

LIBERTYCON 25

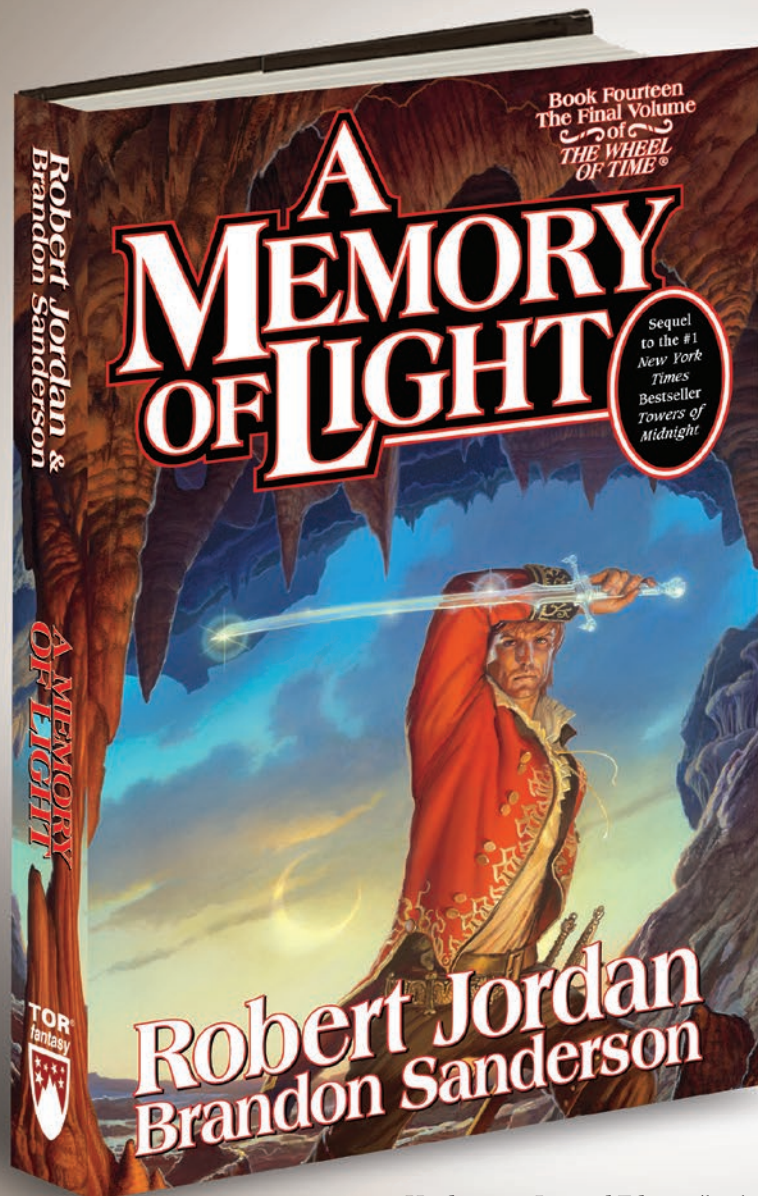
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Thanks For Coming Out To LibertyCon 25

We're glad you could join us for our anniversary!

Literary Guest:
**Brandon
Sanderson**

25th Anniversary
Literary Guest:
Timothy Zahn

Co-Artist Guests:
**Don Maitz
Janny Wurts**

25th Anniversary
Artist Guest:
Vincent DiFate

25th Anniversary Science Guest:
Les Johnson

25th Anniversary Co-Special Guests:
Larry Niven & Jerry Pournelle

25th Anniversary Master of Ceremony
Eric Flint

Art: 'The Tourist' by Theresa Mather

Welcome to LibertyCon 25

Welcome to LibertyCon 25! This statement has been my welcome to all of you for a quarter century so why should I change now. This year is a bittersweet experience for me. First off, you can tell we have a new hotel... the Chattanooga Choo-Choo! To say that this is a great hotel with fantastic function space would be a disservice to the hotel. It's even better than that. Also the Chattanooga Choo Choo is the home of two other large SciFi Conventions, Chattacon and ConNooga. They like SciFi Cons and have gone out of their way to make us welcome.

I normally list each of our headlining guests and say something about them. But in all honesty that is what the bios are for. This year the LibertyCon Directors pretty much gave me Cart Blanc in deciding who I wanted for my last LibertyCon. Yes dear friends, after 25 years, I think it is time for me to retire and pass along the management of LibertyCon to the next generation. So I picked a list of mostly old friends to be surrounded by with the exception of the Literary and Artist Guests of Honor. But even with these three pros, I have a little bit of a connection to. Just catch me later and ask me about it over a drink or two and I'll tell you all about it.

In the past 25 years, LibertyCon has gone out of it's way to keep and honor the traditions of "old Southern Conventions" that was the norm when I first started in fandom in the late 70's. Things like bheer in the bath tubs are gone. But we do have Killian's and Seven States Pilsner on tap for all you bheer hounds out there. Instead of banning weapons, we have encouraged blasters, swords and lightsabers as part of costumes. (Properly peacebonded of course. ☺) We have encouraged families to come back to conventions instead of just one age group. Admittedly that has gotten us the reputation of the "Blue Haired" convention from some of the younglings, but so be it.

But there are a few things we haven't been able to save because of the evolution of technology. Back in the old days, we had video rooms to show everyone a weekend of science fiction movies. But now you all have DVDs, large screen TVs, and collections of SF&F movies that we could only dream of in the



old days. Another we tried to keep going for years and years was the Masquerade, but over the years less and less fen dress up for conventions. We did find one hell of a Saturday Night Replacement for the Masquerade though. The Atlanta Radio Theatre Company (ARTC) has been brightening our Saturday Night Festivities for the past few years, and this year we are proud to have a venue that is appropriate for them:

The Centennial Theatre.

But one of the proudest things that I have done in my tenure as the Chairman of LibertyCon has been to raise money for charities. We have done everything from raffles to 'Hit Me With Pies', to Casino Nights... and now we hold our Charity Auction.

This year I am proud to announce that the LibertyCon 'Charity of Choice' is the Chattanooga Challenger Center. So come down on Finley Lecture Hall in the Convention Center on Saturday Evening at around 7:00 to bid on an item or two. Or you can check out the items for bid in the Art Show and leave a bid or two as you peruse the goodies. God has been so good to me and mine, and this is just one way we can give back to people who need it.

We have a great convention planned for all of you this year. And for our 25th Anniversary we have even more of an embarrassment of riches than normal when it comes to the number of professional writers, artists, scientists, engineers, and other technical people attending the convention who are participating in programming. At last count it was over 70 professional artist and writers who are attending. I want to thank them all for their input into what I know will be a wonderful convention this year. For a complete list of the professionals attending LibertyCon 25, please see the special page toward the back of this program book.

For the past 24 years I have been closing my welcome the same way, why change success. Before you go, let me tell you about the most important part of our convention. OUR STAFF! Without them, there would be no LibertyCon. Every member of the staff from the Chairman on down to the newest member pay the same membership as you do. These wonderful people have volunteered their time, their effort and their energy to bring you one of the best cons in the south. Please take a few minutes to see what they are doing and thank them. You can even jump in and help them do it.☺ As I said so many times before, "Without these wonderful people, there would not be a LibertyCon. They are all the best and are simply the best there is! Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

So, my last words to you are these. In the words of the learned philosophers Bill & Ted,

"Party on Dudes!"

-Uncle Timmy



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Guest Of Honor : Cherie Priest

Artist GOH: William Stout

Special Guest: Bill 'Splat' Johnson

Toastmistress: Wendy Webb

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I Agree, It's All Uncle Timmy's Fault!

By Brandy Bolgeo Spraker

Any volunteer organization is made successful by those who care enough to donate their time and talent and LibertyCon is certainly no exception to that rule. But if you were to boil down LibertyCon into two words, they would be: Uncle Timmy.

Fifteen months before the first LibertyCon Dad had the idea of starting a small convention in Chattanooga. He had already been in fandom for many years and had been involved with ChattaCon (including holding the Chairman position for five years) but had never before founded a convention himself. With the help of his family and friends, the details around what it would take to actually make this work were ironed out and LibertyCon was born. Like all births there was effort, pain and blood. For dad, this was a labor of love (unlike both of mom's labors, where he was sitting in the waiting room reading a SF book).

Joe Tripp gets the credit for choosing the name LibertyCon after it was decided to hold the convention on the weekend closest to the 4th of July, and of course, what name was more suitable? But as things worked out LibertyCon 1 was moved to the second week of July in downtown Chattanooga. With featured guests such as L. Sprague and Catherine Crook de Camp, Vincent DiFate and Wilson 'Bob' Tucker, how could it have been anything but successful? It says alot that Mr. DiFate and Tim Zahn (who was an 'also attending' guest) are returning to us this year. We also began the tradition of supporting local area charities, our first one being the Muscular Dystrophy Association in honor of the child of a staff member.

Since that first convention, the next twenty-five years (we had to skip a year when our hotel burnt down a few months before the convention) have seen many changes. Hotels have come and gone, weddings have taken place during those conventions, staff members have come into the convention, moved on, been born and passed to the Great Beyond. One thing that hasn't changed is Uncle Timmy's unique stamp on LibertyCon. His attention to detail and love for hard science comes from his background as an Electrical Engineer and his love of people come from his Italian heritage. His ability to bring in amazing, WorldCon level guests ensure top notch programming and when you're not being entertained by a mad scientist panel or a reading from one of your favorite authors, you can sit down and chat with your favorite pro in the consuite or play a game of Killer Cutthroat Spades.

Just as importantly, when you join us you become part of the LibertyCon family. From those who have been with us from the beginning to those who are attending for the first time, our main goal is that you have as good of a time attending LibertyCon as we do running it. In the Bolgeo clan, we count many of our biggest life changes by which LibertyCon was closest. I met my husband at LibertyCon 4, was married right before LibertyCon 9 (the reception was held at the convention hotel) and watched my brother get married right before LibertyCon 18 (again with the whole reception thing). His grandchildren also have numbers associated with them... Alex's first convention when he was 2 months old was 14, Beth was born 5 weeks after 16 (the year we hosted DeepSouth Con) and Tristan was born 9 days after 23.

Any convention is a year round job for the person in charge. While the millions of details of getting ready for a convention are going on, dad is not only working on that convention, but ensuring that we have guests and a hotel for the next year. 'The Revenge', his E-Zine, keeps everyone informed of the news from fans and the jokes keep us all laughing.

So take a minute and thank Uncle Timmy, because the well used adage, 'It's all Uncle Timmy's fault' is very true when it comes to LibertyCon. And even though this is his last year as Chairman, don't expect him to fade away into the sunset.

In Memoriam

<i>Artists</i>	<i>Authors</i>	<i>Staff & Friends</i>
<i>Doug Chaffee</i>	<i>Robert Adams</i>	<i>Ken Cobb</i>
<i>Kelly Freas</i>	<i>Robert Lynn Asprin</i>	<i>Rusty Hevelin</i>
<i>Darrell K. Sweet</i>	<i>Jim Baen</i>	<i>J. J. Johnson</i>
<i>Dixie Walker</i>	<i>F. M. Busby</i>	<i>Irvin Koch</i>
	<i>Catherine Crook de Camp</i>	<i>Sandy McDade</i>
	<i>L. Sprague de Camp</i>	<i>Bert McDowell</i>
	<i>Perry Chapdelaine</i>	<i>Ken Moore</i>
	<i>Gordon R. Dickson</i>	<i>Mandy Pack</i>
	<i>Tom Dietz</i>	<i>Bill Payne</i>
	<i>Charles Fontenay</i>	<i>Hank Reinhardt</i>
	<i>James P. Hogan</i>	<i>David Shockley</i>
	<i>Andre Norton</i>	<i>Suzie Skelton</i>
	<i>Fred Saberhagen</i>	<i>Kirk Thompson</i>
	<i>John Steakley</i>	<i>"The Real" Bob Tucker</i>
	<i>Wilson 'Bob' Tucker</i>	
	<i>A. E. van Vogt</i>	
	<i>Sharon & Bryan Webb</i>	
	<i>Jack Williamson</i>	

LibertyCon 25 is dedicated to the Guests, Friends and Family that we have lost over the years since we started the convention. When each one of these friends passed along, it took a little bit out of me, but I knew that I would see them again in a better place. The Artist and Writers list is pretty complete, but the Staff and Fans list is only partial because of my bad memory. I miss them all and celebrate and salute their contributions to LibertyCon over the years. I personally called them “Guests, Friends and Family”, but they are all part of the LibertyCon Family and we miss them all.

-Tim Bolgeo
Chairman

LibertyCon Rules

ATTENDEES 17 YEARS OLD AND UNDER: All convention attendees who are 17 years of age or younger must be accompanied by a LEGAL GUARDIAN. A Legal Guardian is a person 21 years of age or older who will take financial and legal responsibility for the minor and will sign for each minor person for which he/she is responsible. A parent or Legal Guardian must accompany children under 7 years of age at all times.

BADGES: Badges must be worn in plain sight above the waist at all times.

BATHING: Remember, “If in doubt, take a bath!” Your fellow attendees will appreciate your courteous actions.

DRINKING AGE: To get a drinking badge you must produce a VALID military ID or Drivers License with your picture on it to prove that you are at least 21 years of age. Minors caught drinking at LibertyCon will be hung, drawn, quartered, and thrown out of the convention. Also, **WE WILL CONTACT YOUR PARENTS AND YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO FUTURE LIBERTYCONS!**

EJECTION FROM THE CONVENTION: If you are ejected from LibertyCon because of violation of the convention rules or Tennessee State Law, your attendance fees will not be refunded.

LOST BADGE POLICY: If you lose your badge at the convention, you will have to purchase another one at the full admission price of \$60. We are sorry to take this rough stance, but incidents with people (Not Fans) purchasing a replacement badge to give/sell to a friend at a reduced price only increases the cost of the convention for real fans and this is the only way we can curb it.

SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS: If you have a medical condition, please ask the registration staff for a sticker for the back of your badge. This sticker should contain the nature of your medical condition and any special steps to be taken in an emergency, including the name and phone number of the person to contact should the need arise.

WEAPONS POLICY: All weapons and models of weapons must be “Peace Bonded” by one of our security staff before they may be worn with your costume or normal wearing apparel. This weapons policy will be strictly enforced.

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Mistress
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Stephanie Osborn

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The Moon Princesses
Julie Wall, Linda Zielke,
Toni Weisskopf

Artist Guest
of Honor
Melissa Gay

Special Guest
D. B. Jackson

Also Planing to Attend:
Joe Dickerson, Rachael Hill,
Les Johnson, J. F. Lewis
— and more to come!

Memberships

Standard Rate:

\$40 through July 22, 2012
\$45 thereafter and through Sep 30, 2012
\$50 thereafter and at the door

Child Rate:

Ages 0 to 3 (as of October 14, 2012): Free
Ages 4 to 12 (as of October 14, 2012): \$25

Young Adult Rate:

Students age 13-21, as of October 14, 2012 are \$5 off the corresponding Standard Membership in effect at the time of purchase. We trust you (we really, really do) but reserve the right to request some proof of student status.

LibCon 25 NASFA Rev 1.5b - 120607

For More Information:
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www.con-stellation.org
or Call Our Voice Mail
256-270-0092 (Google)

Or Mail Con†Stellation
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Huntsville Alabama
35815-4857

People you might bump into at LC25...

Brandon Sanderson

Timothy Zahn

Larry Niven

Jerry Pournelle

Eric Flint

LIBERTYCON 25 LITERARY GUEST OF HONOR

25th ANNIVERSARY LITERARY GUEST

25th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL GUEST

25th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL GUEST

25th ANNIVERSARY MASTER OF CEREMONY

Larry Atchley, Jr.

Charlotte Babb

Scott W. Baker

Tom Barczak

Jeff Barnes

Chris Berman

Karen Bogen

Walt Boyes

David L. Burkhead

Leo Champion

Stephen E. Cobb

Julie Cochrane

Jack Finley

Rich Groller

Michael H. Hanson

John Hartness

Daniel Hollifield

Daniel M. Hoyt

Sarah A. Hoyt

Sarah Hulcy

Cindy MacLeod

Lee Martindale

Holly McClure

Chris Morris

Janet Morris

Stephanie Osborn

John Ringo

Marina Sergeyeva

Patrick Vanner

Toni Weisskopf

Michael Z. Williamson

Don Maitz

Janny Wurts

Vincent di Fate

LIBERTYCON 25 ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR

LIBERTYCON 25 ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR

25th ANNIVERSARY ARTIST GUEST

C. Bangs

Michael Bielaczyc

Paul Bielaczyc

Mark Fults

Melissa Gay

Mark Helwig

Anita Moore

James Ward

Kenneth Waters

Les Johnson

25th ANNIVERSARY SCIENCE GUEST

Phillip R. Cox

Ben Davis

Robert Lightfoot

Greg Matloff

Tedd Roberts

Ken Roy

Jay Royce

Paranormal Guests

Paul Cagle

Joe McKeel

Performance & Demonstration

Darrell 'Dr.' Osborn

The Atlanta Radio Theatre Company

The Reinhardt Legacy Fight Team

Literary

Artistic

Scientific

BRANDON SANDERSON

LITERARY GUEST OF HONOR



Contrary to popular belief, Brandon Sanderson is not a time traveling, robot from the future, fueled entirely by Magic cards and Kraft macaroni and cheese. Sure, he doesn't seem to ever sleep and he produces fat novels at a prodigious rate. But I think that's just the sign of someone doing what he loves, right?

I first met Brandon at Dragon*Con in 2008. It was a very surreal experience at first hearing someone who was not Robert Jordan talk about writing the Wheel of Time. By the end of the weekend, I was at ease. Brandon loves the characters and the story as much as any other fan who has been following the series for over a decade. It was obvious after talking to him that the series was in the best possible hands. It didn't hurt that I'd read the first two Mistborn novels by that point, and had fallen in love with his stories.

Brandon's books are GOOD. They manage to be tightly plotted, but still leave plenty of hooks for sequels and side bars, as well as mysteries for fans to chew over between installments. He also manages to create characters you want to know more about and spend time with, even the villains. It's a neat trick to watch.

However, I think Brandon's true greatness isn't as "the guy that finished the Wheel of Time" or "the guy that wrote that big book I killed a spider with", but as a teacher. It's always seemed fitting to me that Brandon's first Hugo nomination wasn't for a book, but for the podcast he shares with Howard Tayler, Dan Wells and Mary Robinette Kowal "Writing Excuses." "Writing Excuses" lets you eavesdrop every week on four talented writers as they discuss worldbuilding, characterization, plotting and even getting the attention of a publisher. It's essential listening for anyone trying to get published, or who is just curious about the process. On top of this, Brandon also teaches a course on creative writing at BYU and gives classes on the subject at JordanCon and other conventions.

Brandon has been a wonderful person to get to know over the last four years. His dedication to his fans and to his craft is amazing. It's been a pleasure seeing his take on familiar characters and I can't wait to see what new worlds he creates for his.

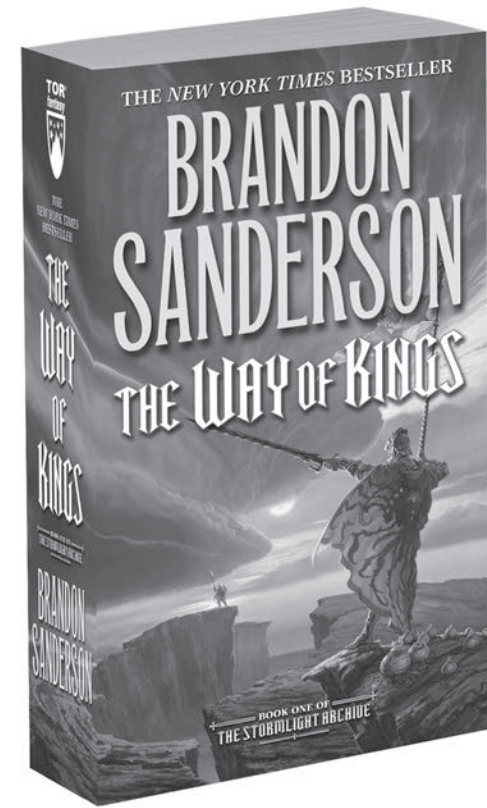
-Jennifer Liang

PARTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

<u>Alcatraz Smedry</u>	<u>Mistborn</u>	<u>Wheel of Time</u>
Alcatraz Vs. the Evil Librarians	Mistborn: The Final Empire	The Gathering Storm
Alcatraz Vs. the Scrivener's Bones	The Well of Ascension	Towers of Midnight
Alcatraz Vs. the Knights of Crystallia	The Hero of Ages	A Memory of Light (2013)
Alcatraz Vs. the Shattered Lens	The Alloy of Law	
<u>Elantris</u>	<u>Stormlight Archive</u>	<u>Standalone Novels</u>
Elantris	The Way of Kings	Warbreaker
The Hope of Elantris	Stormlight 2 (2013)	Legion (Sep 2012)
		The Emperor's Soul (Nov 2012)

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chosen to complete Robert Jordan's The Wheel of Time® series

BRANDON SANDERSON

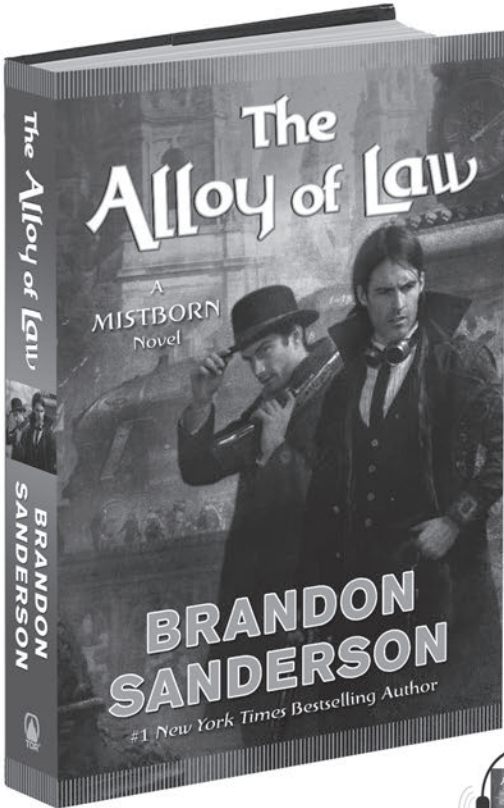


"I loved this book. What else is there to say?"

—PATRICK ROTHFUSS, *New York Times*
bestselling author of *The Name of the Wind*

"Sanderson is a master of hooking the reader in the first few pages, and once again he doesn't disappoint. Fans and lovers of epic fantasy will find the ending satisfying, yet will eagerly await the next volume."

—LIBRARY JOURNAL



"It's rare for a fiction writer to have much understanding of how leadership works and how love really takes root in the human heart. Sanderson is astonishingly wise."

—ORSON SCOTT CARD on the Mistborn trilogy

"Sanderson's saga of consequences offers complex characters and a compelling plot, asking hard questions about loyalty, faith, and responsibility."

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY on the Mistborn trilogy

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Congratulations to Liberty Con 2012 Guests Timothy Zahn, Larry Niven, and Jerry Pournelle

TIMOTHY ZAHN

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The Quadrail that connects the twelve civilizations of our galaxy has been the flashpoint of a battle for dominance fought mostly unnoticed by humankind. But Frank Compton of Earth, aided by the enigmatic woman Bayta, has fought on the front lines, using every bit of his human ingenuity and secret agent skills to outwit the Modhri. But when Frank discovers a conspiracy that threatens all life in the galaxy, even the Modhri might become friendly....

"Timothy Zahn's Judgment at Proteus delivers exactly what his many fans expect: memorable characters, intricate plot, fascinating ideas, and more than a modicum of wit."

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— Roger Zelazny

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TIMOTHY ZAHN

25TH ANNIVERSARY LITERARY GUEST

First, the facts: Although best known by fans as the author of several very fine Star Wars novels and most importantly as the creator of Mara Jade, Timothy Zahn is also an award winning author of several science fiction stories, novels, and novellas. He was nominated for a Hugo in 1983 for "Pawn's Gambit" and the next year won a Hugo for "Cascade Point". He has been writing science fiction for over thirty years, publishing forty novels, nearly ninety short stories and novelettes, and four collections of short fiction.

Timothy Zahn was born on September 1, 1951 in Chicago, Illinois. He is the son of Herbert William Zahn (an attorney) and Marilou Webb Zahn (also an attorney). He earned a B.S. in Physics from the University of Michigan in 1973 and an M.S. in Physics from the University of Illinois in 1975. Zahn began writing science fiction in 1975 as a hobby. As he worked towards his doctorate in physics, he began to devote more of his time to writing. In 1978, he sold his first short story to Analog. He was considering taking a year off to write after his doctorate when his thesis advisor died suddenly in mid-1979 (coincidentally, the same day he sold his second story). On August 4, 1979, he married Anna L. Romo and afterwards embarked on his new career as a full time writer. They now live in Oregon and have a wonderful son named Corwin.

Tim has been a featured guest several times, including Special Guest in 1990 at LibertyCon 4, Author Guest of Honor in 1996 at LibertyCon 10, Master of Ceremonies in 2000 at LibertyCon 14, Special Guest in 2005 at LibertyCon 18, Master of Ceremonies in 2007 at LibertyCon 20 and now as our 25th Anniversary Author Guest. Having been with us for so long, he and Anna are a longstanding part of our family.

If you go to the website, you can look at old program books and read wonderful stories about Tim from the people who admire and love him. When he first came to LibertyCon 4, Anna wrote his bio. Corwin was 8 years old, and besides the biographical information above, let us in on his secret childhood desire: to be the tick-tock crocodile from Peter Pan. At LibertyCon 10 Uncle Timmy wrote about how he met Tim's Anna in 1981 at InConjuncticon and then after coming down to a ChatCon afterwards, remained fast friends. We welcomed him home for LibertyCon 14 and then at LibertyCon 18 I told stories of my past with them including babysitting Crowin and eating year after year during the infamous 'Chinese Blizzard' nights. At LibertyCon 20, I told the story of him saving a poor fan's life from my very pregnant self at LibertyCon 16 / Deep South Con 41. He is so humble, he didn't even remember his heroic deed! Well, it was heroic in my mind anyway. My husband still mocks me about that day.

When it came to voting for the Master of Ceremonies for our very special 25th anniversary, it was a very easy decision to ask one of our own family, Mr. Timothy Zahn.

-Brandy Spraker



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DON MAITZ

ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR



DON MAITZ, Appreciate the Wonder

By Janny Wurts

At the moment you read this, there are ninety two Don Maitz paintings scattered all over the USA. This is not because he attracted a tornado, or the house got upended and dropped someplace other than Kansas. No, this happened because I live with a prodigy, whose works were carefully crated and shipped, now hanging on display in five different museums, where they are currently being viewed by an admiring public while the artist is still alive.

The sixth simultaneous exhibit on display at this convention makes the list of works top one hundred, and you attendees have the added honor of hosting Don among you, in person.

I've lived with the magic he makes every day, for over three decades, and the bug eyed awe as he completes each picture has never begun to wear off. Hand Don a paint brush, a pencil, heck, even a charred stick, and he steps us into another world. His canvases bring the unknown, the unimaginable, far flung frontiers, and concepts of the future to visionary life, using the techniques of the old masters. He's a walking textbook, and can tell you how the great painters before us have brought images to canvas, using hand-ground pigments. If I told you the clock stops whenever he draws, or counted the number of times we've burned diner, or overflowed water out of the bathtub, you'll believe me when I tell you he lives with one foot in another realm, far beyond the fields we know.

Nobody escapes the consequences: his iconic image of the Captain Morgan Pirate has infiltrated billboards, broadsided buses, and invaded our living rooms with national TV ads. His paintings have appeared in National Geographic and American Artist, and hung in the Hayden Planetarium in New York. His works have been part of touring shows, NASA's 25th Anniversary Exhibit, and the juried National show mounted by the American Society of Marine Artists. His piratical, mural-sized picture of a ship full of sea rovers has even gone sailing aboard the Star of India, as part of an exhibition in the San Diego Maritime Museum. And he papered the historical Italian town of Lucca with his portrayal of Salgari's fictional character, Sandokan, riding a tiger, when he created the poster as honored guest for the Lucca Comics and Games convention. For the international flights, the portfolio carrying the original painting became a jet set passenger in a purchased seat, belted between us on the airlines, and hung for the enjoyment of one hundred fifty thousand fans, on the venerable walls of the Palazzo Ducale.

The hundreds of book covers and reproductions on books, T shirts, cards, cups, and puzzles can't begin to do justice to his rich use of color. Neither can listing his impressive awards: Hugos, Chesleys, Society of Illustrator's medal, International Maritime Award of Excellence, Inkpot, and the truck load accumulation of Best of Show trophies that raise holy havoc at home with the dusting. Accolades of every sort can't begin to match the experience of viewing his original work. Don's signature range includes such a wide variety of subjects, he's a royal nuisance to pigeonhole. I have, yes, picked up a book and thought, "Who in heck DID this?" only to discover it was another Don Maitz: crazy, original, often loaded with manic humor and an abstract mix of techniques that sometimes can turn life with him into a whack job. He's robbed the toilet seat off the john to use as a french curve. Pots, pans, clothes, tin foil, straws, hot air, a lobster, the horses, the cats, have all become fair game - whatever exists in the house, or anywhere else, he'll either pinch it or photograph it and put it to use as studio reference. Doors

get left open, jar lids aren't screwed on, and he's worn paint that somehow got hooked off his palette on errands, not to mention the time the light switches, the phone, in fact half the house, got smeared blue as he shed paint on everything, moving about. Or the time his niece wore Alizarin Crimson like war paint, while he was at the easel attempting to babysit.

The humor and the puns will happen non-stop. You can't gag them, no matter how hard you try, or how loudly you groan into his left ear (which works,) nobody's yet found a deterrent that sticks for a moment. He's engaging, he likes beer, and spouts jokes without warning, even if you cut off his access to coffee. His many hobbies include playing with matches: black powder cannon, reenactment, privateering, and a penchant for costumed mayhem on period vessels, at sea. This weekend, you conventioners have three decades worth of incredible experiences walking among you: catch Don and engage him in conversation. He's easy to like, and delighted to share. Many of his predicaments will make you laugh. He's generous with his comments. If you bring him your sketchbook or portfolio, or talk shop as an artist, he's freely outspoken with sharing techniques. You'll seldom meet a more earnest and personable human being, and so far, he only bites if you try to talk politics. Snatch your moment to know him as I do while you can, because everyone knows: Dead Men Tell No Tales.

No one in his family taught him his trade. As a child, he encountered the excitement of comics, discovered the liberation of drawing, graduated top of his class at the Paier School of Art, then divorced himself from the 'real' world of conformity. He's a one of a kind original and too modest to ever admit he's a gifted genius.

No recognition can do him full justice. When it comes to the paintings themselves, all words fall short. A feast for the eyes awaits you in the art show. Take in an amazing talent, while you comb through the details to search for Don's clever habit of hiding his signature.

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JANNY WURTS

ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR



Janny Wurts Appreciation

by Don Maitz

Whoa! I get to write an appreciation about the person I married?

Hello - Dr Phil, Dear Abbey, and you, Jerry Springer, listen up!

I am fortunate to have personal experience allowing me to truthfully say you may never meet a more dedicated and talented person than Janny Wurts. She is curious and responsive to life in ways that would paralyze the couch potato network. I can only hint at her many accomplishments. I can describe episodes that would daunt fainter hearts than hers. Just yesterday, she climbed up a ladder extended to 35 ft. secured to the bed

of a pickup truck for extra height in order to return a baby hawk to a nest in a eucalyptus tree, with a high wind blowing and the ladder not quite reaching high enough to access the nest. That is some dedication for doing the right thing. Another activity worth mentioning is beekeeping. Sticking both fists into a hive of bees is not the routine of a wall flower.

Janny personifies commitment. She conceived an idea for a story based upon something that opened her eyes when she was eighteen years old. She decided that she would both write and illustrate this story. We are not talking about a children's book. This idea is epic in scope and written in a fantasy environment so that the concepts cannot be influenced by known prejudice that sways emotions. She originally conceived a multi-volume work of fiction titled the Wars of Light and Shadow. It is published by HarperCollins, UK and she is writing and drawing for the second to the last volume now - thirty years of dedication to subjects she feels strongly about. The series begins with Curse of the Mistwraith and the latest published installment, Initiate's Trial, is just released. Her writing challenges people on many levels, and her work holds a purpose not outlined in black and white. Parts of her story are left for interpretation to intentionally question automatic preconceptions. I have observed her tweak her work sentence by sentence forwards and backwards before she is satisfied. Due to the complexity and scope, it can take many rewrites to accomplish the tightly styled writing she produces.

As an artist, (Yes, she is illustrating her own books now, just as she set out to do.) she combines an intuitive approach with one that requires extreme competence. I am amazed at how she works. While I plan and color study and build my work in layers, Janny does most of the work in her head, then she draws it out full sized on tracing paper beginning with the main object, most times a face and draws outward from there. Her paint application is much the same, she just mixes a bunch of colors then starts sticking them onto the support that contains the transferred drawing. Maybe she scribbles a small incoherent colored pencil notation on a line drawing copy, but mostly, she paints with her gut and the image comes out like detailed manuscript draft in visual form, full of color atmosphere and character at the first application.

Janny uses challenges to hone her skills for the joy and feeling of accomplishment such pursuits can express. Examples - at sixteen, she did a rigorous Outward Bound program which stakes ability against survival. She competed in small sailboat racing to such a degree that, If you had purchased a Hobie Cat - a Ferrari of a sailboat, from a certain dealership in Pennsylvania, it came with a lesson from Janny. She excelled in competition horse jumping, time calibrated courses where Olympic riding team members and hopefuls were also contending - and she did not always lose to them. She has played

twelve string and six sting guitars, a mandolin, and a hammer dulcimer on occasion. Her passion led her to perform at local gigs, but that pales to her bagpiping, which she began learning at eighteen. She still competes at the highest amateur levels across the state - and wins. Fortunately for me, sometimes the prize is a bottle of single malt scotch...

Janny attended Hampshire College in Amherst MA, which had a difficult to enter experimental education program. She ran an observatory telescope there, thinking she might pursue astronomy, but decided that writing and painting were more worthwhile to make the most of her gifts. She still had that story in mind and made that the grounds to build a career upon. Writing and art studies took center stage. Taught how to learn, rather than what to learn, students decided what they wished to achieve and encounter the ways to seek the knowledge to accomplish their goals on their own. This was not a place for students without motivation.

When I met Janny, she lived on a farm in Pennsylvania near the Brandywine Valley where Andrew Wyeth lived. Her environment was the loft of a carriage barn outfitted with basic plumbing on the ground floor consisting of two garrett rooms, unbearably hot in the summer and freezing cold in the winter. Her landlord was novelist and naturalist, Daniel Mannix, a well respected author who revived Disney Studios through their animated adaptation of his novel The Fox and the Hound. While living there, she practiced archery, learned about falconry, hunting with hounds, the habits of foxes, snake wrangling, and turkey tactics, hot air balloon and helicopter rides, while breaking into professional publishing. Her first published illustrations were for one of Mannix's novels, The Wolves of Paris.

Janny uses far more than observation as inspiration. She knows what it is like to be in a small sail boat during a storm, what being on a panicked runaway horse feels like, what playing music is all about, and she has honed her crafts to get a reader or viewer in touch with these experiences. However, her imagination is the engine that produces the results. When we visited the outer Hebrides after attending the World SF Con in Glasgow, Scotland, there was a fog like mist in the air and the rugged countryside was inhabited by grazing sheep and rock outcroppings. As one stared into the grayness, what looked like a sheep was actually a rock, and as you watched, a rock would drop its head and start grazing. It was quite eerie, and, a scene I vividly remembered reading in War Host of Vastmark. Years before Janny wrote about an apprentice sorcerer confounding an invading army enshrouded in mist, by tricking them into believing rocks were sheep and breaking their spears upon them hunting for food. She had perfectly created the scene I just witnessed with enough clarity to have me recognize her imagined observation and remember the context years later. This is a great observation for a writer to incorporate into a book, Janny, amazingly, had written it in a book, then observed it years later! One of the pleasures I get reading her books is that she is able tell a story without an obvious gender bias. Her books are not geared to female or to male viewpoints, but addressed to readers.

Janny is also a gifted teacher, although she does not seek this as a day job. At her direction, I learned to sailboard (she is a certified instructor), horseback ride (she taught girls at a summer day camp after college) and stay out of most forms of trouble - she has a knack, developed by forethought. Janny's web site (www.paravia.com/JannyWurts) is full of sound advice about the art of writing, publishing, and picture making. Visit the site for this and more. She has posted scenes of places found in her Wars of Light and Shadow rendered in pencil that are not reproduced in her books, there is an interactive map (yes she drew the map and did the calligraphy), and you can read or listen to the first few chapters of her novels.

I hope you enjoy meeting her. She is a an impressive wonder.

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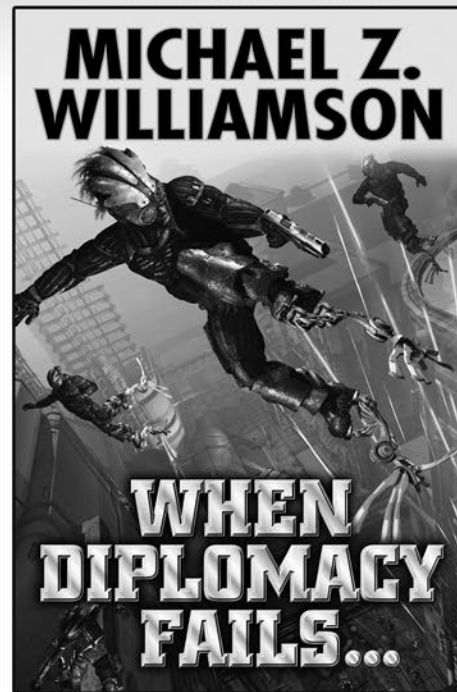
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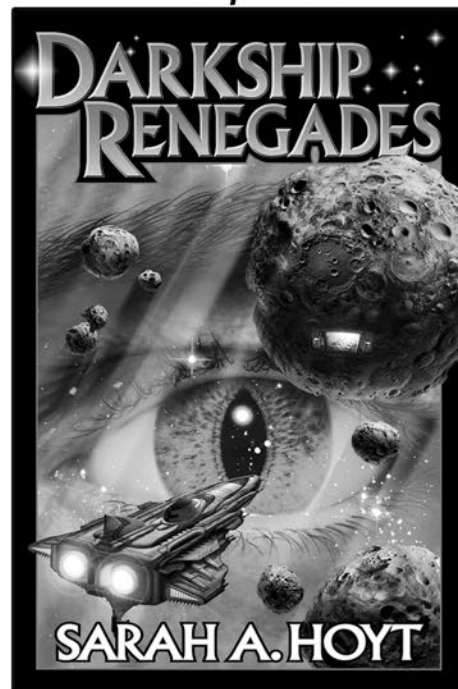


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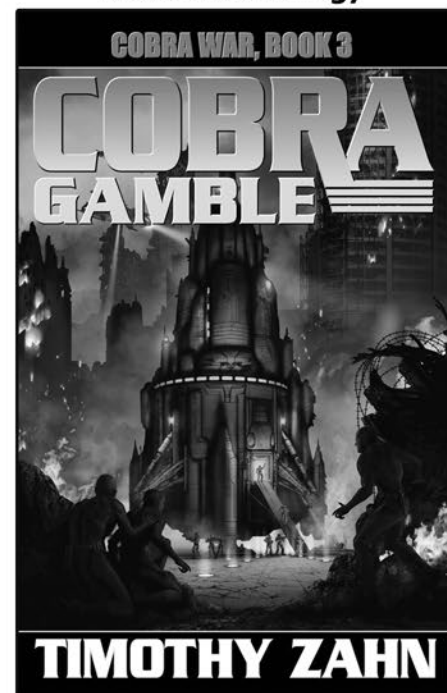
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VINCENT DI FATE

25TH ANNIVERSARY ARTIST GUEST

Vincent Di Fate was the Artist Guest of Honor for LibertyCon 1, the 20th Anniversary Artist Guest of Honor and now the 25th Anniversary Artist Guest of Honor. See a pattern? I first met Vin almost 30 years ago at Kubla Khan in Nashville, Tennessee. I soon fell in love with his artwork and became friends with the man. When I started LibertyCon 25 years ago there was only one artist that I wanted to help me launch my personal quest for an old fashioned convention for the fans. Someone who was one of the best artists in the world and who was a hell of a nice fellow... and I got him. I think that it was at LibertyCon 1 where I met Vin's better half, Ro. Over the years whenever I have bumped into them at Worldcons or other conventions, they have never hesitated to welcome me warmly and to make me feel like a friend. And those, my friends, are the Di Fates.

When I first sat down to write Vincent Di Fate's bio for the LibertyCon 25 Program Book, I first went to his website, VincentdiFate.com, to take a look at his bio. After I read it, I found out that you can't improve on perfection.

"For more than three decades Vincent Di Fate has held an international reputation as one of the world's leading artistic visionaries of the future. People Magazine has said that he is "One of the top illustrators of science fiction, Di Fate is not all hard-edge and airbrush slickness. His works are always paintings — a bit of his brushwork shows — and they are all the better because of it." And Omni Magazine has made the observation that "Moody and powerful, the paintings of Vincent Di Fate depict mechanical marvels and far frontiers of a future technocracy built on complicated machinery and human resourcefulness. Di Fate is something of a grand old man in the highly specialized field of technological space art. Stirring images of far-flung environments have been his trademark." In his prolific career, he has produced art of science fiction, astronomical and aerospace subjects for such clients as IBM, The Reader's Digest, The National Geographic Society, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Di Fate has received many awards for his paintings, including the Frank R. Paul Award for Outstanding Achievement in Science Fiction Illustration (1978), the Hugo Award (Science Fiction Achievement Award) for Best Professional Artist (1979), the Skylark Award for Imaginative Fiction (1987), the Lensman Award for Lifetime Contribution to the Science Fiction Field (1990), and the Chesley Award from the Association of Science Fiction/Fantasy Artists for Lifetime Artistic Achievement (1998). He was also Guest of Honor at the 50th World Science Fiction Convention in Orlando, Florida in 1992 and has been an honored guest at numerous regional SF and fantasy conventions throughout the U.S. since the late 1960s.

The artist has had his paintings exhibited in numerous group and one-man shows at museums and galleries throughout North America, Europe, Asia and Japan. These include important solo exhibitions at the Reading Museum in Pennsylvania, the Museum of Science and Natural History in St. Louis, Missouri, and at the Hayden Planetarium (American Museum of Natural History) in New York City. His work is included in the collections of the National Air and Space Museum (Smithsonian Institution) and the U. S. Air Force Art Collection in Washington, D. C., the Society of Illustrators in New York City, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at Cape Canaveral, Florida, the New Britain Museum of American Art in Connecticut, and in the University of Kansas's Center for Science Fiction Studies at Lawrence. He was commissioned by NASA in 1985 to create the official painting of the International Space Station currently being assembled in Earth orbit. That painting, completed in 1987, is now on display at the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral. His art is also present in many corporate collections.



Di Fate has published four major books, Di Fate's Catalog of Science Fiction Hardware (Workman Publishing Co, 1980), Infinite Worlds: The Fantastic Visions of Science Fiction Art (Penguin Studio Books, 1997), The Science Fiction Art of Vincent Di Fate (March 2002) and Giants from Eternity (Lost Wellman) (with Manly Wade, May 13, 2005) .The award winning Infinite Worlds is the first comprehensive history of science fiction art in America. In addition, Di Fate has lectured extensively about the methods, meaning and history of his craft and has been a consultant for MCA/Universal, 20th Century Fox and MGM/United Artists. He is an Adjunct Professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology (State University of New York) in New York City, where he teaches courses in the history of illustration and in science fiction and fantasy art. He served two terms as president of the Society of Illustrators (1995-1997), an organization of which he is a Life Member, chaired the Permanent Collection Committee for the Museum of America Illustration (SI) from 1985 to 1995, and has served on the Illustration Committee for the Sanford Low Collection of the New Britain Museum of American Art since 1993. Mr. Di Fiate has received a Masters Degree from Syracuse University, and is presently a full professor and chair of the MA in Illustration program at FIT (State University of New York). He is also a founding member and a past president of the Association of Science Fiction/Fantasy Artists. “

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When we started thinking about the Guests for LibertyCon 25, the Board of Directors pretty much gave me “carte blanche” for who I wanted to surround myself with at my last convention before I hand the reins of LibertyCon to the next generation. When I created LibertyCon 25 years ago there was no doubt in my mind who I wanted for my first Artist Guest of Honor. Since this is my last LibertyCon as Chairman, I think you will all guess who my first choice for the 25th Anniversary Artist Guest of Honor was.

Mr. Vincent Di Fate of course. ☺

# LES JOHNSON

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SCIENCE GUEST

When it came to picking someone to be our Science Geust of Honor for LibertyCon 25, there was only one choice in my mind... Les Johnson. He has been our science guest a number of times at previous LibertyCons, and with his help we started our successful Science Programming Track. One thing Les has proven is that fans really appreciate having ‘Science’ at Science Fiction Conventions.

Les graduated Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky in 1984 with a B.A. in Chemistry and Physics. In 1986 he received a Masters of Science in Physics from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

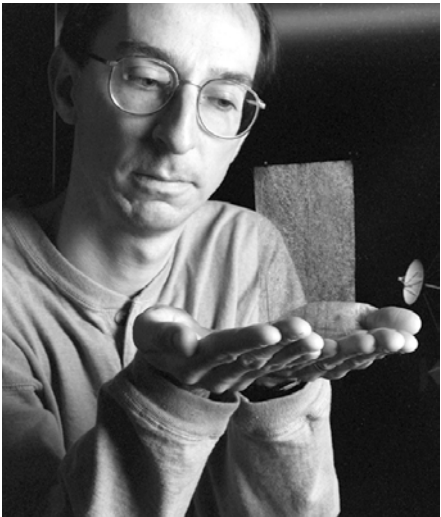
According to the NASA Website at the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, “Les Johnson is the Deputy Manager for NASA’s Advanced Concepts Office at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. He is also the co-investigator on a Japanese space experiment that flew in August 2009. During his career at NASA, he served as the Manager for the Space Science Programs and Projects Office, the In-Space Propulsion Technology Project, and the Interstellar Propulsion Research Project. He was the Chief Scientist for the ProSEDS space experiment, twice received NASA’s Exceptional Achievement Medal, and has 3 patents.”

Les has co-authored three published popular science books, ‘Living Off the Land in Space’ and ‘Paradise Regained: The Regreening of Earth’ with Dr. Gregory Matloff and C Bangs, and Solar Sails with Dr. Gregory Matloff and Dr. Giovanni Vulpetti. Now he is venturing into the world of science fiction in his first novel ‘Back to the Moon’ which is co-authored with Dr. Travis S. Taylor and will be published in January of 2012 by Baen Books.

So we find out that this well lettered man is not only a real rocket scientist, but is also an author of science fact and science fiction books. But to Les, his most important accomplishments are his family. He is married to the lovely Carol and has two children. The oldest is Carl who is a violin virtuoso and just started college this year. Carol let me know that Les volunteers teaching classes in Carl’s homeschool. (Carl has so much violin activity, enthusiasm researching genealogy, and organic farming volunteer effort at work that he needs a homeschool schedule.)

The youngest is Leslie who is in high school now. I can see the possibility of a technical future for Leslie. By the way, after reading this article about Les, has anyone noticed that he and Carol have made some very interesting choices in their kid’s names? At least, I noticed. ;^)

I contacted Carol, Carl and Leslie to get some juicy stories about Les, and both Carol and Leslie “spilled the beans” on him. I’ll start with Carol’s story first. Carol said that Les has a little proficiency in French that he picked up when he spent an entire summer in Toulouse, France at the International Space University. She said, “He had to learn how to say, ‘Get me to a physician immediately, I may have a detached retina.’ But he didn’t. Instead he needed a gastroenterologist after the university served students awful canned food and cheap wine all ten weeks of the program. This hasn’t stopped family international travel, though. We love it--resourcefully--wherever possible to tag along to Les’s speaking engagements at conferences held abroad.”



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Leslie told me that, "When my dad was in college he said that he and his buddies used to rate girls from 1-10 in their chemistry class. One day they were rating the ladies and my dad wrote -273. In chemistry terms that means "absolute zero". He told me this story a while ago and I thought it was really funny!" With that sense of humor, no wonder Les was destined to work in the temple of Geekdom, NASA. According to Carol, Les is Leslie's ever-available tutor, but she rarely needs help to keep on top of honors chemistry class at the largest public high school in Alabama. In addition, Les is the dad-enthusiast supporting her ferocious reading habit on forensics mysteries.

Now I get to "spill the beans" on Les, and I am going to relate two different stories about him. The first occurred many, many, many years ago when Les was the Special Guest at an early LibertyCon. It was our custom back in those days to give our guests a black t-shirt to remember their visit to the "Big Nooga". Klion Newell, our Director of Programming, specified that the back of Les's t-shirt should say "A Real Rocket Scientist". We gave the t-shirt to Les at the Guest of Honor speeches and when he read the back he broke out laughing. The back of the shirts said, "A Real Rocket Sceintist". We were so embarrassed about the misspelling that we begged to get the shirt back to correct our mistake. But Les refused and wore the shirt the rest of the weekend. To this day, whenever Les attends LibertyCon, he will wear his "Real Rocket Sceintist" t-shirt every Saturday night. I have even heard it said that Les has worn that t-shirt in the halls of Marshall Space Flight Center, but I can't prove that. The man is evil at times.

The second story that would like to relate is about Les and his "Mad Scientist" friends. Les and the rest of the scientists who attend LibertyCon have the "Mad Scientist Panel" by the pool on the Friday night of the convention. We keep all of the attendees supplied with "bheer" all evening and they hold court! God forbid if you disagree with them because they will good naturedly decree that the offender should be launched into the pool, and it is even money that they will get drenched. I personally watch my mouth when that crew gets together.

In my professional life, I was an Electrical Engineering Specialist with TVA in power plants. I originally started in TVA's nuclear plants, which I always felt was living the S/F dream. But then I met a real rocket scientist and actually got to talk with him at length. That, my friends, is really living the dream of a S/F fan. On top of that, I have been very fortunate over the years to have developed a lasting friendship with Les. Actually, the entire Bolgeo Clan in the "Big Nooga" and Johnson Clan in Huntsville have developed family ties.

Your Science Guest of Honor, Les Johnson is an author, a real rocket scientist and one hell of a nice guy. If you go to any of the science panels at this year's LibertyCon, you can bet that Les has had a hand in or is the inspiration for it. If you get the chance, please take the time to get to know him and you too my friends can live the dream.

-Tim Bolgeo

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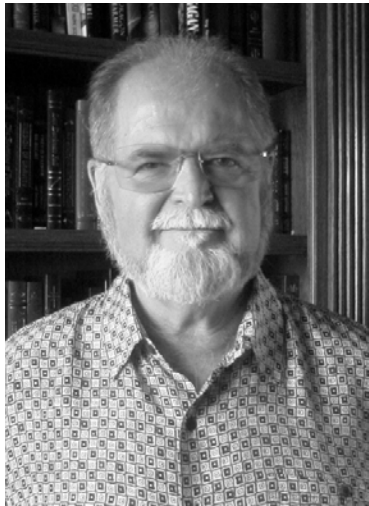


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# LARRY NIVEN

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL GUEST



Laurence van Cott Niven was born on April 30, 1938, in Los Angeles, California, and spent his childhood in Beverly Hills, "excluding two years (ages six to eight) in Washington, D.C., serving his country."

In 1956 he entered the California Institute of Technology, only to flunk out a year-and-a-half later after discovering a bookstore jammed with used science-fiction magazines. Larry finally graduated with a B. A. in mathematics (and a minor in psychology) from Washburn University, Kansas, in 1962, and completed one year of graduate work in mathematics at UCLA before dropping out to write. Larry's first published story, "The Coldest Place," appeared in the December 1964 issue of *Worlds of If*. It was set on the dark side of Mercury, then considered the coldest place in the solar system; unfortunately, scientists discovered that Mercury does indeed revolve with respect to the sun just about the same time that "The Coldest Place" saw print. Undeterred, Niven continued writing about the wonders of the universe for the next four decades.

He went on to author *Ringworld*, to co-author of *The Mote in God's Eye*, edit the *Man-Kzin War* series, and to write or co-author an additional 50+ books.

As an award winner, Niven is prolific. He was awarded the Skylark Award in 1973 (Officially the "Edward E. Smith Memorial Award for Imaginative Fiction"), given annually by the New England Science Fiction Association, for significant contribution to SF in the spirit of the writer E.E. "Doc" Smith. In 2005 he and Jerry Pournelle were given the Robert A. Heinlein Award, which was established by the Heinlein Society to honor outstanding works in hard science fiction or technical writings that inspire the human exploration of space.

Additional Awards include:

**NEBULAs** (Eight Nominations):

- 1970 *Ringworld* (Best Novel)

**HUGOs** (Nineteen Nominations):

- 1976 *The Borderland of Sol* (Best Short Story)
- 1975 *The Hole Man* (Best Short Story)
- 1972 *Inconstant Moon* (Best Short Story)
- 1971 *Ringworld* (Best Novel)
- 1967 *Neutron Star* (Best Short Story)

**LOCUS** (Forty-Six Nominations, Thirteen Nominations for Locus All-Time Best):

- 2001 *The Missing Mass* (Best Short Story)
- 1984 *The Integral Trees* (Best Novel)
- 1980 *Convergent Series* (Single Author Collection)
- 1970 *Ringworld* (Best Novel)

*Ringworld* (1972) and *Protector* (1973) also won Ditmars, an Australian award for Best International Science Fiction. *Fallen Angels* also won the Prometheus Award in 1992 for Best Novel and the Seiun Award (from Japan), for Foreign Novel in 1998. Larry has also served as one of the judges for the Hubbard Writers/Illustrators of the Future awards almost continually since 1986.

Some of his contemporaries, like David Brin, have jokingly accused Larry of mining out the territory so completely that there's nothing left for other writers to explore! There can be no doubt that hard-sf writers dominant in the 1980s, like Greg Bear, and some of those reaching for eminence at the turn of the century, like Paul J. McAuley, Roger MacBride Allen and Stephen Baxter (one of Larry's own favorites), owe much to the scope of Larry's inventiveness and that genre-defining sense of wonder that's firmly anchored in the real-world setting of science and technology.

And the Grand Master has no intention of slowing down. Future novels with Jerry Pournelle, Greg Benford, Ed Lerner, Steven Barnes and Michael Flynn are in various stages of completion.

All right. That's the official biography of Larry Niven. I never write those because I am sure to leave out an award or something, and it never goes right, because it almost always ends up being about me anyway. They asked me to write Niven's vita. I declined but I did volunteer to write a commentary. Of course I then promptly forgot that until it was close to deadline. Probably just as well. Now I have an excuse for making this brief.

I met Larry Niven about forty years ago. It was a planned meeting. After I got out of the aerospace business and had a stint as a professor, then managed Mayor Yorty's third term political campaign and became Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles, it was time to write science fiction. In those days there wasn't much money in writing science fiction. Arthur Clarke had made the Book of the Month Club once, and Isaac Asimov was on his second hundred book, but science fiction was known in those days as a ghetto. Niven once pointed out that it was an odd kind of ghetto – it was hard to get into it, it was expensive to stay there, but there was lots of esteem and good parties. "That sounds more like a country club," he said, and he should know since he grew up in the country club life. He liked writing science fiction, and the income wasn't important because he had chosen the right great grandparents and could live off his old money trust fund while he built a writing career.

I didn't quite have that luxury, and had a growing family to support to boot: so if I took on writing science fiction I had to get famous quick. The simplest way to do that, I thought, would be to write a good novel which I could promote into a best seller, and the fastest way to do that would be to collaborate with someone who was already well known in the SF Country Club/Ghetto. Of course there's the question of collaboration: why in the world would someone already well known in the field do that? But of course there's an answer to that: if you can show that the two of you can tell a better story than either of you alone. With that in mind I thought about the science fiction writers I was familiar with, and decided that the right guy to work with was Larry Niven. He writes better than I do. He has images. I'll tell you about that in a few minutes, but I don't think anyone will quarrel with the statement. On the other hand I plot better than he does. I do more formal structure, thinking about what scenes are needed to make the story advance properly, and how to let action serve so you don't have too many expository lumps, and a lot of other intellectual stuff we don't need to get into. After reading *Ringworld* it was pretty clear to me that between us we could tell one hell of a story. So I tracked him down, got invited to go over to his house and spend an evening, and we talked over brandy and coffee.

Niven had an alien, an asymmetric alien, a creature that just couldn't possibly have evolved by the usual rules of natural selection. I had the Empire of Man, a small interstellar community built on a number of principles like the Alderson Drive and the Langston Field, all designed to make for space opera. So how could we manage to explain the evolution of a powerful and adept alien race that didn't come find us first, and which the human race hadn't found yet? Assuming we could manage rational reasons for those seeming impossibilities, we had the potential for a Hell of a first contact novel; and by morning we had answers, a pile of notes – this was in the days of Selectric typewriters and hardbound log books – and an agreement on where to go. The agreement was simple enough: Niven had the final word if we disagreed. I'd do most of the plot and the story line and a lot of the scenes, including pretty well all of the political stuff and scenes with many people involved because Larry didn't write that sort of stuff much; and when it was all done, someone had to smooth out the transitions so that it looked like one person had written this thing, and being the junior author, that would be me.

Sounded good to me. The result took a year longer than we thought it would, and by the time it was published we'd both become better known in the SF field. The result was *THE MOTE IN GOD'S EYE*. Simon and Shuster bought it for more than either of us had ever been offered. It's still in print. Moreover, we knew we could work together. Niven had taken characters I invented as background and made them major actors. I took some random scenes he'd put together mostly as character studies or to tell things about the Moties and stitched them into one of the best chapters in the book. He handled my characters



well, and I took some of his through essential plot actions. And we never had a disagreement that wasn't settled by mutual agreement. After MOTE people used to ask us how we worked together, and we developed the habit of saying, in unison, "Superbly!" which was, after all, quite true.

It was pretty clear that we would do another book together. That turned out to be OATH OF FEALTY, but before we could get that one done Larry proposed that we do a book he'd always wanted to try, but which he didn't have the intellectual background for: a science fiction author in Dante's Inferno. The result was Inferno by Niven and Pournelle, and it was one of Pocket's better money makers and got so popular among students that Mentor brought out a new edition of the Ciardi translation of Dante. It's still selling, too.

And while I'm bragging, there's Lucifer's Hammer, which broke out of category as they say in the publishing business, meaning that it was 14 weeks as #2 on the best seller list, and earned so much money that even Niven was impressed, but that's not why I brought it up here. Remember I promised you a story illustrating how we work? A couple of years ago Nature, a high powered real science journal, did a two page review/tribute to the then 25 year old Lucifer's Hammer. There was a picture and everything. Most of the article was about the science and how we'd got so much of it right, and we're both proud of that, and it was both our work. As usual many of the details are mine, and most of the plot is mine. And of course Nature began the review/tribute of Hammer with – well, what else? With the surfer, of course. It's the one scene anyone who had ever read Hammer will remember. The desperate surfer riding the ultimate wave as a tsunami takes out Santa Monica. It's a great scene, and I'd never have thought of it, and even if I had I am not mad enough to have written it. And that's Larry Niven, and that's how we two work together.

Jerry Pournelle  
Mission Beach, CA 2012

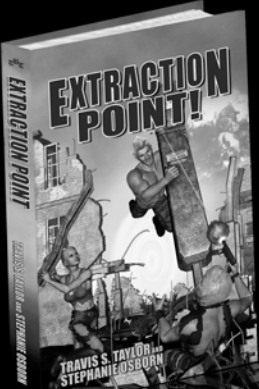
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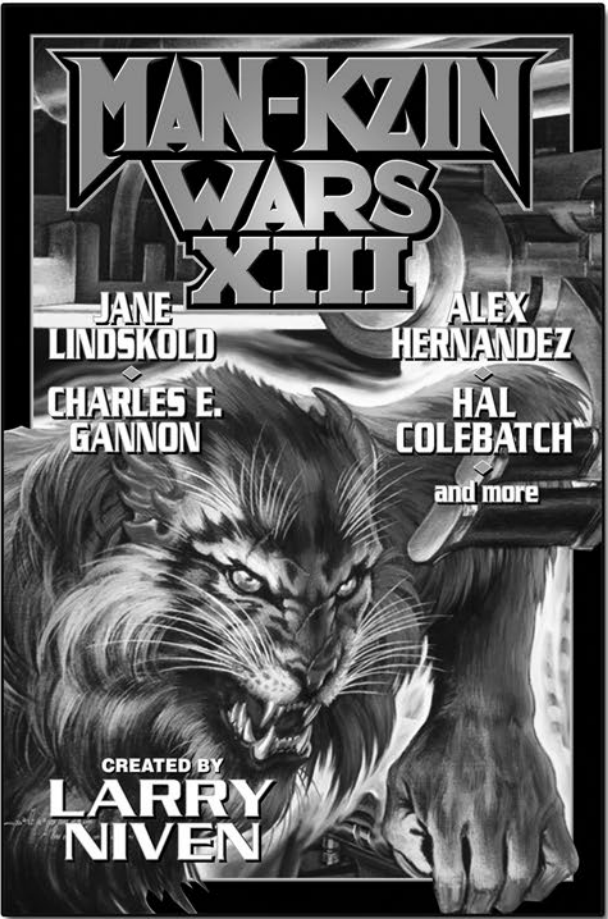
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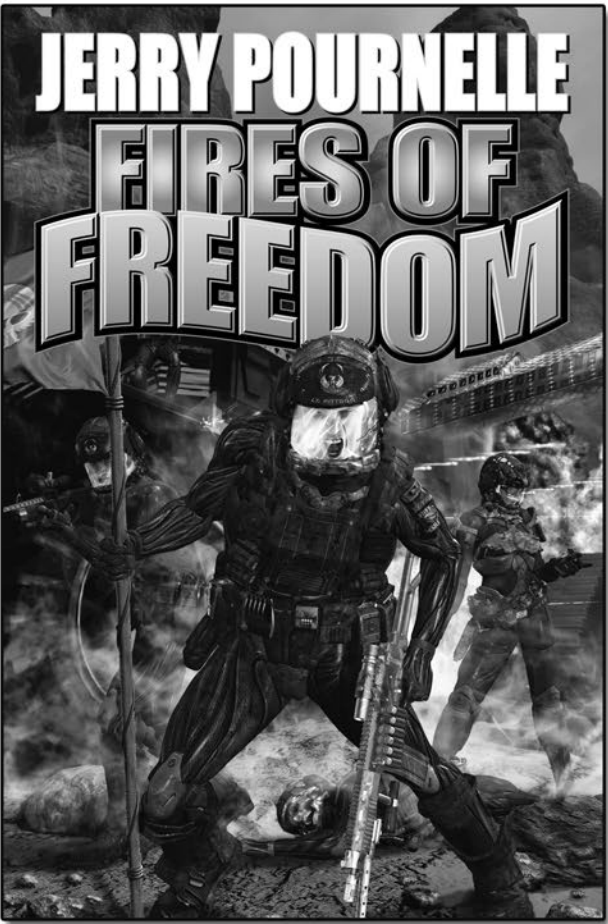
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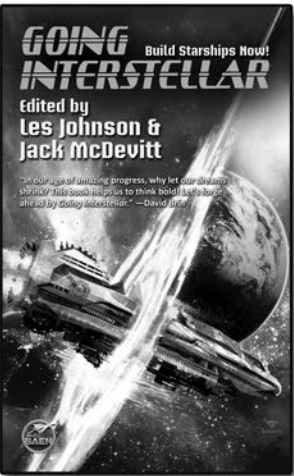
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# JERRY POURNELLE

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL GUEST

**Dr. Jerry Pournelle**  
by Larry Niven



He's got two doctorates.

He helped to build the manned space program—by toasting astronauts.

He was a teacher at Pepperdine University, commuting an hour to work and 75 minutes home, five days a week. It sounded awful. He got out of that by writing.

He and Tony Peitsch built a computer system for the purpose of writing books. Until then the upper limit for sophistication in writing was the Selectric 2 typewriter. When he had shaped a machine and program to his satisfaction, I got Tony to build two for me and Marilyn. Hers was spare parts for mine. Jerry's is now in the Smithsonian.

I watched him create a lifestyle out of sheer chaos. There was no user's column in the computer industry before Jerry created Chaos Manor for Byte Magazine. He built a tremendous office above his house, big enough to accommodate the flow of new computers and programs in and back out to various charities. It supported him and his wife and four sons, between books, and still does.

Working at my house with a variety of professionals in related space industries, Jerry formed the plan that brought down the Soviet Union: the Space Defense Initiative. Star Wars if you didn't like it. We only intended to write a national space program, with costs and schedules, to submit to the President. SDI fell out of that.

We've written a dozen books, working together over more than forty years. One was the book we wanted to read when we were twelve: A MOTE IN GOD'S EYE. One was a civilization saver—I hope. At least LUCIFER'S HAMMER founded a subculture of professionals who intend to stop the next Dinosaur Killer. OATH OF FEALTY might have saved civilization in Los Angeles, but it didn't. Two were fantasies, swords-and-sorcery in an age when the magic was wearing out. Four were triple collaborations. THE LEGACY OF HEOROT and its sequels were written with Steven Barnes. FALLEN ANGELS was written with Michael Flynn, a tribute to various aspects of fandom.

You won't have any trouble getting him talking.

---

*Jerry Eugene Pournelle was born in 1933 in Shreveport, La. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He holds masters' degrees in experimental statistics and systems engineering, and Ph.D.s in psychology and political science, all from the University of Washington. He worked in the aerospace industry at Boeing on Project Thor to study kinetic projectile space bombardment and on Project 75, "a 1964 study of 1975 defense requirements."*

*In the computer and technology industries, Jerry Pournelle is best known for "Computing At Chaos Manor," the industry's first and longest-running monthly column, now over 20 years old. The column first appeared in BYTE Magazine in 1979 and ran for several years in one or two overseas publications through mid-2001. Most recently it was reincarnated as Chaos Manor Reviews, a dedicated site.*

*Jerry is a science writer and journalist but considers fiction his primary profession. He's best known for the sci-fi books he co-wrote with Larry Niven, including Oath of Fealty; The Mote in God's Eye, and the sequel to Mote, The Gripping Hand. He is also known for several books based on Falkenberg's Legion, a fictional mercenary infantry force.*

*He is a multi-award winner, including among others the John W. Campbell Award, the Prometheus Award, and the Heinlein Society Award.*

# ERIC FLINT

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MASTER OF CEREMONIES

**Flint is Like Oxygen...**  
by Toni Weisskopf



As an employee of Baen Books, I've been privileged to follow Eric's career from his first sale to Baen, the wonderful planet story Mother of Demons. I was lucky enough to be the first reader on that one and recommend it for purchase. Ever since then "follow" has indeed been the word—sometimes I couldn't keep up with drawing up the contracts, he had so many great ideas for books! And he follows through on those ideas—he is that beau ideal of a Baen author, a storyteller with interesting ideas. In a Flint book you just have to keep turning those pages.

Eric has had an eclectic array of jobs, including machinist, labor union organizer, and Ph.D. student in African history. But possibly the job that most influenced his writing career was an early one: ski lift operator. It's boring work, and it let young Eric consume vast amounts of books, including the works of that great author of Westerns, Louis L'Amour. There's not a whole lot of similarity in their writing styles, but the page-turning part applies. And there is no doubt Eric knows how to construct a readable story.

Eric shows an amazing versatility in the kinds of science fiction he writes. First off, he started with humorous literary fantasy, an award winning story in Writers of the Future contest. Then his first novel, the aforementioned adventure/philosophical planet story Mother of Demons. You got your hard science fiction which can be represented by his collaborations with Ryk Spoor starting with Boundary, Incomplete Enchanter-esque fantasy in his Pyramid Scheme series with Dave Freer, alternate history fantasy in the Heirs of Alexandria series with Dave Freer and Mercedes Lackey—these read like Scaramouche with magic, to me—alternate history/military SF in the Belisarius series with David Drake, continuing James Schmitz's Karres series with Lackey & Freer, space opera Honorverse books set in David Weber's universe (which is only fair, since they also do collaborations set in Ring of Fire universe, too), alien invasion novels with K.D Wentworth. And, let us not forget the 500-pound gorilla of the alternate history field: the Ring of Fire series that started with 1632. I could go on, but I'm pretty sure Libertycon would run out of pages. And the wonderful thing is that all of them are really very good!

Discerning readers will have noticed a trend in the above list—many of the books and series mentioned are collaborations. Hence my opening simile—like oxygen, Flint bonds a lot. He works with many, many different authors, with wildly differing writing styles, at different stages of their careers, in universes of his devising or theirs. He is an excellent author writing solo. But he is also an amazing editor/collaborator, able to work with many different people to create great fiction. In this, I think he must be unique in the history of the field.

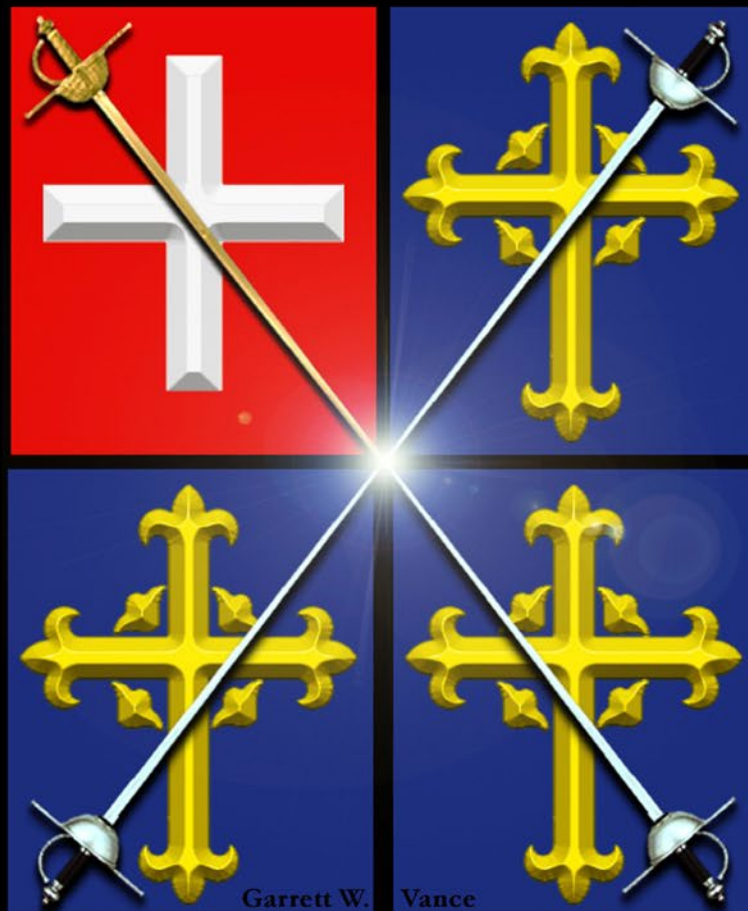
It's worth noting that Flint has taken the informal circular feedback process that is specific to science fiction (writers, readers, artists & editors all talking to one another, the borders between quite permeable), and turned it into the well-oiled machine that is the Ring of Fire shared universe. It started with Eric's solo alternate history novel, and an innocent history question on Baen's on-line community, the Bar. It is now 14 published novels, 9 published anthologies in book form, over 40 volumes in the electronic magazine Grantville Gazette, yet more novels under contract, and some vast number of previously unpublished, undiscovered new writers with polished stories to their credit. And two very active conferences on Baen's Bar. To say nothing of the detailed website at <http://1632.org/>. It's an amazing testament to Eric's powers of organization and collaboration.

And to top it all off, Eric's a nice guy. A Midwesterner from California, but don't hold it against him. He's Libertycon through and through, and I know you'll enjoy having him as your M.C. this special 25th year.



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# Eric Flint's Grantville Gazette



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## KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THESE GUYS ALSO

HERE ARE SOME OF THE OTHER PROS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND LIBERTYCON 25 AS OF PRINTING,  
THOUGH THIS LIST IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

### Larry Atchley, Jr.

Larry Atchley, Jr. is a non-fiction and science fiction/fantasy writer, poet, philosopher, paranormal investigator, and Qi-Gong Kung Fu martial artist. In his "spare" time he enjoys nature hiking, sword fencing, bicycling, rock climbing, archery, music, reading and collecting books. He lives in Texas with his wife Sussie, daughter Alina, cats Samwise and Prue, and Jack Russell Terriers Frodo and Rosie. His short story, "Remember, Remember, Hell in November", will appear in the Lawyers in Hell anthology.

### Charlotte Babb

Charlotte Babb has been writing since she was four, making up stories about fairies in the back yard and aliens in the forest. She has studied the folk stories of many cultures and wonders what happened to ours. Where the stories are for people over 20 who have survived marriage, divorce, child-raising, education, bankruptcy, and widowhood? She loves Fractured Fairy Tales and writes them for your enjoyment.

### Scott W. Baker

Scott W. Baker started writing science fiction and fantasy about thirteen years ago. Since then, he's somehow found time to write about time travel, zombies, colonies in space, human experiments, and urban fantasy all while teaching high school math and being the best Daddy he can be. His short stories can be found in places like Daily Science Fiction, Escape Pod, and Writers of the Future volume 26.

### C Bangs

C Bangs is an accomplished artist who has works in museums across the world and has worked extensively with NASA to visualize scientific concepts. She has a talent for bridging the gap between visual art and cutting edge science. You have to admit, it isn't every day you see an artist write about her work like this: "My work investigates frontier science combined with symbolist figurative painting. I've included quantum equations by Dr. Evan Harris Walker as sacred writing. These equations function as design elements and refer to the interconnectivity of everything and the relationship of time to space."

### Jeff Barnes

As an Air Force brat, Jeff grew up in such exotic locales as Japan, Alaska, Texas, and Tennessee. After a botched attempt at college (sadly, they do not award degrees for partying and lack of work ethic), he ended up being hired by the FAA to be an air traffic controller. Jeff spent eight years in Anchorage and Dillingham, Alaska before moving to Paducah, Kentucky, then Nashville, Tennessee. From there he left active air traffic control to work in FAA headquarters in Washington, DC, where he has worked ever since. Aside from controlling, Jeff's 28 years of federal service have been spent in electronic warfare, system development, strategic planning, and computer security. Currently he is the lead safety engineer for the Aeronautical Information Management Directorate, as well as telecommunications infrastructure manager for the NAIMES 2 program. His first story, Fall from Grace will be published in the upcoming 3rd book of the Sha'Daa series, *Sha'Daa: Pawns*. He will also be published in "The Book of Night" due out late this Fall.

### Chris Berman

Author and lecturer: You could call me the accidental author. While recovering from a bicycle versus SUV accident, I wrote my first novel, *The Hive*. The Hive invaded American and United Kingdom bookstores in February of 2009. After completing this book, I wrote *RED MOON*. My new novel *STAR PIRATES* has just been released and a new work, *DAS BELL*, and *ACE OF ACES* are awaiting publication.

I love science fiction. I grew up as a young boy on a diet of science fiction from authors such as Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke and John Campbell. Later, I added others, such as Alan Dean Foster, Ben Bova, Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, Eric Flint, Harry Turtledove and James P. Hogan to my list of favorites. Science fiction was not my only passion, so was science fact. As a boy, I lived a few blocks down from a serious amateur astronomer. This man taught me about the stars and planets as well as how to photograph astronomical events and grind my own mirrors and lenses to



make telescopes. I am also a spaceflight enthusiast. I have good deal of expertise in both the US and Russian space programs. I recently received my master’s degree in military history from Norwich University in Vermont. I live in Saint Augustine, Florida, with my wife and daughters.

### Michael Bielaczyc

Michael Bielaczyc has been making art his whole life. He has been selling and showing work since 1995, when he self published his own comic book. Going back to college at 25, he decided that art was going to be his main focus in life. In 2001, he started an art company, Aradani Studios, with his brother Paul. Together they have shown and worked in shows across America selling both their artwork and costuming. While Michael has worked for such popular role-playing franchises as Dragonlance and Castlemourn, his real passion is for his personal work. He works in mediums from oil paint to latex prosthetics, video to graphite.

### Paul Bielaczyc

Paul Bielaczyc in his own words: *“I have been drawing and whatnot since as long as I can remember. Any spot in my school notebooks that didn’t have notes were filled with sketches. I drew mostly from the D&D adventures that my brother ran, as well as the fantasy books I was reading. I did a few pieces based on Terry Brooks’ Shannara series, but focusing on being a nerd, I didn’t have much time for art in high school.*

*When I got to college I dual majored in Computer Science and Art History. I minored in Studio Art, and took as many art classes as my schedule allowed. I seemed to be pursuing a career in art or art education, but decided to try graduate school in Computer Science. I graduated in 2004 with a Master’s in CS, but again switched paths and returned to my art interests. Mike, my brother, and I co-own Aradani Studios, a costuming and art company that we founded in 2002. We travel mostly in the Southeast United States, to various conventions and Renaissance Festivals, selling our art, and our ears.*

*I currently call Nashville, TN my home, and don’t see that changing for quite some time. This is where my friends, my family, and my career is. When I first posted this bio, I said that, “I still have no idea what I want to do with my life.” Well, in those 4 years that I wrote that, I think I have found my calling. At the age of 26, I won the most prestigious fantasy art award there is, the Chesley Award. Mike and I have slowly but steadily grown this business into something that now employees other people! And most importantly, I love what I do, and I truly enjoy being able to talk about my art with people, and have a dialogue with them.”*

### Karen Bogen

K.B. Bogen has a head for technology, a knack for humor, and a taste for the macabre. A native Texan, she holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and Engineering from UT Arlington, as well as several health and nutrition certifications. Her favorite form of communication is humor, preferring to make people laugh rather than cry, though she is not above causing the occasional shiver in her audience. A full-time wife, mother and software test engineer, part-time copy editor and writer, Karen is “jacq of all trades.” She plays domestic when she has to, knits compulsively, and reads forensic anthropology textbooks for fun. Ask her about current knitting projects. Her written works include “Go Quest, Young Man” from TSR Books, and “Good Help” from Dracula in London.

### Walt Boyes

By day, Walt Boyes is the not-so-mild-mannered chief editor of a technical magazine called Control, and a partner in a high-technology consulting firm, Spitzer and Boyes LLC. Ah, but by night, he transforms into the Bananaslug of Baen’s Bar, and begins to write. Walt has written 10 non-fiction books, articles and columns too numerous to count (Bananaslugs have very few fingers anyway) and has published several fiction pieces, including four short stories in the 1632 Universe and some children’s stories. Walt is currently working on two non-fiction books, and a novel (of course -- doesn’t every writer have one stashed somewhere?). Walt was Associate Editor and Marketing Director for Jim Baen’s Universe magazine, is a member of the Editorial Board of the Grantville Gazette, and is an active member of SFWA.

### David L. Burkhead

David L. Burkhead’s most recent story, “*With Enemies Like These*” is forthcoming in the shared-world anthology *Lawyers in Hell*. He has previously published stories in Analog Science Fiction & Fact and the late Marion Zimmer Bradley’s Fantasy Magazine. In addition to his science fiction and fantasy writing, he has published a number of technical and popular science articles and is a scientist working in Atomic Force Microscopy. He has a webcomic, Cold Servings.

### Paul Cagle

Paul Cagle started his paranormal journey around the age of 6 when his family moved into a paranormally active house in Dunlap, TN. From that time on, he has seen and experienced all kinds of unusual phenomena. In 2006 he and several friends formed the South Eastern Paranormal Society (SEPS) and began investigating paranormal occurrences in and around the Chattanooga area. Through the use of equipment and the data they collect, he hopes to better understand these occurrences and what lies beyond. In 2010 his first book Paranormal Journeys was published, co-authored by horror writer Robert Freese. Paranormal Journeys chronicles several of the team’s best investigations in and around Chattanooga.

### Stephen Euin Cobb

Stephen Euin Cobb is an author, futurist, and host of the award-winning podcast The Future And You. He is contributing editor for Robot Magazine. And he is an essayist, artist, game designer, and transhumanist.

As host of The Future And You, a one-hour long weekly podcast, he interviews authors, celebrities, scientists, and “pioneers of the future” as to what they believe both the near future and distant future will be like. Nanotech, biotech, and exoplanets are popular topics on his show, as are cryonics, organlegging, computers wired into the human brain, global warming, genetic engineering of humans, faster than light travel, worm holes, black holes, transhumanism, and the technology of living more-or-less forever.

Over 300 guests such as Greg Bear, David Drake, and Alan Dean Foster been interviewed since 2005. In addition to an enormous list of Science and Science Fiction luminaries, less famous guests have included experts in fields as disparate as ‘Nanotech Ethics’, ‘Cryonics Insurance’ and Transhumanism.

Bones Burnt Black is Steve’s most widely read novel, but he has also authored Plague at Redhook, The Universal Diagram, The Errand Boy, What’s New in The Future And You, What I’ve Learned Interviewing Futurists, Your Medical Care in the Coming Three Decades, The Perpetual Electron, The Essay with No Title (until its end), Fifteen Ways Cheap Solar Cells are going to Change the World, and My Father’s Watch.

He has invented several games, the most famous being Death Stacks which has a yearly tournament at ConCarolinas. He also invented the Ignorance Index, an empirical rating system for radio & television talk shows.

Within the three dimensional virtual world of Second Life he is Boc Cryotank.

### Julie Cochrane

Julie Cochrane is a New York Times best-selling author, with John Ringo, of Cally’s War, Sister Time, and Honor of the Clan, from Baen Books. She wrote her first stories at age five and holds a degree in Psychology from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia. Her hobbies include martial arts, shooting, swimming, reading, and fanatical consumption of large amounts of coffee. She lives in Marietta, Georgia, with her daughter Katie, Polly the dog, and Katie’s persistent, purring, fuzzy little monster, Amy.

### Phillip R. Cox

Phillip Cox was an Aerospace Engineer for 30 years. Since then he has become a critic of space exploration in general and NASA in particular, primarily based on his “inside” experiences of his engineering career. He is associated with SPO (SpaceProletariat.Org), which is an attempt to organize makers, hackers, geeks, nerds, boffins, and general malcontents to develop their own space technology using open-source techniques (such as those used for Linux development).

He is now being published by Kerlak as a new author of Steampunk stories in their *Dreams of Steam II*

### Ben Davis

Ben Davis earned his Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics and his M.S. in Nuclear Astrophysics from the University of Notre Dame. He then taught at the college level for several years on a number of technical subjects ranging from computer programming to mathematics to, of course, astronomy and physics. In the late nineties he took up a career in software development and also did a stint as a industrial controls engineer. He now works in the biometrics industry. As a lifelong fan of science fiction, his main avocations now involve learning from history, but looking to the future (futurism and skepticism).



**jan “The Wombat” finder**

The Wombat, aka jan howard finder, has been reading SF for more than 60 years & active in SF circles for more than 35. He chaired 7 events. His next event is The 3rd Conference On Middle-Earth, Part 2. He has been a GoH at a number of cons including CONFRANCISCO, the 1993 Worldcon. He participates in, judged & MC’s masquerades, a superb auctioneer & gives the best backrubs. He has been published & has published. He has diverse interests, a budding film career, visited Middle-earth & saving the world with SUTs.

**Jack Finley**

Jack William Finley was been a cook, a photographer, an actor and a small arms repairman for the United States Army among other things. He sold his first story in 2002, attended the 2009 Borderland Writers Boot Camp and now writes full-time. He lives in Indianapolis with his cat Sneaky Underfoot. His most recent story, “*The Miraculous Road-side Attraction*” is forthcoming in the shared-world anthology *Rogues in Hell*.

**Mark Fults**

Mark Fults is a native Chattanooga known for years as an artist, but who has recently added ‘Psychic’ and ‘Author’ to his list of credentials with the publishing of his book ‘*Chattanooga Chills*’.

**Melissa Gay**

Melissa Gay was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on July 18, 1968, and left in 1969, unfortunately before ever hearing about Kansas City Jazz. She started drawing not long after that, mostly on walls. She graduated in 1986 from a small high school near Birmingham, Alabama, called Indian Springs, where she had enrolled in her first painting class during her senior year. She dropped the class after three weeks, convinced she would never learn how to paint. In 1990 she received a bachelor’s degree in Studio Art from The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, with honors in painting. She dabbled in fine art until 1997, when she realized that she no longer knew what the term “Fine Art” meant, and that her true passion was actually fun art. Thus she began a much more interesting career by showing fantasy and roleplaying-related works at sci-fi/fantasy conventions.

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Melissa currently resides in Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband Brian Cooksey, an orange cat named Max, and a tarantula named Pythagoras. She has worked as a cashier, a biology graduate teaching assistant, a field botanist, and a scientific illustrator, and she has co-authored four manuals on rare plant identification for Tennessee state foresters. Besides art, her hobbies/ways of life include practising Wado-ryu Karate, playing and gamemastering favorite RPG’s, singing, writing, reading, sewing, and playing around on her guitar and folk harp. To this day, she wonders if she will ever learn how to paint!

**Rich Groller**

Our own LibertyCon Director of Programming, Rich Groller, is also an author in his own right. He is co-author of *The Warrior’s Edge* (with Janet Morris and COL John Alexander), and a contributing author to *The American Warrior* (Janet and Chris Morris, Eds.), and to the Heroes of Hell shared universe anthology. Nominated for Military Intelligence Professional Writer of the Year in 1986, he has published numerous historical and technical articles in such venues as *Military Intelligence*, *The Field Artillery Journal*, *Guns and Ammo*, and the *Journal of Electronic Defense*. Rich is part of the Heroes of Hell revival, and has been published in *Prophets in Hell* and *Lawyers in Hell*. He has a new short story in *Rogues in Hell*, which will have a launch party at LibertyCon 25. He also has short stories being published this year in *Sha’Daa: Pawns* and in the new anthology *What Scares the Boogeyman?* He is the Editor of *The Book of Night*, an illustrated book of macabre poetry that will be published sometime in the Fall/Winter by Perseid Publishing.

**Michael H. Hanson**

Michael H. Hanson created, and co-wrote, the first two books in the *Sha’Daa* shared-world anthology series (“*Sha’Daa: Tales of The Apocalypse*” and “*Sha’Daa: Last Call*” both published by Altered Dimensions Press). He also has two collections of poetry in print (“*Autumn Blush*” published by YaYe Books and “*Jubilant Whispers*” published by Diminuendo Press). In the upcoming year Michael will not only be overseeing the writing of two new Sha’Daa anthologies, but his short story “*The Register*” has been accepted for publication in the 2011 anthology *Lawyers in Hell*, for Janet E. Morris’s recently resurrected *Heroes in Hell* shared-world anthology series. Michael is currently writing more stories for future volumes.

Michael is also the Founder of the international writers club, THE FICTIONEERS, a non-profit organization created in 2007 to encourage the writing of sci-fi, fantasy, and horror, and the creative interaction of fledgling writers with more experienced professionals. The Fictioneers is loosely modeled after those fun children’s clubs of mid-20th Century radio fame (Captain Midnight, Little Orphan Annie, etc.). Michael is a Staff Editor at The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. An Army brat who has travelled the world, he currently lives in New Jersey where he spends his free time spinning introspective verse, and tales of the fantastic, in his small but cozy garden apartment.

**John Hartness**

John G. Hartness is a recovering theatre geek who likes loud music, fried pickles and cold beer. John is an award-winning poet, lighting designer and theatre producer, whose work has been translated into over 25 languages and read worldwide. He’s been published in several online literary journals including *The Dead Mule School of Southern Literature*, *cc&d*, *Deuce Coupe* and *Truckin’*. His poem “*Dancing with Fireflies*” was nominated for a 2010 Pushcart Prize.

His first novel, *The Chosen*, is an urban fantasy about saving the world, snotty archangels, gambling, tattooed street preachers, immortals with family issues, bar brawls and the consequences of our decisions. He followed up *The Chosen* with *Hard Day’s Knight*, a new twist on the vampire detective novel and the first book in the highly successful series The Black Knight Chronicles. The second book of The Black Knight Chronicles, *Back in Black*, landed in March 2011 and has enjoyed immediate success. *Knight Moves*, the third Black Knight book, was released in August 2011.

**Mark Helwig**

Award-winning artist and illustrator Mark Helwig has a style all his own - quirky, creative, occasionally odd, and often humorous. His focus on craftsmanship, storytelling, and images that cause the viewer to “double take” are traits that set him apart in today’s industry. He is equally at home with a wide range of styles ranging from cartoons to photorealism and he works in everything from ink to oils. His illustrations can be found gracing the products of many clients including gaming companies, book and comic book publishers, conventions, and advertising for local businesses. He is a frequent artist guest and panelist at shows and conventions across the southeast, and his work is highly sought by discerning private collectors.



## Dan Hollifield

Dan Hollifield is a e-zine editor, e-zine publisher and Science Fiction writer. Recent sales of Steampunk short stories include: “*Flash of Aphelion*” available on Lulu.com, and “*The Immersion Book of Steampunk*” from immersionpress.com, available this July. He is the editor / publisher of the *Aphelion Webzine*, which has been online since 1997 is the oldest still-extant creative writing SF&F e-zine on the planet.

## Daniel M. Hoyt

Daniel M. Hoyt is the multi-talented husband of author Sarah A. Hoyt. Daniel is a capable author in his own right with around a dozen published short stories and a couple of anthologies edited with Martin H. Greenberg. Dan is currently shopping his first novel.

When he’s not working on his writing, he has a full time job supporting the updating and re-architecting of a 40-something Fortran program working with the computational physics of rockets and their trajectories.

## Sarah A. Hoyt

Sarah A. Hoyt is an experienced writer of historical fiction, romance, fantasy, urban fantasy and yes, science fiction. *Darkship Thieves* is Sarah’s first venture into space opera for Baen Books. Sarah has sold a dozen novels in various genres, including her new Musketeers Mysteries series, starting with *Death of a Musketeer*, and her acclaimed Shakespearean fantasy series, which started with the Mythopoeic award finalist, *Ill Met by Moonlight*. An avid history buff and longtime reader of sci-fi, fantasy, and mysteries Sarah has published over three dozen short stories in esteemed magazines such as *Asimov’s*, *Analog*, *Amazing* and *Weird Tales*, as well as several anthologies. As for the other “Writing Hoyts,” her husband **Daniel Hoyt** is a professional writer and rocket scientist with a dozen genre short story credits and two anthologies edited with Martin H. Greenberg at Tekno. Her son, **Robert Anson Hoyt**, has a new ebook “*Bite One, Get One Free*,” published by Naked Reader Press.

## Sarah Hulcy

Sarah Hulcy has spent most of her adult life toiling long hours for lawyers (after surviving the 60s and 70s) and reading voraciously. She hopes to now have a wildly successful career as a writer of science fiction/fantasy, or at least sell more than one story: “*Orientation Day*” has been accepted by Janet Morris for *Lawyers In Hell*. A native Texan, she lives with her 2 dogs, 2 cats and various other beings.

## Robert Lightfoot

Sam Lightfoot, also known as Robert Lightfoot, Ph.D., teaches Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice in a small Georgia College. He has attended every Libertycon from the beginning, and every Mad Scientist Panel from inception. He may be found in anything from Nuremberg armour to a spacesuit, throwing spears and sling stones, or practicing sword work.

## Cindy MacLeod

Cindy MacLeod is an active member of fandom as the Vice-Chair of AnachroCon and former director of the Dragon\*Con Alternate History Track. She is a historical re-enactor, as well as steampunk author.

## Lee Martindale

In her own words:

*I sling words for a living. I’ve been writing most of my long and wicked life, getting paid for it in the non-fiction category for something like twenty-five years, and writing fantasy and science fiction professionally since my first professional sale in 1992. (A story called “Yearbride” to Marion Zimmer Bradley for the \*Snows of Darkover\* anthology.) Since then, my work has appeared in such places as three volumes of the \*Sword and Sorceress\* antho series, \*Turn The Other Chick\*, Selina Rosen’s \*Bubbas of the Apocalypse\* series, and numerous other anthologies and online venues. For the complete bibliography and what’s in the pipeline, check out “Teller of Tales” on the HarpHaven website, <http://www.HarpHaven.net/>*

*For twelve years, I edited a size-issues activism magazine called \*Rump Parliament\*, which focused on working to change the way society treats fat people and served as a gathering point for people interested in learning and practicing effective activism against weight discrimination. A compilation of editorials and essays from those twelve years has just been released under the title \*Prejudice By The Pound: Essays From The Size Rights Movement\*.*

*Size issues and SF&F came together in 2000 when I edited Meisha Merlin Publishing’s first original anthology, \*Such A Pretty Face: Tales of Power and Abundance\*. Most recently, I edited an anthology of science fiction, fantasy, and related genre stories about the “world’s oldest profession” titled \*The Ladies of Trade Town\*.*

*I’m a warrior by several definitions. Human and civil rights activist, accessibility activist, political activist, and someone not afraid to “call ‘em as I see ‘em”. More literally, I’ve a fondness for sharp, pointy steel (I fence as a member of the SFWA Musketeers and the SCA) and firearms.*

*And I’m a Bard, Named - The Copper Bard - and sworn to traditional duties, some of which are in the above.*

*I live in Texas with 1 husband of 22 years, and 2 cats. They don’t call me “Hell on Wheels” for nothing.*

## Greg Matloff

Dr. Gregory L. Matloff, emeritus associate and adjunct associate professor of physics at New York City College of Technology (NYCCT), has coordinated the astronomy program at that institution, has consulted for the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, is a Fellow of the British interplanetary Society, is a Hayden Associate at the American Museum of Natural History and is a Corresponding Member of the International Academy of Astronautics. His pioneering research in solar-sail technology has been utilized by NASA in plans for extra-solar probes and in consideration of technologies to divert Earth-threatening asteroids. He served as guest professor at the University of Siena, Italy, in 1994, has chaired many technical sessions and was honored by NYCCT as Scholar-on-Campus during the 2008-2009 academic year. In 1998, he was a winner of a SETI competition sponsored by the National Academy of Discovery Science. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 research papers and nine books, which have been cited about 400 times. One of his books, “The Starflight Handbook” (Wiley, NY, 1989), was co-authored with MIT science-writer Dr. Eugene Mallove and helped establish interstellar-propulsion studies as a sub-division of applied physics. More recent books (“Living Off the Land in Space,” Springer, NY, 2007 and “Paradise Regained”, Springer, NY, 2009) co-authored with his artist wife C Bangs and NASA manager Les Johnson, have dealt with human space habitation and utilization. His 2008 book with Les Johnson and Italian researcher Dr. Giovanni Vulpetti (“Solar Sails: A Novel Approach to Interplanetary Travel”, Springer, NY) received an excellent review in “Nature.”Most recently he has published an artist’s book with C Bangs, “Biosphere Extensions: Solar System Resources for the Earth”.

## Holly McClure

Holly McClure is the President of the Sullivan Maxx Literary Agency, representing women’s fiction, mystery, science fiction and fantasy. She has served as president and conference director for the 30-year-old southeastern Writers Association. She previously worked with another small agency, then left to establish Sullivan Maxx in 2004. Her intention was to represent a few Southern writers, but the agency grew quickly.

She is the author of a Young Adult mystery novel, Secrets & Ghost Horses, and an adult thriller, Lightning Creek. Her varied background includes business, marketing, and public relations. Holly is a frequent speaker and writing instructor. The name Sullivan Maxx is taken from Holly’s middle name and a family tradition.

## Joe McKeel

Joe McKeel is a paranormal investigator turned advocate for the safety of investigators, and spokesperson for *The Dangers of The Paranormal Project*. He promotes the use of training in personal safety, prior knowledge of layout and hazards on investigation locations, common legalities and use of some basic common sense.

## Anita Moore

Anita Moore is a longtime friend of LibertyCon, and has been showing her artwork locally for over a decade. Best known for her horror pieces, especially those related to Lovecraft’s Cthulhu Mythos. What started out as a hobby has turned into an honest-to-goodness profession for her, and we are proud to have her back this year.

## Chris Morris

Chris Morris began writing music in 1966, fiction in 1984, and nonfiction in 1989. Much of his fiction and nonfiction literary work, including all of his book-length science fiction and fantasy, has been written in collaboration with his wife Janet Morris, with whom he has also written two novels under the joint pseudonym of Daniel Stryker and one novel under the pseudonym of Casey Prescott. These works include the *Threshold* trilogy, *The Little Helliad*, *Hawkeye*, *Cobra*, *Medusa* and *Asset in Black*. He has contributed short fiction to the shared universe series *Thieves’ World*, *Heroes in Hell*, and *Merovingen Nights*. He has also co-authored with Janet Morris four titles in *The Sacred Band of Stepsons* saga.



In the realm of nonfiction writing, Chris Morris has authored books and articles on military and defense matters in collaboration with Janet Morris and others. Morris co-authored the nonlethal weapons concept and the seminal paper, *Nonlethality: A Global Strategy*. Events surrounding Morris's work in the nonlethal weapons area are chronicled in Chapter 15 of *War and Anti-War*, by Alvin Toffler and Heidi Toffler, (Little, Brown, 1993).

Chris Morris has also authored song lyrics and melodies. Notably, Chris served as chief songwriter, singer, and leader of the “Christopher Morris Band”, formed in 1976, whose first members were Chris Morris, Janet Morris, Leslie Kuipers and Vince Colaiuta. The first “Christopher Morris Band” album, produced by Al Kooper of Blood, Sweat and Tears fame and featuring the Tower of Power horn section, was titled the *Christopher Morris Band* (MCA 2282), and released by MCA Records in 1977. The album's nine songs, all of which are sung by Morris, included eight songs written or co-written by him. The original Christopher Morris Band was the core back-up band for Al Kooper's 1976-1977 “Act Like Nothing's Wrong” national tour.

In his copious spare time, Chris Morris is Executive Vice-President and Board Chairman of M2 Technologies, Inc., specializing in strategic planning, tactical support, and technology exploitation. Mr. Morris's work on non-lethal, developmental, and foreign technology policy and implementation issues has been used by the U.S. Army, the U.S.M.C., OSD Office of Munitions, OSD Net Assessment, and excerpted in the Army's Draft Operations Concept for Disabling Measures. He has taught course elements and contributed papers to the U.S.A.F. Air Command and Staff College and National Defense University's School of Information Warfare & Strategy. From 1993-1995 Mr. Morris was Adjunct Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, where he helped develop and support CSIS's program on NLWs. Prior to the formation of M2, Mr. Morris was Research Director at the U.S. Global Strategy Council, a Washington-based think tank founded and chaired by former Deputy Director of Intelligence at the CIA, Ray S. Cline. Mr. Morris served directly under Dr. Cline at the Council in that capacity from 1989-1994.

**Janet Morris**

Janet Morris began writing in 1976 and has since published more than 20 novels, many co-authored with her husband Chris Morris or others. Her first novel, written as Janet E. Morris, was *High Couch of Silistra*, the first in a quartet of novels with a very strong female protagonist. These novels were followed by The *Kerrion Empire* trilogy, the *Threshold* trilogy, and a host of standalone novels to include *The Forty Minute War* (with Chris Morris), *Afterwar*, *Kill Ratio* (with David Drake), *Outpassage* (with Chris Morris), and *Warlord!*. She has contributed short fiction to the shared universe fantasy series *Thieves World*, in which she created *The Sacred Band of Stepsons*, a unit of ancient fighters modeled on the Sacred Band of Thebes. A new *Sacred Band* novel (with Chris Morris) was released in 2010. She created, orchestrated, and edited the Bangsian fantasy series *Heroes in Hell*, writing stories for the series as well as co-writing the related novel, *The Little Heliad*, with Chris Morris. *Lawyers in Hell*, lucky number 13 of the series, is being debuted to the world at LibertyCon 24. She has contributed to other series as well, including *Merovingen Nights*, *The Fleet*, and *War World*, and has also written historical and other novels. Her book “*I, the Sun*”, a detailed biographical novel about the Hittite King Suppiluliuma I was praised for its historical accuracy. Janet has written, contributed to, or edited several book-length works of non-fiction, as well as papers and articles on nonlethal weapons, developmental military technology and other defense and national security topics.

In her copious spare time, Janet Morris is President and CEO of M2 Technologies, Inc. (M2), a woman-owned corporation specializing in non-lethal weapons (NLW), novel technology applications, tactics and technology. Ms. Morris's seminal non-lethal concept and novel technology applications work has been used by the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, and was excerpted in the Army's Draft Operations Concept for Disabling Measures. She has taught or provided course material to the U.S.A.F. Air Command and Staff College, National Defense University's School of Information Warfare and Strategy, and Penn State University Applied Research Laboratory's Non-Lethal Institute. She has provided and presented seminars and briefings to numerous government and military services and committees. Her work has been spotlighted in numerous print media. Defense News publishes her opinion pieces on security policy and technology. Morris was elected to the New York Academy of Sciences in 1980.

A lifelong horsewoman, Janet and her husband Chris breed Thoroughbreds on a 173 acre horse farm in Kentucky and also maintain a World-Champion producing Morgan Horse breeding program. Her foundation mare, UVM Christine won Morgan Grand National Champion Four-Year-Old Mare, World Champion Senior Mare, and Reserve World Champion Mare in 1998.

**Darrell “Dr.” Osborn**

Dr. Osborn (and his loyal minions in the Mystical Order of Bob) are well on their way to world domination through a combination of magic, comedy, and balloon animals. Never turn your back on a ‘Twistologist.’ You have been warned.

**Stephanie Osborn**

Stephanie Osborn is a former payload flight controller, a veteran of over twenty years of working in the civilian space program, as well as various military space defense programs. She has worked on numerous Space Shuttle flights and the International Space Station, and counts the training of astronauts on her resume. Of those astronauts she trained, one was Kalpana Chawla, a member of the crew lost in the Columbia disaster.

She holds graduate and undergraduate degrees in four sciences: Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics, and she is “fluent” in several more, including Geology and Anatomy. She obtained her various degrees from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

Stephanie is currently retired from space work. She now happily “passes it forward,” teaching math and science via numerous media including radio, podcasting, and public speaking, as well as working with SIGMA, the science fiction think tank, while writing science fiction mysteries based on her knowledge, experience, and travels.

**Reinhardt Legacy Fight Team**

Team Reinhardt is a group of students and friends of the late Hank Reinhardt, a very dear long-time friend of LibertyCon. Hank was well known for his bladed weapons demonstrations, both with examples of cutting effectiveness as well as full contact sparring. The Team has followed the example of the late swordmaster and will be giving demonstrations at LibertyCon this year.

**John Ringo**

John Ringo is a New York Times bestselling author of science fiction and thriller novels with over one million novels in print. John had visited 23 countries and attended 14 schools by the time he graduated high school. This left him with a wonderful appreciation of the oneness of humanity and a permanent aversion to foreign food. The author chose to study marine biology and really liked it. Unfortunately the pay is for beans. So he turned to database management where the pay was much better. His highest hopes were to someday upgrade to SQL Server at which point, he thought, his life would be complete.



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But then Fate took a hand: John became a professional science fiction writer and since his publisher assured him that all science fiction authors became immensely successful, he was given the standard “rich and famous” contract. Somewhat confused by the fine print, he nonetheless signed in blood.

Since that fateful day, he has published numerous science fiction novels at a rate that amazed and offended his publisher, who hadn’t intended him to get that rich and famous. With over a million copies in print, he also has done stints as an op-ed writer for the New York Post and a guest commentator for Fox News, thus ensuring the loss of what little soul was left. With his younger years spent in the Airborne, cave diving, rock-climbing, rappelling, hunting, spear-fishing and sailing, the author is now happy to let other people risk their necks. He prefers to read, and of course write, science fiction, hang out in cigar bars and look for new ways to pledge his remaining bits of soul. He’s thinking... Hollywood... They won’t care if it’s tarnished...

**Tedd Roberts**

Dr. Tedd “Speaker to Lab Animals” Roberts is a professional research scientist and SF writer. He lectures and publishes in the field of Neuroscience, the study of the brain and its function, and his research is in the disparate fields of Drug Abuse and Neural Prosthetics. His research for the past 30 years has concentrated on how the brain encodes information about the outside world; how that information is represented by the electrical and chemical activity of brain cells; and the means by which that information results in and behavior. Accomplishing these goals has taken him through degrees in Biology & Chemistry, Aquatic Biology & Microbiology, and Physiology & Pharmacology - as well as through the additional scientific fields of psychology, electronics, physics, prosthetics, engineering and computer science. As researcher and teacher, “Speaker to Lab Animals” is committed to making science available to and understandable by the public. His blog: “Teddy’s Rat Lab” (<http://teddysratlab.blogspot.com>) is based on his work in progress: “*The LabRats’ Guide to the Brain*”, as well his SF/F short stories and SF/Alternative Neuroscience “*Your Brain is Steampunk*”. Speaker also produces videos that have featured Baen Books authors and SF/F convention panels, and is developing a co-authored science-adventure series for young readers.

**Marina Sergeyeva**

Marina Sergeyeva (author, artist, editor, science tutor, dancer): Even amid the new language obstacle, eleven-year-old Marina hadn’t lost spark in creating little poems. Back in Ukraine, the greats and honorable of her nation inspired Marina’s passion for words, so she kept then a small, Ukrainian/Russian journal of poetry. Later in America, she was a dance major in a magnet high school. She enjoys and commits to not only the many forms of art but also the academics and medicine. Although she’s still a teen, Marina already published a book of poetry and short stories, edited and designed covers for other novels, and graduated early with biochemistry and math degrees.

**Patrick Vanner**

Patrick A. Vanner was born into a Marine family, and, after attending Penn State University, majoring in aerospace and electrical engineering, he enlisted in the Marine Corps like his parents before him. After a successful military tour, he earned a degree in network administration and began a career in telecommunications and information technology. He divides his time between working, reading, writing, gaming and spending an exorbitant amount of money on anime, giving truth to the saying, “Anime, it’s more addictive than crack”. Patrick currently lives with the love of his life, Heather, and six insane cats that make their lives interesting in every sense of the ancient Chinese curse.

**James Ward**

James Ward is an excellent Chattanooga based artist who is well known not for putting paint on canvas, but more for putting paint on anything else that’s not bolted down. You can find his artwork on everything from feathers to floppy disks, and lately he has branched out with the creation of costuming accessories. James is also an accomplished puppeteer, and gives performances during the convention to entertain our young (or young at heart) attendees.

**Kenneth Waters**

Kenneth Waters is a professional artist and musician from Ringgold, GA. His career began in 1997 working for game companies including Alderac Entertainment Group, Wizards of the Coast, Steve Jackson Games and many others. He started Vox 13 Publishing in 1998, a company that published 9 books total and the titles won a combined 4 Bram Stoker awards in the first year. After selling Vox 13 Kenneth went on hiatus primarily working with Games Workshop but quickly began his own business dealing with painted models and terrain. He is now getting back to where he

started, producing paintings for himself and writing songs. He lives with his son Nick, his demon Dachshund Sugar, and the world’s deadliest cat, Casper.

**Toni Weisskopf**

Toni Weisskopf succeeded Jim Baen as publisher of Baen Books, a leading publisher of sf and fantasy, in 2006. She has worked with such authors as David Weber, David Drake, Lois McMaster Bujold, Eric Flint, John Ringo, Sarah A. Hoyt, Larry Correia, and many others.

A regular at LibertyCon, Toni edited vampire anthologies *Tomorrow Sucks* (1994) and *Tomorrow Bites* (1995), both with Greg Cox. For Baen she’s edited three original hard sf anthologies: *Transhuman* (2008), with sf author Mark L. Van Name, and two *Cosmic Stories* anthologies, *Adventures in Sol System* (2005) and *Adventures in Far Futures* (2005). She also co-wrote a book on children’s folklore, *Greasy Grimy Gopher Guts: The Subversive Folklore of Childhood* (1995), with Josepha Sherman.

Toni was the recipient of the Phoenix Award in 1994 for Excellence in Science Fiction. She is a graduate of Oberlin College with a degree in anthropology. She has a daughter Katherine, and is the widow of Southern fan and sword-master Hank Reinhardt.

**Michael Z. Williamson**

Michael Z. Williamson is an immigrant from the UK and Canada, a retired veteran of the USAF and US Army, a writer of things SF-ey, fantasy and techno-ey, a bladesmith and a firearms enthusiast. He has multiple novels with Baen, three with HarperCollins, dozens of shorts and articles in magazines and sites all over, and has consulted and served as armorer for *Discovery* and *Outdoor Channel* productions. He’s also Editor-at-Large of *Survivalblog*. When not writing, he’s a craftsman and purveyor of SharpPointyThings.com, and tests and reviews firearms and other outdoor gear for manufacturers. His new novel, “*Rogue*,” will escape from Baen in September, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake.



**The Atlanta Radio Theatre Company**



The Atlanta Radio Theatre Company, a staple at LibertyCon for more than half a decade, returns for the convention’s triumphant 25th year! New venue, bigger and better, and more of the great audio drama that has delighted convention attendees in the past.

For this year’s show, ARTC returns to the familiar, gives you some of the new, and may make you wonder what season you’re really in. After setting the mood for imagination with an introduction reminiscent of the Golden Age of Radio, we’ll launch straight in with one of our newest series, “*Dr. Will Ward, Science Wizard: Taxing Our Patience*” by Dave Schroeder. Following that will be another thrilling installment of our fan-favorite series, “*Rory Rammer, Space Marshal: The Murder of Skip Sagan*” by Ron N. Butler. Long time attendees may remember our adaptation of John Ringo’s “*A Ship Named Francis*” and will be excited to hear our next adaptation of Mr. Ringo’s work, “*Live Free or Die: The Maple Syrup Wars*” adapted by Daniel Taylor. And we’ll conclude with one of Thomas E. Fuller’s plays from “*An Atlanta Christmas*”, “*USO Christmas*”.

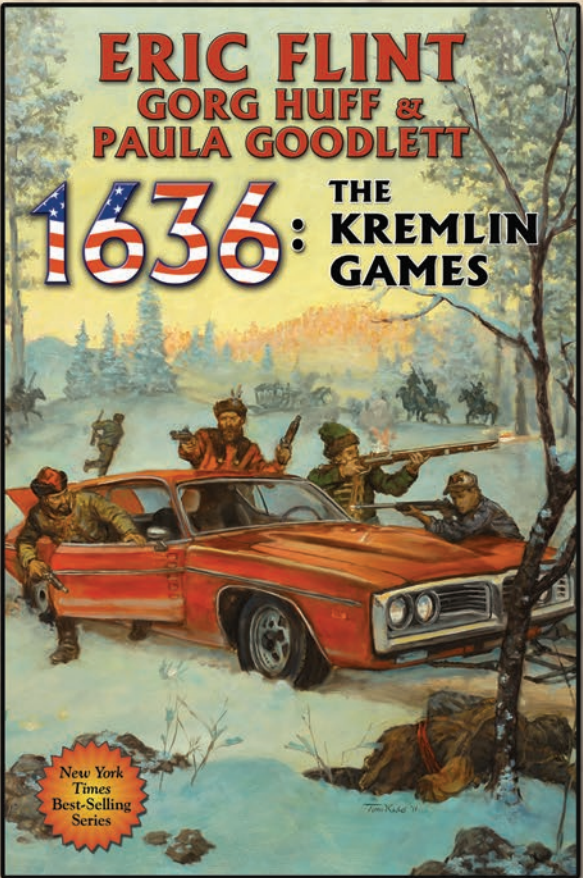
All in all, it promises to be another year of imagination, brought to you by the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company and lovingly given to a group of our most dedicated and loyal fans, the ones who make the journey each year to LibertyCon.

***The staff of LibertyCon would like to thank all of our pros for coming out this year. These guys come to the convention on their own dime, and we are incredibly appreciative of their participation and support!***



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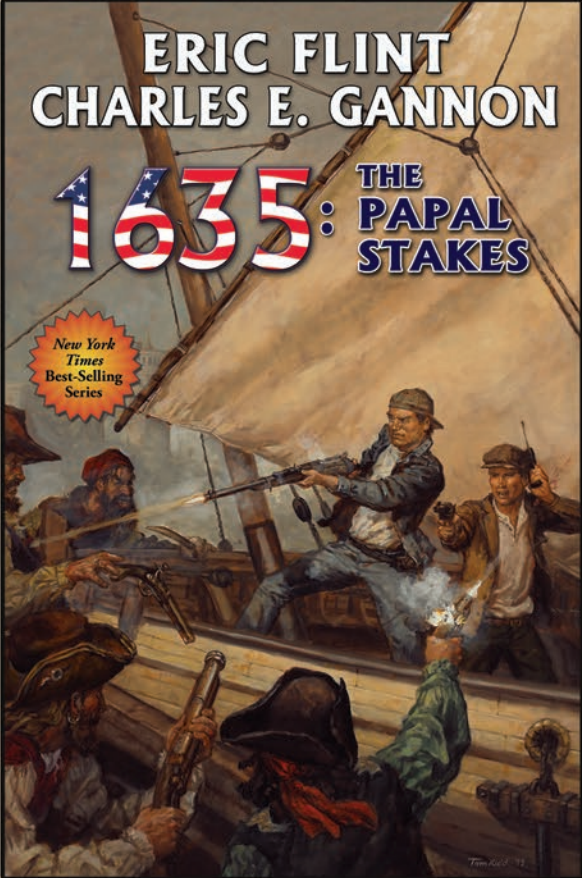
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**LIBERTYCON 25 STAFF**

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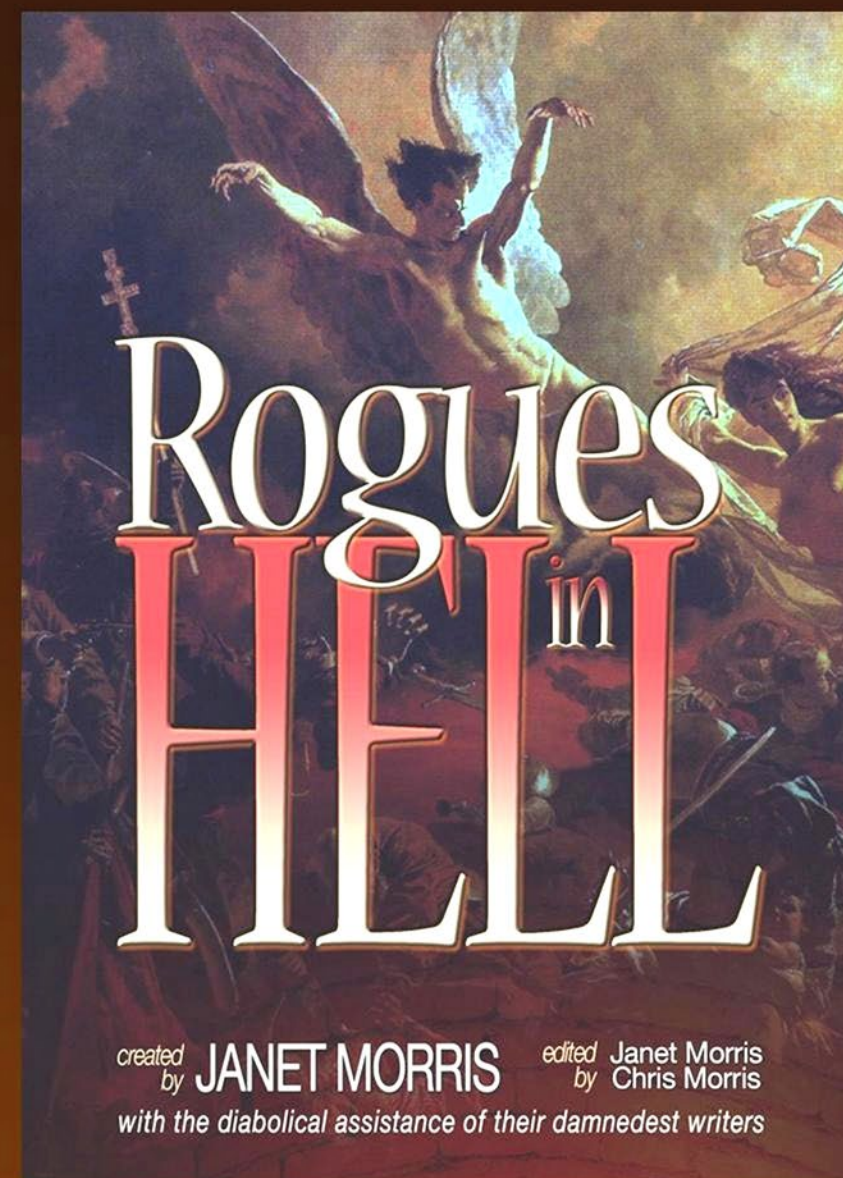
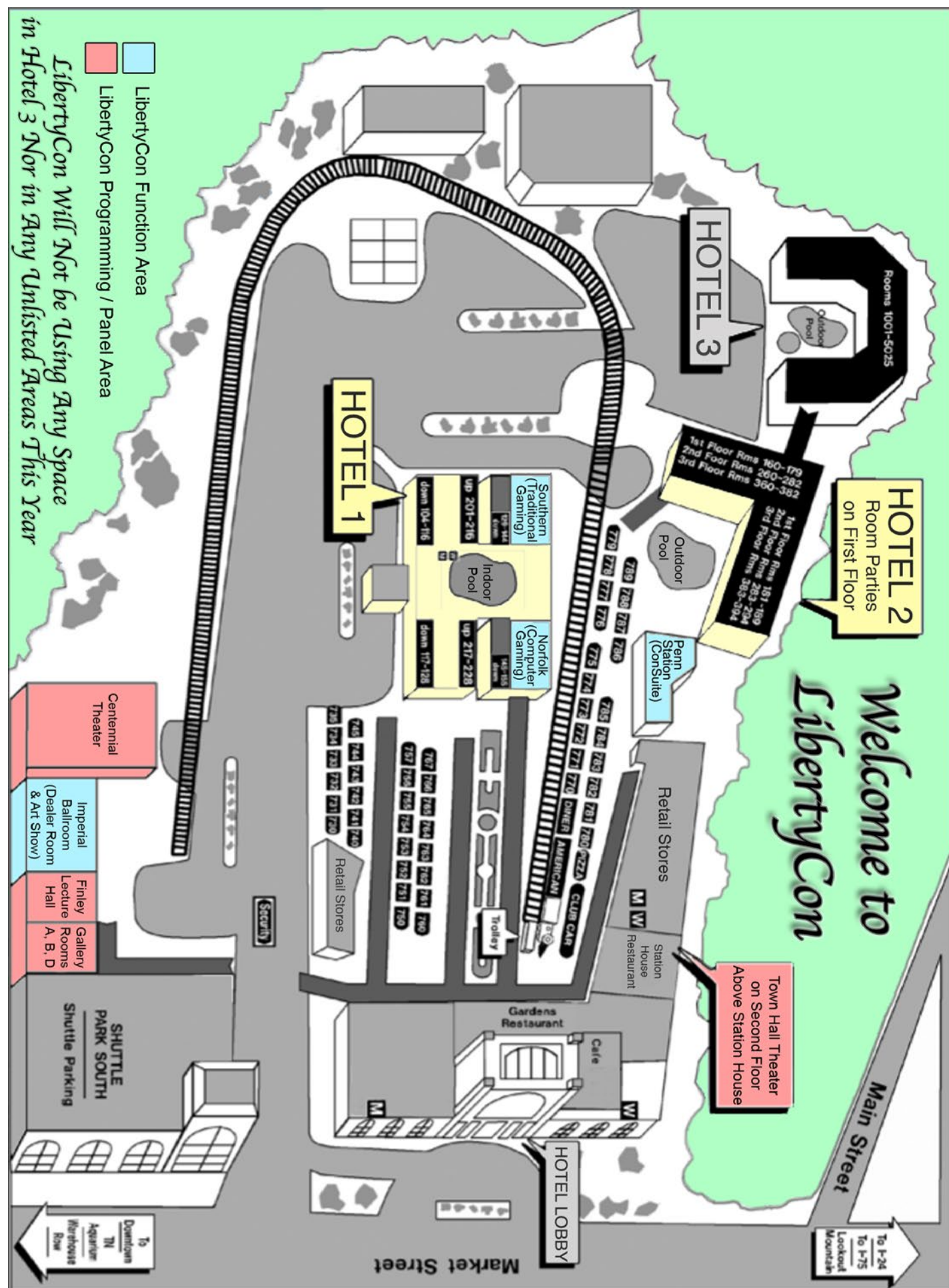
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