming Ops       | 200           |
| Gopher                | 200    | Easels                |               |
| Green Room            |        | Publications          |               |
| Food                  | 350    | Advertising           | 100           |
| Coffee Set-up         | 1,050  | Flyers                | 1,500         |
| Guest Bar (drink chit | 600    | Pocket Program        | 1,600         |
| Guests of Honor       |        | Program Book          | 4,500         |
| Transportation        | 5,500  | Web Page free         |               |
| Food                  | 1,100  | Publicity/Media Rel.  | 1,200         |
| WAM                   | 800    | Registration          |               |
| Hotel Liaison         |        | Badges                | 300           |
| Curtains              | 350    | Postage               | 1,000         |
| L Room Exp. (non-     | 375    | Ribbons               | 300           |
| Rental (Func. Spac    | 11,000 | Supplies              | 100           |
| Security              | 720    | Secretary             | 10            |
| Tips                  | 1,200  | SFWA/ASFA             | 1,888         |
| Information           | 50     | Signs                 | 150           |
| Gaming Liaison        | 50     | T-Shirts              |               |
| Logistics             | 600    | Transportation        | 40            |
| Masquerade            | 1,200  | Treasury              | 300           |
| Masq. Ribbon Awa      | 300    | Administration Divisi | 25            |
|                       |        | <b>TOTAL (so far)</b> | <b>57,483</b> |



## Books for September

by Henry Leon Lazarus

There are three elements to a great fantasy novel; background, plot, and, of course, characters. If the hero stands out, he (or she) can make even the most generic background or basic plot work. I find I like heroic; people who are superior but with a major problem weighing them down. The problem gives me something to identify with, and the superior skills, something to admire. I look for great characters.

Consider Matthew Woodring Stover's *Caine*. He was born into a caste-ridden version of our own with its business men, administrators, professionals, and workers locked into their own levels. Actors have chips in their brains that allow their movements, what they see, and even their subject thoughts to be broadcast and taped. They create characters for themselves on an alternate plane, Ankhana, and go and have adventures which are then packaged. Hari Michaelson is Caine, an unstoppable assassin. His producer has locked him into a contract to kill the unkillable god-emperor when he needs to rescue his ex-wife. Hari knows that *Heroes Die* (Trade from Del Rey) but he has no choice. This is unbelievable action and absolutely enthralling. David Drake uses alternate planes of existence to provide extra difficulty for his four characters as they work to make Garric the first Lord of the Isles in a thousand years. The main problem is a god from another plane, the beast, and the *Queen of Demons* (hard from TOR). With four characters, one is always close to dying in this sequel to *The Lord of the Isles* (paper) and I liked much more than the first.

Alice Borchardt takes a well drawn picture of Rome in 762 nearly conquered by the Lombards and just before Charlemagne will rescue it in his first campaign. Regeane is of moneyless aristocracy, but a distant relative and, because of that, is betrothed to a Lord who controls one of the passes that Charlemagne will want to use. Abused and feared by her uncles because she is a werewolf, her alternate personality, *The Silver Wolf* (hard from Del Rey and which I had to get from the library) is the only thing that can save Pope Hadrian, his mistress and their sons. I look forward to sequels. Laura Resnick's character Tansen, a shatai swordmaster and returned exile to the island of Silaria. In *Legend Born* (Hard from TOR) tells of his and the fire witch Mirabar's tale as they work to free their island nation from its alien rulers. Intricately plotted, it was a lot of fun and I want to read sequels of it also.

I also had a lot of fun with Peter Jurasik and William H. Keith's *Diplomatic Act* (hard from Baen). Mr. Jurasik (who plays the Centauri ambassador Londo Mollari from Babylon 5) knows the politics of television and Mr. Keith is very good at creating realistic aliens. So when actor Richard Faraday is abducted to intercede in a galactic war and a telepathic aliens poses as him, everything is absolutely hilarious. It was especially fitting that the villains are the supermarket tabloid aliens. My side is still hurting from this. Dan Craig and David Sherman have another of their marines in space in *Starfist* (paper from Del Rey) in which the marines learn that politics in an oligarchy can be complicated and sometimes your friend can really be your enemy. Light fun without much killing.

David Webber readers should look outside of the Science Fiction section for James H. Cobb's near future military tales of Amanda Garrett and her stealth destroyer. In *Sea Strike* (hard from Putnam) the USS Cunningham is at the forefront of destroying a Chinese nuclear missile submarine before it can turn a 21st century Chinese civil war into total destruction. Heart stopping and taut, it is impossible to put down. If hot mystery writer Elmore Leonard were writing SF, than it might be like the latest by Alexander Jablovkov. Four minor and eccentric criminals of the future are on a hunt for the ultimate object, a *Deepdrive* (hard from Avon), a faster than light drive used by any one of the aliens who are reshaping the solar system and who haven't given the secret of these drives to us humans.

Present day fantasy can be difficult because it is harder to get the reader to suspend belief. Sean Stewart writes of Toni Beauchamp tells of how her mother was ridden by six different small gods and at her death, Toni was

given a tonic of *Mockingbird* (hard from ACE) Cordial that inflicts her with those same gods. Terry Brooks returns to the world of *Running with the Demon* (paper) with a new tale of John Ross, *A Knight of the World* (hard from Del Rey). John has lost his faith and in modern San Francisco is being seduced by a demon out to turn John to evil. Only the girl he saved in the first book, Nest, can save him.

Chet Williamson must have been frustrated by the X-files so he puts some deadly CIA agents on the trail of a real supernatural plot in *The Searchers*. The first book is *City of Iron* (paper from Avon) and is about an immortal being who uses a sculpture to create a metal map of New York City showing where he is locked up, hoping the being can be rescued. Alan Dean Foster saw too many *Sliders* episodes and so in *Parallelities* (paper from Del Rey) he has a tabloid reporter become a gate to parallel worlds – becoming weirder and wilder with every passing page. While the television show would never have gone as far as a whole world with only copies of one person, the television show at least had a point.

Scott Westerfield's *Fine Prey* (paper from ROC) is an odd tale of alien encounter. The Aya's have conquered Earth and Spider is one of the students at the school teaching their unearthly language. During the summers she rides (electronically) the beasts that hunt – mixing in with the gamblers that inhabit the world of this new sport. This is a fascinating look at how language shapes people and the reverse and also of a young woman discovering the adult within her. Camille Bacon-Smith has a second tale (I never read the first) about Demons who, in earthly form, run an art detective agency. The demons are well defined, but the magic of the stolen objects, the *Eyes of the Empress* (paper from DAW) seem designed to fit the story needs, rather shaping the story.

The best media book is the *Babylon 5 Security Manual* (compiled by Jim Mortimore, Trade from Del Rey) which tells you how to get around the huge station. There's also *Star Wars: The Essential Guide to Planets and Moons* (Trade from Del Rey); a tape of *The Invisible Man* starring Leonard Nimoy and John de Lancie (Simon and Schuster Audio); Peter David's novelization of the Babylon 5 movie for TNT, *Thirdspace* (paper from Del Rey); Lloyd Kaufman and James Gunn's tale of Troma studios, *All I Need to Know about Film-making I Learned from The Toxic Avenger* (trade from Berkley Boulevard Books); and Steven R. Boyett's parody, *Treks Not Taken* (Trade from Harper Perennial) which mocks famous writers as well as Star Trek.

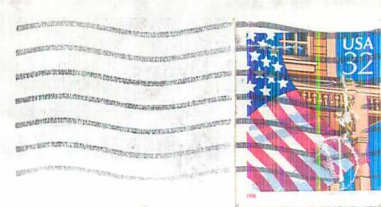
The best collection this month is *Lord of the Fantastic* (ed Martin H. Greenberg, Trade from Avon) which are new tales in honor of the late Roger Zelazny. Then we also have *Canadian SF, Northern Stars* (ed. David G. Hartwell and Glenn Grant, Trade from TOR); new stories from the fantasy creation, Bordertown, *The Essential Bordertown* (ed by Terri Windling and Delia Sherman, Hard from TOR); short stories that were made into movies, *The Reel Stuff* (paper from DAW); a collection of Ben Bova tales, *Twice Seven* (paper from Avon); *Isaac Asimov's Detectives* (tales from the magazine, paper from ACE); tales from a world designed by R. A. Salvatore, *Tales from Tethedril* (ed. Scott Sigel, paper from Del Rey); and *Alternate Generals* (ed. Harry Turtledove, paper from Baen). *Forever Peace* by Joe Haldeman won the Hugo Award this year.

Michael Swanwick's *Faust* (Avon) about aliens introducing technology to the fifteenth century has been reprinted in Trade. The paperback reprints include: Roger Zelazny and Jane Lindskold's *Donnerjack* (Avon) about a very fantastic cyberspace that is real in its own way; Sean Russell's first book in his current duology, *Beneath the Vaulted Hills* (DAW); Paula Volsky's fantasy version of the inquisition, *The White Tribunal* (Bantam Spectra); Robert Silverberg's *The Sorcerers of Majipoor* (Bantam Spectra); Anne McCaffrey's fun tale of King Arthur's farrier, *Black Horses for the King* (Del Rey); and the current Nebula winner Vonda N. McIntyre's *The Moon and the Sun* (Pocket) about a mermaid captured and brought to Louis XIV's court.

(Book cover pics deleted due to lack of space.)



Philadelphia Science Fiction Society  
P.O. Box 8303  
Philadelphia, PA 19101-8303



NYSFS, The Lunarians Inc. (T)  
PO Box 3566  
New York, NY 10008-3566

## Meeting Notices

### General Meetings

Unless otherwise specified, General Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month in the South America Room at International House, 37th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Business meeting starts at 8 pm. Program starts at 9 pm.

#### Date

September 11, 1998  
October 9, 1998

November 13, 1998  
December 11, 1998  
January 8, 1999  
February 12, 1999  
March 12, 1999  
April 9, 1999  
May 8, 1999

#### Guest/Agenda

Alan Steele ('98 Hugo Winner)  
Warren Lapine &  
Angela Kessler  
Philcon  
Stephen Youll (artist)  
Annual Meeting  
Robert Sawyer  
Laurel K. Hamilton  
Jack McDevitt  
George R. R. Martin

#### Date

### Board of Directors

Tues., Sept. 15, 1998, 8:00 pm

Rich & Carol Kabakjian, 17  
Lewis Ave., East Lansdowne,  
PA; (610) 623-1139

### Philcon '98 Meeting

Sun., Sept. 13, 1998, 1:00 pm

Rich & Carol Kabakjian, 17  
Lewis Ave., East Lansdowne,  
PA; (610) 623-1139

Sun., Oct. 11, 1998, 1:00 pm

Todd & Joni Dashoff, 830 Bar-  
low St, Philadelphia; (215)  
676-4194

## About the Society

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society (PSFS) 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 International House, 37th and Chestnut Streets, 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, PSFS 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 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.